

German Forces in Africa 1941 to 1943: Army Lists

Compiled Version 1.1 | 08/03/19

Note: The following are my attempts to model the various, basic, German infantry units that took part in the battles in North Africa from 1941 to 1943. They are based on the German K.St.N. which are charts showing the theoretical organization and composition of the units in the German army. I have abstracted these slightly for gaming purposes (for example many of the messengers and hangers on have been left out), but the basic shape of the units is there. One notable difference is the removal of the additional Senior Leader in each of the platoons. Lack of senior leadership was a problem for the Germans in Africa, so it felt right to do this. If you wish to add in a senior leader, then they will be available as supports so the option is still available to you! To suggest changes/additions please contact Benjamin Joseph Still on the CoC FB group.

DAK SHUTZEN (MOTORISED) PLATOON

Representing the initial Shutzen regiments of the 90th Light Africa Division on initial deployment circa 1941, assuming they hadn't reorganised before arrival in africa. Based on K.St.N.138c (Schützenkompanie c (mot) einer Infanteriedivision (mot)) 1.11.1941. This platoon organisation can also represent the Grenadier regiments which arrived as reinforcements in Tunisia in November 1942.

Platoon force rating: Regular, +2

Command Dice: 5

PLATOON HEADQUARTERS
Leutnant, Senior Leader, with machine pistol

SECTIONS ONE TO FOUR	
Obergefreiter, Junior Leader, machine pistol	
LMG TEAM	RIFLE TEAM
MG34 Three crew	Six riflemen

LIGHT MORTAR SECTION
50mm mortar, two crew

Note: Two additional LMGs are listed as unmanned equipment, perhaps for the truck crews use as AA cover? I imagine they were pressed into service with the infantry units, however I've decided not to include them for simplicity. They would have been Transported in 4x Lkw. (3t) trucks.

PANZERGRENADIER (MOTORISED) PLATOON

Representing the regiments of the renamed 90th Africa Division (1942) and then re-renamed 90th Panzergrenadier Division (1943). This could also be used to represent the regiments of the 90th Light Africa Division on initial deployment circa 1941, assuming they had in fact reorganised before arrival in Africa. Based on K.St.N.1114 (Panzer-Grenadierkompanie b) 1.11.1941

Platoon force rating: Regular, +2

Command Dice: 5

PLATOON HEADQUARTERS
Leutnant, Senior Leader, with machine pistol
AT rifle, two crew

SECTIONS ONE TO THREE	
Obergefreiter, Junior Leader, machine pistol	
LMG TEAM	LMG TEAM
MG34 Three crew Three riflemen	MG34 Three crew Two riflemen

Note:

The K.St.N. indicates the platoon would be transported in 6 x Mannschaftskraftwagen (Kfz.70)

MACHINE GUN PLATOON (MOTORISED)

Representing the dedicated infantry support of the 15th and 21st Panzer Divisions. Based on K.St.N.1116 (Maschinengewehrkompanie b (mot)) 1.02.1941

Platoon force rating: Regular, -3

Command Dice: 5

PLATOON HEADQUARTERS
Leutnant, Senior Leader, with machine pistol

SECTIONS ONE AND TWO	
Obergefreiter, Junior Leader, machine pistol	
LMG TEAM	LMG TEAM
MG34 Three crew Four riflemen	MG34 Three crew Three riflemen

Note:

The K.St.N. indicates the platoon would be transported in 4 x Mannschaftskraftwagen (Kfz.70) with the HQ and messengers etc. in mittlerer, gl. Pkw. mit Gerätkasten (Kfz.15).

The K.St.N. also indicates the possibility that they could also fight as four sections each of 7 men and each with a junior leader. If you wish to try this then the Platoon Force Rating would then become: Regular, 0.

MACHINE GUN PLATOON (MECHANISED)

Representing the single battalion in the DAK who may have been equipped with halftracks. Based on K.St.N.1116(gp) (Maschinengewehrkompanie b (gepanzert)) 1.02.1941

Platoon force rating: Regular, -3

Command Dice: 5

PLATOON HEADQUARTERS
Leutnant, Senior Leader, with machine pistol

SECTIONS ONE AND TWO	
Obergefreiter, Junior Leader, machine pistol	
LMG TEAM	LMG TEAM
MG34 Three crew Three riflemen	MG34 Three crew Two riflemen

Note:

The K.St.N. indicates the platoon would be transported in 2 x mittlere Schützenpanzerwagen (Sd.Kfz.251/1) with the HQ and messengers etc. in 2 x leichter Schützenpanzerwagen (Sd.Kfz.250/1).

If using Sd.Kfz.251/1s as transport, two of the men from each section would act as driver and gunner. As such, on disembarking, sections would be of 10 men with one LMG if the halftrack is to remain manned.

MECHANISED INFANTRY PLATOON

Representing mechanised infantry units who arrived as reinforcements in 1942/43. Based on K.St.N.1114 (Schützenkompanie b (gepanzert), Panzergrenadierkompanie a) 1.11.1941

Platoon force rating: Regular, +2

Command Dice: 5

PLATOON HEADQUARTERS
Leutnant, Senior Leader, with pistol
AT rifle, two crew

SECTIONS ONE TO THREE	
Obergefreiter, Junior Leader, machine pistol	
LMG TEAM	LMG TEAM
MG34 Three crew Three riflemen	MG34 Three crew Two riflemen

Note: If using Sd.Kfz.251/1s as transport, two of the men from each section would act as driver and gunner. As such, on disembarking, sections would be of 10 men with one LMG if the halftrack is to remain manned.

In the K.St.N. There is a Pak36 listed as part of the platoon. However, it's unclear how this was crewed (are the crew from one of the support platoons or drawn from the platoon itself?) I thought it best to leave this as a support option instead.

General Notes:

KtSN archive: <http://www.wwiidaybyday.com>

There is also some debate as to whether the LMG teams should be 2 or three men at this point. I have decided to go with 3 men for consistency with newer published lists, but of course feel free to make changes if you feel it better represents the period (though this will affect force ratings). I hope it is helpful!

FALLSHIRMJAGER PLATOON

Representing the fallschirmjager units that fought at the second battle of El Alamein in October 42 and in the defence of Tunisia. I can't find a K.St.N for the fallschirmjager so I have based it on the information found here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/ontariofjr5/articles/fjzug39>

Platoon force rating: Regular, +2

Command Dice: 5

PLATOON HEADQUARTERS
Leutnant, Senior Leader, with machine pistol

SQUADS ONE TO THREE	
Obergefreiter, Junior Leader, machine pistol	
LMG TEAM	LMG TEAM
MG34 Three crew Three riflemen	MG34 Three crew Two riflemen

LIGHT MORTAR SECTION
50mm mortar, two crew One rifleman

German Forces in Africa 1941 to 1943: Supports

Note: The following lists have been constructed by drawing upon various written and internet sources such as *Panzer Battles* by F.W. von Mellenthin, *The Crucible of War* by Barrie Pitt, Wikipedia, Tanks-Encyclopedia.com and many others. As many records of what the reality was on the ground were destroyed or simply were not kept in the heat of battle, it's hard to be precise about what equipment was available and when. However, by comparing different sources of images, equipment production dates, dates shipments of reinforcements are recorded to have arrived etc. I have done my best to come up with approximate times that specific support options would have been available where possible between the Germans arrival in February 1941 until their surrender in May 1943.

LIST ONE	From	To
Satchel Charge	Feb 41	May 43
Medical Orderly	Feb 41	May 43
Engineer Mine Clearance Team, 3 men	Feb 41	May 43
Engineer Wire Cutting Team, 3 men	Feb 41	May 43
Engineer Demolition Team, 3 men	Feb 41	May 43
Adjutant	Feb 41	May 43
Minefield	Feb 41	May 43
Barbed Wire	Feb 41	May 43
Road Block	Feb 41	May 43
Kubelwagen, no crew or weapon	Feb 41	May 43
Opel Blitz 1.5t Truck, no crew or weapon	Feb 41	May 43
Kettenkrad, no crew or weapon	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 7, no crew or weapon	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 10, no crew or weapon	Feb 41	May 43
Kfz. 70, no crew or weapon	Feb 41	May 43
Motorcycle and Side-car, no crew or weapon	Feb 41	May 43
Entrenchments for one team	Feb 41	May 43
LIST TWO	From	To
Panzerbüchse 38/39 (AT Rifle) Team, 2 men	Feb 41	May 43
Le.GrW36 5cm Mortar Team, 3 men	Feb 41	May 43
Pre-game Barrage	Feb 41	May 43
Senior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
LIST THREE	From	To
Sd.Kfz. 221 with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Pz.I Ausf. A or B with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 42
Sniper Team	Feb 41	May 43

2.8 cm sPzB 41 (AT Rifle) Team, 2 men	Oct 42	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 250/1, no Crew or Weapon	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 250/3, no Crew or Weapon	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 251/1, no Crew or Weapon	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 251/3, no Crew or Weapon	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 250/1 (2 cm Panzerabwehrbüche 785 (s)) with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
PaK36 37mm Anti-Tank Gun with 5 crew and Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
LIST FOUR	From	To
75mm le.18 with 5 crew and Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Engineer Section with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 10/4 (2cm AA Gun) with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 10/5 (2cm AA Gun) with Junior Leader	May 42	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 7/1 (2cm AA Quad) with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 251/10 with Junior Leader	Aug 41	May 43
Forward Observer with 81mm Mortar Battery	Feb 41	May 43
MG34 on Tripod Mount, 5 crew	Feb 41	May 43
MG42 on Tripod Mount, 5 crew	Dec 42	May 43
PaK38 50mm Anti-Tank Gun with 5 crew and Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Panzerjäger I with Junior Leader	Mar 41	Nov 42
Pz.III Ausf. F (3.7cm Gun) with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Captured A12 Matilda Mk. II	Nov 41	May 43
Captured A15 Crusader Mk. I/II	Dec 41	May 43
LIST FIVE	From	To
Regular Infantry Squad with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 222 Armoured Car (2.0cm Gun) with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 231/232 Armoured Car with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Sd.Kfz. 233 Armoured Car with Junior Leader	Dec 42	May 43
Pz.III Ausf. F, G or H (5.0cm Gun) with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Pz.III Ausf. J (Long 5.0cm Gun) with Junior Leader	May 42	May 43
Pz.III Ausf. L or M with Junior Leader	Dec 42	May 43
Motorcycle Aufklarungs Squad with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Pz.II Ausf. C (2.0cm Gun) with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
Pz.IV Ausf. D with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
PaK40 75mm Anti-Tank Gun with 5 crew and Junior Leader	Dec 41	May 43
Captured M3 "Honey" Stuart	Dec 41	May 43

LIST SIX	From	To
Pz. I Ausf. A Flamm*	Jun 42	Jun 42
Pz.II Ausf. F (2.0cm Gun) with Junior Leader	Dec 41	May 43
Pz.III Ausf. N with Junior Leader	Dec 42	May 43
Pz.IV Ausf. E or F1 with Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
StuG III Ausf. D with Junior Leader	Dec 42	May 43
Marder II with Junior Leader	Dec 42	May 43
Marder III with Junior Leader	Mar 42	May 43
Marder III Ausf. H with Junior Leader	Dec 42	May 43
Pz.Sfl. II Hornisse	May 42	Jun 42
LIST SEVEN	From	To
Pz.IV Ausf. F2 or G with Junior Leader	Dec 42	May 43
StuG III Ausf. F/8 with Junior Leader	Dec 42	May 43
88mm FlaK 18/36/37 with 5 crew and Junior Leader	Feb 41	May 43
LIST NINE	From	To
15 cm sIG 33 auf Fahrgestell Pz.Kfw. II (Sf) (AKA Sturmpanzer II 'Bison') with Junior Leader	Feb 42	May 43
LIST TEN	From	To
Pz. IV Tiger I with Junior Leader	Dec 42	May 43

SACHEL CHARGE

The satchel charge is shown on Table Seven, Hand-Held Anti-Tank Weapons. The charge may be used once by any Section on the table when commanded by the Senior Leader commanding the platoon who is, we assume, carrying it with him up to that point. How the charge works is detailed in Section 9.3.4, Tank Hunters. A maximum of two satchel charges may be selected by a German force.

50MM MORTAR TEAM

The 50mm mortar has only H.E. rounds; no smoke being provided. It has a minimum range of 12", but closer than that the crew may use their rifles.

TWIN MACHINE GUNS

The twin machine guns on the Panzer I fire with a firepower factor of 8 to represent the enhanced firepower.

AUFKLARUNGS SQUAD

Three motorcycles with side-cars transport the reconnaissance squad. It has one LMG with two crew on one machine and three riflemen on the other two. When dismounted this operates with one Junior Leader, a two-man LMG Team and a five-man Rifle Team.

FALLSCHIRMJAGER UNITS

The 2.8 cm sPzB 41 AT rifle was seemingly associated with the fallschirmjager units and the Ramcke Fallschirmjager Battalion may have had MG42s in the advance to El Alamein around June 1942.

FLAMMENWERFER AUF PANZERKAMPFWAGEN I AUSF. A

This was an in theatre modification converted in preparation for the assault on Tobruk on June 19th 1942 and as such I have limited the use of the tank to the period of the assault on Tobruk. I have used +13 for 'Flame' using the CoCulator which gives a support list value of 6. This may be one level too high, but I've erred on the side of over rating than under rating.

PZ.SFL. II HORNISSE

Only two of these experimental halftracks were produced and tested at the battle of Gazala where one was captured and the other destroyed, but after knocking out three enemy tanks.

German Forces in Africa 1941 to 1943: Arsenal Tables

GERMAN ARSENAL TABLE					
TANKS					
VEHICLE	ARMOUR	A.P.	H.E.	SPEED	NOTES
Pz.I Ausf. A/B	3	-	Twin MGs	Average	Low Profile
Pz. I Ausf. A Flamm	3	Flame	Flame	Average	Low Profile
Pz.II Ausf. C (2.0cm Gun)	3	4	6	Average	Co-ax MG, 20mm Autocannon
Pz.II Ausf. F (2.0cm Gun)	5	4	6	Average	Co-ax MG, 20mm Autocannon
Pz.III Ausf. F (3.7cm Gun)	4	5	3	Average	Hull and Twin Co-ax FP 8
Pz.III Ausf. F (5.0cm Gun)	4	6	4	Average	Hull and Twin Co-ax FP 8
Pz.III Ausf. G (5.0cm Gun)	4	6	4	Average	Hull and Co-ax MG
Pz.III Ausf. H (5.0cm Gun)	5	6	4	Average	Hull and Co-ax MG
Pz.III Ausf. J (Long 5.0cm Gun)	5	7	3	Average	Hull and Co-ax MG
Pz.III Ausf. L	6	7	3	Average	Hull and Co-ax MG
Pz.III Ausf. M	6	7	3	Average	Hull and Co-ax MG
Pz.III Ausf. N	6	5	6	Average	Hull and Co-ax MG
Pz.IV Ausf. D	4	5	6	Average	Hull and Co-ax MG
Pz.IV Ausf. E/F1	6	5	6	Average	Hull and Co-ax MG
Pz.IV Ausf. F2/G	6	8	5	Average	Hull and Co-ax MG
Pz. VI Tiger I	8	12	7	Slow	Hull and Co-ax MG, Slow Turret, Heavy Armour
Captured A12 Matilda Mk. II	7	5	1	Slow	Co-ax MG
Captured A15 Crusader Mk. I/II	5	5	1	Average	Co-ax MG
Captured M3 "Honey" Stuart	4	5	3	Fast	Hull and Co-ax MG
TANK DESTROYERS					
VEHICLE	ARMOUR	A.P.	H.E.	SPEED	NOTES
Panzerjäger I	3	6	4	Average	Open Topped
Marder II	3	9	5	Average	Hull MG, Open Topped
Marder III/Marder III Ausf.H	4	9	5	Average	Hull MG, Open Topped
SELF-PROPELLED GUNS					
VEHICLE	ARMOUR	A.P.	H.E.	SPEED	NOTES
15 cm sIG 33 auf Fahrgestell	4	8	13	Average	Open Top, Low Profile

Pz.Kfw. II (Sf)					
Pz.Sfl. II Hornisse	3	9	5	Average	Open Turret
StuG III Ausf. D	5	5	6	Average	Exposed Top MG, Low Profile
StuG III Ausf. F/8	6	9	5	Average	Top MG, Low Profile
TRANSPORT AND ARMoured CARS					
VEHICLE	ARMOUR	A.P.	H.E.	SPEED	NOTES
Kettenkrad	0	-	-	Fast	Partially Halftracked, Low Profile, Small, Open Topped, Capacity - 1 Team
Kubelwagen	0	-	-	Wheeled	Low Profile, Small, Open Topped, Capacity - 1 Team
Opel Blitz 1.5t Truck	0	-	-	Wheeled	Low profile, Capacity - 1 Section
Sd.Kfz. 7	0	-	-	Fast	Open Topped, Capacity - 1 Section
Sd.Kfz. 10	0	-	-	Fast	Open Topped, Small, Capacity - 1 Team
Kfz. 70	0	-	-	Wheeled	Low Profile, Small, Open Topped, Capacity - 1 Team
Sd.Kfz. 250/1	2	-	MG	Fast	Open Topped, Low Profile, Small, Capacity - 1 Team
Sd.Kfz. 250/1 (2 cm Panzerabwehrbüche 785 (s))	2	2	1	Fast	Open Topped, Low Profile, Small
Sd.Kfz. 250/3	2	-	MG	Fast	Open Topped, Low Profile, Small, Capacity - 1 Team
Sd.Kfz. 251/1	2	-	MG	Fast	Open Topped, Low Profile, Capacity - 1 Section
Sd.Kfz. 251/3	2	-	MG	Fast	Open Topped, Low Profile, Capacity - 1 Section
Sd.Kfz. 251/10	2	5	3	Fast	Open Topped, Low Profile
Sd.Kfz. 221 Armoured Car	2	-	MG	Wheeled	Small, Low Profile, Open Turret
Sd.Kfz. 222 Armoured Car (2.0cm Gun)	2	4	6	Wheeled	Small, Low Profile, Open Turret, 20mm Autocannon
Sd.Kfz. 231/232 Armoured Car	3	4	6	Wheeled	Co-Ax MG, 20mm Autocannon
Sd.Kfz. 233 Armoured Car	3	5	6	Wheeled	Fixed Gun, Open Turret
AA VEHICLES					
VEHICLE	ARMOUR	A.P.	H.E.	SPEED	NOTES
Sd.Kfz. 10/4 (2cm AA gun)	1	4	6	Fast	Open top, Small, 20mm

					Autocannon
Sd.Kfz. 10/5 (2cm AA gun)	1	4	6	Fast	Open top, Small, 20mm Autocannon
Sd.Kfz. 7/1 (2cm AA Quad)	0	4	12	Fast	Open Top, 20mm Autocannon
GUNS AND SUPPORT WEAPONS					
WEAPON	A.P.			H.E.	
Panzerbüchse 38/39 (AT Rifle)	3			1	
2.8 cm sPzB 41 (AT Rifle)	5			2	
75mm le.18 Infantry Gun	4			6	
PaK36 37mm Anti-Tank Gun	5			3	
PaK38 50mm Anti-Tank Gun	7			4	
PaK40 75mm Anti-Tank Gun	9			5	
88mm FlaK 18/36/37	12			7	

Edit: 08/03/19 - Updated the incorrect AP and HE values for the Hornisse and adjusted its support level.