

TAC NEWS

March-April 1995
Celebrating GHQ's
Twenty Seven Years of Modeling Excellence!

GHQ
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!NEW RELEASES!

GWB10 BB Iron Duke



Photographs appearing in Tac News are not necessarily to scale

GWG11 CL Emden
(on US quarter)



THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED FORMATION: THE 1942 AMERICAN ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company

The 1942 T/O&E of the US Armored Infantry Battalion originally listed a single M6 37mm self-propelled gun in each of the headquarter and administrative elements. The M6 was a M3A1 37mm antitank gun portée on a 1.5-ton truck. In the field, however, the M6's marginal cross-country performance and high silhouette led to its rapid replacement by jeep-towed 37mm antitank guns. This is reflected in the following organizational schematic.

Note: To represent the Harley Davidsons in the Battalion Headquarters Section and Recon Platoon, use GHQ German motorcycles. In 1:285th scale the differences in the two machines are virtually indistinguishable. Just paint an American uniform on the rider.

The Cannon Platoon

The GMC M3 was a hurried effort to

provide a mobile antitank gun larger than the 37mm. The vehicle was a simple conversion consisting of a M1897 75mm field gun (minus wheels and trails) stuck into the bed of a M3 infantry carrier. In combat the GMC M3 was outclassed by fully-tracked AFVs with heavier armor and longer-ranged guns. As the purpose-built M10 "Wolverine" tank destroyer became available, GMC M3s were pulled from service and either reconverted to personnel carriers or transferred to the Pacific.

Mortar Platoon

The 1942 Mortar Platoon was outfitted with the 81mm Mortar Carrier M4. The M4 was a carrier only; the mortar had to be dismounted to fire. Eventually, the M4 was replaced by the M4A1 which had reinforced floor boards and an aft-firing tube. Later still, the M4A1 was replaced by the M21 which featured a forward-firing mortar and traversable mount.

GHQ

GIVEN PRESTIGIOUS
AWARD AT
NUREMBERG TOY FAIR

February 15th, 1995

At the Nuremberg Toy Fair, Modell Fan Magazine presented GHQ with its "1994 Model of the Year Award" for ships. GHQ's 1:2400 scale pewter Great War Micronauts® beat out all model types in this range, including large-scale plastic kits and extremely expensive collector items.

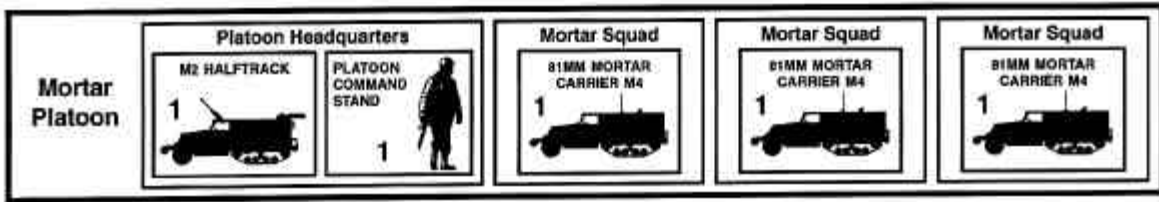
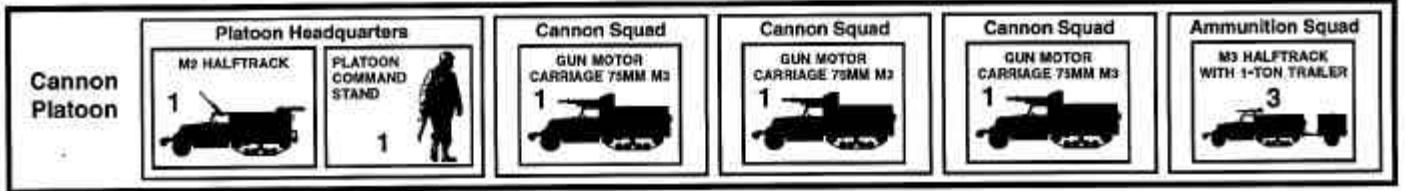
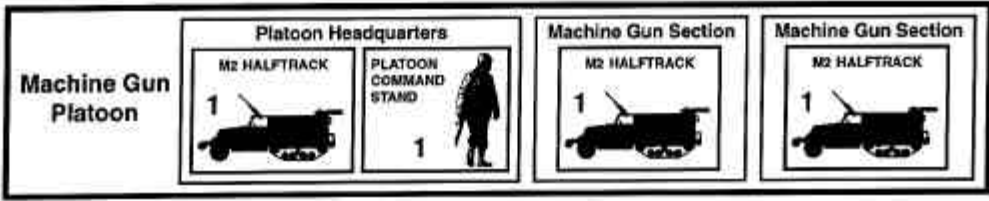
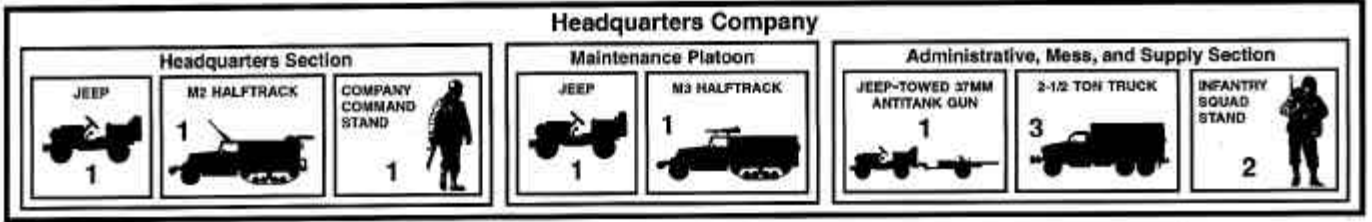
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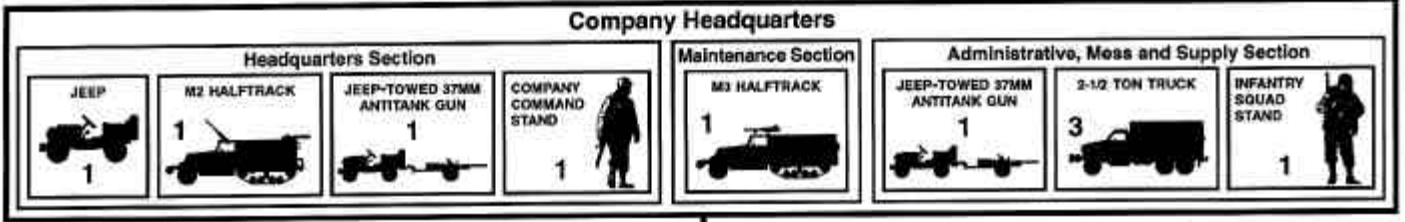
Order today!

1942 United States Armored Infantry Battalion

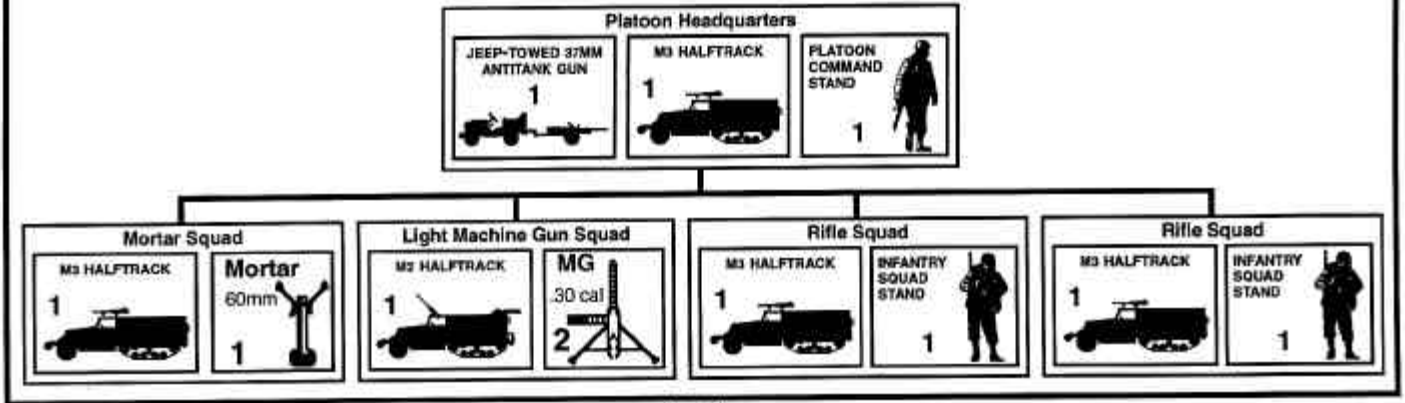
Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company



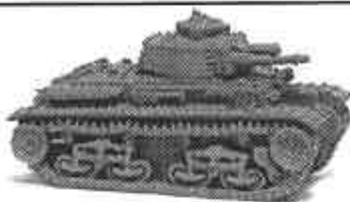
Three Rifle Companies; each



Three Rifle Platoons; each



STATS, SPECS, AND FACTS



G131 Pz 35(t)

SPECIFICATIONS

WEIGHT: 10.5 tons
HULL ARMOR: 25mm front, 15mm side
SPEED: 35 km/hr (road speed)
RANGE: 190 kilometers
MAIN GUN: 37mm KwK34 (t) L/40 gun
MACHINE GUN(S): Two 7.92 machine guns

The 35(t) was the principal Czech tank prior to the German invasion of 1939. For its time, the 35(t) was an advanced design, mounting an exceptionally accurate main gun. Mechanically, however, the vehicle was unsound. Its transmission was complex and unreliable. Only 50% of 35(t)s captured in 1939 by the Germans were deemed battle worthy. Nonetheless, they thought enough of the tank to systematically rebuild it, and in this form the 35(t) served the Wehrmacht for three years.

The 1st Light Division used the 35(t) during the Polish invasion. In France and Russia, the 6th Panzer Division used it until late in 1941. The Romanian and Slovakian armies, having been supplied by Skoda prior to the war, also mastered considerable numbers.



G130 Pak 43/41

SPECIFICATIONS

WEIGHT: 4380 kg
MUZZLE VELOCITY: 1,000 meters per second
MAXIMUM RANGE: (HE) approx. 15,000 meters
BARREL LIFE: 1,200-2,000 rounds
ARMOR
PENETRATION: 184 mm at 2,000 meters

During 1943, Krupp produced the superb 88 caliber Pak 43. Powerful enough to knock-out any Allied tank, the Pak 43 is generally acknowledged as the best anti-tank gun of World War II. It was, however, never available in large numbers. The design was complicated and the Krupp works where it was built was under constant bombing.

To get more Pak 43s into the field, Rheinmetall-Borsig was ordered to create a new design by cobbling existing resources. Thus was born the Pak 43/41. It consisted of a simplified Pak 43 barrel, dial sights, a 10.5cm lFH 18 carriage, and 15cm sFH 18 wheels. The Pak 43/41 retained the 43's hitting-power and size. It was a brute to handle and its ungainly gun shield earned it the nickname 'Scheunentor' (barn door).



FR7 Tracteur Blindé 37L with fuel trailer



FR7 Vehicule Blindé Lorraine Chasseur 1938 with trailer

SPECIFICATIONS

WEIGHT: 7.5 tons
HULL ARMOR: 10mm front, 8mm side
SPEED: 34 km/hr (road speed)
RANGE: 135 kilometers
MAIN GUN: N/A
MACHINE GUN(S): N/A

The Tracteur Blindé 1937 was an unarmed open-topped cargo tractor. The VBLC 1938 was an APC carrying four infantrymen in an interior compartment, and towing another four in an armored trailer. Many were captured by the Germans and converted to their own use.

UKN30 CB Repulse



SPECIFICATIONS (as built)

DISPLACEMENT: 27,947 tons	ARMAMENT
SPEED: 32.7 knots	Six 15-inch guns, seventeen 4-inch guns,
ARMOR: 8-inch belt, 4-inch bulkheads	two 3-inch guns, and two 21-inch torpedo tubes

Originally the *Renown* and sister ship *Repulse* were slated for construction in 1914. But, as World War I broke out, they were shelved in anticipation of a short war. Following the redemption of British seapower in the Battle of the Falkland Islands (with battlecruisers playing a decisive role), they were laid down in January 1915 and launched in March 1916. During construction, the Battle of Jutland demonstrated the vulnerability of thin-skinned battlecruisers and the horizontal armor of both ships was increased. Between wars more armor plate was added over magazines, boilers, and engine rooms; AA protection was also increased. *Repulse* was sunk by Japanese air attack on Dec 10, 1941. *Renown* was scrapped in 1948.

GWB11 BB Bellerophon



SPECIFICATIONS (as built)

DISPLACEMENT: 18,800 tons	ARMAMENT
SPEED: 21 knots	Ten 12-inch guns, sixteen 4-in guns,
ARMOR: 10-inch belt, 8-inch bulkheads	and three 18-in torpedo tubes

Bellerophon and her two original sister ships, HMS *Temeraire* and *Superb* were launched in 1909. The *Bellerophon* Class, affectionately known as "Billy Ruffians," incorporated only minor modifications of the *Dreadnought* design. The one improvement was that of armament. The *Dreadnought* theory of an all big-gun ship had been taken too far. There was no secondary guns large enough to defeat torpedo boats at a safe distance. For this purpose the *Bellerophons* had no less than sixteen 4-inch guns. Following the *Bellerophons* were three virtual repeats; the *St. Vincent*, *Collingwood*, and *Vanguard*. All sailed through Jutland without casualty, although *Vanguard* was later lost to a magazine explosion.

GWG10 BB Westfalen



SPECIFICATIONS (as built)

DISPLACEMENT: 18,900 tons	ARMAMENT
SPEED: 20 knots	Twelve 11-inch guns, twelve 5.9-inch guns,
ARMOR: 11.5-inch belt, 11.3-inch turrets	Sixteen 3.5-inch guns,
	and six 17.7-inch torpedo tubes

As details of the *Dreadnought* design emerged, Germany opted for a least-risk response. The *Nassau* Class featured twelve 11-inch guns, as opposed to *Dreadnought's* 12-inchers. The flat-trajectory 11-inchers incorporate cheaper and lighter mounts and the weight thus saved was put to increased armor protection. Hence this class was better protected than contemporary British designs. The *Nassau* Class included three other ships: the *Foxen*, *Rheinland*, and *Westfalen*. All fought at Jutland. Being elderly ships they were positioned well back in the line. Nonetheless, *Nassau* took two medium-caliber hits that caused moderate damage. *Rheinland* also was damaged. All *Nassaus* were scrapped by the mid-twenties.

Debacle on Elsenborn Ridge

Tac News Scenario #6

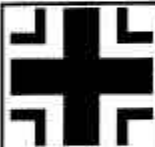
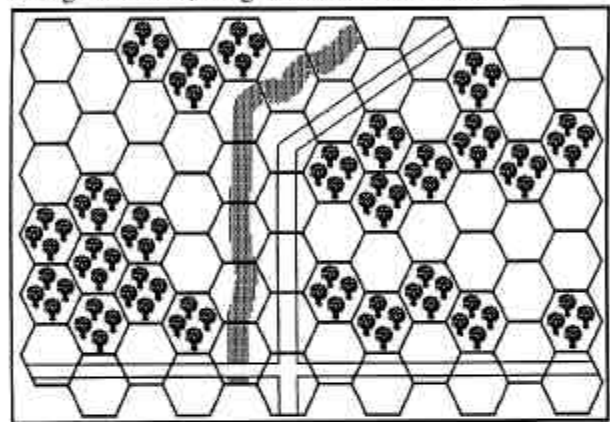
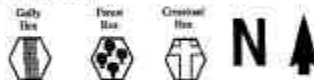


SET-UP AND SUGGESTED VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Germans enter the board any where along the northern edge.
 The Americans set-up entrenched within four hexes of the southern board edge.
 To win the Germans must clear the board of American infantry and vehicular stands.
 The Americans win by keeping at least one functioning stand on the board.
 Specific victory conditions are left to player or referee discretion.

TIME CHART

Battle runs from 10:30AM to 3:30PM



A Battalion of the 277th Volks-Grenadier Division

(reinforced with two five-vehicle platoons of Jagdpanzers IV/70s from SS-Panzerjäger Abteilung 12)

Command Stand 10	Infantry Squad Stand 27	Light MG 13
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Company I of the 3rd Battalion, 23rd Infantry (reinforced)

M4 Sherman 2	Command Stand 5	Infantry Squad Stand 9	Mortar 80mm 4	MG .30 cal 6	Bazooka 2.36-inch 6
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SUGGESTED SPECIAL RULES

1. The Germans are inferior troops with regular commanders.
2. The Americans are veteran troops with superior commanders.
3. There was no effective indirect artillery support from either side during the battle. Limit it accordingly.
4. Although the Shermans were attached to Company I, the thought of facing Panthers (the jagdpanzers were misidentified) was too much for them. They withdrew beyond the crossroads, where they later fought and died. Allow some sort of random element to determine American command cohesion between the infantry and armored elements.

Elsenborn Ridge December 17th, 1944: At dawn a reinforced infantry battalion from the 277 Volks-Grenadier Division, supported by two platoons from SS-Panzerjäger Abteilung 12, hit the northern sector of Elsenborn Ridge. This surprise attack pushed the Americans back to a secondary line manned by 3rd Battalion of the 23rd Infantry. Capt. Charles MacDonald, commander Company I, questioned survivors as they filtered past him. They said, "The Germans are right behind us."

MacDonald was anxious. He was relatively green and fretted about his lack of combat experience. When the Germans struck again at 10:30AM, Lt. Thomas Brock, commander 2nd Platoon, requested artillery. MacDonald relayed the coordinates to headquarters and three rounds whistled in over the treetops. Brock confirmed a dead center hit and called, "Fire for effect!" No barrage followed; the guns were on short ration.

AFTERMATH: Without artillery support, mortar fire alone could not keep the Germans at bay. Rifle fire soon crackled up and down the line. The entire battalion front was probed, but Company I's sector was the *schwerpunkt* (focal point of attack). Lt. Long Goffigon, commander 1st Platoon, radioed MacDonald asking if he authorized the two attached Shermans to withdraw. MacDonald had not, but could not get battalion HQs to order them back. Luckily, German artillery concentrated on the road junction and Company I managed to repulse seven successive assaults with just one fatality. But, after five hours of pitched battle, the GIs were spent. Out of ammunition, with jagdpanzers targeting individual foxholes, they began a spontaneous retreat that MacDonald could not stop.