

# 1946 Storm of Eagles©

By S. Pearson

***WWII did not end in the spring of 1945!  
Hitler has been assassinated but the  
German nation led by a fanatical group  
of senior generals continues the battle.  
The battle for technological supremacy  
grips the warring nations. All sides  
devastate each other with nerve gas and  
missile attacks. The skies are filled with  
the screech of jet engine military aircraft,  
WWII continues in to the nuclear age!***

## Eagles of victory

Victory is a fickle mistress and she often does not favour the righteous, in the early hours of the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1944 a lone S-Boot of the Kriegsmarine 1<sup>st</sup> Flotilla, (Cherbourg) on patrol in the Channel chances on the Allied invasion fleet. An escorting US destroyer destroys the small boat, but not before the S-boat captain reports the presence of the invasion fleet to his HQ.

The sighting is reported early enough to find the German leader awake, realising the significance of the sighting he orders all panzer forces to the Normandy beaches, where they smash in to the vulnerable allied beachheads preventing the allies from establishing a secure bridgehead.

Allied air landings are quickly neutralised and the US Army fails to establish a beachhead on Omaha beach. Within days the German armour 'rolls' up the British flank, allied losses mount and the Anglo-American high command's nerve fails.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1944 the Allied forces on the Normandy beaches are ordered to withdrawal, General Eisenhower resigns as head of SHAEF. General Omar Bradley is appointed his successor. The battle finishes on 12<sup>th</sup> of June 1944; the surprise German victory is announced to a stunned world press! Despite the outcome of the battle Hitler refuses to negotiate for a ceasefire, the war continues!

### **The Soviet colossus is halted**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1944 Field Marshal Busch, (commander of Army Group Centre) is wounded in an air attack. He is replaced with the redoubtable Field Marshal Walter Model.

Fearing an enemy attack Field marshal Model gains permission from the German Leader to withdrawal his Army abandoning Mogliev and Orsha and back to the defendable Drut River line starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1944.

*"My military strategy has failed our nations utterly, the attempt to land our Anglo-American armies in occupied France in the pursuit of freedom have failed and I have reluctantly given the order to withdrawal our troops to spare them further suffering.*

*It was my decision and my decision alone to attack at this time and in this place, based of course on the best information available. The young troops on the ground, the air and in the Navy have done all that their bravery can do. If any blame or fault needs attaching to the failure, it is mine to accept alone".*

**General Eisenhower 9<sup>th</sup> June 1944**

The Red Army in Belorussia begin their summer offensive five days later with Two and a half million men. Models forces hold the Drut River defence line except for a Red Army bridgehead over the River Berezina east of Minsk.

Models Army Group launched a stunning count-attack on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1944 against the 2<sup>nd</sup> Belorussian Front in the Orsha bridgehead using the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> SS Panzer Corps. The bulk of the soviet Front is pushed back across the River Dneister, Red Army loses are heavy Orsha and Mogliev are re-captured. Fighting in this sector died down by the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 1944.

### **The Fourth Reich**

Despite this stunning victory the German leader refuses to begin peace talks. On the first of August 1944 he is killed by a bomb planted in his HQ by disaffected Army officers. Reserve troops in Germany launch Operation *Valkyrie*; high placed Nazi and SS officials are arrested and executed by the *Valkyrie* troops. Dramatically the commander of the Fuhrer escort Battalion in Berlin executes the Minister of Propaganda by searchlight.

With the country paralysed with uncertainty three senior military Generals, Field Marshal Herman Goring, Gross Admiral Karl Donetz and Field Marshal Erich Mannstein representing the three armed services step in to the power vacuum to form a triumvirate, (*ReichseinigenKommand*). The newly declared fourth Reich is dedicated to continue the war till they can negotiate a peace

that guarantees the pre 1918 borders of Germany.

The SS and Nazi Party are disbanded; soldiers remove the hated swastika from their uniforms and swear a new oath of allegiance to the regime. The national flag is replaced with a new flag based on the Wehrmacht campaign flag. Centres of repression are closed and the new government prepares for total war!

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*“Men of the Neu-Heer, your country only require one more effort to secure victory in the East. Our enemies tire of war, while we have only just begun to take this battle seriously. Our folk comrades in German factories are working longer hours to manufacture the weapons our soldiers need to secure this victory; their effort and your bravery will bring about an end to this war in Germany’s favour!”*

Reichsmarsall Hermann Goring summer 1945

### Momentous Decisions

The Swedish Government and Vatican brokers a German withdrawal from Norway and France, the Norwegian representative’s grant the German’s the use of three naval bases in Norway for 99 years, this frees up 200, 000 fresh German troops for the Eastern front.

A pro-Axis Government takes power in France during August 1945, guaranteeing to supply workers for German factories and lease a security zone along the Normandy coast for 99 years in return for autonomy. The Germans opens secret negotiations with the Polish Home Army with a view to re-establishing a Polish state based on the pre WWI borders.

September 1944: The Red Army offensive in the western Ukraine, Estonia and Latvia fail to make any large territorial gains, heavy losses.

The Italian Front remains stalemated; the German’s continue to hold the Gothic line. Allied planners decide to invade the Balkans via Greece the following year to support the Soviet Union and keep Turkey out of the war.

### Winter of Reverses

During the winter of 1944/45 Allied air assaults on German cities intensify, despite the increased number of German jet fighters. German heavy industry is gradually being

moved east to Poland and Bohemia or taken into underground complexes.

Negotiations between Swedish mediators and the Vatican result in fascist parties in Belgium to divide their country in to two states: Wallonia and Flanders. The Netherlands is absorbed in to Germany proper, as the West Mark.

The Red Army begins a ground offensive in the western Ukraine to capture Rivne; German forces grudgingly withdrawal west to the Romanian border.

### Balkan Invasion

During the spring 1945 Soviet offensive in Estonia, the German Army uses the nerve gas *Taubun* for the first time with devastating results, soviet casualties are horrifyingly high. Even so the Red Army overran half of Northern Estonia during the short campaign.

The allies invade Greece, the German’s withdrawal to Serbia and Bosnia, Albania is liberated and vital war supplies to the USSR can now pass unmolested through the Bosphorus straights to the Crimea. The Red Army in the Ukraine launch a new spring offensive on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, pushing the German’s to the Rumanian Border, but stalls after two weeks fighting.

The Romanian Government attempts to sue for peace, fails and is replaced by a pro-German government, Hungarian troops invade Transylvania.



### Nuclear summer

The NKVD reports to Stalin that a large explosion has been heard and a grey mushroom cloud floats above the city of Smolensk on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1945. The Germans have launched a V-2 rocket with a 10Kt nuclear warhead on Smolensk; it has destroyed a ten-mile area and killed thousands of people. All Soviet offensive plans are put on

hold while the effects of the bomb are determined?

A Spanish diplomat in London reveals to German intelligence the Allies have cracked the 'unbreakable' *Lorenz* code, the German's stop using their code machines; denying the allies this vital intelligence tool.

The allies give the green light to 'Operation Downfall' the high priority invasion of Japan. The allies conclude that using nuclear weapons against Japan is risky; fearing the German's will retaliate with a nuclear device against London.

General Vlassov the head of the POA dies in a car crash; General Buniachenko takes his place and prepares to enlarge the Russian Liberation Army, (KONR).

### **Bloody Belorussia**

Autumn 1945: Field Marshal Mannstein's new offensive begins along the River Berezina, mauling the Red Army forces in a three weeklong assault, battering them relentlessly with new Jet fighters, missile attacks and barrages of deadly nerve gas weapons.

The Red Armies dogged resistance force the German's to commit valuable armoured reserves to the battle. Bloody fighting ensues east of Minsk only stopped by winter rains: stalemate! The Soviet command is buoyed up by inflated reports of large German loses plans an attack in Estonia. The German High Command or *KreigVereinigteKommand* prepares a counter attack!

### **The Battle Continues**

The Eastern Front remains quiet during the winter of 1945/46; both sides exhausted by the autumn fighting. The newly re-built German armoured force trains for night fighting to avoid the allies overwhelming mastery of the air. The Red Army prepares for a winter offensive in the Baltic States.

The Allies continue the battle for the Po valley in Italy, is forcing the Germans to transfer valuable combat troops from the *Festung NordSee*.

The violent battle for the Japanese home islands continues. Loses are high on both sides, but the Allies superiority in the air is gradually tipping the scales of battle in their favour. The Red Army begins to strip its forces from the Pacific to replace loses on the west front.

*"The FeldArmee is Germany's shield, the SturmArmee our sword, the Neu-Luftwaffe our eagles of victory!"*

Field Marshal Model - Speech to Neu-Heer officer cadet's winter 1945

## **The 1946 Neu-Wehrmacht Heer**

How does the 1946 *Neu-Heer* differ from the pre summer 1945 *Heer*? Firstly the *Neu-Heer* or New Army is controlled by the *Oberkommando Neu-Heer* or *OKnH* commanded by Field Marshal Hans Guderian, he commands the *FeldHeer*, or field Army, *SturmArmee*, (or armoured assault army) and the *ReservierenArmee*, (or reserve Army).

The *Neu-Heer* infantryman has more fire power at squad level and can call upon the support of faster and better armed armoured fighting vehicles and faster, deadlier air support. More reliance on missile technology, has given the 1946 infantryman better anti-tank capability with the introduction of the vehicle and man portable X-4 and X-7c ATGM systems.

The *Neu-Heer* has fully embraced night fighting technology for both the specialist infantryman and *Neu PanzerWaffe* or tank Corp. Elite sniper commando night fighting units, (*NachtjagdKommando*) are becoming more common in the front line as are night fighting armoured/infantry units, (*Schatten Battalions*).

The basic unit of the *Neu-Heer* is the mix armed brigade, replacing the old regimental system. High officer loses and the basic inflexibility of the regimental unit has forced the *KreigVereinigteKommand* or *KVK* (which replaced the *Oberkommando Wehrmacht* or *OKW*) to adopt the all arms Brigade structure.

The *Neu-Heer* infantryman is better trained, instead of 6 months in the labour movement before transferring to the Army; the infantryman spends at least two years in the *ReservierenArmee* from the age of 16, on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday he transfers to a regular *FeldArmee* or *SturmArmee* formation already fully trained for the rigours of combat.

His uniform has been simplified, a short blouse and long trousers replacing the old labour intensive uniform. The M42 *stahlhelm* or helmet has been replaced with the M45 *Stahlhelm* offering better protection, webbing has been simplified too.

The main weapon is the StG45, a simplified version of the StG44, easy to construct and offering greater firepower than the K98k rifle.

The *FeldArmee* is defensive in posture; its primary mission is defence not

offensive, similar to their father's duties during WWI in Flanders. Its job is to fix the enemy in place with missiles; anti-tank guns and self propelled guns until the mobile, heavily armoured *SturmArmee* formations can counter-attack, blunting the enemy's offensive exacting a high casualty loss in the process.

The *SturmArmee* does not occupy a permanent fixed field position; all units remain in reserve until required. This allows the armoured units in the east to replenish and regain their strength far quicker than previous years.

Slowly the *Neu-Heer* is abandoning the big tank concept; smaller, faster better armoured tanks are the order of the day along with new anti-tank missiles which are more deadly and cheaper to produce than heavy tanks.

The *Neu-Heer* has fully adopted the deadly Nerve gas weapon in to its arsenal. They slow down enemy attacks, allowing breathing space for the *SturmArmee* to commit and negate the Red Armies superior troop numbers. Nerve gas is used offensively and defensively against military and civilian targets.

*"Total war isn't some vague concept gentlemen; we must demand it from the German people, demand and receive it in full, without a commitment to Total war, we cannot defeat the Bolsheviks!"*  
Reichsmarchell Goring speech to the *Triumvirate* spring 1946

Within the German border the *OKnH* has formed a home guard force the *HeimatKorp* a part time defence army for those men excluded from military service because of age or health. Equipped with out-dated weapons or captured enemy weapons, they assist the police force to control the large foreign work force in Germany.

A re-invigorated *Neu-Luftwaffe* has entered the battlefield. The jet engined fighter/bomber is the mainstay of the air fleet. It is still defensive in nature, its first priority defence of oil fields and factories, but gradually the *Neu-Luftwaffe* is re-building a medium bomb fleet and is investing heavily in VTOL aircraft including the first jet engined helicopters for the *Luftreiter* units.

### Neu-Heer Command structure

The *Neu-Heer*, (Army), *Neu-Luftwaffe*, (airforce) and *Kreigsmarine*, (Navy) are all

commanded by the *ReicheinigenKommand*, or *RK* jointly commanded by the three heads of the armed forces. Field Marshal Goring is nominally the head of state and head of the *RK*.

The *KreigVereinigteKommand* or *KVK* replaces the *Oberkommando Wehrmacht* or *OKW* and is based in Berlin. The *KVK* is commanded by Field Marshal Erich Von Mannstein and it is he who actually oversees the running of the war.

The *Neu-Heer* or New Army is controlled by the *Oberkommando Neu-Heer* or *OKnH* and is commanded by Field Marshal Hans Guderian. His command controls the *Heersgruppe*, (Army groups) *Sturm* and *Feld Armee's*, (armoured assault and infantry Armies) and their sub units.

### 1946 Neu-Heer Field Units

During the autumn of 1944 the head of the *OKnH* Col General H. Guderian assembled a working party to examine ways to increase production of military hardware and introduce new fighting tactics for the German Army. Within weeks Field Marshal Model's working party proposed immediate changes to the field uniform and a simplification of equipment and weapons.

The Army would concentrate major armoured formations in to assault Armies; the Brigade would become the standard formation of the Army with some change in unit nomenclature. The MP44 and MP45 storm carbines would replace the K98k rifle.

The highly effective M44 *Stahlhelm* will replace the outdated M42 *Stahlhelm*. An emergency crash programme would be initiated to produce more poison gas and a new anti nerve gas suit developed to counter enemy gas weapons.

The *ReservierenArmee* or Reserve Army would be re-organised and enlarged to include younger soldiers, soldiers recovering from wounds and a part time defence force for those excluded from military because of age or health, (the *Heimat Korp*) the *ReservierenArmee* would assist the police controlling the large numbers of foreign workers in Germany, releasing more young men for the front line and provide the *FeldArmee* with a fresh reserve in time of crisis.

The age of enlistment for military service is reduced to 16 years old. Women would now also be recruited to the ranks of the *Neu-Heer* as tanks drivers; FLaK gunners and drivers. Specialist Sniper schools would also start recruiting suitable candidates from the Women's Youth movement too.



By January 1946 it will not be unusual to see young women working in the rear services organisations, tank/vehicle repair and specialist front line units such as sniper units.

### Composition of a Typical Infantry Sturm

A Sturm is a company sized unit, (one of three in a Waffengruppe or Battalion sized unit) composed of three infantry Zug, (platoon) and a support Zug, (with extra MG42v and Stummelmorser) commanded by either a junior officer or more likely a senior NCO. Each Zug is divided into four k-Zug with 8 men in each.

#### Typical 1946 Infantry K-Zug, (squad):

Senior NCO with MP44

Junior NCO with MP45 ('*Scheinerei-mauser*')

MG gunner with MG42

MG gunner with MG42

MG gunner with MG42

Rifleman with MP45 (M)

Rifleman with MP45 (M)

Rifleman with MP45 (M)

#### Notes

One in four infantrymen is equipped with a four man tent.

One in four infantrymen is supplied with pioneer equipment and Gasfaust

#### Composition of a zug:

1/1 K-Zug – 8 men, (the HQ zug)

2/1 K-Zug – 8 men

3/1 K-Zug – 8 men

1/2 K-Zug – 8 men

2/2 K-Zug – 8 men

3/2 K-Zug – 8 men

1/3 K-Zug – 8 men

2/3 K-Zug – 8 men

3/3 K-Zug – 8 men

1/4 K-Zug – 8 men inc. X-7 missile team, (2 men)

2/4K-Zug – 8 men with 2 MMG

3/4 K-Zug – 8 men 2 stummelwerfer

### Communications

The KL.Fu.spr.E compact radio is for universal communication below Company level. It has a range of 4Km, clips to the front of the officer or NCOs webbing, the battery is attached to the belt. The headpiece consists of one earpiece and throat mike. The set works in conjunction with the KL.Fu F radio set, which has a 2-4 Km range.

The main Kampfgruppe radio set is the Torn.Fu.GI radio/receiver with a 20Km range. Over time the latest communications device the PUMA2000 an infrared communications radio based on the Lichtsprechgerät 80/80 or Li Spr 80 will replace all radio/receiver sets over the next few years.

### Common Infantry Weapons

**MP44** – This superb storm carbine issued mainly to assault units and snipers and the GD *SturmKorps*.

**MP45** Gerat 06H (M) - Issued to Feld units and police units, also known as 'Scheinerei-mauser'.

**K98k** - Issued to reservists, sailors and rear echelon troops.

**MG42v** – A Universal issue medium and light machine gun.

**G43** - issued to Snipers, elite troops and night fighting infantry

**MP3008** - common in the *Heimat Korp* and other second line troops such as the *Speer Korp*.

**MP46k** – A Small sub machine gun for airborne troops.

**MP58** Erma - Issued to rear echelon troops.

**LP42** Flare pistol – Used by pioneers and officers.

**Flammfaust** - Panzerfaust with flammable liquid hollow head.

**Luftfaust B** - Anti-aircraft defence, used against aircraft and AFV's. It weighs 6.5 Kg with 9 barrels.

**Grossfaust** - Large anti tank rocket grenade for use against super heavy enemy tanks and bunkers.

**Nipolite grenades** – a shaped explosive grenade with no metal outer shell, flint added as shrapnel.

**Gasfaust** - Contains poison gas or CN tear gas for close combat fighting.

**8cm Ruckstossfreierwerfer 43 (RFW43)** - Smoothbore infantry gun for the infantry Brigade gun units.

**FG45** – A belt fed LMG for paratroopers utilising parts from the MG42v and FG42 LMG.



### Handheld anti-tank weapons

The Neu-Heer infantryman now has the option of either the repeat firing hollow charge or armoured piercing panzerfaust 250 or the man-portable X-7b anti-tank missile system, which eventually will replace the need for anti-tank guns. These replace the much despised *Panzershreck*.

The PAK 40 is still used by many *Pz-Jg* units, but these will be phased out in favour of missiles and the PAW1200 by the end of 1946 and all 75mm gun production will go to the *PanzerWaffe*.

#### **StG45 (m) or Gerat 06H**

The StG44 proved to be a successful weapons design, but required too much production time and materials to make it a universal weapon. The *Heerswaffenamt* demanded a simplified design that could totally replace the outdated K98k rifle. Weapons designers came up with the StG45 or Great 06H.

The StG45 saved approximately 50% of materials and production time per weapon, the StG45 (M) was pressed out of two pieces of sheet steel and the two halves then welded together. It is a tube type design with internal reinforcing ribs was designed for a receiver and guides for the bolt to slide on. Like the StG44 the rifle butt contained a recess for the main spring.

The metal trigger guard was welded in place as part of the receiver; it could not be removed or swung away like the StG44 for servicing. The trigger piece was inserted through the top opening of the breech area and locked in place by inserting the combination fire selector and safety lever. The hand grips were simply pressings in the trigger guard metal

The StG45 was initially designed as a gas-operated blowback carbine, but the production model was designed and built as a retarded blowback weapon.

The bolt employs two rollers that locked the weapon with a ramp system similar to that of the MG42. The bolt was given an opening blow by the gas piston extension, forcing the rear of the bolt back, allowing the bolt face to return back and restart the cycle allowing a rate of fire of 450.

The final production model Great 06H also employs a muzzle compensator.

#### **PWK 8H-63 Anti-tank gun 'Elfenbein'**

Gradually replacing the PAK 40, (whose production is being reserved for the *Neu-Panzerwaffe*) until the X-4 and X-7 missiles become universally available, is Rheinmetall's muzzle loaded 600Kg infantry anti-tank gun/Infantry support gun PWK 8H-63 or PAW-600 is intended to fill the gap left by the PAK40's disappearance.

The PAW 600 a high-low pressure system uses a 2.7Kg hollow charge based on the 81mm Mortar round, a casing from the LeFH-18 105mm Howitzer and a perforated

steel or wooden plate with a spigot. The whole firing mechanism is mounted on a PAK38 chassis.

The bomb is fitted to the spigot with a shear metal pin and uses a 360gm diglycol propellant charge to launch it from a light barrel. It could penetrate 140mm of armour at a max range of 750 metres. This weapon will be gradually supplemented by the heavier PAW 1000 10cm gun and PAW 1200 during 1946.

#### **FrontaufklarungsKommando**

Units of the *Abwehr*, (military intelligence) or *JagdGeneral* Skorzeny's *Jagdkommando*, (commandos) that infiltrate the front line and gather intelligence or destroy enemy material/installations.

Often wear the enemy's uniform over their own and provide support for resistance organisations fighting in the USSR.

#### **1946 Neu-Heer Field Uniform**

A detailed list of many of the 1946 Neu-Heer infantryman's uniform, insignia and equipment:

**FeldGruppen:** The 1946 Neu-Heer Infantryman wears the two piece M45 *Dienststock*, (or field uniform) which is often a field brown or field grey colour. Light grey *Litzen*, (bars) are sewn to each of the blouse collar, (one each side). Rank is displayed on the tunic arms or shoulder straps. The National eagle worn on upper left chest, (Eagle claws clutch an oak leaf garland with a grenade/bayonet design).

Long field Grey or brown trousers are worn with elasticated bottoms when khaki coloured anklets are not available? These are worn with tan brown M42 ankle boots.

All field troops are issued the excellent M45 *Stahlhelm*, (helmet) painted steel grey, (with or without netting and occasionally seen with a camouflage cover) and the peaked M43 *Einheitsfeldmütze*, (or universal service cap).

Personal equipment consists of the single strap M45 *GasTute* or Canvas Gas suit bag, containing the M45 two piece nerve gas overall and hood, early warning Gas attack badge, (worn on either shoulder strap or upper left arm), troops wearing the M45 anti-gas uniform have to carry extra M31 water flasks; troops become very dehydrated when wearing the M45 anti-gas suit for long periods.

Larger personal effects such as spare uniform, books ect are carried in the M45 *Rucksack* or haversack with drawstring top and M31 bread bag.

Ammunition for the StG45 storm carbine is carried in either the M44 *Sturmgewehrmagazintaschen*, pouches for long StG45 or MP40 type SMG magazines, worn on the belt and for the shorter 10 round magazine the M44 *Magazintaschen* – canvas ammunition bandolier.

Supporting straps or Y-straps are made from khaki or light green canvas. Other equipment as standard is the M31 water bottle, M31 mess tin, M43 Bayonet and collapsible spade.

The M45 *Schneeanzüge*, or two piece reversible, (white on one side, grey on the other) winter overall is similar to 1944 pattern but has large cargo Pocket sewn to the front of the jacket.

Shoulder straps display branch of service, (white for the *Feldgruppen*) and the square arm of service badge is welded or painted to the front of the helmet.

**Grenadiers:** As *FeldGruppen* with the following differences: Likely armed with the MP44 SMG, Shoulder straps display branch of service, (white) and Grenadiers have round arm of service badge on the front of helmet.

**Fusiliers:** As *FeldGruppen* with the following differences: More like likely armed with the MP44 SMG Shoulder straps display branch of service, (white) and Fusiliers have a triangle badge on front of their helmet.

**ReservierenKorp:** Uniform as *FeldGruppen* with the following differences: Armed mostly with out-dated K98k rifle, equipped with the M42 *Stahlhelm*, with/without netting. Shoulder straps display branch of service, (grass green) issued the M45 Greatcoat and Anti-Gas Poncho. No badge worn on the front of their helmet.

**GebirgsGruppen:** As *FeldGruppen* with the following differences; Armed with either the MP44 or MP45 SMG. M44 Mountain Parka with Long trousers, elasticised bottom or puttees and M42 Ankle boots with cleats and canvas anklets and issued the M44 *Bergepack* or mountain haversack.

Shoulder straps display branch of service, (green) an *Edelweiss* badge on the helmet and M43 style short peak mountain cap worn. May carry ropes and mountain equipment

**Jagdkommando:** Uniform as *FeldGruppen* with the following differences; May wear enemy uniforms when operating behind enemy lines. Will often carry enemy weapons and sometimes equipped with night fighting equipment is needed?

**NachtjagdKommando:** Normal range of uniform with the following differences; M45 *Dienststock* printed in Grey splinter pattern unique to Elite Night fighting sniper units M44 Gebirgs parka, Scrim body suits over gas uniform. Issued *Vampir* sets, (MKII version) for the StG44, G43 and sniper K98k rifles.

Carbon impregnated camouflage uniforms have proved expensive to mass-produce; also when troops move they are too viable, so they are only issued to the *NachtjagdKommando* or *Schatten* grenadiers. Many *NachtjagdKommando* still prefer field grey uniforms or steel Grey coloured uniforms. **Neu-Kreismarine:** Same uniform as 1944 and still using the K98k rifle

**SturmPioneers:** As *FeldGruppen* with the following differences; for assault engineers attached to all Gruppen. Brunswick style Deaths head badge welded on front of helmet, Equipped with pioneers weapons such as flame-thrower, explosives, mines and assault harness.

**Luftwaffe Sturm:** As *FeldGruppen* with the following differences; (Elite parachute infantry, belonging to the air army). They are armed with the StG45 SMG or FG45 LMG & MP44. They wear the distinctive Para Helmet, (with visor) with/without netting, the M44 Jump smock with Camouflage helmet cover. Long Blue trousers, (and blouse) with elasticised bottoms or puttees and M42 jump boots.

**Luft-Reiter Regts:** Members of the new airborne infantry unit wear a black version of the M45 uniform, with some additional items. All troops wear the M42 Parachute helmet with splinter goggles.

Men carry a toggle rope in case of emergency evacuation, wear M38 style caps and wear rubber soled parachute boots. The FG42 SMG is available to some troops in limited numbers; this however will be replaced by the new M43 submachine gun.

Pilots wear a panzer crew style tunic with the addition of chest armour and an armoured helmet. Crews are very expensive to train and need added protection in combat!

**130<sup>th</sup> Panzerlehr Begleit Kompanie:** As *FeldGruppen* with the following differences; attached to the 130<sup>th</sup> demonstration *PanzerGruppen*, formed to field test new equipment or uniforms at the Boblingen *panzer-Truppenbauplatz*.

**JuglandKorp:** 'the soldiers of tomorrow' FM Goring proclaimed in a speech to German generals on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1945. When he proposed to recruit in to the Army 14 year old boys!

They would have two years to train for the battle ahead. At the end of this time they would have more experience in battle technique than many troops committed to battle in 1941. Often armed with the MP3008 when based in Germany.

Reserve units use the K98K or the MP45 SMG, depending on security needs. M44 helmet with oval badge on front same uniform as the old HJ service without armband

**HeimatKorp:** Home defence units for guarding foreign workers. Civilian clothing is often worn with armband on upper left arm. Old out-dated weapons or MP3008 Sten copy. Full

timers wear the M36/44 uniform as appropriate

**BanatKorp:** Home guard force recruited from Romanian/Hungarian ethnic Germans Civilian or older Wehrmacht uniforms and K98k rifles.

**Nationalwohlfahrt;** National welfare organisation organised by the RV that assists civilians affected by bomb damage or made homeless by the advancing Soviet Army. They wear civilian clothing with a white armband on upper right arm. Men can be drafted in to the Home defence Corp or assist in guarding bombed military sites.

**Foreign Units uniform:** All foreign units except the Ukrainians and Russians have a national armshield on the upper left arm. They are usually armed with M42 helmets and K98k rifles. Western Foreign volunteers are armed as German infantry with the addition of national symbols painted on their helmets and national armshield stitched to their upper left tunic arm.

#### Arms of service colours and helmet badges at a glance

<i>FeldGruppen</i>	White <i>Waffenfarbe</i> & Square badge on M45 <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>Grenadiers</i>	White <i>Waffenfarbe</i> Circular badge on M45 <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>Fusiliers</i>	White <i>Waffenfarbe</i> Triangular badge on M45 <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>Neu-PanzerWaffe</i>	Pink <i>Waffenfarbe</i> & plain M45 <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>Artillerietruppen</i>	Red <i>Waffenfarbe</i> & plain M45 <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>Kavallerie</i>	Yellow <i>Waffenfarbe</i> & plain M45 <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>Pioneertruppen</i>	Black <i>Waffenfarbe</i> & Brunswick totenkopf on M45 <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>SanitatGruppen</i>	Blue <i>Waffenfarbe</i> & Red Cross stencilled on M45 <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>Nebeltruppen</i>	Copper <i>Waffenfarbe</i> & Skull and cross bones on M45 <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>ReservierenArmee</i>	Grass Green <i>Waffenfarbe</i> & plain M42 <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>NachtjagdKommando</i>	Black/white twist <i>Waffenfarbe</i> & no <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>Gebirgsjager</i>	Green <i>Waffenfarbe</i> & Edelweiss flower motif on M45 <i>stahlhelm</i>
<i>Aufklarungstruppe</i>	Yellow <i>Waffenfarbe</i> & plain M45 <i>stahlhelm</i>

**SpeerKorp:** Labour unit in charge of all construction. Escort *Waffengruppe* wears a thin Red armband on lower left arm with the normal M45 uniform. Worker units, (Bau-Brigades) work on large industrial projects and wear denims fatigues with large red armband on upper left arm with legend *SpeerKorp* Bau-Brigade. Most volunteers are foreign workers.

**DumitrescuKorp:** Ex- members of the Romanian Army fighting with Germany. Mix of Rumanian uniform and *FeldGruppen* uniform.

#### Neu-Heer Military Ranks

During the summer of 1945 the *OKnH* ordered a re-structuring of the field rank system. It was necessary to expand and clarify the duties of the NCO ranks reflecting the growing trend of frontline units replacing dead or wounded officers with senior NCOs. Many senior NCOs were commanding, (although for short periods) company sized units, (later re-named *Sturm*) on the battlefield. The lack of officers was becoming a serious problem. Suitable of NCOs with the experience and education would be promoted and promoted to officer cadets in the field.



Rank	Allied Equivalent	Explanation
General Field Marshal -	Field Marshal	
General Oberst -	Senior General	
General -	Lieutenant General	
GeneralLeutnant -	Major General	
General Major -	Brigadier	
WaffenOberst –	None-	
Oberst - Colonel		Waffengruppe commander
Oberstleutnant -	Lieutenant Colonel	
Major - Major		
Hauptmann -	Captain	
Oberleutnant -	Lieutenant	
Leutnant -	2nd Lieutenant	
Oberfahnrich -	<i>Obersturmoﬃzer</i>	cadet officer
Oberfahnjunker -	<i>Sturmoﬃzer</i>	cadet officer
Fahnjunker -	<i>Oberzugoffizer</i>	cadet officer
Obersturmoﬃzer -	WO 1st class Company	Sergeant Major
Sturmoﬃzer -	Sergeant major	
Oberzugoffizer -	Colour Sergeant	
Zugoffizer -	WO second class	Platoon Sergeant 1 class
Unterzugoffizer -	Platoon Sergeant 2 class	
Feldwebel -	Sergeant	
Obergefreiter -	Senior Corporal	
Gefreiter -	Lance Corporal	
Ober-Soldat -	Private	3 year's service
Soldat - Private	Grenadier/fusilier ect	

### Typical Field Command Units

Here follows a description of the composition of major Neu-Heer formations on the 1946 battlefield.

**FeldKorp** (controls two or more FeldGruppen)  
(KsTn45-334)

Stab HQ with *Feldgendarme* Kompanie and *Karte* Zug, (map section)

*FeldKorpBegleit* Batalione, (Waffengruppe at disposal of Gruppe commander)

*NachtjagdKommando*, (with Staff HQ, Waffenwerkstatt, Aufklarungsgruppe & 3 Zug)

*FeldKorpNachschubstruppen*, (Supply unit with the following units): Korpsmunitionslager  
Korpsbetriebsstofflager  
Korpsverpflegungsamt  
Korpsbekleidungslager  
KorpsBackereiKompanies  
KorpsKraftwagentransportgruppe

*FeldKorpNachrichtenGruppen*, (communications unit)

*FeldKorpSanitatGruppen*, (medical unit)

*FeldWirtschaftsGruppen*, (mechanic/repair unit with the following units); WerkstattKompanie  
WerkstattKompanie  
Kw-WerkstattKompanie  
KorpsKraftfahrpark

*FeldKorpFlaKGruppen*, (FlaK unit)

*FeldKorpArtillerieGruppen*, (Artillery unit with following sub-units): Heavy Artillery Brigade  
Two Light Artillery Brigades  
StuG Brigade  
Pz-Jg Zug

*FeldKorpFeldersatzBrigaden*, (training unit of the FeldKorp): Staff HQ  
Pioneer Kompanie  
Pz-Jg-Waffengruppe  
1st Infanterie Waffengruppe, (4 Co)  
2nd Infantry Waffengruppe, (4 Co)  
3rd Infantry Waffengruppe, (4 Co)  
4th Schwere Waffengruppe, (3 sturm)

## Typical 1946 *Feldgruppen* (ex-Division sized units) (KsTn45-327)

Stab HQ with *Feldgendarme* Company and *Karte Zug*.

*BegleitWaffenGruppe*: Three Infantry Zug

*NachtjagdKommando*, (with Staff HQ, Waffenwerkstatt, Aufklarungsgruppe & 3 Zug)

*GruppenNachschubstruppen*, (with the following supply units); *GruppenNachschubStab*

*Gruppenmunitionslager*  
*Gruppenbetriebsstofflager*  
*Gruppenverpflegungsamt*  
*Gruppenbekleidungslager*  
*GruppenBackereiKompanies*  
*GruppenKraftwagentransportgruppe*

*FeldersatzWaffenGruppe*: Five sturm reserve/training unit.

*Nachrichtenwaffengruppe*: Three communications sturm

*Sanitatwaffengruppe*: Three medical Companies

*Wirtschaftswaffengruppe*, (transport repair unit with);

*WerkstattKompanie*  
*Kw-WerkstattKompanie*  
*KorpKraftfahrpark*  
*VeterinarKompanie*

*FlaK-Waffengruppe*: three Sturm anti-aircraft units.

*Artillerie Gruppen*: Medium artillery Brigade

Light Artillery Brigade

StuG Brigade

Pz-Jg Zug

FLAK Zug

Two or Three *FeldBrigaden* with:

Staff HQ

*PioneerKompanie*

Pz-Jg-Waffengruppe

1st Infantry Waffengruppe, (4 Co)

2nd Infantry Waffengruppe, (4 Co)

3rd Infantry Waffengruppe, (4 Co)

4th Schwere Waffengruppe, (3 zug)

## Specialist Neu-Heer Units

### *ArtillerieKorp*

Staff HQ

1st Waffengruppe, (18 75mm guns)

2nd Waffengruppe, (12 105mm guns)

3rd Waffengruppe, (18 105mm guns)

4th Waffengruppe, (12 150mm guns)

5th Waffengruppe, (9 210mm guns)

6th Waffengruppe, (12 88mm Rkt guns)



### *NachtjagdKommando* Units

The earliest night vision sniper/counter sniper units were first formed at the 'LehrversuchKompanie' *Fallingbostal'* Hanover, Germany during the autumn of 1944. Initially formed to test the latest infantry borne night vision equipment and report on its best field application, (see soldier of destruction

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below). Within months the night vision snipers were forming Company sized units and were in action against enemy snipers and officer targets.

The Sturm sized Kommando's primary mission is to kill enemy snipers in no mans land. All other targets are secondary to this mission. Soviet snipers are much feared by the ordinary German 'stubble hopper' and the sight of the *NachtjagdKommando* is a powerful boost to the troop's morale.

The night hunters wear splinter pattern camouflage uniforms, in the new M45 shades of grey pattern. This uniform is carbon impregnated to disguise themselves to enemy night snipers. Most night hunters operate in teams of two or three.

If the hunter is wounded or faces capture, they have orders to destroy their equipment and kill themselves rather than reveal the infrared systems weapons secrets!

#### **NachtjagdKommando (KsTn45-344)**

Stab HQ Zug  
Waffenwerkstatt  
Aufklarungsgruppe  
1st Zug  
2nd Zug  
3rd Zug

#### **Skorzeny's Jagdkommando**

JagdGeneral Skorzeny leads Germany's Elite specialist commando unit. They undertake so called 'impossible' missions that ordinary field units could not undertake or important anti-partisan missions.

Much of their work is fighting behind the enemy front line, fighting partisans, destroying enemy communications networks such as railway lines and telephone/radio centres. Often their methods are subtle; they make the enemy rear echelon unsafe and tie down much needed enemy troops on security duties.

Many of the *Jagdkommando* are non-German or foreign speaking German's. Troops are highly trained and taught to fight in all conditions. Many are familiar with foreign weapons. It has become the norm for one man in each zug to go on operations equipped with the *Vampir D* night vision set. Each Waffengruppe sized *Jagdkommando* has anywhere between 3 and 10 Sturm, (called *FrontaufklarungsKommando* /*FrontaufklarungsTruppen*) depending on its task?

*Jagdkommando* may disguise themselves in the enemies uniform during

operations, it is dangerous work and if captured they expect little mercy from their captors! During 1946 the *Jagdkommando* in Western Europe will begin operations on mainland Britain.

#### **Jagdkommando HQ Staff, (Berlin)** (KSTNn45 402)

*Jagdkommando west* - Launches attacks from France, Belgium and Holland.

*Jagdkommando Sud* - Operates in Italy and the south of France

*Jagdkommando Sud-Ost* - Operates in the Balkans and western Ukraine.

*Jagdkommando Russia* - committed to the anti-partisan war in Belorussia

*Jagdkommando Baltic* - Forces operate in to Estonia and Northern Russia

*Jagdkommando Lapland* - Primary mission is to attack the port of Murmansk.

*Jagdkommando Polan* - anti-partisan war against the Polish Home Army

*KommandoSchule* 'Berlin'

*KommandoSchule* 'Fallingbostal' (night fighting training)

*MarineKommando* Kiel, (underwater commando training)

*FallschirmjagerKommando*, (Berlin, air assault training)

*Kommando* 'Bredov' - operates in western Ukraine fighting with the Ukrainian UPA.

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*"Stillgestanden!" the Parade NCO thundered across the parade ground, his hard eyes never leaving the field brown ranks of the latest batch of 16 year old conscripts. "Well look what we MY Army has been saddled with now, a bunch of useless homosexuals, unfit to wear the sacred uniform of the Neu-Heer!"*

*Pausing he held up his hand as if to ward off their silent protestations and continued,*

*"I know, I know, it's a challenge Herr Field Marshall Mannstein has set me, but I will turn you in to soldiers or KILL you trying, DISSMISSED!"*

**Truppenbauplatz Brunn October 1945**

### **Untersuchungsstelle "Tunesisch"**

Worried that poor diet and constant stress from front line service would undermine the fighting ability of the German soldier the Supply office of the OKnH ordered the creation of a secret department to oversee the introduction of chemicals in to the front line soldier's food and water supply.

Dr. Oberst A. Heuser took command of the office, (based at Potsdam garrison) on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1945. His office was given the cover name 'Research station Tunisia', (based on a joke that after ingesting the drugs a soldier would believe he was on holiday in north Africa) Heuser was ordered to liaise closely with the chemical industry and the Army supply Corp.

The main drugs used by the T-groups were Benzedrine, Ecstasy, (invented during WWI) and Lysergic acid, (with predictable results).

Each field Corp established an office commanded by a medical officer of the reserves, whose duty is to oversee the introduction of the drugs in to the food/water chain. A U-T officer is attached to each field Corp and its parent number identifies his office i.e.: *Untersuchungsstelle- T/LXX F* or Research station – T/70 field Corp.

The effect of the drugs is to induce a state of happiness amongst the troops, suppress hunger and enable troops to fight longer despite his situation; its use is a top secret!

The second part of the T-units mission is to poison enemy water supplies. This is done using Abwehr agents and dropping by air water/alcohol on to enemy positions. For this Heuser's units are provide typhus and other contagious diseases from the Potsdam chemical warfare office.

### **Jagd-Fallschirmjager Waffengruppe "Schwarze Adler"**

This unusual parachute commando unit was created during the summer of 1945 on the orders of the OKnH, (KSTN n45 493) from select officers of the *Jagdkommando* and a cadre of German military convicts. The unit has been created to undertake dangerous missions requiring parachute jumps in to the enemy rear.

The unit's first mission was an airdrop to assassinate the allied commander of forces in Italy during November 1945. 100 men dropped behind the allied lines, the mission failed. Eighty men were killed, sixteen captured and only four men returned from the dangerous mission alive.

Despite this set back the unit's commander was ordered to reform the unit and was sent to the Romanian Carpathian mountain region with the mission to capture a Red Army PAK position atop a hill in the 1<sup>st</sup> Hungarian Army sector.

Like the men of the Heli-borne cavalry units the "Black Eagles" wear the tight fitting M45 uniform dyed Black, with a small Luftwaffe style eagle on the lower left arm.

The Black Eagles have an HQ sturm, three infantry Sturm; weapons support zug, (with rocket capability, medical zug, light flak zug and a *NachtjagdKommando* zug attached.

### **Jagd-Fallschirmjager Waffengruppe 'Schwarze Adler' (KsTn45-493)**

Stab HQ Zug  
Waffenwerkstatt  
Aufklarungsgruppe,  
(*NachtjagdKommando*)  
1st Sturm  
2nd Sturm  
3rd Sturm  
4<sup>th</sup> Sturm, (MMG, X-7 *Rakete* and *stummelwerfer*)  
Lt FlaK Zug  
Sanitat Zug

*"Scum! That's what I see before me,  
Scum! But, (pointing a finger in the air)  
MY kind of scum!"*

**Magor Magil parade 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1945**

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### Waffengruppe 'Blutorden'

Once the myriad of Waffen SS field and security formations had been absorbed in the *Neu-Wehrmacht*

*Heer* it was soon apparent to the *Neu-Heer* that a hard core of SS men loyal to the old state had changed uniforms, but not their political views and proved a potential danger to the new regime?

Many were transferred to harsh military prisons, but with the constant need for experienced soldiers growing everyday, this band of unrepentant *Nazis* could not enjoy the safety of prison while men of 'good' standing died by the hundreds each day on the Eastern front.

The KVK leadership made the decision to re-arm these men if they chose the battlefield over prison, but the Armies two Penal Corps the 500<sup>th</sup> and 999<sup>th</sup> units would not accept them in to their ranks so a third solution had to be found to accommodate them.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1945 the head of the Armies personal department visited one of the imprisoned ex- *Waffen SS* officers, an ex-Colonel Magil in the Oppeln military prison and offered him command of an independent unit of the Army or an unspecified term in an FSL camp, (referred to with some irony by the German judiciary as a death sentence by drill).

The unit would recruit amongst ex-SS prisoners and fight on the Eastern front, train his men for dangerous missions with little chance of success.

. It was a clever choice. Magil had learned his military craft in the notorious SS poacher Regiment and had served with the Bosnian Division in the Balkans. He was a hopeless alcoholic with a sadistic streak, but he was a combat experienced officer.

With little choice the new Major of reserves Magil agreed to the KVK terms and took command of his new unit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1945 at the unit's field depot in *Straflager* Foerrenbach, (a sub-camp of *straflager* Matzkow).

The first 200 convict recruits to the Waffengruppe 'Blutorden' (or blood order as Magil christened it) began training a week later after a brief indoctrination course supervised by the head of the II *FeldjagerKorp* for the Eastern Front.

Major of reserves Magil created an HQ zug with a reserve-depot sturm, and three grenadier sturm with 105 men in each, (one was sent later to the Fallschirmjager parachute school at Brno to learn how to jump from planes). A Sturm was formed a few weeks later from 250 ex-members of the SS Eastern units; (Turkic men who refused to join the

German sponsored national committee units) bring his strength up to four Sturm.

Major of reserves Magil was given absolute responsibility for discipline in the unit, wrong doers would be punished by whatever means he found acceptable!

The Waffengruppe began operations on the Eastern Front in the central sector on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 1945. All volunteers were assured that their sentences would be commuted on death. Any man distinguishing himself on the battlefield could if desired transfer fully rehabilitated to the Army.

*Whoever wasn't wearing a gasmask in the German bunker received a lungful of putrescence, the dead bodies lay everywhere in the bunker complex. The Red Army pioneer of the 101st Guards Sapper Battalion guided himself forward using the German field torch, its ghostly light reflecting the lifeless eyes of the dead in the subterranean concrete corridor. Silence! The Sappers in single file weapons at the ready moved forward silently, the bunker had been abandoned. Hastily the patrols commander scribbled a message to the Divisional commander; they had found a route through the German defences.*



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# Neu-PanzerWaffe – The Armoured Fist!

This is the elite fighting branch of the *Neu-Heer*, decimated during the war of attrition on the Eastern Front by the summer of 1944 it was quipped with a myriad of out-dated AFV's or unreliable fighting vehicles with many technical problems, it was slowly losing the battle in the east and it was either reformed or lost the technological battle?

German tank designers are reacting to Soviet designs rather than being innovative. The department in charge of AFV procurement (Heerswaffenamt WaPruf 6) was ordering new tank designs without cancelling old designs; the system was letting down the highly trained German tank crew and the battle in the East could not be won with so much confusion.

After the assassination of the head of state during 1944 General Oberst Han's Guderian the head of *OKnH* was given carte blanche by the Triumvirate to make the necessary changes, they're would be no sacred cows! He started by immediately cancelled many useless tank projects and identified the *PanzerWaffe*'s long term needs.

The short-term loss was made up by stripping infantry units of their SPG's and giving them to the armoured units. Production of the Panzer IV, King *Tiger* and *Maus* was discontinued and their factories began re-tooling to build the new medium tank *Leopard*, Hetzer and Maresal AFV's, (and their derivatives). In future all SPG would be built on the 38t chassis.

The *Panther* and *Panther II* became the Main battle tank of the PanzerWaffe, a new heavy tank would be built and the Pz-VII *Lowe* design sporting a 128mm gun would replace the Tiger II.

The ex-Party transport organisation was taken over by the *PanzerWaffe* and re-named the *Nationalkraftfahrkorp* with orders to train the 14-16 year old age group to drive and teach basic mechanics before military service.

The loss of slave labour when the SS camps closed, cancelling the StuG III and IV crippled tank production for six months, but an influx of new volunteer foreign labour, more women and the recruitment of 14-15 year old German children in to the factories soon got production back to the pre slave labour period. The secret underground factories such as the 125,000 square metres Mittelwerke near Kohnstein with its two parallel tunnels

produced improved fuel efficient tank and jet engines for the *PanzerWaffe*.

Production of AFV's was streamlined, where possible different vehicles utilised the same parts, this assisted in the training of new mechanics, (mostly women). By the spring of 1945 German factories were producing 2,000 38t self-propelled guns. All German tanks are designed to be equipped with infrared night vision scopes; this is an important weapon in the tank crew's armoury. Infrared communications sets such as the PUMA2000 are also becoming commonplace.

All SS panzer Divisions were broken up and amalgamated in to the *PanzerWaffe*. Panzer Divisions would be re-named as *SturmKorp* enlarged and their compositions changed, to enable units to react to events more flexibly and with more punch!

*Panzer grenadier* Divisions were disbanded or converted to *FeldGruppen* or amalgamated in to the *SturmKorp*; all AFV's in panzer grenadier divisions were turned over to the re-equipping *SturmKorp*. The *PanzerWaffe* was overhauled, and by the end of 1945 the changes were beginning to get positive results on the battlefield.

During the winter of 1944-45 women drivers were accepted in to the *Reservieren Pz-Jg* units, initially driving 38t type self propelled guns.

The tank crews serving in the 24<sup>th</sup> *SturmPanzerGruppen* are known as *Panzerkuirassiers*; the unit was once a cavalry formation and retain this name in honour of their past association.

By the winter of 1945 the German panzer corps has undergone an enormous transformation. The *Panzerwaffe* is smaller, but has more AFV's. All Divisions are converted to *SturmGruppen* reflecting their new assault task. Armed with larger guns, missile technology and nerve gas weapons, it is slowly once again becoming a formidable battlefield force.

*"Men of the Neu-Heer, your country only require one more effort to secure victory in the East. Our enemies tire of war, while we have only just begun to take this battle seriously. Our folk comrades in German factories are working longer hours to manufacture the weapons our soldiers need to secure this victory; their effort and your bravery will bring about an end to this war in Germany's favour!"*

Field Marshal Hermann Goring summer 1945

## New armoured fighting vehicles

The *PanzerWaffe* needed a new light tank; as an interim solution to the shortage of light tanks, the '*Mehrzweckpanzer*' in put into production and called the Pz-VIII '*Leopard*'. It forms the third light Waffengruppe in the armoured Brigade along with the 25 ton Pzkwfw 25t '*Gepard*'.

The 47 ton Panther VJ started field tests during the spring of 1945. When put in to production it is found within the heavy tank *Waffengruppe*. These have a larger turret to accommodate a 88mm gun. Its high fuel consumption makes it an unattractive AFV, but a necessary to counter the JS-VII.

The 88 ton armoured giant Panzer VII '*lowe*' with its 128mm gun entered service during the summer of 1945 replacing the Tiger II tank. It will stay in service until German rocket technology can fully take on the mammoth Soviet tank Army.

Important work is being done in the factories of Slovakia and Bohemia, the T-25 tank with a 75mm gun similar in design to the T-34 tank is under consideration, its sister mounting a Le F.H 43

SKODA 10.5 L/30 gun is also being proposed. The T-15 10.5 reconnaissance tank has been cancelled.

As a rule of thumb the *Feldgruppen* and *Reservieren* Field units receive mainly the 38t chassis AFV's, the *SturmKorps* receive the *Leopard*, *Panther* and *Lowe*'s.

Type	Weight	Weapon
Pzkwfw V 'Panther'	43 Tons	7.5cm KwK L/70 gun
Pzkwfw V 'Panther VJ'	50 Tons	8.8cm KwK44 L/55 gun
Pzkwfw VIB 'Tiger II'	68 Tons	8.8cm KwK44 L/55 gun
Pzkwfw 'Maus'		12.8cm L/55 gun
Pzkwfw VIII 'Lowe'	88 Tons	128cm L/55 gun
Pzkwfw IX 'Leopard'	38 Tons	7.5cm KwK42 L/71 gun
Pzkwfw 25t 'Gepard'	25 Tons	7.5 KwK 42 L/70 gun

## Self Propelled Guns

Though stripped of its turrentless armoured fighting vehicles during 1944, Guderian was still mindful that the *Feldgruppen* and *Reservieren* units needed these cheap tracked weapons.

Production of the StuG III/IV was abandoned in 1944 in favour of the easier to build smaller to build and well armed Maresal MO-4 and 38t Hetzer StuGs.

Other StuGs coming in to service are the 88cm Pz-Jg Kanone 43<sup>1</sup>/3 auf Krupp/Steyr self-propelled gun 38d, the Hetzer *mit-nebd-ausrustung*, (gas attack vehicle) and the '*Heuschrecke*' a sloping armoured light tank.

The 12.8cm Self propelled gun based on the Panther chassis called "*Skorpion*" is in

service with the *SturmKorps* Pz-Jg units in limited numbers.

Slowly the self-propelled tank arm of the *Panzerwaffe* is receiving more vehicles with more heavily gunned variants, (with 88cm and 128cm guns).

Type	Weight	Weapon
PzJg 38t 'Hetzer'	8.4 Ton	7.5cm L/48 gun
PzJg M06 'Maresal'	9 Tons	7.5L/48 gun
PzJg V 'JagdPanther II'	40 Tons	8.8cm K-43 L/71
Skorpion'	42 Tons	12.8cm L/55 gun
Sfl 38t 'Schildkrote'	14 Tons	8.8cm L/55 gun

## Sdkfz 603 all purpose armoured infantry vehicle "Fuchs"

Guderian also turned his expert eye to the need for a simpler all purpose armoured troop vehicle. He decided on a new design based on the Sdkfz 251 and 250. The German firm of DEMAG was commissioned to build the Sdkfz 610 '*Fuch*' or fox series of troop carriers. This new troop carrying vehicle has eleven versions all modified for night fighting:

Also coming in to service with the *Neu-Heer* is the *Vollkettenaufklar* 38t '*Kitten*' to equip the *SturmKorps* reconnaissance units along with the all purpose fully tracked *Mittlerer schutzenwagen neuer art 38t* or Sdkfz 615 '*Jaguar*' which is also used as a missile launching vehicle.

The Sdkfz 234 series of reconnaissance vehicles has been scrapped in favour of the new tracked armoured vehicles; they offer greater protection and more armament. As a rule of thumb the Field units receive mainly the 38t SPG vehicles, the armoured units receive the larger *Panther* and *Lowe* AFV's.

The Neu-Wehrmacht has begun to utilise the Volkswagen car chassis, mounting two MG42v on a flat bed, (*das Soldatwagen technische*) and as an X-7 missile launcher.

The *Bewachenwaffentrager* utilises the Goliath tracked explosive vehicle as a remote sentry, armed with two MG 42v and infra red intruder detector. The *Raketewaffentrager* with two x-7 anti-tank missiles, *Flammwerfer* and *Benzinwaffentrager* are all deadly versions of this new weapons system.

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### Sdkfz 615 'Jaguar'

Sdkfz 615/1 Two *Rundumsfeuer* light machine guns, (MG42v's)

Sdkfz 615/2 *Befehlswagen* with IR radio, one *Rundumsfeuer* LMG

Sdkfz 615/3 *Pz-Jg* PAW1200 or PAW600 in *Kugelblitz* style turret

Sdkfz 615/4 Pioneer vehicle with flamethrower and *Rundumsfeuer* remote control MG, (rear) 14 mm *Flammenwerfer*.

Sdkfz 615/5 *KrankenWagen* with side doors, one each side

Sdkfz 615/6 FlaK 30mm KWK103 Cannon in *Hängelafette* 38 turret codenamed 'Luki'

615/7 *Rakete schutzenwagen* with two X-4 missile ramps, (rear) and trailer with spare rockets

### Sdkfz 610 'Fuchs'

Sdkfz 610/1-12-man vehicle w two MG42

Sdkfz 610/2- Communications vehicle

Sdkfz 610/3-20mm quad FLAK carrier

Sdkfz 610/4 - Pioneer vehicle with flame-thrower or Infantry Bridge.

Sdkfz 610/5-81mm Mortar carrier

Sdkfz 610/6-Munitions carrier/PAK gun tow

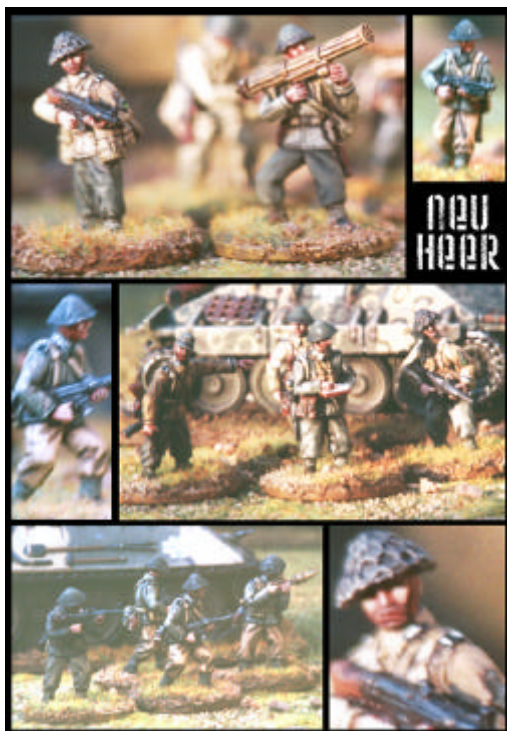
Sdkfz 610/7-PAK 40 anti-tank gun version

Sdkfz 610/8-Nebelwerfer vehicle

Sdkfz 610/9-Ambulance

Sdkfz 610/10-Chemical vehicle

Sdkfz 610/11- Infrared support vehicle with a 60cm searchlight



*"Men of the Neu-Heer, your country only require one more effort to secure victory in the East. Our enemies tire of war, while we have only just begun to take this battle seriously. Our folk comrades in German factories are working longer hours to manufacture the weapons our soldiers need to secure this victory; their effort and your bravery will bring about an end to this war in Germany's favour!"*

Field Marshal Hermann Goring summer 1945

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**1946 PanzersturmKorp** KsTn45-333 (controls two or more *SturmGruppen*)  
Support units identical to the *FeldKorp* except all support units are motorised or armoured.

**Notes:** All *Panzer SturmKorps* have any number of *PanzerSturmGruppen* and *FeldGruppen* attached depending on the mission assigned to the Corp?

**1946 PanzerSturmGruppen** (ex-Panzer Divisions)  
(KsTn45-325)

Stab HQ with *Feldgendarme* Company and *Karte Zug*.

*BegleitWaffenGruppe*: Three Infantry Zug

*NachtjagdKommando*, (with Staff HQ, Waffenwerkstatt, Aufklarungsgruppe & 3 Zug)

*GruppenNachschubstruppen*, (with the following supply units); GruppenNachschubStab  
Gruppenmunitionslager  
Gruppenbetriebsstofflager  
Gruppenverpflegungsamt  
Gruppenbekleidungslager  
GruppenBackereiKompanies  
GruppenKraftwagentransportgruppe

*FeldersatzWaffenGruppe*: Five sturm reserve/training unit.

*Nachrichtenwaffengruppe*: Three communications sturm

*Sanitatwaffengruppe*: Three medical Companies

*Wirtschaftswaffengruppe*, (transport repair unit with);

WerkstattKompanie  
Pz-WerkstattKompanie  
KorpKraftfahrpark  
VeterinarKompanie

*FlaK-Waffengruppe*: three Sturm anti-aircraft units.

*Artillerie Gruppen*: Medium artillery Brigade  
Light Artillery Brigade  
StuG Brigade  
Pz-Jg Zug  
FLAK Zug

One or Two *FeldBrigaden*

Staff HQ

*PioneerKompanie*

Pz-Jg-Waffengruppe

1st Infantry Waffengruppe, (4 Co)

2nd Infantry Waffengruppe, (4 Co)

3rd Infantry Waffengruppe, (4 Co)

4th Schwere Waffengruppe, (3 zug)

One or Two *SturmBrigaden*

(See below)

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### Composition of a Typical 1946 Pz-Sturmbrigade (KsTn45-329)

Gruppen Headquarters with *Karte zug* and *Feldgendarme Zug*  
Escort Grenadier Zug

1st Waffengruppe; HQ staff: 1 x V/W  
1 x Sdkfz 251/16  
1 x Truck, (engineers)  
1 x Befehlspanzer, (Pz-IXb)  
1 x FLAK-Panther  
1 Sturm: 1st Zug; 5 x *Leopard IXb*  
2 Sturm: 2nd Zug; 5 x *Leopard IXb*  
3 Sturm: 3rd Zug; 5 x *Leopard IXb*

2nd Waffengruppe; HQ staff: 1 x V/W  
1 x Sdkfz 251/16  
1 x Truck, (engineers)  
1 x Befehlspanzer, (Panther)  
1 x FLAK-Panther  
1 Sturm: 1st Zug; 5 x *Panther VJ*  
2 Sturm: 2nd Zug; 5 x *Panther VJ*  
3 Sturm: 3rd Zug; 5 x *Panther VJ*

3rd Waffengruppe; HQ staff: 1 x V/W  
1 x Sdkfz 251/16  
1 x Truck, (engineers)  
1 x Befehlspanzer, (*Lowe*)  
1 x FLAK-Panther  
1 Sturm: 1st Zug; *Lowe VII*  
2 Sturm: 2nd Zug; *Lowe VII*  
3 Sturm: 3rd Zug; *Lowe VII*

FLaK Zug: Jagdpanzer 38t '*Katzchen*' or Sdkfz 610 *Fuchs* with 37mm flak guns.  
Recovery Zug: Three Sdkfz 9 FAMO

#### Notes:

Light Waffengruppe may have StuG M0-4 Maresal or Pz-38t Hetzer.

Heavy Waffengruppe may replace Pz-VII Lowe with Panther II

Heavy Pz-Jg Waffengruppe equipped with JagdPanther II

Medium Pz-Jg Waffengruppe equipped with Pz-Jg 38t Hetzer w PAK40

Light Pz-Jg Waffengruppe equipped with either StuG M0-4 Maresal or Hetzer.

*"I shall forthwith give an order that in future our Panzer-truppen who expose themselves to danger, must obey the gas attack regulations to ensure their safety and the safety of their comrades!"*

**Field Marshall Hans Guderian May 1945**

#### *Honorific SturmKorps*

Many of the honorific units, (identified with a name and sometimes armband worn on uniform) of the pre-1945 *Heer* have been re-named and are now known as Honorific *SturmKorps*. Not to be confused with the *PanzerWaffe* SturmKorps, which control Divisional, sized armoured formations. The units are identified with either armbands worn on their sleeves or clearly identifiable arm shields.

Units such as the *Herman Goring SturmKorps* resemble the US Armies armoured divisions; they have a fighting strength of 15,000 men and number approx 100 AFV's all types divided in to three or four Brigade sized elements. They can have more firepower and night vision capability in each unit than older Divisional sized units, giving them a tactical advantage over the Soviet forces. They are usually the elite 'fire brigade' of the frontline!

## Honorific Panzer-Sturm Korps

(KsTn45-331)

Korp Staff HQ with a *Feldgendarme* Company and *Karte Zug*  
*NachtjagdKommando*: night fighting sniper unit  
*FeldersatzGruppen*, (with four reserve/training *Waffengruppe*)  
*Schatten* Batalione with 3-5 *Sperber Waffengruppe*

*Nachschubstruppen*: GruppenNachschubStab  
Gruppenmunitionslager  
Gruppenbetriebsstofflager  
Gruppenverpflegungsamt  
Gruppenbekleidungslager  
GruppenBackereiKompanies  
GruppenKraftwagentransportgruppeCorp

*NachrichtenGruppen*, (with three communications *Waffengruppe*)

*SanitatGruppen*, (with three medical *Waffengruppe*)

*WirtschaftGruppen*, WerkstattKompanie  
Pz-WerkstattKompanie  
Kw-WerkstattKompanie  
Corp Vehicle Park

*KorpSturmGruppen*, (with three assault infantry *Waffengruppe*)  
*KorpFLaKGruppen*, (with three anti-aircraft *Waffengruppe*)  
*KorpArtilleryGruppen*: (with three or five Artillery *Waffengruppe*)

*Pz-Sturm Brigaden*  
*Grenadier Brigaden*  
*Fusilier Brigaden*

### Honorific Corps Data

Here is a list of the 1946 Honorific Units in service with the *Neu-Heer*, not all are *Panzerwaffe* formations.

***Hoch und Deutschmeister Korp***: Recruits come from the Ostmark, elite foot unit. Identified with a block lettering cuffband on upper right arm and wear an Oval Edelweiss badge on upper right arm.

***Gross Deutschland SturmKorp***: Premier guard unit of the German Army identified with a 'Sutterlin' script Armband sewn on lower right arm. Uniform as *FeldGruppen* except most of the Corp is still equipped with the M36 style steel helmet.

***WachtKorp***: Ceremonial guard unit for the *KVK* & *RV*. A sutterlin script armband is worn on the lower left arm sleeve wear M45 uniform.

***Brandenburg SturmKorp***: Elite infantry unit, many ex-SS men in its ranks. A block pattern black and silver armband is worn on lower right arm, occasionally an ex- SS cuffband also worn on the lower Left arm. Skull and crossbones badge often painted on front of helmet. Uniform same as *FeldGruppen*

***Herman Goring SturmKorp***: Unit named after the German head of state, it is his personal bodyguard unit. Block pattern armband worn on lower left arm, Parachute badge worn on upper right arm. An Oval disc badge is welded on front of helmet. Uniform as *FeldGruppen troops*, except it is dyed blue.

***Von Molke Korp***: Composed of ex-Waffen SS infantry, a skull and crossbones badge worn on front of helmet. Sutterlin script armband worn on lower right arm is from ex-SS Uniform. Uniform same as *FeldGruppen troops*.

***Gross Admiral Korp***: Kreigsmarine commander's bodyguard unit representing the KM as a *SturmKorp*. Wear an Oval shield on upper left hand sleeve of M45 tunic. Many soldiers wear the Sailors cap in battle.

***Kurmark Korp***: Many troops are ex-Waffen SS troops from the Baltic States. Their M45 Uniform as *FeldGruppen* with the addition of a Starburst insignia worn on upper left arm. Most troops wear the defunct M38 side cap

**Reichsmarchell:** Initially created from redundant Luftwaffe ground crews and Waffen SS infantry in 1944. It is now a formation of the Army honouring the new Reich leader. Their uniform is identical to Feld units except they wear a Sutterlin armband on the lower left arm and a stylised R and M arm shield on the upper right arm.

**PolezeiKorp:** Created from members of the Order police and gendarme. Wear block pattern armband on lower right hand sleeve. Uniform same as the Feldgruppen troops.

**Ludendorff GebirgsKorp:** Formed from ex SS mountain unit. Wear M45 uniform, with oval edelweiss badge on upper right arm, raised for mountain fighting in Bosnia.

### ‘Schatten’ Battalions

Initial tests of Infra Red technology by the head of *Heerswaffenamt*, (WaPruf 8) Dr Ing H. Gaertner working with AEG and Leitz technicians proved the need not only to equip all panzer forces with this military marvel, but also special smaller units should be created to test new infrared technology in battle.

The ‘*Schatten*’ or shadow Battalions were created by the *Panzerwaffe* to fulfil this function. Each Battalion has 3 Sturm, (zug sized units) each equipped with 3 Bildwandler FG1300 Great 1221 searchlight infrared equipped Panther VJ’s.

In addition each *Schatten* Battalion has an Sdkfz 603/11 or Hetzer infantry carrier with the Great 920 60cm searchlight, an Sdkfz 603 ‘fuchs’ or Hetzer troop carrier with an 8-man squad of night fighting infantry with an Sdkfz 603/4 pioneer vehicle, (also equipped with the FG1300 set).

Additionally the Battalion has an escort Sturm with three Zug or squads, composed of an Sdkfz 603/*Falke*, Sdkfz 603/7 with its 75mm gun and Sdkfz 603/4 Pioneer vehicle. These vehicles can be substituted with 38t chassis specialist vehicles.

The Battalion’s sole mission is to hunt enemy AFV’s in darkness and exploit weakness in the enemy’s front line for other armoured units to exploit. It is envisioned that in future new reconnaissance vehicles such as the tracked light Jagdpanzer 38t ‘*Katzchen*’ will join the *Aufklarungs* units to exploit its excellent reconnaissance potential and the excellent fully tracked Sdkfz 615 ‘*jaguar*’ will replace the Sdkfz 603 ‘*fuchs*’.

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### ‘Schatten’ Batalione

(KsTn45-312/16)

HQ Stab-3 sturm in Sdkfz 603 ‘*fuch*’ or Sdkfz 615 ‘*Jaguar*’

Mitte Panzer Waffengruppe -3 Sturm with Panther VJ

Begleit Infanterie Waffengruppe -3 Sturm in Sdkfz 603 ‘*fuch*’

Pz-Aufklarungs Waffengruppe -3 Sturm using ‘*Katzchen*’

Pz-waffenwerkstatt - repair equipment

Notes: Unit only operates only at night, fully equipped with night vision equipment. Infantry also armed with X-7b missile system. Units are numbered according to their parent unit: i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> SturmGruppen has the 1<sup>st</sup> Schatten Battalion.

## Foreign Units of the Neu-Wehrmacht Heer

### The KONR (Komitet Osvobozhdeniia Narodov Rossii)

The committee for the liberation of Russia (KONR) was originally set up by the head of the Waffen SS in 1944 to recruit men of Russian origin in to the war against the USSR and was headed by the turncoat Soviet General Vlassov. General Vlassov died during 1945 in a ‘suspicious’ car accident outside Karlsbad and was replaced by the ex-soviet General Buniachenko.

The KONR is dedicated to the liberation of all Russian lands ‘occupied’ by the communists. They have an important propaganda mission to undermine the fighting spirit of the Soviet rifleman and entice him to desert. They have a political manifesto that wishes to replace the Stalinist state with a democratic government. The KONR is responsible for training the field units and directing propaganda at its members. In the field the units fall under the command of the higher German military authority.



The KONR consists of the 599<sup>th</sup> FeldGruppen, 600<sup>th</sup> FeldGruppen and 650<sup>th</sup> FeldGruppen with more units planned, depending on the amount of deserters coming over from the Red Army on the Eastern front. Also falling under the

### Ost-Freiwilligen

Within the *Neu-Heer* are a large number of volunteers who were born in the USSR prior to the German invasion of 1941, but are not all ethnically Russian or Ukrainian. The

#### Units recruited from volunteers from within the pre 1941 USSR borders.

‘Von Pannwitz’ Kavallerie Korp (Cossack volunteers)  
*Belaruskay* Waffengruppe (white-Russian volunteers)  
*Srpski Korpus*, (Russian-Serbian volunteers)  
 ‘Boller’ ArbeitsGruppen, (Turkic volunteers)  
*Kalmyk Reiter* Waffengruppe (Mongol volunteers from NW of the Caspian Sea)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Armenian Sturmbrigade (recruited from Caucasus)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Armenian Sturmbrigade (Azerbaijani volunteers)  
*Azerbaidjani*’s Sturmbrigade (Azerbaijani volunteers)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Georgian Sturmbrigade (recruited from ex-Red Army Georgian volunteers)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgian Sturmbrigade (volunteers from the Caucasus)  
*Ostturkischer* Sturmbrigade (recruited amongst Turkoman)  
 Krim-Tartar Waffengruppe (volunteers from the Crimean peninsula)  
 Idel-Ural Waffengruppe (Turkomen volunteers)

KONR’s direct command in training are the Volunteer Stamm Gruppen, (mix of eastern volunteers) the *Serbien-Russland* FeldGruppen and the shadowy Abwehr sponsored ‘*Grune*’ FeldBrigaden zbv commanded by General Boris Holmston-Smyslovsky.

The elite Cossack Corp fighting in Croatia has refused to recognise the KONR and fights with the German Army as equals. Likewise the 162<sup>nd</sup> FeldGruppen composed of Turkoman volunteers and Kalmuck Gruppen refuses to recognise the KONR and fight outside of KONR control. The KONR forces depot is based at *Bosing* Truppenbauplatz in Slovakia; at least 200.000 men are under arms, including some volunteers in the Luftwaffe. All Independent Battalions fighting in the German Army have received a new unit designation and continue to fight with the *Neu-Heer* as Waffengruppe sized units.

Cadet Officers from Russia are trained at the *Grafenwohr* troop training ground, the course lasts three months and all successful cadets return to their Gruppen as unit commanders. The KONR forces are tentatively being brought to the front to see action. The German’s are still mistrustful of the Russian volunteer units and for the moment refuses to let them fight as full Gruppen for fear they will turn their guns on their sponsors?

largest ethnic groups are Christians and Moslems from the Caucasus Mountains, Cossacks, Turkic people and Kalmucks.

Not all the *Ost-freiwilligen* or eastern volunteers fight in closed nationalist or ethnic formations, but they usually enlist with the *Neu-Heer* because of repression in the USSR. Many volunteers work as labourers in the rear service, mechanics or as ‘odd job’ men in *Neu-Heer* units.

The eastern volunteers are usually highly thought of by the common German soldier, but the KVK has mixed feelings about the foreign units, some general’s feel they are good soldiers, others feel they should be disarmed. Most units need a strong German commander to lead them in to action, or they quickly loose heart and desert. Many independent national Battalions have been brought together to form larger brigade sized units, identified with their national flag printed on a cloth armshield.

#### Baltic Countries

‘*Hinrich Schult*’ SturmBrigade, (Latvian)  
 ‘*Voldemars Veiss*’ SturmBrigade, (Latvian)  
 ‘*Estnisch*’ Waffengruppe, (Estonians)  
 ‘*Letisch*’ FeldGruppen, (Latvian)  
 ‘*Kurland*’ SturmKorp, (ex-Waffen Baltic SS volunteers)  
 ‘*Latvju Korp*’, (30th and 379th Feld Divisions)  
 ‘*Lietuva-zemaiciu*’ SturmBrigade, (Lithuanian volunteers)

## Ethnic German units from Hungary and Romania

'Ludwig Von Baden' Gruppen, (Banat Germans)  
'Prinz Eugen' GebirgsGruppen, (Banat Germans)  
'General Laudon' GebirgsGruppen, (Banat Germans)  
Emanuel Von Bayern GebirgsGruppen, (Banat Germans)

*Srpski Korpus*, (Russian-Serbian volunteers)

## Western foreign volunteer units

'Wallonia' Brigade, (from Walloon speaking part of Belgium, many are ex- SS)  
'Frankreich' FeldBrigade, (volunteers from France)  
'Tollenaere' Grenadier Brigade, (raised from Flemish Belgium)  
Greek Gebirgsjager Waffengruppe, (formed from Greek volunteers)  
Indien Feld-Waffengruppe, (formed from Asian prisoner of war)  
'Varagar' Waffengruppe, (formed from ex-scandinavian ss men)  
1st Italien Waffengruppe, (formed from former Italian Waffen ss)  
2nd Italien Waffengruppe, (formed from former Italian Waffen ss)

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## DumitrescuKorp

The Pro German *DumitrescuKorp* is the part of the remnants of the Romanian Army still fighting on the Axis side. The Germans and their Axis ally defend Romania roughly along the River Siret, Foscani fortress and Siret/Danube delta on the Black sea.

Romania is commanded by the *conductor*: General Dumitrescu, a respected field commander, he controls the country using a military sponsored government the *Iron Guard* and its Gendarme Corp.

The army is in poor shape and relies totally on Germany for weapons and raw materials. It is vital for Germany that they hold on to the Romanian oil fields at Ploesti, without the oil wells, the war cannot continue! The Dumitrescu Korp has five major divisional sized units, the only armed Romanian units are the only ones deemed reliable by the *Neu-Heer*.

Romania will become the focus of the allies' attempts to weaken Germany in preparation for the 1947 invasion of Western

Europe. Knocking Romania out of the war will seriously hamper Germany's attempts to draw the war in to a stalemate. With this in mind the Soviet summer offensive using the second and third Ukrainian Fronts will be directed at capturing the capital city Bucharest and capturing the Ploesti oilfields.

## Rakete-FLaK Brigades

As well as the general introduction of missile technology among the German FLaK and Pz-Jg units ten specialist Rakete-FLAK Brigades have been formed which include units equipped with the X-4c missile system, (on tracked vehicles such as the Sdkfz 610 '*fuchs*' or the Sdkfz 615 '*Jaguar*').

They are also being equipped with the Rheinbote-III medium range surface to air artillery missile system built at the Herman Goring Fabrikwerke at Volkenrode near Lake Garda.

### Rakete-FLaK Brigade:

Staff Battery with Munitions Zug,  
Werkstatt Zug & Nachrichten Zug  
Wassermann Zug, (long range ground detector radar)

1st Battalion: Staff

Supply zug

Signal Zug

1 Battery - 8 x 20mm guns

2 Battery - 8 x 20mm guns

3 Battery - 8 x 20mm guns

4 Battery - 6 x 73mm guns

5 Battery - 12 x Pz-Abwehrakete X-4c '*schwalbe*'

2nd Battalion: As first Battalion

**Notes:** The Brigade may also be equipped with the Kiel infrared detector system or the improved *Spanner* infrared system for detecting enemy units. Some units have the X-4 '*pudel* - *Pfeifenkopf* - *Pinzel*' IR guided rocket system instead of the X-7c systems. It is fired from a man portable ground mounted launch rail.

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*Off the Ukrainian's of the Ukrainska  
Vyzvolne Visyko tramped wearily, to  
war.....a rifle slung all that he owned  
rolled in his blanket, tightly gathered about  
his body. Peaked caps pushed back without  
a care in the world.*

### **Panzerabwehrrakete X-7 'Rotkappchen'**

The X-7 guided anti-tank rocket 'Red riding hood' was initially developed by BMW during 1941. During 1942 Dr Kramer's research institute for aircraft rocket engines took up the project, resulting in its development and eventual production as a man portable missile system.

A larger production model, armed with a 2.5Kg hollow charge, quickly followed the first prototype. The main body of the missile, (46.5cm by 15cm diameter) housed a two stage solid fuel rocket engine, (109-506) designed by the WASAG company. The stabilising wings were swept forward; first models had wingtips, (60cm wingspan) which housed the guidance wires. Total length including the protruding detonator cap is 95cm. The fully loaded weight is 9Kg.

The first trials began on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 1944 using seven test missiles firing from a tripod start rail 150cm long and weighing 15Kg. The first four crashed to the ground, because of user unfamiliarity. The following two test rockets blew up before reaching their target. The last rocket flew successfully to the target tank at a range of 500 metres and hit the centre of the tank target!

The X-7 is launched using a 300 volt battery, igniting a 2 gram gunpowder cap placed between the two hollow half rounds of the gyro stabiliser. The exploding gases vented through two tangential openings, quickly bringing the rocket up to the required operating gyro speed. The 3Kg of propellant in the first stage is ignited, developing 68Kp thrust, immediately accelerating the missile to a flight speed of 98m per second in just 2.5 seconds. Once in flight the X-7 rotated around its axis at a rate of two rotations per second. Guidance adjustments are transmitted using the two wires, one for longitudinal and one for lateral corrections.

A delay mechanism in the missile only allows one change in direction once the rocket is in flight. Using a system of command-line-of-site, (tacking the missile through an optical device aiming at a small tracer in the rear of the rocket) the gunner can

keep track of the missile till it hit its intended target. The second stage of the rocket engine increased the missiles speed to over 300 Km per hour and allows a firing range of 1200m. The shaped warhead could penetrate the armour of any known tanks of the period.

During December 1944 the mass production of the X-7 missile begun. Production starting at the Ruhrstahlwerke factory in Brackwede and later at the Mechanische Werkes in NeuBrandenburg, but only after a short successful field trial on the Eastern Front.

Almost immediately the designers at Dr Kramer's laboratory began working on the improved version the X-7b code named 'Steinbok'. This utilised infrared technology from the Leitz optical company as a guidance system replacing the wire guided system.

The automated tracking device fitted to the missile was the *Pfeifenkopf* and *Pinsel* system, one to guide the missile and one to track the target. The wire-guided version was scrapped immediately and full production was concentrated on the X-7b.

The Panzerjager operates a *zielsuchgerat* that computes the necessary in flight changes using a hand held sighting device; one lens aims at the target, the other at the missile and adjusted as programmed. This is the most common anti-tank device being issued to the *Neu-Heer* and *Neu-Luftwaffe* ground forces anti-tank and infantry units.

Production versions are man-portable, the missiles are carried in cylinders and the firing tripod can be broken down to fit in to a canvas bag and 'hooked' on a gunners assault harness.

Currently in development is a new version of the X-7 that has a longer range and improved image recognition abilities. The X-10 'Rochen-2000' has a range of 3,000 metres and uses the *Ikonoskop* image recognition device. This seeks its own target using its own optical sensor, comparing the image with its own on board data.

*From the top of the steep embankment the  
Neu-Heer Grenadiers could view the whole  
scene clearly. The Soviet Infantry stretched  
out across the horizon, the massed ranks of  
Brown Khaki interspersed here and there  
by horse drawn anti-tank guns, "Mein  
Gott!" murmured the Sturmofficer, "It  
isn't possible, they're can't be that many of  
them?"*

### X-4c Panzerabwehrrakete "Schwalbe"

After the successful introduction of the X-4 air-to-air missile the Neu-Heer expressed an interest in the missile as an anti-tank weapon. The X-4c is in use with Panzerjäger units, mounted on the versatile Sdkfz 610 'Fuchs'. Dr Kramer at Ruhrstahl designed the air-to-air missile in early 1943 as part of a crash programme in response to the destruction being wrought in Germany by the allied bombers. The missile enabled pilots to engage enemy bombers from a 'safe' distance.

The X-4 missile with a 20Kg warhead has a cigar shaped fuselage with tapered ends, four small swept wings and four smaller tail wings. At the end of two opposing wings are pods for the guidance wires, which unwind during flight. The other two wings have flares to help guide the missile to its target.

The tail unit contains spoilers to help control the missiles pitch and yaw during flight.

Power is provided by a BMW 109-548 rocket engine, the fuel is held in a spiral fuel tank to save space inside the rocket. Two fuels are used, either a R-Stoff/Tonka or SV-stoff /Salbei depending on availability? The system is hypergolic; the two fuels mix and ignite upon contact with each other, providing the necessary boost.

It was originally intended for air-to-air combat, so the missile is designed to ignite by either the pilot or remotely if fitted with a proximity fuse. The missile has a blast radius of 25ft. The improved ground mounted version is detonated on contact with an enemy AFV, (unless being used for chemical warfare, then the proximity fuse is always used, so the gas will spread).

In flight the missile is always fired at the same height or slightly higher than the target; this is no different for the ground attack version, (X-4c). Air-to-air missiles are launched from the ETC 70 or 71- bomb rack. Two 'schwalbe' are mounted on an ex-gun carriage or on the Sdkfz 610/1 'fuchs' or Sdkfz 615 'Jaguar' (converted to carry two launch rails) the operator sits outside with his detection/guidance equipment, (zielsuchgerat).

On launching the missile spins one revolution per second of flight, the missile is steered using the FuG 510/238 Dusseldorf/Dortmund system via a joystick in the planes cockpit. Ground mounted versions are directed using the Pfeifenkopf and Pinsel infrared guidance system, (wire guided systems were found to be unsuitable during field trials).

A self-destruct fuse is activated 30 seconds after launch. The Kranich acoustical

fuse, which is tuned to the pitch of the target aircrafts propellers, (not a feature on the X-4c ground attack version) activates within 40 metres of the target before detonating the warhead. Maximum speed of the missile is 1152 Kilometres per hour with a range of between 1.5Km to 3.5Km, (although the missile contained enough wire to reach 5.5Km).

Early tests against AFV's proved the 'Schwalbe' is a devastating anti-tank weapon. It can penetrate any existing enemy tank the German Army is facing. Eventually the X-4c 'schwalbe' will replace the need for heavy tanks such as the Panther II and Lowe.

Initially the X-7c 'schwalbe' was issued to the Luftwaffe FLaK units, but by the autumn of 1945 the missile is being issued to the Army FLaK and Pz-Jg units too. Crews are trained at Jüterbog Panzer-Truppenbauplatz.

Also in service with anti-tank units are the following weapons: The PAK44 with its 128mm barrel, the PAW600 8cm 'Elfenbein' and the PAW 1000 10cm and PAW1200 anti-tank weapons. All towed by truck or motorised vehicles.

*"Shoot me comrade, for god's sake shoot me!" someone whined piteously from a near by shellhole. "Go on lie down Alex and put your hands over your eyes, sleep!" ordered wachmeister Puller to the near comatose grenadier beside him. "There's nothing we can do for him, Ivan is too close, you'd die trying to bring him in?"*



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# The Neu-Luftwaffe

## The slow death of the Luftwaffe

By the end of 1942, the *Luftwaffe* was in dire straits due mainly to higher command mismanagement. It was short by nearly 50 % of its establishment in combat aircraft and the battered German industrial complex was failing to equip front line units with modern aircraft. Most *Luftwaffe* aircraft were obsolete during 1944.

The Allied air fleets had taking control of the skies above Europe. Over the next two years the situation grew more acute, diverting valuable resources into the expensive V1 and V2 rocket projects was exacerbating the problem. Complete defeat in the skies was only averted by the skill and determination of the *Luftwaffe's* veteran pilots, the training of new pilots had been seriously neglected and the quality of new pilots was beginning to deteriorate. New pilots were reporting for duty with frontline squadrons with only 160 hours flight training time, the burden on older pilots was beginning to show. More and more of the older pilots were being lost to allied aircraft.

New revolutionary aircraft were being designed and tested, bomber production was abandoned in favour of night fighters and jet engine aircraft, the battered German industry produced the aircraft needed to defend the skies over Germany, but the skilled crews were lacking. The *Luftwaffe's* 497 operational aircraft in Western Europe did little to influence the Normandy battle and contributed little to its victory, but the surviving crews, did provide an experienced nucleus for the re-building of the *Luftwaffe*.

## Phoenix from the Ashes

The change in government during the summer of 1944 enabled some long over due changes to the *Luftwaffe's* command and procurement methods. A new working party was established under Lt. Colonel Paul Deichmann to oversee new aircraft production and overhaul the air training schools. All new pilots were trained to fly jet engine aircraft; boys from the defunct Hitler youth movement were drafted in to learn basic flight training at 16. They would spend two years training.

Instructors were culled from front line squadrons, their absence would cause a heavy burden on the combat units, but the long-term benefit was obvious to even the head of the *Luftwaffe* Herman Goring! High command units were combed through for experienced pilots who could return to flying as instructors or supply transport pilots.

Also in a groundbreaking departure the *Luftwaffe* would begin accepting suitable female candidates for fighter aircraft training, as well as pilots for the transport corp. HQ Staffs have been reduced in size and administration jobs given over to women officers, releasing more men for the front line. The costly V1 and V2 rocket projects were abandoned and production halted for productive projects. A limited number of V-2 rockets were stored away for future projects.

Deichmann the CC of Training command introduced the JU-86 as the main aircraft training aircraft, replacing the overburdened Ju-52. Many aircraft in production were phased out; many aircraft were cancelled in favour of less expensive aircraft. The FW189 *Uhu*, was cancelled despite its operational success as a night fighter. The FW190 fighter was phased out in favour of the He162 '*Salamander*' jet fighter. The Fi-156 *stork* was cancelled and its factories turned over to production of training aircraft. The Go-145 trainer was kept in production for the time being. The He219 night fighter would continue to be produced until a suitable replacement was ready to take over its duties? This aircraft had proved more than a match for the British Mosquito aircraft.

After 8 months of General Deichmann's changes a slow, but sure change come over the air units of the *Neu-Luftwaffe*, the new aircraft were targeted at the allied bombers. By stripping the eastern front of aircrews the air war over Germany was slowly turning into Germany's favour. The US 8th Air forces was transferred to the pacific and in doing so severely weakened the allied air fleet.

The He 162 '*Salamander*' by no means a perfect aircraft, eventually proved devastating against the slower allied bombers when placed in the hands of an experienced pilot. Losses among the allied bomber fleet soon began to mount, so much so that by the summer of 1944 the US bomber arm went over to night attacks.

Secret underground factories such as the 95, 000 square metres Grosseutersdorf factory, builds Mk V flying saucers, (1,300 kph) code-named *Kahla* and the new generation of fuel efficient jet engines. Aviation fuel continues to present a problem to the *Luftwaffe*. Most supplies come from Romania and Hungary, it is important that the *Neu-Heer* defend these countries to prevent the oilfields from being captured. Han's Kehrl is appointed 'czar' of aviation fuel for the *Neu-Luftwaffe* in September 1944 and one of his first jobs was to increase supplies of aviation fuel from other sources.

### Frontline Bombers and Fighter aircraft

A limited number of Bomber aircraft would be produced; the He277 would be the main stay of the bomber fleet. Also considered for production is the Fw-238 Bomber. The Me108 and 109 fighters and twin engined Me - 262 were to be phased out in favour of the single jet engined He 162 'Salamander'.

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The Me108 and 109 fighters and twin engined Me 262 were to be phased out in favour of the single jet engined He 162 'Salamander'. Production started during December 1944 after only 13 weeks design time. Alternative building methods would be found for the building of the JU-52 transporters, using 'prestoff' cardboard

*The flame thrower roared for the last time, it engulfed the panicking Neu-Heer Cavalry Horses. They disappeared in its greedy black and red flame. The air filled with the screams of men and animals. A moment later and the Red Army sapper relaxed his finger from the trigger, to reveal a mangled mess of blackened bodies and charred beyond recognition.*

substitute instead of congregated aluminium.

Plans for the production of a bomber, the Sanger Amerika Bomber "Silverbird" a orbital bomber designed for supersonic stratosphere flight designed by Dr Eugen Sanger can reach the eastern shores of the USA are in an advanced stage

All Neu-Luftwaffe aircraft production has been slim lined, more aircraft less variants! Other fighter aircraft being designed or tested that has combat potential are the He P.1077 'Julia' fighter, Hs P.135 fighter, BV Ae 607 fighter and the BA 349 'Natter' fighter aircraft.

### Helicopters

The Focke Achgelis FA283 jet engine Helicopter, (Hubschrauber) developed from the FA223 'Drache' an armed helicopter developed before 1940. And the R-IV Helicopter is being produced for the creation of Helicopter borne infantry units. Already in service are the FI-282 'Kolibri' observation

helicopter, this was first introduced in to the Luftwaffe in 1942.

The FA336 'wagtail' is in service with the submarine fleet, this autogiro is collapsible. The FA225 hybrid rotaglider based on the DFS 230 glider has proved a failure in field tests. The FA284 'sky crane' a large prototype helicopter for lifting heavy loads is close to production. It can carry 7 tons in weight, has a speed of 129 mph and has a 248-mile range.

The two-seater FA 224 'Libelle' is the standard helicopter training aircraft for the Luftwaffe. It weighs 2000Kg and has a top speed of 150kph. A flying unit of interest is the LG261 'Schwarze' commanded by Major Klassmann. It is equipped with the new Fw621 (RX) MK-V Helicopter 'Walti' designed by the Walter Rieseler design team. These revolutionary air gun ships are equipped with 20mmcannon and rockets; they can carry eight infantrymen, (and two pilots). Their mission is to evaluate this revolutionary aircraft in combat.

### VTOL aircraft

Work on vertical take off aircraft has moved on a pace, these aircraft needing only a small lift off area would be perfect for operations against Allied bombers. VTOL aircraft in service with the Luftwaffe are the Fw-Triebflugel, He Wespe and He Lerche Mk II version.

The Ho XVIIIb shows great promise, very revolutionary with its fixed single wing design. More revolutionary is the Horton VTOL aircraft undergoing testing in Bohemia, experiments with wire guided rockets proves this to be a revolution in aircraft design!

The Kampfgeschwader zur Besonderen Verwendung, or KG-zbv 'Ortmann' commanded by Colonel Rudolf Schriever is the only flight equipped with the Flugelrad MKVI 'Diskus' wingless aircraft. It has STOL capability; flight is achieved using the coanda effect. It is powered by four Junkers Jumbo jet engines, (built at Kahla underground factory in Thungaria) is 7m in diameter and armed with two 20mm cannon and a nerve gas discharger. This revolutionary futuristic aircraft is collaboration between Professor Miethe and Colonel Schriever.

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### Air to air missile systems

The X-4 rocket system wire guided system would be adopted for all aircraft attacking Allied bombers.

Trials have proved very successful. The X-4b *Ruhrstahl* wire guided air-to-air missile designed by Dr Max Kramer has an 1152Km per Hour speed and a 20Km range.

The air-to-air missile "*Schmetterling*" has been adapted for use with FLAK units. The ground mounted '*Schmetterling*' missile has a range of 10Km. Though designed for anti-aircraft defence in the Reich, the system has been modified to fire at ground targets such as tanks and bunkers mounted on a Sdkfz 610 or Sdkfz 615.

The '*Rheinochter*' missile system still being tested by the *Neu-Luftwaffe*, but hasn't performed as well as expected, a surface to air missile with 136Kg warhead and range of 8Km. The MCLOS visual guidance method is proving less effective than the infrared system. The German Me262 and He 162 squadrons are armed with the latest R4M anti-aircraft missiles. These tear huge gaps in the Red Army Bomber squadrons. This versatile missile with its 55mm warhead (32Kg) is far more effective than the standard 20mm cannon.

### Fallschirmjäger SturmGruppen

The Luftwaffe ground Divisions were absorbed in to the *Neu-Wehrmacht Heer* during 1944/45, those wishing to remain in the *Luftwaffe* were transferred to the *FallschirmjagerSturmKorp*. This increased the paratrooper arm of the service to 10 Divisions by the summer of 1945. At this time the term Division was dropped by an *OknL* order and the term '*SturmGruppen*' adopted, reflecting the aggressive nature of this elite fighting Corp.

### FLaK Artillery

New rocket technology was introduced using the 88cm FLAK gun. One the new systems in operation on the Eastern front the infrared guided *Enzian* E4 Surface to air anti-aircraft missiles is fired from a modified 88cm FLAK guns.

This missile has a 1500 Kg warhead. Gradually bit-by-bit the 10,000 88cm FLAK guns in Germany could be transferred east to meet the Soviet air threat. Rocket technology is proving more accurate and deadlier than conventional FLAK artillery shells and is cheaper to produce than aircraft, enemy loses will soon mount with the introduction of these modern weapons!

### LuftreiterGruppen

The first heli-borne infantry unit raised by the *Neu-Heer* and *Neu-Luftwaffe* was the *LuftreiterGruppen* Nr9 based near Pilsen. Commanded by the 38 year old Luftwaffe Colonel Mark Von Unruh the unit consisted of three staffel equipped with the new fully enclosed FA-283 jet engine helicopter and an attached four Sturm infantry Waffengruppe.

The unit is known as the '*Wespes*' or wasps and began training during Jun 1945; it was not ready for combat trials until January 1946. The new air group consisted of a flight HQ staff, three *Luftreiterschwadrons*, air supply schwarme, a Pz-Jg Zug and an air medical unit. The Me1109 f is the command version with additional radios on board for command and control. The last variant in service is the gun ship with four MG17 machine guns for added ground support.

The air cavalry unit was equipped with six variants of the FA-283 helicopter. The workhorse of the unit was the troop carrier, with two crew and ten-man lift capacity. The vital communication variant is the FA-283B with PUMA2000 radios. The FA-283C was equipped with the X-4 rocket system for air-to air defence. The FA-283D is equipped with 2 x 37mm anti-tank guns for anti-tank defence. The third variant is the FA-283E version, converted to carry four seriously wounded troops from battle to the field hospital.

The infantry unit was created from the reserve unit of the second battalion 13<sup>th</sup> Kavallerie Regiment, (Paderborn) commanded by Major Heinrich Rausch. The unit carried on it cavalry traditions and was known as the *Luftreiterwaffengruppe* nr 9, the unit has three air lift able Reitersturm and one combat support Sturm equipped with MMG and Mortars. Initial trials have proved the unit is ideal for fast attack missions and an excellent anti-partisan weapon. The 7<sup>th</sup> *Luftreiterwaffengruppe* has entirely composed of female pilots and was known as the '*Valkure*' unit.



## Conclusion

Throughout 1945 the *Neu-Luftwaffe* began to introduce better radar, rocket and aircraft technology to the battlefield, still smaller than its counter-parts its advantage in speed and rocket technology is enabling pilots to survive longer in the air, the youth training scheme and the introduction of women pilots is turning the *Neu-Luftwaffe* in to the once deadly killing machine of 1939.

By the end of 1945 the *Neu-Luftwaffe* was able to support ground operations more effectively and attack airfield in Britain again, the *Neu-Luftwaffe* in the East was gradually rebuilt with new pilots and aircraft, the Soviet airforce would soon face its greatest test!

**Phantom n.** Apparition: spectre, ghost:  
fancied vision.  
**Oxford dictionary**

During the reading of 1946 Storm of Eagles© you will have seen countless references to ground breaking WWII Neu-Heer night vision technology, I thought it may be useful to add some useful background information on this revolutionary 1946 battlefield weapon so that the reader may understand its use and potential effect on the 1946 battlefield?

*German infrared technology is a leap forward in weapons development, its widespread use in 1946 would revolutionise modern warfare forever. Soldiers would no longer use the night to rest and recuperate; the hours of darkness have become the night hunter's battleground.*

# Infrared Phantoms

## Early Beginnings

During 1934 The German Company AEG produced the first cathode ray tube, enabling an infrared beam to be converted into normal light. Shining Infrared light into darkness then passing the image through a *Bildwandler*, (image converter) enables the user to see as if in daylight!

The obvious military application of this futuristic technology was obvious from the

start. Dr I. Gaertner the head of the Army weapons office department 6 developed the system from 1936 assisted by Optics specialist companies AEG/Mayer, Karl Zeiss, Weslar, the *Luftwaffe* and the Reich post office.

During 1939 a *zielgerat*, (*bildwandler*, viewing scope and UR *Scheinwerfer* or transmitting lamp) was attached to a PAK36 ATG. Initial results were poor, but the system worked and secret development continued culminating in the *zielgerat* 1221 with 360mm *Bildwandler* and UR-*Scheinwerfer* was tested on a PAK40 anti-tank gun in 1939.

Powered with a 17,000v current the *zielgerat*'s full range was 400 metres in good conditions allowing good results from the test. During later tests on a Marder II at Fallingbostal tank training school the improved *Fahrgerat* ZG1253 replaced the ZG1221.

This set was itself replaced by the improved ZG1221K. AEG and Zeiss manufactured a thousand units between the summer of 1943 and February 1944 and none were fitted to German tanks before 1945.

## Fallingbostal panzer school

All top secret infrared experiments and training took place under the auspices of the *Panzerjager LehrversuchKompanie*, (cc Major Schultz) at Fallingbostal training facility north of Hanover. After a few months 5 PzKpFw Panther G built at the nearby MNH tank factory were chosen as the most suitable infrared testing vehicle.

Various combinations and configurations of IR sets were used during manoeuvres that tested night fighting tactics. The panzer/infantry instructors and scientists from AEG/Zeiss attached different numbers/combinations of *Bildwandler* and IR-*Scheinwerfer* on Panthers and Sdkfz 251. Eventually they settled on three IR sets per AFV. IR set brackets were welded to the commander's turret MG42 ring, the gunner and driver periscopes.

Up to two *Scheinwerfer* could be attached to each *Bildwandler* greatly improving visibility. During field exercises it became apparent that the Panthers needed more IR light to illuminate long distance targets so 60 Sdkfz 251 half-tracks known as 'Uhu' were converted to carry an enormous 600mm, 6000w searchlight and a 400mm *Bildwandler*, (called the FG1251 IR system). It gave the Panthers a visible range of 1500m. Sdkfz 251's half tracks were also converted to carry a squad of infantry, (rather than travelling in an armoured box on the panther)

armed with the ZG1229 'Vampir' IR system, known as 'Falke'. This combination of vehicles and AFV's was known as 'Sperber' or sparrow formations.

At many meetings between the summer and autumn of 1944 industry representatives, officers of the panzer Corp and OKH in Berlin decided that the Zielgerat's FG1250 active night vision device and Infrared light absorbing uniforms would go in to full production and the first units to receive the equipment would be the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Panzer Regiments. From June 1944 to March 1945 Leitz, AEG, Zeiss and RPF delivered a total of 1, 150 infrared units.

Due to technical problems/improvements wide spread issue was initially slow, but pestering from OKH pushed the project forward. IR enabled AFV's were a war winning priority!

More *Sperber* units were formed as a result of improved field tests. The crews of the 1/24<sup>th</sup> Panzer Regt *Sperber* unit detected targets up to 2,500 metres away, they had orders to destroy the IR sets with stick grenades or demolition charges to prevent them falling in to the Allies hands.

By the end of 1945 Fallingbostal panzer school was the main teaching centre for all IR trained crews. From July 1945 the *PanzerWaffe* or tank arm began to form the 'Schatten' or shadow Battalions. These new mixed armour/infantry units are equipped with IR-Panthers and escort infantry dedicated for night assault. They are attached to armoured assault Corps and are used for assault/recon missions only.

### Infrared Panthers

From September 1944 the MNH Company, Hanover producing the Panther Ausf G were modifying all

AFV's for IR equipment. Outside the vehicle the 12-Uhr-Zeiger MG mount was adapted to carry the FG1250 IR searchlight and vision scope. Four plates were welded to the right hand rear side of the hull allowing an armoured bin to be attached.

A small power supply box to the top front left hand side of the turret next to the turret lifting ring, metal bracket welded to front left hand side of the turret edge and new exhaust mufflers. Four boltholes are drilled in a rectangle around the gunner's periscope, (gun mantle) and 4-6 holes drilled on the sloping front of the Panther under the driver's periscope and under the gun brake.

IR operated Panthers also have an IR -*Scheinwerfer* base plate welded to the right hand side of the gun mantle. Inside the tank

turret a metal stand replaced the three round ammunition bin allowing the battery and GG400 electrical generator to fit in to the fighting compartment. Each Panthers chassis number has a letter 'F' stamped on the end of the serial number plate.

MNH received a sample FG1250 in the first week of August 1944. From January 1945 all production AFV's, (including 38t variants and *Lowe's*) are modified to carry three IR sets. By the summer of 1945 every platoon in every Panther Battalion had a fully equipped *Sperber* unit attached. These will eventually be absorbed in to the *SturmBrigaden* proper.

### "Sperber" Units

A 'Sperber' or 'Sparrow' mixed panzer/infantry unit consisted of Five Panther G tanks, an Sdkfz 251/20 'Uhu' (Owl) and one Sdkfz 251/1 'Falke', (Falcon with 10 *Vampir* grenadiers). By the end of 1945 there is one unit per Gruppen until replaced by the Corp level 'Schatten' Battalions.

The stationary 'Uhu' uses its large IR- *Scheinwerfer* to illuminate enemies' position for the advancing/stationary IR Panther G. The escorting grenadiers armed with *Vampir* deploy on foot around the 'Uhu' or remain aboard the 'Falke' and advance with the Panthers.

The 'Falke' is equipped with a Biwa set, mounted on the drivers viewing hatch and on the forward MG42 MG mount. The Panther crew acquires targets and destroys them in darkness before advancing.

In the field the 'Uhu' suffered from technical problems, this resulted in a decision to replace it with the more efficient AFV mounted system, completely replacing the need for a separate *Scheinwerfer*. The improved FG1257 will replace all the AFV systems, enabling greater flexibility.

### Man portable infrared 'Vampir' systems

During IR experiments at Fallingbostal it was found that IR panthers and escorting vehicles needed infantry protection. Scientists at the facility immediately began designing a rifle mounted IR *zielgerat* independent of a vehicle.

The final chosen design was fitted to the StG 44 assault rifle and was known as ZG1229 'Vampir' composing of a 128-type diode lamp, (100/125mm diameter *Scheinwerfer*) and *Bildwandler* offering a focal length of 700mm with a two-inch field of view over 100metres.

The weapons effective range is 70 metres in good clear conditions. Leitz produced 310 sets before the summer of



1944. The sight weighed 2.25Kg, the *Scheinwerfer* battery, (36 watts of power) was encased in a wooden box, below this is attached the *Bildwandler* protected with a modified M31 gas mask case. The system is attached to the traggestell 39-assault harness.

Its main drawback was the weight. The sight weighed an enormous 2.25Kg, the wooden case with the *Scheinwerfer* battery and a modified metal M31 Gas mask case holding the *Bildwandler*, (all carried in a canvas haversack) increased the weight to a backbreaking 5,100 Kilos! The sets weight forced the user into a defensive posture.

The 'Vampir' was field tested with specially selected marksmen on the *OstFront* to see how it performed in action during the winter of 1944/45. As a state secret all users signed a document swearing never to reveal to the enemy the weapons existence. Later that year the ZG1229 was fitted to the ground mounted MG34 and MG42 and MG42v sustained fire MMG. Its weight did not affect its deployment.

The *Vampir* and its derivatives are issued only to the *NachtjagdKommando*, *Jagdkommando*, Luft-reiter units and 'Schatten' escort infantry. Some universal issue has been attempted amongst the Honoric units. Snipers in the night hunting commando have attached the Vampir D version to converted G43 rifles.

IR devices have to be removed from their weapons during daylight to protect the sensitive optics. If visibility is poor, the weather conditions are less than perfect the night fighting units are not able to operate their *Vampir sets*. If conditions are bad then all the operator will see through the *Bildwandler* is a fuzziness distorting the image rather like snow flakes.

AEG's 'habicht' and RPF's 'Mucke' IR rifle sets are still in postproduction; the *Vampir D* that uses US Army handy-talkie batteries (halving its weight) is in full production.

### Infrared Uniforms

Work on new camouflage clothing impregnated with carbon, (code-named *Leibermuster*) that 'hides' the wearer from IR light was started during the autumn of 1944. The new camouflage print was produced in both smooth drill and herringbone twill cloth. Stockpiles of the new cloth were initially stored at the Waffen SS supply depots at Dachau and Riga, (SS owned companies were manufacturing the cloth using slave labour).

The cloth was intended for all services to produce uniforms and camouflage

tent quarters. The cloth is produced using special light absorbing dyes in a time consuming process. *Leibermuster* isn't designed exclusively for the night fighters; it is intended to replace all camouflage cloth in the armed forces.

During the spring of 1945 the manufacture of the cloth was halted. The abandonment of a slave labour system in Germany and the closing of the Waffen SS prison camps made production impossible. Existing stocks were issued and are worn side by side with other splinter pattern cloth. During September 1945 the *Neu-Heer* ordered the creation of a new carbon impregnated cloth using a splinter pattern in grey tones. Known as the M45 pattern it was only issued to the *NachtjagdKommando* during late 1945.

Though the M45 pattern has only been issued to the elite night hunting commandos the Army does foresee a general issue to the infantry. All camouflage items issued to a German soldier are recorded in the soldiers pay book.

### Future development

The introduction of the FG1257 vision device to all AFV will enable the *Neu-Heer* to retire the clumsy

'Uhu' system. The 'Falke' will be replaced by the Sdkfz 603 Fuchs and the 38t troop carrying vehicle during late 1945. Improved *Scheinwerfer's* will enable the AFV to fight in less than perfect weather conditions, improving its 'kill' ability.



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# The Soviet Colossus

Following the failed battle for Latvia during January 1946 the Soviet General Staff or *Stavka* set up a study group to study all relevant operational data that had been collated during the short and savage battle, with the intention of using the information to find ways to combat the German's sudden technological advantage. During this detailed examination they needed to develop new tactics based on their findings and change the tactical doctrine of the armed forces.

This was an on-going process in the Red Army and was done to a greater extent than any other modern army. The Red Army evolves through hard, bitter experience, often learning by high losses on the battlefield. *Stavka's* close examination of the failed Latvian offensive lead them to conclude that new technology was desired for their own front line units, especially anti-nerve gas equipment, but *Stavka* also concludes that fielding a numerically superior Army and bringing it to battle on a weak German front during 1946 would still collapse the fragile German Army.

Better and improved '*maskirovka*' tactics before the main battle and greater flexibility during battle are required. Greater flexibility in the tank arms is needed; the western allies must supply more radio equipment. The supporting tank infantry must be given greater protection in battle, the M3 half track is needed in greater numbers, in the meantime a turret less T-34 chassis will be utilised for a new armoured personal carrier for shock troops.

Stalin takes the decision to create new elite fighting units, composed of men from the Komosol and party organisations, proven, loyal troops for leading attacks and securing the rear for the fighting troops, independent of the NKVD, (security force). The *Red Banner* Rifle Divisions will be formed from the Moscow parachute Corp.

Tank Divisions will be re-introduced, smaller and more flexible than Corp sized units, and a new night fighting Army trained and deployed for the next offensive in the Ukraine, poison gas will be stockpiled for the summer. The German's are superior in the conduct of operational level attacks, their officers trained to be aggressive and flexible during battle, but over time overwhelming numbers of Soviet tanks on the battlefield will still gradually wear down the fighting ability of the German Army.

The Red Army is essentially unchanged; they do however rely more and more on the western allies to supply clothing and equipment. Tank units are happy with the British Comet tank. The Red Army awaits shipments of the infrared capable US Army M26 Pershing Tank in the summer. The super heavy JS-7 with its 130mm gun has begun to see front line service with the armoured Corps.

Front line Red Army infantry see more and more US Army M1 helmets being issued to guard units and large amounts of British type 37 webbing being issued to rifle divisions.

A lack of suitable maps for field commanders has led to many officer's following railway lines, this seriously hampers flexible operations, map printing is essential for future operations.

## Internal pressures

Stalin is fully aware that the enemy *Fremde Heeres Ost* is fermenting armed insurrection in the southern republics. There long oppressed Moslem populations are fertile ground for German gold and if a rebellion breaks out there, it could present the over stretched Red Army and NKVD more than a few problems.

Stalin is forced to send valuable troops from the Japanese-Manchu border to Kazakhstan, denying him valuable reinforcements for the battered northern front.

## Specialised Equipment

The M3A1 assault rifle with infrared night vision capability 'called super scope' has begun to be issued to Guards Sniper Divisions on the Eastern Front. A version is being modified for the PTRDS anti-tank and the Simonov designed 7.62mm 10-round SVS assault rifle.

The first truly soviet assault rifle the AAS43/46 assault rifle will be put in to production during June 1946. In future all guard units will be issued anti-nerve agent masks and a new poncho/ rubber PO-1 nerve gas suit to protect them from gas attack.

It's not unusual to see Soviet snipers using Vampir II equipment captured from dead enemy troops. Few are found intact, but those that are, are highly prized by soviet snipers.

The US Army has agreed to supply the latest HMG under development. The '*Beagle*' 30cal six-barrelled heavy machinegun is a battery operated gatling/mini-gun type weapon mounted on a two wheeled firing platform. A 50 cal version is also under development in the USA.

### **Typical 1946 Guards Rifle Division**

Each Division has an average bayonet strength of 5, 000 men

Staff HQ

Three Infantry Regiments with Three Battalions each

Regimental support: MG Company: 12 x HMG

Mortar Company: 9 x 82mm Mortars

Anti-tank Company: 4 x 45mm ATG

Artillery Battery: 4 x 76mm Guns

Mortar Battery: 6 x 120mm Mortars

Artillery Brigade: Howitzer Regt: 20 x 122mm Guns

Light Howitzer Regt: 20 x 76mm guns

Heavy Mortar Regt: 20 x 120mm mortars

Anti-Tank Battalion: 12 x 76mm guns or 16 SPG

Anti-aircraft Battalion: 12 x 37mm guns

Sapper Battalion: 120 men

#### **Notes**

A Rifle Division at full strength should contain 8, 500 men.

It has 6 less 37mm Anti-aircraft guns, 8 less 122mm Howitzers, 17 less 120mm Mortars and five less 82mm Mortars than a Guards unit

### **Typical 1946 Guards Mechanised Rifle/Tank Division**

Staff HQ

Two or Three Guards Mechanised Brigades with three rifle Battalions in each

One Tank Regiments with 41 x JS-VII

Two Guard Tank Brigade with 3 Battalions, (21 x T-34/85 or IB-44 in each Bn)

SU Regiment: 21 x SU85 SPG

Heavy SU Regiment: 21 x SU122 SPG

Anti-Tank Regiment: 24 x 76 SPG

Mortar Regiment: 36 x 120mm mortars

Anti-Aircraft Regiment: 24 x 37mm guns

Guards mortar Battalion: 8 x BM13

Motorcycle Battalion: 120 men

Sapper Battalion: 120 men

**Notes:** Each Corp has an average of 180 T-34/85, 21 SU 85 or SU-75 and 21 SU122 AFV's. A Tank Division is similar to the mechanised Division except it has two or three tank Brigades and only one Motorised Brigade, with approximately 200 tanks and 60 self propelled guns. Red Army armoured units tend to be tank heavy, but they often lack radios and the technological advantages that the German's have.

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### **New Tank designs**

Recent experiences with the latest German AFV's have forced soviet tank designers to review their current designs. Currently coming on to the production line is the IS-7 Tank with its 130mm S-70 L/54 gun. Made at the Kirovskiy factory it is a super heavy tank made a direct result of experiences with the German King Tiger tank?

A new light tank is being produced at the 75th Kharkov factory. The T-44 tank with its 85mm DSt gun is designed to replace the T-34 tank. It has a top speed of 51Km/per Hour and weighs 31,800 Kg soon to be superseded by the IB-44/100 with its 100mm D-10T gun. This version has HEAT side skirts to help deflect missiles.

The new SU57b and SU75 self propelled guns are still in development, but will soon be rolling off the production lines as a valuable addition to the tank hunting regiments.

## Specialist Fighting Units of the 1946 Red Army

### Guards Sniper Division

This specialist fighting unit was set up during 1944 to control specialised sniper teams across the front. These are the elite troops of the Red Army, highly regarded and feted as national heroes by the Soviet press. Eventually all are equipped with US Army night fighting equipment, but are not a part of the night fighting Army, the “*Steppe Wolves*”.

The training HQ is in the military town of Tuzla, with three training schools, US Army instructors and a replacement depot. The Whole division is divided in to three commands, north, centre and south. Each Command controls three Guards Sniper Battalions attached to each Front command.

In each Battalion are two companies. In each Company Two Sections. Each Section contains between 2 and 6 patrols with 3 men or women to each patrol. If a patrol is equipped with the MI sniper rifle then the patrol contains 6 men or women.

I Guards night fighting Corp - 1st, 2nd and 20th Brigades  
II Guards night fighting Corp - 3rd, 4th and 21st Brigades  
III Guards night fighting Corp - 5th, 6th and 22nd Brigades  
Independent formations 7th Guards Ghost Brigade  
8th Guards Ghost Brigade  
9th Guards Ghost Brigade  
1st – 9th Guards night fighting Tank Brigades

### Operatsii gruppa Taktka Pyadyshev the “*Steppe Wolves*”

The tactical operation group Pyadushev, (named after its commander) commonly known throughout the Red Army as the ‘steppe wolves’ is an elite rifle unit of the Red Army, created from the 5th Guards Parachute Corp in Moscow military district. Their depot is in the Ryazan training school.

The ‘*steppe wolves*’ contains three Corp sized units with three brigades each, (each Brigade is a Battalion sized infantry unit) and three independent Brigades. A Tank training school based in Stalingrad has been attached to the Division with the purpose of forming nine Tank Brigades. These will be equipped using the Soviet version of captured German IR sets salvaged from the battlefield.

Only one in five tanks will have IR technology.

The infantry train with the lend lease M3 super scope rifle and have began evaluating the OP-1 chemical warfare suit, for operations during nerve gas attacks. The first units will go in to action as reconnaissance troops during the summer of 1946 when enough super scope sets have been manufactured under license in the Soviet Union.

A leading figure in the ‘*steppe wolves*’ Army is ‘hero of the soviet union’ Major Ivanov Bondarev. He is an accomplished sniper who has been fighting since 1941. Throughout the ghost Army he is known as the ‘Wolf’ for his cunning and skilled field craft. He has 210 personal kills to his tally using the MN rifle. He commands the 9<sup>th</sup> independent ghost brigade, fighting in the western Ukraine.

### Red Banner Rifle Divisions

The Red Banner Rifle Divisions were created by Stavka order on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 1946, to be composed of loyal communist party members and Komosol cadre. Selected Guardsmen could join the new rifle formations if they had proved exceptionally brave in action.

Stalin was growing increasingly mistrustful of both the NKVD and the Red Army; repeated failures on the battlefield convinced him of the need to raise a body of troops loyal to him self, and a body of fighters that could be sent to critical sectors of the front to restore order in the event of a breakdown in morale.

They are not a police unit; they will be used in battle, to show the Army how dedicated communists troops can overcome the enemy in battle.

The Red Banner troops are distinguishable from other Red Army troops; they wear British Army style two piece battledress uniform with a new red coloured shoulder board, (with unit number).

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**Order of Battle:** Guard Brigade, '*Kremlin*' (stationed in Moscow, Stalin's bodyguard unit)  
I Division '*Stalin*', (raised in Moscow from airborne cadre)  
II Division '*Lenin*', (raised in Moscow military district)  
III Division '*Generalissimo*', (raised in Stalingrad military district)  
IV Division '*Comintern*', (raised in Moscow military district with foreign cadre)  
V Division '*Komsomolyk*', (raised in Leningrad military district)

## 2004th '*Distiplinarnyi Gruppya*' The Gulag Scum.

### The Motherland needs you!

Nikolaev Glusha laughed, he hadn't laughed so hard since his arrival in Tomsk three years ago! He had just read the notice board outside the NKVD commander's office. The whole prison gang was going west to fight for Gospodin Stalin and save the Soviet Union from the Germanski!

He tramped his way back to his hut, wading through the spring mud; things must be in a right state if the Gulag scum were being recruited in to the Red Army, that's for sure he mused. With his folded down boots, Black peasants style blouse tucked in to his shapeless trousers, Nikolaev did not look like a typical hero of the Soviet Union, but as a work '*Brigadier*' he knew that this could be the ticket out of the camps to eventual freedom?

Captain of NKVD E. Shilovksy entrained with 800 *Zeks*, (prisoners) two weeks later from Tomsk for the front. As usual a few criminals were executed on the platform as a warning to the others, no funny business while he was in charge. Shilovksy volunteered to lead the punishment battalion because of the rewards it could bring within the secret police.

*"A good defence is always a signal for our forces to attack the fascists, if we hide behind a defensive policy, our western allies will desert us and leave us at the mercy of the Germans. We must attack to defend our motherland, attack do you hear Zhukov!"*

Stalin conversation with Marshal Zhukov June 1946

Those who showed bravery on the battlefield were often recalled to Moscow and given promotions and good office jobs.

### The Front

Throughout the USSR camps were selecting suitable men and women for front line duties. Loses amongst the Red Army had to be made

good from somewhere and the camps offered a new source of manpower, even if important state projects had to be halted to provide more bayonets!

The 2004<sup>th</sup> *Distiplinarnyi Gruppya* Battalion reported to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ukrainian Front HQ 14 days later. Straight away the men were put to labouring near the town of Koshedary, the NKVD NCOs reported to their officers that they have found a lot of discontentment in the unit; '*blatnoe slovo*' or thieves talk abounded. The *Zek's* wanted to kill the German scum, not dig toilets for the Red Army!

At nights the *Urka's* or professional thieves bullied the *fraier* or suckers, the new prisoners stealing their food or tormenting them, especially the political prisoners. The NKVD guards turned a blind eye; they preferred the prisoners to fight amongst themselves. The *Urka's* proudly showed off their tattoos of Stalin and Lenin adorning their chests, they had them inked in to their skin believing no NKVD man could shoot the great soviet leaders, so they would never die at the hands of an NKVD firing squad!

The hard-core criminals, with carved crosses in their teeth play card games, often for other prisoners when cash and precious objects run out. Some held their cards with only three fingers; they had forfeited their fingers when they couldn't pay card debts!

### First Mission

"Sure my boys can do it!" Nikolaev Glusha boasted to the NKVD sergeant, "my brigade can do anything" he added and went back to the slaving black mass digging anti-tank trenches to spread the news, the unit was going in to action that night, supporting the Guards Snipers no less!

A buzz of excitement went round the company of prisoners, every emotion passed through their ranks, fear, excitement and dread. Many wondered if they would be armed and fight with the elite troops and would they get a chance to shoot at the German's?

That evening the 2004<sup>th</sup> '*Distiplinarnyi Gruppya*' with their armed NKVD troops marched to the front, till they



reached a wood SE of Koshedary. Gathered around a Sapper truck, on the tailgate sat a Red Army sergeant, his peasants face betrayed nothing till all the Gulag prisoners were silent “Special mission boys, help the fatherland” he said and then began handing out hand held torches and small searchlights, the type used by film crews.

### **Bait!**

Nikolaev’s heart fell, not rifles, but torches, what the hell was the Army up to now? Nikolaev had been in the Gulag long enough to know this was not a good sign, even their dreaded NKVD guards were smiling behind the nervous *Zeks* and they never smiled at anything!

A Lieutenant of Snipers, his tits covered in medals jumped on the back of the Truck along side the supply sergeant and began to speak to the men, “you will enter the forest silently and hide among the trees and shrubs and however long it takes you will wait till you hear a whistle blow, then turn on your lights!” Nikolaev’s unit turned to him their faces looking at his confusingly, “you heard the officer, this is the Army an order is an order!” he barked at them and began walking in to the dark forest. These strange new recruits to the Red Army followed.

The prisoners did as ordered; the NKVD guards gripped their SMGs tightly, becoming nervous in case the *zeks* took the opportunity to desert? The Guards sniper unit followed the prisoners a few Km in to the forest, as they hoped the hidden German sniper began picking off the noisy prisoners, using his night fighting rifle, it was like shooting sitting ducks, the frightened *Zeks* hugged the forest fauna and hoped they wouldn’t be seen and killed?

Gradually the much famed Red Army snipers edged closer and closer to the German sniper, four hours after entering the wood, a whistle suddenly blew out in the darkness, the whole area was suddenly a kaleidoscope of flashing lights, unable to fire in these conditions the German night fighting sniper began to crawl backwards toward the German lines. Suddenly a shot rang out and the German fell, wounded in the back!

The German though in pain, knew he could not reach safety, saying a quick prayer he pulled the pin on the special phosphorus grenade and blew himself and his precious equipment in to a million small pieces. The Red Guards snipers poured over his remains, paying special interest in the scorched remains of his rubber anti-gas uniform, unhappy they had not recovered the night vision set.

Nikolaev Glushka and his unit spent an hour looking for wounded or dead comrades, burying the dead outside the wood, not marking the graves. Glushka felt lucky, he’d heard that *zeks* could be sent in to battle without gas support, catching the German’s off guard fighting without their gas suits.

It was said that once the Gulag prisoners had reached the German trenches the NKVD would launch a gas attack, killing both sides!

As a reward the *zeks* received a couple of grams of Vodka each and began gambling the last hour of darkness away. The day after the *zeks* returned to digging anti-tank trenches for the Army, none of the survivors from the woods wished for anything more than this kind of ‘action’!

### **Inter-Allied Combat Group “Russia”**

After the Normandy debacle the western allies decided to contribute ground troops to the war in the east. More a sign of solidarity than being of any major use to the Red Army, they never the less do improve moral amongst the Soviet troops they serve along. US General B Marriot commands the field units in Russia; his staff HQ is based in Novograd with an NKVD liaison staff.

The commitment of forces to the eastern front does enable the western armies to witness first hand the changes in German field tactics, which can prepare them for the G-Day in 1947.

### **Commonwealth Units**

#### **Staff HQ**

*Duke of Blenheim Armoured Brigade, (Br):* 2 infantry Bn, 1 tank battalion with comet tanks.

*Kings Alberta Cavalry Regiment, (Canadian)* equipped with Comet tanks

73rd Field Artillery Regt, (Br) inc. ATG unit

ANZAC SAS ‘Russia’ Squadron

16th Household Cavalry Squadron, (Br) armoured car unit

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## US Army units

**366th 'Polar Bears' Infantry Regiment, (US Army col S. Jones)**

**705th Tank Destroyer Battalion, (M-18's)**

**206th Field Artillery Group: 8th FA Bn, (10.5cm on M7)**

**110th FA Bn, (155cm on M12)**

**561st FA Bn, (8inch guns)**

**709th Provisional Tank Battalion, (US Army major R. Rowell) M26 with night fighting capability**

## ANZAC SAS 'Russia' Squadron

During the Soviet winter offensive in Latvia a small group of western allied ground forces participated in the battle. One of these units was the ANZAC SAS 'Russia' Squadron, a small Special Forces unit composed of men from Australia and New Zealand.

Formed from regular troops in the Far East, (Borneo) during 1944, he experienced jungle troops were assembled at Darwin during October 1944 and began training for operations in Asia.

The failure to open a second front in Europe during the summer of 1944 led to all the western allies pledging ground forces to the Eastern Front, showing solidarity for the Red Army.

The Australian and New Zealand Governments pledged a small Company sized commando group to the Inter-allied Support Corp Russia, despite severe manpower shortages themselves. The flamboyant Captain A. Bidwell commands the 'Russia' Squadron with an HQ troop and four additional troops numbered A – D.

The unit arrived in Iran on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1945 and began training with Soviet weapons and equipment; their own weapons would not be suitable to the harsh climate in the USSR. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June the Squadron entrained for the USSR arriving in Leningrad during mid August 1945. The Anzac's are under the command of the Northern command Partisan forces, participating in commando raids on the German's rear echelon.

The unit does not fight as a whole, the HQ troop, A (Lt. Harrison) and C troop, (Lt R. Lewin) are stationed at Oranienbaum fighting as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Byelorussia Front. B-troop under the command of Lt. J. Baldwin is attached to the 2nd Belorussian Front; DTroop,

(Sergeant Major P. Collin's) is operating in the western Ukraine with the 9<sup>th</sup> Guards night sniper Brigade, (ghost brigade). Like many specialist forces they have begun training with the M3 super scope sniper rifle.

Their tour of duty is unknown, though there tour of duty is expected to last two years in the USSR. Many men wear either the lemon squeeze or bush hat when off duty and are well known in the areas they serve as adventurous tough soldiers. The Soviet high command only wished they had more of them!

# Western Allied Specialist Units

## 'Midnight Force'

The British Army began full time training of British and commonwealth soldiers on the use and effects of nerve gas at the top secret Portland Down facility during the summer of 1943.

The first training unit fully converted to fight in nerve gas conditions as a sniper/anti-sniper combat unit took place during May 1946. Codenamed '*midnight Force*' the night fighting group was placed under the command of Col M. Hayder.

Colonel Hayder's mission is to train small specialised forces for night fighting operations on the front line, it is envisioned that each Corp in the British Army will have a 100 man company sized unit under its command for specialist night combat operations.

The men will be equipped with a full rubber nerve gas suit, (MK16) respirator and the Superscope night vision device, (converted for use with Enfield rifle).

### Combat school 'Midnight'

#### Corp Companies

#### Three Independent units, company size

#### Independent units for special operations

**I Battalion 'Phantom' serving in Italy**

**II Battalion 'Sorcerer' serving in the Aegean**

**III Battalion 'Apparition' serving in India**

The 100-man *midnight* Battalion uses the Corp number to identify it, their mission is to operate against enemy snipers at night, or

disrupt the enemy command chain by targeting and killing officers. As a result of the German Army night fighting units, the British Army is well aware of what such units can do to the infantryman's morale, not being able to relax even at night.

### **Markforce**

Independent Battalion sized commando unit, operating in Italy and Aegean region. Commanded by Major Mark's an officer on probation. Created during May 1945 from soldiers on discipline charges and designed to perform dangerous behind the lines combat operations as part of Midnight force.

### **Special Night Reconnaissance Regiment (SNR)**

Commanded by Major General R. Glaab

A US Army specialist parachute armoured unit Raised at fort Bragg during the winter of 1945/46, (air capable) equipped with the light M3 Lee tank, which are equipped with night vision scopes.

The stripped down light Tanks are landed in gliders. The whole unit, (500 men) is composed of three companies, (called battalions) the Glider infantry Battalion, Parachute infantry Battalion and the light Armoured Battalion.

The unit has been created by the US Army to partake in a pre-offensive behind the lines commando mission, (such as the taking of guarded bridges) once the objective has been taken the tanks are to be destroyed and the troops extracted by aircraft.

The unit is earmarked for a secret combat operation in northern Europe during 1948.

## **Death on Other Fronts!**

The following articles are to give the reader some idea of what the 1946 battle field looks like.

### **Arapahoe Company Chernovograd**

The 15<sup>th</sup> 'Schatten' Battalion attached to the 41<sup>st</sup> SturmKorp 50Km NW of Lvov launched a night assault on the laagered 135<sup>th</sup> Tank Brigade's first Battalion, equipped with 32 T-34/85 tanks. The German attack is designed to

harass the Red Army, a typical hit and run tactic.

The night attack began at 03.20 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1946 involving the whole Battalion in the assault. The 15<sup>th</sup> 'Schatten' Battalion is commanded by Hauptmann Mueller. Unknown to the German attackers a company of the 709<sup>th</sup> US Army provisional night fighting Battalion is attached to the Soviet Brigade to evaluate the M26 Pershing tank!

The commander of this company Captain Joe Boxer was attached to the western Allies fact-finding mission attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Baltic Front during the failed Soviet winter offensive in January. Seeing the effectiveness of German infrared and rocket technology first hand he ensures that a Red Army searchlight unit is always close at hand wherever his unit travels, a bag of pistol flares is also a good investment!

The 'Schatten' Battalion is divided in the three *Kampfgruppe* of equal strength; the attack is led by an IR-MO-4/4 Maresal troop carrier from the escort *Waffengruppe*. The unit advances, their exhausts muffled, expectant free to hunt in the dark.

Peering through the FG1257 telescopes the AFV crews peer expectantly in the dark for the dark shadows indicating enemy tanks. A few Km from the centre of Chernovograd (indicated by the onion dome of its orthodox church, the MO-4/4's young crew report to Mueller's command vehicle over the PUMA sets. After 20mins they report the position of the enemy camp and await the rest of the Shadow battalion's arrival.

The three *Kampfgruppe* fanned out on the steppe a couple of Km north of the town individually selecting targets. The first two groups are equipped with Panther VJ IR-tanks; the last group is equipped with Biwa-Panther VJs.

The calm of the quiet Ukrainian summer's night was suddenly shattered when the Shadow Battalions armour opens up on the 135<sup>th</sup> Tank Brigade; desperately the Soviet crews rush to their surviving vehicles and attempt to turn over the Otto engines. One by one the exposed tanks 'brew up' unable to see the hidden German tanks on the steppe.

Captain Joe Boxer on the other hand and his Arapahoe Company, positioned south of the town had time to mount up his tankers, and move his column westward from the town. He hopes to catch the German Battalion on its exposed western flank.

Once Boxer and his crews spot the German muzzle flashes in the darkness, he dismounts the two searchlights and orders his crews to start calibrating their Infra red

equipment. After 15 minutes his Company of M46 Tanks are ready to open fire.

Confident of victory the German crews of the western Kampfgruppe do not notice the threat to their flank, their Panther VJ's fire round after round into the confused Russian armour, suddenly Panzer 103 exploded, disintegrating as the ammunition locker absorbed the AP round!

Hastily the Kampfgruppe commander re-directs the remaining tanks attention to the new threat, too slow, a second then a third tank exploded, the surviving 10 Panther's, begin a duel with the US Army tanks, with the loss of three tanks Boxer orders the Soviet searchlight to open up, rendering the Infrared sets useless, a further three Panthers are knocked out by the sweating American tankers in short order.

A carefully aimed HE round destroys one searchlight and the surviving searchlight prudently turns its lamp off. Captain Joe Boxer crawls in to the steppe grass and fires off a few flares, this attracts the attention of the other two *Biwa-Kampfgruppen*, who begin laying down supporting fire on the US positions. Around Chernovograd the T-34/85's continued to burn, long after the fire fight.

The steppe is once more plunged in to darkness, but either through panic or worried by the fires breaking out on the dry steppe grass, the German commander orders his survivors to withdrawal. A Pioneer squad remains behind to destroy/collect and surviving IR-sets and pick up wounded.

When Hauptmann Mueller submits his after action report to the 41<sup>st</sup> *SturmKorp* he's wryly observes that the advantage the *Neu-Heer* once had over Ivan was now at an end!

Captain Joe Boxer was jubilant; his unit's first action was a success! Once his report reached SHAEF he was immediately replaced and brought back to the UK to set up a new night fighting tank Company, to participate in the up and coming invasion of Europe.

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### **The 2/1605<sup>th</sup> Brigades first Blood**

Armee Gruppe Mitte is given the dubious pleasure of 'testing' the combat efficiency of the latest foreign volunteer FeldGruppen to leave the *Truppenbauplatz* Dobschau training camp. The new infantry unit is composed of

deserters from the Red Army, committed to the fight against communism in their homeland.

High command decides that General Buniachenko's latest addition to the *KONR* army should field a Waffengruppe against a Red Army position and see how well it performs on the battlefield before committing the whole unit to combat.

The second Battalion the 1605<sup>th</sup> FeldBrigaden is sent to the 106<sup>th</sup> *FeldGruppen*'s sector 20Km west of Dolsino, (8<sup>th</sup> Armee front) during the first week of April 1946. The Gruppe propaganda section is attached to the unit and on arrival begins an intense leaflet/loudhailer campaign to persuade Red Army infantry to desert. During the following two weeks the unit persuades 206 Red Army riflemen to desert from the opposing 287<sup>th</sup> Rifle Division! After a debriefing the Red Army deserters are sent to the *KONR* reserve unit in Prague.

Judged a success the Battalion now prepared for action. A plan was prepared to send the unit in against a hedgehog position in the 287<sup>th</sup> Rifle Divisions sector. The 106<sup>th</sup> would support the action with an artillery barrage. Over three days the Russian volunteers edged their way forward through the deep German trench defences, acclimatising themselves with the noise, smells and destruction on the battlefield, till finally they stood in the forward trench line. The attack would begin at dawn, the *KONR* troops were not issued with night fighting equipment.

At 05.30hrs the German's launched a small artillery barrage and nerve gas attack against the Soviet position, the field Grey ranks of the 1065<sup>th</sup> advanced in to the moon cratered landscape, pioneers cut thought he enemy wire and stormed forward shouting *Uhraeh! Ur, Ur Uhraeh!*

The Soviet MG's spat death in to their fellow countryman's, ranks, but still the came, the rain began to fall, turning the ground in to slush, still the Russians advanced. The Soviet mortars fired their deadly grenades in to the air, decimating the forward ranks, but still they charged, till finally counting of the metres, in single numbers the surviving *KONR* troops began throwing grenades and launching panzerfaust 250's at the enemy bunkers, dugouts and trenches.

Jumping their own dead fresh troops from the 1605<sup>th</sup> ran the last few metres and attacked the Soviet trenches, men fought with sharpened spades, knives, bayonets, axes and their bare hands. The Grey and earth brown bodies fought with their very souls for the position. The air filled with curses shouted in



Russian, men fell wounded clutching their torn bodies in disbelief!

The Soviet troops broke after 20 minutes and abandoned the position, to the exhausted KONR survivors. The capture was reported to the 106<sup>th</sup> HQ by radio and a supporting artillery barrage was thrown around the bridgehead; German troops began moving up to relieve the Russian troops. The KONR troops picked up their dead and wounded and left rosaries in the hands of the Red Army dead and wounded. Later the NKVD would send the wounded survivors to punishment units for possession of religious icons.

The Waffengruppe had been blooded in battle and proved their combat worth to the German's. Medals and awards would be heaped on the unit despite the loss of a 100 men during the short battle.

Many survivors would feel a deep unhappiness about their experience after the action for many months later; they could not shake the guilt they felt at killing their own countrymen.

### **The Storming of Hill 516, Serbian Front**

Hill 516 is important to the German's; it dominates the town of Kresevo, a mining town with a large rail yard. The town lies in the 3<sup>rd</sup> GebirgsGruppen's sector on the Serbian front. Kresevo lays 20Km west of the old Bosnian city of Tuzla.

The Bulgarian 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bulgarian Army in the River Drina bridgehead captured the hill after an intense week long artillery bombardment. The Bulgarians overwhelmed the German defenders on the hill, but did not capture the town.

The German Gruppen commander organises a counter-attack that evening using a fresh mountain Waffengruppe and a unit of the *Jagdkommando Sud-Ost*. Moving up the hill to relieve the Bulgarian Battalion is the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion-17<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade. They are supported by the US Army's 189<sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion and 1<sup>st</sup> Company 120<sup>th</sup> US Army engineer Battalion.

The Austrian mountaineers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Waffengruppe/139<sup>th</sup> *GerbirgsBrigade* load up with extra ammunition on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1946 and wait for the Gruppen artillery to bombard the enemy position. Their commander Major Pederson confers with his Sturm commanders and the commander of the *Jagdkommando* group attached to him for this attack. The young officer of this elite commando Korp stands before him dressed in his M45 gas attack suit, gas mask strapped around his upper

left arm and his MP44 Vampir II weapon clutched in his hand.

The battle plan is discussed. The *Jagdkommando* will lead the attack at 23.59hrs under the cover of a creeping artillery barrage, using their night fighting equipment. A few will be dressed in British Army helmets and greatcoats to confuse the enemy. They will be closely followed by the Austrian mountain troops.

As night fell on this cold autumn night the hill rocked like a ship at sea as the heavy German artillery shells smashed in to the Indians positions. The *Jagdkommando* British infantry ruse worked, the Sturm of troops deceived the Indians and got in to the first trenches with little trouble.

The German attack continued, realising the German's were in the Allied defences the Indian Brigade ordered a counter-attack at the lost trenches. Smoke added to the dantesque dance of death on the rocky hill. The US Army's first company 120<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion launched a spirited attack on the *Jagdkommando* during the night. The smoke covering the hill rendered the German commando's infrared sets useless, bitter hand-to-hand fighting took place in the rocky trenches between Indians, US engineers and the German Commando's, dugouts become mini battlefields carpeted with bloody casualties, heavy darkness enveloped the mountain with no side gaining an advantage over the other side.

Meanwhile the 2WG/139<sup>th</sup> *Gebirgsjager* Regiment pushed up the hill trying to reach the Commando's; they were taking many casualties from the allied artillery and supporting fire from the allied positions on each flank and their advance was slow up the rocky hillside. Thirty minutes in to the attack and the German Commando's broke off contact and retreated down the hill, they had lost 30 men from the 120 that had started the attack. They only stooped retreating when they reached the advancing mountain infantry, Major Pederson blew his whistle and ordered his men to charge the remaining 100 yards to the enemy's first trench line, into the hurricane of fire they charged, each third man fell wounded or dead, but the leading Sturm took the trench back, ejecting the US engineers.

Throughout the night the German's beat back four Indian/US Army counter-attacks until at 05.04hrs a Bulgarian Company supported by US flame-throwers finally forced the German mountain troops out of the hilltop position. Hill 516 remained in Allied hand for another day.



**We hope these few scenarios encourage you to create your own table top 1946 Storm of Eagles© Battlefields using our rules '1946 Storm of Eagles Rules of engagement'?**

## **Swallows to the Front!**

09.00hrs HQ the *Gross Deutschland SturmKorp Grenadier Brigades 3<sup>rd</sup> Pz-Jg Waffengruppe*, Romania June 4<sup>th</sup> 1946 and the commanders of the *Waffengruppe* sub-units gather for a meeting with their commander Hauptmann Reinhold. Finally the Korp was going on the offensive in Romania!

Each zug commander is briefed on his mission, as expected the self-propelled guns of the other two *Waffengruppe* would support the armoured units leading the attack on the Soviet second Ukrainian Front. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Motorised *Waffengruppe* with its towed anti-tank guns would follow the Korp as a mobile reserve, ready in case the enemy launch an armoured counter-attack. The *Waffengruppe* would be attached to the *Gross Deutschland Grenadier Brigade HQ* during the march.

Hauptmann Reinhold's finished his briefing and turned his gaze to the youngest member of his unit, *Fahnjunker* or officer cadet Mark Fleischer, only 19 but in charge of one the armies newest battlefield weapons, he commanded a three Sdkfz 610 '*fuchs*' zug armed with the X-7c '*schwalbe*' rocket. The rest of the *Waffengruppe* was equipped with the PAW 600 anti-tank gun, this latest 'wonder weapon' made the PAW 600 obsolete!

Accurate and devastating, no enemy tank could survive an attack from the weapon, well that's what *Fahnjunker* Fleischer told him, but as yet the captain hadn't seen the weapon fired in anger!

Reinhold lifted his chin and faced the young ant-tank officers 'Gentlemen to your men, prepare to move out at 05.00 hrs tomorrow morning!' The meeting was concluded.

June 10<sup>th</sup> 1946: Smashed Soviet equipment lay strewn across the burning Romanian countryside, *Fahnjunker* Fleischer standing atop his Sdkfz 610 '*fuchs*' scanned the burning horizon for signs of the enemy, non appeared, it was as if Ivan had vanished in to thin air!

After four days of driving the *Rakete zug* of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pz-Jg *Waffengruppe Gross Deutschland Pz-Jg Brigade* hadn't been in action, no one really knew how the battle was going, the radio messages they picked up were pretty inconclusive and HQ rarely had time for delivering any news to his lowly unit. Fleischer looked behind to his other two vehicles; both contained ten men each led by an NCO. His own vehicle brought his command to thirty men, all specialists rocket tank hunters, even though they hadn't been in combat as a unit before! All men dozed in the vehicles or peered in to the burning midday sun, searching for friendly troops or better still the enemy?

Fleischer's radio operator shouted up at him as a He162 jet engine *Salamander* flew overhead, its screaming engine drowning out his words, once the jet passed flying towards the east, the radio operator repeated his message: 'orders from HQ sir!' and passed the message pad to his commander. The message was simple: Enemy armour breaking through-grid reference-halt enemy attack!

Fleischer consulted his map and then halted his command by the side of the country road, he issued directions and orders, the armourers, would begin preparing the missiles en-route. Two hours later the unit arrived at the grid reference, after passing the burnt out remains of a dozen enemy vehicles and a handful of freshly dug graves they found themselves in a wood held by a company of Fusiliers, seeing the Grenadier insignia on the vehicles the dirty battle worn Fusiliers in their foxholes and dugouts along the road began catcalling and gesticulating, the antipathy between the Grenadier and Fusilier Brigades was well known, the Fusiliers always felt they received the worst jobs in the *Gross Deutschland SturmKorp*.

*Fahnjunker* Fleischer parked his unit under some trees and reported to the Sturm commander, an older man around 30 years old, his worn tired face told a story, he may have been tired, but the man was a veteran of many battles, his uniform was covered in close combat awards, including the Iron Cross. 'Thank god you have arrived, we have fought off three tank attacks, I have lost twenty one men so far and both our anti-tank guns have been destroyed, but where are your guns *Fahnjunker* we need heavy guns to fight off the Russian tanks!' he excitedly exclaimed! 'No guns sir, but brief me on the situation and we'll see what we can do sir'?

'No guns, but, but....' He stuttered in surprise, 'how'? No time to explain sir, but I don't think you'll be disappointed, we have a new weapon, something to make Ivan run back to Moscow!' Fleischer replied smiling. The older officer shook his head at the young soldier's confidence, but no time could be lost, already the PUMA sets were warming up with reports of a new tank attack!

The Sturm commander took the *Fahnjunker* over to his situation map and pointed out the key positions he was defending, the Soviet attack was coming from the Northeast, Brigade strength at least! Taking leave of the commander, saluting he left the dugout and gathered his NCOs around him. He briefed them quickly and sent them on their way to tackle the Soviet armour.

Fleischer mounted his command *Fox* now loaded with two 'Swallow' missiles on the front of the superstructure. The vehicle travelled for 20 minutes in to the flat rolling fields north east of the *Gross Deutschland* positions, derisive comments followed them from the Fusilier's positions, 'Hey, you grenadier shits, don't desert with out us!', laughter followed, but the Panzerjager concentrated on calibrating their equipment. A few minutes away from the Fusilier line they settled in to a hollow and waited for the enemy to show.

Ordnance Unterofficer Wallenburg began to set-up the *zielsuchgerat* containing vital infrared guidance system a few metres from the vehicle, being daylight, (15.00hrs) he disconnected the infrared bildwandler scope and began calibrating the delicate unit. His No2 lying beside him set up a range scope preparing to spot the enemy.

All men not engaged in setting up the system began scanning the distant horizon for signs of the enemy or were camouflaging the 'fox', after 15 minutes, one of Fleischer's men

reported that at least five enemy tanks were advancing on their position, the bearing was read out and fed in to the *zielsuchgerat*. The men grew tense; dragging hard on their cigarettes the tension was unbearable. Suddenly 2Km northwest of them an explosion broke the silence and a plume of smoke appeared on the horizon some, 'looks like a swallow has eaten an Ivan' Wallenburg joked to his No2?

'Target acquired!' Wallenburg shouted, looking through the viewing scope he followed the leading enemy tank, 'No 1 rocket ready to fire' shouted the *Panzerjager* loader. 'Direction confirmed-fire when ready sergeant' shouted Fleischer, confirming the rocket launcher was pointing in the correct direction. All the men of Fleischer's zug except Wallenburg hunched or lay either side of the fox to avoid the inevitable back blast from the missile. Wallenburg's No 2 peered down the range finder scope, all the while mouthing the co-ordinates slowly to Wallenburg. Wallenburg in turn computed the numbers in to his *zielsuchgerat*, slowly 'twiddling' the small knobs tuning the IR unit, accuracy at this stage was crucial; there wasn't much time to correct the missile when it launched! The enemy AFV was now in missile range, everyone was ready.

The suddenly a whoosh! The missile sped from its rail and fired off the fox. It streamed away flying a couple of metres above ground, streaking its way to the unsuspecting enemy tank, 5, 10, 15 seconds, 20 second and a an explosion, the enemy tank had been hit!

*Unterofficer* Wallenburg coolly reported the destruction of the enemy AFV; Fleischer recorded this in the situation book. 'Second target spotted-preparing to fire' Wallenburg shouted, Fleischer confirmed and the second missile launched, again a confirmed kill!

The entire team hurriedly boarded the fox, leaving Wallenburg and his No2 behind as they sought a new launch site. This they found a few metres to the south and loaded two new rockets on their launch rails. Over the PUMA 2000 radio Wallenburg reported the next target.

This continued sequence continued for the next 30 minutes until Sergeant Wallenburg reported that all five enemy tanks had been destroyed. The missile team could return to the Fusiliers positions unscathed, but victorious!

The third vehicle had not been so lucky, an enemy tank had spotted them and destroyed the fox, luckily only three men were wounded, not seriously, but the vehicle was a

right off. The surviving missiles were loaded aboard the surviving Sdkfz 610.

The Zug reported a tally of 36 destroyed enemy tanks during the 40-minute battle. The enemy tank attack had been halted and their relief a zug of *Hetzer* were a few minutes away from the position. The PUMA 2000 cackled in to life, orders to return to Brigade HQ for re-supply and post action report. *Fahnjunker* Fleischer issued his orders paid his respects to the sturm commander before leading the small missile unit past the fusilier's positions.

As the rocket Zug withdrew in to the shade of the forest, no catcalls followed the young *Panzerjager* from the Fusiliers. The swallows had proved themselves as mighty as eagles.



## Soldier of Destruction!

*Han's Volker is a 1946 article that explores our Neu-Heer Grenadiers evolution from a 19 year old infantryman to one of Germany's top elite night fighting snipers with the NachtjagdKommando. Over time more scenarios and articles will be written and published describing Volker's exploits and equipment.*

### It Begins!

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1944 19-year old Gefreiter Han's Volker's of the 192<sup>nd</sup> *PanzerGrenadier* Regiment stood in the cold surf of the English Channel and peered out to sea, around his feet bobbed and swayed the bodies of dead US Infantryman. In the distance the Allied armada was slowly drifting away from the French coastline, firing massive shells behind them as they retreated back to England's ports. The assault on Omaha beach had failed; the German Army against all odds had won the battle for France!

A couple of weeks later a rested Volker stood on Company parade, listening to his commander reading orders for the day, bored and hot Volker barely caught the Captain's final words, "volunteers required for special armoured unit, apply at the *Speiss* office this afternoon".

Later that day Volker with a few other men from the Regiment volunteered for the special duty and signed a letter agreeing to keep the application a secret. Volk's entire Grenadier Battalion was entrained for the Eastern Front a few days later, taking all their personal equipment and five days rations for the journey east.

### Central sector, Eastern Front

During the rest of July 1944 Volker fought on the prypat front with the 9<sup>th</sup> Army, the fighting was bitter; the Soviets were attempting to capture Belorussia. The fighting was hard, many men in the 192<sup>nd</sup> *PanzerGrenadier* Regiment were killed or wounded, but good fortune smiled down on Han's Volker and he survived many close shaves with death. It was with great shock that Volker's company learned of the death of the Fuhrer, disbelief was total and officers raced around their positions calming troops, speculation was rife that the war would end!

Red Army shelling soon put paid to that fantasy, the fight went on. During a rest period behind the front line Volker caught site of a dreaded Feldgendarme unit hanging some SS men outside the commanders office, no one dared ask what their crime was, but rumours abounded that the SS and party had been outlawed and all SS were to join the Wehrmacht?

A special bulletin released by the German High command and was read out to all troops later that day, it was true and the leader was indeed dead, killed by traitors in the Army. A new German government was being formed under the leadership of 'fatty' Hermann Goring the head of the Luftwaffe, Hitler's official successor in the Government; other well known German generals would form a new government and take over the running of the war. Volker had no time for politics, the heated barrack room discussion did not interest him, he left the dugout with a cup of steaming *muckefuck* and sat in the trench and began to strip down his K98K rifle, cleaning and polishing diligently.

After twenty minutes Feldwebel Kummel interrupted his work, in his hand a piece of paper. Movement orders back to the Reich! He was to report to the movement officer at the Minsk rail office and travel to



*"I am Sergeant Major Han's Volker, Night sniper first class, latterly of the 'Drakula' unit, now I am your commander. Commander of the 'Cyclops' unit for special duties, You are not here to train to die, you are here to learn to kill the enemy using the darkness as your ally!"*

Hanover, Germany. Volker was to report for special duties at the *Truppenbauplatz* Fallingbostal training camp.

### New Assignment

Volker reached the Fallingbostal *panzertruppenschule* on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, the numbers of allied bombers dominating the skies over Germany had dismayed him and his journey had been constantly interrupted by enemy air attacks. Reporting at the main gate he was directed to Major Schulze's office.

The *Magazinmeister* NCO in Major Schulze office asked for his pay book and registered him in the unit payroll; next he was taken to a barrack and told to report for duty the next day at 08.00 after parade. Volker introduced himself to the other men in the barrack, all were newly arrived and have arrived that day, no one was quite sure what the new unit was, or what was expected of them. Volker reflected, they all seemed like good comrades, young and combat experienced. Han's took out his pay book and read the unit name written on the buff page, '*LehrversuchKompanie Fallingbostal*' no clues about his situation there either.

"Gentlemen welcome to the most secret unit of the German Army, here you will learn how to defeat the enemy using the hours of darkness!" an introduction to the infantry night fighting school of the *PanzerWaffe*, commanded by Captain Peter Rassler. Volker and his comrades of the first squad were slowly taught night fighting field craft in the fields of northern Germany, issued the MP44 assault rifle and spent many hours on the range perfecting their aim at wooden targets.

In the classroom the men were shown diagrams of the German's armies latest night fighting weapon, the Vampir night fighting device ZF1229. Consisting of a lamp that emitted an invisible beam of light and viewfinder to interpret the image, it fitted to the top of the MP44, weighing some 2.3Kg. The battery and image converter added an extra weight of 13Kg to the infantryman.

Heavy indeed! The civilian technician from Leitz apologised for the weight, but explained that this would not be a disadvantage at night, when you would be able to see the enemy without being spotted yourself! He also explained that the sets worked using something called infrared, an invisible light!

In the blacked out firing range Volker thought it funny peering down the viewfinder, everything was visible in a sea of green and black shapes, with a snowy fuzz over the picture, but certainly a soldier could see in the dark and fire accurately at the unsuspecting target.

As the weeks passed the men were introduced to armoured fighting vehicles that carried night fighting lamps and view finders, vehicles that could see in the darkness and fight as though it were daytime. Even a mighty Tiger II equipped with the 'Biwa' took part in a night exercise; you should have heard the noise of the 88cm gun firing a few metres away!

On the third week of the course the trainee specialists were gathered in the ordnance block and took possession of a modified Sdkfz 251, Captain Rassler explained that this vehicle was equipped with the 'Biwa' set and was codenamed '*Falke*'. The armoured personnel carrier was equipped with two MG42, stowed away inside were two *Vampir* sets.

The 10-man squad was taught to drive and operate the infrared night fighting vehicle, they also learned how to co-operate in the field with a Biwa equipped Panther tank and its accompanying Sdkfz 251 with a large 60cm infrared lamp attached, a UR-Scheinwerfer which enabled the panther to view objects up to 1500 metres away! What an advantage Volker couldn't help thinking, over the Ivan infantry.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> week Volker was promoted to *Obergefreiter*, he was congratulated by Captain Rossler and told he was the unit's top marksman with the MP44 *Vampir*. A day later the squad was sent on a five-night exercise. The two converted Sdkfz 251 were joined by five IR- Panther tanks. The men were told was a '*Sperber*' (sparrow) unit the basic unit of the infrared fighting force.

Over the next five nights the men fought mock battles with the other *Sperber* training units that made up the special panzer school, each grenadier perfected the technique of identifying a target using the *Vampir* and firing, driving in darkness and communication with infrared radio's. At the end of the exercise the squad went in to Hanover to celebrate the end of training.

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### **LehrJagdKommandoSchule**

All the men visited Captain Rossler and were debriefed about their time at the school; their opinions were sought and recorded. At the end of the interview each man signed a secrecy document and promised never to divulge to a second person what they had seen or heard at the camp. One by one the men left the camp with new orders and reassigned back to their old units. This way a future cadre of trained night fighting troops would be interspersed throughout the German Army, ready for day when the whole army went over to fighting at night to avoid the enemy air armada.

When Volker's turn came, he expected to return to his old unit in the 21<sup>st</sup> Panzer Division, now stationed in Holland. To his surprise, a civilian came in to the room at the end of the interview and asked Volker if he would be interested in joining a field testing unit, testing the MP44 *Vampir* in combat situations, immediately Han's affirmed his interest and was sent to *Panzer-Truppenbauplatz* Bergen to await further orders.

*Five minutes later Volker was back in the security of the ruined farm house cellar, his chest heaving with the exertion of heaving the wounded nachtjager NCO up behind him. It was now three-thirty in the morning. He would have to wait in the dark and hope the Ami patrol did not find his hiding place?*

At Bergen Volker received the Normandy battle armshield, worn on the upper left arm and was permitted to wear the snipers badge, (eagle head on bed of oak leaves on oval shield) third class. Volker was now a member of the top secret *LehrJagdKommandoSchule*.

During the second week of September Volker completed an advanced course in night fighting, anti-sniper tactics. During the course

the instructors showed the students how to replace the heavy *Vampir* battery with a US Army battery salvaged from the SCR-536/BC-611 US Army handy talkie radio, (captured in Normandy and Italy). This lightened the backpack considerably! The radio box was exchanged for a Bakelite box, the metal gas mask case continued in used for the image converter. Volker was issued his own *Vampir* set to convert, (*vampir* D version).

The head of the *OKnH* Col. General Guderian ordered Bergen training school to organise a squad of men armed with *Vampir* sets to the Minsk Front. The IR-equipment needed to be evaluated in the field and put in to production quickly; allied superiority in the air was crippling German troop movements during the day. Until new German planes could be developed and built the following year the German Army had to keep daytime movement to a minimum.

### **NachtjagdKommando 'Glienicke'**

So Han's Volker went east again as part of Lieutenant Glienicke's *NachtjagdKommando*, their mission was to conduct deep combat patrols at night and eliminate targets of opportunity. Volker and the rest of the squad were issued special grenades and a poison tablet, both to be used to prevent their equipment and themselves being captured by the enemy. Around this time Volker's commander advised him not to drink the water issued by the Corp supply troops, it was diluted with a drug to damped down hunger and induce a feeling of well being. Drink local supplies only, but only after he had boiled it!

As expected their nocturnal appearance on the battlefield unnerved the Soviet troops, who learned to both ear and loathe the German snipers. Glienicke's unit particularly targeted soviet Snipers, whose attacks did much to unnerve front line troops.

Volker spent six months attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> *FeldArmee* and watched how the German military introduced new tanks and aircraft to the battlefield, the troops grew younger, but the addition of fresh men from Norway injected a new spirit of optimism in the troops despite the setbacks in the Ukraine. While with the 2<sup>nd</sup> *FeldArmee* Volker earned the iron cross first class, and due to his marksmanship was able to proudly stitch the snipers badge 1<sup>st</sup> class to his tunic. Throughout the winter Volker's tally of enemy killed, grew and grew. All the snipers operated in teams of two, this enabled them to watch each other backs in the field.

## Weapons Instructor

At the end of February 1945 Glienicke's team returned to Bergen for a debriefing and evaluation of their experiences. High command was very impressed with the teams result. Volker's personally tally was 125 killed, the units personal best.

At Bergen the men received a short instructor s course and then themselves became instructors at the Fallingbostal night fighting School, teaching anti-sniper tactics. With some surprise Volker, now an Unterofficer, found himself teaching a class of 12 women volunteers! Women were now being accepted in to many rear echelon jobs previously only open to men. A handful was now training for tank driving duties and specialised fighting jobs such as the *NachtjagdKommando*.

Volker taught the new recruits basics survival tips, such as limiting the amount of equipment carried in the field, strapping the M45 gas respirator to the upper left arm, (with its distinctive side mounted canister) so that the gas bag could be dispensed with. Sewing extra pockets to the tunic and trousers to carry extra rations.

The essential quality of the night hunter was his/her ability to move around in the darkness quietly, anything that moved on the body and made a sound had to be dispensed with!

While In Germany Volker watched in awe one afternoon as one of the new jet fighters an He 162's attacked an American bomber squadron over Hanover, the plane firing rockets brought down two of the lumbering beasts, all Volker's comrade cheered, they hated having to help the emergency organisation clear up after an allied bombing raids in near by Hanover.



## Autumn of 1945

During July 1945 OKH decided that Bergen *LehrNachtJagdKommandoschule* was become the training depot of the *NachtjagdKommandoKorp*. The unit would form company-sized units that would be attached to Corps and Armoured units for special duties. The infrared technology would

gradually form part of every grenadier's equipment.

It was during the summer of 1945 that Field Marshal Guderian orders many dramatic changes to the German Army, Divisions would be known as Gruppen, (group) and old battlefield weapons replaced by new weapons, the MP44 would replace the K98k rifle, this in turn would be replaced by the MP45 (m) rifle, considered unsuitable for *Vampir* equipped units.



The Panther tank would become the basis for most of the new assault guns and artillery SPG's, all vehicles would be equipped with IR- Technology.

At Fallingbostal the new camouflage uniform impregnated with carbon was issued. The Leibermuster pattern did not last long in the field. Its production was cut in the rationalisation programme; it was too costly to produce and was disliked by field troops. When troops moved around at night they found themselves too conspicuous and could be seen through the *Vampir* scope.

German intelligence reported the existence of an American version of IR – technology, but it was found that Dark grey uniforms provide better camouflage against IR scopes. A decision to impregnate Grey uniforms with carbon was made later in the year.

In September 1945 *Unterofficer* Volker was sent to *Truppenbauplatz* Majorenhof in Latvia training camp to set up an IR course for new recruits, training them in the use of the Sdkfz 603 '*fuchs*' and the Sdkfz 603/11 IR vehicles but he ached for the front line, (it took him three applications to join a night hunting commando), but finally his commanding officer gave him his movement orders before Christmas 1945.

He received orders to report to Hauptmann Maisel's 16<sup>th</sup> *NachtjagdKommando*, (the '*Drakula*' commando) with the 16<sup>th</sup> Army in Estonia as a Zug Commander, Volker was going hunting again...

*What lies beyond January 1946? WWII continues, Goring's Fourth Reich continues to fight on in a desperate attempt to negotiate a German peace.*

*During 1946 the German's will launch a summer offensive in Romania; the allies will continue the battle in the Balkans for Ljubljana and prepare an invasion of Europe in 1947.*

*First the Allies must remove the threat posed by the Imperial Japanese forces in the Pacific, once the battle is won in this theatre they will turn their fullest attention to the destruction of Germany.*

*Allied scientists are busy designing weapons to combat the German technological advantage, when they meet again, it will be on equal terms!*

## Acknowledgments

1946 Storm of Eagles© took root in my imagination when Andrew Steven's designed and released a set of three 1/72 scale German Infantry wearing the M42 helmet and armed with splitterfausts. The potential for an alternative WWII scenario was born and it took more than 10 years for me to finally 'put pen to paper' and write down my ideas.

Along the way many people have fired my enthusiasm, a big thanks to Rob Rowell, who shares my enthusiasm for the subject, a really big thanks to Tony Boustead for realising my ideas in model form and the biggest thanks for Linda and 'Atilla', who suffered bravely as this ideas 'poured' from my brain.

And thanks to everyone who has supported C-P Models and me over the years with countless ideas and suggestions. Your all heroes and you know who you are.

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## CHRONOLOGY of EVENTS

18th May - 1944 FM Busch cc of Army Group Centre is wounded, FM Model takes over command.  
18th June - 1944 AG Centre begins orderly retreat to the Dnieper River shortening the German front line.  
20th June - 1944 The Allied landings at Normandy are defeated. Allies abandon Invasion of France,  
23rd June - 1944 Soviet offensive against Army Group Centre begins.  
20th July - 1944 Soviet offensive halted on Dnepr River.  
2nd August - 1944 FM Model launches counter-attack against Belo Russian Fronts.  
20th August - 1944 Hitler killed in assassination attempt. Red Army pushed back to River Prut  
25th August - 1944 Military Government takes power in Germany.  
16th Sept 1944 - German Government agrees to evacuate Norway  
17th Sept 1944 - US Government makes knocking Japan out of the war its No 1 priority.  
20th Sept 1944 - Soviet offensive on the Narwa Line forces Germans back to Dorpat Line.  
25th Sept 1944 - Gen Guderian begins overall of armed forces, radical changes envisioned.  
20th Oct 1944 - Battle of Leyte begins in pacific theatre.  
5th Dec 1944 - Soviet winter offensive in Ukraine, Germans on the retreat.  
12th Dec 1944 - German's use Nerve agents in Estonia for the first time.  
25th Dec 1944 - Battle for the island of Leyte in the Philippines finishes  
1st Jan 1944 - US Army begins invasion of Philippines.  
19th Feb 1945 - Invasion of Iwo Jima begins.  
11th Mar 1944 - US Marines take the island of Iwo Jima, heavy losses.  
1st May 1945 - Allied landings In Greece, German's retreat I to Serbia.  
5th May 1945 - Red Army spring Ukrainian offensive reaches Romania.  
10th May 1945 - Romanian Govt collapses.  
10th May 1945 - German evacuates Crimea, nerve gas used in Romania against Red Army.  
12th May 1945 - Red Army used nerve gas against German's in Byelorussia.  
1st April 1945 - Okinawa campaign begins in pacific  
April 1945 - President Roosevelt dies, Harry Truman becomes president of USA.  
14th June 1945 - The battle for the island of Okinawa ends, heavy Japanese losses.  
16th June 1945 - German's unleash nuclear device over Smolensk, heavy casualties  
29th June 1945 - German counter-attack in Romania causes heavy Soviet casualties.  
31st June 1945 - Pro-German Grenoble Govt in takes control of France, leases French naval bases to Germany  
and allows Germans to base troops along its channel coastline.  
2nd July 1945 - Allied forces in Italy fail to take the Gothic line position in Italy.  
15th Aug 1945 - Battle of the Philippines ends in US victory  
2nd Sept 1945 - FM Mannstein unleashes new offensive in Minsk sector, initial success.  
6th Sept 1945 - Allies link up with Tito's partisans in Balkans.  
8th Sept 1945 - 24th German Army abandons Belgrade.  
1st Nov 1945 - US Forces begin invasion of the Japanese island of Kyushu, (op. downfall) Hard fighting.  
6th Nov 1945 - Ukrainian front reaches the foothills of the Carpathians in new Winter offensive.  
25th Nov 1945 - Mannstein's offensive in East halted, soviets pushed back almost 150km  
4th Jan 1946 - German sponsored uprising breaks out in Kazakhstan, Red Army strips its Mongolian front of  
troops to quell the revolt, Japanese troops in Manchuria are transported to the mainland to take  
part in the battle for Tokyo.  
6th Jan 1946 - Red Army Northern Command launches winter offensive.



# Glossary of Terms

## A

Abteilung - Trans. Detachment or Battalion  
ATG - anti-tank gun  
Ausbildung - Trans. Training unit  
Aufklarungsgruppe - Reconnaissance detachment

## B

Befehlspanzer - Trans. Communications AFV  
Begleit - infantry escort unit for armoured unit  
Bildwandler - Viewing scope for infrared systems  
Biwa - Infrared combination system for AFV's  
Blutorden - Tran. Blood order Army unit for ex-Waffen  
SS prisoners

## C

## D

Dienstrock - German Army field uniform  
Diskus - German flying saucer aircraft  
Dusseldorf - Radio control joystick missile system FuG 510/238  
Dortmund - Radio control joystick missile system FuG 510/238

## E

Ersatz - Trans. Reserve unit

## F

Fahrgerat ZG1253 - infrared driving device  
Fallschirmjäger - German paratrooper  
'Falke' - Trans. Falcon half track infrared equipped vehicle  
500 Einheiten - German field unit recruited from military prisoners  
Feldersatz - German infantry reserve unit  
Feldgendarme - German military police  
Feld Gruppen - Infantry unit the equivalent of a Division  
Fremde Heeres Ost - OKnH intelligence office East  
FLAK - German anti-aircraft artillery gun  
Flammfaust - German hand held flammable liquid Grenade.  
FrontaufklarungsKommando - Trans. German recon commandos  
Fusilier - Trans. Rifleman

## G

Gasfaust German hand held gas grenade  
Gebirgsjäger Trans. German mountain soldier  
Grenadier Trans. rifleman

## H

Heer Trans. Army  
HeersWaffenamt German sub office of the OKH  
Hilfswillge, (Hiwi) Trans. Volunteer, usually from the USSR  
Hubschrauber Trans. Helicopter

## I

Ikonskop image recognition device

## J

Jäger Trans. Hunter  
JagdKommando German commando  
Junker German military cadet  
Jüterbog German troop training area

## K

Kampfgruppe Ger. Battlegroup, sub unit of a Gruppen  
'Katchen' Trans. Kitten tracked vehicle based on 38t chassis  
katyushka Red Army rocket delivery system  
Kraftfahrpark Vehicle park  
Kriegsmarine German Navy  
KVK KriegVereinigteKommand (supreme HQ)

## L

LehrversuchKompanie German Training unit  
Leibermuster German camouflage uniform impregnated with carbon

Lowe Ger. Lion Super heavy tank with 128mm gun  
Luftfaust Anti aircraft/bunker hand held rocket weapon  
Luftwaffe German airforce  
Luft-Reiter German Army Helicopter infantry units

## M

Maresel Romanian developed assault gun  
Maskirovka Soviet deception measures  
MP45 Simplified version of the MP44 assault rifle  
Muckefuck Synthetic coffee

## N

999 Einheiten Penal units recruited from civilian prisons  
NachschubStab Supply HQ  
Nachtrichen Signals unit  
Nachtjagdkommando Ger. Night hunting commando – elite snipers  
Nebelwerfer German Mortar device used to deliver poison gas  
NKVD Soviet security Army – secret police

## O

OKH Old German Army headquarters  
OKW Old German supreme armed forces HQ  
Omi German ministry in charge of eastern units  
Orpo German field police organisation

## P

PAK, German –panzerabwehrkanone or anti-tank gun  
Panther I German medium tank  
Panther II German medium tank  
Panzerfaust Hand held anti tank/close combat weapon  
Panzerjäger Tank hunter – German anti-tank gunner  
Panzerkürassiers 24th SturmPanzerGruppen tank crews  
Panzerschreck Hand held anti-tank weapon  
PanzerWaffe German Tank Corp  
Pfeifenkopf Infrared tracking device for missile system  
Pinsel Infrared tracking device for missile system  
PUMA 2000 Infrared communications system  
Pz-Jg short for panzer-jäger or tank hunter

## Q

## R

RK - ReicheinigenKommand (unified government command)  
FeldArmee – reserve training formation for 16-18 yrs olds  
ReservierenKorp - Reserve unit for convalescing or training troops  
Rheinochter – Rocket system  
Rheinbote-III - Medium range surface to air artillery missile system.  
Rotkappchen - Red Riding Hood – name for the X7 missile system  
Ruhrstahl - Factory manufacturing rocket technology  
POA - Precursor to the KONR

## S

SanitatGruppen Medical services  
Salamander He 162 one engine Luftwaffe jet fighter  
Scheinwerfer Infrared night vision lamp  
Scheinerei-Mauser - Nickname given for German MP45 SMG  
Schwalbe Tran. Swallow- vehicle mounted X4 missile system  
Schatten German for shadow – night fighting armoured units  
Schildkröte - Tortoise  
Schmetterling – Neu-Heer missile system  
Sdkfz 603 Main half tracked vehicle in German Army.  
S- boats Small German naval torpedo boat  
Soldbuch German soldiers pay book  
Sperber night fighting armoured/infantry Unit.  
SpeerKorp German pioneer Army for construction work  
Stahlhelm – *trans.* steel helmet  
STAVKA - USSR supreme command headquarters for Red Army  
'steinbok' - Directional system for German missile system  
Sturm - German for assault or attack  
SturmArmee - Assault Army, usually with tanks  
Sturmhaubitze - German Assault vehicle with artillery gun  
super scope - Night vision scope for US Army M3 rifle

## T

Taube Trans. Dove women aircraft unit

Truppenbauplatz – tran. Troop training camp

## U

'Uhu' Trans. 'Owl' a Scheinwerfer lamp mounted on half track

UPA Ukrainian resistance Army fighting the Communists

UVV Ukrainian Army fighting with the German Army

## V

Vampir Man portable infrared detection equipment.

Vollkettenaufklärer 38t Tracked vehicle for German reconnaissance units

Volkdeutschen Racial German born outside of the 1938 borders.

VTOL Vertical take off landing aircraft

## W

Walti German helicopter

Waffengruppe Regimental or Battalion sized unit in German Army

Waffen SS Paramilitary force created by Hitler as a bodyguard.

WaPruf 8 Army department responsible for infrared technology

Wärmepeilgerät Heat seeking detector, used on battlefield.

Wasserfall Missile system, mounted on tracked Vehicles

Wirtschaftsgruppen: rear echelon services

Neu-Wehrmacht Heer The new 1946 German Army

Werkstatt German Army mechanic unit

## X

X-4 German Air to air or ground to air missile system

X-7 German Man portable anti-tank missile system

X-10 German Man portable anti-tank missile system

## Y

## Z

Zielgerät German rifle optic

Zielsuchgerät German infrared missile control

Zeltbahn German water proof camouflaged tent quarter

Zeks Soviet prisoners from the Gulag fighting in Red Army

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