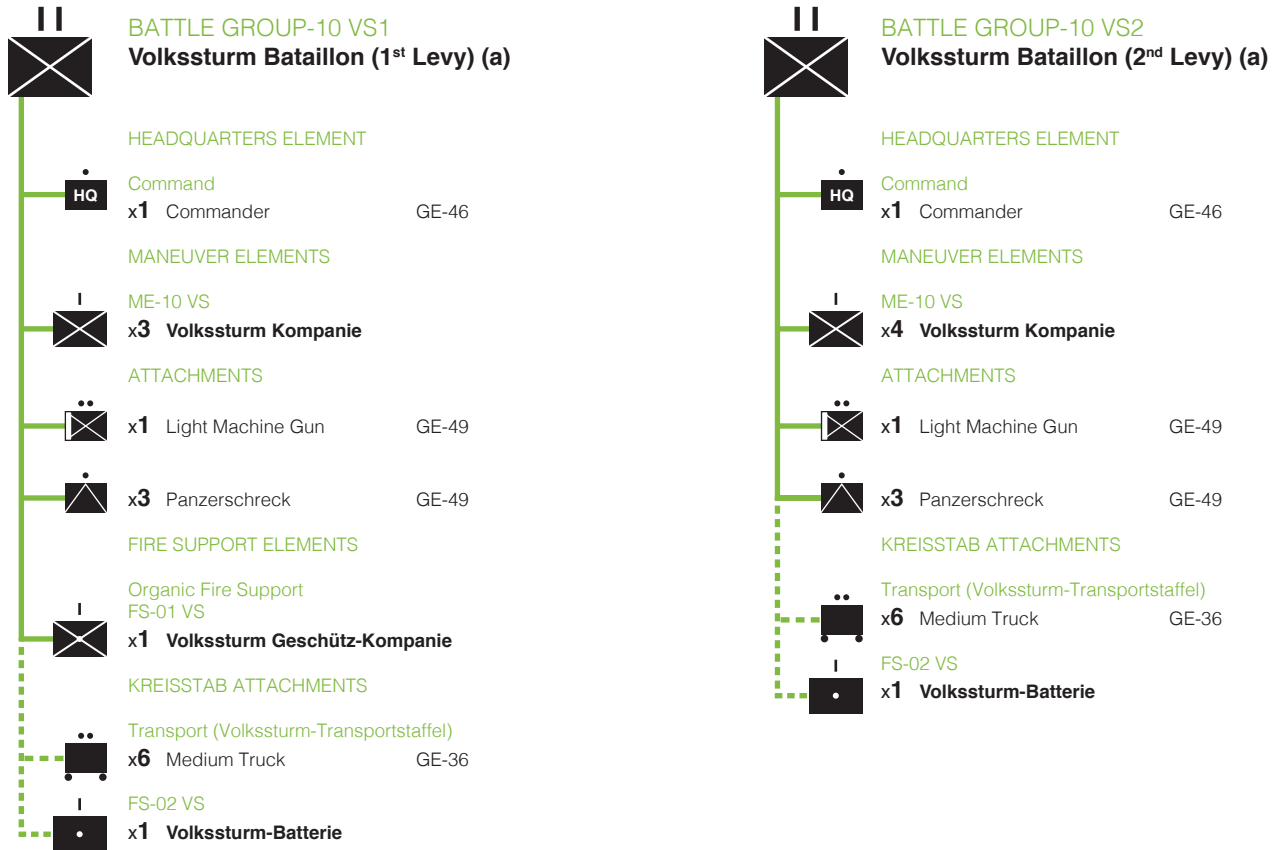


Volkssturm-Bataillon

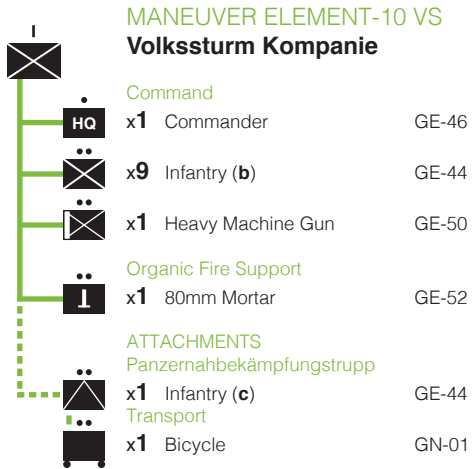
November 1944 - April 1945



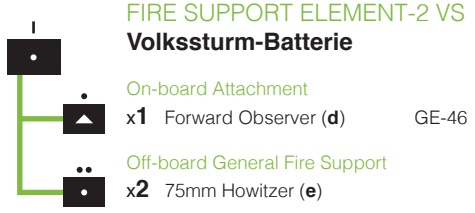
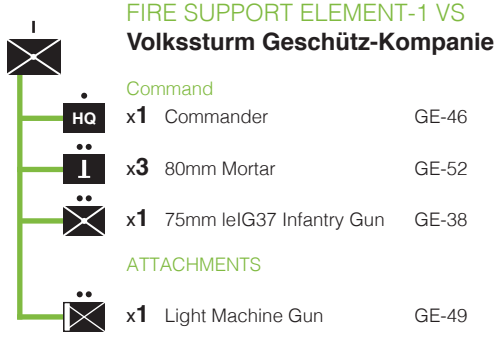
(a) Volkssturm Battalions were typically much more poorly equipped than the "ideal" tables given here. The most commonly available units in practice will be the normal infantry and their immediate commanders. Other kinds of units may or may not be present, with fire support units and attachments of any kind being the rarest. Additionally, any unit fielded is likely to be present only in reduced numbers. The Kreisstab Attachments represent units from the local Volkssturm district forces and were normally only present in the form of Fortress (Festung) formations on the eastern German border. Even then, these are rare. For example, there were only seven active Volkssturm-Batterien by the end of the war. The Medium Trucks represent a detachment from the Volkssturm-Transportkompanie of the district, which could have anywhere from 2 to 5 of these transport units depending on local conditions. These utility and supply transports were not used on the frontline, but are included here because the chaos of the war's end may occasion scenarios where these motor pool elements might inadvertently be found close to the action.

In terms of discipline rating, Volkssturm units of any kind should always be considered raw. Although some units did have veterans of the First World War, the Volkssturm levies drew heavily from the remnant parts of the population that had been passed over by regular military conscription for being unfit for combat, including invalids, the elderly and children. Moreover, these units received little training and were famously poorly equipped (or, in the case of the 3rd and 4th Levies, not given weaponry at all). All of this is reflected in the rating modifiers for raw troops and the scarcity of "planned" support weapons. If you wish to represent the battles where the Volkssturm did perform much better than any reasonable expectation, then leave the thresholds for moral penalties at the normal increments of 25%, 50% and 75%. Otherwise, these increments too should be lowered.

Finally, the Volkssturm frequently had very little in the way of ammunition, due in part to the sheer variety of scrounged weapons with which they were provisioned. To represent the common occurrence of low ammunition, prohibit any infantry or light machinegun units firing beyond range 5. After units with low ammunition have been involved in a close combat, regardless of the other results of the combat, these units should also be considered destroyed, having spent their last shots in a flurry of short-ranged fire.



- (b) May equip up to 6 (2 per platoon) infantry with panzerfausts. Some companies had up to 4 sections per platoon and/or up to 4 platoons per company, increasing the maximum total number of infantry to 16.
- (c) Panzernahbekämpfungstrupp infantry are armed with panzerfausts.



- (d) The forward observer may be attached to any maneuver element or headquarters element.
- (e) See Off-board Artillery Table for weapon rating (pg. 37).