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THE LIGHT "MINENWERFER" ON CARRIAGE.

(*Leichter Minenwerfer in Flachbahn*)

(From a captured German document.)

1. EMPLOYMENT.

General principles.—In both attack and defence, light *Minenwerfer* keep close behind the infantry and support the latter by close-range fire. Bodies of infantry, tanks and machine gun nests are typical targets for them to engage.

Mobility, speed in coming into action, the maintenance of ammunition supply and continuous progressive action are demanded from them.

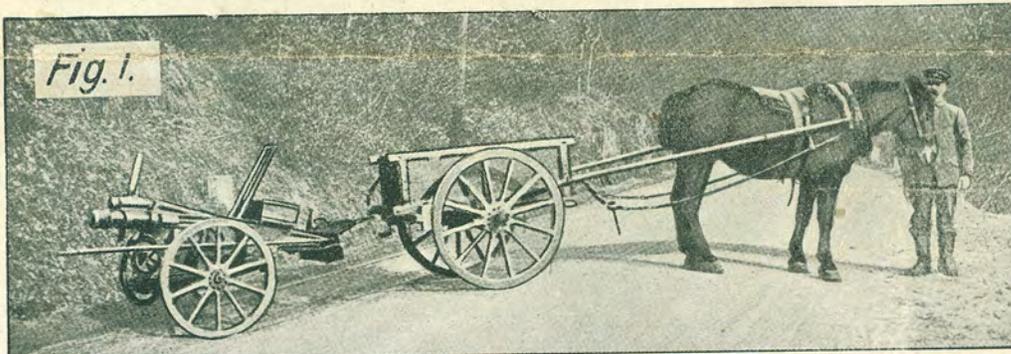
Minenwerfer commanders must possess initiative and be capable of making rapid decisions. They must keep in touch with the situation by personal observation and by maintaining close liaison with the infantry.

On the march.—When moving along roads, the light *Minenwerfer* are hooked on behind the light ammunition carts (Fig. 1), and the 1895 pattern ammunition wagons follow in column.

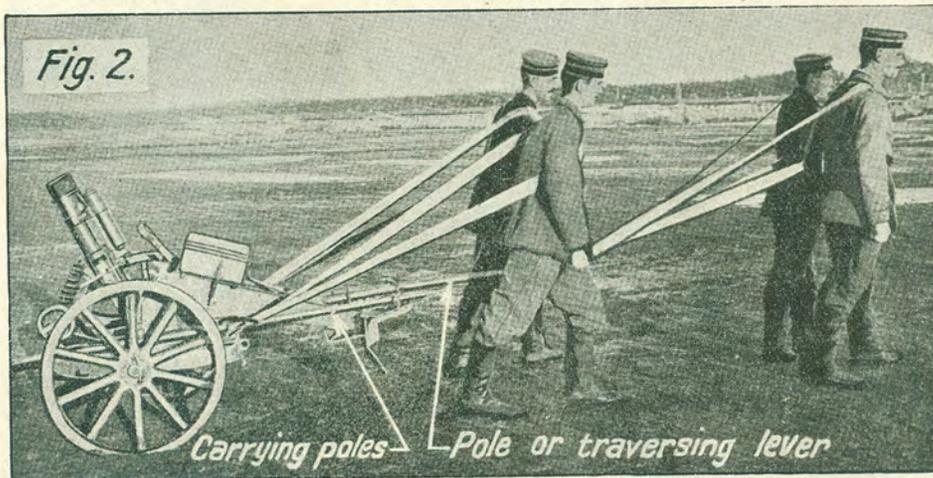
On the battlefield.—The *Minenwerfer* are unhooked when the enemy's fire renders horsed transport impossible and are manhandled into action (Fig. 2). The ammunition is carried by hand. The ammunition carts follow as best they can.

NOTE.—In the earlier offensives of 1918, light *Minenwerfer* were generally of little use to the advancing infantry, owing to the difficulties of transportation and of ammunition supply. These difficulties appear to have been surmounted, for accounts of the Aisne offensive agree that the effective support rendered by horse-drawn light *Minenwerfer*, particularly in the destruction of machine gun nests, was one of the features of the advance. In fact, light *Minenwerfer* appear to have maintained closer touch with the infantry and to have come into action more quickly than the field batteries detailed to accompany the infantry.

One German division suggested that the light *Minenwerfer* should be mounted on a sledge in order to facilitate transport across the crater zone, but there is no information of this method of mounting having been introduced.



ON THE MARCH.



GOING INTO ACTION.