

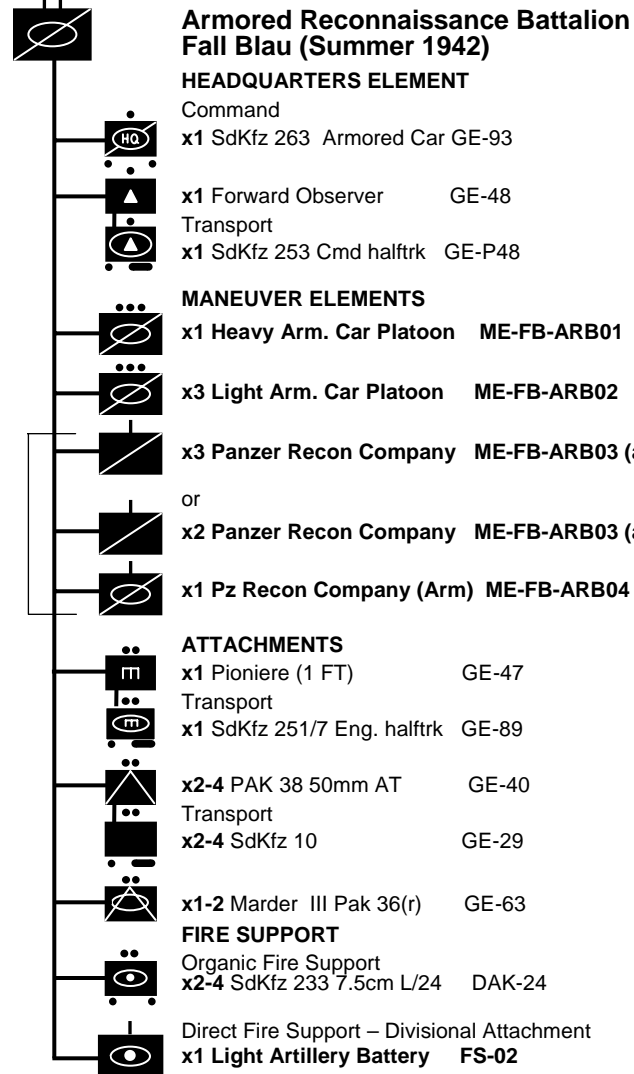
German Panzer Division Recon Battalion – Summer 1942

The Osprey New Vanguard No. 29, German Armoured Cars and Reconnaissance Half-Tracks, along with a few other sources, provide some insight into the organization of the recon battalion in 1942. Motorcycle troops had suffered heavy casualties during the 1941 campaign, and analysis determined that they did not have the protection or firepower to exist as a separate battalion, and thus were disbanded. As a result, during the winter of 1941-42, the personnel from the motorcycle battalions were transferred into the panzer recon battalions. Furthermore, there were not enough armored cars to equip two armored car companies in each battalion.

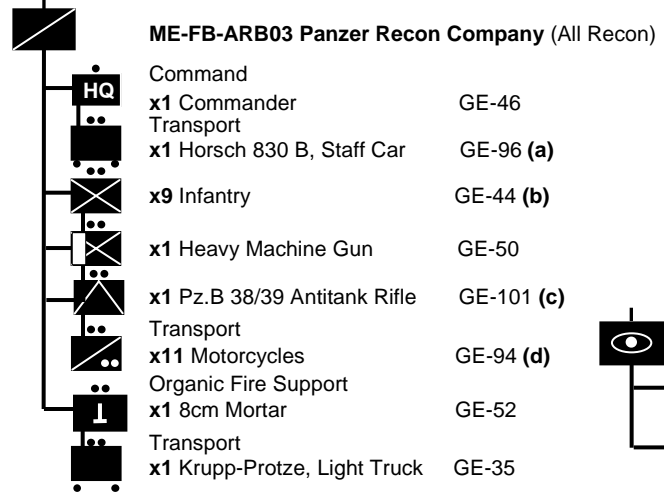
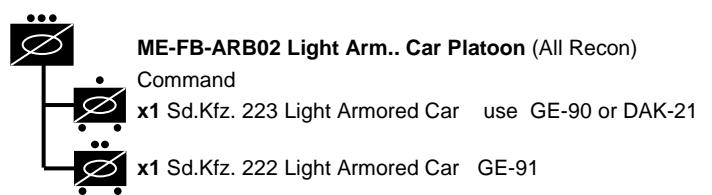
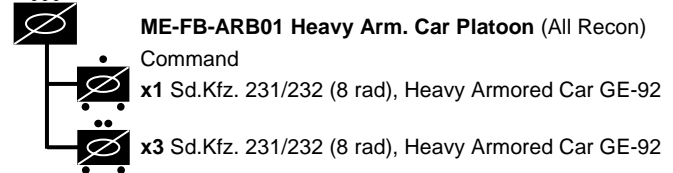
By the summer of 1942, each recon battalion from a panzer division typically consisted of an armored car company, three infantry companies of some kind, and a heavy support company. The light half-tracks (Sd.Kfz. 250s) replaced motorcycles as they became available (the 10th Panzer Division had one of their companies mounted in them by August 1942), and Sd.Kfz 233s and other self-propelled guns replaced towed guns in the heavy support companies at different times during this period. A 1943 motorcycle company KStN had double the number of light machine guns found in a 1941 company, and there was a similar KStN that had the troops equipped the same but mounted in Kettenkrads! I think motorcycle company organizations were moving in the direction of what became the 1943 KStNs before enough Sd.Kfz. 250s became available. Thus, no two recon battalion probably looked exactly the same in 1942.

The following is based on the organization of the 10th Panzer Division's recon battalion translated for BF. Even though this division was not on the Eastern Front in 1942, I think, from what I have researched thus far, the organization gives a good idea of what one might find. I will include this later as part of a file on 1942 German East Front Tables of Organization.

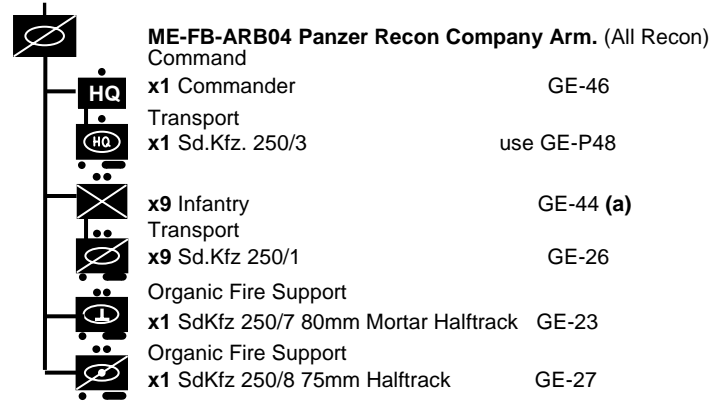
Mark Hayes



(a) Some panzer divisions may have had a kettenkrad reconnaissance company. This is because a KStN for one existed, although I have yet to find evidence of one in the field.



- (a) In Kettenkrad company, replace with SdKfz. 10 - GE-29
- (b) May replace up to 4 with LMG GE-49
- (c) May replace with extra HMG GE-50
- (d) In Kettenkrad company, replace with GE-95



(a) May replace up to 4 with LMG GE-49

