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The Horse in War

Increase in antitank defenses and development of air power will decrease importance of armored units in warfare and might lead to collapse of tank armies, Gen. K. Herr, Chief of Cavality, recently told the Horse and Mule Association of America.

General Herr, in his speech, which was printed in the Congressional Record by request of Rep. W. T. Woodruff, Ind., indicated that failure of the Germans to have cavalry in divisions contributed to their success in Russia.

The Germans make wide use of horses, said General Herr, but though the Nazis had reconnaissance units for the regular army, they had but one cavalry division.

"In the advance into Russia," he declared, "the Germans had no cavalry in divisions and corps which would have greatly assisted them. Consequently, the German armored forces, the Russian enemy often closed in along the line of advance and halted the tank and motorized infantry which followed. The Russians also frequently interposed between the motorized infantry and the marching divisions. Isolated armored units were surrounded and destroyed. Guerilla warfare then broke out from behind the lines, and a number of armored elements were ambushed by antitank units.

"Cavalry can cope with all these situations, will gain you time and allow you to wait in ambush. It will protect the tanks of the motorized infantry in battles against the infantry. When the situation calls for it, it will march on the marches of the marching divisions. It will cope with guerilla warfare. It is well suited to life in our present conditions."

The Russian Army has more than 1,000,000 animals, General Herr said, the horse body contains more than 575,000, the German Army 800,000, and the American Army, 50,000.

Though the Germans have but one cavalry division, the Russians, two, the Germans have more corps cavalry regiments. They have horse troops with machine guns, mortars, and field artillery. The plateau of 50 horsemen in each marching infantry division can handle the marching divisions practically all artillery. Other transport is horse-drawn.

The German divisions are completely motorized.

Citing Maj. Gen. Robert H. Danford, Chief of Field Artillery, who said that demands for air and motorized facilities and materials to produce motor vehicles, tank troops, and heavy artillery exceed that of time is now here. "We should condemn yourself," General Herr said, "to the fullest extent possible," he declared, "to produce all types of products and industries for other vital needs.

Stating that antitank units already were reducing effectiveness of tank units, General Herr warned, "That doesn't mean that the power is, it is still in its infancy. Soon we will have planes practicing highly effective antitank operations. What is the effect of the antitank gun, the bomb and the machine gun, respectively, on the tanks, the infantry and the armored forces will be destroyed... The air force will be able to increase as a member of the ground exploitation. Because of its cross-country mobility and speed, it can be used as a mobile screen to avoid losses in the air and continue to move. These inherent powers also enable it to develop the art of camouflage, and attack supply columns and infantry in trucks."

Army Uses Bicycles

The Army's first large purchase of bicycles since World War I, amounting to several thousand vehicles of standard de

National Guard Officer Status

Explaining the status of National Guard officers not in active Federal Service, Gen. W. W. Merritt, of the Adjutant General Corps, explained that irrespective of the status of their State commission or their Federal commission, each must be enrolled in the National Guard of the United States and commissions in the Army of the United States. If an officer is not subject to being called to active duty at any time, this would not hold true if that individual has or has been or is terminated by the War Department subsequent to 15 Dec. 1941.

The following announcement explained that under the provisions of PL 308, appointments in the Army of the United States, in force on 15 Dec. 1941, were extended for the duration of the war and for six months thereafter.

Navy Public Works

The House this week passed and sent to the Senate authorization for the appropriations of $50,000,000 for Navy public works.