

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.

Questions:

- Q1. What made Guderian a talented and rebellious commander?
- Q2. What were the offensive tactics of Guderian during wars?
- Q3. What was his disagreement with Hitler?
- Q4. How was his relief from command proved a blessing in disguise?
- Q5. What would have happened if Guderian had not been sacked?

Q 4. A. Correct any FIVE of the following:

Question-3.

Comprehension Passage

Question-1.

Answer:

The strategies of Guderian made him a talented and rebellious commander. The introduction of tank to the Army was done by him. He alone introduced the use of tank as

an operative weapon. He was rebellious because he always supported the use of panzer forces without getting worried about his wing.

Question. 2.

Answer:

Guderian favoured the integration of tanks, infantry, and air support to create a powerful and flexible fighting force. Another offensive tactic was that he was not a team player and never cared much about communication with his superiors. He used to disobey orders.

Question. 3

Answer:

His disagreement with Hitler was regarding the positions of the army. During the attack on the Soviet Union, the advent arrival of winter disturbed their plan of attack. The German Army was completely cut off

that time. Guderian wanted to change the position of army. He wanted to transport it across Baltic sea, but Hitler disagreed.

Question. 4.

Answer:

The Guderian was relieved of command due to his disagreement with Hitler regarding the positions of the army. His relief from command proved a blessing in disguise for him as it saved him from committing war crimes unlike many other German generals

Question. 5.

Answer:

If Guderian had not been sacked then the output for him would have been different. He would have been involved in war crimes. So, it saved him and paid very well for him.