

Q. 3 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

(20)

There is no indication that Heinz Guderian had any doubts whatsoever about Hitler's decision to go to war. The year 1939 was the moment when the general finally left the office desk and became a commander in the field. For the upcoming Blitzkrieg campaigns, he appeared to have a natural talent. Guderian had initiative; he was leading from the front, and he was a bully against peers that happened to get into his way. During the war against Poland in September/October 1939, Guderian commanded the motorized XIX Army Corps which was part of the Northern panzer movement. Against France, his corps managed an early and important breakthrough at Sedan in May 1940, followed by a speedy push toward the coast. This helped to cut off French and British forces. It was Guderian - and at first he alone - who introduced the tank to the Army and its use as an operative weapon. Guderian favoured from the beginning the strategic use of panzer forces - a deep thrust



into the enemy, without worrying about a possible threat to his own unprotected and far-extended flanks. That was why he planned to transport all supporting elements of the panzer forces (infantry, artillery and engineers) in a similar way - that is, on tracks - and why the supply services (petrol, ammunition, food) were organically incorporated with the fighting troops. This enabled them to accompany, and keep up with the tank core until fused with it - at the same time assuring Guderian's own supplies for three to five days. The successes in Poland and France also gave Heinz Guderian the opportunity to promote his personal image. His drive and tactical independence had a dark side: Guderian did not care much about communications with his superiors. He was not a team player. He disobeyed orders. His unreined initiative only worked as long as the Wehrmacht had the factor surprise on its side and as long as it fought against inferior adversaries.

However, this all came to an end on 22 June 1941. The attack on the Soviet Union resulted in a severe crisis of Hitler's war plan. After Kiev, Guderian resumed course against Moscow. However, the Red Army's dogged defence, the German's outrunning their own supply lines, and the advent of the winter thwarted the plan of attack on the capital. After the failure of General Busse to rescue the encircled German troops at Küstrin, General Heinz Guderian and Adolf Hitler shouted at each other in pure rage. The German army in was hopelessly cut off. Guderian tried to convince Hitler that this position should be abandoned and the army transported across the Baltic Sea. Hitler disagreed, as he always did when asked to authorize a retreat. Guderian did not give in. Hitler insisted, the tone sharpened, and finally Guderian opposed Hitler with an openness unprecedented in this circle. With flashing eyes and the hairs of his mustache literally standing on end, he stood facing Hitler across the marble table. Guderian, purple in his face, screamed at Hitler. Hitler's staff stood by in shock. In the end, both men had to be separated. Hitler's generals were used to be yelled at by Hitler; Hitler wasn't used to be yelled at by his generals. On March 28, 1945, Hitler relieved Guderian of his command: "I think you have had enough. You are relieved of command. You can go home now." Guderian had to take leave. He never saw Hitler again. Nevertheless, from hindsight, this involuntary time-out paid off very well for Guderian. It saved him from becoming involved in war crimes, as it had been the case with many of the German generals.

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Q: What made Guderin, a talented and a rebellious commander?

Guderin was a talented strategist and a rebellious commander due to his understanding of Panzers in battle field and his personality. The tanks enabled him quick attacks and overpower the enemies, proved him to be a good strategist. He used to avoid senior commanders, that made him a rebellious commander, as well. Disobeyed orders, was not a team player.

Q: What were the offensive tactics of Guderin during wars.

Ans: Guderin offensive tactics was to approach fast and separate enemies. For these tactics, he used tanks which allowed his fast mobility and quick offense. As a result, he overpowered Britain and France in the invasion and draw them to the coast. The combination of tanks and strategies made were his war tactics.

Q: What was his disagreement with Hitler?

Ans: He disagreed with Hitler on war policy. Hitler wanted to continue war in Moscow, even German army was being defeated by Red Army.

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Goederian wanted to withdraw the German forces to avoid more casualties. This was the matter of disagreement for Goederian.

Q4: How was his relief from command was proved a blessing in disguise?

Answer: ~~When~~ ^{After} Goederian was sacked from job, ~~after that~~ Hitler started war crimes. His absence from battleground made him to distance from war. The distance from ~~jobs~~ war is parallel to be ^{not} involved in war crimes. Thus, ^{loss} lost of job saved him from war crimes.

Q: What would have happened if Goederian had not been sacked?

Ans: If Goederian had not been expelled ~~to~~ from job, he must have involved in war crimes. Hitler had made concentration camps, where he used to torture Jews. If Goederian was part of the army, he ^{would} be considered to be a partner in war crimes.