

ESTONIAN-SS

OFFICIAL BRIEFING

LATE WAR INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING FOR
ESTONIAN 20. SS-FREIWILLIGEN-GRENADIERDIVISION
AT NARVA 1944



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FLAMES OF WAR
THE WORLD WAR II MINIATURES GAME

Estonian 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision

FORMATION

Citing a heritage that dates back to anti-communist partisans, the 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision has travelled a long, bloody and misguided path. Following the Soviet annexation of the northern-most Baltic republic in June 1940, freedom fighters known as Metsavennad (Forest Brothers) fought a vicious guerrilla war against the Russian occupiers. These partisan bands contained numerous professional soldiers from the former republic's 15,000 strong army. The activities of this insurrection sparked odious reprisals from the NKVD and People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, including the formation of roving Execution Battalions to deal with the insurgents. The savagery of these reprisals helped polarize the Estonian populace behind the partisans.

At the time Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa in June 1941, an estimated 10,000 Estonian military personnel were conducting paramilitary operations against the Bolsheviks. These operations were so successful that by the time General Field Marshall Georg von Kuchler's 18. Army reached the Estonian border it was nearly clear of Russian troops. Seeing the Third Reich as the salvation of an independent Estonia, a fateful decision was made to join the Nazis in their ideological crusade against Stalin's socialist regime.

The first step towards overt military cooperation with the German army was the establishment of an Estonian Home Guard to help combat bands of Soviet infiltrators. Poorly equipped and under trained, these regional units were or-

ganized into security groups and infantry battalions. Often operating close to the front lines, Home Guard units were routinely pressed into service by Wehrmacht commanders in the fight against the communists. Even poorly equipped the Estonians acquitted themselves well as the Nazi war machine rolled ever onward into Russian territory.

As in other Nazi occupied territories, local collaborators saw it as beneficial to form a national legion to help further the cause of National Socialism and create the core of what was hoped to eventually become the new Estonian Army. The German High Command authorized the creation of an Estonian Legion in August 1942, paving the way for the practical formation of the unit in October of the same year. Against the wishes of many Estonian veterans, the new legion was placed under the control of the Waffen-SS. As a concession to Estonian objections concerning the Waffen-SS affiliation, the legion was almost entirely comprised of Estonians; soldiers, NCO's and officers. It was this "Estonian Legion" that departed Pskov for Debica, Poland, arriving on 12 October 1942 with a total strength of 188 men.

Lieutenant Paul Maitla, the ranking Estonian officer in Debica, began training his men immediately upon arrival in Poland. Within two weeks the Germans had sent five additional personnel, four officer training candidates and an acting commander, SS-Hauptsturmführer Georg Ahlemann. By the end of 1942 a full six infantry companies awaited training in Debica before being sent to advanced training



centres throughout Germany. This influx of personnel prompted the creation of 1. SS-Panzer Grenadier Battalion "Narwa", a fully motorized formation commanded by SS-Hauptsturmführer Georg Eberhardt. Instruction progressed through the winter of 1942 after training officers from 3. SS-Panzer Grenadier Division "Totenkopf" arrived to conduct more operational schooling as every Estonian officer and NCO was assigned a German tutor. In spite of the "Death's Head Division's" involvement, not even these early Estonian volunteers received the level of indoctrination typical of other SS formations.

Volunteers continued to arrive from Estonia, swelling the Legion's numbers to well over 1,000 by the spring of 1943. These sons of Estonia had excelled at their combat training, notably breaking all records for marksmanship at the Debica garrison. The Legion's troops would soon be able to put this training to practice. The decision had been made to transfer 1. SS-Panzer Grenadier Battalion "Narwa" to the elite 5. SS-Panzer Grenadier Division "Wiking", currently stationed in the Caucasus Mountains but scheduled for transfer to the Ukraine. Battalion "Narwa" would replace the Finnish battalion recently recalled to Finland for political reasons.

1. SS-PANZER GRENADIER BATTALION "NARWA" IN COMBAT

Having rendezvoused with the Finns in mid April 1943 to assume equipment, the Estonians then continued on to the Donets Basin to join their new division. After linking up with the "Wiking" division during a refit, the units were sent to the Slovyansk area with the newly renamed Estonian SS-Freiwilligen (Volunteer) Panzer Grenadier Battalion "Narwa" placed in divisional reserve. The battalion would soon see action however, as their positions southeast of Kharkov

would thrust them into the crucible of fire.

In the summer of 1943, Wehrmacht leadership decided that the Soviet salient in the Donets River basin was untenable. To remedy this situation, Colonel General Walter Model's 9th Army and Colonel General Hermann Hoth's 4th Panzer Army would strike, from north and south respectively, at the heart of the bulge, the Ukrainian town of Kursk. Operation Citadel, as the German offensive was dubbed, would encircle the Soviet forces and eliminate one million communists. Unfortunately for the Nazis, those one million communists had been preparing defensive positions since the late spring and were more than capable of repulsing the fascist attacks of 5-13 July. This repulsion was soon followed in the form of Soviet counterattacks across the salient a week after the German advance had started.

So vicious were the Soviet counterattacks that 5. SS-Panzer Grenadier Division "Wiking" was moved forward from Army Group reserve to stem the red tide. The brave men of Battalion "Narwa" were sent to the town of Izium on the southern end of the front line to hold until relieved. Having seen first hand the battering taken by their predecessors, 46. Infantry Division, the battalion held no misconceptions about the hell they were moving towards.

Firmly entrenched by 17 July, the soldiers of the battalion were greeted that morning by an enormous Soviet artillery barrage. Soon after, combined arms attacks consisting of tanks and infantry smashed into the dug in Estonians. Nearly overwhelmed by their armored foes, the SS men were saved by the timely and accurate shooting of the battalion's anti-tank guns, six in all. Within minutes of this initial attack half of the 20 T-34 tanks sent by the Soviets had been destroyed. After mopping up the remaining enemy infantry, the Estonians were only allowed a brief respite as another armoured column advanced on their positions.



Counted amongst the onrushing tanks were American lend-lease medium tanks, newly arrived from the harbour at Murmansk. These tanks too were knocked out by Estonian and German anti-tank guns, the tally for the day amounting to 28 destroyed armored vehicles.

The 18 July followed a similar pattern as the previous day. Armour and infantry assaults reached the Estonian lines only to be thrown back after savage hand-to-hand and close-quarters fighting. Once again, burnt out tanks and Soviet infantry littered the field. A touch of desperation drove the Red Army on the 19 July to the extent that a fully armored assault was launched, absent of any infantry support. Numerous breakthroughs were achieved by the Soviet armour, cutting off the Estonian companies from their battalion HQ. Only the timely counterattack of SS-Hauptsturmführer Eberhardt's headquarters personnel halted the line's disintegration and buoyed the morale of his men. Not even his subsequent death later that day could discourage the Estonian soldiers or keep them from carrying the day.

Having repelled the enemy in their sector, the Estonians paused to take stock of their situation. The battalion had taken nearly 600 casualties, 76 of them killed in action. The communists however, paid a higher price. The Red Army lost 7,000 men, killed and wounded, and over 100 tanks, some 74 destroyed by the Baltic soldiers. Although the Battalion "Narwa" achieved tactical victory on their section of the line, Operation Citadel was a strategic defeat for the Wehrmacht. An orderly withdrawal to the west followed the defeat at Kursk and the Estonians and the men of 5. SS-Panzer Grenadier Division "Wiking" found themselves northwest of Kharkov by the late summer.

Once the battalion had been returned to fighting strength, they were sent to Kharkov to halt an eminent Soviet breakthrough. From 12 August through the next week the Estonians halted repeated Russian incursions into their sector. Continuous shelling from enemy artillery ceased only long enough for Soviet infantry to crawl like ants towards the Baltic lines. Even repeated armored attacks couldn't dislodge the doughty Estonians, thanks to their determination and the opportune arrival of several Tigers.

The arrival of autumn found the Battalion "Narwa" on the Mayeriyevka Front in western Ukraine, still attached to 5. SS-Panzer Grenadier Division "Wiking". Although combat raged on a daily basis, the battalion received fresh replacements from Debica and managed to replenish their combat numbers. Having been ordered to winter in the town of Cherkasy, the Estonians were almost annihilated when the Cherkasy pocket collapsed in mid February 1944. As the "Wiking" Division was being withdrawn from the front for a complete refit, it was decided that the Battalion "Narwa" should be sent north to form the core of the 20. Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS (1st Estonian), hastily being mustered near Narva to defend Estonia from Soviet reoccupation.

20. FREIWILLIGEN-GRENADIERDIVISION COMBAT HISTORY

Once the "Narwa" Battalion was incorporated into the new 20. Freiwilligen-Grenadier Division, the division was assigned to SS-Gruppenführer Felix Steiner's III SS (Germanic) Panzerkorps. Although severely under strength, the unit travelled nearly 1,000km from Kursk northwest to Narva in



an effort to relieve the 9. and 10. Luftwaffefeld divisions at the Siivertsi bridgehead. After more than a week of brutal fighting against the Soviet 378th Rifle Division in late February, the Estonians managed to force the Bolsheviks back to the east bank of the Narva River. The division succeeded in holding the western bank of the river throughout the spring and was finally pulled back to rearm and reequip in May. Coincidentally, German authorities implemented a local conscription program that netted 32,000 Estonian citizens. A large portion of these conscripts were added to the 20. Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision, bringing their fighting strength back to a respectable 15,000 men.

In June 1944 the division was renamed the 20. Waffen-Grenadierdivision der SS (1st Estonian). Heavy fighting continued on the Narva Line through mid summer with the 45th and 46th Estonian Regiments particularly hard hit by Soviet infantry and artillery. Once he realized a major breakthrough was eminent, SS-Gruppenführer Steiner ordered the panzerkorps to withdraw to the Tannenberg Line with the Estonians assigned to the Kinderheim Heights. Constant artillery and armoured attacks assailed the Baltic soldiers as they desperately held on to the land of the fathers.

LEAVING ESTONIA

Seeing the logic of retreating from Estonia to shorten the defensive line, Hitler ordered a withdrawal from the Baltic country in mid September. Instead of forcing the local military to retreat with them and defend the Reich, the Estonians were allowed to leave the Wehrmacht and defend their homeland. This achieved a dual purpose: as the Germans gave more ground in Estonia the loyalty of the Estonian forces was called into question; additionally, having seen the effectiveness of the Metsavennad first hand in 1941, the Nazis left a bloody partisan battle for the Soviets to fight as they pushed towards Poland.

The loss of manpower severely weakened the division again, forcing its removal from the line to Swietoszw, Poland. Here the division was refitted and sent German and Estonian replacements. After a quiet winter in Silesia, the Estonians were returned to combat duty on the Neisse River in late February 1945. With the Soviets crossing rivers almost daily during the Vistula-Oder Offensive, it's no surprise that the division was encircled with the rest of the German 11th Army Corps near Falkenberg. It took two attempts in mid March to escape the pocket and only then at the expense of all the Estonian heavy weapons and equipment.

This marked the last major engagement of the 20. Waffen Grenadier Division der SS. By April of 1945 the division's combat strength had been destroyed and the unit was moved south to Goldberg. As the Red Army lobbed shells at the Reichstag, the Estonian stranglers attempted one final breakout, this time to the west in an effort to surrender to American or British forces on the other side of the Annaberg Mountains. Lacking the vehicles necessary to outrun their Soviet pursuers, the remnants of the division were finally trapped and forced to surrender on 8 May 1945, the last day of the war in Europe. For the next fifty years the peoples of Estonia would pay for their complicity with the Nazis, a debt paid by their inclusion in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Estonian Special Rules

Estonian troops use all of the German special rules, except *Stormtroopers*, on pages 241 to 245 of the rulebook as well as the division-specific special rules below.

THE LINE MUST NOT BREAK!

Many Estonian battalions have been fighting in the line since 1941 and veteran company commanders have learnt Soviet tactics well. They understand where to place their best troops when confronting a Soviet attack.

If defending in a Mission with the Defensive Battle rule, an Estonian player may hold one platoon in Immediate Ambush (see page 267 of the rulebook). This is in addition to any ambush platoons allowed by the mission played.

FOR ESTONIA!

Many of the Estonians fighting for the Germans are not doing it for any greater belief in the Nazi cause, but because they want to protect their nation from being subsumed by the Soviet Union.

If defending in a Mission with the Defensive Battle rule an Estonian Company Command team may re-roll failed Company Morale Checks.

SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierkompanie

SS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY COMPANY

(INFANTRY COMPANY)

You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoons from each box shaded grey.

HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS



SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierkompanie HQ

COMBAT PLATOONS

INFANTRY



SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier Platoon

INFANTRY



SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier Platoon

INFANTRY



SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier Platoon

WEAPONS PLATOONS

MACHINE-GUNS



SS-Machine-gun Platoon

MACHINE-GUNS



SS-Machine-gun Platoon

ARTILLERY



SS-Mortar Platoon

REGIMENTAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

ARTILLERY



SS-Infantry Gun Platoon

ANTI-TANK



SS-Anti-tank Gun Platoon

RECONNAISSANCE



SS-Scout Platoon

ARTILLERY



SS-Heavy Mortar Platoon

ALLIED PLATOONS



Heer Platoons in your force are Allies and follow the Allies rules on page 70 of the rulebook.

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

ARMOUR



Heer Heavy Tank Platoon

17

Heer Tank-hunter Platoon

18

ARMOUR



SS-Panzer Platoon

17

Heer Anti-tank Gun Platoon

18

INFANTRY



SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilier Platoon

13

SS-Pioneer Platoon

15

Luftwaffe Jäger Platoon

19

ARTILLERY



SS-Artillery Battery

16

ARTILLERY



SS-Rocket Launcher Battery

20

SS-Vielfachwerfer Battery

19

ANTI-AIRCRAFT



SS-Anti-aircraft Gun Platoon

16

ANTI-AIRCRAFT



Heavy SS-Anti-aircraft Gun Platoon

15

AIRCRAFT



Air Support

20

MOTIVATION AND SKILL

The Estonian 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision was formed around a core of veterans from the Estonian Legion and 2nd Estonian Police Regiment with newly recruited volunteers. Though fighting under the SS banner they fight for Estonia and are determined to keep their country from under the Soviet boot. A SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierkompanie from 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision is rated **Fearless Trained**.

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	TRAINED
FEARLESS	VETERAN

HEADQUARTERS

SS-FREIWILLIGEN-GRENADIERKOMPANIE HQ

HEADQUARTERS

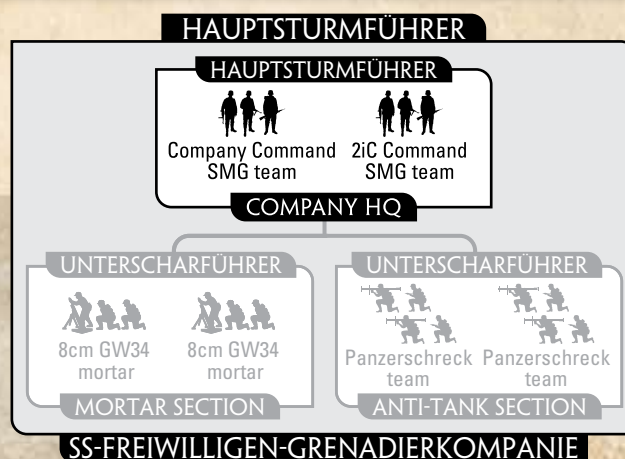
Company HQ

40 points

OPTION

- Replace either or both Command SMG teams with Command Panzerknacker SMG teams for +5 points per team or Command Panzerfaust SMG teams for +10 points per team.
- Add an Anti-tank Section with two Panzerschreck teams for +50 points or with one Panzerschreck team for +25 points.
- Add a Mortar Section for +45 points.
- Add up to three Sniper teams for +50 points per team.

Many of the volunteer *Waffen-SS* units raised during the later part of the war were organised as infantry formations and as such 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision was organised along the lines of a German Infanteriedivision. Estonia (Eesti in Estonian and Estland in German), beginning from 1941, had already contributed fighting units to the front.



These border, security and *Ost* (eastern) battalions provided a firm cadre from which 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision was formed. Added to these troops transferred from German Army control were veterans from 5. SS-Panzergergadierdivision 'Wiking' and newly raised conscripts.

Each SS-Grenadierkompanie had the support of machine-guns, mortars, scouts, infantry guns and from the division battalions.

COMBAT PLATOONS

SS-FREIWILLIGEN-GRENADIER PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with

3 Grenadier Squads

145 points

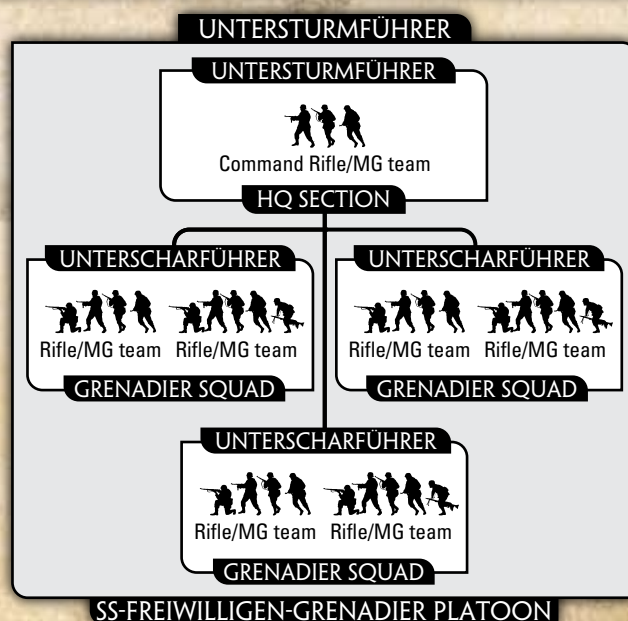
2 Grenadier Squads

100 points

OPTION

- Replace the Command Rifle/MG team with a Command Panzerknacker SMG team for +5 points or Command Panzerfaust SMG team for +10 points.

The Estonian Grenadiers fight for the freedom of their nation. It suits them that the Germans wish to train and equip them to fight the Soviets. Some of the old hands have fought the Soviets many times before as 'Brothers of the Forest' (Estonian anti-Soviet partisans) and know the old enemy well. Many others have served in the *Omakaitse* (self-defence battalions) formed to hold off the Soviets in case they break the German line. To fend off the red tide they will fight with grim determination.



WEAPONS PLATOONS

SS-MACHINE-GUN PLATOON

PLATOON

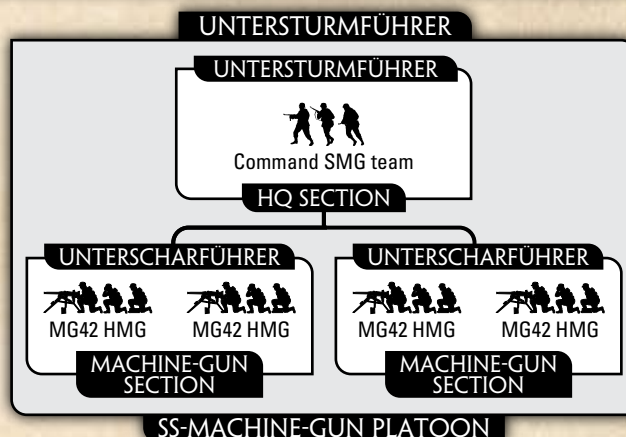
HQ Section with

2 Machine-gun Sections	115 points
1 Machine-gun Section	65 points

OPTION

- Replace Command SMG team with a Command Panzerknacker SMG team for +5 points.

SS-Machine-gun Platoons may make Combat Attachments to Combat Platoons.



The Germans have supplied the machine-gunners with the MG42, a far superior weapon to the old Maxims that the old hands of the Estonian Army are use to.

SS-MORTAR PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

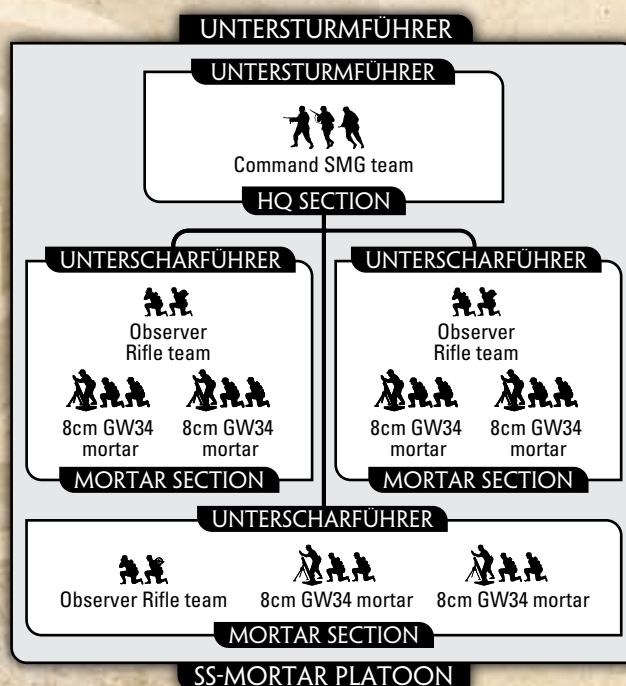
3 Mortar Sections	165 points
2 Mortar Sections	115 points
1 Mortar Section	60 points

You may not field a SS-Mortar Platoon if you have 8cm GW34 mortars in the Company HQ.

The Estonian SS-Grenadiers have easily adapted to the German mortars and can give a good account of themselves against Red Army attacks.

Good light artillery is critical in pinning or blinding enemy positions or strongpoints with smoke. SS-Mortar platoons are excellent in this role due to the speed with which they respond to calls for fire.

With plenty of observer teams they can engage any target across the whole battlefield much faster than the big guns of the artillery. The 8cm GW34 mortar can pin down enemy attacks as well as deliver covering smoke just as well as any artillery battery.



REGIMENTAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

SS-INFANTRY GUN PLATOON

MOTORISED PLATOON

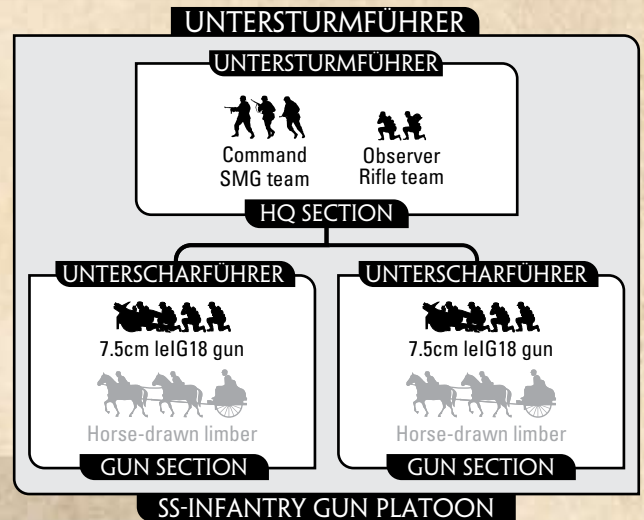
HQ Section with:

2 Infantry Gun Sections 60 points

OPTION

- Replace both 7.5cm leIG18 guns with 15cm sIG33 guns for +70 points
- Add horse-drawn limbers for +5 points for the platoon.
- Replace both horse-drawn limbers with 3-ton trucks or RSO tractors at no cost.

Though not overpowering, the 7.5cm leIG18 gun provides flexibility to your company. Adding a light infantry gun platoon provides an answer to a number of field problems. It can provide smoke and artillery support for advancing



infantry while also protecting the front lines against assaults. It can dig out enemy machine-guns and anti-tank guns as well as provide some anti-tank capability against assaulting tanks.

SS-ANTI-TANK GUN PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

3 7.5cm PaK40 135 points

2 7.5cm PaK40 90 points

3 5cm PaK38 75 points

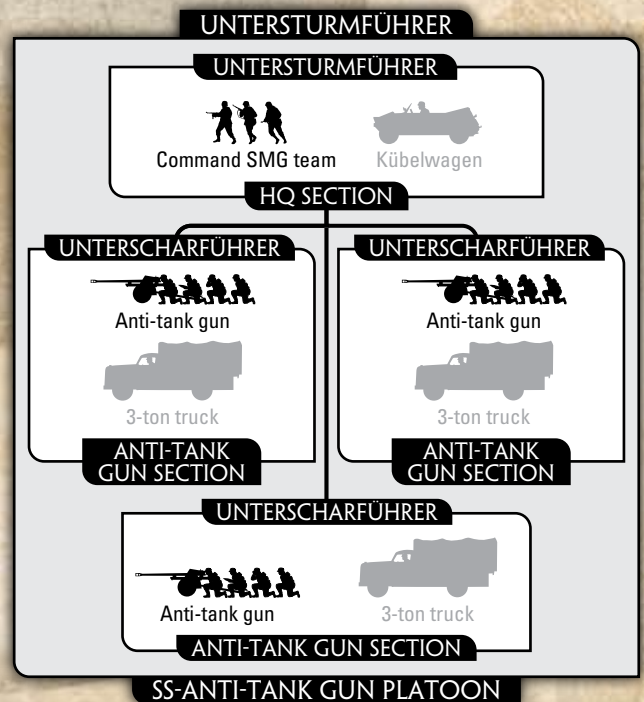
2 5cm PaK38 50 points

OPTION

- Add Kübelwagen jeep and 3-ton trucks for +5 points for the platoon.

The 7.5cm PaK40 gun has become the standard anti-tank gun of the SS divisions. The hard hitting PaK40 will destroy almost any tank the enemy cares to put in range of them.

Place your anti-tank assets in good cover behind your front lines, then spring your ambush when the enemy tanks close to overrun your position. Your concentrated fire will stop the assault in its tracks.



SS-Anti-tank Gun Platoons may make Combat Attachments to SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier Combat Platoons.

SS-SCOUT PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with

2 Scout Squads	110 points
1 Scout Squad	65 points

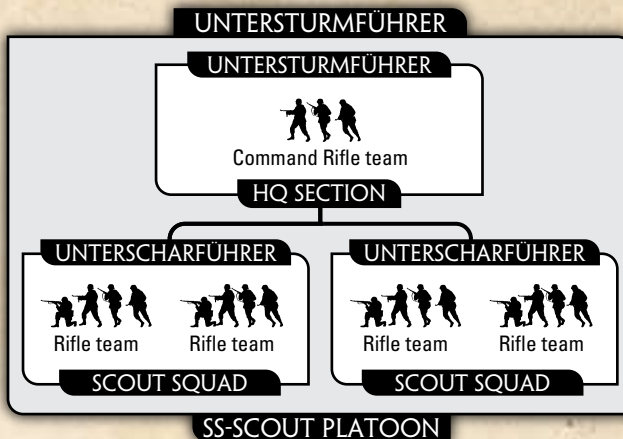
OPTIONS

- Replace the Command Rifle team with a Command Panzerknacker SMG team for +15 points.
- Replace all Rifle teams with Assault Rifle teams for +15 points per team.
- Replace the Command Assault Rifle team with a Command Panzerknacker Assault Rifle team for +5 points.

The Estonians come from a country of forests, rivers, lakes and coastal islands. Estonians are naturally attuned to the outdoors making them natural scouts. They know their countryside well. Many of the scout would have spent time

in the field fighting the Reds and know their predictable movements well.

Use your scouts to uncover enemy ambushes. They can also probe forward to delay the advancing enemy units before disappearing back towards the defensive line.



SS-Scout Platoons are Reconnaissance Platoons.

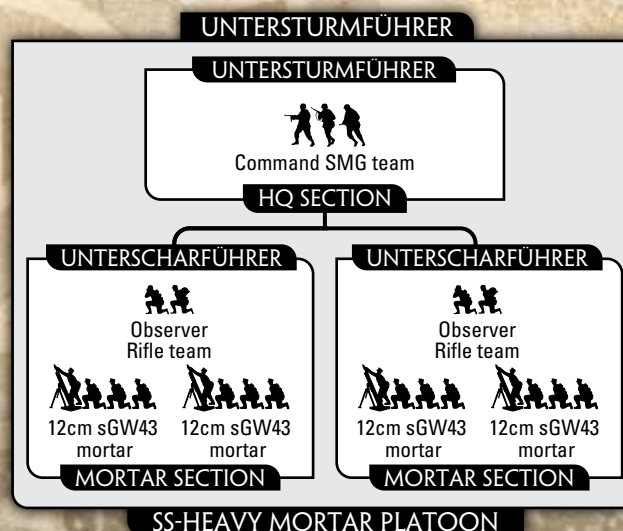
SS-HEAVY MORTAR PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

2 Mortar Sections	140 points
1 Mortar Section	80 points

The support of the heavy mortars pays dividends against stubborn dug-in enemy positions. The larger highexplosive round and longer range are effective against the enemy while they form up in their start positions before launching their next attack.



20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision

45. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierregiment '1. Estland'

- 13. Kompanie (2x 15cm sIG33 guns, 6x 7.5cm leIG18 guns)
- 14. Kompanie (3x 7.5cm PaK40 guns, 3x 5cm PaK38 guns, 18 8.8cm Panzerschreck)
- Schwere Granatwefer Kompanie (8x 12cm sGW43 mortars)

I/45. Bataillon

- 1. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 2. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 3. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 4. Kompanie (8x HMG's, 6x 8cm GW34 mortars)

II/45. Bataillon

- 5. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 6. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 7. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 8. Kompanie (8x HMG's, 6x 8cm GW34 mortars)

III/45. Bataillon

- 9. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 10. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 11. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 12. Kompanie (8x HMG's, 6x 8cm GW34 mortars)

46. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierregiment '2. Estland'

- 13. Kompanie (2x 15cm sIG33 guns, 6x 7.5cm leIG18 guns)
- 14. Kompanie (3x 7.5cm PaK40 guns, 3x 5cm PaK38 guns, 18 8.8cm Panzerschreck)
- Schwere Granatwefer Kompanie (8x 12cm sGW43 mortars)

I/46. Bataillon

- 1. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 2. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 3. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 4. Kompanie (8x HMG's, 6x 8cm GW34 mortars)

II/46. Bataillon

- 5. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 6. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 7. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 8. Kompanie (8x HMG's, 6x 8cm GW34 mortars)

III/46. Bataillon

- 9. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 10. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 11. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 12. Kompanie (8x HMG's, 6x 8cm GW34 mortars)

The third regiment, 47. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierregiment '3. Estland', was formed from the 659. and 658. Estland battalions who had been transferred from the Heer. This regiment wasn't fully formed until 24 April 1944.

20. SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilier Bataillon

- 1. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 2. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 3. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 4. Kompanie (8x HMG's, 6x 8cm GW34 mortars, 4x 7.5cm leFH18 gun)

20. SS-Freiwilligen-Flakabteilung

(4x 8.8cm FlaK36 guns, 18x 2cm FlaK38 guns)

20. SS-Freiwilligen-Artillerieregiment

II/20. Bataillon

(12x 10.5cm leFH18 field howitzers)

II/20. Bataillon

(12x 10.5cm leFH18 field howitzers)

III/20. Bataillon

(12x 10.5cm leFH18 field howitzers)

IV/20. Bataillon

(12x 15cm sFH18 field howitzers)

20. SS-Panzerjägerabteilung

(Not completed until July 1944)

20. SS-Freiwilligen-Pionier Battalion

- 1. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 2. Kompanie (9x MG's)
- 3. Kompanie (9x MG's, Bicycles)

In June 1944 the division's name was changed to 20. SS-Waffen-Grenadierdivision and all the it units with *Freiwilligen* in the title had this changed to *Waffen*.



Top: The unpopular German pattern Collar patch worn by Estonian members of the division instead of the SS runes.



Final SS pattern Estonian shield introduced about June 1944.



A variation of the Heer pattern Estonian national shield worn by SS and Heer troops.

Bottom: The more popular Estonian designed mailed arm, sword & 'E' pattern.

SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilierkompanie

SS VOLUNTEER LIGHT INFANTRY COMPANY

(INFANTRY COMPANY)

HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS



SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilierkompanie HQ

You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoons from each box shaded grey.

COMBAT PLATOONS

INFANTRY



SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilier Platoon

INFANTRY



SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilier Platoon

INFANTRY



SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilier Platoon

ALLIED PLATOONS



Heer Platoons in your force are Allies and follow the Allies rules on page 70 of the rulebook.

WEAPONS PLATOONS

MACHINE-GUNS



SS-Füsilier Machine-gun Platoon

MACHINE-GUNS



SS-Füsilier Machine-gun Platoon

ARTILLERY



SS-Füsilier Mortar Platoon

ARTILLERY



SS-Füsilier Infantry Gun Platoon

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

ARMOUR



Heer Heavy Tank Platoon

Heer Tank-hunter Platoon

ARMOUR



SS-Panzer Platoon

Heer Anti-tank Gun Platoon

INFANTRY



SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier Platoon

SS-Pioneer Platoon

Luftwaffe Jäger Platoon

MORTARS



SS-Heavy Mortar Platoon

ARTILLERY



SS-Artillery Battery

ARTILLERY



SS-Rocket Launcher Battery

SS-Vielfachwerfer Battery

ANTI-AIRCRAFT



SS-Anti-aircraft Gun Platoon

ANTI-AIRCRAFT



Heavy SS-Anti-aircraft Gun Platoon

AIRCRAFT



Air Support

MOTIVATION AND SKILL

In April 1943 the 1st Battalion of the Estonian Legion was redesignated the Freiwilligen-Bataillon Narwa and sent to the 5. SS-Panzer Grenadierdivision 'Wiking' where they replaced the Finns. They fought with this elite unit until July 1944 when they returned to Estonia to become the Füsilierbataillon of the 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision. A SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilierkompanie from 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision is rated Fearless Veteran.

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	TRAINED
FEARLESS	VETERAN

HEADQUARTERS

SS-FREIWILLIGEN-FÜSILIERKOMPANIE HQ

HEADQUARTERS

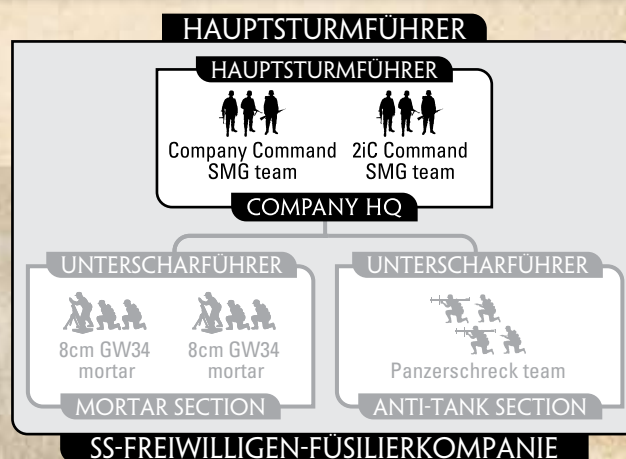
Company HQ 55 points

OPTIONS

- Replace either or both Command SMG teams with Command Panzerknacker SMG teams for +5 points per team or Command Panzerfaust SMG teams for +10 points per team.
- Add an Anti-tank Section for +30 points.
- Add a Mortar Section for +60 points.
- Add up to three Sniper team for +50 points per team.

The 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilier Bataillon was one of the last units formed for the 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision. It was formed around the returning Estonian veterans of the Freiwilligen-Bataillon Narwa who had been serving with the SS-Division 'Wiking'. During June to July 1944 the battalion was formed around these hardened veterans.

The role of the Füsilier was to provide a level of divisional re-



connaissance. They undertook scouting of enemy positions, capturing prisoners for intelligence gathering and locating enemy troop concentrations.

However, due to the defensive nature of the fighting on the Narva front they found themselves either thrown into the line or used as an elite reserve. Their Estonian brothers had been fighting on the Narva line since February 1944 and their arrival in July would have been welcomed relief.

COMBAT PLATOONS

SS-FREIWILLIGEN-FÜSILIER PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with

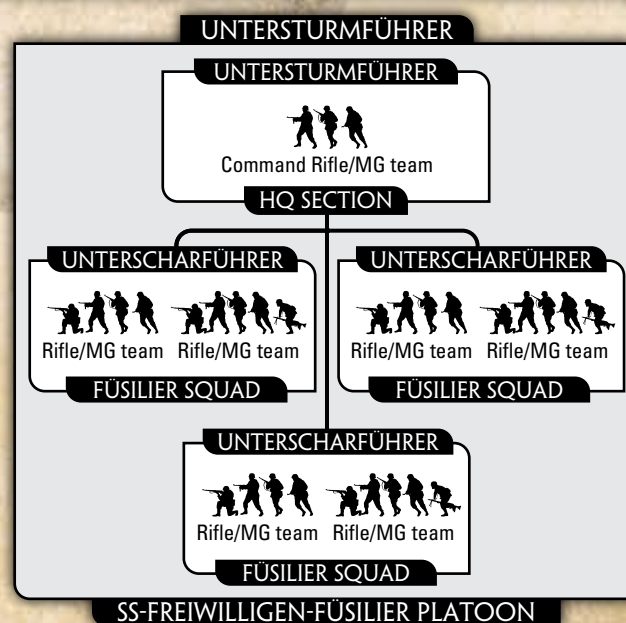
3 Füsilier Squads 185 points
2 Füsilier Squads 135 points

OPTIONS

- Replace the Command Rifle/MG team with a Command Panzerknacker SMG team for +5 points or Command Panzerfaust SMG team for +10 points.
- Upgrade all teams in the platoon to Reconnaissance teams for +15 points per Fusilier Squad.

Only one SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilier Platoon in a SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilierkompanie may be upgraded to Reconnaissance teams.

Because what reconnaissance is undertaken by the SS-Freiwilligen-Füsilier Platoons is usually short range the company only deploys one of its platoons in this role while the remaining platoons hold the line.



These veterans are also adept at conventional warfare, and easily hold their own fighting alongside the Grenadiers.

WEAPONS PLATOONS

SS-FÜSILIER MACHINE-GUN PLATOON

PLATOON

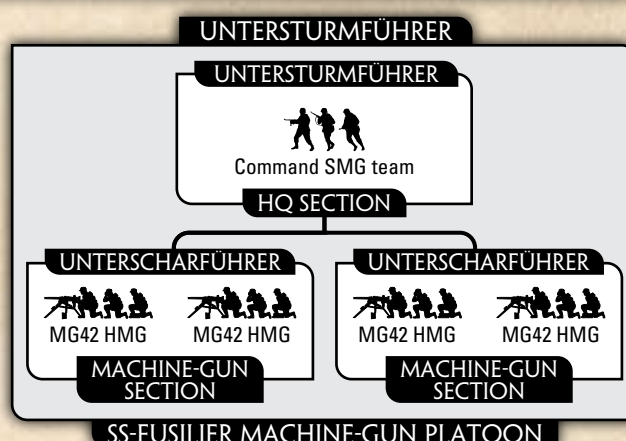
HQ Section with

2 Machine-gun Sections	150 points
1 Machine-gun Section	80 points

OPTION

- Replace Command SMG team with a Command Panzerknacker SMG team for +5 points.

SS-Fusilier Machine-gun Platoons may make Combat Attachments to Combat Platoons.



SS-FÜSILIER MACHINE-GUN PLATOON

The sMG42 heavy machine-gun provides sustained fire to support the Füsilier battalion's platoons.

SS-FÜSILIER MORTAR PLATOON

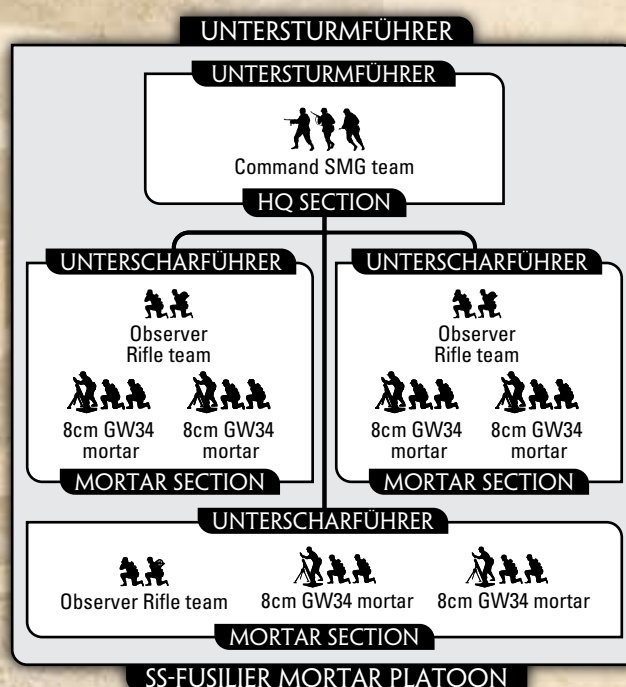
PLATOON

HQ Section with:

3 Mortar Sections	210 points
2 Mortar Sections	150 points
1 Mortar Section	80 points

You may only field a SS-Füsilier Mortar Platoon if you have not taken 8cm GW34 mortars in the Company HQ.

The Füsilier battalion has its own mortar platoons to support it with 8cm GW34 mortars. The 8cm GW34 mortar fire a high-explosive round idea for dealing with the Soviet masses advancing across open ground. The mortar's smoke round can also be used to obscure the enemies line-of-sight during counterattacks and reconnaissance actions.



SS-FÜSILIER MORTAR PLATOON

SS-FÜSILIER INFANTRY GUN PLATOON

PLATOON

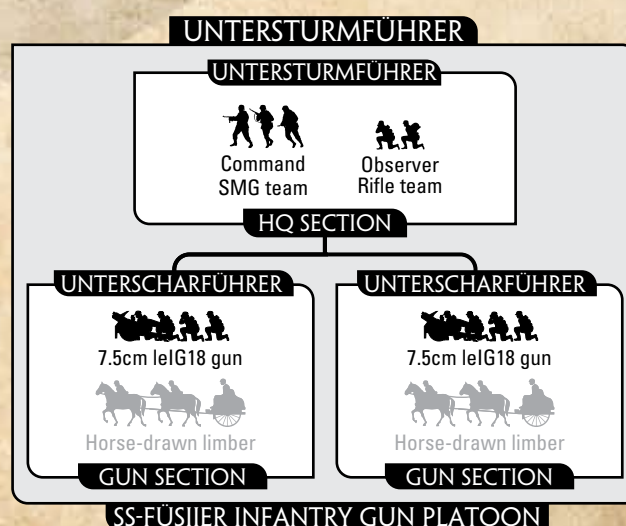
HQ Section with:

2 Infantry Gun Sections	75 points
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OPTION

- Add horse-drawn limbers for +5 points for the platoon.
- Replace both horse-drawn limbers with 3-ton trucks or RSO tractors at no cost.

The Füsilier battalion also had its own light infantry guns to provided indirect and direct fire support.



SS-FÜSILIER INFANTRY GUN PLATOON

Estonian Divisional Support

MOTIVATION AND SKILL

Companies of the 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision were supported by troops from their divisional support battalions. Estonian Divisional Support Platoons are rated Fearless Trained.

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	TRAINED
FEARLESS	VETERAN

SS-PIONEER PLATOON

PLATOON

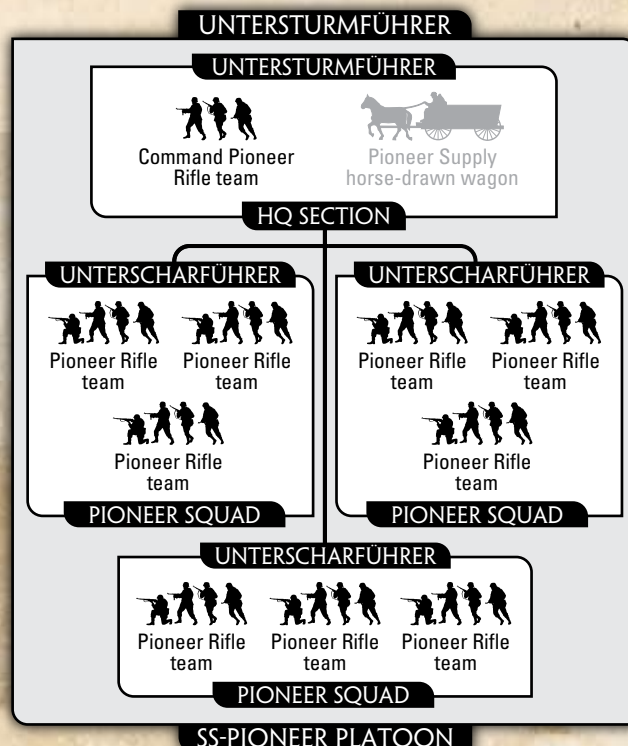
HQ Section with

3 Pioneer Squads	215 points
2 Pioneer Squads	150 points
1 Pioneer Squad	85 points

OPTIONS

- Replace the Command Pioneer Rifle team with a Command Pioneer Panzerknacker SMG team for +5 points or Command Pioneer Panzerfaust SMG team for +10 points.
- Equip one Pioneer Rifle team with a Goliath demolition carrier in addition to its normal weapons for +30 points.
- Add Pioneer Supply horse-drawn wagon for +20 points or Pioneer Supply RSO tractor for +25 points.

SS-Freiwilligen Pionierabteilung 20 provides the division's engineering capability. These troops roles include field engineering, laying and clearing minefields and other defences as well as leading attacks as assault engineers.



You may replace up to one Pioneer Rifle team per Pioneer Squad with a Flame-thrower team at the start of the game before deployment.

HEAVY SS-ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

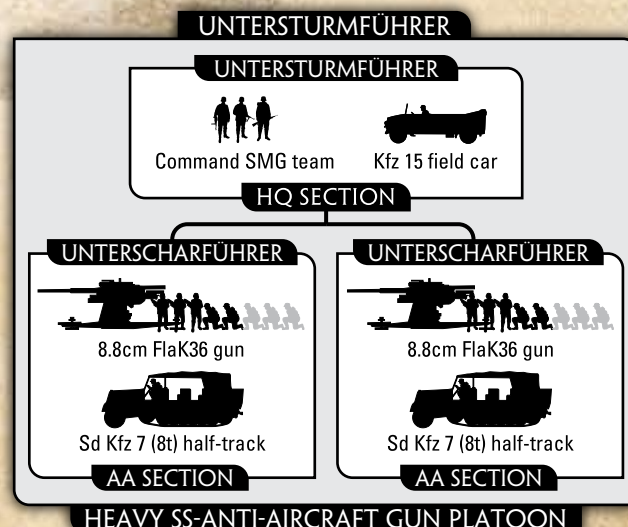
2 Anti-aircraft Sections	140 points
1 Anti-aircraft Section	75 points

OPTION

- Model 8.8cm Flak 36 anti-aircraft guns with 8 or more crew and increase their ROF to 3 for +10 points per gun.

Good tactical placement of the 8.8cm Flak 36 heavy anti-aircraft gun goes a long way in channelling the enemy towards your desired killing zones. Their long range and high rate of fire, especially with additional crew, can have a decisive result on the battle's outcome.

They can provide the ambush or over-watch support needed



to break the back of enemy armoured spearheads. Placing them in cover helps conceal them from enemy reconnaissance and air attack.

SS-ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with

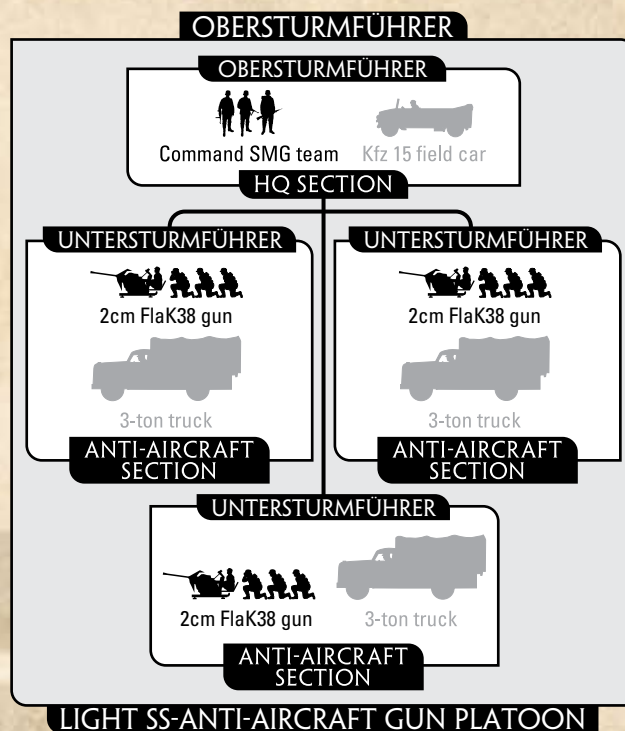
3 Anti-aircraft Sections

60 points

OPTIONS

- Add Kfz 15 Field Car and 3-ton trucks for +5 points for the platoon.

The 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision was fortunate in having its own FlaKabteilung equipped with 8.8cm FlaK36 heavy anti-aircraft guns and 2cm FlaK38 light anti-aircraft guns. The Estonians retained this unit until it was destroyed in the final fighting in Estonia in September 1944.



SS-ARTILLERY BATTERY

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

4 10.5cm leFH18

185 points

2 10.5cm leFH18

100 points

HQ Section with:

4 15cm sFH18

275 points

2 15cm sFH18

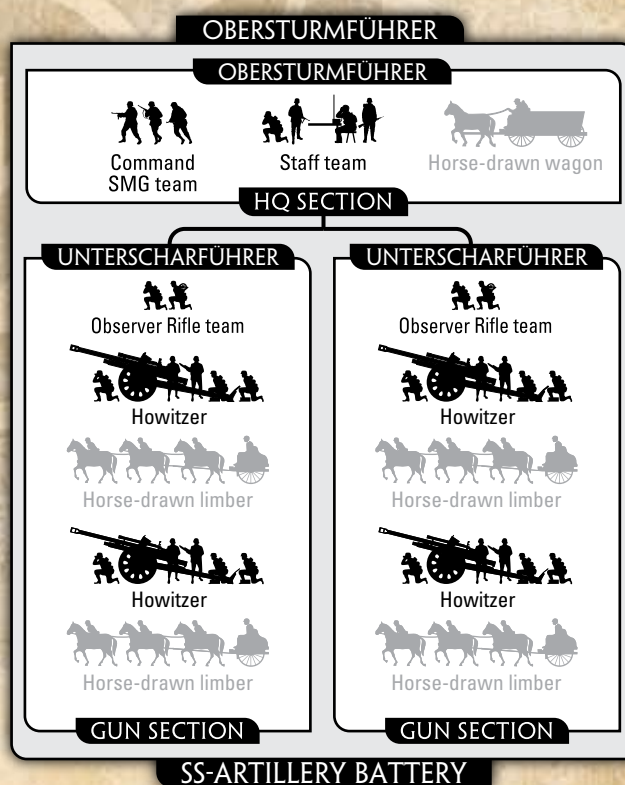
140 points

OPTIONS

- Add horse-drawn wagon, and horse-drawn limbers for +5 points for the platoon.
- Replace all horse-drawn limbers and wagons with RSO tractors at no cost.

SS-Artillery Batteries equipped with 15cm sFH18 guns may not be placed in Ambush within 16"/40cm of enemy teams.

The role of artillery is to pound the enemy into submission. Firing bombardment after bombardment, they will eventually destroy any target. Their bombardments cripple enemy attacks as losses mount and troops are pinned to the ground unable to advance.



German Divisional Support

MOTIVATION AND SKILL

Companies of the 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision were also supported by troops of the III SS-Panzerkorps and Army Group Narva. Unless otherwise noted, German Divisional Support Platoons are rated **Fearless Veteran**.

These platoons use the German Special Rules on pages 241 to 245 of the rulebook.

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	TRAINED
FEARLESS	VETERAN

HEER HEAVY TANK PLATOON

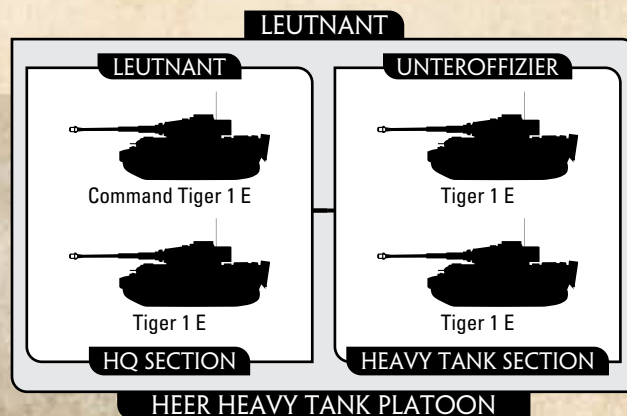
PLATOON

4 Tiger I E	860 points
3 Tiger I E	645 points
2 Tiger I E	430 points
1 Tiger I E	215 points

Remember to roll for your Tiger Ace Skills before each game.

Heer Heavy Tank Platoons are Army troops, not SS. They are Allies to the SS and follow the Allies rules in the rulebook. They are rated as **Confident Veteran**.

CONFIDENT VETERAN



502. Schwere Panzerabteilung supported the troops of Army Group Narva during the battles for Narva and the Tannenberg Line.

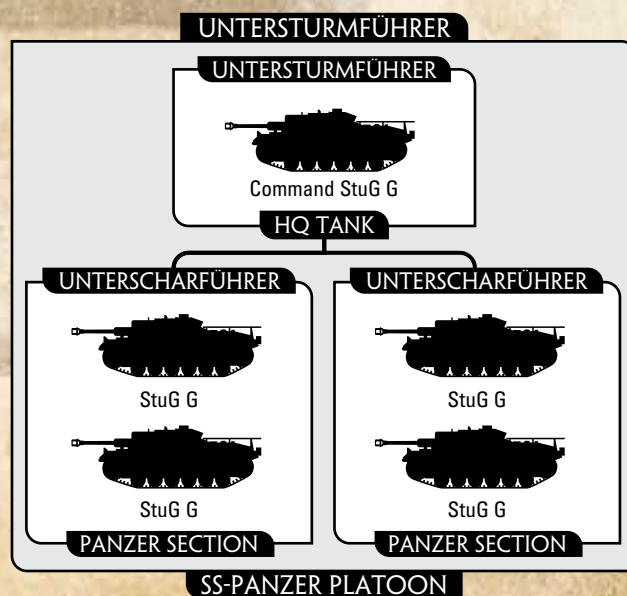
SS-PANZER PLATOON

PLATOON

5 StuG G	545 points
4 StuG G	435 points
3 StuG G	325 points
3 Panther D	610 points

The Panzerabteilung of the 11. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzerdivision 'Nordland' was armed with StuG III G assault guns. They also had one company of old Panthers meant to be used for static defence, but repair crews managed to get a number running. On occasion these assault guns and tanks also supported the troops of the 20. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision.

If a company with SS-Panzer Platoon armed with Panther D tanks is defending in a Mission with the Prepared Positions special rule they may be deployed in Tank Pits (see page 216 of the rulebook).



HEER TANK-HUNTER PLATOON

PLATOON

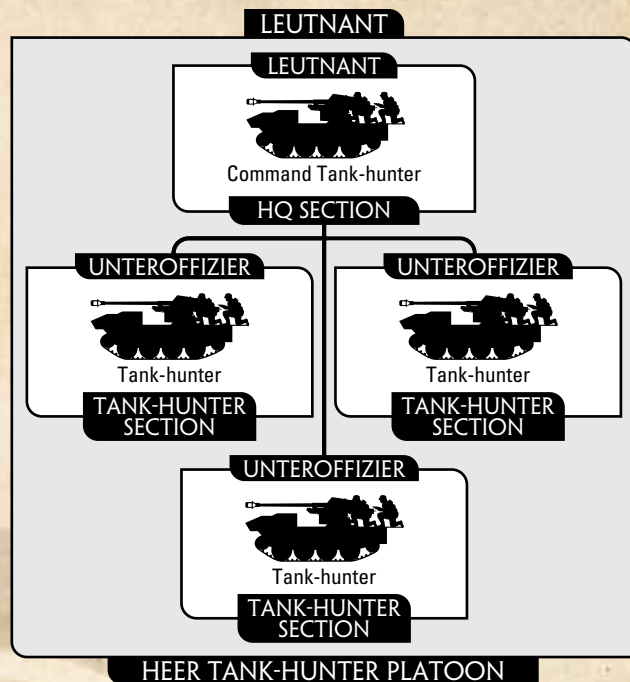
4 7.5cm PaK40 auf RSO	225 points
3 7.5cm PaK40 auf RSO	170 points
2 7.5cm PaK40 auf RSO	115 points
4 Hetzer	340 points
3 Hetzer	255 points
2 Hetzer	170 points

Heer Tank-hunter Platoons are Army troops, not SS. They are Allies to the SS and follow the Allies rules on page 70 of the rulebook and retain all normal German Special rules. They are rated as

CONFIDENT VETERAN

Some of the troops of the 752. *Panzerjägerabteilung* were armed with the 7.5cm PaK40 auf RSO. This unit was assigned to Army Group Narva and provided support to the various units fighting on the Narva front.

They were issued eight 7.5cm PaK40 auf RSO for trials. It is an improvised self-propelled gun mounting a good anti-tank gun on the reliable RSO tractor chassis.



The Estonian *SS-Panzerjagerabteilung 20* had a company of Hetzer tank-hunters attached to it. It had 120 German crew with 15 Estonian drivers. By April 1945 it was down to just one Hetzer.

HEER ANTI-TANK GUN PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

4 7.5cm PaK40	205 points
3 7.5cm PaK40	155 points
2 7.5cm PaK40	105 points

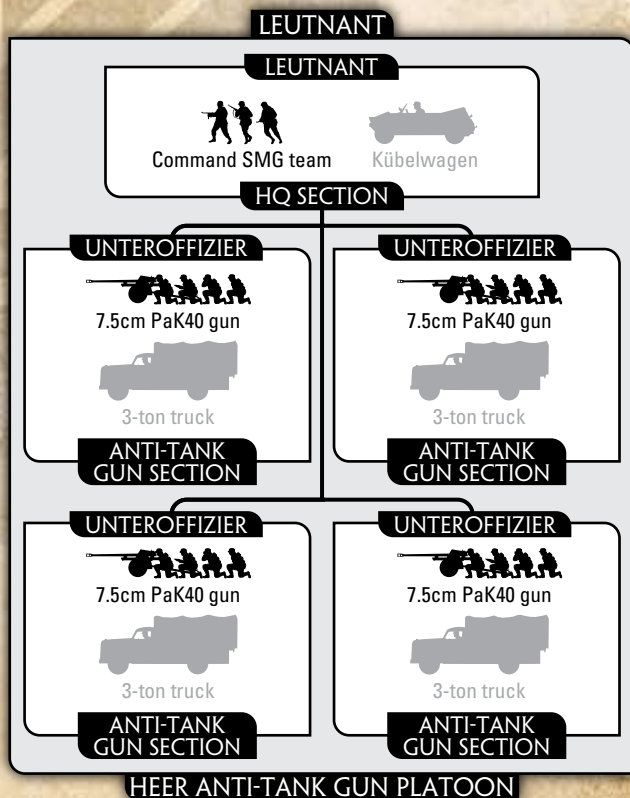
OPTION

- Add Kübelwagen jeep and 3-ton trucks for +5 points for the platoon.

The rest of 752. *Panzerjägerabteilung* were armed with the 7.5cm PaK40 guns. They supported the various units of Army Group Narva including the Estonian 20. *SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadierdivision*.

Heer Anti-tank Gun Platoons are Army troops, not SS. They are Allies to the SS and follow the Allies rules on page 70 of the rulebook and retain all normal German Special rules. They are rated as

CONFIDENT VETERAN



LUFTWAFFE JÄGER PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with

3 Jäger Squads	120 points
2 Jäger Squads	85 points

OPTIONS

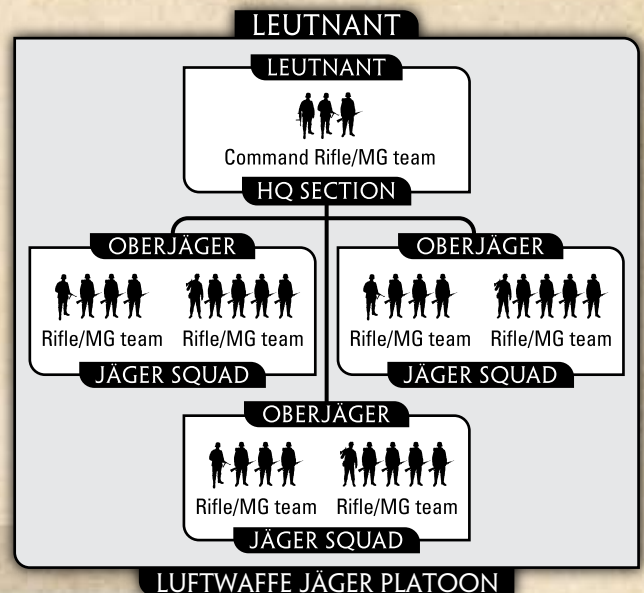
- Replace the Command Rifle/MG team with a Command Panzerknacker SMG team for +5 points.

The Estonian supported 9. Luftwaffe Feld Division and 10. Luftwaffefeld Division during their fighting at the Siiverti bridgehead.

The 9. Luftwaffefeld Division and 10. Luftwaffefeld Division are rated as **Confident Trained**.

CONFIDENT

TRAINED



SS-VIELFACHWERFER BATTERY

PLATOON

HQ Section with

8 Vielfachwerfer auf Maultier	250 points
6 Vielfachwerfer auf Maultier	195 points
4 Vielfachwerfer auf Maultier	130 points
3 Vielfachwerfer auf Maultier	100 points
2 Vielfachwerfer auf Maultier	75 points

OPTIONS

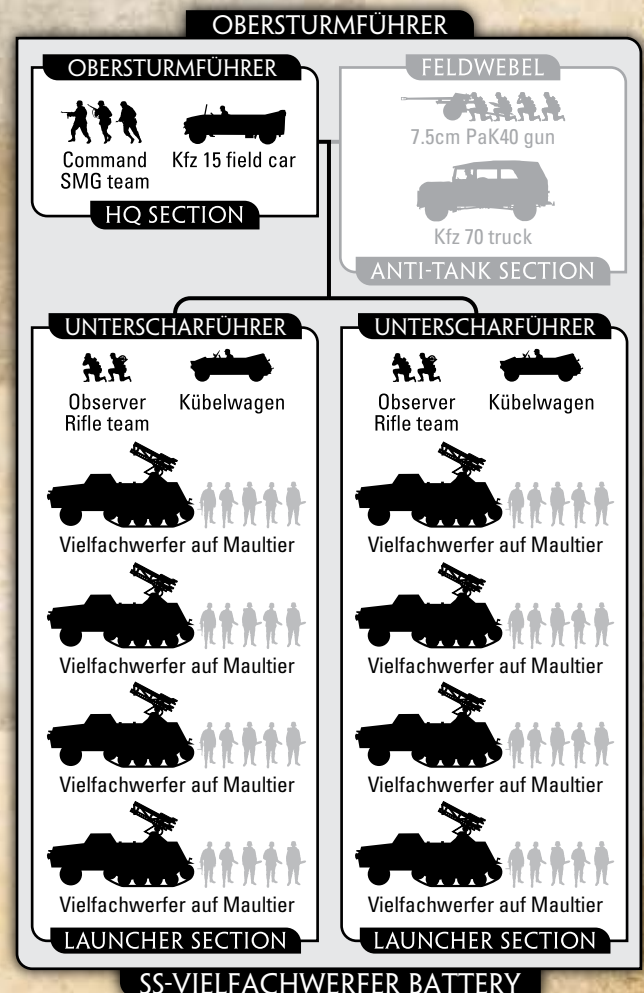
- Model Vielfachwerfer auf Maultier rocket launchers with 5 or more crew and count each rocket launcher as two weapons when firing a bombardment for +5 points per launcher.
- Add Anti-tank Section for +55 points.

DEVASTATING BOMBARDMENT

A Vielfachwerfer rocket launcher signals the beginning of your counterattack or offensive. They are very effective against Infantry in the open.

See Bigger and Smaller Batteries on page 131 and Rocket Launchers on page 138 of the rulebook.

SS-Vielfachwerfer Batteries use the Armoured Rocket Launcher special rule on page 245 of the rulebook.



SS-ROCKET LAUNCHER BATTERY

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

6 15cm NW41 rocket launcher	235 points
4 15cm NW41 rocket launcher	165 points
3 15cm NW41 rocket launcher	115 points
2 15cm NW41 rocket launcher	85 points

OPTIONS

- Add Kfz 15 field car and Sd Kfz 11 half-tracks for +5 points for the battery.
- Add an Anti-tank Section for +55 points.

Utilizing the 15cm NW41 *Nebelwerfer* to support your operations provides a cost-effective way to target, destroy, or at least pin down advancing Soviet infantry formations. Continuous fire from these batteries can completely wipe-out an entire Soviet battalion before it can reach your front lines.

The *Nebelwerfer* is a very cost-effective weapon capable of providing devastating rocket artillery for your defensive positions. Placing them behind terrain away from the prying eyes of enemy reconnaissance will keep them available for the ensuing battle.

OBERSTURMFÜHRER

OBERSTURMFÜHRER



Command
SMG team



Kfz 15 field car

HQ SECTION

UNTERSCHARFÜHRER



7.5cm PaK40 gun



Kfz 70 truck

ANTI-TANK SECTION

UNTERSCHARFÜHRER



Observer
Rifle team



Kübelwagen



15cm NW41 rocket launcher



Sd Kfz 11 half-track



15cm NW41 rocket launcher



Sd Kfz 11 half-track



15cm NW41 rocket launcher



Sd Kfz 11 half-track

LAUNCHER SECTION

UNTERSCHARFÜHRER



Observer
Rifle team



Kübelwagen



15cm NW41 rocket launcher



Sd Kfz 11 half-track



15cm NW41 rocket launcher



Sd Kfz 11 half-track



15cm NW41 rocket launcher



Sd Kfz 11 half-track

LAUNCHER SECTION

SS-ROCKET LAUNCHER BATTERY

AIR SUPPORT

SPORADIC AIR SUPPORT

Hs 129B	115 points
Hs 129B3	115 points
Ju 87D Stuka	100 points
Ju 87G Stuka	100 points

LEUTNANT

LEUTNANT



Aircraft

FLIGHT

FLIGHT

German Arsenal

TANK TEAMS

Name <i>Weapon</i>	Mobility <i>Range</i>	Front <i>ROF</i>	Armour Side <i>Anti-tank</i>	Top <i>Firepower</i>	Equipment and Notes
TANKS					
Panther D <i>7.5cm KwK42 gun</i>	Standard Tank <i>32"/80cm</i>	10 2	5 14	1 3+	Co-ax MG, Hull MG, Wide tracks, Unreliable.
Tiger I E <i>8.8cm KwK36 gun</i>	Slow Tank <i>40"/100cm</i>	9 2	8 13	2 3+	Co-ax MG, Hull MG, Protected ammo, Wide tracks. <i>Slow traverse.</i>

ASSAULT GUNS

StuG G <i>7.5cm StuK40 gun</i>	Standard Tank <i>32"/80cm</i>	7 2	3 11	1 3+	Hull MG, Protected ammo, Schürzen. <i>Hull mounted.</i>
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TANK-HUNTERS

PaK40 auf RSO <i>7.5cm PaK40 gun</i>	Slow Tank <i>32"/80cm</i>	0 2	0 12	0 3+	<i>Hull mounted.</i>
Hetzer <i>7.5cm PaK39 gun</i>	Standard Tank <i>32"/80cm</i>	7 2	2 11	1 3+	Hull MG, Overloaded. <i>Hull mounted.</i>

ARTILLERY (SP)

Vielfachwerfer auf Maultier <i>8cm rocket launcher</i>	Half-tracked <i>56"/140cm</i>	1 -	0 2	0 6	AA MG, Armoured rocket launcher. <i>Rocket launcher.</i>
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VEHICLE MACHINE-GUNS

<i>Vehicle MG</i>	<i>16"/40cm</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>ROF 1 if other weapons fire.</i>
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GUN TEAMS

Weapon	Mobility	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower	Notes
MG42 HMG	Man-packed	24"/60cm	6	2	6	ROF 3 when pinned down or moving.
8cm GW34 mortar <i>Firing bombardments</i>	Man-packed	24"/60cm 40"/100cm	2 -	2 2	3+ 6	Minimum range 8"/20cm, Smoke. Smoke bombardment.
12cm sGW43 mortar	Light	56"/140cm	-	3	3+	
2cm FlaK38 gun	Light	16"/40cm	4	5	5+	Anti-aircraft, Gun shield, Turntable.
7.5cm leIG18 gun <i>Firing bombardments</i>	Light	16"/40cm 48"/120cm	2 -	9 3	3+ 6	Gun shield, Smoke.
15cm sIG33 gun <i>Firing bombardments</i>	Heavy	16"/40cm 56"/140cm	1 -	13 4	1+ 2+	Bunker buster, Gun shield.
5cm PaK38 gun	Medium	24"/60cm	3	9	4+	Gun shield.
7.5cm PaK40 gun	Medium	32"/80cm	2	12	3+	Gun shield.
8.8cm FlaK36 gun	Immobile	40"/100cm	2	13	3+	Gun shield, Heavy anti-aircraft, Turntable.
10.5cm leFH18 howitzer <i>Firing bombardments</i>	Immobile	24"/60cm 72"/180cm	1 -	10 4	2+ 4+	Breakthrough gun, Gun shield, Smoke. Smoke bombardment.
15cm sFH18 howitzer <i>Firing bombardments</i>	Immobile	24"/60cm 80"/200cm	1 -	13 5	1+ 2+	Bunker buster, Smoke. Smoke bombardment.
15cm NW41 rocket launcher	Light	64"/160cm	-	3	4+	Rocket launcher, Smoke bombardment.

INFANTRY TEAMS

Team	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower	Notes
Rifle team	16"/40cm	1	2	6	
Rifle/MG team	16"/40cm	2	2	6	
SMG team	4"/10cm	3	1	6	Full ROF when moving.
Assault Rifle team	8"/20cm	3	1	6	Full ROF when moving.
Panzerschreck team	8"/20cm	2	11	5+	Tank Assault 5.
Flame-thrower team	4"/10cm	2	-	6	Flame-thrower.
Staff team	16"/40cm	1	2	6	Moves as a Heavy Gun team.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

Panzerfaust	4"/10cm	1	12	5+	Tank Assault 6, Cannot shoot in the Shooting Step if moved in the Movement Step.
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Pioneer teams are rated as Tank Assault 4. Panzerknacker teams are rated as Tank Assault 5.

TRANSPORT TEAMS

Vehicle Weapon	Mobility Range	Armour			Equipment and Notes
		Front ROF	Side Anti-tank	Top Firepower	

TRUCKS

BMW motorcycle & sidecar or Kübelwagen jeep	Jeep	-	-	-	Optional Passenger-fired hull MG.
Horch, Krupp, or Steyr Kfz 70 truck	Wheeled	-	-	-	
Opel Blitz 3-ton truck	Wheeled	-	-	-	
Opel Maultier	Half-tracked	-	-	-	
Opel Kfz 68 radio truck	Wheeled	-	-	-	
RSO	Slow Tank	-	-	-	

TRACTORS

Sd Kfz 10 (1t), Sd Kfz 11 (3t), or Sd Kfz 7 (8t) half-track	Half-tracked	-	-	-	
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AIRCRAFT

Aircraft	Weapon	To Hit	Anti-tank	Firepower	Notes
Hs 129B	Cannon	2+	9	4+	Flying Tank
Hs 129B3	Cannon	4+	15	3+	Flying Tank, No HE
	MG	3+	6	5+	
Ju 87D Stuka	Bombs	4+	5	1+	
Ju 87G Stuka	Cannon	3+	11	4+	