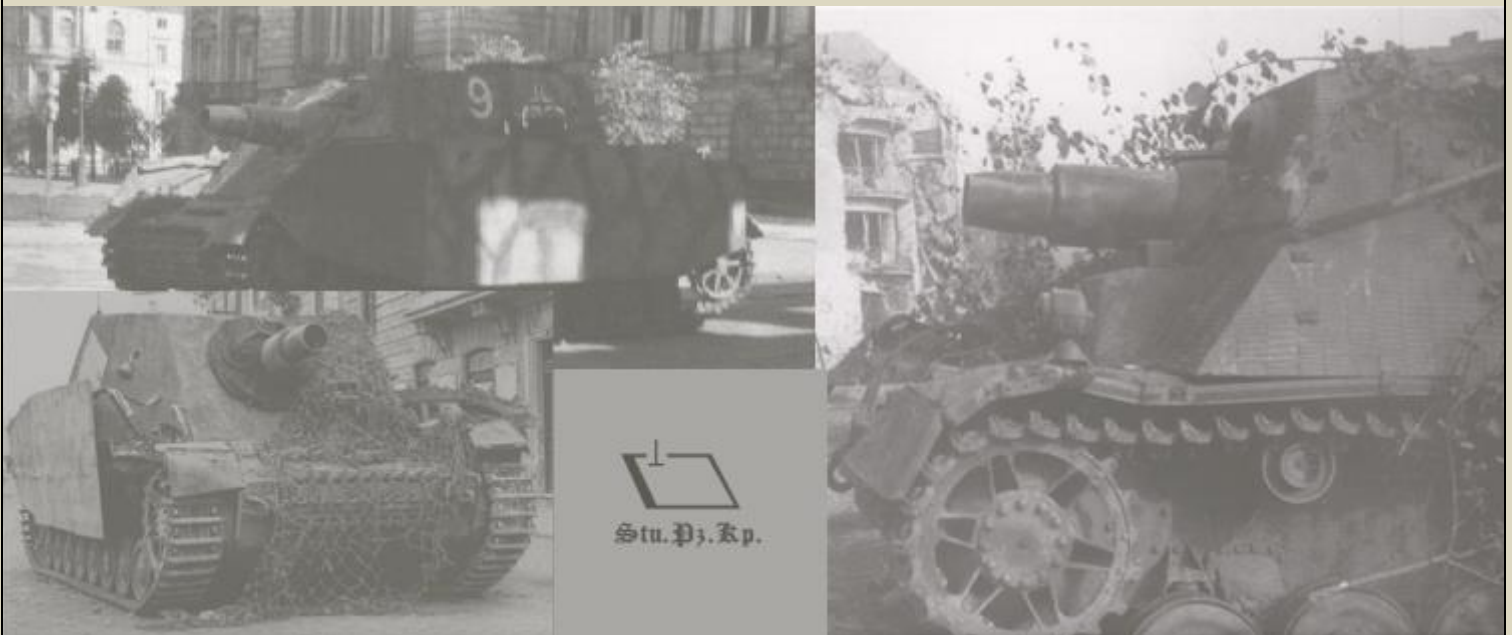


German PzKpfWg. IV, Model J, Observation Tank

ETO Ordnance Technical Intelligence Report No. 172

8 March 1945



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8 March 1945

ETO ORDNANCE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 172

SUBJECT: German Pz Kpfw. IV, Model J, Observation Tank.

Observations by: Capt. G.D. Drury, Ord. Tech. Intell. Team No. 1,
and Capt. D.M. Gilles, Ord. Tech. Intell., Hq.
Com Z, ETOUSA.

1. General:

A Pz Kpfw. IV "OP" Tank (Pz. Beob. Wg. IV) recovered in Belgium, has been examined. It is a normal Pz Kpfw IV Model J Tank, mounting the 7.5 cm. KwK 40 (L/48) gun. With few exceptions, the tank conforms to Model H tanks previously examined. Chassis number of the vehicle examined was 92200 and the manufacturer's code "hhv". A date on one of the bogie mounting brackets was 14.8.44.

2. Armor:

The armor thicknesses and angles correspond closely to those of the latest Model H. The following measurements were taken from the Model J examined:

	<u>Thickness.</u>	<u>Angle to Vertical.</u>
<u>Turret:</u>		
Top (front)	18 mm. (0.69 in.)	86°
Top (near)	26 mm. (1.03 in.)	Horizontal
Front	54 mm. (2.14 ins.)	10°
Sides	32 mm. (1.26 in.)	25°
Gun Mantlet	54 mm. (2.14 ins.)	Rounded
<u>Superstructure:</u>		
Front vertical	83 mm. (3.26 ins.)	10°
Glacis	21 mm. (0.82 in.)	70°
Side	30 mm. (1.20 in.)	Vertical
Top (front)	12 mm. (0.47 in.)	85°
Engine Compartment top	10 mm. (0.40 in.)	88°
<u>Hull:</u>		
Upper Nose	83 mm. (3.26 ins.)	14°
Lower Nose	30 mm. (1.20 in.)	64°
Side	30 mm. (1.20 in.)	Vertical
Rear	22 mm. (0.85 in.)	10°

The bracket for attaching side skirting was the type used with the mild steel plates and not the type used with the wire mesh skirting. The normal spaced plates were mounted on the turret sides and rear.

3. Suspension:

The suspension was normal, with all-steel return rollers and the late type sprocket. However, the older type idler wheel, of tubular construction, was used.

4. Turret:

A dual-ratio hand traverse has replaced the power traverse of earlier models. The gear box is located ahead of the traversing and elevating handwheels and is controlled by a lever on the top. (Photo 2). In high ratio

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220 turns of the hand-wheel rotate the turret 360° and in low ratio, 352 turns. The plate over the port in the left front turret plate was welded on, but no additional reinforcement had been made. Three small internally-threaded bosses were welded on the top of the turret, one at the front and one on each side. (Photo 1). There was no indication of their intended use. AAAA gun mount (Flieger-Beschussgerät für MG 34) for mounting the M.G. 34 on the cupola is provided.

5. Fuel System:

Provision had been made for installing an extra fuel tank in place of the auxiliary engine and generator formerly used with the power traverse, but none had been installed. A filling pipe and an opening in the superstructure top plate on the left side in back of the turret were installed.

A fuel valve is located on the left hull side next to the engine compartment bulkhead. (Photo 3) This valve has four positions, one for the extra fuel tank in the engine compartment, and one for shutting off all tanks. Only one fuel tank can be connected at a time. On the vehicle examined, the line for the extra tank had been blocked off.

6. Auxiliary Generator:

It appeared that an auxiliary gasoline engine driven generator had been installed in the left sponson next to the engine compartment bulkhead. A mounting base was installed in the sponson and a 15/16 inch flexible exhaust line led back through the engine compartment to the rear of the tank. A battery charging control is mounted on the engine compartment bulkhead. (Photo 3)

7. Radio Equipment:

Mounting frames for two radio sets are located on the right side of the turret and a frame for one set is in the normal location in the driving compartment. Two antennae are provided, one on the turret top and one on the right of the tail plate.

8. Commander's Telescope:

The vehicle was equipped with two mounts for a periscope T.S.R.I. A cupola mount somewhat similar to that found on the Pz Kpfw Panther is provided for the commander. It consists of an arm pivoted to a small bracket welded on the inner side of the cupola. A socket and clamp to accommodate the lower end of the telescope is attached to the end of the arm. A ball mount for the periscope is built in the turret top on the left side. (Photos 1 and 4). The telescope is inserted into the mount from inside the turret and is held in place by a clamp which fits over the eyepiece. A scale on the base of the mount is graduated from 0 to 6400 yds. Short steel bars welded to the mount serve as handles for traversing it and a screw-type lock is provided on the base.

9. Telescope Sight:

A T.Z.F. 5 f/2 telescope sight is used for the 7.5 cm. KwK 40 (L/48) gun.

10. Exhaust Stacks:

The tank was equipped with the new type exhaust stacks for reducing visibility of the exhaust flame at night. These stacks consist of a pipe six inches in diameter, surrounding the exhaust pipe and extending 10 5/8 inches above it. The armor shield enclosing the elbow of the exhaust pipes is the same as that used with the previous arrangement (Photo 5).

For the Chief Ordnance Officer,

H.N. Toftoy
H.N. TOFTOY,
Col., Ord. Dept.,
Assistant.

Inclosure:

Appendix "A"...Photos 1 thru 5

