

1st Panzer Division
May 1940
Command Decision: Test of Battle
Jeff Glasco

1st Panzer Division: (Veteran/9)

Headquarters:

1 command stand

1 car

Headquarters Company:

1 staff radio medium truck

81st Motorcycle Platoon:

1 motorcycle infantry stand

1st Panzer Brigade:

Headquarters:

1 command stand

1 car

Headquarters Company:

1 staff radio SdKfz 261 armored car

1st Panzer Regiment:

Headquarters:

1 command PzKw BefWg III

Headquarters Company:

1 staff radio light truck

1 recon PzKw IIB

1 medium supply truck

I/1st Panzer Battalion:

Headquarters:

1 command PzKw IIIE

Headquarters Company:

1 recon PzKw I

1 recon motorcycle infantry stand

1 engineer stand

1 light truck

1 kubelwagen AA (P: 2xMG)

1 medium supply truck

2 Light Panzer Companies, each with:

1 command PzKw IIIE

2 PzKw IIB

1 PzKw I

1 Medium Panzer Company:

1 command PzKw IVE

1 PzKw IVE

1 PzKw IIB

II/1st Panzer Battalion:

Headquarters:

1 command PzKw IIIE

Headquarters Company:

1 recon PzKw I

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1 recon motorcycle infantry stand
1 engineer stand
1 light truck
1 kubelwagen AA (P: Quad MG)
1 medium supply truck

2 Light Panzer Companies, each with:

1 command PzKw IIIE
2 PzKw IIB
1 PzKw I

1 Medium Panzer Company:

1 command PzKw IVE
1 PzKw IVE
1 PzKw IIB

2nd Panzer Regiment:

Headquarters:

1 command PzKw BefWg III

Headquarters Company:

1 staff radio light truck
1 recon PzKw IIB
1 medium supply truck

I/2nd Panzer Battalion:

Headquarters:

1 command PzKw IIIE

Headquarters Company:

1 recon PzKw I
1 recon motorcycle infantry stand
1 engineer stand
1 light truck
1 kubelwagen AA (P: Quad MG)
1 medium supply truck

2 Light Panzer Companies, each with:

1 command PzKw IIIE
2 PzKw IIB
1 PzKw I

1 Medium Panzer Company:

1 command PzKw IVE
1 PzKw IVE
1 PzKw IIB

II/2nd Panzer Battalion:

Headquarters:

1 command PzKw IIIE

Headquarters Company:

1 recon PzKw I
1 recon motorcycle infantry stand

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1 engineer stand
1 light truck
1 kubelwagen AA (P: Quad MG)
1 medium supply truck

2 Light Panzer Companies, each with:

1 command PzKw IIIE
2 PzKw IIB
1 PzKw I

1 Medium Panzer Company:

1 command PzKw IVE
1 PzKw IVE
1 PzKw IIB

1st Schuetzen (Rifle) Brigade:

Headquarters:

1 command stand
1 car

Headquarters Company:

1 staff radio light truck

702nd Self-Propelled Infantry Gun Company:

1 command infantry stand
1 light truck
1 GW I (SP IG)

1st Motorcycle Battalion:

Headquarters:

1 motorcycle command stand

2 Motorcycle Companies (1st and 2nd), each:

1 motorcycle command infantry stand
2 motorcycle infantry stands
1 motorcycle MMG stand

1 Motorcycle Machinegun Company (3rd):

1 motorcycle command MMG stand
1 motorcycle MMG stand
1 8cm mortar stand (ds)
1 medium truck

1 Heavy Company (4th):

1 command engineer stand
1 75L12 infantry gun and crew (battalion gun)
1 37L45 antitank gun and crew
3 light trucks

1st Schuetzen (Rifle) Regiment:

Headquarters:

1 command stand
1 car

Headquarters Company:

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1 staff radio light truck

1 medium supply truck

I/1st Schuetzen (Rifle) Battalion:

Headquarters:

1 command stand

1 SdKfz 251/1

1 Motorcycle Infantry Company (1st):

1 command motorcycle infantry stand

2 motorcycle infantry stands

1 motorcycle MMG stand

2 Armored Infantry Companies (2nd and 3rd), each:

1 command infantry stand

2 infantry stands

1 MMG stand

4 SdKfz 251/1s

1 Armored Machinegun Company (4th):

1 command MMG stand

1 MMG stand

1 8cm mortar stand (ds)

3 SdKfz 251/1s

1 Heavy Company (5th):

1 command engineer stand

1 75L12 infantry gun and crew (battalion gun)

1 37L45 antitank gun and crew

3 SdKfz 251/1s

II/1st Schuetzen (Rifle) Battalion:

Headquarters:

1 command stand

1 SdKfz 251/1

1 Motorcycle Infantry Company (6th):

1 command motorcycle infantry stand

2 motorcycle infantry stands

1 motorcycle MMG stand

2 Armored Infantry Companies (7th and 8th), each:

1 command infantry stand

2 infantry stands

1 MMG stand

4 SdKfz 251/1s

1 Armored Machinegun Company (9th):

1 command MMG stand

1 MMG stand

1 8cm mortar stand (ds)

3 SdKfz 251/1s

1 Heavy Company (10th):

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1 command engineer stand
1 75L12 infantry gun and crew (battalion gun)
1 37L45 antitank gun and crew
3 SdKfz 251/1s

III/1st Schuetzen (Rifle) Battalion:

Headquarters:

1 command stand
1 SdKfz 251/1

3 Armored Infantry Companies (11th, 12th and 13th), each:

1 command infantry stand
2 infantry stands
1 MMG stand
4 SdKfz 251/1s

1 Armored Machinegun Company (14th):

1 command MMG stand
1 MMG stand
1 8cm mortar stand (ds)
3 SdKfz 251/1s

1 Heavy Company (15th):

1 75L12 infantry gun and crew (battalion gun)
1 37L45 antitank gun and crew
2 SdKfz 251/1s

37th Antitank Battalion:

Headquarters:

1 command stand
1 kubelwagen

Headquarters Battery:

1 medium supply truck

3 Antitank Batteries (1st-3rd), each:

1 command infantry stand
3 37L45 antitank guns and crews
4 light trucks

2/59th Light Antiaircraft Battery: (*attached*) (Experienced/8)

1 command infantry stand
1 light truck
3 SdKfz 10/4

37th Engineer Battalion:

Headquarters:

1 command stand
1 kubelwagen

2 Type K Motorized Bridge Column, each:

2 heavy trucks (1 Class IV bridge) (Type K)

1 Type B Motorized Bridge Column:

2 medium trucks with pontoon trailers (1 Class III bridge)

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2 Motorized Engineer Companies (1st & 2nd), each:

- 1 command engineer stand
- 1 light truck
- 2 engineer stands
- 1 medium truck

1 Armored Engineer Company (3rd):

- 1 command engineer stand
- 1 SdKfz 251/7
- 1 engineer stand
- 1 light truck
- 1 PzKW IV bridge layer
- 2 PzKw I demolition tanks (“Abwurfvorrichtung”)

4th Reconnaissance Battalion:

Headquarters:

- 1 command SdKfz 247 armored command car

2 Armored Car Squadrons (1st & 2nd), each:

- 1 command SdKfz 223
- 2 recon SdKfz 221
- 1 recon SdKfz 222
- 1 recon SdKfz 231/8

1 Motorcycle Squadron (3rd):

- 1 motorcycle command infantry stand
- 2 motorcycle infantry stands
- 1 motorcycle MMG stand

1 Heavy Squadron (4th):

- 1 command engineer stand
- 1 37L45 antitank gun and crew
- 1 75L12 infantry gun and crew (battalion gun)
- 3 light trucks

73rd Artillery Regiment:

Headquarters:

- 1 command stand
- 1 car

Headquarters Battery:

- 1 medium supply truck*

I/73rd Artillery Battalion (Direct Support):

Headquarters:

- 1 command observation stand
- 1 kubelwagen

Headquarters Battery:

- 1 medium supply truck*

3 Firing Batteries (1st-3rd), each:

- 1 command infantry stand
- 1 light truck

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1 105L28 howitzer and crew (ds)
1 SdKfz 6 tractor

II/73rd Artillery Battalion (Direct Support):

Headquarters:

1 command observation stand
1 kubelwagen

Headquarters Battery:

1 medium supply truck

3 Firing Batteries (4th-6th), each:

1 command infantry stand
1 light truck
1 105L28 howitzer and crew (ds)
1 SdKfz 6 tractor

II/56th Artillery Battalion:

Headquarters:

1 command observation stand
1 kubelwagen

Headquarters Battery:

1 medium supply truck

3 Firing Batteries (4th-6th), each:

1 command infantry stand
1 light truck
1 150L30 howitzer and crew (ds)
1 SdKfz 7 tractor

Notes:

1. Panzer Regiments: The two panzer regiments had different organizations. The 1st Panzer Regiment used the August 1, 1939 organization, while the 2nd Panzer Regiment used a modified version of that organization, but both work out the same in Command Decision. Neither regiment had all of the updated tanks as called for in its official organizations.

2. Infantry Battalion Machineguns: In the organization tables for a 1940 Panzer Division in *Blitzkrieg Legions: Fall of the West* the machinegun companies were omitted. I think this is why the infantry companies have a weapons stand in that version of the organization. The problem is that the machinegun companies had 8 medium machine guns and 6 8cm mortars while each company had an additional 2 medium machineguns and 3 5cm mortars. The total of 14 medium machineguns and 6 mortars is far more than what 3 weapons stands normally represents (each is 2 mortars and about 2 medium machineguns given that they have a rate of fire of 2). Also at the point in their tactical development, the Germans did not break their weapons companies down to the line companies, that happens in 1942.

3. Armored Infantry Companies: These were formed from the infantry companies, not the motorcycle companies.

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4. Light Flak Battery: In the 1940 campaign, the panzer divisions no longer had an integral light antiaircraft battery. Instead one was attached from the Luftwaffe. The 1st Panzer Division had the 2nd Battery of the 59th Light Antiaircraft Battalion attached to it.

5. Bridging Columns: These did not have actual engineers in them, they were just the bridging equipment. The Type K was a box girder bridge. The Type B was a pontoon bridge. Instead of constructing a Class IV bridge, the pontoons from the Type B bridge can be used as 3 assault boats. The 1st Panzer Division had two Type K Bridging Columns and one Type B Bridging Columns (more than usual).

6. II/56th Artillery Battalion: This battalion was attached to the 1st Panzer Division to give it a medium artillery battalion (150mm).

7. Niehorster Organizational Books: I highly recommend them as they present the detailed information needed to create a unit organization for Command Decision. Many of them are now available for free at: http://www.niehorster.org/011_germany/books_gwwii/index_vols.htm.

Sources:

Battistelli, Pier Paolo. *Panzer Divisions: The Blitzkrieg Years 1939-40*. Botley, Oxford, United Kingdom: Osprey Publishing, 2007.

Chadwick, Frank. *Blitzkrieg Legions: Fall of the West*. Test of Battle Games, 2010.

Niehorster, Leo W.G.. *German World War II Organization Series: Volume 2/I Mechanized Army Divisions and Waffen-SS Units (1.05.1940)*. Milton Keynes: The Military Press, 2007.

OKH Generalstab des Herres, Organisations-Abteilung. "1.Panzerdivision." *Kriegsgliederung des Feldheeres, Stand: 15.April.1940*. H1/85.2 National Archives Record Group 242 - Publication T78 - Roll 403. Sturmpanzer, <http://www.sturmpanzer.com/Default.aspx?tabindex=5&tabid=620&item=3&sec=0>.