

ORGANIZATION AND STRENGTH OF THE PANZER BATTALIONS 'FALL BLAU' Summer 1942

Hitler and the German general staff decided to focus the major military effort of the German Army on the Eastern Front in the summer of 1942 in the south, with the primary objective of seizing the Caucasus oil resources. To that end, the panzer divisions of Army Group South were augmented, including transferring panzer battalions from those divisions in Army Groups North and Center to those in the south. The divisions assigned to Fall Blau also tended to receive the latest equipment.

The KStNs that served as the basis for the following organization were promulgated on 11 November 1941. The headquarters organization called for two PzBefWg III and one PzKpfw III in each battalion and regimental headquarters. However, there were never enough specialized PzBefWg vehicles to completely fill these requirements, and reports indicate that at least some battalion COs preferred to command in combat from a gun-armed panzer. Therefore, it is recommended that the command vehicle for the battalion HQ element be a PzKpfw III H (card no. GE-76), especially for the panzer battalions in Army Group South. The command vehicle for the regiment HQ element should be a PzBefWg III (use card no. GE-20).

The 11 Nov 41 KStNs allocated a light platoon (five panzers) of PzKpfw IIs to each panzer company and battalion and regimental headquarters in the panzer division. There were no where near enough PzKpfw IIs available in the summer of 1942 to fill these requirements. On 2 August 1942, an A.H.M. (general army bulletin) authorized the elimination of the light platoons in the panzer companies (as well as an armored pioneer platoon of three PzKpfw IIs), and directed the reassignment of these PzKpfw IIs to create light platoons, seven panzers strong attached to the headquarters of each battalion and regiment. By the summer of 1942 the Germans recognized that the PzKpfw IIs no longer had much of a roll to play in armored combat. Given the small number of PzKpfw IIs in the panzer battalions, it seems likely that the A.H.M. codified what was already becoming common practice. Therefore, the organizations given below reflect that judgment. Where no PzKpfw IIs are present at the company level, the battalion HQ element should have x3 PzKpfw II F (card no. GE-72). There are some divisions that have more than enough PzKpfw IIs to equip the light platoons in the HQ elements. On these occasions, one or more panzer companies may be augmented with PzKpfw IIs, representing the continued presence of the light platoon. In that case, the number of PzKpfw II Fs in the battalion HQ element should be two.

Mention should be made of the type of panzers represented by some of the cards in *Battlefront WWII*. PzKpfw III E, F, and G models armed with the 5cm L/42, which had their armor upgraded are represented by the PzKpfw III H card (card no. 76). Also, early production models of the PzKpfw III J were armed with the 5cm L/42. These are also represented by card no. 76. Gamers selecting models for this period may choose any of several figures to represent what vehicles equipped the light panzer companies during the summer and fall of 1942, all of which would still be armed with a 5cm L/42 gun and still use the BF card listed as "PzKpfw III H."

The information below is based on Thomas L. Jentz, *Panzertruppen: The Complete Guide to the Creation & Combat Employment Germany's Tank Force*, vol. 1 (Atglen, Pa.: Schiffer Military History, 1996). The date of the return the information is from is listed next to the regiment's or battalion's name. The divisions are placed under the army group they were assigned to, and the regiments are associated with their panzer division. The motorized infantry divisions operating in Army Group South also had a panzer battalion. The number of battalions in the panzer regiment is listed. The number of light companies per battalion is listed in parenthesis after the phrase "Light Company". Most panzer battalions contained two light companies and one medium company, but there were three (the battalions of the 27th, 31st, and 35th Panzer Regiments) that had three light companies and one medium company. Note that the Panzer Battalion "Grossdeutschland" had three medium panzer companies. The strengths given below are for the number of model figures for playing *Battlefront WWII*.

Army Group North

8th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 10 – (28 June 1942)

x2 battalions

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x6 PzKpfw 38t E,F,G	GE-83	x1 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79

12th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 29 – (1 July 1942)

x2 battalions

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x4 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x1 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
		x1 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80

III Battalion / Panzer Regiment 204 – (23 June 1942)

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x5 PzKpfw 38t E,F,G	GE-83	x2 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
		x2 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80
		x2 PzKpfw II	GE-72

Army Group Center

1st Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 1 – (15 July 1942)

x1 battalion

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x5 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x3 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
x2 PzKpfw 38t E,F,G	GE-83		

2nd Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 3 – (20 June 1942)

x1 battalion

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x6 PzKpfw 38t E,F,G	GE-83	x2 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
x3 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x2 PzKpfw II F	GE-72

4th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 35 – (1 July 1942)

x1 battalion

Light Company (x3)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x3 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x2 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79

5th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 31 – (25 June 1942)

x2 battalions

Light Company (x3)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x4 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x3 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
		x2 PzKpfw II F	GE-72

17th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 39 – (29 June 1942)

x1 battalion

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x7 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x7 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
		x2 PzKpfw II	GE-72

18th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 18 – (29 June 1942)

x1 battalion

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x5 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x3 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
		x2 PzKpfw II	GE-72

19th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 27 – (15 July 1942)

x1 battalion

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x7 PzKpfw 38t E,F,G	GE-83	x2 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
Light Company (x1)	Card No.		
x5 PzKpfw III H	GE-76		

20th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 21 – (30 June 1942)

x1 Battalion

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x7 PzKpfw 38t E,F,G	GE-83	x5 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
x4 PzKpfw III H	GE-76		

Army Group South

3rd Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 6 – (27 June 1942)

x3 battalions

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x4 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x4 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
x3 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x2 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80

9th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 33 – (22 June 1942)

x3 battalions

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x2 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x1 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
x4 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x2 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80

11th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 15 – (25 June 1942)

x3 battalions

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x7 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x2 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80

13th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 4 – (22 June 1942)

x3 battalions

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x3 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x2 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80
x2 PzKpfw III J	GE-77		

14th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 36 – (20 June 1942)

x3 battalions

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x3 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x3 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
x1 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x1 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80 (a)

(a) Does not exist in the medium company in one out of the three battalions.

16th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 2 – (1 July 1942)

x3 battalions

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x3 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x2 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
x1 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x2 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80

22nd Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 204 – (1 July 1942)

x2 battalions

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x8 PzKpfw 38t E,F,G	GE-83	x2 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
x1 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x2 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80

23rd Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 201 – (28 June 1942)

x3 battalions

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x3 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x2-3 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79 (a)
x2 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x1-2 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80 (a)

(a) Each medium company has a maximum of x4 panzers of both models.

24th Panzer Division – Panzer Regiment 24 – (28 June 1942)

x3 battalions

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x3 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x2 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
x4 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x2 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80

3rd Infantry Division (Motorized) – Panzer Battalion 103 – (28 June 1942)

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x7 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x3 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80

16th Infantry Division (Motorized) – Panzer Battalion 116 – (28 June 1942)

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x7 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x3 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80

29th Infantry Division (Motorized) – Panzer Battalion 129 – (28 June 1942)

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x7 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x3 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80

60th Infantry Division (Motorized) – Panzer Battalion 160 – (7 July 1942)

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x7 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x2 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80
		x2 PzKpfw II F	GE-72

SS Division "Wiking" – SS Panzer Battalion 5 – (27 June 1942)

Light Company (x2)	Card No.	Medium Company	Card No.
x2 PzKpfw III H	GE-76	x2 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
x5 PzKpfw III J	GE-77	x2 PzKpfw II F	GE-72

Infantry Division "Grossdeutschland" – Panzer Battalion "Grossdeutschland" – (1 July 1942)

Medium Company (x3)	Card No.
x2 PzKpfw IV E,F(1)	GE-79
x2 PzKpfw IV F(2)	GE-80