

## **The presence of recoilless guns in the German cavalry - a bit of a mystery**

My German source on one occasion uses the words "Leichtgeschütze (Fallschirmjägerwaffen)", which translates to "light guns (paratrooper weapons)".

There is no indication in the standard order of battle (or in any other of the sources that I've used) that the German cavalry should have been equipped with recoilless guns, but the German paratroopers used them to some extent.

Another possibility is, that the gun in question was the Skoda 7,5 cm mountain gun (Gebirgskanone 15), which the German paratroopers had used in the beginning of the war.

It is possible that the cavalry of 102<sup>nd</sup> Fast Battalion somehow could had been equipped with recoilless guns, either as a test or because someone found a surplus number of these guns somewhere. It is however also a possibility that they were equipped with the mountain guns.

There is no doubt, that the official order of battle describes 7,5cm field guns (FK 16 or FK 18) as the equipment of the German cavalry batteries in 1943 and that these guns were in fact used, when the artillery of the cavalry was being build up to strength.

The German sources continue to use the word "Leichtgeschütz", when describing these batteries.

I do not have an exact answer to this little riddle, but should any of my readers have information concerning this, please let me know.

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[Back](#)