

INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING FOR HUNGARIAN CORPS TROOPS ON THE EASTERN FRONT 1942 TO 1943





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THE WORLD WAR II MINIATURES GAME

## Hungarian Don Front Corps Reserve Forces 1942 to 1943

With the onset of winter the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Armoured division was withdrawn to the front reserve covering both the Hungarian Second Army and the Italian Eighth Army and immediate reserve forces were organised from Divisional and Corps troops.

Both the *Huszár* units of the light divisions and corps and the Bicycle Infantry of the Corps were taken out of the immediate front line and placed behind them as a local reserve in case of breakthroughs and to counter penetrating raids.

When combined together a Hungarian corps had two battalions (6 companies) of *Huszár* cavalry and a further two companies of Bicycle Infantry.

To support these troops were small platoons of machine-guns, mortars and guns. In addition they had access to support from corps artillery and anti-aircraft batteries.

#### WINTER 1942 TO 1943

By mid September 1942 the Second Hungarian Army had settled into defensive positions along the Don River. Unfortunately a general lack defensive supplies like mines and barbed wire and a shortage of labour meant only the defensive areas immediately around the bridgeheads could be adequately fortified. The Don River itself was not the formidable obstacle it would seem, being shallow and easily wadeable in many places.

Supply problems plagued the Second Army, with both home and the Germans reluctant to give too much to the Hungarian troops in the front line. The Germans seeing their allies as a secondary priority and the Hungarian Government keen to withhold equipment and supplies to build up the Home Defence Army.

The weather also played a role, armoured troops complained that their 38(t) tanks needed time to warm-up in cold weather, and that if stationed to close the front lines any break-through couldn't be stopped if the tanks weren't up and running in time.

Several German units were moved into the area to support the Hungarians:

168. Infantriedivision

559. Panzerjager Abteilung (supporting above)

429. Infantrieregiment (between III and IV Corps facing Uryv)

After the neighbouring Romanian and Italian armies were crushed the Germans sent further reinforcements the Second Army sector, these included:

700. Herespanzerverband 190. Sturmgeschutz Abteilung 26. Infantriedivision These units along with *168. Infantriedivision* (168. ID) and the Hungarian 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Field Division were organised into Corps Cramer as the reserve for the sector.

#### THE SOVIET ATTACK

On 3 January 1943 the Soviets launched several probing attacks against the Second Hungarian and Eighth Italian Armies, these attacks were successfully fended off.

The storm broke over the Second Hungarian Army on 12 January. The 40<sup>th</sup> Soviet Army launched from the Uryv bridgehead into the 7<sup>th</sup> Light Division (7<sup>th</sup> LD) and the German 429. Infantrieregiment. The Germans and the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (7<sup>th</sup> LD) were able to hold their positions, but the 4th Infantry Regiment (7<sup>th</sup> LD) was overrun.

On this first day the Soviets were able to drive a 6km wide gap between the III and IV Corps, penetrating up to 3km. 13 January saw Soviet attacks concentrate on the 20th Light to the north of Uryv. The 20<sup>th</sup> Light were supported by the remains of the 7<sup>th</sup> Light and German 429. *IR*. At dawn both corners of the Uryv bulge were still held. A counter-attack was launched by the four battalions of the III Corps reserves supported by the German 700. *Herespanzerverband*. By the end of the day the German Panzer force had just four Panzer 38(t)s remaining. The Hungarian troops engaged had been smashed by continuous and un-relenting Soviet attacks.

The commander of the German 429 IR wrote in his report: 'The Hungarian troops had fought very well, and that the cause for the failure of the attempt lay with the helplessness of the Hungarian units against enemy armour and the freezing weather.' The Gap in the Hungarian lines had widened to 10km wide and 12km deep!

On January 14 the Soviet offensive got into full swing and thrusts were made from Stutye and Kantemirovka. The Soviet 18<sup>th</sup> Rifle Corps smashed through the 12<sup>th</sup> LD and moved towards Ostrogosk. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tank army attacked the *XXIV Panzerkorps* (26<sup>th</sup> Tank Corps) encountering resistance until they committed two tank corps against them, though progress was still slow.

The release of the German 168. *ID* from reserves on January 15 allowed the slowing in the Soviet advance on the southern flank, but to the north a continuous flow of Soviet troops poured through the gap. The remnants of the Hungarian III Corps now faced south, their western flank exposed. Other Divisions along the front were all under pressure. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> LD had been destroyed; the Second Hungarian Army sector was quickly running out of men.

On January 16 it was the 13<sup>th</sup> LD at Karotyak turn to come under pressure from the Soviet 40<sup>th</sup> Army. After heavy fighting they withdrew on Ostrogosk where they and the 10<sup>th</sup> LD and German *168. ID* became surrounded. The 10<sup>th</sup> LD lost its artillery to the Soviet 18<sup>th</sup> Rifle Corps when it couldn't be moved because of lack of horses. Corps Cramer launched a counter-attack. It stalled the advance of the Soviet 18<sup>th</sup> Rifle Corps, but it was called off when the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Field Division's flanks were exposed. The Soviets also began to get behind the positions of the VII Corps, the Second Hungarian Army ordered retreat before their position became too exposed.

Resistance continued in the north by the III Corps, with German reinforcement, on 17 January. The Soviet target was Alexeyevka and Ilovskoye, Ilovskoya was the gateway to the Hungarian retreat. Lead elements of the Soviets 40<sup>th</sup> Army reached the airfield at Ilovskoya around noon, but fierce resistance from the Hungarian Airforce ground crew forced them to withdraw.

The IV Corps was ordered to retreat on Ostrogosk. By evening all communication from the General Jány's Second Hungarian Army HQ were cut, and he no longer had contact with any of his units.

On 18 January Hitler declared Ostrogosk a fortress to be defended to the last man, trapped inside were the remainder of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> LD and German *168. ID* and corps troops from the III and IV Corps.

The VII Corps encountered the left wing of the Soviet 18<sup>th</sup> Rifle Corps while withdrawing and when Soviets tanks appeared to the south their retreat rapidly turned into a rout. The Soviets occupied Alexeyevka, but a counterattack by the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Field Division pushed the Soviets out. The Hungarian armour then joined the defence of Ilovskoye to the north.

On 19 and 20 January the defence of Alexeyevka, Ilovskoye and Ostrogosk continued, and on 20 January the Soviet 40<sup>th</sup> Tank Army turned its attention to the German 2. Armee to the north, leaving the 18<sup>th</sup> Rifle Corps and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tanks Army to finish off the Hungarian Second Army.

On January 21 contact was re-established with Ostrogosk and the last German and Hungarian troops were withdrawn to Novyi Oskol, meanwhile the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Field Division tenaciously held of continued attempts to take Alexeyevka. The remaining Hungarian troops in the Ostrogosk-Alexeyevka area were grouped together under Corps Cramer, and on 22 January they started withdrawing towards Budyenny and on to Novyi Oskol.

On 22 January the Hungarian Second Army ceased functioning as a command unit and was moved to the rear to reorganise the Hungarians. Those units still capable of fighting remained with Corps Cramer, under German command. On 25 January, Corps Cramer was reassigned the German *2. Armee*, at this time there was still 12,000 Hungarians fighting. As the front stabilised Hungarian units were sent to the rear where they began their reorganisation. The Hungarians wouldn't see any serious fighting again until 1944.

#### HUNGARIAN SPECIAL RULES

#### HUSZÁR

Descended from Magyar horsemen, Hungary has a strong cavalry tradition. Hungarian knights often stood alone against the Ottoman Turks as the defenders of Europe and during the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries they supplied the Habsburg Empire's elite light cavalry. Hungarian mobile troops are famed for their aggression and wide sweeping movements.

Hungarian platoons that are Huszár Platoons are indicated under those platoons.

Any Huszár Platoon with a Command team may attempt a Huszár move at the start of the Shooting Step instead of shooting. If a platoon attempts to make a Huszár move, it may not shoot even if it fails to make a Huszár move.

Roll a Skill test for each platoon:

- If the test is successful, the platoon may move another 4"/10cm,
- Otherwise the platoon cannot move this step.

All normal rules apply for this movement. Platoons cannot make Huszár moves if they are Pinned Down or have moved At the Double. Bogged Down or Bailed vehicles cannot make Huszár moves.

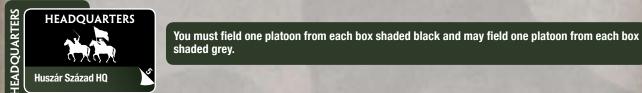
#### **PREPARING FOR THE COMING STORM**

The Hungarians have learnt harsh lessons on the Don front during the winter of 1942/43, so now when they prepare for defence they prepare well.

Hungarian platoons may re-roll failed Skill Tests to Dig In.

# Huszár Század

#### (MECHANISED COMPANY)





## HUNGARIAN 🛟

#### MOTIVATION AND SKILL

Huszárs are the famed light cavalry of Hungary. Like many nations in the age of modern warfare the Huszárs have adapted to fight on foot as equally well as they do on horse back. A Huszár Század is rated as Confident Trained.



## **HEADQUARTERS**

#### HUSZÁR SZÁZAD HO

#### **HEADQUARTERS**

**Company HQ** 

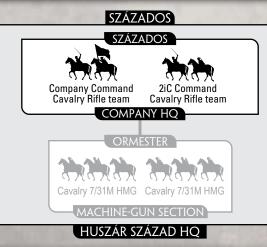
#### 25 points

#### **OPTIONS**

- Replace either or both Command Cavalry Rifle teams with Command Páncélvadász Cavalry Rifle teams for +5 points per team.
- Add Machine-gun Section for +40 points.

Each Division and Corps had Huszár cavalry available for reconnaissance and reserve duties, and in October 1942 these were pressed into reserve support the Infantry Corps deployed along the Don river.

A total of six Huszár companies (two battalions) were available to each Corps.

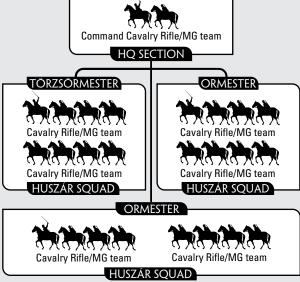


#### A Huszár Század HQ is a Huszár Platoon.

## COMBAT PLATOONS

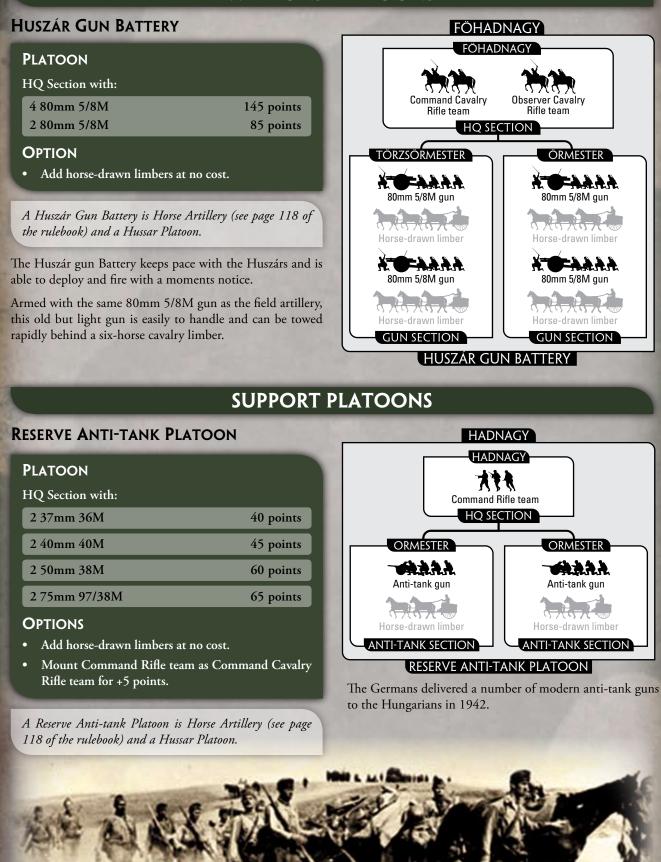
#### HUSZÁR PLATOON HADNAGY HADNAGY PLATOON HQ Section with: Command Cavalry Rifle/MG team 3 Huszár Squads 170 points HQ SECTION 2 Huszár Squads 120 points TÖR7 OPTION Replace Command Cavalry Rifle/MG team with a Command Páncélvadász Cavalry SMG team for +5 points. Cavalry Rifle/MG team Cavalry Rifle/MG team A Huszár Platoon is a Huszár and Reconnaissance Platoon. HUSZÁR SQUAD HUSZÁR SQUAD ORMESTER Hungary's famed cavalry the Huszárs continued their fine tradition on into the war, but they have retrained, and are

now just as capable on foot as they are on horseback. Now they are poised ready to stop any Soviet breakthrough.



#### HUSZÁR PLATOON

## WEAPONS PLATOONS





6

## HUNGARIAN

USZAR SZAZAD

#### CORPS MEDIUM HOWITZER BATTERY

#### PLATOON

HQ Section with:

4 149mm 14/31M	240 points
2 149mm 14/31M	125 points

#### **OPTIONS**

- Add horse-drawn wagon and limbers at no cost.
- Replace horse-drawn wagon with a 3-ton truck and horse-drawn limbers with artillery tractors for +5 points for the battery.

The artillery of the Infantry Corps consisted entirely of 149mm 14/35M Skoda Howitizers. These medium guns were used normally to support the lighter artillery when a little extra punch was required. With each Corps taking charge of its own front's reserves a few batteries could be called on to support any counter-attacks from the reserve forces.

#### PUSKÁS PLATOON

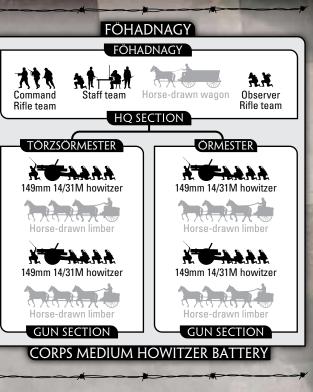
#### PLATOON

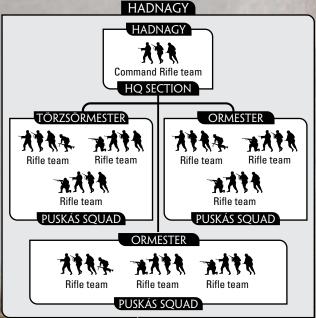
HQ	Section	with:
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3 Puskás Squads	120 points
2 Puskás Squads	85 points

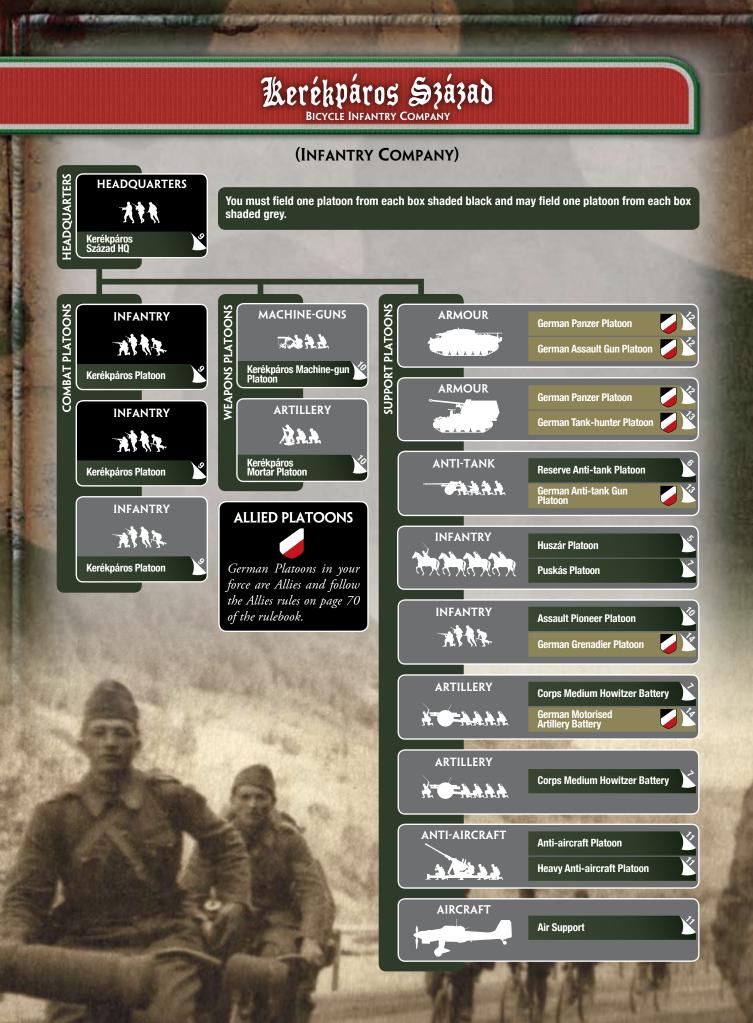
#### OPTION

- Replace Command Rifle team with a Command Páncélvadász Rifle team for +5 points, or a Command Páncélvadász SMG team for +10 points.
- Upgrade all Rifle teams to Rifle/MG teams for +15 points per Puskás Squad.





PUSKÁS PLATOON



## HUNGARIAN 🛟

#### MOTIVATION AND SKILL

The men of the Kerékpáros Század are some of the longest serving soldiers of Hungary's army. They are well trained and experienced soldiers. A Kerékpáros Század is rated as **Confident Trained**.



## HEADQUARTERS

#### Kerékpáros Század HQ

#### **HEADQUARTERS**

Company HQ

25 points

#### **OPTIONS**

- Replace the Command Rifle teams with Command Páncélvadász Rifle teams for +5 points per team.
- Add Light Mortar Section for +30 points.

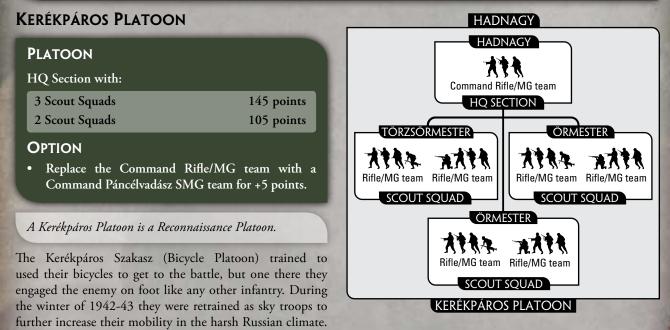
Each Hungarian Corps had a compliment of Bicycle troops (2 Companies) who fulfilled the reconnaissance role alongside the cavalry as well as acting as an infantry reserve. These companies of infantry also come with supporting platoons of mortars and machine-guns. When acting as reserve they could call on some of the Corps assets to assist them in battle, Huszárs, medium artillery, anti-aircraft and pioneers were available to help the stop any Soviet breakthrough.

They also used their skill and mobility to spy-out the enemy

positions.



### COMBAT PLATOONS



## WEAPONS PLATOONS

#### KERÉKPÁROS MACHINE-GUN PLATOON

#### PLATOON

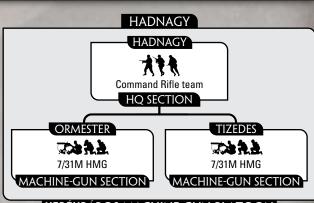
HQ Section with:

2 Machine-gun Sections

60 points

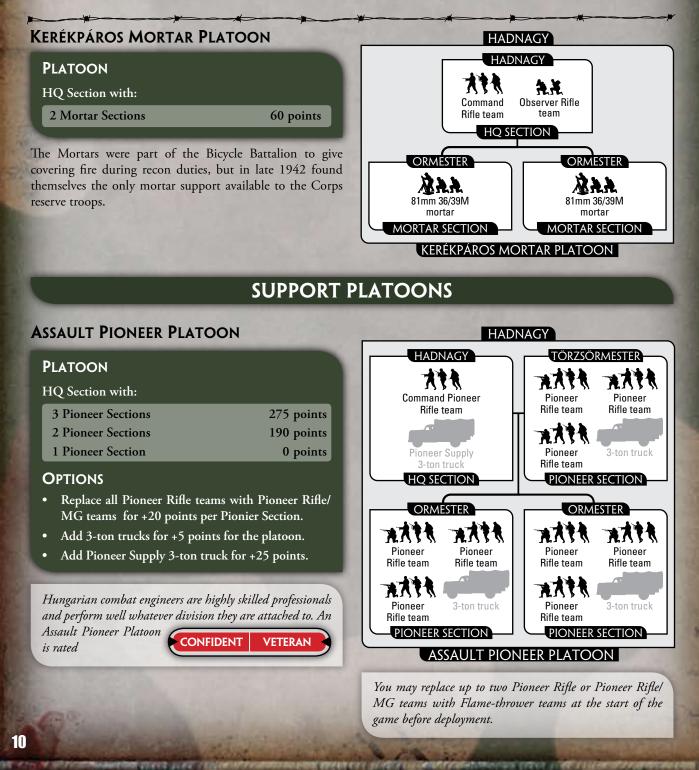
A Kerékpáros Machine-gun Platoon may make Combat Attachments to Combat Platoons.

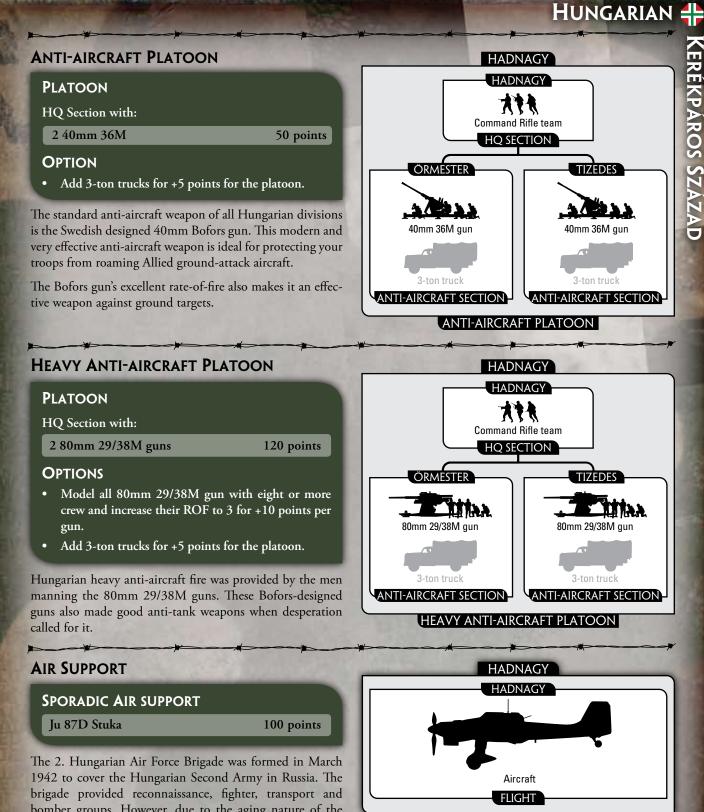
The Bicycle Battalion also had a small Machine-gun Platoon to support the Kerékpáros Platoons during large reconnaissance operations, giving covering fire and allowing the infanty to disengage from larger enemy forces.



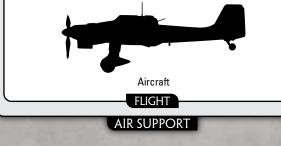
#### KERÉKPÁROS MACHINE-GUN PLATOON

During their duty in reserve they are the only machine-gun support available to the Bicycle Battalions.





bomber groups. However, due to the aging nature of the Hungarian air fleet direct air support was provided by the German Luftwaffe armed with Ju 87D dive bombers.



11

## German Support

#### **MOTIVATION AND SKILL**

During the fighting on the Don River the Hungarian infantry formations were supported by German troops. The Germans are rated **Confident Veteran**, and are Allied Platoons.

#### **GERMAN PANZER PLATOON**

Platoon	
5 Panzer 38(t)	300 points
4 Panzer 38(t)	240 points
3 Panzer 38(t)	180 points

On 13 January a counter-attack was launched at the Uryv bulge by the four battalions of the III Corps reserves supported by the German 700. Herespanzerverband. By the end of the day the German Panzer force had just four Panzer 38(t)s remaining. The Hungarian troops engaged had been smashed by continuous and un-relenting Soviet attacks.

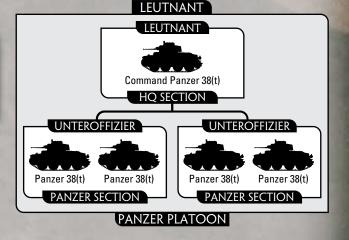
#### GERMAN ASSAULT GUN PLATOON

Platoon	
3 StuG E	280 points
2 StuG E	190 points
3 StuG F	420 points
2 StuG F	280 points
3 StuG F/8, G, StuH42	510 points
2 StuG F/8, G, StuH42	340 points
2 StuG G and 1 StuH42	510 points
1 StuG G and 1 StuH42	340 points

#### OPTION

• Add Schürzen side skirts to any StuG F/8, StuG G assault guns or StuH42 assault howitzers for +5 points per gun.

The Geram artillery devised the concept of the *Begleitbatterie* (escort battery) to support the advancing infantry better than the towed infantry guns could. The StuG assault gun fit this need for an armoured self-propelled gun to work under infantry control. Assault guns were crewed by artillerymen.

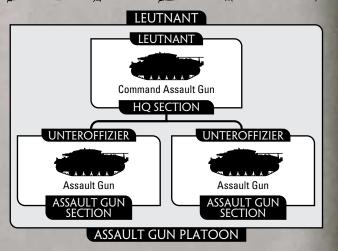


RELUCTANT

CONFIDENT

CONSCRIPT

VETERAN



## HUNGARIAN

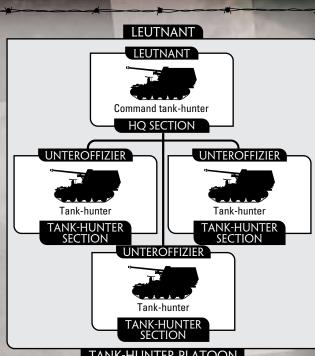
GERMAN SUPPOR

#### **GERMAN TANK-HUNTER PLATOON**

#### DIATOON

PLATOON	
4 Marder I	290 points
3 Marder I	220 points
2 Marder I	150 points
4 Marder II	360 points
3 Marder II	270 points
2 Marder II	180 points
	F
4 Marder III (7.62cm)	325 points
4 Marder III (7.62cm) 3 Marder III (7.62cm)	
	325 points
3 Marder III (7.62cm)	325 points 245 points
3 Marder III (7.62cm) 2 Marder III (7.62cm)	325 points 245 points 165 points

The German independent divisional tank-hunter battalions started receiving the far more powerful Marder II and III tank-hunters (or even in the case of several infantry divisions



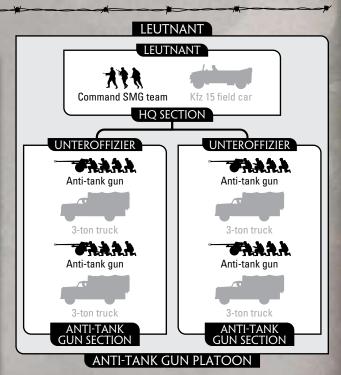
middle of 1942 ready for the advance to Stalingrad.

#### **GERMAN ANTI-TANK GUN PLATOON**

PLATOON	
HQ Section with:	
4 5cm PaK38	160 points
3 5cm PaK38	120 points
2 5cm PaK38	80 points
4 7.5cm PaK97/38	165 points
3 7.5cm PaK97/38	125 points
2 7.5cm PaK97/38	85 points
4 7.62cm PaK36(r)	245 points
3 7.62cm PaK36(r)	185 points
2 7.62cm PaK36(r)	125 points
4 7.5cm PaK40	290 points
3 7.5cm PaK40	220 points
2 7.5cm PaK40	150 points

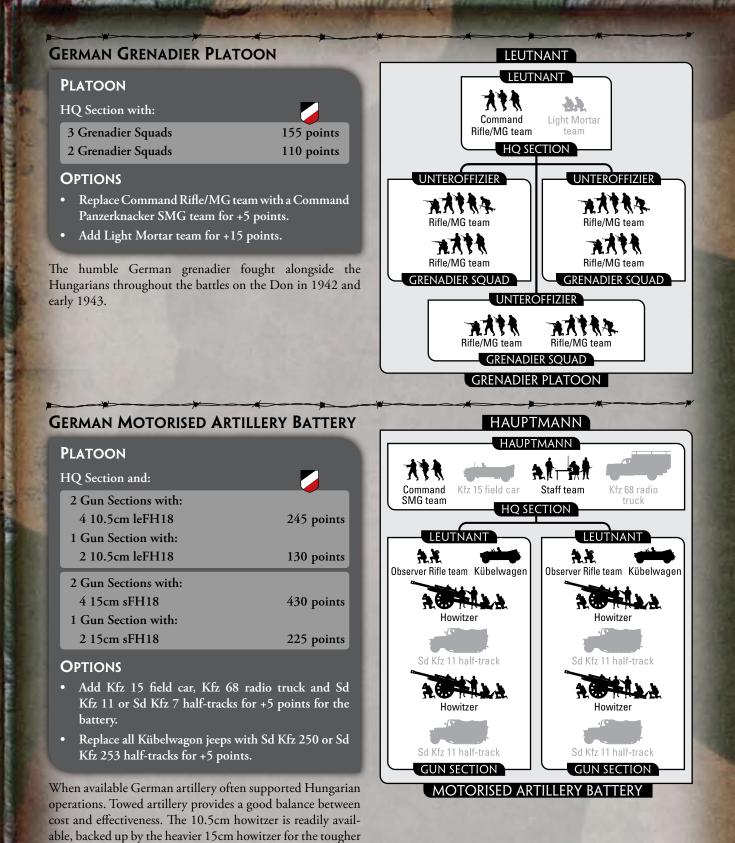
#### **OPTIONS**

- Add Kfz 15 field car and 3-ton trucks for +5 points for the platoon.
- Replace all 3-ton trucks with Sd Kfz 10 or Sd Kfz 11 half-tracks for +5 points for the platoon.



The Germans never had enough of the powerful 7.5cm PaK40 anti-tank gun, so the infantry divisions had to make do with the 7.5cm PaK97/38, an old French gun mounted on a PaK38 chassis or captured Russian 7.62cm guns rechambered for German ammunition.

TANK-HUNTER PLATOON the Marder I on an obsolete French supply carrier) from the



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targets.

In a service service and realized and the service of the real of the real service of the service

# HUNGARIAN + ARSENAL

# Arsenal

## TANK TEAMS

Name Weapon	Mobility <i>Range</i>	Front <i>ROF</i>	Armour Side <i>Anti-tank</i>	Top <i>Firepower</i>	Equipment and Notes
GERMAN TANKS					
Panzer 38(t) 3.7cm KwK38(t) gun	Standard Tank 24"/60cm	3 2	1 6	1 4+	Co-ax, Hull MG, Protected ammo.
GERMAN ASSAULT	r Guns				And And And And
StuG E	Standard Tank	5	3	1	AA MG, Protected ammo.
7.5cm StuK36 gun	24"/60cm	2	9	3+	Hull mounted.
StuG F	Standard Tank	5	3	1	AA MG, Protected ammo.
7.5cm StuK40 gun	32"/80cm	2	11	3+	Hull mounted.
StuG F/8 or G	Standard Tank	7	3	1	Hull MG, Protected ammo.
7.5cm StuK40 gun	32"/80cm	2	11	3+	Hull mounted.
StuH42	Standard Tank	7	3	1	Hull MG, Protected ammo.
10.5cm StuH42 gun	32"/80cm	2	10	2+	Breakthrough gun, Hull mounted, Smoke.
GERMAN TANK H	UNTERS				
Marder I	Slow Tank	0	0	0	AA MG, Overloaded, Slow tank.
7.5cm PaK40 gun	32"/80cm	2	12	3+	Hull mounted.
Marder II	Standard Tank	1	0	0	AA MG.
7.5cm PaK40 gun	32"/80cm	2	12	3+	Hull mounted.
Marder III (7.62cm)	Standard Tank	1	0	0	Hull MG.
7.62ccm KwK40 gun	32"/80cm	2	11	3+	Hull mounted.
Marder III H	Standard Tank	1	0	0	Hull MG,
7.5cm PaK40 gun	32"/80cm	2	12	3+	Hull mounted.
VEHICLE MACHIN	E-CUNC				

#### VEHICLE MACHINE-GUNS

Vehicle MG

16"/40cm

3

ROF 1 if other weapons fire.

## TRANSPORT TEAMS

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Vehicle Weapon	Mobility <i>Range</i>	Front ROF	Armour Side Anti-tank	Top Firepower	Equipment and Notes
TRUCKS					
Kübelwagen or Kfz 15 field car	Jeep	-	-	-	
Botond, 3-ton, Kfz 68 radio, or Kfz 70 truck	Wheeled	-	- · ·	-	
Horse-drawn wagon	Wagon	-	-	-	
Tractors					
Horse-drawn limber	Wagon	-	-	-	
Sd Kfz 10 or Sd Kfz 11 tractor	Half-tracked	-	-	-	
Artillery Tractor	Slow Tank	-	-	-	
<b>ARMOURED PERSONNEL CA</b>	RRIERS				
Sd Kfz 250 half-track	Half-tracked	1	0	0	Hull MG, Passenger-fired AA MG.
Sd Kfz 253 half-track	Half-tracked	1	0	1	AA MG.

## GUN TEAMS

Weapon	Mobility	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower	Notes
Hungarian Guns						
7/31M HMG	Man-packed	24"/60cm	6	2	6	ROF 3 when pinned down or moving.
81mm 36/39M mortar	Man-packed	24"/60cm	2	2	3+	Minimum range 8"/20cm, Smoke.
Firing bombardments		40"/100cm	-	2	6	Smoke bombardment.
37mm 36M gun	Light	24"/60cm	3	6	4+	Gun shield.
firing Stielgranate		8"/20cm	1	12	5+	
40mm 40M gun	Light	24"/60cm	3	7	4+	Gun shield.
firing Stielgranate		8"/20cm	1	12	5+	
50mm 38M gun	Medium	24"/60cm	3	9	4+	Gun shield.
75mm 97/38M gun	Medium	24"/60cm	2	10	3+	Gun shield.
75mm 40M gun	Medium	32"/80cm	2	12	3+	Gun shield.
40mm 36M Bofors gun	Immobile	24"/60cm	4	7	4+	Anti-aircraft, Turntable.
80mm 29/38M Bofors gun	Immobile	32"/80cm	2	12	3+	Heavy anti-aircraft, Turntable.
80mm 5/8M gun	Heavy	24"/60cm	2	8	3+	Gun shield, Smoke.
Firing bombardments		64"/160cm	-	3	6	Smoke bombardment.
149mm 14/31M howitzer	Immobile	16"/40cm	1	8	1+	Bunker buster, Gun shield.
Firing bombardments		72"/180cm	-	5	2+	
GERMAN GUNS						
5cm PaK38 gun	Medium	24"/60cm	3	9	4+	Gun shield.
7.5cm PaK97/38 gun	Medium	24"/60cm	2	10	3+	Gun shield.
7.62cm PaK36(r) gun	Medium	32"/80cm	2	11	3+	Gun shield.
7.5cm PaK40 gun	Medium	32"/80cm	2	12	3+	Gun shield.
10.5cm leFH18 howitzer	Immobile	24"/60cm	1	10	2+	Breakthrough gun, Gun shield, Smoke.
Firing bombardments		72"/180cm	-	4	4+	Smoke bombardment.
15cm sFH18 howitzer	Immobile	24"/60cm	1	13	1+	Bunker buster, Smoke.
Firing bombardments		80"/200cm	-	5	2+	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.
Light Mortar team	16"40cm	1	1	4+	Can fire over friendly teams.
Flame-thrower team	4"/10cm	2	-	6	Flame-thrower.
Staff team	16"/40cm	1	2	6	Moves as a Heavy Gun team.
ADDITIONAL TO		Fou			

#### Additional Training and Equipment

Páncélvadász and Pioneer teams are rated as Tank Assault 4. Panzerknacker teams are rated as Tank Assault 5.

## AIRCRAFT

Aircraft	Weapon	To Hit	Anti-tank	Firepower	Notes	
Ju 87D Stuka	Bombs	4+	5	1+		