

orbats.txt

352. Infanterie-Division on 6th June 1944
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-24-04 11:24

Here's the orbat as requested by our friend Brian. Sorry to break it up into small posts, but my computer seems to prefer small posts. I'll try to work this up in .ppt format asap.

Overall structure of the division:

Grenadier-Regiment 914
Grenadier-Regiment 915
Grenadier-Regiment 916
Artillerie-Regiment 352
Panzerjaeger-Abteilung 352
Pionier-Bataillon 352
Fuesilier-Bataillon 352

Reply To This Message

Re: 352. Infanterie-Division on 6th June 1944
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-24-04 11:35

Each Grenadier-Regiment had the following organisation:

1x Commander
1x Car

I. BATAILLON:
See following organisation (companies 1. to 4.)

II. BATAILLON:
As I. Bataillon (companies 5. - 8.)

13. (Infanterie-Geschuetz) Kompanie:

1x Commander
1x Car
1x 15cm sIG 33
1x Sdkfz 7 (or similar)
3x 7.5cm leIG*
3x Sdkfz 10* (or similar)

* 13./Grenadier-Regiment 916 has only 2x 7.5cm leIG & 2x Sdkfz 10

14. (PaK) Kompanie: (attachments)

1x 7.5cm PaK 40
1x Sdkfz 11 (or similar)

Reply To This Message

Re: 352. Infanterie-Division on 6th June 1944
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-24-04 11:36

Grenadier-Bataillon Organisation:

1x Commander
1x Car

1. or 5. Kompanie:

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1x Commander
6x Infantry (I don't know if they had panzerfaeuste or not)
3x LMG (N.B. it is confirmed that they had enough LMGs for two per section)
1x 8cm Mortar
1x Panzerschreck? (none listed, but reasonable to assume when compared to other divisions)

2. or 6. Kompanie: as above

3. or 7. Kompanie: as above

4. or 8. (Schwere) Kompanie:

3x 8cm Mortar

1x HMG

Reply To This Message

Re: 352. Infanterie-Division on 6th June 1944

Author: R Mark Davies ()

Date: 01-24-04 11:40

Artillerie-Regiment 352.:

I. Bataillon:

1. - 3. Batterie - each with 2x 10.5cm leFH

II. Bataillon:

4. - 6. Batterie - as above

III. Bataillon:

7. - 9. Batterie - as above

IV. Bataillon:

10. - 12. Batterie - 2x 15cm sFH

These batteries had no organic tractors and would therefore have to obtain transport from the divisional MT pool.

Assign 1x FO per battery.

Reply To This Message

Re: 352. Infanterie-Division on 6th June 1944

Author: R Mark Davies ()

Date: 01-24-04 11:58

Panzerjaeger-Abteilung 352:

1. Kompanie:

1x Command Marder III (probably Ausf M)

6x Marder III

2. Kompanie:

1x Command StuG III G

3x StuG III G

3. Kompanie:

1x Command Sdkfz 7/1 (3.7cm Flak)

3x Sdkfz 7/1 (3.7cm Flak)

Reply To This Message

Re: 352. Infanterie-Division on 6th June 1944
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-24-04 12:01

Pionier-Bataillon 352:

1x Commander
1x Car

1. Kompanie:
1x Commander
9x Pioniere (3 with flamethrowers - panzerfaeuste issue unknown)
1x Panzerschreck?

2. Kompanie: As above

3. Kompanie: As above

4. (Schwere) Kompanie:
3x 8cm Mortar
1x HMG

Reply To This Message

Re: 352. Infanterie-Division on 6th June 1944
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-24-04 12:03

Fuesilier-Bataillon 352:

1x Commander
1x Car

1. Kompanie: (all classed as Recce)
1x Commander
6x Infantry (I don't know if they had panzerfaeuste or not)
3x LMG (N.B. it is confirmed that they had enough LMGs for two per section)
1x 8cm Mortar
1x Panzerschreck? (none listed, but reasonable to assume when compared to other divisions)

2. Kompanie: as above

3. Kompanie: as above

4. (Schwere) Kompanie:
3x 8cm Mortar
1x HMG

N.B. 1. Kompanie had bicycles.

Reply To This Message

Re: 352. Infanterie-Division on 6th June 1944
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-25-04 09:48

I forgot to add that many permanent beach-installed heavy weapons would be additional to this list.

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Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 352. Infanterie-Division on 6th June 1944
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 01-25-04 18:25

Just got "US Tank Battles in France 1944-45" from Cornet Pub.

Picture of a 4.7cmPak(t) auf Pz Kpfw 35r, June 1944, abandoned at Littyry.
or a Pz.Kpfw 38H 735(f) at Ostheim, January 1945.
Sd.Kfz 251/21 AA, captured by US 90th Inf Div, from Pz.Brig 106 near Mairy.

These are great books.

Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: 352. Infanterie-Division on 6th June 1944
Author: Brian (213.40.67.---)
Date: 01-26-04 08:16

Thanks Mark ,for the above and the maps.
It seems that at Omaha there was only one battalion plus two coys from the 716 div there.They nearly stopped two over sized US divs cold!.
Makes you think if they (germans) had some armour at Omaha?.
Brian.

Reply To This Message

Re: 352. Infanterie-Division on 6th June 1944
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-26-04 18:42

Hi Brian,

No, there wasn't any German armour at Omaha, I'm afraid. The divisional Panzerjaeger Battalion went swanning off ineffectually towards Gold Beach in the general confusion of the situation (and probably because armour was being landed around there in very large numbers in the form of 8th and 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigades). There was a very limited armoured action against the airborne divisions near Utah Beach by Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100, but that was just a handful of ex-French tanks.

The only other armoured responses on D-Day were by a handful of Lorraine-based SP 150mm and 75mm guns belonging to 716. ID south of Sword, and then the counter-attack by 21st Panzer Division in the 6th Airborne, Sword and Juno sectors.

The first armour, other than PzJagAbt 352, to appear in the Omaha sector, were the StuGs and Marders of 17. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division 'Goetz von Berlichgen', who counter-attacked against the 101st at Carentan, as shown in one of the scenarios on this site (and on 'Band of Brothers').

I've got the information on the elements of 716. ID that were at at Omaha here somewhere - keep reminding me!

Mark

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Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: MudCrab ()
Date: 01-27-04 08:34

Hey all,

this unit looks much more interesting the 716. Anyone got a good OOB for this one ? :)

And if they do and considering that I have a b'day coming up in ummm... late July... would anyone like to buy me the models ? :))

Seriously though - I know nothing about this unit and a google only came up with a 1/72 model site and something in German.

Thanks

Craig

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-27-04 09:44

Hi Mudcrab,

This was a panzer training unit and did fight some actions with the US airborne on D-Day, but didn't survive much longer than that. However, the vehicles come in handy, as they can be used for 21. Panzer-Division (south of Sword Beach), Panzer-Abteilung 206 (which defended Cherbourg) and another unit which defended Le Havre, but whose name escapes me, as well as Arnhem and a whole host of anti-partisan and late-war battles, when every last reserve was being scraped up for the front line. Someone else here on this forum recently mentioned that some of these ex-French oddities had been found KO's in Germany in 1945!

HQ Element:
1x Command Pzkwfw 35S(f) (i.e. a Somua S35)

Manoeuvre Element:
1x Command Pzkwfw 35R(f) (i.e. a Renault R35)
6x Pzkwfw 35R(f)

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-27-04 09:44

Continued...

Manoeuvre Element:
1x Command Pzkwfw 39H(f) (i.e. a Hotchkiss H39)
3x Pzkwfw 39H(f)

Manoeuvre Element:
1x Command 17R(f) (i.e. a Renault FT17)

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1x Pzkwfw 17R(f)

All these are available in the French cards of the Blitzkrieg Supplement, though don't apply the negative spotting modifier, as the Germans usually replaced the cupolas with split hatches. The 39H(f) and the 35S(f) are both available on the prototypes page of this website.

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-27-04 09:50

Panzer-Abteilung 206 (at Cherbourg 1944)

Headquarters Element
1x Command Pzkwfw 35S(f)
1x Pzkwfw 35R(f)
1x PaK40 on Somua halftrack

Manoeuvre Element
1x Command Pzkwfw 35S(f)
2x Pzkwfw 35S(f)
3x Pzkwfw B2(f) (i.e. Renault Char B1 bis)

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-27-04 09:52

Continued...

Manoeuvre Element:
1x Command Pzkwfw 39H(f)
6x Pzkwfw 39H(f)

Manoeuvre Element:
1x Command Pzkwfw 39H(f)
6x Pzkwfw 39H(f)

N.B. Some or all of the B2s were converted to flammpanzers. Note that the cards for all these vehicles, except the 35R(f) are already posted on the prototypes page, including the Somua halftrack and the B2 flamm. You'll find more notes on the vehicle types on the 21st PD orbat on the Extras pages.

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-27-04 10:04

Aha! I've just found out that it was Panzer-Abteilung 205 that was stationed at Le Havre and fought against the British assault on the city at the end of the Normandy campaign. I don't have a detailed organisation for this unit, but it had at least eleven Hotchkiss H39s (Pzkwfw 39H(f)) equipped with 4x 28/32 cm werfers, as well as an undisclosed number of Renault UE tractors also so equipped. It is entirely possible that PzAbt 206 at Cherbourg, listed above, also had this werfer fit on its tanks.

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Note that the H39s listed could equally be H38 versions and could have long- or short-barrelled 37mm guns (the Hotchkiss H35 was largely binned by the Germans). These were very similar and the prototype card given has both barrel versions - I'm afraid I don't know how many had the long-barrelled gun - I use a 50/50 split.

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-27-04 10:10

Oh, just found out that the H38 and H39 were both referred to by the Germans as the Pzkw 38H(f), so all references to the 39H(f) above, should be corrected to 38H(f). Jim, if you're reading this, could you modify the Pzkw 39H(f) card to read 38H(f)? Cheers.

Model availability - Skytrex/Old Glory/Command Decision do an exquisite model of the Somua S35 and their Char B1 is also excellent. I use Peter Hotchkiss, which is another nice little model. I believe they also do an FT17, though I haven't seen it. I don't know about Renault R35s, but someone does them! No-one as yet makes any ex-French halftrack conversions such as the Unic or Somua in 15mm, though you could always have a go at converting the basic models, which are available from a few manufacturers!

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-27-04 10:10

As mentioned earlier, almost all French tanks had their cupolas removed by the Germans and were replaced with split hatches, which is what I do to make them more 'German' looking. This isn't an absolute rule though, so you might want to keep the odd one or two - though the Somua S35 seems to have been universally converted to the split hatch. The hatches were either at the top of a new cupola, or flush with the turret roof - the choice is yours!

Have fun!

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-27-04 10:53

More ex-French stuff at Arnhem:

Panzer-Kompanie 244 - Oberleutnant A May
1x Command Pzkw 35S(f)
1x Pzkw B2(f)
6x Flammpanzer B2(f)

These came under the command of Panzerjaeger-Abteilung 657 (listed below), part of Division von Tettau, and attacked the western side of the Oosterbeek perimeter - and were slaughtered. This slaughter actually meant that it was considered too dangerous for the rest of the abteilung to be committed to the battle (though it does make for an interesting extra aspect to an Arnhem game).

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Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-27-04 10:58

Panzerjaeger-Abteilung 657 - Hauptmann Pulkowski

Headquarters Element:
1x Command Pzkw 35H(f)
1x Pzkw 35(H)

Panzer Kompanie:
1x Command Pzkw 35R(f)
7x Pzkw 35R(f)

Panzerjaeger Kompanie:
1x Commander
1x Renault UE Tractor (Sdkfz 630(f))
4x 7.5cm PaK 40
4x Renault UE

Panzerjaeger Kompanie (gp):
1x Command 4.7cm PaK(t) auf 35R(f)
2x 4.7cm PaK(t) auf 35R(f)

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-27-04 11:04

For the Pzkw 35H(f), just use the ordinary Hotchkiss card, but only the sort-barrelled option.

I forgot to mention earlier that I don't know of a model of the long-barrelled 38/39H in 15mm. I just use the short-barrelled version by Peter Pig and write under the base whether it is short- or long-barrelled.

I'm afraid that no-one produces a model of the 4.7cm PaK(t) auf 35R(f) (also known as the Panzerjaeger Renault) in 15mm, which is a shame, as they did tend to crop up all over the place, from Jersey to Russia. There is a photo of one knocked out by US 101st Airborne during Market-Garden, for example. This was the R35 hull, with a huge box perched on top, mounting the Czech 47mm gun.

Well, enough weird French stuff for now! As bored regulars know, this is one of my fave subjects! ;o)

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 01-27-04 18:17

The picture of the auf Pz kw 35R(f) from the Concord book, indicates it was part of Panzer Abteilung 101 around Littry France, there were 110[of these in France 1944.

Terry

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Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: Ken Natt ()
Date: 01-28-04 02:36

In a way it is a shame that manufacturers didn't plan ahead when they release their French ranges, and include an option for replacing the cupola on Char Bs, R35s etc.

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: MudCrab ()
Date: 01-28-04 09:24

Talking of cupola's I have noticed that the Italian range for Battlefront (Kiwi) has a few ex French tanks in it. Not sure if they are physically different or just the same model with the crew commander replaced.

Also, RMD comments above that the Germanised versions of the French armour does not get the 'down 1 when spotting' due to the improved cupolas.

Our gaming group has always assumed that the spotting effect were due to the one man turret and the fact the command would keep losing sight of the target each time he ducked back to load the gun.... re-tune the radio.... slap the driver in the back of the head....

Looking at the piccies in Chamberlain as I type, the cupola mod done by the Germans seems to be cutting the very top off the French original and adding a two piece split hatch. I assume they welded the old French seat/hatch shut which would have made the turret stronger but to be honest I can't see much different in either closed down or unbuttoned vision between the two.

So - if the 'down 1' to spot is cupola based the why doesn't the PZII C get that modifier as it's hatch and vision system was apparently very poorly designed. Also, having just looked at the cards, the PZI should definately have the 'down 1' cause it's cupola sucks AND it has a one man turret :P

Personally I think I would prefer to keep the down 1 if I gamed with ex French Panzers - but then again I need to buy and paint some of them first.

Thanks

Craig

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-28-04 10:38

Hi Craig,

It's been a while since we discussed the prototype design for the Blitzkrieg cards, but if I remember correctly, the 1 man turret tanks (with the exception of small, MG-only jobs) were given artificially low gun stats for that reason and the -1 on spotting was due to not being able to stick your head out. So the negative for

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having a one-man turret has already been applied. What's more, the modified Hotchkiss H38/39 was quite widely used by the Germans as an artillery OP tank - the -1 spotting modifier would make it rather useless in that job.

There were various mods on the French 'panzers' and not all (particularly Char Bs, for some reason) had the cupolas removed. Some, as you say, had a hole cut in the top of the French cupola (that's how I've modelled mine, cos it's the easiest one to do), some had the cupola completely removed and others had a German cupola installed.

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-28-04 10:38

I think they left the seat/hatch as it was - I've seen a photo of tanks on exercise with the German commanders sat up there with rifles - with which to engage exercise targets rather than waste scarce 47mm ammo!

Another possible use/scenario - fighting LeClerc's armour and the RAF Regiment (true!) in Paris! You can also stick some B2s and B2 Flamms on the FFI side!

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: MudCrab ()
Date: 01-31-04 05:55

Had a good lookie through Chamberlain again at the hatches.

Unfortunately there seems to be only photo's of the more basic 'slice top off' hatch conversion in that book.

I do have some vague memory of seeing a picture of a cupola looking very similar to a Pz38(t) on some French armour. Is this the sort of thing the German's did or am I having weird paint thinner and resin induced memory problems ? :p

Craig

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 01-31-04 20:13

Hi Craig,

I've just had a good look back through my books and photos and found that every photo of the Somua S35 (Pzkwfw 35S(f)) either has the French cupola with the top sawn off and a split hatch installed, or in some cases, a PzIII-style cupola installed. The Somua displayed at Bovington (captured from 21st PD in Normandy) has the sawn-off French cupola.

All photos of the Char B1 bis (Pzkwfw B2(f)) and flammpanzer derivatives either have the French cupola intact, or have it completely removed and replaced by the split

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hatch - either flush with the turret-top, or in a low ring.

All photos of the Hotchkiss H35/38/39 (Pzkwfw 35/38H(f)) and Renault R35 (Pzkwfw 35R(f)) show the cupola completely removed.

All Flammpanzer B2(f) and Pzkwfw 35R(f) wrecks at Arnhem had the cupolas removed.

Turrets on beach bunkers and armoured trains seem to have retained their cupolas, as do the fairly rare FT17/18s still in service in 1944/45 (mostly with Luftwaffe airfield defence units and security detachments).

Reply To This Message

Re: Panzer-Ersatz-Und-Ausbildungs-Abteilung 100
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 02-01-04 09:26

Just some additional uses for French 'Panzers':

According to Perigault's history of the 21. Panzer-Division, the 711. Infanterie-Division had a 'handful' of R35s in Panzerjaeger-Kompanie 711, and probably at least one Char B1 bis (there is a surviving photo of a KO'd Char B in their sector) - the unit was probably also equipped with a few towed AT guns such as the PaK 38. 711. ID was a very weak, low-grade garrison formation, holding the coastal sector east of the Orne and was consequently engaged throughout the Normandy campaign against first the 6th Airborne Division (at the Merville Battery), then the 1st & 4th Special Service Brigades, then the Dutch and Belgian Brigades.

Mark

British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy

Author: Mark Hayes ()
Date: 02-03-04 13:53

This is especially for RMD, who I know has been working on Tables of Organization for 15th Army Group in Italy. I found this information at

<http://www.orbat.com>

This looks like a great website, but most of the OBS and TO&Es are available by subscription only. Anyway, this is the establishment given for the armoured car regiment in Italy. It is organized and equipped somewhat differently than the armoured car regiment in NW Europe. I do not know if the armoured cars would be Daimlers like in NW Europe.

Regimental Headquarters

x1 scout car

x2 armoured cars

x2 AEC II armoured cars

x4 Humber AA armoured cars (disbanded do later than August 1944)

x4 Armoured Car Squadrons

Each with

Squadron Headquarters

x1 scout car

x4 armoured cars

x3 Armoured Car Troops

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Each with
x3 armoured cars

x3 Scout Car Troops
Each with
x3 Daimler scout cars

Heavy Troop
x1 Scout Car
x2 T12 75mm M3 halftracks

Support Troop
x1 scout car
x3 white scout cars

Total
x43 armoured cars
x4 AA armoured cars
49 Daimler scout cars
x12 white scout cars
x8 T12 75mm M3 halftracks

The article gives the following armoured car regiments as serving in Italy:

1st Household Cavalry Regiment (Nov. - Dec. 1943; Feb. - Oct. 1944)

1st King's Dragoon Guards (Sep. 1943 - Dec. 1944)

1st Royal Dragoons (Sep. 1943 - Feb. 1944)

12th Royal Lancers (Apr. 1944 - Apr. 1945)

27th Lancers (June 1944 - Apr. 1945)

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 02-04-04 01:19

Hi Mark,

Yes, that fits almost exactly with what I've so far compiled - the AECs were defeating me until I was looking for stuff on that Marmon-Herrington question, and lo and behold, a KDG reference indicated two AECs in the RHQ. Yay!

As to armoured car types, that IS complicated; Daimlers had begun to replace Humbers at the end of 1942 and represented an overall ratio of 2x Daimlers to 1x Humber in armoured car regiments, with the ratio switched in recce regiments. The Humbers in 1943 were almost all Besa-armed Mk I/II/III, with Browning-armed Foxes also present in Canadian and Indian units (and possibly being counted as 'Humbers'. As far as I'm aware, Marmon-Herrington Mk I-III had disappeared by Sicily and Italy, though the Mk IV is something of a mystery - they built 2,000, so someone must have used them?! Maybe the South Africans?

Humber Mk IVs began to replace the Humbers in recce regiments, though many recce regiments in Italy finished the war with either Daimlers or M8 Greyhounds. The armoured car regiments seem to have just gone straight to Daimlers.

what this means is that undoubtedly, many armoured car and recce regiments spent

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considerable periods with mixed armoured car types. My guess is that they did what the armoured regiments did in Africa and grouped the distinct types in different squadrons. This is total conjecture though.

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 02-04-04 01:20

Sorry, in the second paragraph, I should point out that those ratios represent the state of play at the beginning of the Italian campaign.

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: MudCrab ()
Date: 02-04-04 12:13

I have always wondered about the 75 armed AEC cars too.

My personal theory - unfortunately unproven - is that someone got a OOB for the 11th Hussars which lists M3 GMC (75mm) as the squadron 'heavy troop' and assumed that all armoured car regiments were built the same.

The implied role of the 75mm armoured cars seems, to me at least from the little you get to read about these vehicles, to be very similar to the role the M3 GMC do - ie direct fire support.

Like I said - just my theory and I have never been able to prove it but they built a few of those buggers and they were used SOMEWHERE :)

Comments ?

Craig (got my fleet killed to a man in our clubs Full Thrust campaign tonight so make them nice comments at least for the first 24 hours :P)

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: Evan Allen ()
Date: 02-04-04 15:24

There's photos of 75mm armed AEC MkIII armoured cars in the "Then and Now" books on "Market Garden" also in the Concord book "British Tanks of WWII (pt2) which captions them as being in the Household cavalry

Evan

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 02-05-04 01:26

Right,

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The AECs first appeared in the desert (Mk Is with 2pdr in very small numbers, followed by Mk II with 6pdr), but seem to have been allocated as HQ escort cars - not the Squadron Heavy Troop, whose place was eventually filled by the M3 GMC.

The AEC Mk I, existing only in very small numbers anyway, was withdrawn before Sicily.

The AEC Mk III was only used in NW Europe, where it either filled the Heavy Troop in each squadron (1 Dingo plus 2 AEC IIIs), or eventually replaced the ageing M3 GMCs in those ex-Italy regiments that used them. In some cases, they appear to have been used side-by-side! The role of HQ escort car was filled in NW Europe (and in some units in Italy) by the Staghound.

So the AEC Mk II was only used in the MTO and the AEC Mk III was only used in the ETO. The allocation of the AEC Mk II to the Late War Supplement was a mistake - we didn't know any better!

However, Canadian units didn't use AECs, though in 1945 they did acquire the Staghound Mk III, which used a Crusader turret and 75mm gun.

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 02-05-04 18:37

RMD,

Does your research indicate in what extent the M-8 Greyhound was used in British AC units in Italy and when?

Thanks,
Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 02-05-04 20:33

Hi Terry,

Definitely by the 56th Recce Regiment from July 44 onwards, when it completely replaced the Humber ACs - gleaned from a web-history of the regiment. I don't know of other units using the Greyhound, but that doesn't mean that no-one else used them!

Some other variations I forgot to add were Lynx Scout Cars instead of Dingos in Canadian Armoured Car Regiments and Staghounds being introduced from September 43 onwards. At least one Indian regiment had Staghounds, because they were documented as being sent, with their Staghounds, back to India in late 44, in preparation for a seaborne invasion on Rangoon (which didn't happen in the end). Otters were also used instead of Humber LRCs by Canadian units in Italy (though these were replaced by Humber LRCs upon their transfer to the ETO). Indian cavalry (i.e. recce) regiments of course used their own India-Pattern Carriers - Mk I in lieu of Universal Carriers and Mk II/IIa in lieu of Humber LRCs.

Mark

Reply To This Message

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Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 02-05-04 20:41

Just to come back to Craig's comments on the AEC - the Royal Dragoons and the 11th Hussars seem to have been the only regiments equipped with the M3 GMC in NW Europe, owing to their Italian experience. However, by 1945, these weapons were totally shagged out, having fired, in the case of the 11th Hussars, an average 100 rounds a day since landing in Normandy! This proves that they were used as artillery - not tank-destroyers, as so many wargames rules dictate! The Royal Dragoons eventually received AEC Mk IIIs (some were photographed liberating Denmark), but they served alongside the surviving M3s for a time during the winter of 44/45. I don't know if the 11th Hussars ever received AECs, but their M3s had worn out by 1945 - I would expect that they received AECs as well.

However, I haven't read of Heavy Troop AECs being used in the same manner as their M3 forebears - i.e. as artillery. I think their most likely use was as direct fire support and as an antitank screen behind which the Daimlers could withdraw.

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 02-06-04 21:42

The Concord volume on US Armor-post D-Day has several pictures of M8 Greyhounds from the 82nd Recon Bn, 2nd US Armored Div., with machine gun rings mounted on top of their turrets. According to the book this was a field modification.

was this configuration used in Italy, or just NW Europe 1944+?

Thanks,
Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: MudCrab ()
Date: 02-07-04 04:55

On AEC cars with 11th Hussars - just skimmed Verney's The Desert Rats which was not conclusive, although since equipment is very rarely mentioned by name in his book, this doesn't really help much either way.

11th DID I believe have US M24 light tanks at the end - I am pretty sure they are shown in the Berlin Victory Parade photos - is this correct? am I think of another division? and if they are with 11th Hussars then where were they in the TOE ?

Craig

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: Edward Sturges ()
Date: 02-07-04 11:59

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Craig

11 AD M24 Chaffees were issued as replacements for the Stuart III-V in the Recce Troop of armoured recce regiments (not armoured car regiments as far as I know). Not sure which regiments had them issued but there is a picture of a Chaffee of 8th Hussars (7AD) in April 1945. Hughes believes all Stuarts in 8th Hussars had been replaced by the end of the war.

Note that Delaforce's Black Bull refers to the troop commanders of the two SP AT batteries of 75 AT Regt (11 AD) were re-equipped with M22 Locust light tanks in March 1945.

Edward

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 02-08-04 09:49

Just found a picture of an M8 Greyhound belonging to 6th Armoured Division (it has the division's mailed fist badge on the front) during the advance into Austria, following the surrender in 1945 (I forget which regiment was the armoured car regiment for 6th AD), so it's a fairly safe bet that these were issued while still in Italy.

As to Chaffees, 7th & 11th Armoured Divisions received them in April 1945 and they were used alongside the Stuarts, as there weren't enough to fill whole Recce Troops. 7th Armoured Division seems to have removed the turrets from its Stuarts at that time (they appear like this, alongside the Chaffees, in the Berlin Victory Parade). 11th Armoured Division had 'jalopied' its own Stuarts in between Ops Epsom and Goodwood.

By 1945, a lot of FOOs and SP Antitank Troop commanders were riding around in sawn-off Stuart Recces as well.

The M22 Locusts issued to FOOs in March 1945 were the ones that had been landed as part of 6th Airborne Armoured Recce Regiment.

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: Paul Elvidge (213.249.135.---)
Date: 02-09-04 05:48

Hi

My step-father was with the Recce Corps in the 46th Division in Italy sometime in the second half of 1944 and he remembers that the individual troops in his unit didn't have a mixed establishment like the ones in Northwest Europe had - i.e. his troop were solely equipped with Humber armoured cars (five Mark IV's I think). They later handed in their Humbers and got Greyhounds in exchange, but I don't know the date.

Regards

Paul

Reply To This Message

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Re: British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 02-09-04 14:47

Hi Paul,

The actual squadron organisation did vary somewhat in NW Europe too, though the overall number of vehicles was basically the same. For example, 49th Recce kept it's armoured cars and light recce cars in an Armoured Car Troop, separate from the three Carrier Troops in each squadron (this was the official WD organisation). However, 43rd and 53rd Recce mixed them all in, with three 'Recce Troops' of mixed ACs, LRCs and Carriers in each squadron - a 'combined arms' approach. It also seems that some regiments sub-divided the armoured cars from the LRCs.

Mark

Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 12-11-03 01:23

Hi Gents,

The Italian TO&E is steadily coming together now and the first draft should be ready in a few days for everyone to pick over and pull apart! Anyway, I've stuck together a tentative list of formations for Sicily and Italy. If anyone can come up with more accurate months for in-theatre dates, or comparative quality suggestions, I'd be grateful. I'm going to ave to break the list up over several posts, I'm afraid, as my computer doesn't like big posts for some reason:

Armoured Divisions:

1st Armoured Division (late 43 to January 45 - disbanded)
6th Armoured Division (43 to May 45)
7th Armoured Division (43 only - transferred to ETO)
5th Canadian Armoured Division (Nov 43 to Jan 45 - transferred to ETO)
6th South African Armoured Division (43 to May 45)

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 12-11-03 01:29

Independent Armoured Brigades:

2nd Armoured Brigade (Jan 45 to May 45 - formed from disbanded 1st Armoured Division)
4th Armoured Brigade (July 43 to Jan 44 - transferred to ETO)
7th Armoured Brigade (43 to May 45)
9th Armoured Brigade (44? to May 45 - reorganised as 'Funny' formation in 45)
21st Army Tank Brigade (July 43 to May 45 - redesignated 'Armoured' late 44)
23rd Armoured Brigade (43 to 45 - transferred to Greece)
25th Army Tank Brigade (43 to winter 44/45 - reformed as 25th Armoured Engineer Brigade - a 'mini-79th Armoured Division')
1st Canadian Armoured Brigade (43 to Feb 45 - transferred to ETO)
2nd (Warsaw) Polish Armoured Brigade (44? to May 45)
4th New Zealand Armoured Brigade (43? to May 45)

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Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 12-11-03 01:40

Infantry Divisions:
1st Infantry Division (43? to May 45)
4th Infantry Division (43? to 45? - transferred to Greece)
5th (Yorkshire) Infantry Division (July 43 to late 44? - transferred to ETO)
46th Infantry Division (44? to 45? - transferred to Greece)
50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Division (43 only - transferred to ETO)
51st (Highland) Infantry Division (43 only - transferred to ETO)
56th (London) Infantry Division (43? to May 45)
78th Infantry Division (July 43 to May 45)

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 12-11-03 01:40

Allied Infantry Divisions:
1st Canadian Infantry Division (July 43 to March 45 - transferred to ETO)
2nd New Zealand Infantry Division (43 to May 45 - only two infantry brigades until a third added in Jan 45. The virtually permanent attachment of 4th NZ Armd Bde means that it is often (incorrectly) referred to as 2nd NZ Armd Div in many books)
4th Indian Infantry Division (43? to May 45)
8th Indian Infantry Division (43? to May 45)
10th Indian Infantry Division (43? to May 45)
3rd (Carpathian) Polish Infantry Division (44? to May 45)
5th (Krestowa) Polish Infantry Division (44? to May 45)

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 12-11-03 01:46

Other Formations:
25th Armoured Engineer Brigade (formed from 25th Tank Brigade (1945 only)
1st Airborne Division (1943 only - transferred to ETO)
2nd Independent Parachute Brigade Group (remained in MTO when 1st Airborne departed - also served in S. France (Op Anvil/Dragoon) and Greece in 1945)
2nd Special Service Brigade (43 to 45 - also served in S. France (Op Anvil/Dragoon)
3rd Greek Independent (Mountain) Infantry Brigade Group (43? to 45? - transferred to Greece?)
1st Jewish Independent Infantry Brigade Group (1945 only - also known as 'Palestine Brigade' due to its composition of the 1st to 3rd btns, The Palestine Regt)

Anybody know if any Commonwealth units used LVT Fantails/Bufaloes? I've found the US 542nd Engineer (Amphibian) Regiment, but no Commonwealth users of LVTs.

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: Paul Elvidge (213.249.135.----)
Date: 12-11-03 11:09

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Hi RMD

If I recall correctly I think that much of the info you want (at least for the Brits) is in Orders of Battle, Second World War 1939-45, by Lt Col HF Joslen. I believe it has just been republished.

Regards

Paul

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: Evan Allen ()
Date: 12-11-03 14:15

Mark, the NZ armoured brigade was an integral part of the New Zealand division and not an independent brigade. The actual divisional structure was based on the "mixed division" organisation and the regimental codes & colours used reflect that. The third infantry brigade wasn't "added" it was created from units no longer required such as the divisional cavalry regiment and the Maori battalion which had always been an "extra" battalion in the division. I suspect that 2nd NZ Division could've been the only one to actually use the mixed organisation in action.

cheers,

Evan

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: Mark Hayes ()
Date: 12-11-03 14:25

There is a lot of OB (but not TO&E) info at this website:

<http://members.aol.com/ItalyWW2/History.htm>

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: David Brasting ()
Date: 12-12-03 01:07

Hello Mark,

Some of the information you have on the New Zealand Division is not as correct as it could be.

I see Evan has given you a break down of the of How the 4th Brigade fitted into the structure

If you want the OOB and all the attachments drop me a line. privateer@clear.net.nz

I can give you all the information down to platoon level for the Division and its attachments

David Brasting

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Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 12-12-03 02:00

Cheers Gents,

That clears up my complete bafflement! Everything I'd read previously was completely contradictory. I'll be in touch.

I'm sure there will be plenty more to pick over yet!

Many thanks,

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 12-12-03 21:43

RMD, excellent work. I don't see the US 45th Infantry Division in the list. would their OB be the same as the US OB's in the BF rulebook?

Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 12-13-03 16:22

I've been looking at US obs for Salerno, 9/9/43. They indicate that US infantry battalions had 3 x infantry and a weapons company with LMGs and 60mm mortars. When were they reorganized and the weapons company eliminated? The obs in the rulebook have the LMG and 60mm as part of each company.

Thanks,
Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 12-13-03 20:14

If anyone's interested, this is the deployment of 16th Panzer at Salerno, 9/8/1943.

British Sector.

Kampfgruppe Dornemann.
16th Pz Recon Bn
3rd Bn, 2nd Pz Regt. 75mm SP
1 Co. 16th Pioneer Bn

Kampfgruppe Stempel.

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64th Pz Gr Regt, 2 Bn
1 Co assault guns, 75mm SP, 2/2 Pz Regt
Artillery battery, 105mm.
1 Co, 16th Pioneer Bn

US Sector.

Kampfgruppe Von Holtey
1 Co. 2/2 Pz Regt
Artillery Battery, 105mm
Platoon, 16th Pioneer Bn

Kampfgruppe Von Doering.

79th Pz Gr Support Co.
2 Co. 2/2th Pz Regt, 75mm SP
Artillery Battery
Pioneer/Recon Detachments.

note: 16th Artillery Regiment: 4 Battalions:
4 Batterys 105mm towed
2 Batterys 105mm SP
2 Batterys each 150mm towed and SP
2 Batterys 88mm
1 Battery 20mm AA
all 4 gun batterys.

Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: Edward Sturges ()
Date: 12-14-03 05:54

Terry

What's your source for the US infantry change? As far as I am aware there was no significant standard change to US infantry battalion organisation.

I have come across reference in the Encyclopedia which Mark referred to of a proposed change in the weapons platoon to 3 x LMG, 2 x 60mm and that it was normal for the weapons company to have both 8 x MMG and 8 x LMG for different circumstances, the other set of weapons being kept with the transport.

Edward

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: Edward Sturges ()
Date: 12-14-03 10:04

Mark

Have you seen

<http://members.aol.com/Customer85/Units/AlliesOrg.htm>
?

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Edward

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 12-14-03 10:47

Edward,

Rule #17, never post when you're in a hurry.

The info I have is about the weapons platoon not company.
In "Salerno" by Eric Morris, is an organization chart for US infantry divisions showing a weapons platoon of 2 x LMG and # x 60mm mortar in each company.

Thanks,
Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: john ingham ()
Date: 12-14-03 11:58

Mark

In reply to your query on fantails, 169th Bde of 56th Div used 400 of them for the crossing of Lake Comacchio on 10-13 April 45 in Operations Impact Plain and Impact Royal which was to outflank the Argenta gap. I think this brigade consisted of 2/5th, 2/6th and 2/7th Queens.

Regards

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: john ingham ()
Date: 12-14-03 12:15

Almost forgot to mention that the drivers were from 9th Armd Bde. specifically for this operation.

John

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: Edward Sturges ()
Date: 12-14-03 12:21

Terry

As far as I am aware the standard TO&E of a US rifle company weapons platoon in 1943-45 was 2 x LMG, 3 x 60mm mortar.

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A 0.50 cal MG was also issued - normally for AA use on a vehicle though sometimes dismounted as well as 3 x bazooka.

while there were changes between the various detail T&OEs I don't think the rifle organisation changed much.

Regards

Edward

Reply To This Message

Re: Commonwealth & Allied Formations in Italy
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 12-22-03 06:30

Many thanks once again for this excellent information!

Terry - I hadn't included the US forces (or French, or Italian, or Brazilian), because I'm compiling some lists for the British-organised elements of the 15th Army Group (i.e. British, Canadians, Indians, Poles, New Zealanders, Greeks, Palestinians/Jews and South Africans). However, I do have the order of battle for the entire army group here somewhere (including the Americans) - I'll dig it out for you.

Cheers,

Mark

German 1st Para Div in Italy
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 10-08-03 18:01

Research indicates this unit served thru most of the Italian campaign 1943-45. They are referred to as a "fire brigade force". I've seen this term applied to some German units in Russia also.

1st Para had 3 regiments infantry, plus artillery regiment, AT battalion, and Recon battalion.

I have the Fallshirmjager OB from the extras page. Does this work for the 1st Para in Italy ?

I'm thinking of a battalion size unit, with supports.

Thanks,
Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: German 1st Para Div in Italy
Author: Nigel Perry ()
Date: 10-08-03 19:55

Don't forget the "MG battalion" that is part of Fallshirmjaeger regt's for much of this period. I'm still trying to find a good TO&E for that.

In my reading about "Cassino" and other "Italy" engagements involving Fallshirmjaegers as well as looking at the Normandy listing of equipment for FJ regts, I am beginning to think that the Battlefront TO&E does not have enough MG's. An organisation similar to a German infantry regt, in which each company has the option of exchanging 3 rifle stands for LMG's seems more reasonable to me. Other

than that I think the FJ organisation is OK.

Nigel Perry.

Reply To This Message

Re: German 1st Para Div in Italy
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 10-08-03 20:42

Thanks Nigel,

Do you have info about heavy weapons support - i.e. panzers, AA, were their artillery and AT units towed or SP.

For Italy I have a grenadier battalion, and the planned FJ battalion.

Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: German 1st Para Div in Italy
Author: Edward Sturges ()
Date: 10-09-03 16:52

Nigel

Surely the BF TO&E has more than enough LMG? ME-24 has 1 Commander, 6 FJ infantry stands (3 with PzF), 3 LMG stands and 1 8cm mortar. This is the same as panzergrenadiers absent the HMGs.

The 1945 US Handbook on German military forces gives the rifle company 20 LMGs (6 in each rifle platoon, 2 in the trains), 3 8cm mortars (HQ). The UK Pocket Book of the German Army 1943 gives an earlier organisation of 18 LMGs in the three rifle platoons, 1 5cm mortar per rifle platoon and an AT section of 2 2.8cm AT guns or AT rifles.

I FJD at Cassino allegedly had:

Divisional staff
Falschirm Signals Abt 1
- 1st (radio) company
- 2nd (telephone) company
Falschirmjaeger Regt.1 (Obst Schultz)
- Regt staff and signals
- Pioneer company
- Mortar company
- AT company
- 1st Btl (Maj Graf v Schulenburg)
- - Btl staff and signals
- - 1st-3rd Jaeger companies
- - 4th (MG) company
- 2nd Btl (Maj Groeschke) - as above
- 3rd Btl (Maj Becker - as above

Falschirmjaeger Regt.3
- Regt staff and signals
- Pioneer company
- Mortar company
- AT company
- 1st Btl (Maj Boehmler)

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- - Btl staff and signals
- - 1st-3rd Jaeger companies
- - 4th (MG) company
- 2nd Btl (Hpt Foltin) - as above
- 3rd Btl (Maj Kratsert) - as above

Falschirmjaeger Regt.4 (Maj Grassmehl)

- Regt staff and signals
- Pioneer company
- Mortar company
- AT company
- 1st Btl (Maj Hpt Beyer)
- - Btl staff and signals
- - 1st-3rd Jaeger companies
- - 4th (MG) company
- 2nd Btl (Hpt Huebner) - as above
- 3rd Btl (Hpt Meyer) - as above

Falschirm Artillerie Regt 1 (Maj Schram)

- Regt staff and signals
- 1st Btl (Hpt Scheller)
- - 1st-3rd batteries (7.5cm mountain guns)
- 3rd Btl (Hpt Tappe)
- - 7th-9th batteries (10.5cm light guns)

Falschirm Pionier Btl 1 (Hpt Froemming)

- Btl staff and signals
- 1st-3rd pionier companies
- 4th (MG) company

Falschirm Panzerjaeger Abt 1 (Maj Brueckner)

- Abt staff and signals
- 1st-4th companies (7.5cm PAK mot)
- 5th company (7.5cm PAK Sfl) prob Marder IIIH

Falschirm MG Btl (Maj Schmidt)

- Btl staff and signals
- 3 MG companies

Falschirm Medical Abt 1 (Oberstabsartz Dr Eiben)

- 2 medical companies

The recon battalion is a myth - as far as I can tell there was a Corps (not divisional) Aufklarungs Abt in Italy and in Normandy.

Edward

Reply To This Message

Re: German 1st Para Div in Italy

Author: terry haney ()

Date: 10-09-03 18:57

Many thanks Edward.

Do you have any TO&E on the battalion? BF Battle Group 13 is good, but I'm interested in details. Seems there were a lot of para units in Italy, either new ones or old ones being refit & reconstituted.

Terry

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Reply To This Message

Re: German 1st Para Div in Italy
Author: Nigel Perry ()
Date: 10-09-03 19:38

Nigel

Surely the BF TO&E has more than enough LMG? ME-24 has 1 Commander, 6 FJ infantry stands (3 with PzF), 3 LMG stands and 1 8cm mortar. This is the same as panzergrenadiers absent the HMGs.

<rest pruned for brevity>

Quite right Edward. This shows the perils of relying on memory when composing. I checked in "Zettlerling" again and find that the number of LMG's is fine. Ok, this example is for Normandy, but the numbers are good for contemporary Italy. Jogging my memory I remember that its the number of HMG's in the MG company that I found odd. Zetterling shows 12 (FJ regt 6 has a breakdown). 3 HMG stands seems too few.

I'm afraid I don't have much to offer on what heavy weapons were in use. I remember photographs of FJ using towed PAK 40, and FJ operating with StuG III, but the StuG's might have been from other formations.

I'll look at my sources over the weekend.

Nigel Perry.

Reply To This Message

Re: German 1st Para Div in Italy
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 10-09-03 20:24

Thanks Nigel

"Panzers in Italy, Coronet Publ. 2003 , Tom Cockle,has the following pictures of FJ in Italy.

1. Moving a 4.2cm Panzerjagerkanone41 up a hill.
2. Preparing to fire a 10.5cm Leichtgeschutz 40 recoilless artillery peice.
3. Manning a 15cm sFH18 heavy artillery piece.

and my favorite,

4. Manning a 3.7cm PaK35/38 AT gun on a street corner in Rome, early May 1944.

Thanks,
Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: German 1st Para Div in Italy
Author: Edward Sturges ()
Date: 10-14-03 18:43

Terry

I have a copy of what may be the same picture as 4. in a book 'German paratroops in the Med' by Bruce Quarrie picture ref 570/1606/22 captioned as 'A 3.7cm Pak emplaced
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on a street corner'. However, the picture doesn't show the complete length of the barrel - so I can't be sure this is a PAK36 rather than a 4.2cm PAK41, especially as the picture is taken from front left and the shield obscures the details of the breech and I can't tell if the shield is double skinned.

Another picture in the same book is of a '3.7cm Pak anti-tank gun on the Nettuno front' (575/1807/1a). Here the crew obscure the breech and one can't see the barrel at all.

I imagine the best argument for both the above being PAK36 absent positive identification is that tungsten taper-bore ammunition for the PAK41 was likely to be scarce by 1944?

Edward

16th Panzer Division @ Salerno 9/43

Author: terry haney ()

Date: 09-03-03 21:01

This OB is from "Salerno", Eric Morris, Stein & Day Inc, 1983

2nd Panzer Regiment:

1st Bn - refitting to Pz V's in Germany

2nd Bn - 66 Pz IV's --- Pz F1/F2 ?

3rd Bn - 42 75mm Assault guns -- Stug III - G?

64th Panzer Grenadier Regiment: 2 Bn , 1 in Halftracks, + 1 support company

79th Panzer Grenadier Regiment: 2 Bn, + 1 support company

16th Panzer Recon Bn: 1 coy Lt AC's, 1 coy Hvy AC's - maybe 231/232's

+ 2 x inf coy in halftracks, and 1 support coy.

16th Artillery Regiment. (all 4 gun batterys)

1st Bn 3 btry 105mm towed

2nd Bn 3 btry 2 x 105mm Sp, 1 x 150mm Sp

3rd Bn 3 btry 1 x 105mm Towed, 2 x 150mm Towed

4th Bn 3 btry 2 x 88mm AA, 1 x 20mm multibarrel AA

16th Pioneer Bn

16th Signal Bn, as a Tank compliment

87 x Mk IV's, maybe F1/F2

7 x Mk III's, 57mm or Flame

12 x Mk II's, maybe F series.

The infantry battalions had 3 x rifle companys & 1 heavy company of - AT platoon, Pioneer platoon, 20mm AA platoon.

I'd appreciate all comments on the details, i.e., tank/assault gun variants. TO&E of the support companys. Were the AT guns Pak 38 or 40?

Thanks,
Terry Haney

Reply To This Message

Re: 16th Panzer Division @ Salerno 9/43

Author: Bob Eldridge ()

Date: 09-03-03 22:47

Terry,

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According to Von Saenger und Etterlin in "Die Panzer-Grenadiere" (J.F. Lehmanns Verlag 1961), the Panzergrenadier regiments were organized as listed below. This information is taken from "Kriegsgliederung des Feldheeres (Stand Mitte September 1943) Org-Abt. Nr I/4500/gKdos of 4.10.1943 and reflects the units as of the middle of September 1943. So this should be very close as the units' actual composition at the time of the Salerno invasion on 9 September.

PzGdr Regt 64 (armored) with:

Staff Company - motorcycle messenger platoon (6 LMG)

- Heavy PAK platoon (3 towed 7.5cm PAK 40)
- Pioneer Platoon (6 LMG, 6 Flamethrowers)
- Signal Platoon

I (motorized) Battalion with:

Staff

3 Panzer Grenadier Companies each (18 LMG, 4 HMG, 2 x 8cm mortars, 3 Anti-tank Rifles)

Heavy Company:

- Mortar Platoon (6 x 8cm mortars)
- 1st Infantry Gun Platoon (2 x 7.5cm leIG 18)
- 2nd Infantry Gun Platoon (2 x 7.5cm leIG 18)
- Antitank Platoon (3 towed 5cm PAK 38)
- Pioneer Platoon (4 LMG, 6 Flamethrowers)

II (armored) Battalion with:

Staff

3 Panzer Grenadier Companies each (39 LMG including halftrack mounted weapons, 4 HMG, 2 x 8cm Mortars, 3 SdKfz251/10)

Heavy Company:

- Antitank Platoon (3 self-propelled 7.5cm PAK 40) most likely one of the Marder variants.
- Infantry Gun Platoon (2 7.5cm leIG 18 towed)
- Heavy Cannon Platoon (6 SdKfz 251/9 with 7.5cm KWK L/24)
- Pioneer Platoon(9 LMG, 6 Flamethrowers)

13th (Infantry Gun) Company: 6 15cm self-propelled infantry guns

14th (Antiaircraft) Company: 12 towed 2cm AA Guns

PzGdr Regt 79 (motorized) with:

Staff Company - motorcycle messenger platoon (6 LMG)

- Heavy PAK platoon (3 towed 7.5cm PAK 40)
- Pioneer platoon (6 LMG, 6 Flamethrowers)
- Signal Platoon

I (motorized) Battalion with:

Staff

3 Panzer Grenadier Companies each (18 LMG, 4 HMG, 2 x 8cm mortars, 3 Anti-tank Rifles)

Heavy Company:

- Mortar Platoon (6 x 8cm mortars)
- 1st Infantry Gun Platoon (2 x 7.5cm leIG 18)
- 2nd Infantry Gun Platoon (2 x 7.5cm leIG 18)
- Antitank Platoon (3 towed 5cm PAK 38)
- Pioneer Platoon (4 LMG, 6 Flamethrowers)

II (motorized) Battalion with:

Staff

3 Panzer Grenadier Companies each (18 LMG, 4 HMG, 2 x 8cm mortars, 3 Anti-tank Rifles)

Heavy Company:

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- Mortar Platoon (6 x 8cm mortars)
- 1st Light Infantry Gun Platoon (2 x 7.5cm leIG 18)
- 2nd Light Infantry Gun Platoon (2 x 7.5cm leIG 18)
- Antitank Platoon (3 towed 5cm PAK 38)
- Pioneer Platoon (4 LMG, 6 Flamethrowers)

13th (Infantry Gun) Company: 6 15cm self-propelled infantry guns

14th (Antiaircraft) Company: 12 towed 2cm AA Guns

FWIW, Von Sanger und Etterlin shows the Flak battalion as an independent unit and not part of the Artillerie regiment.

The base organization for the Panzer-Aufklarungs Abteilung as follows:

Staff

Light Armored Car Company (18 wheeled armored cars with 2cm, 6 with LMG only)

Light Armored Car Company (halftracks - 16 Sdkfz 250/9 and 9 Sdkfz 250/1)

Armored Recon Company (Sdkfz 251) with 56 LMG, 4 HMG, 2 8cm mortars, and 3 Sdkfz 251/10 (3.7cm)

Recon Company (VW or motorcycle) with 18 LMG, 4 HMG, 2 8cm mortars)

Heavy Company:

- 2 Light AT Platoons each 3 Sdkfz 251/10
- 1 Infantry Gun Platoon with 2 towed leIG 18 7.5cm howitzers
- 1 heavy AT Platoon with 3 7.5cm towed PAK 40
- 1 Pioneer Platoon with 13 LMG, 1 2cm KWK, and 6 Flamethrowers.

Sdkfz 251's may have been replaced with Sdkfz 250's.

Note the 2cm KWK in the Engineer platoon is for an engineer version of the Panzer II that most likely was not being issued by 1943.

As the tanks are concerned, Jentz in "Panzertruppen Vol 2" says that on 20 August 1944 16th Panzer Division's armored strength consisted of:

92 Panzer IV (all with "long" guns" - probably all G's given that 16th PD was being rebuilt after being destroyed at Stalingrad.)

40 Sturmgeschutz (out of an authorized strength of 93)

12 Command Tanks (some if not all of these were Pz III)

7 Flamethrower Tanks (Panzer III)

The Panzer IV's are almost certainly all G models, given that only 200 F2 models were produced and production stopped in July 1942. These would most likely have been the early model G's with the L/43 gun, although since the L/48 gun was introduced beginning in March 1943 it is within the realm of possibility that some of 16th PD's Mark IV's had the L/48 gun. Hope you find this stuff useful.

Bob Eldridge

Reply To This Message

Re: 16th Panzer Division @ Salerno 9/43

Author: terry haney ()

Date: 09-04-03 18:04

Many thanks Bob.

The info on the Staff & Heavy companys is an unexpected bonus.

Thanks again

Terry

Reply To This Message

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Re: 16th Panzer Division @ Salerno 9/43
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 09-04-03 22:58

Terry,

Glad to be of help.

Bob

Reply To This Message
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Bottom of Form

10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 08-20-03 02:07

Hi Gents,

I'm looking for some organisational details for this division in Normandy - specifically the distribution of heavy weapons in the 21st and 22nd SS Panzergrenadier Regiments. Can anyone help? I've got plenty of info on the Panzer Regiment, thanks.

At least one of the two infantry gun companies used towed 150mm SIGs, where you might normally expect Bisons/Grilles to be found. Was this true for both regiments? Looks like I might have to shell out the £50 for the divisional history...

(any excuse to buy another book!)

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Bob Eldridge (198.85.98.---)
Date: 08-20-03 07:51

Mark,

I've got that info, including a book written by Fruntsberg's former commander. I'm at work now, but I'll post the stuff from home tonight.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 08-20-03 09:56

Cheers Bob! I'm looking specifically at the battles for Hill 112, commencing on 10th July.

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Cheers,

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'

Author: Ken Natt ()

Date: 08-20-03 13:11

Me too! I have been meaning to work up a second "Jupiter" scenario based around 2/22 Pgr

One of the 8 Komp 2/22 Pgr SPs was killed by a Croc, although in his book "Hill 112" Tim Saunders says it is a half track mounted gun - the quote is from SS Mann August Bauer

"We shot at the advancing tanks with everything we had. Suddenly a great cloud of black smoke emanated from an armoured flame thrower and hit the cannon of SS-RottenfuhrerTheopil Hauth situated to our right. The cannon was put out of action and the commander and crew were killed or wounded."

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)

Author: Bob Eldridge ()

Date: 08-26-03 21:30

Mark/Ken,

Sorry it took so long to dig out and crosscheck the data. I've used three different sources:

- 1) 10. SS-Panzer-Division by Jean-Luc Leleu (Editions Heimdal)
- 2) In Ehrfurcht die Fahnen Senken by Heinz Harmel, formerly the division commander (Stenger Historical Press)
- 3) Orders of Battle by M. Wood and J. Dugdale (Books International)

Miracle of miracles, they all actually agreed for the most part. The OB information appears to date from around 1 June, roughly a month before Fruntsberg was committed to the area around Hill 112, so some of the shortages may have been made good by the time the division went into action. The five motorized infantry battalions are all at roughly 75% strength manpower-wise, while the armored infantry battalion is somewhat better off at 83%

SS Panzer-Grenadier Regiment 21 (armored)

Regimental HQ: includes 2 x 7.5cm towed AT guns, and a platoon of 6 Sdkfz 251/16 flamethrower halftracks

I (armored) Battalion:

HQ: 6 Sdkfz 251/1 (2 command, 2 signal, 2 ambulance)

Flamethrower Platoon: 6 Sdkfz 251/16 flamethrower halftracks

1. Company: 17 Sdkfz 251/1

4 Heavy Machine Guns

1 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Sdkfz 251/2 8cm mortar carriers

2 Sdkfz 251/9 7.5cm infantry guns (SP)

2. Company: as 1. Company

3. Company: as 1. Company

4. Company:

HQ: 2 Sdkfz 251/1

Antitank Platoon: 4 x 7.5cm antitank guns (towed)

Cannon Platoon: 8 x Sdkfz 251/9 7.5cm infantry guns (SP)

Pioneer Platoon: 4 Sdkfz 251/7 (6 flamethrowers)

Rocket Platoon: 6 Sdkfz 251/1 with 28/32cm SWR 40

II (motorized) Battalion

5. Company: 2 Heavy and 15 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

2 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrowers

6. Company: 4 Heavy and 12 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

2 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrowers

7. Company: 2 Heavy and 10 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

2 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrowers

8. Company: 5 x 8cm Mortars, 2 x 7.5cm antitank guns (towed),

4 x 7.5cm light infantry guns (towed)

III (motorized) Battalion

9. Company: 2 Heavy and 12 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

2 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

1 Flamethrower

10. Company: 4 Heavy and 14 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

2 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

1 Flamethrower

11. Company: 2 Heavy and 15 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

2 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

1 Flamethrower

12. Company: 5 x 8cm Mortars, 2 x 7.5cm antitank guns (towed),

4 x 7.5cm light infantry guns (towed)

13. (Infantry Gun) Company: 6 x 15cm Heavy Infantry Guns (towed)

14. (Flak) Company: 8 x Sdkfz 10/4 2cm AA (SP), 3 x 2cm AA (towed)

16. (Pioneer) Company (motorized): 2 Heavy and 18 light machine guns,

6 flamethrowers, 2 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

SS Panzer-Grenadier Regiment 22 (motorized)

Regimental HQ: includes 2 x 7.5cm antitank guns (towed)

I (motorized) Battalion

1. Company: 3 Heavy and 12 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

3 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrowers

2. Company: 3 Heavy and 12 Light machine guns

1 x 8cm mortar

2 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrowers

3. Company: 3 Heavy and 13 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

2 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrowers

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4. Company: 6 x 8cm Mortars, 3 x 7.5cm antitank guns (towed),
4 x 7.5cm light infantry guns (towed)

II (motorized) Battalion

5. Company: 3 Heavy and 12 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

3 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrowers

6. Company: 3 Heavy and 13 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

1 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrowers

7. Company: 3 Heavy and 12 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

2 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrowers

8. Company: 6 x 8cm Mortars, 3 x 7.5cm antitank guns (towed),

4 x 7.5cm light infantry guns (towed)

III (motorized) Battalion

9. Company: 4 Heavy and 12 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

3 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrower

10. Company: 4 Heavy and 11 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

3 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrower

11. Company: 3 Heavy and 13 Light machine guns

2 x 8cm mortars

3 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

2 Flamethrower

12. Company: 6 x 8cm Mortars, 2 x 7.5cm antitank guns (towed),

4 x 7.5cm light infantry guns (towed)

13. (Infantry Gun) Company: 5 x 15cm Heavy Infantry Guns (towed)

14. (Flak) Company: 5 x Sdkfz 10/4 2cm AA (SP), 6 x 2cm AA (towed)

16. (Pioneer) Company (motorized): 9 light machine guns, 1 8cm mortar

6 flamethrowers

Hope this is what you were looking for. It might be worthwhile to put up OB's for all the SS divisions in Normandy. I've got the information, but I'm not very good at whipping the data into shape with Powerpoint.

Regards,

Bob Eldridge

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)

Author: Ken Natt ()

Date: 08-27-03 03:01

Thanks Bob - nice work

Ken

Reply To This Message

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Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Nigel Maddaford ()
Date: 08-27-03 03:27

I find the number of LMG's in the companies very interesting averaging 12 i.e. only enough for 1 per squad and platoon HQ. As Bob states shortages may have been made up before going into action or is the 2 LMG's per squad not as widespread as we believe atleast at this stage of the war?

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Bob Eldridge (198.85.98.---)
Date: 08-27-03 07:37

Maybe, but remember that the infantry units are at 75% strength, so you may be looking at six squads per company instead of nine, in which case it still works out to 2 LMG per squad. The armored infantry battalion, which is the only unit I have a squad level breakdown for (thanks to Harmel's book), definitely has two light machine guns per squad, a total of 40 or so in each company counting the machine guns on the halftracks.

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 08-27-03 14:44

Thanks a million Bob! The Heimdal book was the one I was about to buy - how do you rate it? Their 21st PD book is excellent.

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Bob Eldridge (198.85.98.---)
Date: 08-28-03 08:07

Mark,

Glad to help. The Heimdal book on Fruntsberg is, I think, excellent, and well worth the money. I've got to say, though, that I needed all three books to get a reasonably complete and accurate picture. I'm planning on posting the organizations for the Aufklarungs Abteilung and Artillerie-Regiment in the next couple of days, since they both deviate somewhat from standard.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 08-28-03 14:30

Bob, you read my mind - I forgot that the Aufklaerungs Abterilung was involved in counter-attacks on Hill 112, so I'll need that one as well. Zetterling lists it as being at full strength, but says no more about it. He does list a strange number of artillery pieces in II & III Battalions of the artillery regiment, so I'd be

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interested to see how they fitted into the picture as well.

Incidentally, Zetterling lists a 15. (Aufklaerungs) Kompanie in each panzergrenadier regiment. I notice this number is vacant above - had they been raised?

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Bob Eldridge (198.85.98.---)
Date: 08-28-03 15:05

Mark,

You're absolutely right. The Aufklarungs Abteilung was the principal division reserve/counterattack force during the fighting around Hill 112, perhaps because it was at 100% strength. As far as the 15. Aufklarungs (aka Kradschutzen) Kompanie, Michael Reynolds in Steel Inferno stated that they were officially removed from the regimental composition by an SS HQ order of April 1944. Mueller-Hildebrand does mention them as part of the TOE for an SS panzer-grenadier regiment, and that may be where Zetterling got his info. The Heimdal book reproduces a German TOE document (apparently an annex to a 10th SS Panzer operations order) numbered 271/44, and that document doesn't show a 15th Kompanie at all. Neither do the TOE documents/strength reports in the Wood/Dugdale book. However, Otto Weidinger specifically mentions a 15th Company (which he calls "Kradschutzen") being present for the Panzer-Grenadier regiments of Das Reich in Normandy, but that's the only confirmed mention I can remember.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 08-28-03 19:02

Hi Bob,

That's very interesting. I've got (or rather, I had) Weidinger's 'Comrades to the End', and he does mention the Kradschuetzen Kompanie in KGr Weidinger (the first element of Das Reich to reach Normandy) being present at Bretteville/Rauray/Tessel on or around 1st July, in support of II SS Panzer Korps' counterattck against the 'Epsom'/'Martlet' salient. Doesn't elaborate though. As the 10th SS PD's Aufkl Kompanien aren't mentioned in any accounts that I've come across, I'd agree with you.

Any idea on casualties suffered by Fruntsberg during the Epsom counterattack?

Cheers,

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 08-28-03 20:09

Mark/Ken,

Here's the information on the Panzer Aufklärung Abteilung, the Panzer Artillerie Regiment, the Panzer Pionier Bataillon, and the Division Escort Company for Frundsberg. I'll see what I can dig up on casualties during EPSOM and get back to you in a day or so.

SS-PANZER-AUFKLAERUNGS ABTEILUNG 10

This unit was at 100% personnel strength at the beginning of Frundsberg's commitment to combat operations in Normandy.

HQ Company (Stab und Stabs-Kompanie) 13 Sdkfz 250 series, 1 Sdkfz 251 series, 20 light machine guns

1. (Armored Car) Company: 18 4-wheeled armored cars
6 8 wheeled armored cars
(18 2cm KWK and 23 LMG)

2. (Armored Car) Company: 16 Sdkfz 250/9
9 Sdkfz 250 series
(16 2cm KWK and 25 LMG)

3. (Light Armored Reconnaissance) Company:
33 Sdkfz 250 series light APC including 3 Sdkfz 250/7 and 2 Sdkfz 250/10
5 HMG
40 LMG (including vehicle mounted)
3 8cm mortars (mounted on Sdkfz 250/7)
2 3.7cm AT guns (mounted on Sdkfz 250/10)

4. (Light Armored Reconnaissance) Company
33 Sdkfz 250 series light APC including 3 Sdkfz 250/7 and 2 Sdkfz 250/9
6 HMG
49 LMG (including vehicle mounted)
3 8cm mortars (mounted on Sdkfz 250/7)
2 2cm KWK
3 unidentified weapons (the symbol on the TOE chart isn't listed in Mueller, so I have no idea what it represents. It looks sort of like a malformed symbol for a Raketen Panzerbuchse, but I can't be sure).

5. (Heavy) Company
23 Sdkfz 251 series vehicles (total)
Pioneer Platoon: 1 x 3.7cm (Sdkfz 251/10), 10 LMG, 2 Flamethrowers
Cannon Platoon: 4 x Sdkfz 251/9 7.5 cm howitzers (SP)
Infantry Gun Platoon: 2 x 7.5cm leIG 18 (towed by Sdkfz 251)
Antitank Platoon: 3 x 7.5cm PAK 40 (towed)

The TOE chart also shows a single 5cm halftrack self propelled gun in the company. I've checked my AFV books and this would have to be the 5cm PAK 38 auf Zgkw 1to (sfl) that was manufactured in a small quantity in 1941 and issued apparently only to SS formations. What it's doing in Frundsberg in 1944 I have no idea, but I've triple checked the symbol and that's what it is.

SS-PANZER-ARTILLERIE REGIMENT 10

94% personnel strength

HQ includes 3 x Sdkfz 10/4 2cm FLAK (SP)

I (Armored) Battalion (includes 3 PzIII Observation tanks and 4 Sdkfz 250 series light armored observation vehicles, 2 x 2cm towed FLAK)

1. Battery 6 Wespe 10.5cm SP
2. Battery 5 Wespe 10.5cm SP, 1 10.5cm towed howitzer

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3. Battery 6 Hummel 15cm SP

II (Motorized) Battalion (includes 2 x 2cm towed FLAK)

4. Battery 4 10.5cm towed howitzers

5. Battery 4 10.5cm towed howitzers

6. Battery 4 10.5cm towed howitzers

III(Motorized) Battalion (includes 2 x 2cm towed FLAK)

7. Battery 4 15cm towed howitzers

8. Battery 4 15cm towed howitzers

9. Battery 4 15cm towed howitzers

10. Battery 4 10.5cm towed medium guns

SS-PANZER-PIONIER-BATALLION 10

personnel strength 88%

HQ: 4 Sdkfz 251 series, 1 heavy machine gun, 13 light machine guns, 2 flamethrowers

1. (Armored) Company: 26 Sdkfz 251 series vehicles

2 Heavy machine guns

48 Light machine guns (including vehicle mounted

2 8cm mortars

1 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

6 Flamethrowers

2nd (Motorized) Company:

3 Heavy machine guns

17 Light machine guns (including vehicle mounted

2 8cm mortars

3 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

8 Flamethrowers

3rd (Motorized) Company:

3 Heavy machine guns

17 Light machine guns (including vehicle mounted

2 8cm mortars

2 Raketen Panzerbuechse (Panzerschreck)

4 Flamethrowers

DIVISION ESCORT COMPANY:

4 heavy machine guns

13 light machine guns

2 8 cm mortars

4 Sdkfz 10/4 2cm FLAK (SP)

3 5cm PAK 38 (towed)

Let me know if there are any questions.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)

Author: R Mark Davies ()

Date: 08-29-03 07:47

Bob,

You are a star! And you've saved me £50 (though I'll probably spend it anyway, so don't tell the wife...)!

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Just to add to the above, Zetterling lists 4x 10cm K18s but only 12x 10.5cm. I'd guess that the 10th Battery was probably actually these 10cm K18s? Looking at other divisions, it was quite typical to have a single battery of 10cm long guns in the regiment, for the long-range hitting power.

Cheers,

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Bob Eldridge (198.85.98.---)
Date: 08-29-03 08:05

Mark,

They could indeed be 10cm K18's (which I believe were actually 105mm bore) On the other hand, they could conceivably be captured materiel. The French and Czechs both had very good 105mm medium guns that the Germans made extensive use of. But if Zetterling says they were K18's, I'll take his word for it. I found it very interesting that they stuck a towed gun into one of the SP batteries to make up the number of tubes to 6. Could well be that lone towed gun was replaced by the proper wepse SP by the time Fruntsberg went into action. For game purposes, since it's all offboard anyhow, what matters is that it's six tubes.

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 08-29-03 11:53

well thanks for al your help. I'm working up a set of orders of battle for Hill 112 and Operation Jupiter, for all units on both sides. I'll pass it on to Jim and whoever wants it when I've finished it.

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Tankie ()
Date: 08-29-03 12:37

Guys,
can you give me some idea what the armoured cars would be in the recce battalion -
nb the 4 wheeled ones. Sdkfz 222s ?
regards
Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Bob Eldridge (198.85.98.---)
Date: 08-29-03 13:18

Mark,

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Glad to be of help. I'll definitely be interested in seeing what you come up with.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Bob Eldridge (198.85.98.---)
Date: 08-29-03 13:24

Tankie,

Yes the four-wheeled cars would be the Sdkfz 221-222-223 series. Based on the weapons count, the breakdown would appear to be:

1 Sdkfz 223 (unarmed radio vehicle)
5 Sdkfz 221 (machine gun armed)
12 Sdkfz 222 (2cm KwK)

note that the 8-wheel armored cars were the older Sdkfz 232 models, not the newer Sdkfz 234 series. Hope this helps.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Ken Natt ()
Date: 08-29-03 14:32

Bob - I'm no expert on this but didn't the 223s appear more frequently, - I thought that the other car's radios were not up to the job, hence the need for dedicated radio cars (223s)

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Tankie ()
Date: 08-29-03 17:44

Bob,
thanks for your help. I've already invested in the half tracks etc, but hadn't got around to the wheeled armour yet.
regards
Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 08-29-03 18:55

Bob,

Great information. I didn't know the 221-223 series AC were still in use in 1944. How about the 231-232 8 wheel AC's, were they still around?

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Thanks,
Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 08-29-03 19:36

Ken,

You may well be right. I did some digging and here's what I found:

Based on the weapon numbers -

There is ONE unarmed car. This could be either an Sdkfz 247 command vehicle, but as far as I know they were only issued to Abteilung HQ units, so the most likely candidate is the "kleine Panzer Funk wagen Sdkfz 260/261".

There are 5 cars only armed with machine guns. These could be either the Sdkfz 221, the Sdkfz 223 (which DOES have a machine gun - I was mistaken) or the 8-wheeled Sdkfz 263 (unlikely in MHO).

There are 18 cars armed with 2cm guns. These have to be Sdkfz 222 for the 4 wheel models and Sdkfz 232 for the 8 wheel model.

I'll try to see if I can find a more detailed break down somewhere.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg' (long)
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 08-29-03 19:37

Terry,

AFAIK, the 8-wheel cars listed are all the older 232 type.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Tankie ()
Date: 08-30-03 06:36

Guys,
I'm a little confused now. I just checked out a 232 AC on the Achtungpanzer.com site and it seems to be an early war 6 X 6 vehicle a little like a fully wheeled Sdkfz 251 with a Panzer II turret. Yet there's a reference to 232 being an 8 X 8 vehicle in this strand. Can someone help me out here, or - cutting to the chase - tell me whether the 232 of the type used by Fruntsberg in the Normandy campaign is made by any of the 15mm manufacturers?
regards
Tankie

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Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Frunzburg'
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 08-30-03 07:15

Tankie,

The Germans used the same Sdkfz 232 designation to refer to both the very early war 6-wheel vehicle, and the 8-wheel vehicle that served throughout the war. They differentiated between them by putting (6-rad) or (8-rad) after the vehicle number. AFAIK nobody makes an 8 wheel Sdkfz 232 in 15MM, although Battlefront does make the Sdkfz 263 Radio variant.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Frunzburg'
Author: Tom Schumacher ()
Date: 08-30-03 07:31

Tankie

In the Encyclopedia of German Tanks of WWII, the only difference between the 231 (8 rad) and the 232 (8 rad) is that the 232 was the radio version. Early versions had the bed-spring antenna, later had a 3M star antenna. Quality Casting (BH) used to make the 232 with the bed-spring. I bought one several years ago, but don't know if they still make it.

Tom

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Frunzburg'
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 08-30-03 09:34

Quality Castings still makes the 231/232 (8 rad), just got some from warweb. BF make the 263, but according to Tommy Gunner's their 231 is out of production.

Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Frunzburg'
Author: Tankie ()
Date: 08-30-03 14:21

Bob, Tom and Terry,
thanks for the further help. Battlefront/QC do indeed make it and now I've seen a pic of the 232 (8 Rad) I realise that I've even knocked one out on the tabletop before !
regards
Mark

Reply To This Message

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Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 08-30-03 22:49

Ken,

I've been digging into the armored car company, and here's what I think is the proper organization

HQ: 1 Sdkfz 263 (unarmed radio car)
3 Light Platoons each: 2 Sdkfz 223 (radio car with MG), 4 Sdkfz 222 (2cm KWK) - operates in two "troops" each 1x 223 and 2 x 222
1 Heavy Platoon: 6 Sdkfz 232

Fruntsberg's unit is short one Sdkfz 223, since it only has 5 MG-armed cars. The proper total for a full strength company would be 25. Does this make sense?

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Ken Natt ()
Date: 08-31-03 06:34

Bob - looks about right - now hand over to RMD to convert to a BF unit - I would suspect the light platoons to be 1 cmd 223 + 2 222 or if used as attachments 2 single 222s and either ignore the 223 or attach it to the BGHQ

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 08-31-03 13:04

Great stuff guys! By the way, Sdkfz 222s & 223s were also in use with 21st Panzer Division in Normandy (as well as a solitary Panhard), and I've no doubt that others had them as well - so much for most wargames army lists!

On that aside - I'll be updating the 21st PD orbat in the week, to include the full organisation of the Panzeraufklaerungs Abteilung, which was previously absent.

Back to SS Panzeraufklaerungs Abteilung 10 - could that mystery Sdkfz 250 weapon have been the 2.8cm squeezebore? I understand that a few 250s were fitted with it, and as that particular company is missing the expected 3.7cm guns...?

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 08-31-03 16:44

Mark,

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That's a very good guess. I'm fairly sure the symbol was for some kind of antitank weapon. If that's true, the question I would have is what are the two Sdkfz 250/9's doing in the company? I had thought that they were standing in for the 250/10's.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: James Baker ()
Date: 08-31-03 19:59

Anybody want to turn these into .ppt Battlefront OOBs :-)) I will show you how if you are interested.

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 09-01-03 06:04

Already doing it Jm!

Bob - I'd hazard a guess that maybe they were there as improv flak vehicles? Very unusual though, I've never seen armoured cars being integral to recce grenadier companies anywhere else.

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 09-01-03 07:25

Mark,
Again possible, but if that's so, why weren't there some in both 3rd and 4th companies? Third Company has 2 Sdkfz 250/10's with 3.7cm guns, we can presume it's short one. Fourth Company has no Sdkfz 250/10's, but does have the two 250/9's - or to be more precise, 2 halftrack mounted 2 cm direct fire weapons. Also, the symbol on the organization chart is for a direct fire weapon, not an AA weapon. and the symbols for the 3.7cm and 2 cm guns occupy exactly the same place in the organization diagram - the extreme left of the "box" for each company. Very puzzling.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 09-01-03 07:27

Jim,

I'd like to learn how to do it. I've got a lot of information on the SS divisions in Normandy that I think would be interesting to list members. Thanks.

Bob Eldridge

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Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 09-01-03 08:42

Hi Bob,

Ah sounds like you're correct then. In which case, a slight game mod would be to allow the 250/9 to transport the commander, as the 250/10 normally would.

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 09-01-03 10:59

Mark,

That's as good a solution as any. On another subject, the Heimdal book says that the regimental Aufklarungs Kompanien WERE formed, but were transferred (in May 1944 I think - my French is terrible) to the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division and not reformed. The division state for 24/4/43 shows 15./SS-PGR 22 with 21 light machine guns, 4 heavy machine guns, 2 8cm mortars, and 3 5cm PAK, which I would guess is just about full strength.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Rob Robertson ()
Date: 09-01-03 11:20

Gentlemen,

I'd like to jump in at this point, because I sort of started all of this. I had asked Mark Hayes and Mark Davies (and a couple of other folks) for some help on Operation Jupiter because I intend to run it - ALL of it - next July at Historicon 2004. I intend for this to be a true, show-stopping extravaganza with awesomely sculpted terrain on a 13' x 6.5' table. Approximately, it will run lengthwise from Esquay/Le Bon Repos to Eterville and widthwise from Highway 4 (the kickoff point) to the woods behind Maltot. I intend to have the entire and complete order of battle present and in use, including all the artillery and air support.

So, I'd like to volunteer at this point to handle all the Powerpoint work for this; I was going to do it anyway. Once Mark sends me his completed OOB information (much of which is, ironically, coming from Bob Eldridge who lives 10 minutes from me), I'll get cracking, and I'll provide it all to this site when it's completed.

Thanks,
Rob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'

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Author: Ken Natt ()
Date: 09-01-03 12:16

Makes my attempts to get the Dorsets at Eterville on a table seem a it puny!

Good luck and keep us all informed!

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Frunzburg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 09-02-03 06:32

Hi Rob,

I'll be sending the info to you in powerpoint format anyway! ;o)

I'm trying to get the complete unit list, including commanders' names down to company level, individual unit composition and oddities and unit strengths (obviously some of these simply are not known, but I'm getting there).

If anyone else wants a copy, let me know - I'll send it to Jim in any case.

Bob, you've persuaded me - just ordered the Heimdal book (plus the Hohenstaufen one and Bouchery's 'The Canadian Soldier') from Amazon. The Heimdal books are reduced to £31 on Amazon instead of the £49 I paid at Duxford a couple of weeks ago for 21st PD!!! Seriously cheap (hence why the wife allowed me to buy the other books - I'm a happy man today)! :o)

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Frunzburg'
Author: Bob Eldridge (198.85.98.----)
Date: 09-02-03 09:04

Mark,

You'll be very pleased with it. I'm going to pick up the Hohenstaufen book one of these days. I'd like a copy of that PDF when it's done please.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Frunzburg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 09-02-03 10:18

No prob Bob! I'll send it on to everybody once I've had a trawl to pick up Frunzburg's and 43rd Wessex's officer names, so it'll be about two weeks - I've got to get those two books back first.

If it's as good as their book on 21. Pz Div I'm sure I'm going to be very pleased indeed! Between Heimdal and Histoire & Collections, the French are starting to lead the world market in military history books (but thankfully they give plenty of

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English summaries, picture captions, etc)! I normally draw the line at buying anything from the horse-eating-surrender-monkeys, but I can't resist their books!

I'm really looking forward to the Hohenstaufen book as well - to get a better picture of what was going on at Rauray on 1st July 44.

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: John Pews ()
Date: 09-02-03 16:59

Hi Bob

Great work you have done on providing the details for the 10th. I may be able to help with the SP 5cm A/T. Please check out www.achtungpanzer.com select vehicles of the wehrmacht then choose halftracks. The scroll down to the 250 series, the last entry in the 250 variants (2 pictures shown BTW) is of a lengthened variant of the 250(neu) which carries a Pak 38 L/60 gun. Loads of these apparently captured by partisans in yugoslavia.

This could be the vehicle the TEO refers to.
John

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: James Baker ()
Date: 09-02-03 18:20

I posted a short tutorial on using PPT. Originally developed to help RMD, I added some tricks for drawing maps.

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 09-02-03 23:48

John,

Thought of that, but the TOE document specifically says "23 medium armored halftracks" are in the unit and doesn't mention "light armored halftracks" at all, which seems to exclude the 250 which was rated a "light" halftrack. The 50mm SP on the 1-ton prime mover chassis seemed a more logical choice in those circumstances. However, I can't entirely rule out an extemporized mounting on either the Sdkfz 251 or a captured French equivalent that didn't necessarily get a Sonderkraftfahrzeug number. SS units seem to have had a habit of making field modifications. The original Wirbelwinds for instance, were 3 Panzer IV's modified by 12th SS Panzer Division's workshop unit. Thanks for the suggestion, anyhow.

Bob Eldridge

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 09-03-03 07:09

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Hi Bob,

The French Somua MCL and MCG halftracks were classified as 'Mittlere' - either in unaltered, unarmoured 'Zugkraftwagen' or in armoured SPW versions. The official list doesn't, however, contain a 5cm-armed version (plenty of variations on PaK 40 carriers though). As you say, there are plenty of instances of field expedients - build enough of them (as in 21st PD) and they become 'official' weapons!

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Bob Eldridge (198.85.98.----)
Date: 09-03-03 08:32

Mark,

The Somuas are certainly good candidates. I looked at the original document reproduced in the Heimdal book again, and the "5" could equally well be an "S" ("schwere", i.e. a 7.5cm PAK) - these things were hand written/drawn you know. In fact, that's what I thought it originally was, but discounted that because I knew the 7.5cm PAK Sdkfz 251/22 hadn't come out until late 1944. So I went with the Wood/Dugdale translation as "5". But now that I'm reminded of the Somua conversions, I'd be inclined to say that it's a Somua MCL/MCG with a 7.5cm PAK 40 mounted on it. Makes more sense really, and that's a well documented, reasonably common conversion. Thanks Mark, now if we could just figure out what those 3 "mystery" weapons are :-)

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 09-03-03 12:09

Hi Bob,

There certainly were a lot of PaK40 Somua conversions built - in various forms and they turn up in a lot of garrison/security units, but not many field formations, which I find rather odd! 21st PD was of course, a major user of the Somua/PaK 40 conversion.

You mentioned the possibility of a rocket weapon - could your mystery weapons be Stuka zu Fuss, or Panzerwerfers or R-Vielfachwerfers or Reihenwerfers perhaps?

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Bob Eldridge (198.85.98.----)
Date: 09-03-03 13:15

Mark,

I don't think the mystery weapons are Stuka zu Fuss. There were some in the heavy company of the armored infantry battalion, and there was a written note below the

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organization block for the battalion indicating that the "rocket" symbol represented SWR40, and it's not the same as the mystery symbol. If the mystery weapons were indeed Stuka zu Fuss, I would have expected to see a similar notation below the Aufklarungs Abteilung block, and the same symbol used. The symbol looks like a derivation of the "Flachfeuer" (direct fire) symbol and not the "Steilfeuer" (indirect fire) symbol, so I'd be inclined to say they're not any of the other vehicles you mentioned. I have to say though, I'm not ruling ANYTHING out at this point. I'm going to go through Mueller-Hildebrand again in hopes that the symbol is in there, and I just overlooked it.

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 09-04-03 10:12

Speaking of mystery weapons and oddities - 2. Kompanie of Panzer-Aufklarungs-Abteilung 21 had a Sdkfz 221 equipped with a 2.8cm PzBchs! Never come across that elsewhere - rather like what the British used to do with their Marmon-Herringtons. Just goes to show you never can tell...

Interestingly, the TOE for 4. Kp/PzAufklAbt 21 also mentions 'a number of 2cm pieces' - just like the 250/9s you didn't expect to find in 4. Kp/SS PzAufklAbt 10!

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Bob Eldridge (198.85.98.---)
Date: 09-04-03 11:06

Mark,

That IS interesting. I think Chamberlain has a picture of that 221 with a 2.8cm in his book. Fact is that all of the Panzer Divisions in Normandy - Heer and SS - were to all intents and purposes unique entities. I hope over time to put up TOE documents for all the Normandy Panzer Divisions. Lehr is pretty well documented, and I have I believe the necessary information for 1 SS and 12 SS, so I'll probably start with those three.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 09-05-03 18:31

RMD,

Does all this great info work for the Italian Campaign 9/43 - 6/44? My plans are to do the 79th Panzer Regiment in Italy.

Thanks,
Terry

Reply To This Message

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Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: Bob Eldridge ()
Date: 09-06-03 08:04

Terry,

Sorry, but in general no. The structure of the light armored car platoon we've been discussing is probably the same, but most of the other units in both the Heer and the Waffen SS changed to a greater or lesser degree, generally in early to mid 1944. SS Panzer-Grenadier battalions, for instance, had 5 companies per battalion (3 rifle, 1 machine gun, and 1 heavy weapons) up until April 1944. As another example, the 'Fruntsberg' division was actually a Panzer Grenadier Division in 1943, it didn't become a Panzer Division until early 1944. However, Von Saenger und Etterlin's book has a lot of organizational information on the Panzer Grenadier units for both Heer and Waffen SS Panzer and Panzer Grenadier divisions as of September 1943, and Jentz's Panzertruppen likewise has a lot of details on the Panzer Regiments. So I can probably put together a starting basis at least for any division you're interested in for 1943.

Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 09-06-03 10:46

Hi Terry,

79th Panzer Regiment? Which division was that? I've got a fair amount of info on the Hermann Goering Division for Italy...

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: terry haney ()
Date: 09-06-03 11:29

Bob, thanks, see if your books have details on the 16th Panzer Division 9 - 12/43.

Mark, thanks. My error, it is the 79th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, part of 16th Panzer Division, 9/43, along with 2nd Panzer Regiment, 64th Panzer Grenadiers and 16th Panzer Recon Bn.

Best,
Terry

Reply To This Message

Re: 10. SS Panzer Division 'Fruntsberg'
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 09-11-03 14:04

Hi Bob,

Got some info on the elusive Panzergrenadier Aufklaerungs Kompanien. The two companies from 10. SS were transferred to 17. SS Panzergrenadier Division 'Goetz von

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Berlichgen' in May 1944 and the 16. (Pionier) Kompanie in each regiment was renumbered to 15. to fill the gap. Therefore, by the time of Op Jupiter, the Pioneers were designated as the 15th Company in each regiment.

Now, our friend Tim Saunders mentions that 'The Pioneer and Recce Companies' were involved, but I think he's confused due to the re-numbering - i.e. he thinks that the 15th Company AND the Pioneer Company are involved, but doesn't realise that they were in fact THE SAME THING!

Confused?!!

While an excellent book, Tim Saunders does make a few basic errors besides this one, such as confusing TCVs (i.e. 'Troop-Carrying Vehicles' - 3-ton trucks) with Kangaroos (which didn't exist at the time). So I'm now absolutely convinced that the 15. (Aufklaerungs) Kompanien did not exist in Frundsberg at this time (though they did in some other divisions).

Another interesting snippet - this is only one of two battles I've so far come across where the divisional Escort ('Begleit') Company was involved in the fighting (the other one being the battle of Rots).

Mark

1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde

Author: Larry Tuohy ()

Date: 10-21-02 21:51

I downloaded the order of battle, I primed a couple of Cromwells, and I'm ready to go. Only problem is, I don't know what these guys looked like. So far I've found a single illustration of a captain in Men-At-Arms 238 "Foreign Volunteers of the Allied Forces 1939-45" but that's it and it ain't much help. What really need to know is sort of markings the vehicles carried.

1. Was there a brigade insignia?
2. Were there regimental insignia?
3. Did they follow the British scheme of geometric squadron markings and, if so, did they use the standard colors?
4. Did they use the British scheme of colored blocks with numbers to distinguish units within the brigade and, if so, what were the colors and numbers they used?
5. What are the winning horses for this Saturday's trifecta at Churchill Downs?

Actually, if anyone can answer 5 for me, I'll use the proceeds to hire somebody to track down 1 through 4. 8>)

LT

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde

Author: Richard Harris ()

Date: 10-22-02 00:15

In 1940 an Independent Czech Brigade was formed in England and its personnel were dressed in British battle dress with the Czech flash ('Czechoslovakia' in red within a red border on khaki ground) on the top of the sleeve and Czech rank badges. Czech personnel also served in North Africa and wore British tropical uniform.

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Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: rob atkinson ()
Date: 10-22-02 06:51

You could have a look at the Divisional Markings pdf file in the Extras section on this website.....I can't remember if it has the czechs on it but it is invaluable for the other units....I'll search my books and see if I have anything for you

Rob

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: Larry Tuohy ()
Date: 10-22-02 12:03

I know about the battle dress and shoulder flash; it's the vehicles I'm primarily interested in.

The illustration in the Osprey book also shows a shoulder patch consisting of a dark (blue?) shield containing a red cross with a rampant white or silver lion over all but I don't know if this is the brigade insignia, a national insignia, or what. The blurb says "Note the brigade formation sign" but could just as easily be referring to the insignia on his beret.

Unfortunately, the Divisional Markings file, which has been my Bible for the Brits, doesn't include any info on the Czechs.

For some interesting background on the Czech Independent Brigade Group and Czech forces in WWII in general, take a look at

<http://www.geocities.com/regimentwest/index2.html>

LT

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 10-25-02 11:44

Hi Larry,

Sorry for not answering your question earlier - I've just got back from a week's exercise and I'm about to go to bed for a couple of days :o)

Good question - and an answer would be well-worth adding to the .pdf (thanks for reading it by the way!). However, I don't have it to hand right now - i intend rummaging through a friend's library on Monday and I know he has a number of books on British markings - I'll see if I can find it for you.

They would most certainly have used the general British marking scheme - vehicle registration numbers, bridge plates, unit/arm-of-service flashes, squadron tacsigs, etc, though what the brigade's badge was I'm afraid I haven't a clue!

I'll find out!

Cheers,

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: Bob Hart (139.134.57.---)
Date: 10-26-02 00:19

I have two books that may help.
British Military Markings 1939-1945 by Hodges, pub Almark 1971 states that formation badges were painted on the vehicles and the same badge was worn by individuals as a shoulder patch.
This implies the shoulder patch and the vehicle sign are the same design.
Formation Badges of World War 2 by Cole Pub Arms & Armour Press 1973 also states that badges were the same on both vehicles and battledress and has the Czech Indp Arm Bde Gp as having a red cross on a pale blue shield with the white lion rampant of Bohemia superimposed on the cross.
HTH
Bob

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: Larry Tuohy ()
Date: 10-26-02 09:05

Excellent! I have a picture of the shoulder patch, so I'm ready to rock!

LT

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 10-26-02 13:49

Hi Larry,

I've e-mailed you a couple of pictures of Czech carriers etc. Note that in both pictures, the carriers carry squadron tacsigs (mid-green for the motor battalion) and have the number '54' on the flash - this fits with the number carried by the motor battalion of the armoured brigade of an armoured division and should therefore be a white '54' on a red square (the brigade HQ having '50' and the 1st to 3rd armoured regiments having '51', '52' and '53' respectively). Tacsigs were coloured white for brigade HQ, and red, yellow, blue and green for the 1st Armoured, 2nd Armoured, 3rd Armoured and Motor Battalion respectively. All carriers carry white stars on the side - toward the rear of the vehicle (this is also shown by some other, less-distinct photos in my collection).

In one picture, the brigade badge is clearly visible - being a squared-off shield, edged in white and charged with the white lion of Bohemia - the black-and-white photo doesn't show the cross, but it would be visible if the photo were in colour. Interestingly, the registration numbers have the 'C' prefix for Canadian vehicles

The brigade badge is painted on the left-hand (commander's side) mudguard of the carriers, while the flash is painted on the front-right (driver's side) hull.

Cheers,

Mark

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Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: Larry Tuohy ()
Date: 10-26-02 18:13

Mark,

Got the pictures. Many thanks!

One of the guys on r.g.m.h, who actually lives in the Czech Republic, was able to get me a detailed description of the brigade insignia, which I include here verbatim:

>It is in fact made up of 9 squares which alternate blue and red. The top line is
>blue - red - blue, middle red - blue - red & last blue - red - blue. It has
>a white Lion on top of this pattern which mostly obscures the central blue
>square and makes it look like it is a red cross. The Lion is holding the
>shield of Slovakia (see the present day flag) this is red with a blue /
>green hill in the bottom part and a white cross sticking out of the hill.
>The Lion has a crown on.

I'm not sure my aging eyes and shaky hands are quite up to that but I intend to take a shot at it.

I appreciate all the help, especially the pictures.

Larry

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 10-27-02 06:42

Hi Larry,

If it's any consolation, I find lions 'rampant' to be the easiest heraldic devices to paint - I've done them on the mitre caps of 18th Century Hessian grenadiers in 15mm (red & white stripey ones!) and on Napoleonic Nassauer flags, so good luck!

I'll do some research on the artillery, antitank, engineers and antiaircraft regiments/squadrons for you when I get to my friend's library. I have no doubt that the field artillery, antitank and antiaircraft will have used the British Royal Artillery red-over-blue flash, while the engineers will have used the Royal engineers' cobalt blue flash - this was commonly used by the Dutch, Belgians, Poles and Canadians in NW Europe. I'll have to find out the identification numbers, though in armoured divisions the towed field artillery regiment used '74', the antitank regiment used '77' and the light antiaircraft regiment used '73'. The engineer field squadrons in an armoured division used '41' or '46'.

If you're interested, the 1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade, along with 4th Special Service ('SS') Brigade, moved into positions around Dunkirk on 14th September 1944, as reinforcements for 2nd Canadian Infantry Division. However, on the 17th further attempts to take Dunkirk were cancelled and the 2nd Canadian Division was moved away to other duties, while the Commandos and Czechs screened the port. The 51st (Highland) Division took over from 4th SS Brigade on the 26th, though the Czechs remained in position until April '45.

The German garrison commander, General von Trestkow, was a resourceful and dynamic

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commander and regularly launched aggressive sallies against the besiegers, with the Czech armour acting as a 'fire brigade' against these sallies. Garrison forces consisted of 18. Luftwaffenfelddivision (Trestkow's), I Festa LXXXII (whatever that is?!), 1244 Artillerie-Gruppe, a Flak-Artillerie-Gruppe and Marine-Regiment 618.

The Commandos reported that it was impossible to dig into the sodden low-lying land around Dunkirk and so defensive strongpoints were based around farms and hamlets. The Commandos were also liberally supplied with large numbers of captured MG34s & MG42s.

Some good scenario-fodder here, I would say?

Cheers,

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: bruce d henderson ()
Date: 10-27-02 12:18

Would Festa be anything to do with "Festung" or variants "Festungsanlage" (sp?) etc. meaning fortress forces. Kinda like "Jasta".

Probably didn't see too many in the East, as they were bypassed; and smart Germans avoided anything Hitler could claim to be a Festungsplatz!
Three things to make you a nervous Nazi: being called a Festa, be given Grenadier status at the same time, and having Luftwaffe troops show up.

What a waste of resources - commandos (or commandoes :-)) if you're running for presidential office) in blocking positions. Especially since this coincides with Arnhem.

According to all the movies I've seen those fun-loving, irreverent commandos were way too busy in N. Africa, Yugoslavia, Italy, Norway and deep behind the Siegfried line to be lollygagging around a pretty dismal port city - Glad to see the 51st Highlanders back for a little revenge though (Americans would call it closure).

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 10-27-02 14:03

Hi Bruce,

Yes, 'Festa' refers to something fortressy - I would guess that it refers to a fortress PaK Brigade, seeing as the artillery and FlaK are listed separately.

As to the Commandos, it was just because ever since D-Day, they had held the left flank of the entire Allied Army in NW Europe - 6th Airborne had gone home, the Belgians had done likewise, and the Dutch had been sent to support Market Garden. You're right though - the 1st & 4th SS Bdes, along with 6th Airborne, should have been withdrawn straight after D-Day, but they were left to bleed white in Normandy. One wonders how many of these men had been there on D-Day?

Soon after this, of course, the 4th SS Bde was involved in the Walcheren operation - which was a success, but a real bloodbath. One wonders how much better the Commandos might have done on Walcheren if they had been allowed to refresh their training in amphibious ops (and the new Buffalos) instead of sitting in the mud around Dunkirk?!

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At least they had the good sense to grab a load of Spandaus!

Cheers,

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: nigel.perry@dsto.defence.gov.a ()
Date: 10-27-02 17:43

I have to report some differences from the data given you already. That data is largely correct, but according to a Czech friend who has appropriate Czech sources, the Czech armoured brigade used British markings except for the following.

Left rear tank mudguard (or hull immediately above the track in the case of the small number of Fireflies) A white oval in outline with the long axis horizontal containing the letters CS in white. Regimental number next to it as per R Mark Davies above.

In place of the common British mudguard marking of a red and yellow diagonally divided square use a tricolour with horizontal bands and the colours red above blue above white.

My friend has no evidence (anecdotal or otherwise) for the use of the white star aircraft recognition markings.

As for the heraldic device, the one described above is the shoulder flash only. Only Slovak vehicles in German service have the multi coloured background.

The Czech armoured brigade did use a similar device, but it was applied as a white stencil (ie outline only) to the tank turret sides. It was the heraldic symbol of Bohemia (a Lion rampant double queued) The lion is crowned and has a small shield on its chest with a cross of Lorraine on it.

The height of the stencil appears to be about half the turret height and the stencil is placed centrally on each side.

Some tanks were reported with a different marking on the right front mudguard. Again it is a white stencil. It looks remarkably like the international traffic symbol for no entry, ie a circle with a diagonal slash.

My Czech friend reports this as the brigade symbol while the heraldic device is the national symbol used in place of the white star.

Nigel Perry.

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 10-27-02 19:32

Hi Nigel,

I can't confirm or deny the above, except that a number of photos show white stars on the sides of the carriers of the Motor Battalion, alongside coloured (i.e. a darker shade than the star on b&w photos). It was standard practice for all the British, Poles, Canadians, Dutch and Belgians in 21st Army Group to carry air

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recognition stars - a very wise measure given the amount of 'friendly fire' caused by the Allied Tactical Air Forces - so I would be very surprised if they didn't carry such stars. However, as a general rule among the above nations, star markings were far less common on tanks and other front-line AFVs than they were on softskins.

As to the shield device, the lack of the coloured chequerboard would explain why it isn't visible in the one photo I have of the badge - on the front-left mudguard of a carrier of the Motor Battalion. I haven't got any good pictures of Czech tanks or halftracks, which is a shame.

Interesting detail regarding the 'CS' marking - the Poles carried a similar marking being a white oval with 'PL' in black. This has been described by various sources as being the peacetime national motorists' identification plate. The Poles displayed this badge centrally on the rear and often centrally on the front of their tanks as well (though it doesn't appear to have been universally applied).

Cheers,

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 10-27-02 19:49

Hmm, a bit of my post above seems to have been left out - at the end of the first sentence, I am referring to coloured squadron tacsigs.

Cheers,

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 10-27-02 20:03

Hi Gents,

Believe it or not, there is actually a re-enactment group for the 1st Czechoslovak Motor Battalion. Looking at their website, it shows three restored vehicles - a jeep, a carrier and a Morris light truck. I can't vouch for the accuracy, but here are some quick descriptions:

All vehicles display the 'CS' marking as described by Nigel on the rear-left bumper, while the '54' on red square is displayed on the right. The shield is not displayed on the rear of any of the three vehicles.

All three have the '54' on the front-right bumper, with the lion shield on the front-left. The jeep and truck have the marking in full colour, while the carrier has it in white outline only. A brigade roadsign nearby again shows the lion badge in full colour.

The carrier has large white stars on the sides - towards the rear - with green tacsigs (in this case triangles for 'A' Squadron) toward the front.

The jeep and the truck both have large stars-in-circles on the bonnet and both are painted with Mickey Mouse camouflage.

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Cheers,

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde

Author: R Mark Davies ()

Date: 10-28-02 05:43

Some more information;

The Jewish philosopher and author Ernest Gellner served in the brigade and described it as 'very inefficient', due to a multiplicity of problems - not least of which was a 'shadow' command structure of communists - many of whom were privates; some of whom had served as officers in the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War. There were also problems in amalgamating the various nationalities within the brigade - Czechs, Slovaks, Silesians and others.

Only 140 men were sent to Prague in 1945 (A Cromwell squadron group) - the remainder stayed around Dunkirk until the surrender on 9th May 1945.

5th Battalion, The King's Regiment were attached to the Czechs for the duration of the siege - they had previously been part of the Normandy Beach Groups but had been reinforced and re-equipped as a full infantry battalion before their deployment to Dunkirk.

Cheers,

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde

Author: R Mark Davies ()

Date: 10-29-02 07:04

Some more pieces to add to the puzzle:

Vizeadmiral Friedrich Frisius was Fortress Commandant Dunkirk - not General Tretskow (who was commander of 18. Luftwaffenfelddivision). Frisius surrendered Dunkirk to General Alois Liska (GOC Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade Group) on 9th May 1945.

The Czechs launched a major assault against outlying German positions at Dunkirk on 28th October 1944. This was timed to coincide with Czechoslovakian Independence Day and was a great success and enormous morale booster to the besiegers. Monty personally congratulated Liska on the brigade's daring actions. It would be good to find out more about this raid - might make a good scenario?

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde

Author: R Mark Davies ()

Date: 10-29-02 07:44

Been reading up on the opposition at Dunkirk:

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18. Luftwaffenfelddivision was in fact commanded by a Tresckow, not a Trestkow. No Luftwaffenfelddivisionen were commanded by a Trestkow.

However, the plot thickens: while 18. Luftwaffenfelddivision had originally deployed around Dunkirk and Calais prior to the Normandy Landings, it was subsequently moved south to the Seine to join 5. Panzerarmee. It was then involved in the defence of Paris and the long retreat across Belgium, being almost surrounded at Mons at one point, before finally reaching safety. It was disbanded in October '44 and reformed as the 18. Volksgrenadier Division.

The plot thickens even further: no Luftwaffenfelddivisionen are recorded as having participated in the siege of Dunkirk, though it is possible that rear-echelon and headquarters elements were still at Dunkirk from their earlier garrison role there - maybe even Tresckow himself?

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 10-29-02 08:47

I've found some pictures of the Prague Victory Parade on 30th May 1945 and it shows a whole load of Cromwells, as well as two Challengers.

No brigade badge of any sort is visible (though the picture quality is not good), though the unit flash appears to be '53' - indicating the 3rd Armoured Regiment (in theory Churchills, though this may have changed by 30th May - by this time most of 7th Armoured division had swapped their Cromwells for Comets).

Most of the Cromwells have stowage bins on the turret sides, so turret markings are not that visible, though one Mk VIII (95mm CS tank) has a large white star on the turret side.

One of the Challengers has a square dark-coloured tacsign ('C' Sqn - the dark colour fits with blue for the 3rd Regiment) on the turret side and 'A9' in white just forward of the tacsign.

The Cromwells all appear to have names painted in white just above the gun mantlet, though this isn't shown on the Challengers.

There are clear top views of the two Challengers and one Cromwell, and none have stars on the top surfaces.

A front view of a halftrack of the Motor Battalion shows a star-in-circle and two trucks photographed in Pilsen show stars-in-circles on the bonnets and uncircled stars on the side doors.

I found some documents relating to the attack on 28th October - unfortunately it doesn't identify many of the German formations involved, though some of the battalion-sized units are named after their commanders:

Einheit Walter
Einheit Korn
Einheit Bunie
Einheit Burrat
Einheit Reincke
Gruppe Binning

Einheit Korn for example was an understrength battalion, commanded by Hauptmann Korn

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- it had 3 coys of roughly 80-120 men each.

The Dunkirk Garrison was divided into two Kampfgruppen - KGr Scharnhorst and KGr Gneisenau (these were NOT the names of the commanders!). Einheit Korn for example was part of KGr Scharnhorst.

Regiment 1042 was part of KGr Gneisenau. It had two understrength battalions; each battalion having 4 coys, each of 3 plts, each of 2 sects. I think this was a Luftwaffe formation - I'll check.

A second and last major attack was launched by the Czechs on 4th November 1944, though this met with less success than the attack of 28th October due to additional fortification efforts by the Germans since the previous attack.

The Intelligence log for the CIABG details tanks held by the brigade and used in the attack of 28th October:

Sherman 17pdr (4)
Cromwell 75mm (114) - 7 lost
Cromwell 95mm (14)
Stuart 37mm (3)

7th RTR (supporting the attack):

Churchill 6pdr (20)
Churchill 95mm (8) - 1 lost
Churchill 75mm (43) - 1 lost
Stuart 37mm (8) - 2 lost

Cheers,

Mark

PS Sorry if I'm boring anybody! :o)

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: Mark Hayes ()
Date: 10-29-02 20:47

Com'on RMD. We're wargamers and we love this stuff. Besides, two more messages and you will have enough to cut and past and publish an AXIS EUROPA book. :-)

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: 1st Czech Independent Armoured Bde
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 12-20-02 09:20

A little extra snippet - while researching the Canadian kit, I discovered that the Czech Motor Battalion contained at least one C15TA armoured 15cwt truck - it was photographed during the 'Token Force's excursion to Prague in May 45. It might have been a troop carrier, but was more likely to have been an Armoured Command Vehicle.

Mark

German Heavy Tank Battalion TO&E

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Author: Nigel Perry (----.defence.gov.au)
Date: 04-16-02 22:29

I've just bought what appears to be a great book on "Villers Bocage" and was looking at the TO&E for the German Heavy Tank Battalion. This does not appear to be in the Battlefront TO&E's.

It has an HQ company with a signal platoon (not represented in BF) and 3 Tiger I tanks (1 element?).

It has 3 tank companies, whose composition matches German ME-02. It is the fourth (Lechte) company that I am asking about.

This has 4 combat platoons that I'd like to confirm how to represent in BF terms.

The Pioneer platoon with 3 SdKfz 251's and 3 Maultier 1/2 tracks would appear to be a platoon sized attachment from ME-16.

The armoured reconnaissance platoon in 5 SdKfz 251's (certainly the photo's do not imply the presence of any 250's) I'm assuming to be a platoon sized attachment from ME-09 with 2 rifle and 1 LMG stands in 2 1/2 tracks.

The AA platoon is shown with a kubelwagon and 3 SdKfz 7/1's (quad 20 mm). would this be 1 or 2 stands of AA?

The scout platoon is shown with 10 schwimwagens. I'm not sure how this would be represented in BF. I can see it either as a panzergrenadier platoon (2 rifle and 1 LMG stand) carried in 3 schwimwagens or should it be 3 LMG stands that can also fire when mounted in their transport?

Lastly, grouping all the command kubelwagens together I would add a German Commander stand in a kubelwagen.

Your help is appreciated, especially with the scout platoon.

Nigel Perry.

Reply To This Message

Re: German Heavy Tank Battalion TO&E
Author: Ken Natt (----.server.ntl.com)
Date: 04-17-02 01:57

IIRC RMD has this unit in one of his (yet to be published) scenarios I think - the Kubels\schwimwagens certainly sound familiar. I'll try and dig it out, but he will probably be answering for himself when he sees your post.

As to the mechanics - I would not let the scouts fire from the kubels unless there was very firm evidence that they regularly did so - the others that have this ability tend to be the US Recce jeeps, with "proper" MMG\HMG mounts, and the Brit Airborne Recce Jeep, again with a pair of Mgs on mounts. I also would not get too hung up about the lack of 250s - they were not that common and were often, if not usually, replaced by 251s in the Recce units

Hope this helps a bit

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: German Heavy Tank Battalion TO&E

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Author: James Baker (---.mtc1.cox.rr.com)
Date: 04-17-02 05:14

If someone wants to work this up, I would be happy to post it as an extra (for examples, see the recent PzLehr.org from Thomas Riepe and the innumerable offerings from R. Mark Davies). The Schwere Abteilung were a bit specialized, but everyone seems to want them.

Reply To This Message

Re: German Heavy Tank Battalion TO&E
Author: R Mark Davies (---.proxy.aol.com)
Date: 04-17-02 05:16

Hi Nigel,

The 'Light Company' appears in the order of battle for most independent heavy panzer battalions, as well as StuG brigades (which were battalion-sized units). Divisional HQ Escort Companies were very similar beasts. 4./SS Schwere-Panzer-Abteilung 101 actually did a lot of fighting at Villers-Bocage. The unit arrived along with the 10 working Tigers of Moebius' 1. Kompanie and was immediately involved in mopping up 'A' Squadron of 4 CLY on Point 213. Elements of the company then supported Moebius' (and Panzer Lehr's) attack into the town itself.

Photographic evidence of these units don't indicate LMGs on the Schwimmwagens. Rather, the men all seem to be armed with SMGs and rifles. Interestingly though, a lot of them are depicted wearing items of panzer uniforms such as black forage caps, which would make for an interesting-looking wargames unit.

As regards numbers of Tigers, there was a thread on this recently, but in the case of Villers-Bocage; following a gruelling march on tracks from Belgium, only six of Wittmann's and ten of Moebius's Tigers arrived from a total battalion strength of 45 Tigers. The tactical employment of Tigers at full company strength on the western Front was extremely rare.

TO&E is as follows:

- 1x Commander
- 1x Kubelwagen
- 3x Pioniere (1x flamethrower)
- 1x Sdkfz 251/7 (use 251/1 card)
- 1x Opel Maultier (use Sdkfz 11 card)
- 6x Recce Panzergrenadiere (3x panzerfaust)
- 3x Schwimmwagen
- 2x Sdkfz 251/1
- 1x Sdkfz 7 (quad 2cm FlaK)

Following some recent research by Craig Burnett and I, here is the TO&E for the Light Company of a StuG Brigade in Normandy (I forget which!):

- 1x Commander
- 1x VW (unspecified)
- 3x Pioniere (1x flamethrower)
- 2x Sdkfz 251/7
- 6x Recce Panzergrenadiere (3x panzerfaust)
- 3x VW (unspecified)
- 2x Sdkfz 251/1
- 4x Sdkfz 10 (2cm FlaK)

The commander can alternatively be dumped and the individual elements used as attachments to the Tigers.

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Hope this helps,

Iechyd da,

Mark

PS If that book is 'Villers-Bocage Through The Lens Of the German war Photographer' by Daniel Taylor, it is the best! It blows away all the myths and is undoubtedly the best study of the battle.

Reply To This Message

Re: German Heavy Tank Battalion TO&E
Author: Nigel Perry (---.defence.gov.au)
Date: 04-17-02 19:52

Hi Mark, (and everyone who answered my request)

thanks for your help. It is what I was hoping for. Yes that is the book I have and it looks to me as if there are 3 scenarios there for the creation.

The initial attack by Wittman; Pt 213; and the latter attack on Villers Bocage by Moebius.

Nigel Perry.

Reply To This Message

Re: German Heavy Tank Battalion TO&E
Author: Dave (---.tampabay.rr.com)
Date: 04-17-02 21:02

Ok,

I have searched all over the web for that book, it doesnt come up anywhere. Any help?

Dave

Reply To This Message

Re: German Heavy Tank Battalion TO&E
Author: Roger Kumferman (---.dialsprint.net)
Date: 04-17-02 23:08

The Villers-Bocage book is available from (among others) Articles of War - a military history bookstore/mail-order service. Their web site is www.articlesofwar.com.

Reply To This Message

Re: German Heavy Tank Battalion TO&E
Author: Dave (---.tampabay.rr.com)
Date: 04-17-02 23:15

Sweet!!! Found it.

Dave

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Reply To This Message

Re: German Heavy Tank Battalion TO&E
Author: Greg Lyle ()
Date: 05-09-02 09:52

An interesting twist to the Normandy Campaign is that the first time some of the German troops, on the British wing, attacked thier own Tiger tanks. Not having see one before, and thinking they where allied tanks, they opened up with the 88s breaking up the German counter attack, from the flank. "The truth is stranger then fiction."

Greg

Reply To This Message

Re: German Heavy Tank Battalion TO&E
Author: R Mark Davies ()
Date: 05-09-02 11:03

Hi Greg,

I did a huge refight of this with my cadets recently - two regiments of Shermans (about 60 models - ouch!) with no artillery (out of range) or infantry (too slow) support, advancing towards Bourguebus Ridge, dodging 88 rounds and 21st Panzer's assault guns. A couploe of 'fun' scenario rules were the Luftwaffe 88 batteries obstinately refusing to fire at the Shermans until Von Luck personally went over and pointed his gun at the battery commander and when the 88s did start firing, they shot up the 503rd's King Tigers. Great fun. I don't suppose the Luftwaffe crews got much training in AFV recognition!

Mark

Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: Ken Natt (---.server.ntl.com)
Date: 04-12-02 02:12

I am looking at building a slightly earlier Panzer Company. The current ME simply states that it can be mixed PzIII L\M or N and PzIVs. Does anyone have any more precise info on company organisation?

Second question - PzIIIN (75mmL24) - should this be part of the normal company organisation - I remember them being involved in a mixed company with Tigers?

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: vic (---.proxy.aol.com)
Date: 04-12-02 23:35

hi ken,

the 1942 to 1943 panzer organization was as foolows;

if tiger equipped their were two companies of tigers and two companies of pnzIII's

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to represent the tiger battalion.

in the panzer IV organization there were 17 tanks per company. On the established (official lists). Usually they were 10 to 14 tanks instead. But some field commanders received stugs instead of tanks as replacements.

there were some mark III companies available. Usually two companies of mark III's and one to two company of mark IV's. (f1 or f2's). By 1943 all of the mark IV's were retrofitted with the 75mm1/43 gun (F2 or G). The 4th company in a german t o and e is known as the schwere company.(support company)

As casualties mounted. The more experienced units received Panzer IV's. or stugs as replacements.

The panzer III m is a fire support vehicle. Records vary but it seems they were deployed with the panzer grenadiers in lieu of stummels.

The germans and americans practiced the art of Mixed battle groups from other companies. So yes some panzer III m's could be with tanks.

The better fighting units received panthers and tigers as replacements later in the war.

Grossdeutschland, 10th panzer, 21st panzer, Most SS units.

But with the allied bombing and the german practice of allocating one set of factories per division. Replacements were what came through.

There is a book on the german army handbook by the us army if you can find it will give lots of references, organization and text. If not go see the nafzinger. He has all of the t o and e of all nations.

vic

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: vic (---.proxy.aol.com)
Date: 04-12-02 23:35

hi ken,

the 1942 to 1943 panzer organization was as follows;

if tiger equipped there were two companies of tigers and two companies of pnzIII's to represent the tiger battalion.

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There is a book on the german army handbook by the us army if you can find it will give lots of references, organization and text. If not go see the nafzinger. He has all of the t o and e of all nations.

vic

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: José Ventura (---.snt.pt.kpnqwest.net)
Date: 04-15-02 16:56

Hi:

As an alternative, using Jentz Panzertruppen go for a:

Stabs: 1x Pz3 Lang (5cm L/60 Ausf. J-M) and 1x Pz4 lang (7,5cm L/43 Ausf. F2-G)

1 Zug: 2 to 3x Pz3 lang, 1x Pz3 or Pz4 kurz (7,5cm L/24) and 1x Pz4 lang
2 Zug: as 1 Zug
3 Zug: as 1 Zug.

while common in 1943, with a extra Pz4 lang in each zug, some units in late 42 will use this approach.

Now we have only to adapt it to the rules... :-)

I hope this helps

Faustnik

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: Mark Hayes (---.elkrdg01.md.comcast.net)
Date: 04-15-02 18:24

That makes in a company 7-10 PzKpfw IIIJ/Ms, 3 PzKpfw IIINS or PzKpfw IVF(1)s, and 4 PzKpfw IVF(2)/Gs. I would probably translate this for BF as follows:

Medium Panzer Company
x1 PzKpfw IIIJ/M (command)
x2 PzKpfw IIIJ/M
x1 PzKpfw IIIN
or
x1 PzKpfw IVF(1)
x2 PzKpfw IVF(2)
or

x2 PzKpfw IVG

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: Ken Natt (---.server.ntl.com)
Date: 04-15-02 18:45

Mark

I would have thought :
Stab (CHQ) 1 PzIII(J-L) or IV(F2-G)
3-4 PzIII J-L
1 PzIII N or Pz IV(F1)
1 PzIV (F2-G)

would be more appropriate - 5 tanks to a companie seem a bit small compared to a theoretical full strength of 14-17 tanks

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: Mark Hayes (---.nhc.navy.mil)
Date: 04-16-02 07:43

From years of observing how Rich decides on representation of tanks in an ME. I total the number of each type in the ME. Depending on the total number present of a specific type:

Actual
number
2-3: x1 model
4-6: x2 models
7-9: x3 models
10-12: x4 or 5 models
13-15: x5 models
16-18: x6 or 7 models
19-21: x7 models

If there is only one of a type in an ME I will either not represent it or round down the strength of something else in the ME. For example: In a 1939 light panzer company the command has only one k1Pzbefwgn I, so I represent this with the command tank model and round down on the number of PzKpfw IIs (the other tank type in the HQ) in the ME.

Historical research into actual strength is the best way to find out how many models to put on the table. Full strength companies are rare so I will often delete some units if the represented unit has been in combat for any length of time. The bottom line is that this is ultimately a subjective decision, and I use the opportunity in scenario design to adjust the strength of game MEs to create a more balanced scenario.

Mark

Reply To This Message

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Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: Ken Natt (---.server.ntl.com)
Date: 04-18-02 00:46

Been reading up a bit more into the PzIIIN.

Total production was 663 + 37 converted, and involved the end of the Ausf M production run being converted to Ausf N. That's a lot more tanks (700) than I initially imagined. In comparison they built 1067 Ausf J, 653 Ausf M and 250 Ausf L.

Deployment is a bit puzzling, but Chaimberlain mentions from Sept 43 to mid 43 they were issued to the heavy companys that had Tigers at a ratio of 10 PzIIIN to 9 Tigers. The SS Leibstandarte and Totenkopf Panzer Regiments according to Nafziger had 9 Tigers and 10 PzIIIN in Feb 43, so this sounds like a match. So the 4th (Heavy) Company would be something like:

1 Tiger (command)
4-5 PzIIIN - assuming 2 platoons of 5 tanks each
4 Tigers - assuming 2 platoons of 4 tanks each

My grasp of German company organisation is ropey at best, so if anyone has a better idea please shout up.

By Kursk there seems to be enough Tigers to go around, the LSSAH list only 3 PzIIIN but 13 Tigers, and TK has 15 Tigers and no MkIIIN.

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: José Ventura (---.snt.pt.kpnqwest.net)
Date: 04-19-02 17:08

Hi:

Sorry! but LSSAH didn't have their PzIII N with the Tiger Kompanie (the 13th) their are in 5.Kompanie if my memory is correct, even if no photo has ever surface about it, but this Komp. was the only one (not Stabs) to ever use PzIII from Jan/Fev. 43 until July43.

And, all Tiger Abt, and Komp. (with exception of 505, if TiC1 is correct) will trade their PzIII for T1.

I hope this helps.

Faustnik

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: Ken Natt (---.server.ntl.com)
Date: 04-20-02 04:16

Damn - beaten to the punch. I was looking back over the books and suddenly realised I had "lost" the LSAH reference - I probably made it up - it's age you know. Much humble pie being eaten at this moment.

So can anyone please tell me the:

1. The Company organisation of any units that used PzIIINs

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2. Where they ever mixed with Tigers and if so how where when?

Thanks

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: Ken Natt (---.server.ntl.com)
Date: 04-21-02 01:15

Back and more confused than ever.

Here's what Nafziger says about the early Tiger units

501st and 502nd Heavy Panzer Companies formed 16 Feb 1942, merged in May 42 to form 501st Heavy Panzer Battalion.
502nd and 503rd Heavy Panzer Bttn formed in May 1942. The 501 and 503 are sent to Africa, 502 goes to Russia.

Organisation

Staff Company + 2 Heavy Tank Companies

Staff Co = 2 Tigers, 1 MkIII in the Signal platoon and 5 PzIII in the light platoons (he doesn't specify how many platoons there are - any help out there?)

Heavy Co = HQ 1 Tiger, 2 MkIII, 4 platoons of 2 Tigers and 2 MkIII.

To really screw me up, he specifies that the PzIIIs in the Heavy Companies are 50mm armed.

Nov 42 3 new Companies are raised to be attached 1 each to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd SS Panzer Regts. He does not list their organisation, but says they have 9 Tigers and 10 MkIIIs.

Dec 42 The 504th Heavy Panzer Battalion is formed. It contains a Staff Co, 3 Heavy Cos each of 8 Tigers and 8 MkIIIs, and a maintenance Co.

17th Jan 1943 the mixed Companies are dropped and the Mk IIIs and Tigers organised into their own companies.

Jan 43 The 505th Heavy Panzer Battalion is formed, again with a mix of Tigers and Mk IIIs. This one has 20 Tigers and 25 MkIIIs.

5th March 1943 (Here our tale ends) the battalions are ordered reorganised as pure Tiger units, each of 3 Companies of a Sigs platoon of 3 Tigers, a CHQ of 2 Tigers and 3 platoons each 4 Tigers. This is (I assume :), is our BF ME02.)

So if this is correct I am well stuffed with my MkIIIs in mixed Tiger units. With typical luck I had the options of assembling them as Ms or Ns and guessed wrong.

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: José Ventura (---.snt.pt.kpnqwest.net)
Date: 04-21-02 12:47

Ok Ken!

So here it's the info available on Schwere Abteilung (aka. Tiger Abt.). I will restrict this to the Eastern Front, and the time range of late 42 till October/43,

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as from this period onwards the Panther Abt. start to have an impact on ground operations (the original question on this thread was about gemischte Pz-Komp. in 42/43):

I'm drawing this data heavily from Schneider's Tigers in Combat I and II, and Agte Tigers of LAH/LSSAH (the French edition, much better than the Anglo-Saxon one), which were themselves based on the originals TO&Es. Also one must consider that this are official TO&E, and not the real ones, as not all AFVs are really available. As a premise, consider that at a given time 82% of the Tigers are available, as this is the Reliability Factor of Tiger I, and 75% for PzIII (not considering total write off/KO), and I will not consider support services, such as FlaK, Recce, Pionner, and so on...

I will leave to others the conversion into proper BF roosters... ;-)

Independent Units (Heer units, attached to Divisions as seems fit)

s.Pz-Abt. 502 (mostly North sector, around Leningrad)

December 43 (not really their first TO&E, but for an early period consider only 9x Pz3 M, 9x Pz3 N, and 9x Tiger I, but TO&E unknown, but possibly very similar to K.St.N. 1176d as on GD but with 4xPz3 on the Stabs, and 3x Pz3 in each of the four Zugs)

Kompanie Stabs: 8x Pz3 N
1.Komp. Stabs: 3x Tiger I, 1x Pz3 N
1.Zug: 2x Tiger I, 3x Pz3 M
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
2.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I, 1x Pz3 N
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I, 4x Pz3 N
2.Zug: as 1.Zug

February 43

A single "Kompanie/Zug", with 5x Tiger I

April 43

Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug

May 43

Stabs: 3x Tiger I
1.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
2.Komp. as 1.Komp
3.Komp. as 1.Komp

s.Pz-Abt. 503 (South sector, first at the "relieve" of Stalingrad, then south)

December 42

Stabs: 2x Tiger I, 5x Pz3 N
1.Komp. Stabs: 1x Tiger I, 5x Pz3 N
1.Zug: 2x Tiger I, 2x Pz3 N
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: 3x Tiger I, 1x Pz3 N
4.Zug: as 1.Zug

2.Komp. as 1.Komp.

July 43 (Kursk and after)

Stabs: 3x Tiger I
1.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
2.Komp. as 1.Komp
3.Komp. as 1.Komp

s.Pz-Abt. 505 (central sector)

July 43 - by them the Pz3 were discarded, and the idea was to create a light unit [Leicht] to perform recce functions. But the Abt. personal consider differently, and "rip of" the turrets and convert the Pz3 into support vehicles, like storages/ammo, carrying pontoons, and so on, with adverse military sanctions as is obvious. This unit was "amalgamated" with the Ferdinands, Sturmpanzers, and demolition units (B IV) to break up the defences in the Orel sector, and perform not so good, due to improper use, training and leadership, and this unit suffer more KO than all the others Tiger Units together.

Stabs: 3x Tiger I
1.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
2.Komp. as 1.Komp
3.Komp. as 1.Komp

And now the others so-called "elite" units:

s.Pz.Komp. 13./Pz-Regt GrossDeutschland (Kharkov/Belgorod, then mostly south sector)

February/March 43 (not a lot of data on this period, but the TO&E should be like the following, using info from Jentz, as he stated a K.St.N. 1176d Ausf. B)

Stabs: 1x Tiger I, 2x Pz3 M
1.Zug: 2x Tiger I, 2x Pz3 M
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
4.Zug: as 1.zug

Note: It seems, that operationally the unit was slip into Zug to reinforce the different Kampfgruppen, amalgamating Pz4 and Pz3 Flamm, and never fight as an entity, so the unavailable TO&E.

May 43 (Kursk)

Stabs: 1x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: 3x Tiger
4.Zug: as 3.Zug

August 43 - as III./Pz-Regt. GrossDeutschland (Central sector, then South sector)

Stabs: 3x Tiger I
9.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug

10.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
11.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug

Late September 43, after receiving even more vehicles (South sector)

Stabs: 3x Tiger I
9.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 3x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
10.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
11.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug

4./SS-Pz-Regt. 1 LAH February 43 (For the Kharkov Operation. I have some conflicting data in this unit, between Schneider and Agte, so I will use the most conservatory info, mostly from Jentz, concerning real numbers of AFVs send)

4.Komp. Stabs: 1x Tiger I, 1x Pz3 L/M (not J as Schneider stated)
1.Zug: 3x Tiger I, 3x Pz3 L/M
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
4.Zug (Leicht): 5x Pz3 L/M (were M. Wittmann WAS)

13./SS-Pz-Regt. 1 LAH July (Kursk, after that the unit was "disbanded", and send to Italy, to receive new equipment)

13.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
4.Zug (Leicht): 5x Pz3 L/M

8./Pz-Regt. 2 Das Reich January 43 (Kharkov Operation)

8.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 2x Tiger I, 1x Pz3 L/M (not J as Schneider)
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
4.Zug: as 1.Zug
5.Zug (Leicht): 4x Pz3 L/M
6.Zug (Leicht): as 5.Zug

Schwere Pz-Komp./SS-Pz-Regt. 2 July 43 (Kursk)

Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug

Note: I believe that the Pz3 L/M will form a Leicht/Aufkl (recce) Zug for the Tigers, but I do not have the data to deny or confirm this. Das Reich, have for Kursk 62x Pz3 L/M and 33x Pz4 F2/G/H on hand, and some of the Pz3 will be from this

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Komp.

Schwere Pz-Komp./SS-Pz-Regt. 2 August 43 (after receiving Tigers from LAH, when this unit went to sunny Italy)

Komp. Stabs: 5x Tiger I
1.Zug: 5x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug

4./SS-Pz-Regt. 3 Totenkopf January 43 (Kharkov Operation)

4.Komp. Stabs: 1x Tiger I, 2x Pz3 L/M (not J as Schneider)
1.Zug: 2x Tiger I, 2x Pz3 L/M
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
4.Zug: as 1.Zug

9./SS-Pz-Regt. 3 Totenkopf July 43 (Kursk)

9.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 4x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug

Note: As on the case of Das Reich s.Komp. the same could apply to this unit. Totenkopf, have for Kursk Op. 63x Pz3 L/M, 8x Pz3 N and 44x Pz4 F2/G/H on hand.

9./SS-Pz-Regt. 3 Totenkopf October 43 (South sector) - extra AFVs from LAH

9.Komp. Stabs: 2x Tiger I
1.Zug: 5x Tiger I
2.Zug: as 1.Zug
3.Zug: as 1.Zug
4.Zug: as 1.Zug

Almost none of the gemischte Tiger Kompanien have the same TO&E, and the presence of Pz3 N was not the norm, by the contrary.

I must also "eat my shorts" for stating that LAH/LSSAH does have Pz3 on their schwere Kompanie, well at least they didn't have Pz3 N. I should read my own notes before writing it :-)

I hope this helps, and sorry for the very long post

Cheers, keep on wargaming

Faustnik

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: Ken Natt (---.server.ntl.com)
Date: 04-22-02 01:44

Superb - just what I wanted. I'll get it converted to BF although it may have to end up a bit generic as no two units seem to have had the decency to use the same organisation!

One question - the 82% ready rate for the Tigers is interesting - does this mean that the Tiger is more reliable than a PzIII?

Ken

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: Mark Hayes (---.nhc.navy.mil)
Date: 04-22-02 08:13

Craig,

Or it means that the Tigers received a priority on the routine maintenance schedule as well as the first pick of needed parts.

Mark

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: Dave Choat (---.arl.army.mil)
Date: 04-22-02 10:32

Yeah. So eat your shorts or something like that. Great post Faustnik, thanks for the work involved. Now all we need is some more info on the Italian campaign so we can do some fun scenarios. Salerno anyone? I attended a book sale this weekend and found two books on the Sicily fiasco. There is actually an account of some British Vickers units using plunging fire to attack a masked German troop concentration! My word! What savages. Anyway there are some good scenario possibilities in there as soon as I can sort out the hyperbole from the fact. My wife asked me Saturday why the Italians aren't in BF yet. I damn near drove off the road. North Africa. The Pacific. Burma. Oh my.

Dave

Reply To This Message

Re: Mixed Panzer Companies 1942/3
Author: José Ventura (---.snt.pt.kpnqwest.net)
Date: 04-22-02 16:19

Answering to you: yes and no.

I will explain better.

The % of reliability presented is due only on correct maintenance of the AFV, and this will take some time and use some experience crews/mechanics. If this is attained, that is the correct % for determining the number of AFV ready to use, as the rest will be in some sort of impromptu problems requiring some extra work, and these will not counting with heavy damage from combat.

This is the reason for such a high reliability for the Tiger I, only possible by segregating them in special units easing the maintenance and the correct trained crew problem. Do not forget that on "wonder tanks" the crews and mechanics helped on the final assembly of their tanks, on the factories. When these was not possible, a lot of complains could be read on their reports, for the intend of justifying an abnormal % of "on repair" AFVs.

On the case of "generalist" AFVs, like the Pz3 and Pz4 the factor is lower, as these units could not afford to have specialists on a single model, and their components, so a lower number.

The reverse of the coin is the time used on the daily maintenance, as on the Pz3 and

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Pz4 this is around 1,5 to 2 hours each, and on the Tiger goes to some 2-3 hours and on Tiger II an hefty 3-4 hours for each Tank. If this daily maintenance was not perform in part or totally, the % will decrease drastically, especially on the cases of the Big Cats, but not so on the case of Pz3 and Pz4 (their advantage). This was the case of s.SS-Pz-Abt. 101/501 on the travel to Normandy, which was on forced march with only minimal maintenance meaning later, on the Villiers-Bocage, only around 65% reliability on the unit. This also means a lot of extra time and crews involved on the field workshops, and time was not on the side of the Germans...

These % were taken mostly from Thomas Jentz books, and should be use as guides, mostly to campaign, when the same unit will be operating for several days/weeks.

Some more % to you compare:
correct minimal
AFV -maintenance-maintenance
Tiger I 82% 65%
Tiger II 59% 44%
Panther 48% 36%
PzIV 62% 56%
PzIII 75% 66% (also StuG)
Pz38(t) 78% 70%

Just for fun (% calculate from several sources and all on the 1944 environment)
T34 84% 67% (perhaps only /76 as /85 will a have little less)
M4 85% 76% (only the 75mm versions as this will decrease if 76mm and more if extra armour/sandbags were used, so General Patton's attitude...)

Few, powerful, sexy but... vs. a lot of them, ugly, unloved but reliable

For the Italian Front, After the Battle Magazine have some small but very useful issues on some Operations, some of them in the scope of BF, so have a look, and adapt them, and post them, after all if you made them good you will receive positive feed back, and if not, this guys will correct you and in the end we all will win one way or another :-)

Cheers, keep on rolling those dices

Faustnik