TAC NEWS

January-February 1995
Celebrating GHQ's
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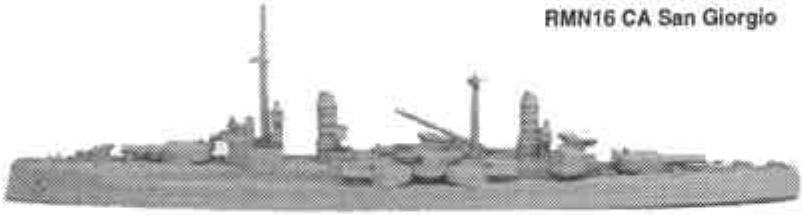
!NEW RELEASES!



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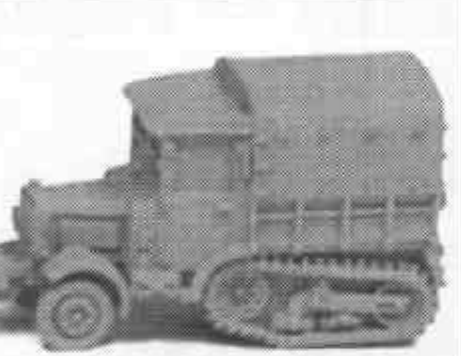


1943 Panzergrenadier Battalion (Motorized)

The term "panzergrenadier" is a misnomer. All panzergrenadiers did not ride in halftracks. This was true only for armored panzergrenadiers; motorized panzergrenadiers rode trucks.

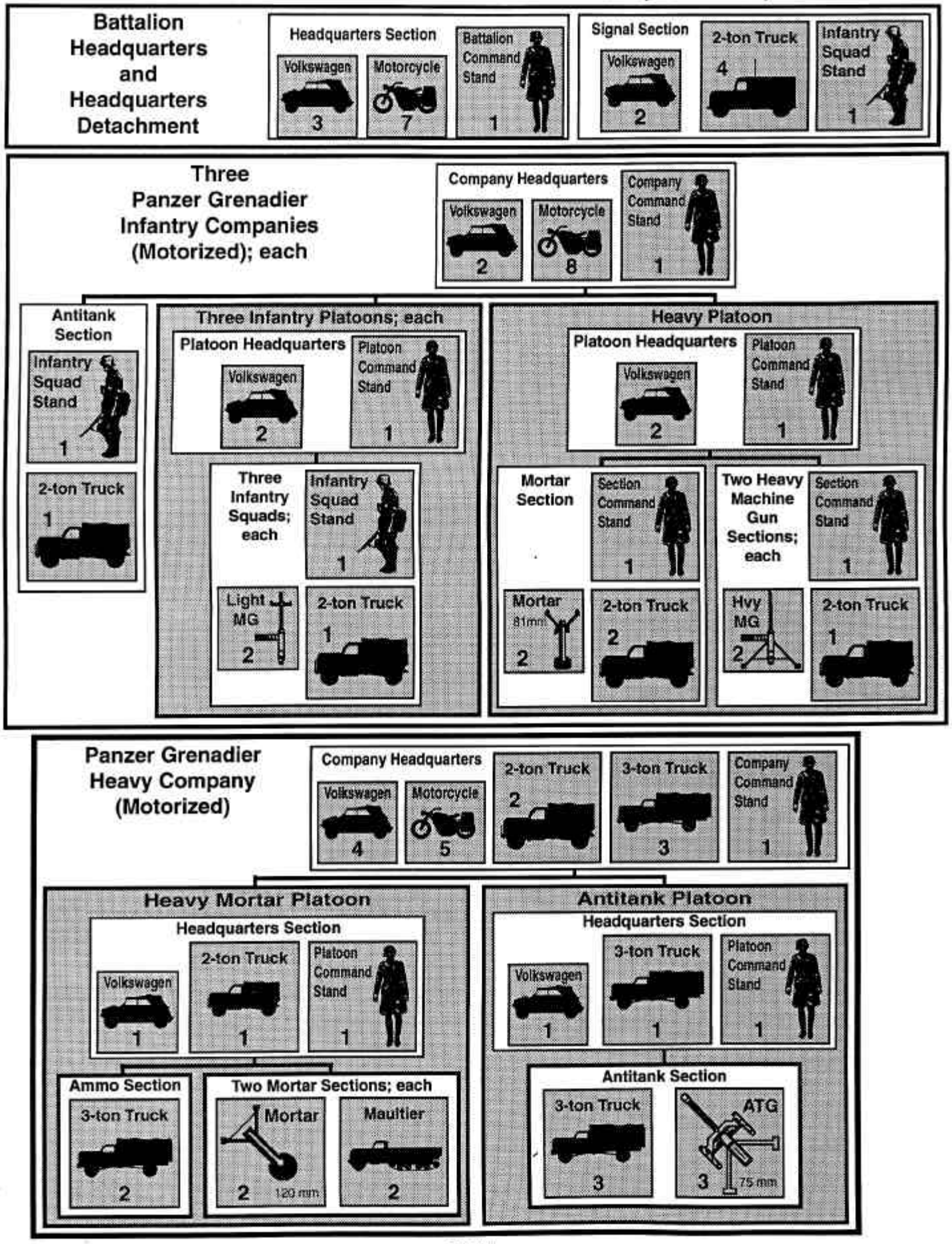
By far the majority of panzergrenadier formations were motorized. The infantry of regular panzergrenadier divisions were exclusively motorized. Armored panzergrenadier battalions were found only in the table of organization for SS Panzergrenadier Divisions, panzer divisions, and elite formations such as *Gross Deutschland*. But, even in these units, motorized panzer-grenadier battalions outnumber their armored counterparts by a ratio of three or four to one.

The 1943 Panzergrenadier Battalion (Motorized) consisted of a headquarters detachment, three infantry companies, and a heavy company. Since there was no need to bring trucks directly to the point of attack, motorized heavy companies lacked the organic engineer platoon of the armored battalion.

From a strategic standpoint the Germans used their motorized formations in a manner identical to armored ones. A truck, although lacking cross country capability, could provide operational mobility as long as a passable road network existed. A motorized unit also had logistical advantages over an armored one because trucks used less fuel, were cheaper to replace, and experienced fewer breakdowns.

Most panzergrenadier divisions were equipped with one sturmgeschütz (or Mk III tank) battalion. This battalion was the divisional fire-brigade and was constantly shuttling to trouble spots. Since the sturmgeschütz battalion was the panzergrenadier division's only armored component, the motorized infantry was utterly depended on it for direct support. So, as you wargame with motorized panzergrenadiers, be sure to include a batch of STuGs.

1943 PANZERGRENADIER BATTALION (Motorized)



STATS, SPECS, AND FACTS

FR3 Hotchkiss H-39

SPECIFICATIONS

WEIGHT:	12.1 tons
HULL ARMOR:	34mm front and side
SPEED:	36 km/hr (road speed)
RANGE:	120 kilometers
MAIN GUN:	37mm gun
MACHINE GUN(S):	One 7.5 machine gun

Originally built as a cavalry tank, the Hotchkiss H-39 also saw service in the role of infantry support. Over a thousand were built, making it an important tank in the French inventory. The H-39 was an improved H-35 mounting a longer more powerful 37mm gun and a bigger engine. The gun modification proved marginal, because the new 37mm was incapable of penetrating the German MkIII and MkIV's frontal armor.

This handicap was further compounded by French armored doctrine. The H-39 was penny-packeted along the entire front and was never used in decisive numbers. The Germans used captured H-39s in a variety of roles. Some H-39s stationed in colonial North Africa survived the war and served the fledgling Israeli Army until 1956.

FR2 Somua S-35 Medium Tank

SPECIFICATIONS

WEIGHT:	19.5 tons
HULL ARMOR:	35mm front and side
SPEED:	40 km/hr (road speed)
RANGE:	230 kilometers
MAIN GUN:	47mm SA 35
MACHINE GUN(S):	One 7.5mm machine gun

During the mid-thirties the French Army began to reequip its cavalry with tanks. One design submitted to meet this requirement came from the Société d'Outillage Mécanique et d'Usinage d'Artillerie (SOMUA). Designated "S-35," the SOMUA was perhaps the finest tank of its day. Its powerful 47mm cannon outmatched any tank gun in the Wehrmacht arsenal. The cast hull armor gave it superior resiliency to contemporary riveted armor. The vehicle's only drawback was its one-man turret. In battle the tank commander simply had too much to do, and the innovative S-35 never was able to realize its full potential. The Germans designated captured SOMUAs as PzKfw 35-S 739(f). Some of these vehicles were given to the Italians, others were used by the Germans for anti-partisan duties.

FR4 Automitrailleuse Panhard et Levassor Type 178

SPECIFICATIONS

WEIGHT:	8.5 tons
HULL ARMOR:	20mm front, 15mm side
SPEED:	72 km/hr (road speed)
RANGE:	300 kilometers
MAIN GUN:	One 25mm cannon (or)
MACHINE GUN(S):	Two 7.5mm machine gun

The Panhard Type 178 was developed in 1935 from a prototype designated TOE-M-32. The TOE-M-32 was intended for North African colonial service and mounted a 37mm gun. Panhard moved the engine to the rear of the vehicle, changed the drive configuration to 4x4, and altered the turret armament to a single 25mm cannon or two machine guns. Command vehicles carried extra radios and no armament.

Production started slowly, but by 1940 appreciable numbers of Type 178s were serving in infantry and cavalry reconnaissance groups. The Type 178 acquitted itself well in combat, but poor doctrine and a confused command structure never allowed it to fight in cohesive formations or adequate numbers.

RMN16 CA San Giorgio

SPECIFICATIONS

DISPLACEMENT:	11,300 tons
SPEED:	23.0 knots
RANGE:	2,640 nautical miles at 10 knots

ARMAMENT (original)
Four 10-inch guns, eight 7.5-inch guns, eighteen 3-inch guns, and three 17.5-inch torpedo tubes

The *San Giorgio* and her sister ship *San Marco* were launched in 1908. Originally fitted with just a mainmast, the class was fitted with a foremast in 1916. During World War I the armament of both vessels was modified to increase antiaircraft protection. By the thirties the class was obsolete. *San Giorgio* was converted to a coastal defense vessel; her AA armament was increased and her torpedo tubes removed. *San Marco* was converted to a target drone and served in this capacity during 1931-35.

During World War II *San Giorgio* was stationed at Tobruk to bolster the harbor's AA defense. Damaged by bombs, she was scuttled by her crew on January 22, 1941. *San Marco* was scuttled to avoid capture by the Germans.

FRN7 CA Foch

SPECIFICATIONS

DISPLACEMENT:	12,780 tons
SPEED:	31 knots
RANGE:	3,700 nautical miles at 17 knots

ARMAMENT (varied per ship)
Eight 8-in guns, eight 3.5-in guns, eight 37mm guns, and twenty 13.2mm AA guns

The *Foch* was a *Suffren* Class cruiser. The other two ships in the class were the *Dupleix* and *Colbert*. The class was constructed during the twenties, with no two ships exactly alike. The *Foch* did not have the secondary coal-fired boilers built into the *Suffren* and *Colbert*, but she did retain the redundant coal bunker.

The *Suffren* was interned at Alexandria from June 1940 to May 1943. During this time her AA armament was substantially increased. She survived the war and went on to serve in the Far East into the 1960s. The other three ships were scuttled at Toulon. The *Foch* was raised in 1943, only to be scrapped. The *Dupleix* was also raised, but she was destroyed by Allied bombing.

USN60 BB-33 Arkansas (1942)

SPECIFICATIONS

DISPLACEMENT:	27,700 tons
SPEED:	20.5 knots
RANGE:	8,000 nautical miles at 10 knots

ARMAMENT (original)
Twelve 12-inch guns Secondary armament: Twenty one 5-inch guns, and two 21-inch torpedo tubes

The *Arkansas* was a *Wyoming* Class battleship. This two-ship class was an enlarged version of the basic *Florida* design. Like the *Florida*, the *Wyoming* Class was to have mounted 14-inch guns, but production delays on the new armament meant the ships were fitted with 12-inch guns. To increase firepower, the *Wyoming* Class was fitted with a sixth twin 12-inch turret firing aft.

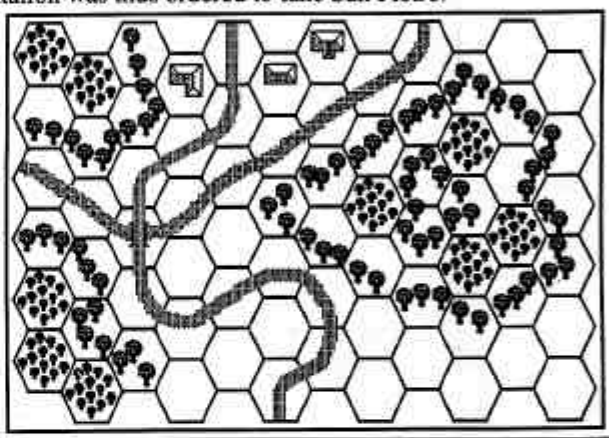
The *Wyoming* was demilitarized under the London Naval Treaty. She became a training vessel in 1932. Rearmed during the war, she served in an anti-Kamikaze research group. *Arkansas* lost her cage-mast during a 1940-41 modernization. During the war she served as a bombardment vessel off Normandy and Iwo Jima.

Shermans on the Rocks

Tac News Scenario #5

San Pietro Italy, December 15 1943: The 1st Armored Division landed in Italy during October of 1943. Since then the division stood idle awaiting a suitable engagement. This was embarrassing. First Armor was in Italy at Gen. Mark Clark's personal insistence. If he didn't use the division, and use it soon, it was going to be taken from him. Desperate for an armored demonstration of some sort, Clark seized on San Pietro.

The San Pietro battlefield was anything but favorable for tanks. The only viable road leading to the village crossed three small bridges. These potential choke points were no doubt mined and covered by antitank guns. Offroad approaches were blocked by rocky ravines and terraced vineyards. Both armored and infantry field commanders argued against using tanks, but Clark was adamant. Company A of the 753rd Independent Tank Battalion was thus ordered to take San Pietro.

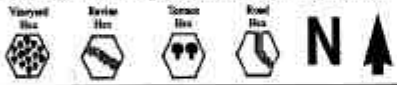


SET-UP AND SUGGESTED VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Germans set up anywhere except for the first two hex rows on southern edge. The Americans enter along the southern edge. Americans must capture and hold buildings to win.

TIME CHART

Battle runs from 11:00AM to 7:00PM



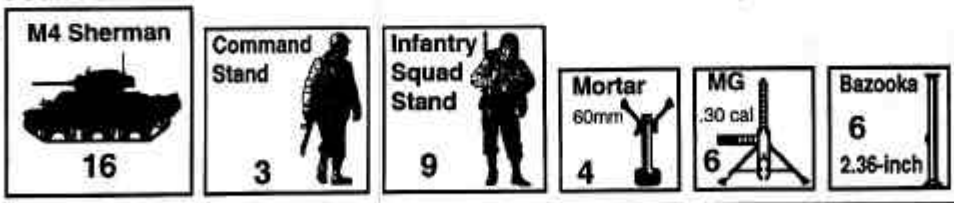
ELEMENTS OF 29TH PANZERGRENADIER DIVISION

One complete Panzergrenadier Infantry Company (Motorized)

(For details see the enclosed table of organization)

Reinforced by a five-vehicle platoon of MkIII Sturmgeschütz

COMPANY A OF 753RD INDEPENDENT TANK BATTALION (reinforced)



SUGGESTED SPECIAL RULES

1. The Germans are veteran troops with superior commanders.

2. The Americans are veteran troops with superior commanders.

3. Terraced hexes delineate elevations. Terraces consisted of a tree studded stone wall, running between three to seven feet tall. Terrace hexes stop vehicular movement. To cross a terrace, a vehicle must wait until its next movement phase and roll a three or less on a ten-sided die. If it fails, it must wait until the next movement phase, when it must roll a six or less. Failing that attempt, a nine or less on the next movement phase. Each time a terraced hex is crossed, there is a 20% chance of throwing a track. Infantry cross terraces at no penalty.

AFTERMATH: The attack commenced on December 15. Company A split itself into two pincers. One arm swung west to interdict German reinforcing attempts; the other, supported by infantry, took a direct route into San Pietro. As the shooting started both pincers began to fragment. The lead tank heading directly into San Pietro crossed the first bridge, but the following tank hit a mine. This side tracked the next three Shermans into an ambush and they were knocked out by sturmgeschütz. Tanks attempting to bypass these hulks hit mines in the road shoulder. Others trying offroad approaches either threw tracks or turned turtle in ravines. By day's end, Company A was reduced to just two tanks.