



GUIDE  
TO  
FOREIGN MILITARY STUDIES

P-143<sup>d</sup>

( Selected Regimental Operations on the Eastern Front )

P-149

( Combat Series )

HISTORICAL DIVISION  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE  
FOREIGN MILITARY STUDIES BRANCH

*28 pages*

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## PREFACE

This Guide is intended to serve as an introduction and as an annotated table of contents to P-143d, Selected Regimental Operations on the Eastern Front, and to P-149, Combat Series. The twenty regimental studies comprising P-143d were prepared by Colonel Wilhelm Willemer and Generalleutnant Rudolf Sperl. General der Artillerie Anton Freiherr von Bechtolsheim served as military editor for the seventy-five combat studies contained in P-149; and has provided each study with his own introduction and critique.

In their present form, these studies have not been subjected to necessary revisions or final editing. Since these studies were authored by many individuals, most of whom were not experienced writers, they vary greatly as to literary quality and methods of presentation. Some studies will require very little revision, others are more in the nature of rough drafts. As a whole, however, these studies describe many types of combat experience under varying circumstances and conditions. Since these studies cover a wide array of military experience and are usually written by the responsible commander at the time of the action, they should provide useful instructional materials for various types of combat.

In this Guide, the studies have been graded from I to IV in descending scale of probable usefulness for instructional purposes. The descriptive summaries in the Guide are supplemented by a brief evaluation of each study attached to the German original manuscript. As a further convenience, an appendix to this Guide contains a grouping of the studies according to types of combat. This Guide and the evaluations of the individual studies were prepared by Mr. G. C. Vanderstadt and Dr. T. W. Bauer of the USAREUR Historical Division.

## SECTION I

### SELECTED REGIMENTAL OPERATIONS ON THE EASTERN FRONT

#### MS #

- P-143d/1      Smolensk. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 10 pp, 1 illus. Aggressive and fast-moving action by a motorized infantry regiment during the German advance on Smolensk results in the speedy capture of the Russian city.
- P-143d/2      I.R. 96 im Angriff durch eine Sumpfbzone. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 14 pp, 2 illus. Successful attack by infantry regiment through extensive swamp. The Russians, although badly battered, force the regiment to leave the road and advance on a broad front through difficult terrain.
- P-143d/3      Kiev. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 10 pp, 3 illus. Ordered to destroy encircled Russian forces, a German infantry regiment is forced by the desperate attacks of the foe to shift temporarily to the defense.
- P-143d/4      Muhu. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 16 pp, 3 illus. Infantry regiment crosses a six-mile strait in assault boats to capture a fortified island in the Baltic Sea. An account of one of the few amphibious operations undertaken by the German Army during the Russian campaign. Contains step-by-step planning and preparation. The supporting study by General Melzer, commander of the regiment which made the crossing, provides background material.
- P-143d/5      Desna. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 14 pp, 3 illus. An infantry regiment, designated as division reserve, is given the additional task of protecting the division's flank during an attack through dense forests. Describes the problems of command in keeping the unit together, the difficulties of forest fighting, and the spot decisions made by the commander to meet changes in the situation. Operation is continued in following study.

- P-143d/6      Autobahn. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 18 pp, 3 illus. An infantry regiment engages in an enveloping pursuit in difficult terrain and bad weather. The problem is to place troops across the Russian line of retreat as fast as possible and simultaneously to prevent the Red forces from breaking through the column. Continuation of operation initiated in preceding study.
- P-143d/7      Tula. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 16 pp, 2 illus. River crossing by armor during the muddy period to open up a vital hard-surface road. Since a frontal attack would be too costly, division headquarters organizes two task forces, one -- composed of tanks -- to attack in the north, the other -- composed of dismounted armored infantry -- to attack south of the road. This maneuver succeeds, despite the mud and the fierce resistance of the Russians.
- P-143d/8      Moskau. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 16 pp, 2 illus. An infantry regiment attacks without its vehicles through a forest to open up the road to Moscow. Accent is on surprise and deception of the Russian defenders.
- P-143d/9      Pogostye. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 13 pp, 3 illus. An elite mountain regiment attacks in deep wet snow to prevent the Russians from linking up two pockets behind the German front. The attack fails because the German troops are unfamiliar with the terrain, the weather, and the enemy.
- P-143d/10      Vyazma. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 10 pp, 3 illus. Successful frontal attack by reinforced infantry regiment to prevent Russians from cutting vital communication line. Loose deep snow impedes the German advance. Compare with previous study.
- P-143d/11      Angriff im Stellungskriege mit begrenztem Ziel. By Generalleutnant Rudolf Sperl; 14 pp, 8 illus. Attack with limited objective during stationary warfare to improve German positions before onset of winter. Attack succeeds after initial reverses. Accent is on preparations rather than attack.
- P-143d/12      Rzhev. By Generalleutnant Rudolf Sperl; 13 pp, 1 illus. A gap in the German lines is closed by employment of an improvised task force and a new MLR is established. Study illustrates the flexibility of the German method of assigning missions.

- P-143d/13 Kehrtmachen aus dem Rueckzug zum Entsatz der eingeschlossenen Aufklaerungsabteilung 99. By Generalleutnant Rudolf Sperl; 15 pp, 7 illus. During a German retrograde movement a rear guard regiment turns back to go to the aid of the encircled divisional reconnaissance battalion. After hard fighting the regiment is successful in rescuing the battalion. Interesting illustration of Finnish tactics and German countermeasures in the forests of the Far North.
- P-143d/14 Ausbruch aus dem Kessel. By Generalleutnant Rudolf Sperl; 30 pp, 10 illus. An infantry regiment is ordered to hold its positions in a narrow sector south of Lake Ladoga. Encircled by the Russians, the German unit fights for six days to tie down enemy forces, and then breaks out. Subjective but highly interesting day-by-day description of leadership and combat in the heart of the Russian winter.
- P-143d/15 Die gepanzerte Kampfgruppe "M" im Gegenangriff gegen ueberlegenen Panzerfeind. By Generalleutnant Rudolf Sperl; 17 pp, 5 illus. Combined armored infantry and tank attack just before large-scale Russian offensive wrests a vital observation point from the enemy. A typical example of flexible leadership on the German side and rigid tactics on the part of the Soviets.
- P-143d/16 Die gepanzerte Kampfgruppe "H" der 24. Panzer Division im Angriff bei ungeklaerter Feindlage zur Schliessung einer breiten Luecke. By Generalleutnant Rudolf Sperl; 20 pp, 4 illus. A task force consisting of armored infantry (no tanks) and artillery mounts a surprise attack during a snowstorm to seal a gap in the lines despite uncertainty regarding Russian dispositions. Resolutely conducted, the attack succeeds. A careful analysis of the operation is included.
- P-143d/17 Ausbruch aus Tcherkassy Kessel. By Generalleutnant Rudolf Sperl; 32 pp, 7 illus. An understrength German infantry regiment is ordered to spearhead a large-scale attempt to break out of encirclement. The unit attacks repeatedly against overwhelming odds and is finally successful.
- P-143d/18 Aus dem planmaessigen Rueckzug zum Kampf: "Feinde ringsum!" By Generalleutnant Rudolf Sperl; 23 pp, 6 illus. An understrength German infantry regiment, withdrawing westward in Russia, is forced by pursuing Red Army forces to alternate between defense and attack. Interesting and detailed description of a withdrawal under adverse conditions. Stresses contrast between German and Russian leadership.

P-143d/19

Kampf eines verstaerkten Grenadier Regiments zur Flankenbedeckung des Rueckzuges der Division. By Generalleutnant Rudolf Sperl; 20 pp, 6 illus. A reinforced infantry regiment, ordered to protect the flank of a retreating division, carries out its mission by advancing along elevations at some distance from the division and shifting rapidly from defense to attack, according to the situation.

P-143d/20

Gegenstoss einer gepanzerten Kampfgruppe gegen durchgebrochenen Panzerfeind. By Generalleutnant Rudolf Sperl; 24 pp, 4 illus. Successful counterthrust by severely depleted armored task force to restore former MLR.



## SECTION II

### COMBAT SERIES

MS #

P-149/1

Abbrechen des Gefechts. By Colonel Konrad Purucker; 17 pp, 4 illus. As a prerequisite for disengagement and orderly withdrawal to prepared positions, a German infantry regiment counterattacks the Russians. The commander carries out this attack successfully and thus obtains relief from direct pressure.

P-149/2

Absetzen vom Feinde unter erschwerten Umstaenden. By Colonel Cord von Hobe; 26 pp, 4 illus. With American forces moving along the Mosel Valley in their drive toward the Rhine in February 1945, the defense of the Trier sector is entrusted to an improvised regimental-size task force. When faced with imminent encirclement by American tank units, the task force manages to disengage itself and thereby avert immediate destruction.

P-149/3

Angriff und Abwehr. By 1st Lt Alexander Buchner; 24 pp, 9 illus. Late in the Polish campaign an advance force of a German mountain division encounters stubborn resistance at Lvov. The task force soon finds itself in a dangerous situation and has to defend itself by holding a hedgehog position against determined Polish attacks. The difficulties encountered by the task force are attributed to mistakes in judgment resulting from insufficient combat experience.

P-149/4

Selbstaendiger Entschluss der Vorausabteilung einer Inf. Div. By Generalleutnant Hugo Hoefl; 12 pp, 7 illus. During the Vyazma battle of encirclement a German infantry division is entrusted with the mission of providing flank protection and blocking the escape of Russian units by moving rapidly toward Rzhev. To speed the advance through a trackless forest the commander organizes a strong task force to move ahead rapidly and to prevent the retreating Russians from organizing

defensive positions. By exercising independent judgment and exploiting a provident snowstorm, the Germans seize two important bridges and rout the Russian forces, thereby clearing the way for the division to emerge into open country.

P-149/5

Angriff und Durchbruch des 1e. Inf. Rgts. 218, durch den inneren Befestigungsquertel von Kiev. By Colonel Emil Schuler; 30 pp, 9 illus. During the early days of the offensive in Russia the German divisions are stalled by the strong defenses of Kiev. In mid-September the attack against Kiev is resumed, in conjunction with a large-scale double envelopment some distance to the east of that city. The burden of breaking through the strong position immediately south of Kiev falls to an infantry regiment, with some support from neighboring units. After initial failures resulting from inadequate reconnaissance and insufficient artillery support, a breakthrough is achieved by exploiting a daring and well-conceived penetration in a seemingly impregnable hill position.

P-149/6

Ausbruch einer eingeschlossenen Infanterie Division. By Generalleutnant Hugo Hoefl; 27 pp, 5 illus. When the Russians assume the offensive in winter 1941 a German infantry division is encircled by the enemy. The German unit extricates itself from its precarious situation through a well-planned surprise attack which catches the Russians off balance.

P-149/7

Angriff durch eine ausgebaute Stellung mit anschliessender Verfolgung. By Colonel Adolf Maile; 34 pp, 7 illus. A German infantry regiment is given the mission of breaking through the Russian positions northwest of Slaviansk and driving to the Donets River. Although its antitank and heavy weapons are unable to keep pace, the German unit carries out its mission by boldness, the exercise of initiative, and skillful use of the cover provided by forests.

P-149/8

Flussverteidigung auf breiter Front. By Generalmajor Hans Kissel; 32 pp, 3 illus. A German infantry regiment is entrusted with the mission of holding a broad sector on the west bank of the Dnepr River. The regimental commander solves this problem by taking prompt and effective action to eliminate every Russian penetration. When the neighboring regiment loses its commander, he promptly takes over this unit and defends its sector also.

P-149/9

Flussuebergang des verst. Infanterie-Regiments 96 ueber die Maas. By Major Juergen Schroeder; 33 pp, 5 illus. In the German invasion of the Low Countries, which began on 10 May 1940, the forces south of the Ardennes had the initial mission of crossing the Meuse River as rapidly as possible. The chief responsibility for establishing a bridgehead across the Meuse falls to an infantry regiment which carries out its mission at considerable risk since knowledge of the enemy situation is incomplete and preparations are held to a minimum. By its success, the regiment enables the German forces to continue the tempo of the mobile warfare that characterizes this campaign.

P-149/10

Wechselvoller Gegenangriff eines verstaerkten Bataillons zum schliessen einer Luecke. By Generalleutnant Ludwig Merker; 26 pp, 2 illus. During the summer of 1942 the Russians launch attacks with limited objectives against the German forces west of Moscow, especially in the Rzhev area. During this fighting, a German battalion carries out the mission of closing a dangerous gap in the lines. The battalion commander has to make a number of difficult decisions to cope with the frequent changes in the situation that occur during this two-day operation.

P-149/11

Panzer Division in der Abwehr in schwieriges Wald und Sumpfgelaende. By Generalmajor Oskar Munzel; 29 pp, 7 illus. After successfully fighting off Russian forces in one sector, a German panzer division is ordered to march to another part of the front in order to seal off a breakthrough. In six days of hard fighting in difficult terrain the division manages to delay the advance of Red Army troops seeking to exploit the breakthrough. A general withdrawal of the German front terminates the action.

P-149/12

Der Doppelauftrag der Kampfgruppe I.R. 14 (78. I.D.) an der Moskva. By Generalleutnant Ludwig Merker; 32 pp, 3 illus. A task force participating in a major German attack is given the dual mission of capturing a number of Russian strongpoints and simultaneously protecting the division's flank. Mistakes at division and task force level delay the advance. An example of "how not to do it."

- P-149/13 Winterlicher Angriff mit begrenztem Ziel einer schwachen Regts. Kampfgruppe. By Generalmajor Joachim von Stolzmann; 20 pp, 3 illus. Local counterattack by task force against superior Russian forces. The purpose of the operation is to prevent the Red Army from cutting a vital supply road in the rear of the regiment. Snow and freezing temperatures complicate the action which is finally successful.
- P-149/14 Durchbruch einer Inf. Div. durch eine festungsartig ausgebaute Stellung unter Schwerpunktverlegung im abgekuerzten Verfahren. By Generalleutnant Hugo Hoefl; 28 pp, 3 illus. An infantry division is ordered to breakthrough a prepared Russian position. When a first attack fails due to stubborn resistance by the Red forces, the German commander shifts the main effort to another part of the position. This time the attack is successful.
- P-149/15 Hinhaltender Kampf eines improvisierten Verbandes auf breiter Front gegen ueberlegenen Feind. By Colonel Gerd von Hobe; 29 pp, 8 illus. An improvised task force consisting of tanks and infantry attempts to hold up the American advance in Southern Germany. The tasks successively assigned to the unit include delaying action on a broad front, disengagement from an attacker under difficult conditions, and withdrawal.
- P-149/16 Hinhaltender Kampf eines verst. Inf. Btlts. By Colonel Joachim Wuest; 31 pp, 3 illus. A reinforced infantry battalion fights a successful delaying action to prevent the Russians from interfering with the rearward communications of the advancing German armies.
- P-149/17 Die Wahl des Schwerpunkts beim Angriff durch eine befestigte Feldstellung. By General der Gebirgstruppen Hubert Lanz; 26 pp, 8 illus. An elite German mountain unit successfully pierces a strongly fortified Russian field position by skillfully selecting the weakest point in the defenses. A graphic description which leaves very little to the imagination.
- P-149/18 Angriff ueber einen Fluss. By 1st Lt Alexander Buchner; 23 pp, 5 illus. Canal crossing and attack by German battalion is complicated by poor leadership and misunderstandings. Attack succeeds because French fail to counter-attack during critical moments. An example of "how not to do it."

- P-149/19 Planmaessiger Angriff mit begrenztem Ziel und Umstellung zur Abwehr im karelistischen Urwald. By Lt Col Emil Schuler; 42 pp, 10 illus. Elements of a German infantry regiment execute a planned attack on a Russian strongpoint in the Finnish forests. At first successful, the Germans later are driven back by counterattacking Red forces. In the end, however, it is the Germans who are victorious.
- P-149/20 Sicherung einer breiten Luecke in beweglicher Kampffuehrung. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 31 pp, 4 illus. A motorized infantry division, operating independently in a wide gap between two German army groups, deals the Russians a succession of hard blows to keep them off balance and prevent a breakthrough. Study covers a period of four months.
- P-149/21 Gegenangriff im winterlichen Hochgebirge. By Colonel Richard Ernst; 38 pp, 8 illus. In the last days of the war a German battalion is forced to withdraw by the French forces from its mountain positions. Mounting a surprise counterattack, the German unit succeeds in recapturing its former MLR. The stress is on the technical and tactical conditions of combat at high altitudes.
- P-149/22 Vormarsch, Aufklaerung und Kampf einer Panzeraufklaerungs-  
abteilung. By Major Wolfgang Everth; 23 pp, 3 illus. A German reconnaissance unit crosses the Polish border on 22 June 1941 and holds open for the division a narrow tongue of land between two lakes. Mistakes are made which are typical of inexperienced leadership and troops.
- P-149/23 Angriff einer schnell zusammengestellten Vorausabteilung. By Major Wilhelm Speisebecher; 23 pp, 9 illus. A mobile advance detachment is ordered to take possession of bridges over a river and to keep them open for the division. Faulty evaluation of the situation and the Russians delays execution of the mission.
- P-149/24 Hinhaltender Kampf bei bedrohter offener Flanke. By Colonel (GSC) Hermann Rehm; 24 pp, 6 illus. A battered German infantry division delays the advance of US mobile forces on its front and flank, to permit a German army to make an orderly withdrawal.

- P-149/25 Abgekuerzter Infanterie Angriff auf befestigte Feldstellung in der Wueste. By Major (GSC) Werner Reissmann; 37 pp, 5 illus. A mobile task force of Rommel's Africa Corps mounts a surprise attack against a British strongpoint in the desert. The speed of the operation and the effective support of the artillery result in capture of the position.
- P-149/26 Schiaeger im Angriff. By Major Erich Hett; 26 pp, 31 illus. A newly activated ski infantry unit demonstrates its value by an attack over loose deep snow on a Russian position.
- P-149/27 Mislungener Angriff ueber einen Fluss. By Generalmajor Hans Kissel; 44 pp, 10 illus. A German regiment, ordered to attack across a river, is stopped by unexpectedly heavy resistance. Insufficient preparation, underestimation of enemy capabilities, and poor coordination between the infantry and the artillery, result in a temporary setback for the Germans.
- P-149/28 Die Abwehr des Britischen Luftlande- und Durchbruchsangriffs suedlich Catania (Sizilien). By Colonel Rudolf Boehmler; 35 pp, 10 illus. Elements of a German parachute division land in Sicily during the Allied invasion of that island. Counterattacking, they are at first successful, but when Allied reinforcements join in the fighting, the Germans are compelled to withdraw.
- P-149/29 Inf. Div. in Angriff und Verfolgung am freien Fluegel. By Colonel (GSC) Hans Joachim Schipp von Branitz; 42 pp, 5 illus. A German infantry division participates in a large-scale offensive against the Russian forces guarding the approaches to Leningrad. Success is delayed because division headquarters underestimate Russian capabilities and make mistakes in carrying out German intentions. After severe fighting in which both sides suffer heavy losses, the Germans are victorious and the attack develops into a pursuit of the enemy.
- P-149/30 Angriff aus der Bewegung im Gebirge. By 1st Lt Alexander Buchner; 18 pp, 4 illus. German mountain infantry airlanded on the island of Crete in the wake of paratroopers attack through trackless mountain terrain against British forces in the area of the Bay of Suda. Mistakes in leadership and insufficient reconnaissance result in a meeting engagement in which the Germans are temporarily at a disadvantage. The situation is restored by German superiority in training and flexibility.

P-149/31

Gegenangriff einer gemischten Kampfgruppe mit begrenztem Ziel. By Generalleutnant Friedrich Weber; 16 pp, 5 illus. When an Allied penetration threatens to split the German-Italian forces fighting with their backs to the sea in northern Tunisia, a German mixed unit is hastily organized and given the mission of counter-attacking and restoring the situation. The Germans are unfamiliar with the terrain and the enemy, and do not have sufficient time to make the proper preparations, but speed and skillful leadership are made to compensate for these disadvantages. The counterattack is successful and the former MLR is restored.

P-149/32

Flussuebergang auf breiter Front aus der Bewegung. By Generalmajor Hans Kissel; 34 pp, 5 illus. A German infantry regiment is ordered to cross a river defended by Russian troops. There is insufficient time in which to prepare the attack and no definite information about the enemy. Moreover, the objective is several miles distant, and the muddy roads hamper all movement. Despite these drawbacks, the attack succeeds. Skillfully directed by the regimental commander, the German forces advance on a broad front to tie down the enemy and disperse his striking power. Excellent teamwork between the infantry and the artillery contribute to the success of the operation.

P-149/33

Ueberholende Verfolgung. By General der Gebirgstruppen Hubert Lanz; 29 pp, 4 illus. A mountain division, part of the German forces that have broken through the Stalin Line, pursues the Russians in an attempt to cut off the Soviet forces still west of the Bug River. The division is numerically inferior to the Red troops and is attacked by forces seeking to escape the threatening encirclement. Temporarily, the division is itself cut off, but adroit leadership and hard fighting surmounts this crisis. Nevertheless the effort to encircle the bulk of the withdrawing Russians is unsuccessful due to poor teamwork by an adjacent unit.

P-149/34

Verteidigung auf breiter Front im Winter. By Colonel Adolf Maile; 30 pp, 8 illus. A motorized infantry regiment fights successfully on a broad front in harsh winter weather against repeated Russian attempts to break through.

- P-149/35 Rangierte Abwehrschlacht. By Colonel Rudolf Boehmler; 38 pp, 10 illus. A German parachute division successfully defends carefully prepared positions during a nine-day attack by superior Allied forces in the Monte Cassino area.
- P-149/36 Seen-Verteidigung. By Major Jurgen Schroeder; 36 pp, 5 illus. A reinforced infantry regiment actively defends a sector on the bank of a lake against Russian attack. The Russians attack in fall weather, before the lake is frozen, and in cold weather, when it is covered with a thick sheet of ice. The conclusion is that it is wrong to overestimate the effectiveness of lakes as obstacles, especially when dealing with opponents like the Russians.
- P-149/37 Luftlandung Rotterdam. By Colonel (GSC) Heinz Langmann; 34 pp, 6 illus. A reinforced infantry regiment lands in transport planes on a Dutch airfield already occupied by German parachute troops. The regiment goes into action and captures two important bridges which it holds open for the ground forces.
- P-149/38 Verfolgungskampfe. By Generalmajor Hans Kissel; 31 pp, 3 illus. An infantry regiment engages in pursuit of beaten Russian forces. The unit's mobility is inferior to that of the withdrawing Red Army troops, so that the "pursuit" is only partially successful and never develops into an encircling maneuver (see MS # P-149/33, "Ueberholend Verfolgung"). Emphasis is on the small tactical improvisations used to surmount obstacles and accelerate the movement. The repetition of these devices during the three-day period covered tends to become monotonous.
- P-149/39 Ortskampf. By Colonel Robert Kaestner; 40 pp, 7 illus. A hastily moved up reinforced infantry regiment recaptures a Crimean port city from Russian landing parties. In the process, there is bitter house-to-house fighting, and the whole technique of combat in towns is examined.
- P-149/40 Gegenangriff im hochwinterlichen Berggelaende. By 1st Lt Alexander Buchner; 17 pp, 3 illus. A battalion of German mountain troops, transported by sea to northern Norway, defends itself against Norwegian attack, in the difficult terrain and harsh weather of the Far North. Counterattacking by surprise and concentrating their striking power at the decisive place, the Germans catch their enemies off balance and put them to flight.
- P-149/41 Abwehrschlacht. By Generalleutnant Ludwig Merker; 53 pp, 11 illus. An infantry division successfully defends its positions against massed frontal attacks by the Russians. An example of stationary warfare.



- P-149/42 Nachtruppen im Flussuebergang. By Colonel (GSC) Hermann Rehm; 38 pp, 5 illus. An understrength German infantry division fights a successful delaying action to permit panzer divisions to escape across the Seine River. The stress is on the difficulties of crossing a river in retrograde march with all bridges down and under heavy pressure by enemy armor, in this case US forces, part of which have already bypassed the defenders. The study is a step-by-step relation of the course of events.
- P-149/43 Nachhutgefecht einer Kompanie. By 1st Lt Alexander Buchner; 20 pp, 4 illus. A company of mountain infantry fights a rearguard action in difficult mountain terrain. The youthful commander makes a series of mistakes which are used by the author to demonstrate the principles governing disengagement.
- P-149/44 Selbstaendiger Entschluss eines Inf. Regts. By Major (GSC) Wilhelm Speisebecher; 32 pp, 7 illus. The commander of one of the victorious German regiments driving on Kiev undertakes to mount an independent attack through the city's inner ring of fortifications. The study demonstrates that there must be a limit beyond which the exercise of personal initiative is dangerous. In addition, the study shows how the main effort and direction of attack are shifted to conform with the needs of the battle.
- P-149/45 Tropfenweise Einsatz einer Inf. Div. gegen einen drohenden feindlichen Angriff. By Colonel (GSC) Hubert Diermayer; 38 pp, 5 illus. Elements of a German infantry division are committed piecemeal, as they arrive at the front, against Russian forces which threaten to break through the German lines. After hard fighting against great odds the German division is successful in stopping the enemy. The study stresses the importance of reserves in defensive combat.
- P-149/46 Freikampfen von Stutzpunkten gegen Partisanen in unwegsamem Gebirgsgelaende. By Colonel Konrad Wild; 41 pp, 5 illus. An infantry regiment composed of Croatian personnel with German cadres mounts a successful attack in difficult mountain terrain to relieve Axis strongpoints besieged by Yugoslav partisans.

P-149/47

Angriff und Rueckzug im Hochgebirge. By 1st Lt Alexander Buchner; 24 pp, 4 illus. A "battle group" of German mountain infantry, after crossing the Caucasus Mountains, is almost within sight of the Black Sea, separated from the coast by one last chain. Its advance is then halted because of the (exaggerated) report of a threat to the unit's rear. The decisions taken subsequently by the commander do not conform with standard practice in mountain warfare. A decisive attack fails, and the withdrawal ordered by superior headquarters is executed so ineptly that it almost leads to a catastrophe.

P-149/48

Nachtangriff mit einer geschwaechten, ungeuebten Truppe. By Colonel Wilhelm Willemer; 18 pp, 3 illus. A battered, demoralized German regiment of untrained troops is ordered to mount a night attack to restore the former MLR. Despite the regiment's inferiority in men and materiel, and the low morale of its personnel, the attack succeeds thanks to the excellent psychological methods and sound tactics of the commander.

P-149/49

Abriegelung des Nordteiles des Baranow-Brueckenkopfes bei Sandomierz. By Colonel Robert Kaestner; 29 pp, 6 illus. In a critical situation caused by a Russian penetration, a German regimental staff is placed in charge of miscellaneous units largely composed of inexperienced troops, and given the task of containing the enemy penetration. The means used by the staff to remove the threat of encirclement and later, to escape from actual encirclement, are instructive.

P-149/50

Vormarsch, Flussuebergang und Verfolgung einer Panzer Division. By Generalmajor Oskar Munzel; 24 pp, 11 illus. A panzer division in the attack during the first chaotic days of the Blitzkrieg in the West. The German unit advances through difficult terrain (which prevents it from outflanking the enemy), crosses a defended river sector, finally breaks through the enemy MLR and pushes deep into the enemy rear, opening the road for a sustained drive to the Channel.

P-149/51

Krise und Gegenstoss in der Wueste. By Major (GSC) Werner Reissmann; 33 pp, 6 illus. During the period of hard fighting which followed the failure of Rommel's forces in North Africa to reach the Nile, a weary battalion of German armored infantry recaptures a desert vantage point in a spirited counterattack against British troops, despite the latter's superiority in men and material.

P-149/52

Angriff von Fallschirmjaeger. By Colonel Rudolf Boehmler; 31 pp, 6 illus. A battalion of German parachute troops lands in proximity of two bridges over the Maas River in Holland -- bridges which are of vital importance to the Dutch forces. The surprise landing enables the Germans to capture the bridges before the defenders can demolish them. Feeble counterattacks by the Dutch fail to dislodge the Germans. Compare with MS # P-149/37.

P-149/53

Uebergang zur Verteidigung aus den Rueckzug. By General-major Hans Kissel; 28 pp, 3 illus. An infantry regiment participates in a general withdrawal of German forces westward to the Dnepr River. Just before reaching the river the unit faces about to ward off the pursuing Russians. The study illustrates the dangers inherent in a shift from one type of combat to another during action. Skillful leadership and an iron control of the troops are needed to prevent the momentary weakness occurring during such a shift from degenerating into a catastrophe.

P-149/54

Missglaeckter Angriff. By Generalieutnant Ludwig Merker; 23 pp, 4 illus. A battalion of German infantry mounts an attack to tie down Russian forces. The attack does not succeed because the adjacent German units fail to provide support, thus exposing the advancing battalion to heavy flanking fire.

P-149/55

Gegenstoss einer gepanzerten Kampfgruppe gegen durchgebrochenen Feind in der Abwehrschlacht. By Captain J. M. von Senger und Etterlin; 23 pp, 7 illus. As part of the German forces waging a flexible defense in a vital bridgehead on the lower Dnepr River, an armored task force engages in a successful counterattack against Russian tanks in superior number. Study illustrates Soviet armored tactics and German countermeasures.

P-149/56

Vormarsch und Angriff eines Panzer-Regiments in der Wueste. By General der Panzertruppen Gustav von Vaerst; 9 pp, 2 illus. A German panzer regiment, unexpectedly encountering British tanks in the desert during Rommel's advance on Tobruk, destroys its opponents in a short violent battle which illustrates the principles governing tank combat in the desert.

- P-149/57 Einschliessung im finnischen Kessel und Ausbruch. By Major Erich Hett; 28 pp, 4 illus. The Finns, Germany's former allies, use their famous encircling tactics against a German combat team of ski troops. The maneuver is successful but after hard fighting the Germans succeed in breaking out. Compare with MS # P-149/26.
- P-149/58 Angriff auf staendige Befestigungen im unwegsamem Gebirge. By Colonel Robert Kaestner; 38 pp, 8 illus. A frontal attack in difficult terrain against concrete fortifications in the Greek mountains leads to high losses for the Germans. The capitulation of the Greek Army puts an end to the action before a decisive breakthrough is achieved. The study provides excellent coverage of operations against a system of permanent works manned by specialized troops who are inclined to put too much faith in concrete.
- P-149/59 Rueckzug. By Generalmajor Hans Kissel; 35 pp, 4 illus. As part of a planned withdrawal of the German forces from the Dnepr to the Dnestr, an infantry regiment retreats under the constant pressure of the pursuing Red Army. Factors affecting the conduct of the withdrawal are the superior mobility of the Soviets and the lack, on the German side, of heavy weapons and sufficient ammunition for the artillery. The example contains all the phases of a retrograde movement: disengagement, retirement, delaying action, occupation of a new position.
- P-149/60 Feuertaufe des verstaerkten I.R. 215. By Generalleutnant Ludwig Merker; 26 pp, 4 illus. Shortly after the start of the campaign against Soviet Russia, a German infantry regiment attacks the enemy in difficult terrain. The attack is successful and the regiment continues its advance into Russia. Study demonstrates the principles of the meeting engagement, forest fighting, and the psychological effects of a baptism of fire.
- P-149/61 Eroberung des Forts Balaklava bei Sewastopol. By Colonel Robert Kaestner; 27 pp, 8 illus. A German infantry regiment successfully executes an attack on one of the permanent fortifications in the outer ring of the defenses of Sevastopol. The regimental commander believes that the terrain will exercise a decisive influence on the conduct of the operation and manages to convince division headquarters that they should change their original plan. Compare with study by same author on the Metaxas Line, MS # P-149/58 and with MS # T-20, The Battle of the Crimea.

P-149/62

Uebergang aus dem Rueckzug zur Verfolgung. By General der Panzertruppen F. von Senger und Etterlin; 28 pp, 4 illus. A retreating panzer division (with few tanks only) reverses its direction, routs Russian forces threatening to cut it off, and pursues the enemy. An unusual situation which vividly demonstrates the principles of pursuit and offers interesting psychological highlights.

P-149/63

Ueberwindung naechtlicher Abwehrkrise. By Lt Col Friedrich-Wilhelm von Notz; 27 pp, 5 illus. As part of the German forces fighting off Russian attacks in late fall of 1941, an infantry battalion successfully defends itself against night raids by the enemy. Study illustrates a difference existing in German tactical doctrine between Gegenstoss (literally "counterthrust") which hits the enemy before he is ready, and Gegenangriff ("counterattack") which is a systematic, carefully prepared operation against an adversary ready to defend himself.

P-149/64

Einbruch in ein Hauptkampffeld. By 1st Lt Alexander Buchner; 16 pp, 5 illus. A battalion of German infantry mounts a successful night attack against the Russians which includes a river crossing and combat in a village. Study is a classic example of small unit tactics.

P-149/65

Planmaessiger Angriff gegen ausgebautes Stellungssystem. By Major Werner Reissmann; 44 pp, 5 illus. After months of careful preparation the German forces on the northern front in Russia attempt to regain the initiative by eliminating the bulge carved out by the Red Army in the Kursk area during the winter of 1942-43. Simultaneous attacks on the bulge are launched from the north and the south. The mission of the heavily reinforced 6th Infantry Division, attacking from the north, is to break through the well-prepared Russian defenses to open a way for the panzer units to drive into the depth of the bulge. After initial successes, the German attack is stalled by the well-prepared Russian defenses.

P-149/66

Gepanzerte Kampfgruppe im Angriff. By Colonel Ernst Wilhelm Hoffmann; 47 pp, 12 illus. A task force of armored infantry is given the mission of relieving the besieged city of Kovel, defended by a weak garrison and containing approximately 5,000 seriously wounded German personnel. All previous efforts by German infantry have failed, and the garrison's plight is desperate. In a skilfully conducted series of actions the task force strikes at the weak spots in the Russian defenses and fights its way into Kovel.

P-149/67

Angriff im Hochgebirge. By General der Gebirgstruppen Hubert Lanz; 25 pp, 10 illus. Reaching the Caucasus Mountains in the summer of 1942, the German forces attempt to open up the passes to prepare the way for the conquest of the Transcaucasian region and its principal city, Tiflis. In a carefully prepared and skillfully conducted operation, a regimental task force composed of well-trained mountain troops carries out the difficult task of capturing Maruchskoj Pass.

P-149/68

Eroberung eines Luftlandkopfes. By Major Werner Pissin; 55 pp, 9 illus. A German assault regiment captures an airfield on the island of Crete against stubborn resistance by the Allies and the natives. The German unit suffers high losses but is finally successful in repulsing the counterattacks.

P-149/69

Winterliche Infanterie-Angriffe. By Colonel Robert Kaestner; 32 pp, 6 illus. A German infantry battalion, operating quite independently, without flank protection or artillery support, carries out a series of successful attacks against the Russians to check the progress of the winter offensive west of Voronezh. Of particular interest is the success achieved in retaining mobility during a period of sudden temperature changes resulting in alternate thaws and freeze-ups.

P-149/70

Abwehr und Rueckzug unter ueberholender Verfolgung durch den Feind. By Generalleutnant Friedrich Sixt; 36 pp, 4 illus. Responsible for the defense of a strategic sector in the Crimea, a German infantry division fights a seven-day delaying action against pursuing Russian forces. The division suffers heavy casualties, but troop morale and discipline are maintained throughout the action.

P-149/71

Partisanenkampf im Gebirge. By General der Gebirgstruppen Hubert Lanz; 27 pp, 9 illus. Two mountain divisions are employed by the German command in a concerted effort to destroy the partisans in the mountains of southern Albania. The operation is successful and the bulk of the guerillas are eliminated.

P-149/72

Durchbruch durch starke Partisanenverbaende im winterlichen Gebirge. By Colonel Heinz Langmann; 34 pp, 4 illus. During the withdrawal of Army Group E from the Balkans in the winter of 1944-45, a German infantry division is given the mission of moving up a valley which is held by strong Partisan forces. This mission is assigned in order to relieve pressure on the main German withdrawal route from Bosnia. Over a period of several weeks, the division constitutes a moving pocket, surrounded by numerically superior but poorly equipped and inexperienced Partisans. Although extremely short of supplies and materiel, the division accomplishes its mission, but not without incurring heavy losses.

P-149/73

Improvisierte Abwehr im winterlichen Grosskampf. By Colonel Konrad Purucker; 20 pp, 5 illus. The Russian attempt to effect a large-scale breakthrough south of Rzhev late in November 1942 makes it necessary for the German defenders to resort to hasty improvisations to avert a disaster. The defense of the most critical sector becomes the responsibility of a new regimental staff commanding hastily assembled remnants of a variety of units. Although numerically inferior, it carries out its defensive mission in a series of skillfully conducted operations featuring the effective use of artillery.

P-149/74

Angriff im unwegsamen Waldgebirge. By General der Gebirgstruppen Emil W. Vogel; 34 pp, 16 illus. A German infantry division is given the mission of attacking across the western foothills of the Caucasus Mountains with the object of reaching the Black Sea. To accomplish this mission, the division has to fight its way through a trackless area, blanketed by forests in which the Russians defend strong and well-concealed positions. After two days of futile attacks, the division commander exploits an opening discovered by reconnaissance, and thus prepares the way for the encirclement and ultimate destruction of the Russian forces in that area.

P-149/75

Durchbruch durch eine Bunkerlinie. By Generalleutnant Friedrich Weber; 18 pp, 4 illus. German forces attempting to exploit the element of surprise on the first day of the offensive in the West capture a railway bridge over the Maas River in Holland. Two trains carrying a German battalion boldly ride through the fortified Dutch Peel Line and by evening a wide gap has been torn in the Dutch defenses, and German tanks are ready to exploit the advantage gained.

## APPENDIX

## LIST ACCORDING TO TYPES OF COMBAT

MS # P-143d, Selected Regimental Operations on the Eastern Front

<u>#</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Rating</u>
<u>ATTACK</u>				
1	1941	Willemer	Smolensk	III
2	1941	"	Loknya-Cholm area	III
3	1941	"	Kiev	III
7	1941	"	Orel-Tula area	II
8	1941	"	Moscow area	II
9	1941	"	Lyuban area	II
10	1942	"	Smolensk-Vyazma RR	II
11	1942	Sperl	Smolensk-Tula area	III
12	1942	"	Rzhev	IV
13	1944	"	Finland	II
15	1943	"	Nikopol	III
16	1944	"	Ukraine	II
17	1944	"	"	II
<u>COUNTERATTACK</u>				
20	1944	Sperl	Rumania	III
<u>PURSUIT</u>				
6	1941	Sperl	Smolensk-Vyazma rd	II



<u>#</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Rating</u>
<u>DEFENSE</u>				
14	1943	Sperl	Leningrad area	II
<u>WITHDRAWAL</u>				
18	1944	Sperl	Ukraine	III
19	1944	"	Bug and San Rivers	II
<u>FIGHTING IN FORESTS AND SWAMPS</u>				
5	1941	Willemer	Desna River area	II
<u>AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS</u>				
4	1941	Willemer	Baltic Sea	I

M # P-149 - Combat Series

<u>#</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Rating</u>
<u>ATTACK</u>				
4	1941	Hoefl	Barbareva	II
12	1941	Merker	Moskva River	I
23	1941	Speisebecher	Luzk	II
29	1941	v. Branitz	Luga	II
44	1941	Speisebecher	Kiev	III
54	1942	Merker	Gshat	II
60	1941	Merker	Poland	II
65	1943	Reissmann	Kursk area	II
66	1944	Hoffmann	Kovel area	I
<u>FIGHTING IN TOWNS</u>				
39	1942	Kaestner	Crimea	III
<u>NIGHT ATTACK</u>				
48	1945	Viehmann	Czechoslovakia	II
64	1942	Buchner	Ukraine	II
<u>ATTACK AGAINST FORTIFICATIONS</u>				
5	1941	Schuler	Kiev	I
7	1942	Maile	Slaviansk	III
14	1941	Hoefl	Volga Line	II
17	1941	Lanz	Stalin Line	II
58	1941	Kaestner	Greece	II
61	1941	Kaestner	Crimea	II
75	1940	Weber	Holland	II

<u>#</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Rating</u>
<u>ATTACK AND DEFENSE</u>				
3	1939	Buchner	Poland	IV
<u>COUNTERATTACK</u>				
10	1942	Merker	Gshat	II
55	1943	v. Senger	Nikopol	I
<u>PURSUIT</u>				
38	1941	Kissel	Kremenchug	II
33	1941	Lanz	Vinnitsa	I
62	1943	v. Senger	So. Russia	I
<u>DEFENSE</u>				
8	1944	Kissel	Dnepr	I
34	1942	Maile	Oka River	IV
35	1944	Boehmler	Monte Cassino	I
36	1941	Schroeder	Rzhev area	II
41	1943	Merker	Smolensk area	III
49	1944	Kaestner	Poland	I
53	1943	Kissel	Zaporozhye	I
63	1941	v. Notz	No. Russia	II
73	1942	Purucker	Rzhev area	III
<u>DISENGAGEMENT</u>				
1	1942	Purucker	Moskva River	II
2	1945	v. Hobe	Trier, Germany	II
43	1944	Buchner	Hungary	III

<u>#</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Rating</u>
<u>WITHDRAWAL</u>				
59	1944	Kissel	Ukraine	II
70	1944	Sixt	Crimea	I
<u>RECONNAISSANCE</u>				
22	1939	Everth	Poland	II
<u>DELAYING ACTION</u>				
15	1945	v. Hobe	Germany	I
16	1941	Wuest	So. Russia	II
24	1944	Rehm	Normandy	II
45	1942	Diermayer	Central Russia	I
<u>WINTER WARFARE</u>				
13	1942	v. Stolzmann	Central Russia	II
26	1941	Hett	Central Russia	II
6	1942	Hoefl	Rzhev	II
69	1943	Kaestner	Kursk area	II
<u>RIVER CROSSING IN ATTACK</u>				
9	1940	Schroeder	Maas River	II
18	1940	Buchner	France	II
27	1940	Kissel	Scheldt River	I
32	1941	Kissel	So. Russia	I
50	1940	Munzel	Maas River	II
<u>RIVER CROSSING IN WITHDRAWAL</u>				
42	1944	Rehm	Seine River	III
<u>FIGHTING IN FORESTS AND SWAMPS</u>				
11	1944	Munzel	Riga	II
19	1943	Schuler	Finland	I
57	1943	Hett	Finland	IV

<u>#</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Rating</u>
<u>MOUNTAIN WARFARE</u>				
21	1945	Ernst	Alps	I
30	1941	Buchner	Crete	II
40	1940	Buchner	Norway	II
47	1942	Buchner	Caucasus	III
67	1942	Lanz	Caucasus	I
74	1942	Vogel	Caucasus	I
<u>PARTISAN WARFARE</u>				
46	1943	Wild	Balkans	II
71	1944	Lanz	Balkans	II
72	1945	Langmann	Balkans	II
<u>DESERT WARFARE</u>				
20	1942	Willemer	So. Russia	I
25	1942	Reissmann	No. Africa	I
31	1943	Weber	No. Africa	I
51	1942	Reissmann	No. Africa	I
56	1942	Vaerst	No. Africa	II
<u>AIRBORNE OPERATIONS</u>				
28	1943	Boehmler	Sicily	I
37	1940	Langmann	Holland	I
52	1940	Boehmler	Holland	I
68	1941	Pissin	Crete	III