

c. Pursuit [Fig. 9]

"1" Unit assigned to exert direct pressure....containment of enemy withdrawal by continuous and unrelenting pressure

"2" Unit assigned to a turning movement....interdicting the enemy's route of withdrawal and encircling and destroying the enemy (strike)

d. Defense against amphibious landings

Coastal-defense [large-unit] group (containment) and strike [large-unit] group (strike).

Part III. CONCENTRATION OF COMBAT POWER

Chapter I. Summary

1. Significance of concentration of combat power

a. Meaning of "concentration of combat power"

"Concentration of combat power" is the assembling of as much as possible of our combat power and its integrated application at critical times and places.

This is one of the "methods of using power" that apply limited power in the most effective manner and one of the most important principles of war derived from the basic principle of war that superiority wins and inferiority loses.

b. Why is "concentration of combat power" one of the most important principles of war?

"Concentration of combat power" makes it possible for us to create relative superiority at decisive times and places even though we are inferior in the overall ratio of relative combat power of both sides.

In other words, battle occurs with both sides using limited power in a course of time and space called a battlefield. Within this time and space, there exists a critical point that also could be called the decisive point, namely, a [specific] time and place. If victory is gained at that point, even if another unimportant area is temporarily disadvantageous, complete victory can be gained.

c. How should victory be gained at the critical point?

The fact that this can be done by applying superior combat power sufficient to destroy the enemy, is clearly reflected also in the basic principle of war that superiority wins and inferiority loses.

In order for us to gain superiority in the ratio of relative combat power at the decisive time and place, we must not only strive to concentrate combat power but also make a maximum effort to disperse and destroy enemy combat power.

Separating part of the combat power for a supporting operation or secondary attack, at first sight, seems contrary to the concentration of combat power, but it is based on the above concept. The military-personnel strength allocated to this, however, of course, should be the minimum necessary.

d. Mistake of piecemeal commitment of combat power

Occurrences that conflict with the concentration of combat power are dispersed commitment and piecemeal commitment of combat power. This relationship, with counterbattery fire of our two [guns] to the enemy's three, may be depicted graphically as follows:

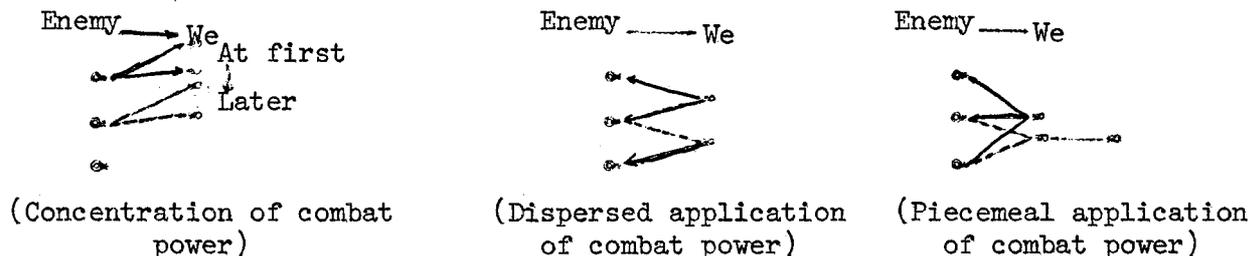


Figure 10

Dispersed commitment and piecemeal commitment of combat power such as in the above examples, in the light of the basic principle of war that superiority wins and inferiority loses, clearly are major errors, but in actual combat, these errors are easy to make.

The main reasons for this are as follows:

- (1) Insufficient knowledge of the situation, particularly the enemy situation
- (2) Deficiency in attention to tactical opportunities and to associated combat power
- (3) Case of lapsing into a passive posture

Here it must be noted that the error of piecemeal commitment of combat power is basically different from the piecemeal commitment of insufficient military personnel, for example, elements successively entering combat in a meeting engagement.

In regard to elements successively entering combat in a meeting engagement, it must be noted that a necessary condition is to be able to maintain superiority in relative combat power throughout the combat, making rapid attacks on enemy weak points or being able to rely on superiority throughout at key positions in the battle situation that control the battle situation.

2. Necessary conditions that should be considered for concentrating combat power

a. Establishment of objective, and a consistent plan

In the absence of establishment of an objective of the operation and a consistent plan based upon it, as well as of the steadfast and intense will of the commander to carry it out, there will not be effective concentration and application of combat power.

b. Positive initiative

A negative, passive posture merely follows the enemy and cannot concentrate combat power. Since attack is characterized by initiative, concentration of combat power is easy, and this advantage should be applied to the maximum. Since defense is passive, combat power easily becomes dispersed. For this reason, particularly at critical times and places, one must actively strive to concentrate combat power.

c. Selection of the critical time and place

These are the time and place that determine victory, that is, the decisive point. In concentrating combat power, it is extremely important first to select an appropriate decisive point. This is not a momentary point, but it has width and depth. If a mistake is made in this selection, not only does it not link to victory, but also the carefully concentrated combat power will end in a fizzle, and the result will be that the enemy turns our strength to his advantage. This involves the case of our taking the initiative in action and the case created by the relative relationships of the two sides, but one must act with positive initiative and, in the second case, discernment is necessary to seize tactical opportunities.

In other words, it may be said that the decisive point is a terrain point that produces the "tactical opportunity" mentioned above.

d. Integrated application of combat power

Merely assembling combat power superior to that of the enemy is equivalent to a mob. If combat strength is not organized, not concentrated against a vital part of the enemy (decisive point), and not applied integrally, it is meaningless.

In particular, in modern warfare, it is necessary to concentrate combat power three-dimensionally, of course with integration of ground, sea, and air, and with organic cooperation of all branches of service, and main and secondary attacks, firepower and tactical mobility, front and depth, operations and intelligence, communications, logistics, and other functions must be integrated and organized so as to apply maximum combat power at critical times and places.

Also, for this, there must be continuity over a desired time period and under a consistent plan.

e. Economic use of combat power

Concentration of combat power requires economical use of combat power on other fronts. In other words, in order to apply maximum combat power at the decisive point, along with maximum curtailment of combat power directed to other areas, it is necessary not to create so-called poorly dispositioned troops, so that no element of the combat power would be made idle.

On the other hand, it is necessary to strive for maximum dispersion and destruction of enemy combat power. As stated above, support operations, secondary attacks, etc., are based on this concept and coincide with economical use of combat power. The statement in Sun-tzu that "knowing use of the disparity in numbers is victory," is this principle.

f. Application of tactical mobility

Warfare, considered from one viewpoint, also can be described as a contest by both sides to concentrate combat power against decisive points. In other words, in order to concentrate desired combat power superior to that of the enemy at a desired time and place, application of swift tactical mobility is an essential condition.

In modern warfare, because of advances in science and technology, particularly developments in firepower and tactical mobility, dispersal of military personnel is regarded as extremely important. In other words, dispersion is important from the viewpoint of maintenance of flexibility; of protection, especially reduction of casualties; of concealment of plans, etc.; and excessive concentration at unnecessary times should be avoided as much as possible.

In other words, the concentration of combat power from a dispersed posture is becoming increasingly important, and for that reason, there must be an effort not merely to use tactical mobility, but also to use mobility of firepower (concentration of fire), reliable command-communications capability, etc.

3. Methods of concentrating combat power

Methods of concentrating combat power are of the following two types:

a. Method of concentrating combat power before arriving on the battlefield (Napoleonic-type concentration method)

Piecemeal defeat of enemy elements by means of concentrated combat power (interior lines)

[Note: numbers in Fig. 11 indicate combat power.]

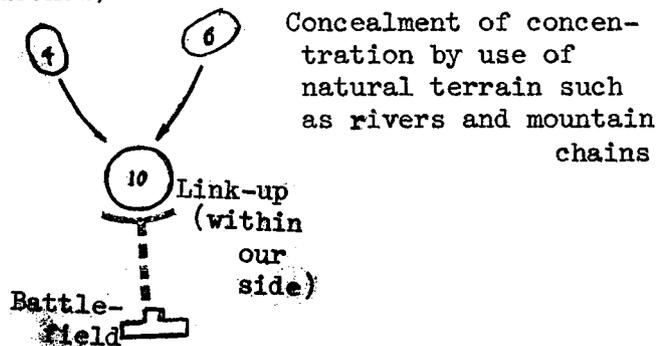
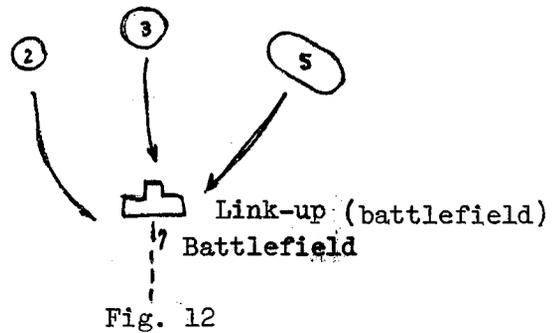


Fig. 11

- b. Method of concentrating combat power on the battlefield (Moltke-type concentration method)

Exterior-lines operation

Note: Numbers [in Fig. 12] indicate combat power.



Historical examples:

Examples of failure to concentrate combat power:

The Soviet Army at the beginning of German-Soviet campaigns [1941]

The drive into North Korea by the United Nations forces in the Korean War

Error of piecemeal commitment of combat power:

The Russian Army in the Russo-Japanese War

Guadalcanal, Leyte, and New Guinea campaigns

Southward advance into North Korea by the People's Republic of China Army in the Korean War

Chapter II. Centripetal Use of Combat Power

Section 1. Principle of centripetalism

1. Meaning of centripetalism

Centripetalism is the movement from every point on the circumference of a circle toward its central point, and the principle of centripetalism is the principle of using power in this way. [Fig. 13]

2. Characteristics and effectiveness of the use of centripetalism

a. By use of centripetalism, all power elements moving toward the center are directed toward a common point at the center.

b. It has the advantage of mutually correlating and concerting all the power elements on the perimeter. In other words, the effectiveness of power exerted on the central point is larger than the simple total of the individual power elements on the perimeter.

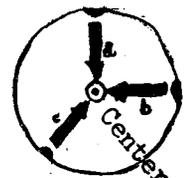


Fig. 13

In the above figure [Fig. 13], power exerted on the center $> a + b + c$.

c. In regard to the effectiveness of power against the center:

- (1) These power elements become greater as they approach the center and are at a maximum when they reach the center.
- (2) These power elements are greatest and most effective when they are used simultaneously.
- (3) The faster the movement of these power elements, the greater their effectiveness.

3. Application of the principle of centripetalism

The principle of centripetalism, in the posture sphere, is a principle of war of a method of concentrating combat power and, militarily, is applied in operations on exterior lines, advancement in separated columns to link up for combat, envelopment, turning movements, etc.

Also, the characteristic of offensive operations is concentration, and the attack can be said to use centripetalism.

Section 2. Operations on exterior lines

1. Meaning of operations on exterior lines

a. The operation on exterior lines is an operation that maintains lines of communication outwards and is carried out toward a central point from several directions, against an enemy with operations directed outward.

In other words, from the viewpoint of posture, it is operating from the beginning in a relative position of envelopment or pincer attack against the enemy; and from the viewpoint of the line of operations (axis of operations), it is an operation carried out with the line of operations held on the outer flank of the enemy.

b. The operation on exterior lines is an operation that centripetally concentrates separated elements of combat power, the effectiveness of this combat power being concentrated on a single common point, so that it is the operation that makes maximum use of the principle of centripetalism.

From the viewpoint of concentration of combat power, this is an operation that, as stated above, unites separated elements of combat power on the battlefield at a suitable time for operational purposes -- in other words, an operation based on the "Moltke-type concentration method."

c. In the disposition (strategic deployment) and use of combat power in operations on exterior lines, there are the following two methods, shown on the figure at the right:

(1) Method that has each unit "a," "b," "c," disposed on the perimeter attacking an

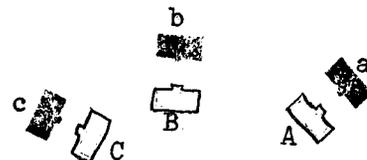


Fig. 14

opposing enemy, and using combat power in a concentrating manner.

(2) Method in which force "a" checks the attack of the superior force "A" and contains that unit, while forces "b" and "c" destroy facing enemy elements and then assault the flanks and rear of force "A," consolidating all combat power and destroying the enemy.

2. Characteristics and results of the operation on exterior lines

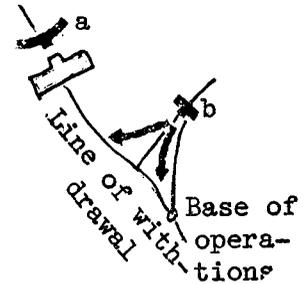
- a. It is possible to envelop the enemy and to hold and destroy him.

In other words, with the operation on exterior lines, a basic disposition is constituted that is suitable for leading to envelopment; and by its centripetal movement, it naturally is possible to envelop the enemy strategically and tactically.

- b. Strategically, it is an extremely advantageous operation.

In other words, the operation on exterior lines is extremely reliable, having the natural benefits of controlling the enemy on its single line of operations and not being controllable by the enemy. Also, if a force operating on interior lines attempts to defeat separately one of the forces operating on exterior lines, its flank or rear is threatened by another force, and crushing enemy forces in detail cannot easily be planned.

In other words, it can be said that a force operating on exterior lines not only can cut the enemy's line of withdrawal but also can threaten the enemy's base of operations and, on the other hand, that a threat against our own rear is almost impossible.



- c. The operation on exterior lines is an operation that holds the initiative

The force operating on exterior lines is unrestricted in use of time and space for operations and can hold the initiative in conducting operations. In an operation with no margin of spare time, it is absolutely necessary to seek a quick victory, and the force operating on interior lines loses time and terrain for operations from one moment to the next. Great importance must be given to small pressures from these exterior lines.

Fig. 15

- d. The strategy of the superior force is the so-called strategy of the strong

Without a superior force, strategy on exterior lines cannot exist. Hence, if this real power is applied correctly, success will be achieved in many cases.

- e. On the other hand, it involves the danger of falling into a splitting of combat power and being subjected to piecemeal defeat of units.

Hence, it is extremely important to select a suitable direction of operations and to cause closely concerted action among all units, to combine all elements of tangible and intangible combat power, and not to give the enemy an opportunity for piecemeal victories.

In summary, the operation on exterior lines is offensive, holds the initiative, seizes the superior posture position, and exerts great centripetal force from all directions. And once the force operating on interior lines has failed to defeat in detail the forces operating on exterior lines, the offensive force naturally is in a posture for strategic envelopment and, ultimately, can effect a complete envelopment tactically.

3. Condition for occurrence of an operation on exterior lines

a. Geographic relationships of the country (national boundary)

As with Prussia in the Austro-Prussian War and with the Allied forces in World War I and World War II, when forming a posture is necessarily on exterior lines because of geographic relationships, with no leeway for choice between operations on interior and on exterior lines, the determination is natural.

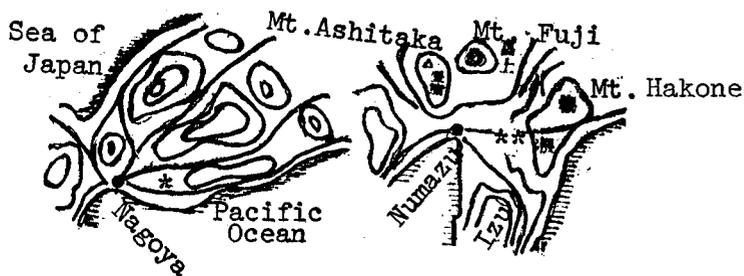
In worldwide great wars, however, interior and exterior lines are unclear and, in many cases, confused. In such cases, it is taken on a larger scale and generalized on the principle of war of the line of communications.

b. Geographic relationships of the zone of operations

In local operations, selection of disposition of combat power on interior and exterior lines can be made on the basis of the characteristics of the zone of operations, in particular, directions of rivers and mountain chains, the traffic network of roads, railroads, etc., fortifications, etc.

In other words, in the figure below, the Nagoya or Numazu area is a good example of this.

In other words, as to selection of the operational zone, it is necessary to seek an area that will guide the enemy into interior lines, and that will permit us to use the advantage of our exterior lines.



*Eastern part of Nobi Plain **Mishima

c. Tactical (strategic) conditions

Fig. 16

- (1) Case in which the basic disposition of combat power is dispersed, especially where concentration of combat power is to be in a single area, is even more disadvantageous

An example of this occurred in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, when Moltke, in order to precede the Austrian Army in concentrating, had his troop strength, that was in a dispersed basic disposition, move to the battlefield in separate columns and link-up there.

- (2) Case of being able to change from an interior-lines posture to exterior lines

For example, the case of being able to mount a pursuit operation after exploitation of a success in an attack, or an operation on exterior lines against surviving enemy elements after piecemeal defeat of enemy units.

4. Matters that should be kept in mind in the conduct of operations on exterior lines

The primary aim in the conduct of operations on exterior lines is to expand the initial superiority in posture and the advantage of the initiative, force the enemy into a passive posture, conduct a centripetal operation, and hold and destroy the enemy from the perimeter.

For this purpose, matters that should be kept particularly in mind in connection with the conduct [of operations] are as follows:

- a. Quickly constricting the posture on exterior lines and guiding into tactical envelopment

Exterior lines are strategic. They are not, like envelopment, a tactical action.

If it is not a division or larger unit with independent combat power, it does not have the pressure for dispersal and concerted action on exterior lines. Hence, it is a mistake to speak of having a part of a division disposed on exterior lines.

- b. Alertness to avoid defeat in detail

It is necessary to ensure cooperation and coordination among all dispersed units, hasten the course of the operation, and preclude piecemeal defeat attempted by the force operating on interior lines.

- c. Forces disposed on exterior lines must not forget concentration of combat power

When combat power is dispersed on exterior lines separated by terrain that prevents cooperation, one must not fall into the bad practice of overlooking tactical opportunities to consolidate combat power. On the other hand, we must use cleverness to contain and disperse the enemy over a broad front and to concentrate our combat power in a single area.

- d. Attempting to conceal one's plans and making a sudden attack on the enemy

It is necessary to take a suitable direction of operations, keep plans secret,

make a sudden attack on the enemy, give the enemy no opening for counteraction, and give no opportunity for piecemeal defeat [of our forces].

Historical examples:

Examples of operations on exterior lines:

In the China Incident [Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945], the operations of Wuhan, Nanjing [Nanking], Chang-gui [Ch'ang-kuei], and Xuzhou [Hsüchou]

Example of slipping into strength dispersal and being subjected to piecemeal defeat:

Japanese forces in the Imphal Campaign

Examples of shifting from an operation on interior lines to one on exterior lines:

British forces at Imphal

Raising of the sieges of Moscow, Stalingrad, and Leningrad

Section 3. Advancing from different directions and linking up to attack

1. Meaning of advancing from different directions and linking up to attack

Advancing from different directions and linking up to attack, is the maneuver of advancing from several different areas in order to envelop and destroy the enemy, the positioning in separate advances being with a view to combining combat power at a suitable time.

Also, advancing from separate directions and linking up to attack, as a posture, is an operation on exterior lines.

2. Form of advancing from different directions and linking up to attack

The form of advancing from different directions and linking up to attack, is extremely varied according to the direction, time, place, and intervals of the separated advances. Representative examples are as follows:

a. According to direction

- (1) From two opposite directions (2) From three opposing directions

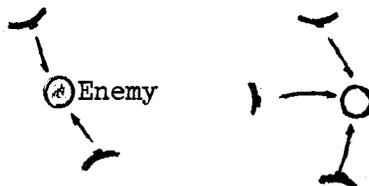


Fig. 17

- (3) From all around (4) From several nonopposing directions



Fig. 18

b. According to disposed posture before the separated advances

- (1) From initially united posture (2) From initially dispersed posture

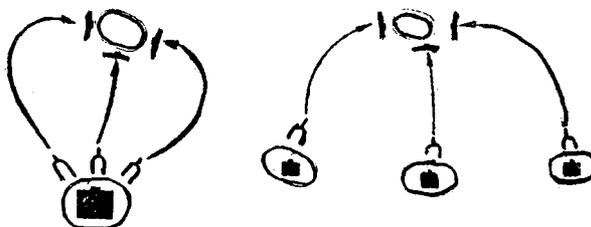


Fig. 19

c. Accomplished in echelons [Fig. 20]

d. According to the relationship of distance to objective

- (1) Having approximately equal distances
 (2) Having substantial differences

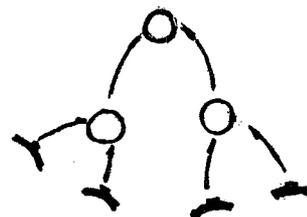


Fig. 20

e. According to the times of separated advance and combined attack

- (1) Times are simultaneous
 (2) Staggered times

Historical examples: Examples of advancing from different directions and linking up to attack:

Moltke's separated advance with combined attack at Königgrätz in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866

Separated advance with combined attack by the Japanese forces in the Battle of Xuzhou [Hsüchou][1938]

Defeat of the Japanese forces at Imphal

3. Items that must be taken into consideration in implementation of advancing from different directions and linking up to attack

a. Selection of the objective for the combined attack

Ordinarily, there initially is selected a strategic point, that is, a strategic objective, but with development of the operation, a definite objective is determined with the purpose of defeating the enemy or occupying terrain.

The essential goal of advancing from different directions and linking up to attack, is not simply the concentration of combat power, but the link-up of combat power on the battlefield, that is, the envelopment and destruction of the enemy.

Historical examples:

Battle of Königgrätz. (The initial objective was Gitschin, merely for concentration of forces, but during the operation, it was changed to Königgrätz for destruction of the enemy.)

Battle of Liaoyang in the Russo-Japanese War. (The objective of the Japanese forces in advancing from different directions and linking up to attack, was the strategic objective of Liaoyang, but the strategic objective in the Russian forces' battle plan also was Liaoyang.)

b. What should be done to avoid piecemeal defeat by the enemy?

(1) Appropriate disposition of combat power for separated advance.

In other words, there must be appropriate selection of the main and secondary operation areas, and allocation of adequate combat power to them.

For this purpose,

(a) It is necessary to ensure superiority in relative combat power against expected enemy resistance during the separated advance.

(b) Consideration is given to movement distances for the separated advance and to topographic conditions in the area where separated advance occurs.

(c) Appropriate allocation of combat power in the link-up area is made, with consideration of enemy counteraction, terrain conditions, our operational goals, etc.

(2) Achieving close cooperation among the elements of combat power that are advancing separated.

For this purpose, it is necessary to achieve appropriate direction of operations and to exercise appropriate time and space controls.

- (3) Allocation of the terrain and routes of separated advance in such a way as to be suitable for mutual support of separately advancing elements of combat power.
- (4) Maintaining suitable tactical mobility for separately advancing units, and using speed of movement that does not give the enemy time for counteraction
- (5) Giving severe attention to keeping the plan secret and achieving the results of a surprise attack.

c. Superiority of relative combat power (striking power) in the final stage

As stated earlier, separated advance from different directions and linking up to attack is a means and not a goal. Hence, it is very important to retain striking power to envelop and destroy the enemy in the final stage.

For this purpose, it is necessary to be careful to effect three-dimensional envelopment that interdicts the withdrawal route not only by separately advancing combat power from land routes but also by naval and air combat power, and it is particularly important to have logistic support appropriate to permit use of maximum combat power in the final stage.

Section 4. Envelopment

1. Meaning of envelopment

Weak points occurring in enemy defenses are the rear and flanks. Hence, in attacking the enemy, striking against the rear and flanks, which are the weak points, is the most effective. (See Part II, Chapter I, para. 3. b. (6), Directionality of combat power.)

Envelopment is one type of attack maneuver, containing the enemy on his front, seizing objectives in the rear of the enemy from one or both exposed flanks or possibly from the air, interdicting the enemy's route of withdrawal, and seeking to hold and destroy the enemy on the battlefield.

The envelopment, together with the turning movement, being able to strike the rear or flank which are the weak points of the enemy, has been a favorite action since ancient times.

2. Advantages of envelopment

a. It is possible to strike the flank or rear, which are the enemy's weak points.

b. The posture itself has the effects of exerting a threat to the enemy, imparting a psychology of inferiority and causing reduction or abandonment of the will to continue fighting.

c. It can interdict the enemy's line of communications and cause a drying

up of the physical capability to continue fighting.

3. The enemy's countermeasures against our envelopment

a. Counterenvelopment ("an enveloping element being enveloped")

(1) Carried out by commitment of rear-echelon units. [Fig. 21]

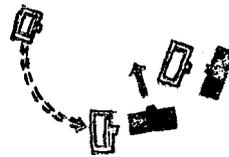


Fig. 21

(2) Accomplished by extraction and diversion of strength from another front. [Fig. 22]



Fig. 22

(3) Retrograde movement of the entire line or a part of it, to appear on an outer flank of the enveloping unit. [Fig. 23]



Fig. 23



Fig. 24



Fig. 25

b. Convex defensive formation [Fig. 24]

c. Extending or refusing a wing [Fig. 25]

d. Attack against the axis of envelopment [Fig. 26]



Fig. 26

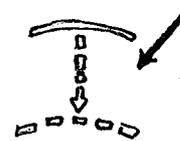


Fig. 27

e. Retrograde movement [Fig. 27]

f. Supply and reinforcement by air

4. Conditions for success of envelopment

The conditions for success of envelopment are being able to hold and destroy the enemy on the battlefield while not giving the enemy an opportunity to take countermeasures against our envelopment action.

For this purpose, particular attention should be given to the following:

a. Surprise attack

There must be secrecy of plans, particularly secrecy of movement of units assigned to envelopment (use of nighttime, etc.); and there must be deception, particularly dummy deployment, feints, etc., to draw the attention of the enemy to his front. In cases where tactical movement continues for two nights, secrecy of the plan is particularly important.

b. Superiority in relative tactical mobility

In particular, use of aerial tactical mobility, equipment and maintenance of capability to overcome obstacles.

c. Containing the enemy on his current front

In particular, securing the assault and our axis of envelopment by a determined secondary attack.

d. Maintenance of superior combat power

In particular, the power and speed to defeat enemy counterenvelopment and other countermeasures.

e. Concerted actions of all units

In particular, the main and secondary attacks being within supporting distance of one another.

f. Appropriate basic disposition

In particular, it is necessary to consider this with a view toward the stage of selection of the assembly area. However, in cases where there is a great advantage in relative tactical mobility, it is possible to overcome an unsuitable basic disposition.

5. Relationship between strength and complete encirclement

In case of an excessive envelopment that is not in conformity with strength, even in cases of success in forming a complete encirclement, a weak point will develop somewhere, permitting the encircled force to break the encirclement or extricate itself, or causing collapse of the encirclement operation by a pincer attack accomplished by concerted action of the encircled unit with units outside the encirclement.

In the conduct of an envelopment operation, it is critically important to determine the scale of envelopment after proper evaluation of the combat power of both sides, particularly the availability of mobile combat power in the enemy's rear, and to reach the objective quickly. If an excessive envelopment is planned with insufficient strength, even if there is success for a time in establishing complete encirclement, it is necessary to be careful subsequently about difficulty developing in maintaining it or about experiencing envelopment by the enemy and slipping into an unfavorable posture.

6. Three-dimensional envelopment

In order to destroy the enemy through envelopment, in modern warfare, envelopment only on the ground is inadequate. In other words, it is necessary to attempt three-dimensional envelopment by using aerial mobile power at the same time as the surface envelopment, and to interdict aerial supply and aerial .

reinforcement of the enemy.

Historical example: Encirclement at Sinzweya, in Burma. (Example in which Japanese forces completely encircled a British force, but the British force survived through aerial supply.)

Section 5. Breakthrough

1. Essential nature of the breakthrough

The breakthrough is a type of attack maneuver that, by use of power, separates the enemy from his prepared front and seeks to lead him into piecemeal defeat or encirclement. In other words, its essence is the application of great power, and a maximum concentration of combat power must be used.

2. Case of effecting a breakthrough

a. Since penetration is a tactic of power, a major prerequisite is to have overwhelmingly superior combat power or to be able to constitute it on the breakthrough front.

b. It is carried out in cases where an envelopment or turning movement is impossible or not advantageous.

In other words, since the breakthrough is a coercive tactic against a carefully prepared enemy front, the attacker's losses also are great, and it is not a desirable measure.

Historical example:

Breakthrough of the [Japanese] 2d Division near Ang-ang-xi [Ang-ang-ch'ii] in the Manchurian Incident

The German Army's breakthrough of the Maginot Line at the beginning of World War II

3. Items for consideration in a breakthrough

a. Use of power in the breakthrough

In order to break through and split an enemy with his resistance organized in depth, power is used successively as follows:

- (1) First, action to form a beginning for a split (formation of a breach) [Fig. 28]

It is necessary to ensure superiority of applied combat power against the breakthrough point

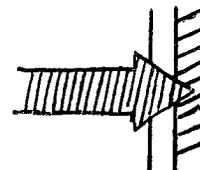


Fig. 28

- (2) Action to eliminate resistance to the breakthrough action (expansion of the breach) [Fig. 29]

It is necessary that the width be expanded only to the extent that would permit deployment of combat power able to effect a breakthrough in depth to the objective.

- (3) Then, action to break through to the final element of the enemy (seizure of the final objective) [Fig. 30]

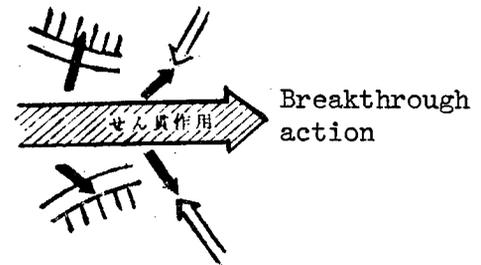


Fig. 29

It is necessary not to miss the opportunity with the combat power in depth and to apply the breakthrough combat power until achievement of the objective.

Note: 1. Content of power in the breakthrough

- a. Having overwhelming power
- b. Its being maintained until achievement of the desired objective
- c. Application of power being swift

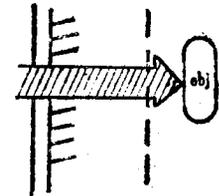


Fig. 30

2. Countermeasures against the breakthrough

- a. Drawing combat power from fronts other than the breakthrough front and reinforcing the resistance power or closing the breach
- b. Envelopment of the breakthrough force
- c. Abandoning resistance, withdrawing along the entire front, and establishing a new posture

b. Relationship between width and depth of the breakthrough front

The form of the breach generally is as follows:



Fig. 31

In other words, if the initial breakthrough-front width is large, the depth also is great. Hence, the necessary breakthrough front must be determined with a view to the desired breakthrough depth.

In general, it can be said that the front width and depth of the breakthrough are approximately equal, but the depth that can be reached in the breakthrough,

relative to the width of front, can be increased by reinforcement with tanks, artillery, and air power.

Also, at a minimum, the depth of breakthrough must be sufficient to crush the enemy's depth of organized resistance.

c. Selection of breakthrough point and direction

The place and direction to be penetrated makes possible the superiority of our power, and ease of application of power is the first requirement. For this purpose, weak points of enemy disposition, terrain suitable to application of our combined combat power, etc., are selected.

Also, if other factors are disregarded, the following can be said:

- (1) Direct breakthrough is superior to oblique breakthrough.

In case of superiority in both quality and mass, however, an oblique breakthrough also is possible.

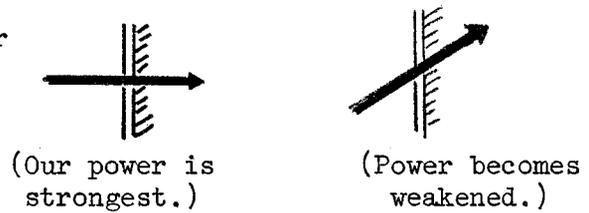


Fig. 32

- (2) Breakthrough along the direction of our line of communications [LOC] is advantageous [Fig. 33]



Fig. 33

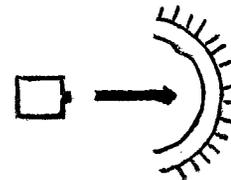


Fig. 34

- (3) Mistake of concave penetration [Fig. 34]

Enemy resistance converges [toward the center where we are attacking], and that is disadvantageous for us.

It is possible, however, if one has greatly superior firepower and tactical mobility, especially tank strength.

Historical example: Alexander the Great's Battle of Arbela (a center breakthrough in great strength, and effective counteraction against the enemy's double envelopment).

4. Multifront breakthroughs

a. Necessity of breakthroughs on several fronts

- (1) In a one-point (one-front) breakthrough, even if success has been achieved in a tactical breakthrough with great combat power in depth, there are

many cases in which opportunity is given for the enemy to recover his strategic posture, so that, in the end, because of enemy countermeasures, this breakthrough action is not successful.

When this is considered from the viewpoint of military history:

Historical examples in World War I:

At the beginning, simple breakthroughs of prepared positions
(Unsuccessful because of the defender's countermeasures)

Against limited objectives

Repeated breakthroughs (assaults)(1914 and later)

Doctrine of breakthrough by concentrated firepower
(The defender also resists with power, and even tactical
breakthroughs are unsuccessful)

Breakthrough in a single effort through the entire depth of the
enemy force (sudden attack)(1918)

(Success in tactical breakthrough, but unsuccessful because of
closing of the breach by the strategic reserve)

World War II:

In the German campaign against Poland, the breakthrough of the Maginot Line, etc., there are many historical examples of success in multifront breakthroughs using armored and air power.

(2) Breakthroughs on several fronts lead easily into strategic envelopment

(a) Individual breakthroughs, in themselves, have two aims:

1 After the breakthrough, to overwhelm and destroy the enemy
away from his original line of communications

2 After the breakthrough, to split, encircle, and destroy the
enemy

(b) Breakthroughs on several fronts, by being combined, easily
form a centripetal encirclement from several directions, and
the result can be expanded to strategic scale.

(3) It is easy to split, subdivide, and destroy enemy combat power in
detail.

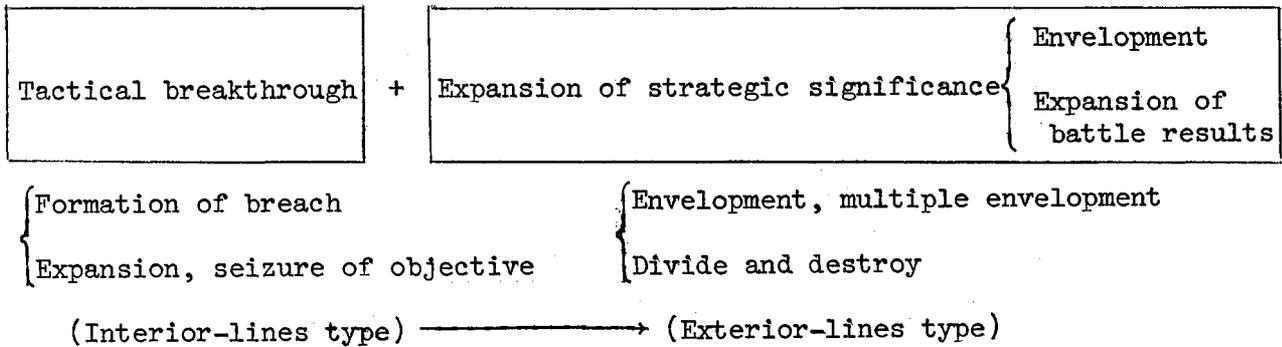
To subdivide and destroy is a tactic of defeating in detail.

(4) In all cases, since the main objective is a decisive battle outside
the positions in the enemy's rear, defeating [the enemy] is
extremely sure and easy.

Strategic reserves also are brought into the encirclement and destruction

Operations of the main mobile-warfare element.

b. Structural characteristics of the breakthrough on several fronts



The physical structure is as shown in the figures below:

- (1) Pincer envelopment (2) Multiple envelopment

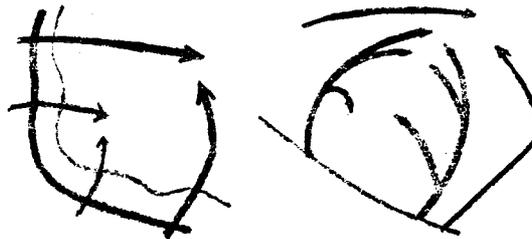


Fig. 35

- (3) Divide and destroy (4) Expansion of battle achievement (combined)

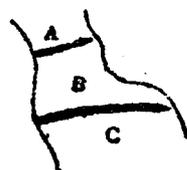


Fig. 36

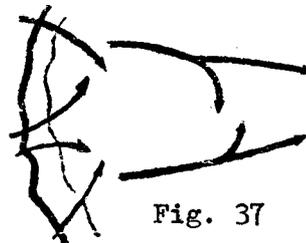


Fig. 37

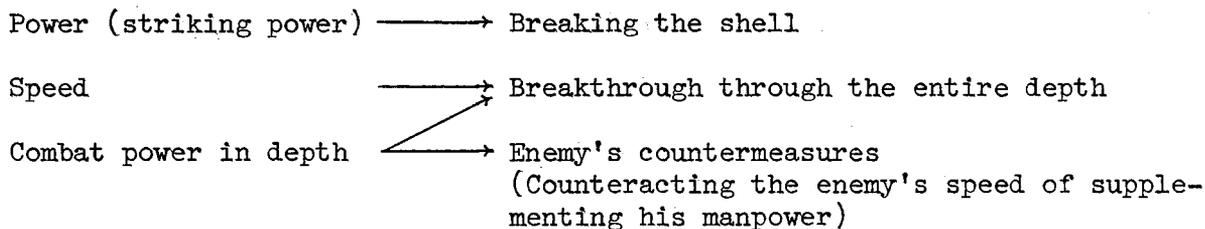
c. Tactical characteristics of the multifront breakthrough

It is basically like the characteristics of the breakthrough and is a tactic of the stronger force.

(1) Power, its maintenance (combat power in depth), and speed are required to a maximum degree.

This is axiomatic with respect to power plus speed = shock, but from the

strategic viewpoint, the necessity for combat power in depth is even greater.



(2) It is a combination of breakthrough and envelopment, but the breakthrough is the first impact of the operation and a measure of strategic envelopment. In other words, with the breakthrough alone, it is not possible to reach the operational objective. It is necessary to expand the tactical breakthrough into a strategic breakthrough.

(3) It is a situation of mobile war around a breakthrough by armored combat power.

In other words, it is necessary to change the operation from stationary to movement, particularly emphasizing use of armored and air power, and it is necessary to select a breakthrough point and breakthrough direction (axis of operation) and to accomplish appropriate maneuvering.

(4) The main objective is a decisive battle outside the position to the rear of the enemy, carried out after the breakthrough.

(5) The surprise attack and sudden attack are emphasized.

Historical examples:

1. Examples of success in the breakthrough on several fronts

Breakthrough by the German Army in the Polish Campaign in World War II
(pincer envelopment)

Breakthrough of the Maginot Line by the German Army in World War II
(divide and destroy)

2. Example of failure of the breakthrough at a single point

The offensive of the German Army in the Ardennes in the closing period of World War II

Chapter III. Eccentric Use of Combat Power

Section 1. Principle of eccentricity

1. Meaning of eccentricity

Eccentricity is the moving of the focus away from the center of a circle toward

its circumference, and the principle of the application of power in cases of its repeated movement from the center of the circle toward any point on the circumference is called the principle of eccentricity.

2. Characteristics and effectiveness of eccentric action

a. Eccentric action is the combining of power at the center and its application toward a point on the circumference.

b. In the eccentric action, in cases of repetition of this movement, there is gradual deterioration of this nuclear power.

c. To the extent that the power constituting the core of the eccentricity approaches the circumference, the power against the circumference increases and, conversely, it decreases toward the opposite direction.

d. With an increase in the space of the circle, the eccentric movement becomes easier.

e. An eccentric movement, as in the figure, is an action on interior lines and combines all power ($a + b + c$) against objectives one at a time.

3. Application of the principle of eccentricity

The principle of eccentricity, in regard to posture, is a passive, defensive principle of war and, in regard to combat, is applied in operations on interior lines, in defeating in detail, etc.

Section 2. Operations on interior lines

1. Meaning of operations on interior lines

a. An operation on interior lines is an operation carried out with maintenance of our line of communications in the interior, directed against the enemy conducting operations centripetally toward us from several directions from the outside.

The essential of an operation on interior lines is to go against individual objectives with one's entire combined force, in other words, piecemeal defeat of an enemy split laterally or an enemy split in depth; and the concentration of combat power and the time element are of the greatest value for it.

Among recent examples, the Israeli Army's blitz campaign in the Middle Eastern war is an excellent example of operations on interior lines.

b. Relationship between interior and exterior lines

The relationship between interior and exterior lines is a mutual relationship.

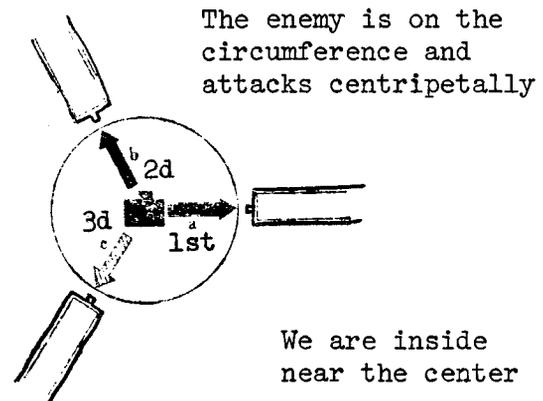


Fig. 38

Operations on exterior lines are offensive and active, whereas operations on interior lines are defensive and passive. The relationship between the two, strategically, is naturally conditioned by the geographic relationships of the country and, in military operations, selection between interior and exterior lines can be made on the basis of the mission of the operational unit, combat power, terrain and weather conditions, etc.

Hence, conditions for occurrence of an operation on exterior lines, viewed from the opponent's side, may be said to be conditions for occurrence of an operation on interior lines. (See Part III, Chapter II, Section 2, paragraph 3.)

2. Characteristics of the operation on interior lines

- a. An operation on interior lines is a strategic, defensive operation.

An operation on interior lines permits a [large-unit] group of weaker combat power to assume a favorable strategic posture, seek a decisive battle, accumulate individual victories, and gain a complete victory. Hence, if one is sure of obtaining victory by power alone without the need of stratagems, ordinarily operations on interior lines are not used.

- b. It is an operation that has a great need for tactics of opportunity. There are relatively many cases in which a force operating on interior lines, to some extent, must judge its own actions on the basis of enemy moves relative to its line of communications in its interior. This involves the danger that the posture of withdrawal will be interdicted, and since it has weaknesses from the start, tactics are particularly important for the force operating on interior lines.

- c. Changes in operations are sudden and frequent, and the tempo of the operation is rapid.

An operation on interior lines essentially is an eccentric evolution. The changes in evolution differ according to the posture of the force operating on exterior lines, increases in space, etc., but usually the speed and change of evolution are extremely large compared to those of the force operating on exterior lines.

- d. Advantages and disadvantages of operating on interior lines

- (1) Advantages

- (a) Subordinate units can be combined and kept in firm control.
- (b) Enemy elements can be defeated one after another, piecemeal.

- (2) Disadvantages

- (a) It is difficult to see tactical opportunities, and there is a tendency to lapse into passivity and, finally, be enveloped and compressed.

- (b) In cases where the results of piecemeal defeat are incomplete, there are subsequent difficulties.

The importance of concentrating combat power is as stated earlier, but in carrying out operations on interior lines, it is not absolutely necessary always to have units in a concentrated posture, but they can be left in a posture where they can be concentrated as desired. On the other hand, it must be noted that there also are cases where there are disadvantages to being concentrated, such as air attack.

Historical examples:

Napoleon's Lonato operation on interior lines (1796, Italian Army against the Austrian Army)

Middle Eastern war (1967, campaign of the Israeli forces against the Arab League)

3. Requirements for success in operations on interior lines

- a. Superiority in command and control, particularly detecting tactical opportunities, and decisive power

The operation on interior lines, since it is a posture that has weaknesses from the beginning, as stated earlier, is an action in which tactics of opportunity, skill of command, etc., exert great influence on the outcome.

Only in cases of skilful, economical use of combat power, through maintaining freedom of tactical mobility and skillfully detecting and using tactical opportunities, can the great general gain victory.

- b. Troops being elite and using mobile power well

Being in a defensive, passive posture, morale deteriorates if troops are not elite; and on the other hand, it is necessary for units to have great mobility for changing missions.

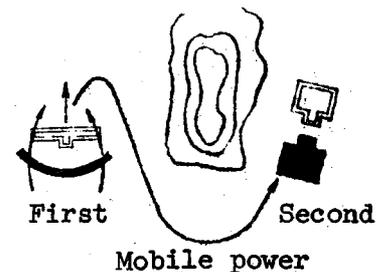


Fig. 39

- c. Holding terrain for the purpose of effecting piecemeal defeat. In other words, it is having room to maneuver.

In Figure 40, $Y^h < \frac{X \text{ km}}{V}$ (V is the speed of maneuver of B).

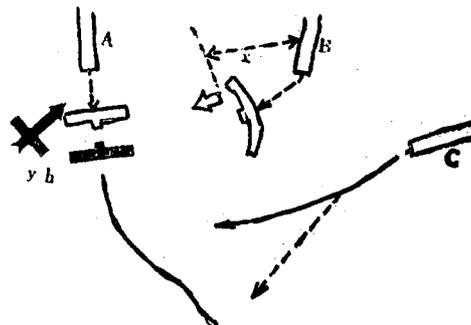


Fig. 40

(1) X is the distance that permits maintaining the terrain necessary for effecting a piecemeal defeat and is outside the limits of tactical support. Y^h is the time

required for the decisive battle.

(2) In other words, during the decisive battle with enemy A, enemy B cannot approach and envelop us. Also, it is necessary to be outside the support distance of artillery, etc., from the position of B.

(3) X and Y are mutually related and change according to the situation. When X is close, it is necessary to have it resisted by one element.

d. If there are defects in the physical and intangible relationships between enemy forces and in their cooperative actions, it is even more advantageous.

In modern times of advanced signal-communications measures, cooperation between forces operating on exterior lines is good, and attack by a force operating on interior lines is becoming increasingly difficult, but advantageous conditions also occur from battlefield mistakes, enemy errors, etc., and it is necessary to detect these and have counter-measures prepared to take advantage of them.

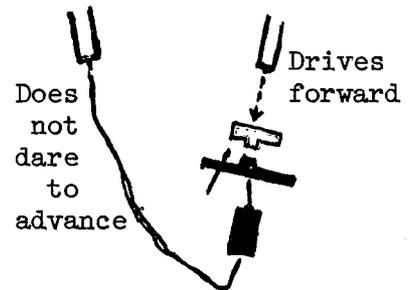


Fig. 41

e. Having our transport in readiness

To change the employment of fighting power, quick determination and excellent implementing power are necessary; and to make this possible, it is necessary to have all types of transport in readiness and to strive to ensure tactical mobility. At such time, in particular, a necessary condition is to secure the transport routes.

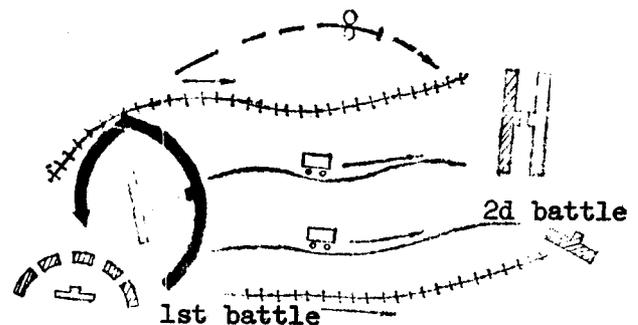


Fig. 42

f. Existence of terrain that can disperse (split) the enemy

In order to take advantage of the enemy having split strength and to defeat him in detail, a prerequisite is to impose a posture of split strength on the enemy.

In other words, in the figure at the right, if the enemy does not advance to point A, he cannot link up (use in concert) a and b.

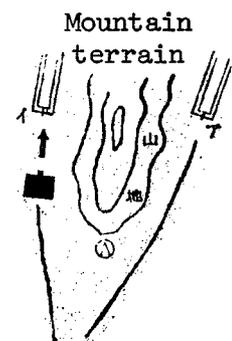


Fig. 43

g. Having a terrain advantage suitable for the main force defeating the enemy piecemeal while a part of the force neutralizes a portion of the enemy

(Relationship between main operation and supporting operation)

Explanation has been made concerning the above operation on interior lines, but the primary objective of conducting an operation on interior lines may be said to be to ensure freedom of tactical mobility, to take advantage of splits in enemy strength, and to defeat the enemy in detail. Hence, directional orientation of the line of operations, selection of the objective, detecting opportunities to shift to other objectives, fast mobility, etc., are important major factors determining the success or failure of operations on interior lines. Also, in the conduct of operations, it is extremely important to maintain a suitable balance between the main operation (main decisive front) and supporting operations (containment fronts).

Section 3. Defeating piecemeal

1. Meaning of defeating piecemeal

a. Defeating piecemeal is taking advantage of an occasion when the enemy, timewise or topographically, is separated laterally or in depth and his total combat power is not unified, and defeating one of the elements separately.

Also, the objective of defeating piecemeal is to gain local superiority over one enemy element, to defeat enemy elements separately and successively, and to gain a complete victory.

b. Defeating piecemeal, essentially, is a tactic of a weaker force and is a tactic of opportunity responding to enemy action. Hence, there is a tendency to slip into passivity and to be forestalled easily by the enemy. For this reason, to obtain its advantages, an eye for opportunity that seizes favorable opportunities is particularly important. Its greatest element is time, and herein is the principle of war.

2. Conditions for occurrence of defeating piecemeal

a. The enemy being in a posture of separated strength

Defeating piecemeal has as its greatest prerequisite, taking advantage of the enemy's separated strength.

(1) What is separated strength?

This is a situation in which, until completion of an operation (battle) against the enemy in one location (one enemy element), the enemy elements in other locations (other enemy elements) are separated so much from it in time or distance that they exert no direct influence.

Note: Examination in isolation of a separated condition that makes possible defeating piecemeal:

Distance of separation that is sought [is as follows:]

$X = D \times H - M$ [in which]

D = distance that can be moved in one day

H = number of days to termination of battle in the one location

M = modulus distance (conversion into distance of the time necessary for a reinforcing unit to deploy)

However, the side planning to defeat piecemeal cannot allow the opposing side the freedom to concentrate combat power. Hence, if mobility is obstructed by use of aircraft, road blocks, etc., even in cases of a short distance of strength separation, defeating piecemeal may still occur; and conversely, even if the distance is large, it does not necessarily occur. In short, other factors actually exert a greater effect than distance alone on strength separation, and is it necessary to consider the condition of strength separation in terms of the time factor more than distance.

In other words, if one refers to the sketch map in the previous section, para. 3.c., this also may be explained as

$$t = \frac{X \text{ km}}{V} + K > Y \text{ [in which]}$$

t = separation time

K = interdiction time (including interdiction by aviation, obstacles, or our units, enemy mistakes, etc.)

(2) Situations of definite strength separation shown in tactics

(a) Examples of lateral-separation situations

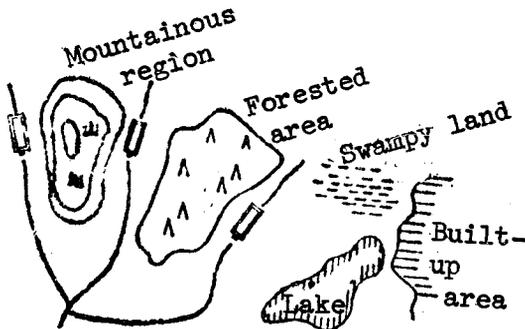


Fig. 44

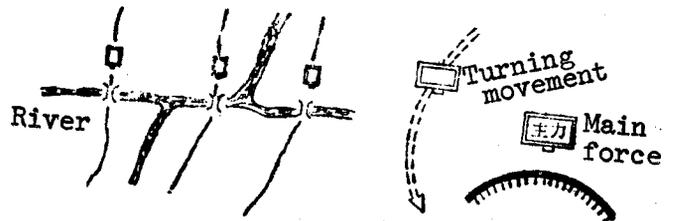


Fig. 45

(b) Examples of situations of separation in depth

c. Landing operation

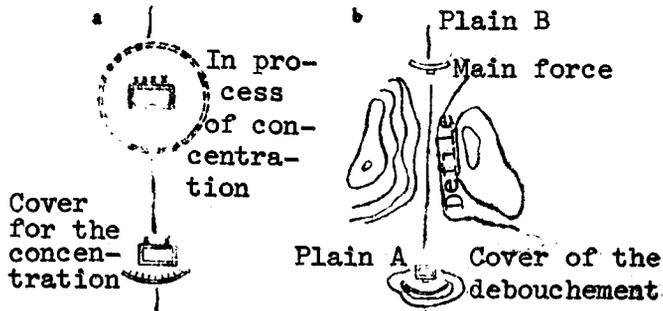


Fig. 46

d. Airborne operation (three-dimensional)

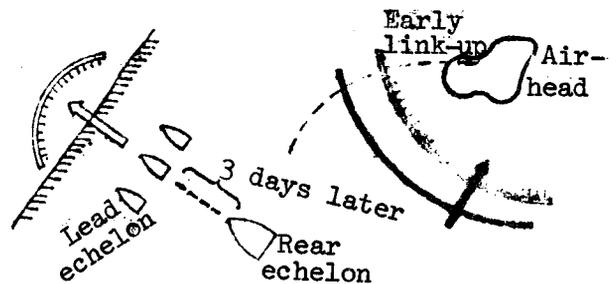


Fig. 47

(3) Conditions for occurrence of situations of strength separation

If one considers cases in which a situation of strength separation occurs, one thinks of "cases of unavoidable separation" and "cases of voluntary separation."

(a) Cases of unavoidable separation

- 1 Because of terrain conditions of the operational area (terrain obstacles, extent of the battlefield, degree of logistic difficulty, etc.)
- 2 Because of weather conditions (snowfall, etc.)
- 3 Because of obstruction by the opponent (interdiction operations, etc.)
- 4 Other (unskillful command and control, etc.)

(b) Cases of voluntary separation

Time when separation of strength is more advantageous

- 1 When the basic disposition of combat power is dispersed. (Particularly when concentration in a single area is disadvantageous)
- 2 When greater advantage is obtained by advancing in laterally separated elements.
- 3 When secondary operations obtain major results.

The above classification is not necessarily a strict division. Separation of combat power, considered from the viewpoint of the principles of war, is an error and ordinarily should be avoided. Being in a situation where support is impossible because of distance, may be considered an exception and, in many cases, the condition is created by [enemy] action or occurs because it is fostered [by the enemy].

b. Piecemeal defeat occurring through taking advantage of enemy errors

Being in a posture of separated strength naturally can be considered an error; and, in final analysis, being forced, against one's will, into a posture of separated strength also must be judged a defect in command and control and in tactical capability.

(1) Main causes for the error of separation of strength on the battlefield

- (a) Deficiency in signal communications, shortcomings in mutual understanding (relationship between the First and Second Armies of the Russian force in the Battle of Tannenberg)

- (b) Unskillful tactical control (Russian Army's defense of Nanshan in the Russo-Japanese War)
 - (c) Forcing a posture of separation (failure of the Russian forces in imposing separation on the Japanese forces' First Army before the Battle of Mukden [1905])
- (2) From a posture of separation
- (a) Error in strength deployment
 - (b) Error in reinforcement or concentration
 - (c) Error in revelation of plans
- Lateral separation
- Separation in depth
-

We cannot afford, however, to plan and carry out operations with an opponent's error as a prerequisite. If an error is discovered, it should be used effectively, and attention must be given to the paragraphs below.

c. Occurrence of piecemeal defeat is controlled by operational posture

A force operating on exterior lines, because of its posture, in general, cannot defeat in detail a force operating on interior lines, but the force operating on interior lines can easily effect a piecemeal defeat. However, even for a force operating on interior lines, as it is compressed into an enveloped situation, this opportunity decreases.

The difference between an enveloped posture and a posture on interior lines is very small. They cannot be differentiated numerically, but if the enemy attacking from all surrounding directions can maintain tactical coordination among its elements, there would thereafter be envelopment, and defeating [it] piecemeal would be difficult or impossible.

d. Superiority must be maintainable at least on that battlefield

An inferior force that cannot maintain local superiority may be said to lack capability. Superiority is not limited simply to the quantity of strength, but is a concept formed by combination of tangible and intangible elements (including items derived from morale, state of training, quality of command, posture, etc.). However, on the battlefield, it is difficult, in many cases, to be able to determine this in advance.

e. The aggressive spirit of both sides is an important condition

Defeating piecemeal, essentially, is a tactic of the inferior force, and if it is incomplete or fails, [that force] slips into the worst posture and, at the best [for the opponent], could be completely annihilated. Hence, defeating piecemeal is easily brought about by turning the enemy's offensive spirit against him or by fostering that. The reason is that it is easy to organize a battle of extermination by reverse use of shock. (On reverse use of shock, see Part IV.)

- f. In regard to defeating piecemeal in the second and subsequent attacks, it is governed by limitations on the capability of double and triple use of combat power and by general circumstances.

The achievement of defeats in detail in the second and subsequent attacks is affected by the outcome of the first attack and by the general situation of both sides. The nature of the results of the first attack becomes a condition in the repeated use of combat power, and at that time, the general situation must be alleviated at least to the extent of permitting repeated use of our combat power. In historical examples, many cases end with the second attack.

- g. Having superior intelligence capability that is able to learn the general situation of the enemy

In fact, it is important to know not only about the front where a piecemeal defeat is being imposed, but also, regularly, about enemy developments on other fronts.

Note: The paragraphs below repeat explanations of the prerequisites for success in operations on interior lines, and both should be studied together.

- h. From the extent of separation of strength, that is, the existence of an area necessary for defeating piecemeal

Separation of strength, as stated earlier, is influenced greatly by other factors (physical, spiritual) added to the pure distance of separation. In particular, it is necessary to be favored with natural geographic conditions that cause separation of the strength of the enemy or are suitable for continuing it for a long period of time. On the other hand, it is necessary for these areas to have geographic conditions suitable for our being able quickly to conclude a decisive battle, and it is unsuitable to have terrain that is difficult for the decisive battle, permitting tough resistance by the enemy, or that is terrain disadvantageous to our tactical mobility.

- i. Having air superiority and superior tactical (general) movement capability

In modern warfare, air superiority is an absolute condition, and even if ground strength is inferior, defeating in detail may be achieved.

- j. Superiority in command and control capability

For the commander, particularly the commanding general, decision-making ability and discernment and the courage to take risky decisive action are particularly necessary. In the battle in East Prussia in 1914, under approximately the same conditions, General von Prittwitz, planning to defeat in detail, abandoned his determination in mid-course and withdrew; and on the other hand, for General von Hindenburg, this is the good example of gaining a brilliant victory in the Battle of Tannenberg. Considering that defeating piecemeal is a tactic in an extremely difficult situation, the commander must have a mental attitude to cope with it.

Important prerequisites for achieving a defeat in detail have been discussed above, but there are extremely few situations where these conditions are complete. Hence, along with striving to create the conditions, it is necessary to carry out operations with daring determination and boldness.

Historical examples:

Napoleon's operation on interior lines in [the Battle of] Lonato

The Battle of Tannenberg and the Battle of the Masurian Lakes

Hideyoshi's Battle of Shizugatake [1583]

Operations of Japanese forces on Pacific Ocean islands

3. Cautionary items concerning carrying out the defeat in detail

a. Selection of the objective of attack

In defeating in detail, the objective that should be attacked first is selected from those that have the following characteristics:

- (1) Enemy element that is easy to defeat
- (2) Enemy element that is most important as a threat

At that time, it is most advantageous if the element that is the objective to be defeated first is the enemy's center of gravity (pivot), that is, the enemy's main force. Also, defeating in detail differs in method according to the situation of strength separation of the enemy relative to us, and for an enemy in a situation separated in depth, in many cases, consideration of this [factor] would not be necessary.

b. Not permitting the link-up of other enemy elements while defeating one enemy element. (Keeping pressure on the separated situation)

- (1) Making suitable selection of a battlefield

A battlefield is selected that has terrain that necessitates the desired degree of separation and blocks uniting of enemy combat power, that is easy for our tactical mobility and conduct of warfare, and that would let us carry out a quick, decisive battle while not permitting enemy link-up.

- (2) Having a suitable direction of operations (attack)

It is necessary to select a direction where enemy link-up is difficult (conversely, a direction that increases separation) or a direction where the results of the operation (attack) can directly affect the second enemy element.

Now, the direction that can obtain the greatest results, in many cases, is the direction that is most dangerous for its relation to us or to our line of communications, and for this reason, sufficient countermeasures are necessary. As

in the analogy, "without entering the tiger's den, you cannot capture its cubs," obtaining major results is accompanied by risks, and in achieving a defeat in detail, it also is important to apply the principle of war of the relationship of "risk and result."

- (3) Direct obstruction of link-up with, and reinforcement of, other enemy elements

It is necessary to respond to the enemy on fronts outside the decisive battle with the minimum necessary strength and to contain superior enemy elements for a desired period of time.

c. Acting quickly. Acting completely.

- (1) The value of the time period is decisive.

When there is insufficient rapidity in the decisive battle, that will permit coordination of forces operating on exterior lines, and defeating them in detail becomes impossible.

Also, determination, speed of positioning, and use of tactical mobility are especially important.

In regard to the use of tactical mobility, there are necessary, of course, complete tactical mobility of the force itself, and also measures to maintain freedom of movement, particularly obstruction of movement and defeat of coordination of the enemy, and preempting and securing key positions that can secure our freedom of movement, as well as holding and complete security of our axis of operations.

- (2) Boldness, decisive action from a crushing disposition of forces

When achieving defeat is incomplete, as already explained, later difficulty will occur, and this has many historical lessons, irrespective of whether it is a defeat in detail. Particularly in defeat in detail, since this has a repercussion directly affecting the entire operation, it is important to aim at complete disposition effecting decisive action enveloping or encircling the enemy on the battlefield, etc.

d. Concentration of combat power at the decisive-battle point

In cases of defeating in detail, the characteristic of this operation may be said to be that each operation is a decisive battle and that relative combat power always is superior in each decisive battle. For this reason, one should win beginning with the first operation, in every engagement there is a decisive point, and separation and withdrawal are not permitted. Hence, decisive combat power is concentrated at each decisive point (decisive area), and combat power on the containment front is the minimum limit, without one excess, poorly stationed soldier.

- e. Perception and use of tactical opportunities and of changes in the situation

It is necessary to have superiority in command and control, characterized by having use of time as its greatest value, detecting favorable opportunities for attack against the enemy and perceiving time opportunities for change of tactics.

In particular, the extent of victory (defeating) and change in use of combat power, change from operation on interior lines to operation on exterior lines, etc., are extremely important.

- f. Importance of collection of intelligence information

Along with local intelligence information, intelligence information that can explain the overall situation is particularly important throughout the entire course of an operation. The victory of Tannenberg, where clear-text communications were intercepted, the victory in which Napoleon near Vauchamps attacked an enemy force that was advancing without knowing that its advance column had been attacked and defeated, etc., are the difference of a very short period of time in the collection of intelligence information and speak pointedly of its importance.

Defeating in detail is a tactic of a weaker force and may be said to be a tactic of opportunity that responds to enemy actions. Hence, its success, in many cases, is due to the ability of the commander, particularly of the commanding general. In regard to this combat, Sun Tzu, Military Strength, [Chapter] No. 5, states, "A bird of prey's swiftly getting to break [its prey's back] is the timing. For this reason, a good fighter uses force fiercely and timing precisely." ([In other words,] a skilled fighter, with strong impact force at the moment of attack, acts with blitz action and quick reaction, giving no time for counteraction.) Acting in this way is considered to be the secret of defeating in detail. Also, modern warfare is three-dimensional warfare, it is important not to permit combining ground and air combat power, and one must not forget first to defeat piecemeal with air power and to gain air superiority.

Note: Effect of a situation of separation in depth on the selection of attack points

1. The main objective in selection of attack points is to defeat in detail.
2. Selection of a point of attack cannot be decided merely from the conditions for defeating the enemy on that front. The situation of the reinforcement (rear) units also must be considered. The main way of looking at the matter is whether to interdict the enemy's route of withdrawal or to strike his rear.
3. Conditions that should be considered in selecting points to be attacked
 - a. The enemy that is confronted

Military strength (large or small), strength of the position (strong or weak), configuration of position (frontal position or flank position, etc.)

b. Reinforcement units

Military strength (large or small), time (fast or slow, amount of effect on the fighting of the confronted enemy, that is, state of separation), direction (enemy's line of communications and direction of advance)

c. Our posture

Envelopment or breakthrough; direction of line of communications

d. Terrain

Key terrain that could lead to defeating in detail

4. Examples of selection of the point of attack

a. Case where strength separation is large

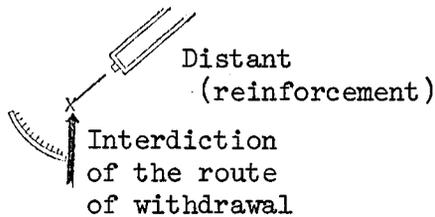


Fig. 48

b.. Case where strength separation is small

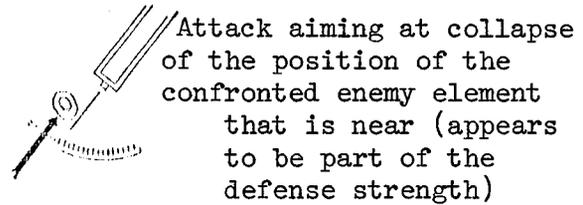


Fig. 49

Chapter IV. Antiamphibious and Anti-Air-Landing Operations

1. Weaknesses of amphibious and air-landing operations

The greatest weakness in amphibious and air-landing operations is the time when the amphibious and air-landing units are at sea or airborne. Next is the stage of establishment of a beachhead (airhead), when the application of organized combat power is difficult, particularly near the water's edge in amphibious operations, that is, a situation of strength separation in depth with one foot on land and one foot at sea.

However, amphibious and air-landing units regularly take countermeasures to cover these weaknesses in landings.

2. Characteristics of antiamphibious and anti-air-landing operations

a. We are passive. (It is not known where the enemy will come.) In other words, the enemy definitely has the initiative.

b. There are many beginnings of engagements. (Serious consideration of beginning an engagement--it governs subsequent fortunes.)

c. There regularly are simultaneous antiamphibious or anti-airborne engagements.

d. Engagements occur suddenly, and their course is rapid. (The balance between victory and defeat changes within a short time period.)

e. Weaknesses of amphibious and air-landing units disappear with the passage of time.

f. The initial engagements generally exert great influence on subsequent operations.

g. The initial stage is a situation of divided combat power on both sides.

h. Our air and naval strength ordinarily is inferior.

i. Amphibious and air-landing operations are deficient in flexibility. In other words, correcting action is ineffective.

3. Essence of anti-amphibious and anti-air-landing operations

a. The essence of the anti-amphibious and anti-air-landing operation is an offensive operation, concentrating tangible and intangible combat power prior to establishment of the enemy's beachhead (air-head) and defeating the landed enemy at an early stage.

b. The essence of the operation in the stage of es-

tablishment of the enemy's beachhead (airhead) is to destabilize the combat situation, concentrate decisive combat power, and strike. At that time, resolute defense of key positions on the battlefield is particularly important.

c. In summary of the above, the essence of anti-amphibious and anti-air-landing operations, in the end, is a race to concentrate combat power at landing points, and victory in this wins victory in the anti-amphibious and anti-air-landing operations.

First stage

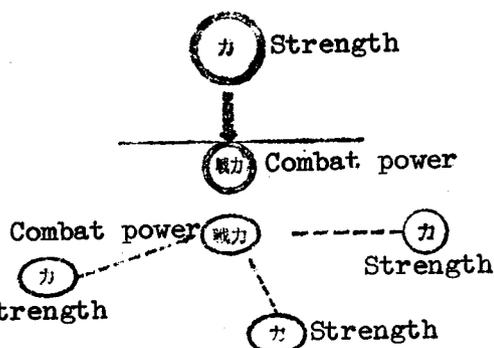


Fig. 50

Second stage

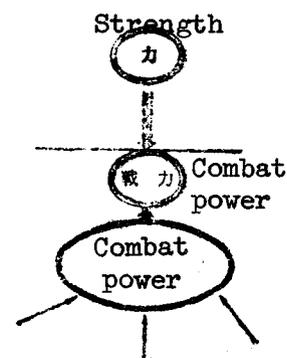


Fig. 51

Historical examples:

Examples of success in amphibious operations:

The Normandy landing operation of the Allied forces

Various operations of U.S. forces on Pacific islands (Saipan, Guam, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, etc.)

The Malay landing operation of the Japanese forces

Example of failure in an amphibious operation:

The Gallipoli landing operation

Part IV. TURNING AN ENEMY'S COMBAT POWER AGAINST HIMSELF

Chapter I. Reverse Use and Manipulation of Momentum

1. Meaning of reverse use of momentum

a. Momentum

The term momentum, as used here, means the power of the enemy's offensive drive against us. In other words, it indicates the will and power and action of the offensive drive.

b. Reverse use of momentum

Reverse use of momentum is a principle of war that uses an enemy's momentum in reverse, seeking to seize superiority in use of relative combat power, and it has a thread of connection with the judo secret of "using the opponent's strength, applying our trick, and throwing the opponent."

c. Characteristics of reverse use of momentum

(1) If this principle of war is applied skillfully, the enemy can be forced into a decisive battle, or the opportunity can be grasped for a battle of extermination.

Also, to some extent, the greater the enemy's momentum, the greater the success will be, and a small force can well deliver a crushing blow to a large enemy force.

(2) In other words, initially, the enemy is caused to apply this momentum fully, and since, with our resistance, the enemy's momentum decreases during the course of the engagement and we gain superiority in posture, in the end, we gain superiority in relative combat power and attempt to defeat (destroy) the enemy.

(3) When the enemy's momentum is taken from the enemy, it is greater for us if the terrain includes a lure.

A lure is constituted in cases where the enemy is judged superior in relative posture and in combat power and able to destroy or defeat us, or in cases where there is a key terrain position that controls the battlefield or definitely should be secured for the conduct of military operations.

2. Decoying, entrapping

a. Meaning of decoying and entrapping

Decoying and entrapping mean the management of enemy momentum with the aim of