

CHAIN OF COMMAND



German Armoured Reconnaissance
Platoon
(Mar 1943- End of War)

List version 8 (Jul 2016)

Aufklarungs Abteillung

The armoured reconnaissance battalion ("Aufklarungs Abteilung") of a late war panzer or panzergrenadier division was a well armed, dynamic force. Besides its core of dedicated recce vehicles it contained an aggressively-wielded force of infantry, and its own supporting pioneers, AT guns and infantry guns.

By the 1943 it had replaced most of the motorcycles and kubelwagens of the early war recce units with halftracks, and could operate over the same terrain as the tank formations it was scouting for.

Because of their combination of mobility and firepower the recce battalions often found themselves employed as a quick reaction force, counterattacking into enemy breakthroughs, rushing to plug gaps in the line and generally doing a lot of the jobs heavier armoured units should have been doing.

PLATOON FORCE RATING:

Regular: +2, Elite: +8

Command Dice: 5

PLATOON HEADQUARTERS

Leutnant, *Senior Leader*, with MP40

SECTIONS ONE TO THREE

Obergefieter, *Junior Leader*, with MP40
2x Panzerfaust

LMG TEAM 1

LMG, 2 crew
2 Riflemen

LMG TEAM 2

LMG, 2 crew
3 Riflemen



Photograph: 888 2113 November 1943
Panzertruppe (1943) Germany

LIST ONE
Single Compound Charge or similar
Medical Orderly
Pioneer Mine Clearance <i>Team</i> , 3 men
Pioneer Wire Cutting <i>Team</i> , 3 men
Pioneer Demolition <i>Team</i> , 3 men
Minefield
Barbed Wire
Adjutant
Schwimmwagen or Kubelwagen, no crew
Entrenchments for one <i>Team</i>
LIST TWO
Roadblock
Panzerschreck team, 2 men
Panzerknacker team, 4 men
Pre-Game Barrage
Kubelwagen and 4-man recce team plus JL
SdKfz 250
LIST THREE
Regular MG42 on tripod, 5 crew
Sniper <i>Team</i>
SdKfz 221/223 with JL
SdKfz 250 with 4-man recce team plus JL
Flakpanzer 38(t) with Junior Leader
LIST FOUR
Forward Observer Team with 8 c m mortar battery off-table.
Pioneer <i>Squad</i> with Junior Leader
Pak 36 anti-tank gun with Stielgrenate. 5 crew
Pak 38 anti-tank gun, 5 crew and Junior Leader
le IG.18 with 5 crew and Junior Leader
SdKfz 221 + sPzB 41 with Junior Leader
LIST FIVE
Regular Aufklarungs squad with Junior Leader
Pioneer flamethrower team, 3 men
Pak 40 with 5 crew and a Junior Leader
Panzer II Luchs with Junior Leader
SdKfz 250/9 with Junior Leader
SdKfz 222 with Junior Leader
SdKfz 231/232 with Junior Leader
SdKfz 250/8 with Junior Leader
SdKfz 233 with Junior Leader
SdKfz 251/9 with Junior Leader
Flakpanzer IV with Junior Leader

LIST SIX
SdKfz 234/1 with Junior Leader
SdKfz 234/2 Puma with Junior Leader
SdKfz 234/3 with Junior Leader
Marder II or III with Junior Leader
LIST SEVEN
Panzer IV G/H with Junior Leader
Panzer III Flammpanzer with Junior Leader
StuG III F8 with Junior Leader
SdKfz 234/4 with Junior Leader
LIST EIGHT
sIG 33 Infantry Gun, 5 crew with Junior Leader
Hetzer with Junior Leader
StuG III G with Junior Leader
Jagdpanzer IV L43 with Junior Leader
LIST NINE
StuH 42 with Junior Leader
Jagdpanzer IV L70V with Junior Leader
Jagdpanzer IV L70A with Junior Leader
Pak 43 anti-tank gun, 5 crew and Junior Leader
LIST TEN
Panther with Junior Leader
Tiger I with Junior Leader
LIST TWELVE
JagdPanther with Junior Leader
LIST THIRTEEN
Tiger II with Junior Leader

Entries in blue are supports found within a Panzer or Panzergrenadier division, but outside the Recce Battalion. By the time the recce battalion was thrown into front-line combat instead of recce duties it's likely these other assets were fully committed so you might like to think twice about fielding them.

As you can see the core battalion does still have a very playable range of options for both offensive and defensive actions. The Germans were aware that it was short on mobile antitank capability and regularly reinforced them with assault guns and jagdpanzers.

RECCE ARSENAL TABLE

VEHICLE	ARMOUR	A.P.	H.E.	SPEED	NOTES
SCOUT & ARMoured CARS					
SdKfz 221/223	2	MG		Wheeled	Small, low profile, no hull MG
SdKfz 221 + sPzB 41	2	3	1	Wheeled	Small, low profile, no hull MG
SdKfz 233	3	5	6	Wheeled	no hull MG, open turret, fixed gun
SdKfz 250/8	2	5	6	Fast	Small, low profile, open body, fixed gun

