



# Panzer Lehr Panzerspähkompanie



*A copy of Villers-Bocage, The Battle For Villers-Bocage, Normandy, 12-16 June 1944 is needed to fully use this Intelligence Briefing.*

*The Panzerspähwagen (armoured reconnaissance vehicle) is a fast, manoeuvrable, lightly armoured vehicle equipped with a long range radio, great firepower for an armoured car and capable of crossing light terrain. They are the eyes of the battalion, only fighting in self defence to complete their reconnaissance task. Using them as assault guns or tanks is foolish. The armoured reconnaissance patrol shall not be more than 3 vehicles.*

*“See much, but not be seen!”*

*Panzeraufklärungs Abteilung gain, through reconnaissance and combat, information for the rest of the division. It is the division’s quickest fighting force.*

*Any combat duties must be reinforced by the rest of the battalion; the battalion is then committed to the battle all together.*

— Excerpt from Heinz Guderians war diary, October 1st 1944.



The *Schwerer Panzerspähkompanie* (heavier armoured reconnaissance company) of the *Panzeraufklärungs Abteilung* was organised with one Sd Kfz 234/2 Puma in the company HQ and 8 patrols of 3 vehicles—this composition was referred to as the ‘Type A’ organisation. But with just 101 of the Puma variant of the Sd Kfz 234 chassis being produced, only two Panzer divisions had enough of them to completely equip the company.

The army divisions that adopted the ‘Type A’ organisation were: Panzer Lehr and 2. Panzerdivision, which received the

full complement of 25 Sd Kfz 234/2 Puma armoured cars; 20. Panzerdivision received 16; and 7. Panzerdivision received only 6.

The SS divisions that adopted the ‘Type A’ organisation were: 1. SS-Panzer Division (LSSAH), which received 16; and 9. SS-Panzer Division (Hohenstaufen), which most likely received only 6.

Panzer Lehr lost the majority of it’s equipment during the massive German retreat during August 1944 and had only 8 Pumas left on 22nd August 1944.

*As well as fielding Sd Kfz 234/2 Puma armoured cars in this Panzer Lehr Panzerspähkompanie and the Armoured Car Patrol on page 34 of Villers-Bocage, you may replace the Armoured Car Patrol on page 32 of Festung Europa with the Panzerspäh Patrol on page 2.*



# Schwerer Panzerspähkompanie



(MECHANISED COMPANY)

A force based on an Schwerer Panzerspähkompanie must contain:

- 1 Company HQ, and
- 3 to 8 Panzerspäh Patrols.

Weapons Platoons available to an Schwerer Panzerspähkompanie are:

- 0 to 1 Armoured Cannon Platoon,
- 0 to 1 Armoured Light Anti-tank Gun Platoon,
- 0 to 1 Armoured Pioneer Platoon,
- 0 to 2 Aufklärungs Platoons, and
- 0 to 1 Heavy Armoured Car Platoon.

Support Platoons for a Schwerer Panzerspähkompanie can be:

- 0 to 1 Schwere SS-Panzer Platoon (p. 12), Panzer Platoon (p. 23), Radio-control Tank Platoon

(p. 35), Tank-hunter Platoon (p. 36), or Anti-tank Gun Platoon (p. 36),

- 0 to 1 Rocket Launcher Battery (p. 37),
- 0 to 1 Armoured Artillery Battery (p. 38), or Motorised Artillery Battery (p. 39), and
- 0 to 1 Heavy Anti-aircraft Gun Platoon (p. 40), or Anti-aircraft Gun Platoon (p. 40).

You may have up to **two** support platoons attached to your company for each Panzerspäh Patrol you are fielding.

## MOTIVATION AND SKILL

With veterans from every major training centre in Germany the Schwerer Panzerspähkompanie has the best and brightest as its members. A Schwerer Panzerspähkompanie is rated as **Confident Veteran**.

## HEADQUARTERS

### 1 COMPANY HQ

#### HEADQUARTERS

Company HQ 55 points

*Command Panzerspäh Sd Kfz 234/2 Puma armoured cars are Reconnaissance Platoons.*

Almost 500 Sd Kfz 234 of all variants were built, with production of this chassis ceasing in May of 1945. This number was sufficient to equip 20 companies. But with more than 50 *Panzer Aufklärungabteilung* within the *Wehrmacht*, many units never possessed any Sd Kfz 234 variants.

As vehicle losses mounted, the *Panzeraufklärungs-Lehr-Abteilung* began replacing Pumas with the other Sd Kfz 234 variants, the Sd Kfz 234/1 (2cm) and the Sd Kfz 234/3 (7.5cm).

#### HAUPTMANN

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Command Sd Kfz 234/2 Puma

#### COMPANY HQ

#### PANZERSPÄHKOMPANIE

## COMBAT PLATOONS

### 3 TO 8 PANZERSPÄH PATROLS

#### PLATOON

3 Sd Kfz 234/2 Puma armoured cars	165 points
2 Sd Kfz 234/2 Puma armoured cars	110 points

*Panzerspäh Patrols are Reconnaissance Platoons.*

In January 1944, the newly formed Panzer Lehr division in France was given highest priority concerning supplies of new machines and equipment. It was equipped with a complete *Schwerer Panzerspähkompanie*, Type A, with 25 Sd Kfz 234/2 Pumas forming the first company of the *Panzer Lehr Aufklärungsabteilung*.

#### LEUTNANT

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Command Sd Kfz 234 Puma

#### HQ SECTION

#### UNTEROFFIZIER



Sd Kfz 234 Puma

#### ARMOURED CAR

#### UNTEROFFIZIER



Sd Kfz 234 Puma

#### ARMOURED CAR

#### PANZERSPÄH PATROL



## WEAPON PLATOONS

### **0 TO 1 ARMoured CANNON PLATOON**

The Armoured Cannon Platoon is organised just like the Armoured Cannon Platoon on page 27 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 ARMoured LIGHT ANTI-TANK GUN PLATOON**

The Armoured Light Anti-tank Platoon is organised just like the Armoured Light Anti-tank Platoon on page 28 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 ARMoured PIONEER PLATOON**

The Armoured Pioneer Platoon is organised just like the Armoured Pioneer Platoon on page 31 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 2 AUFKLÄRUNGS PLATOON**

The Aufklärungs Platoon is organised just like the Aufklärungs Platoon on page 33 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 HEAVY ARMoured CAR PLATOON**

The Armoured Cannon Platoon is organised just like the Armoured Cannon Platoon on page 34 of *Villers-Bocage*.

## SUPPORT PLATOONS

### **0 TO 1 SCHWERE SS-PANZER PLATOON**

The Schwere SS-Panzer Platoon is organised just like the Schwere SS-Panzer Platoon on page 12 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 PANZER PLATOON**

The Panzer Platoon is organised just like the Panzer Platoon on page 23 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 RADIO-CONTROL TANK PLATOON**

The Radio-control Tank Platoon is organised just like the Panzer Platoon on page 35 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 TANK-HUNTER PLATOON**

The Tank-hunter Platoon is organised just like the Tank-hunter Platoon on page 36 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 ANTI-TANK GUN PLATOON**

The Anti-tank Gun Platoon is organised just like the Anti-tank Gun Platoon on page 36 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 ROCKET LAUNCHER BATTERY**

The Rocket Launcher Battery is organised just like the Rocket Launcher Battery on page 37 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 ARMoured ARTILLERY BATTERY**

The Armoured Artillery Battery is organised just like the Armoured Artillery Battery on page 38 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 MOTORISED ARTILLERY BATTERY**

The Motorised Artillery Battery is organised just like the Motorised Artillery Battery on page 39 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN PLATOON**

The Heavy Anti-aircraft Gun Platoon is organised just like the Heavy Anti-aircraft Gun Platoon on page 40 of *Villers-Bocage*.

### **0 TO 1 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN PLATOON**

The Anti-aircraft Gun Platoon is organised just like the Anti-aircraft Gun Platoon on page 40 of *Villers-Bocage*.