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## PART ONE: JAPAN

### **Section I. LAND MINES, GRENADES, AND BOOBY TRAPS**

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#### **1. GENERAL**

The Japanese, as compared with the Germans, have used land mines and booby traps on a small scale to date. This is largely due to the fact that the Japanese were on the offensive until our invasion of Guadalcanal—and even there the enemy held most of the island for several months afterwards and, almost to the end, maintained high hopes of annihilating us. As a rule, no enemy will lay mines and booby traps on a big scale if he expects to move over the area himself sometime in the immediate future. When the Japanese are forced to assume the defensive on a large scale, with little hope of advancing, they are expected to use mines and booby traps extensively. The use of such weapons would certainly be expected of an enemy who has been highly deceptive and treacherous in many other respects.

If our soldiers are alert and have a general idea of the appearance and function of mines and booby traps, they should not entertain any great fear of these weapons. As one Guadalcanal observer pointed out, we should never assume that an area recently occupied



by the enemy, or equipment therein, is safe until it is thoroughly checked. A death caused by an enemy booby trap is considered a needless and useless sacrifice. Enlarging his remarks about the Japanese, the observer said:

Whenever the enemy abandons an area which has been held against siege, or which has been in his possession for any length of time, he will usually attempt to lay traps for the forces occupying the area. These traps usually consist of simple improvised devices, such as antipersonnel mines placed under loose boards likely to be walked on, antivehicle or tank mines placed in the tracks of a narrow road, or devices fastened to doors or laid across narrow paths.

The purpose of such traps is twofold: (1) to cause front-line casualties, and (2) to slow the advance of the attacking forces.

At the present time, the Japanese are known to have three types of land mines and two types of grenades which can be used in such traps as those described above.

## **2. LAND MINES**

### **a. Antivehicle**

The Japanese antivehicle mine, officially known as Type 93, is commonly called "the tape-measure mine" because it resembles an ordinary rolled-up tape measure (see fig. 1). The weapon weighs 3 pounds, and has a diameter of  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches and a thickness of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches. It is filled with 2 pounds of a picric acid compound. The mine container, which consists of two light-metal sections, is painted either yellow

or olive drab. In the center of the top is a brass dome or plug, which screws into the mine and covers the fuze. The plug,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, has a  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch red band painted around it. On opposite sides of the circular weapon are two rings, spaced 2 inches apart, which often have small loops of rope secured to them. The rope can be used in carrying the mine, in hanging it up when it is not in use, or in dragging it across the path of a tank.

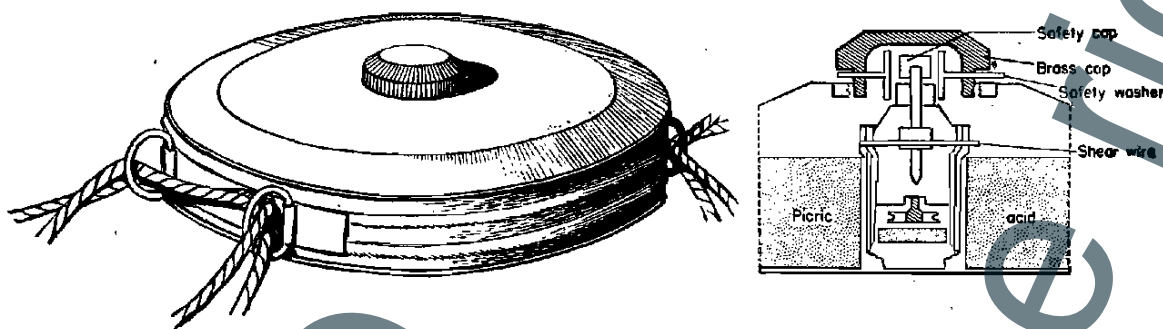


Figure 1.—Japanese Antivehicle Mine (Type 93)

The mine is exploded by pressure applied on the brass plug. Normally more than 200 pounds of pressure is required to activate the weapon, but no chances should be taken. Actually, a shear wire—which holds the firing pin in a cocked position—determines the pressure necessary to explode the mine. The wire may vary in strength according to the tactical use of the weapon. Some reports indicate the use of shear wires which require a pressure of only 70 pounds to break. Pressure applied to the brass plug first crushes the top cover; the brass plug then contacts the top of the firing pin, thereby putting stress on the shear wire and causing it to break. When it breaks, the mine explodes.



firing-pin spring locking plug limits the spring at the upper end of the igniter body. The steel balls are held in place by the firing pin, which has a continually increasing internal diameter from the open end; and

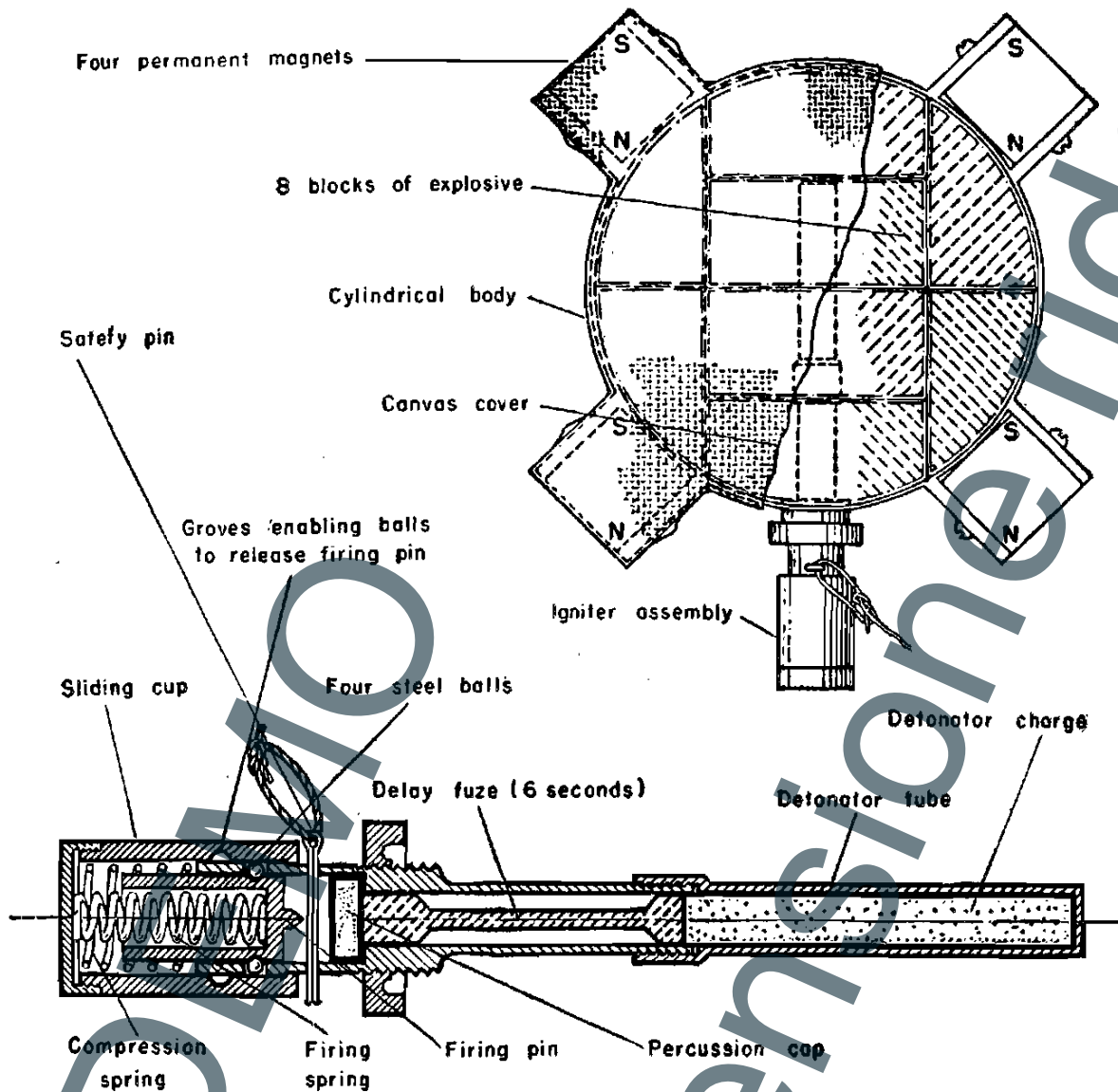
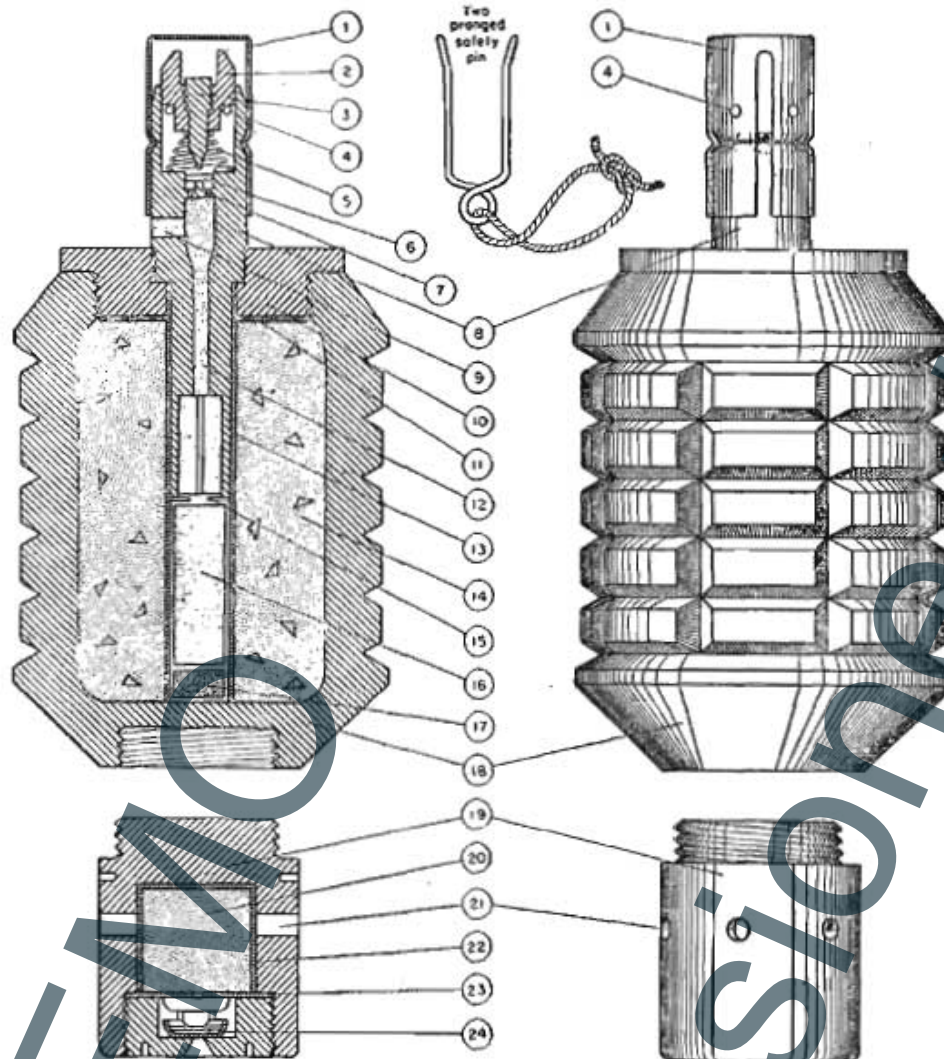


Figure 2.—Japanese Armor-piercing Mine (magnetized)

as the firing pin is depressed against the firing-pin spring, the steel balls are forced from their position by pressure of the firing-pin spring on the firing-pin assembly, thus allowing the firing pin to go forward.

# JAPANESE HAND GRENADE WITH PROPELLANT ATTACHMENT



## LEGEND

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Firing pin safety cover  | 10. Plug screwed into grenade body |
| 2. Firing pin holder, (has two shoulders under which the two prongs of safety pin fit). | 11. Cardboard washer               |
| 3. Firing pin   | 12. Delay fuze, (4 to 5 seconds).  |
| 4. Holes for insertion of safety pin.   | 13. Igniter assembly tube          |
| 5. Creep spring   | 14. Bursting charge                |
| 6. Percussion cap   | 15. Perforated steel disk          |
| 7. Two flash holes  | 16. Igniter charge                 |
| 8. Body of igniter  | 17. Felt packing                   |
| 9. Air vent, filled with wax and sealed with tinfoil.                                   | 18. Grenade body                   |

NOTE: This drawing is of the "Type 97", showing propellant attachment, for use with a grenade discharger. "Type 91" is not made with this attachment, but is otherwise exactly the same as above drawing

Figure 4.—Japanese Hand Grenade (type 97).

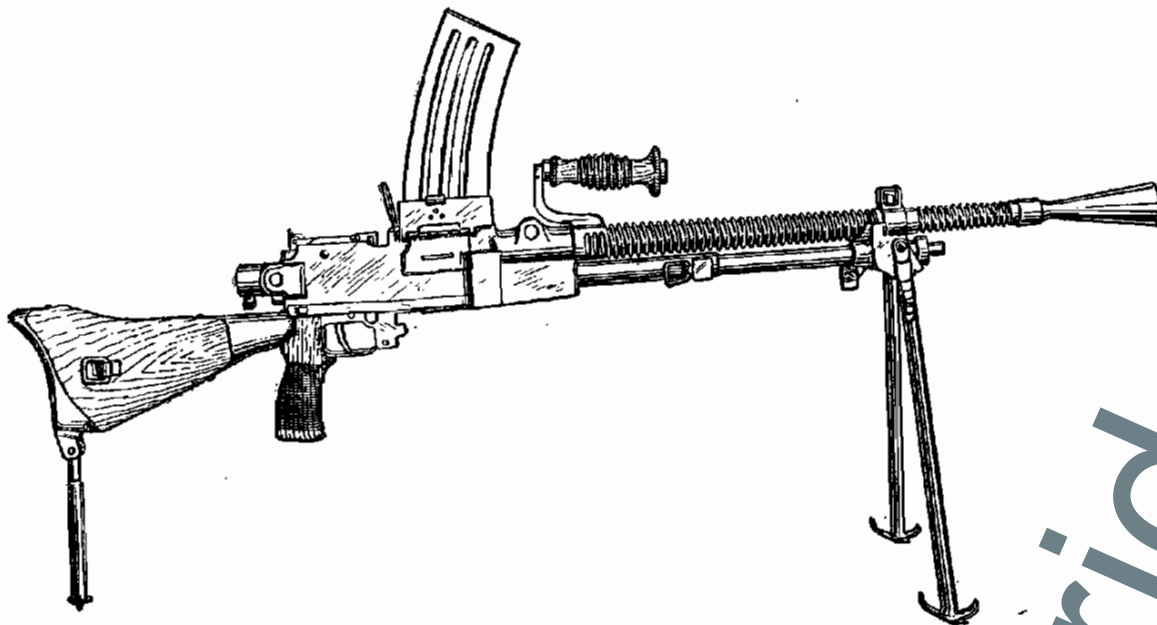


Figure 5a.—Japanese Model 99 Light Machine Gun (showing distinguishing rear monopod).

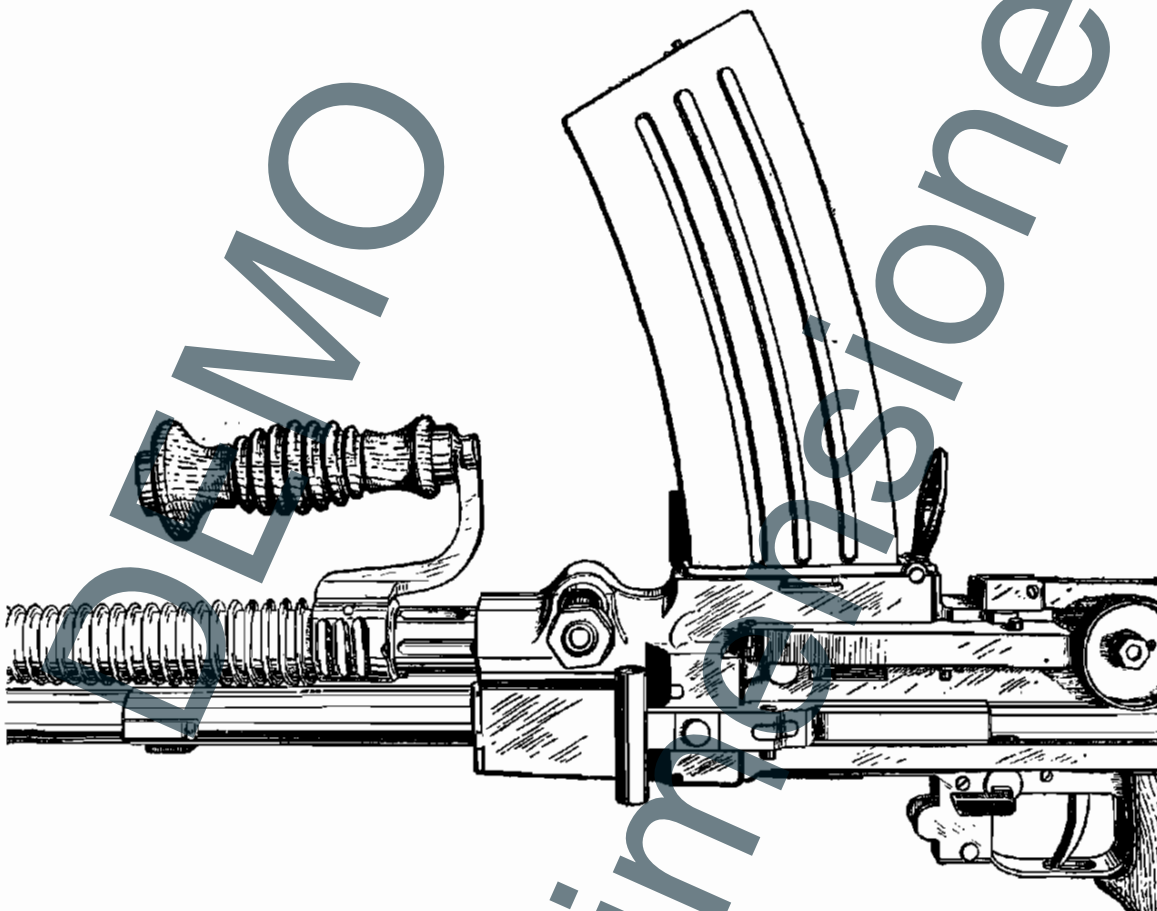


Figure 5b.—Japanese Model 99 Light Machine Gun (showing barrel partly withdrawn).

### a. Obstacle in Depth

This type of obstacle is constructed to a depth of about 33 feet. It consists of ordinary wire fences erected at intervals of about 5 feet and connected with crisscrossed plain wire (see fig. 7). The spaces be-

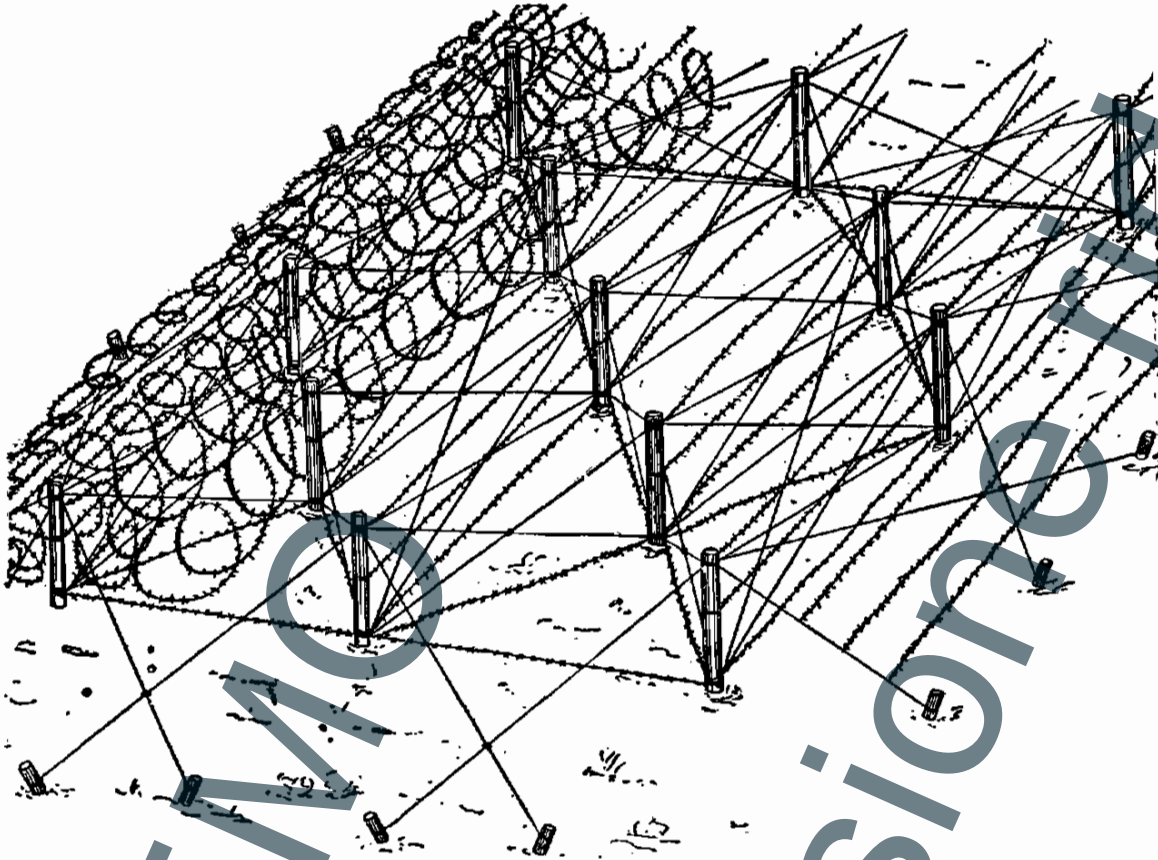


Figure 7.—German Obstacle in Depth.

tween the fences are filled with barbed wire in spirals. These spirals are fastened to each other and to the pickets of the crisscrossed wire. When obstacles of this type are erected in woods, trees are often used to support the wire.

Wire obstacles in depth are usually installed in places where they will be screened as far as possible



## **Section VI. FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT GERMAN TANKS**

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### **1. ARMOR ARRANGEMENT**

The sketches on the next three pages show the armor arrangement and armor thicknesses of the Pz. Kw. 3, Pz. Kw. 4, and Pz. Kw. 6. A question mark following a figure indicates that definite information regarding the thickness of a certain plate is not yet available. Two figures enclosed in parentheses indicate the presence of two plates, which are separated to form "spaced armor"; this arrangement occurs only twice, and only in the case of the Pz. Kw. 3.

### **2. SUBMERSIBLE TANKS**

The delays and difficulties that the Germans have encountered in transporting tanks across the rivers of Eastern Europe have increased the enemy's interest in all possible devices which might enable standard Pz. Kw. to cross streams and rivers under their own power.

By the summer of 1941, the weight of the Pz. Kw. 3 had already been increased by additional armor, and it must have been clear to the Germans that future developments in armor and armament would necessarily involve still further increases in the weight of this tank. While the trend toward increased weight

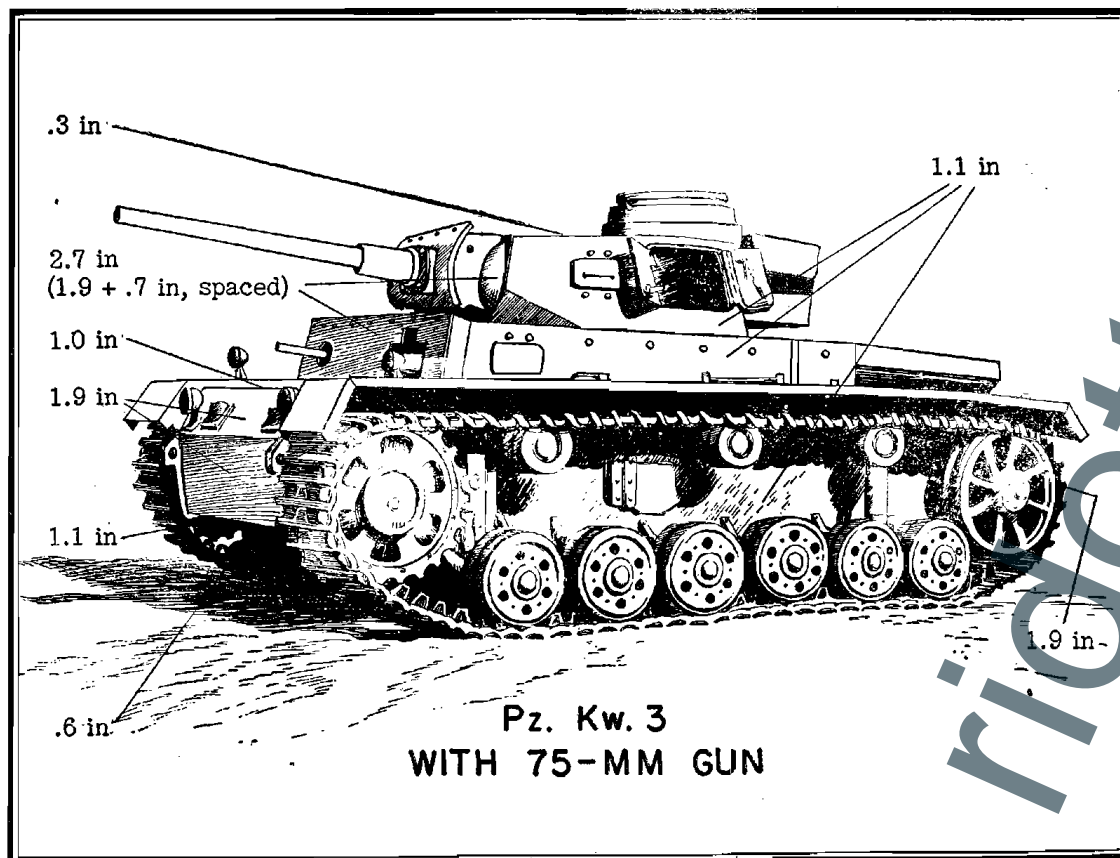


Figure 9.



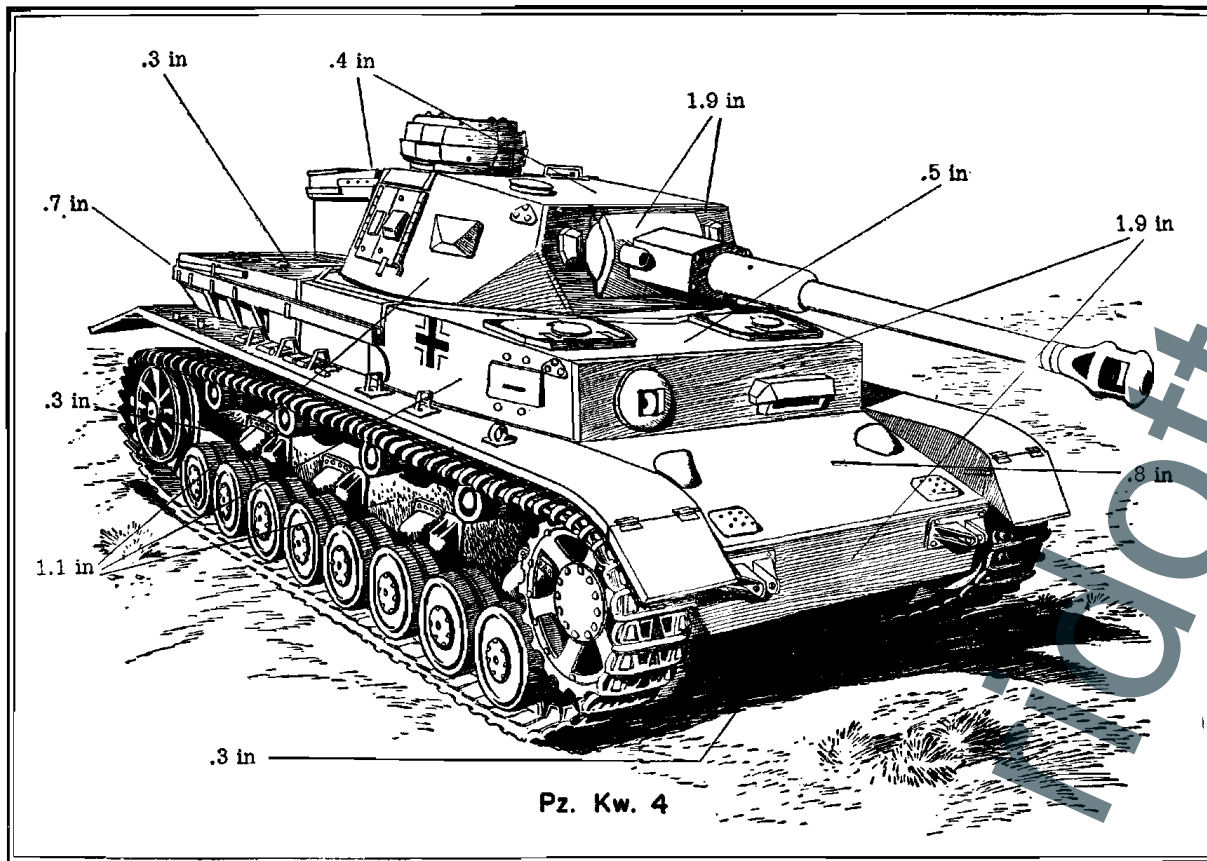


Figure 10.

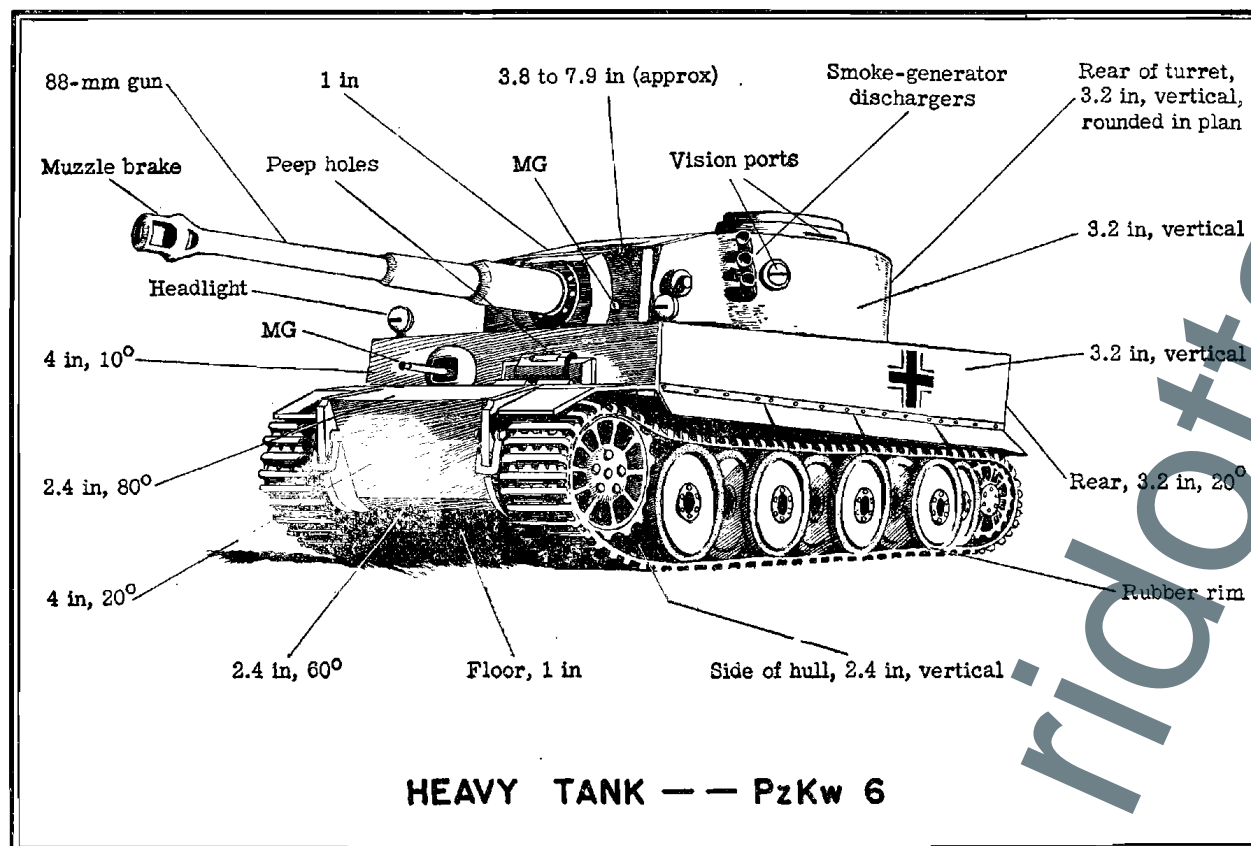


Figure 11.