

# 1. (verstärkte) Polizei-Panzer-Kompanie - a brief review of its history

## The line-up and the first effort

The company was established in January 1942 as Polizei-Panzer(Kraftwagen)-Abteilung (for inexplicable reasons designated as battalion (Abteilung) although it was actually a company).



*Landsverk L 181 armored car from the German police*

The battalion (company) consisted of: Staff, supply and maintenance platoons, 2 armored car platoons (one equipped with Steyr ADGZ armored cars, the other presumably with Landsverk L181) and 2 tank platoons equipped with Renault R-35 tanks.

Detailed strength overview. See the end of the article (*Stärke- und Ausrüstungsnachweisung Polizei-Panzerabteilung (Pol.Pzkw.Abt.), 1.5. 1942*)

The battalion (company) was to form part of a newly formed Gebirgsjäger-Regiment der Polizei (Police Mountain Hunter Regiment), which consisted of three police battalions (302, 304 and 325), a heavy company, a pioneer platoon, a cavalry platoon and a signal battalion.

On 26 July 1942, Police Hunter Regiment 18 was ready for deployment and was transferred to northern Yugoslavia, where it was deployed until October.

The extent to which the armored battalion participated in the regiment's operations is not known exactly.

In October 1942 the regiment returned to Austria and in December - without the armored battalion - was transferred to Finland.

The armored battalion instead went under the command of HSSPF (Höhere SS- und Polizei-Führer) Rußland-Mitte und Weißruthenien.

In January 1943, the unit was deployed in combat against partisans in the area - for a period in collaboration with SS Sonder Btn. (SS Special Battalion) Dirlewanger.

## Redesign and renewed effort



*Renault R-35 tank advancing with thick police troops*

The order to redesignate the 1st reinforced police armored company cannot be confirmed, but on 25 January the company is mentioned for the first time in the field record overview.

At the time, the company was subordinate to Police Regiment 2.

Throughout the year 1943, the company operated behind the central part of the Eastern Front; still under the command of HSSPF (Höhere SS- und Polizei-Führer) Rußland-Mitte und Weißruthenien.

It was a year of regular daily partisan combat as well as participation in actual operations against larger partisan forces and facilities.

### **The year 1943 in chart form**

6/1 26/1

Partisan combat at Ofipowitsche

27/1 19/3

Fighting larger partisan units at Sluzk and in the Pripjet swamps

20/3 21/3

Partisan combat in Weissruthenia

24/3

Sonder-Unternehmen (Special Operation) "Ruda-Jawronka"

1/5 10/5

Unternehmen (Operation) Draufgänger II *In collaboration with Police Regiment 2, Schuma Battalion 118, SS-Special Battalion Dirlwanger and Police Panzer Company 12.*

12/5 28/6

Unternehmen Cottbus

2/7 5/7

Unternehmen Günther

12/7 11/8

13/8 15/8

Unternehmen Skank

20/8 15/9

Partisan fighting around Begoml and Vokschyie

5/11

Attack on Saretschje

6/11 7/11

Attack and breakthrough against oil storage at Dretun



*Steyr ADGZ armored car*

In January 1944, the 1st Army Corps took over command of the company. Strength reports show that at the time the company had six armored vehicles and nine tanks, i.e. almost the original strength.

### **Reorganization and efforts until the end of the war**

After continued anti-partisan duties, the company was ordered to Vienna in July 1944 for reorganization.

It is not clear from the sources what actually happened regarding the reorganization, but in February 1945, the company was back at the front in northern Yugoslavia, where it remained until the end of the war.

In the strength report from 26 April 1945, the company is referred to as one of the most important units behind Army Group E, together with SS-Politiregiment 17, 1st and 3rd battalions of SS-Politiregiment 28 "Todt", SS Gendarmerie battalion 3 and 14. Politipanzerkompagni.

### **Sources**

1) Panzerfahrzeuge und Panzereinheiten der Ordnungspolizei 1936 - 1945

2) Tanks - Armored warfare up to 1946

Here is the strength list for the Police Armored Battalion when it was established in May 1942.

Source: *Panzerfahrzeuge und Panzereinheiten der Ordnungspolizei 1936 - 1945*

## **Stärke- und Ausrüstungsnachweisung**

### **Polizei-Panzerabteilung (Pol.Pzkw.Abt.), 1.5. 1942**

#### Staff

1 passenger car,  
light 2 sidecar motorcycles  
2 motorcycles 1  
officer and five drivers 6  
guns

#### Supply column

1 passenger car,  
light 1 truck, medium heavy, personnel  
1 truck, medium heavy with field kitchen 1  
truck, medium heavy, catering 3 trucks,  
medium heavy, ammunition 3 trucks, medium  
heavy, fuel 1 truck, medium heavy, packing  
9 non-commissioned officers, 1 private  
and 11 drivers 21 guns

#### Maintenance sharing

1 passenger car, medium-  
heavy 1 sidecar motorcycle  
3 trucks, medium-heavy, spare parts 3  
trucks, heavy, workshop trucks 1 non-  
commissioned officer and 12  
drivers 13 guns

#### 1st armored car division

1 sidecar motorcycle 3  
motorcycles 1  
truck, medium heavy, personnel 1  
truck, medium heavy, ammunition 1 truck,  
medium heavy, fuel 3 armored cars,  
Steyr ADGZ 1 officer, 2 non-  
commissioned officers, 14 privates and 16 drivers 33 guns  
and 3 machine guns

#### 2nd armored car division

Identical to the 1st division, except that the armored vehicles were presumably of the Landsverk L181 type.

#### 3rd Tank Division

1 sidecar motorcycle 3  
motorcycles 1  
truck, medium heavy, personnel  
1 truck, medium heavy, ammunition  
1 truck, medium heavy, fuel 5  
tanks, Renault R-35 1 non-  
commissioned officer. 6 privates and  
15 drivers 22 guns and 5 machine guns

#### 4th Tank Division

Identical to 3rd platoon.