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## INTRODUCTION

This "Pocket Book of the German Army" is intended for the use of intelligence officers of field formations and units.

Intelligence officers have in "The German Forces in the Field," "Order of Battle of the German Army," and "Guide to the Identification of German Units," works of reference which can be carried in the field, and which should enable them to answer their commander's questions on the subjects with which these publications deal.

On points of organization and equipment intelligence officers have hitherto had either to trust to memory, or carry with them "Notes on the German Army—War," "New Notes on the German Army Nos. 1—4," and, in addition, a quantity of papers amending these publications which are circulated through "I" channels and for the most part in roneod form. This Pocket Book is intended to meet the obvious need for a work of reference on the organization and equipment of the German Army.

This Pocket Book supersedes "New Notes on the German Army: No. 1—Armoured and Motorized Divisions, 1942." In consequence of its publication, "Notes on the German Army—War, 1940," and "New Notes on the German Army, Nos. 2 and 3," will be withdrawn from all holders below divisional HQ. HQ retaining these three publications for reference should treat this Pocket Book as superseding them where they are at variance with it. Where more detailed information is required than can be given in this Pocket Book, the earlier publications may still be of use, though holders will have to exercise discretion in deciding whether to rely on the earlier publications or apply to higher authority for guidance. The "New Notes on the German Army" series is for the time being suspended, though it may be continued, if it is found that there is a demand for it after the issue of this Pocket Book.

Part I of the Pocket Book on the general principles of German army organization and tactics is intended to supply the background necessary for a proper understanding of the highly summarized tables in the remainder of the book. It must, however, be emphasized that this Pocket Book does not purport to be anything more than an *aide memoire* for intelligence officers and that its publication does not absolve intelligence officers from the study of Intelligence Summaries and other papers circulated through "I" channels, which will provide the more detailed background of information

As a work of reference, however, this Pocket Book will be kept up to date by the issue of printed amendments.

Suggested methods of using this Pocket Book in the field will be found in the preface to Part II.

Finally, since this Pocket Book is intended to be a work of practical utility, suggestions for its improvement will be welcomed, particularly from officers who have used it on exercises or in the field. Suggestions should be addressed to the Director of Military Intelligence (M I 14), War Office.

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## PART I

# GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF GERMAN ORGANIZATION AND TACTICS

### CHAPTER 1

## TYPES OF DIVISIONS

### SECTION I.—INFANTRY DIVISIONS— ORGANIZATION

1. **General.**—Infantry divisions, which form the great bulk of the German army, are still organized on a horse-drawn basis. The only divisional unit that is mechanized throughout is the anti-tank battalion. All other units include only a limited number of mechanized vehicles; most of the personnel march and a great part of the equipment is carried on horse-drawn vehicles.

2. **Infantry regiment.**—German infantry regiments, of which there are three in the division, correspond approximately to a British brigade group. The regiment consists of three battalions, a mounted infantry (or cyclist) platoon, an infantry pioneer platoon,\* an anti-tank company, and an infantry gun company, which includes guns of 15-cm (5·91-in) calibre. The inclusion of the infantry gun company is a good example of the German principle of decentralizing heavy weapons. Instead of keeping all their artillery under divisional control, the Germans place that part of it which is specially designed for close support under the control of the commander of the infantry regiment. Each battalion consists of three rifle companies and a MG company equipped with medium MGs.

3. **Artillery regiment.**—The artillery regiment consists of three field batteries and one medium battery, with a total of  $36 \times 10\cdot5$ -cm (4·14-in) gun-howitzers and twelve medium equipments (10·5-cm (4·14-in) guns and 15-cm (5·91-in) howitzers). The number of barrels in the German divisional artillery regiment is thus considerably smaller than that in

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\* Infantry pioneers are infantry personnel trained in minor engineer duties, and also in assault operations against fixed defences and strong points.

a British artillery regiment, but two factors must be borne in mind :—

- (a) German artillery fires heavier projectiles than the British. Thus the 10.5-cm (4.14-in) gun-howitzer, the equivalent of the British 25-pr, fires a 32-lb projectile ;
- (b) German infantry regiments include weapons which we would class as artillery.

**4. Reconnaissance unit.**—Reconnaissance units in a German infantry division are quite different from any in the British army. The normal reconnaissance unit consists of a horsed (sabre) squadron, a cyclist squadron, and a mechanized heavy squadron which includes armoured cars, infantry (close support) guns, anti-tank guns, and mortars.

**5. Engineer battalion.**—The engineer battalion includes three companies, of which only one is fully mechanized, and in addition a bridging column capable of taking the 22-ton Pz Kw IV tank.

**6. Anti-tank battalion.**—The anti-tank battalion which is mechanized throughout, includes 27 5-in (9.97-in) or 7.5-cm (2.95-in) guns. It must, however, be remembered that each infantry regiment also includes anti-tank guns.

## SECTION 2.—INFANTRY DIVISIONS—TACTICS

**Attack.**—The German infantry in the attack employs tactics very similar to our own. Within the section, tactics are based on covering fire from the LMG, which has a detachment of three men, of whom the No. 3 serves entirely as an ammunition number. Medium machine guns, although organized separately in the fourth company of each battalion, are normally attached by platoons to the rifle companies and give covering fire to the infantry as they advance, moving forward from cover to cover by bounds ; they are trained to change position rapidly if engaged. Mortars are very skilfully used ; the weapon is no different in performance from our own but always in the past it has been imaginatively and skilfully handled ; it has been found that many mortar positions are sited on reverse slopes to cover the forward slopes ; seldom are more than a few rounds fired from any one position even if the mortar's position has not been engaged by enemy fire.

In German training particular emphasis is placed on infiltration tactics round flanks and between individual defensive positions to encircle and squeeze out those positions singly.