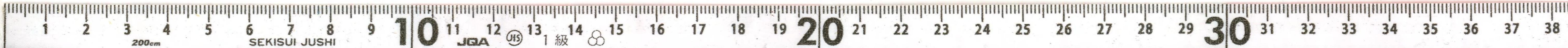


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Authority NND 795020
By BCC NARA Date 12/13/11



**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
G-2
FAR EAST COMMAND**

File. 470.8
Date From Jan To Dec 49
Line No. 1 To

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Russia

TB 2214 4358
Soviet Armored Vehicles, Photograph of Tank
T/I, G-2, GHQ

12 Sept 1948

27 July 1949

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Foreign Liaison Sub-Section, T/I

Soviet daily newspaper

Forwarded herewith one (1) copy of Foreign Liaison Special Report No. 177, dated 30 June 1949. An article which appeared in the Soviet daily newspaper, "Komsomol'skaya Pravda" Moscow, 12 Sept 1948, was devoted to Armored Forces Day, and included a photograph giving a close-up view of two unidentified tanks. Copy of photograph is attached as an inclosure.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

J. H. POLK
Lt Col, GSC
Asst Exec, G-2

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TR 2314 4358

Soviet Armored Vehicles, Photograph of Tank

T/I, G-2, GND

12 Sept 1948

Foreign Liaison Sub-Section, T/I

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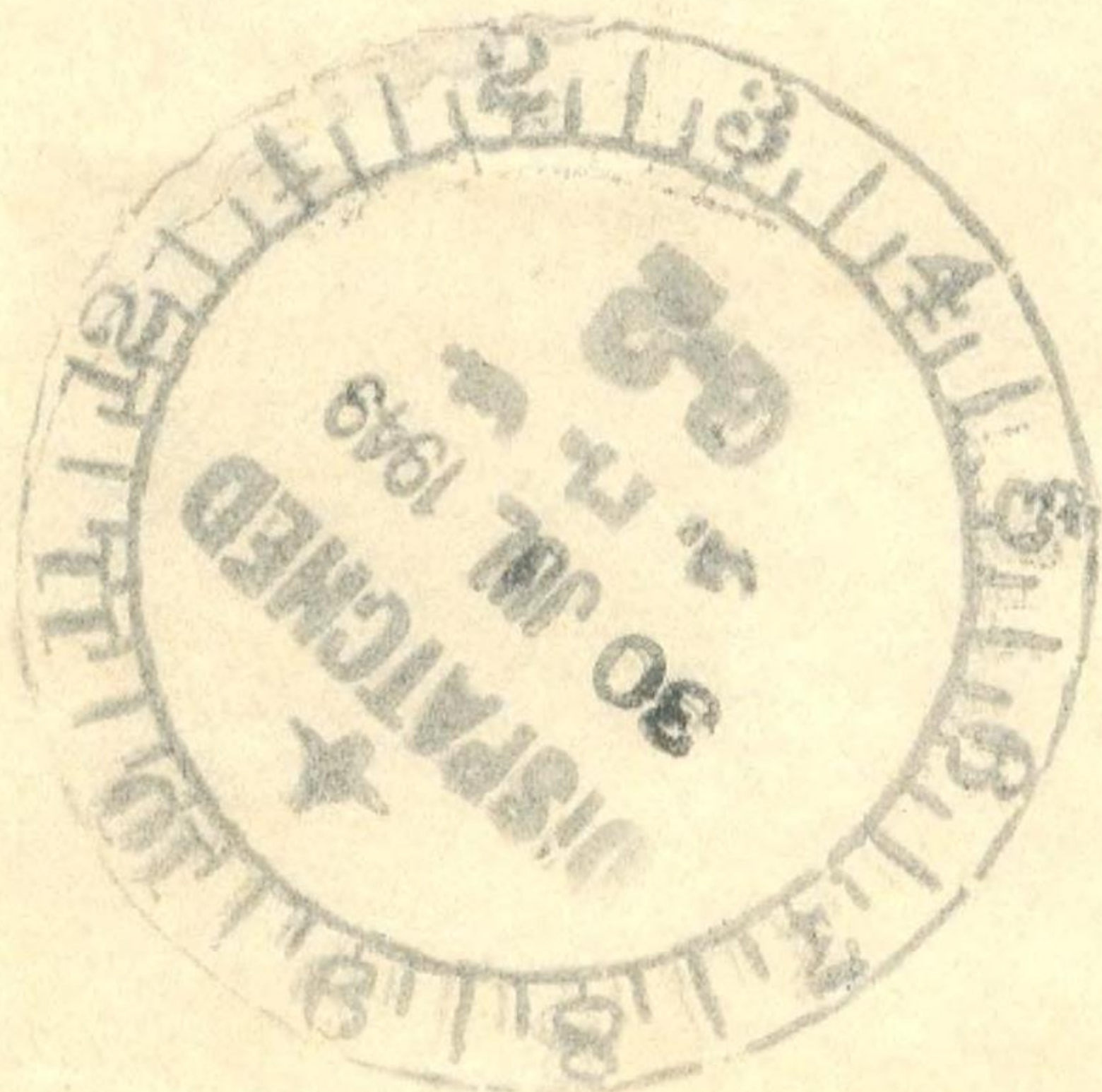
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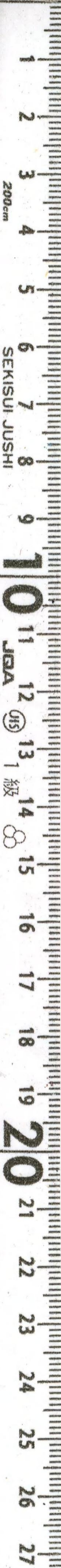
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SECRET

Case # 656

10 JUN 1949

CSGID-ID 41 470.8

SUBJECT: Estimates of Soviet Tank Production

TO: Commander-in-Chief, Far East
ATTN: A. C. of S., G-2
APO 500, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

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1. The Intelligence Division is engaged in a long-range plant-by-plant study of the Soviet munitions industry and is currently studying those plants which are, or have been, devoted to the production of tanks. Although preliminary studies of a number of plants have revealed the existence of a considerable number of gaps in our information, the most difficult problem encountered has been the estimation of the magnitude of postwar tank production. The difficulty arises in part from the scarcity of data and in part from the variety of interpretations which may be placed upon the available information. The Division is particularly concerned to properly interpret the large number of interrogation reports which, if taken at face value, would indicate that Soviet tank production in 1947-1948 was close to the wartime peak.

2. Two general interpretations of these reports are possible:
(a) the Soviets are producing a far greater volume of tanks than has been so far estimated, or (b) they are engaged in an extensive tank overhaul and/or modification and alteration program. The Division is inclined to accept the latter alternative as being more likely but is most anxious to obtain information which will help resolve the problem.

3. The Division feels that a combination of the following circumstances could have caused the Soviets to undertake a long-range (say 2 - 5 years) program of overhauling and/or modifying and altering the existing stock of tanks by sending them back the tank plants:

(a) Possible decision to install a new transmission and steering system in order to improve steering and maneuverability of their tanks. The Czechs are believed to have developed a system which might have been adopted by the Soviets.

(b) Possible decision to equip all tanks with special electronic gun sighting or night driving gear.

(c) Possible decision to carry out major modification to existing tank chassis.

(d) Need to overhaul existing stocks of tanks.

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CSCID-ID 41 470.8

SUBJECT: Estimates of Soviet Tank Production

4. In order to facilitate the work of the Intelligence Division it is requested that, in the interrogation of individuals who have arrived from the U.S.S.R. and who have been employed in the tank industry, every effort be made to determine the validity and significance of their assertions in the light of the problem outlined above. In addition, attention should be given to the possibility of discovering data which might indicate the production of a new type of tank. The Intelligence Division also requests that it be informed as to your opinion as to the feasibility and desirability of re-interrogating, in the light of the above problems, a selected few individuals who, in your opinion, have supplied testimony of the greatest potential significance.

5. If there are any specific questions or problems which have arisen, or are expected to arise in this program, or if the assistance or guidance of the Division is desired you should communicate freely with the Division. An exchange of information and statement of problems between personnel at the working level is to be encouraged.

6. It is planned to forward to you, as a possible aid, a copy of the working-paper reports which embody the results of preliminary study of individual plants.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE:

GEORGE S. SMITH
Colonel, GSC
Chief, Intelligence Group
Intelligence Division, GSUSA

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7056

Ltr fr ID, subject: "Estimates of Soviet Tank Production", dated 10 June 1949

MISD

1st Ind

G-2, GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST COMMAND, APO 500, 1 July 1949

TO: Director of Intelligence, General Staff, United States Army, Washington 25, D. C.

1. As requested in paragraph 4 above, a review of past interrogation files will be made (a) to determine the validity and significance of the assertions of any repatriates who were employed in the tank industry in Soviet dominated areas, and (b) to discover any data which might indicate the production of a new type of Soviet tank.

2. It is believed to be both desirable and feasible to re-interrogate any repatriates who, in the past, have supplied testimony of the greatest potential significance on the matters cited in basic letter, and these questions will be included in all our future interrogations of repatriates.

3. Interrogation Report Number 63, dated 24 December 1948, and forwarded to your office on 11 February 1949, contained all of our up-to-date information on the subject of Soviet armaments and armored vehicles. Interrogation Report Number 72, now in production, will contain all our currently available data on Soviet tractor production. It is felt that this report, which should reach your office in August, will contribute some useful estimates on the subject of Soviet tank production capabilities.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

G. S. MYERS
Colonel, GSC
Executive Officer

(P)

MAYNARD E. LEE
CWO, USA

JUL 7 - 1949

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G-2 File
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1026
Ltr to ID, subject: "Estimates of Soviet Tank Production", dated 10 June 1949

WISD
1st Ind

G-2, GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST COMMAND, APO 500, 1 July 1949

TO: Director of Intelligence, General Staff, United States Army, Washington 25, D. C.

1. As requested in paragraph 4 above, a review of past interrogation files will be made (a) to determine the validity and significance of the assertions of any reporters who were employed in the tank industry in Soviet dominated areas, and (b) to discover any data which might indicate the production of a new type of Soviet tank.

2. It is believed to be both desirable and feasible to re-interview any reporters who, in the past, have supplied testimony of the greatest potential significance on the matters cited in para 1, and these questions will be included in all our future interrogations of reporters.

3. Interrogation Report Number 67, dated 24 December 1948, and forwarded to your office on 11 February 1949, contained all of our up-to-date information on the subject of Soviet armaments and armored vehicles. In-terrogation Report Number 72, now in production, will contain all our currently available data on Soviet tractor production. It is felt that this report, which should reach your office in August, will contribute some useful estimates on the subject of Soviet tank production capabilities.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

G. S. MYERS
Colonel, GSC
Executive Officer

MAYNARD E. LEE
GWO, USA
JUL 7 - 1949

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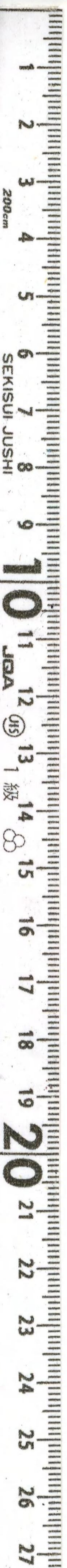
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By CEC NARA Date 12/13/11

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