

CHAPTER XXV

GERMAN ORDER OF BATTLE

A.

The following information has been extracted from the "Order of Battle of the German Army", a booklet published by the United States Government. The more important armies, corps and units are listed herein in the event that such information may be of value to the field Eligibility Officer in the course of the eligibility interviews. As mentioned above, it is not intended to be complete but lists only the more important units which may be encountered.

B. SS PANZER ARMY AND PANZER CORPS

*First SS Panzer Army.*

Formed under SS-Ogruf. Paul HAUSSER in northern Italy in the autumn of 1943 by upgrading the II SS Pz Corps. Existed only for a short time and then reverted to corps status.

*Sixth SS Panzer Army.*

Commander : SS.-Obstgrf. u. Genobst. der Waffen-SS Josef ("Sepp") DIETRICH

(53).

C. of S : SS-Brigf. und Genmaj. der Waffen-SS KRAEMER.

Formed in the vicinity of NW Germany in autumn 1944, in charge of refitting Panzer Divisions withdrawn from France in preparation for new operations.

*I. SS Panzer Corps (SS Panzer-Korps "Leibstandarte-SS Adolf Hitler").*

Commander : SS-Gruf. u. Genit. der Waffen-SS Herman PRIESS (44).

Formed in Germany in 1942. Early in 1944 assumed control of the 1st and 12th SS Pz Divs. Took part in Ardennes counter offensive in December 1944, withdrew in January 1945; believed en route to the eastern front.

*II. SS Panzer Corps.*

Commander : SS-Ogruf. u. Gen. der Waffen-SS Willi Bittrich (51).

Formed in Germany in May 1942. In Autumn of 1944 refitted under the Sixth SS Panzer Army in NW Germany. Withdrew from Ardennes in January 1945, believed en route to the eastern front. Probably controls the 2nd and 9th SS Divs.

*III. SS. Panzer Corps (III. (germanisches) SS Panzer-Korps).*

Commander : SS-Ogruf. u. Gen. der Waffen-SS Felix STEINER (49).

Formed in April 1943 to control training and subsequent operations of the new Scandinavian and Dutch SS Divisions. Subsequently stationed in Croatia from September 1943 to following December, when transferred to the northern sector of the Eastern front. On the Latvian coast in January 1945.

*IV. SS Panzer Corps.*

Commander : SS-Ogruf. und Gen. der Waffen-SS Herbert GILLE (48).

C. of S : SS-Ostbf. Manfred SCHONFELDER (33).

Formed in France in the summer of 1943 to control SS Panzer Divisions forming at that time. In January 1945 engaged in SW Hungary.

*V. SS Mountain Corps.*

Commander : SS-Ogruf. Gen. der Polizei u. der Waffen-SS Friedrich Wilhelm KRÜGER (51).

C. of S : SS-Ostbf. Baldur KELLER (?) (33)

Formed in Yugoslavia in the summer of 1943. Controls the 7th SS Mtn. Div. and regular army units. Continuously engaged against partisans. Transferred northward late in 1944, possibly to Germany.

*VI. SS Infantry Corps (VI. SS-Freiwilligen-Armee Korps).*

Commander : SS-Ogruf. u. Gen. der Waffen-SS Walter KRÜGER (55).

Formed in Latvia in April 1944 to control Latvian SS Divisions. Subsequently continuously engaged on the northern sector of the eastern front. Believed to be on the Latvian coast in January 1945.

*VII. SS Panzer Corps.*

Commander :

In existence in October 1944.

*IX. SS Mountain Corps (IX. Waffen-(Gebirgs-) Korps-SS (Kroatisches)).*

Commander : SS-Ogruf. Gen. der Polizei u. der Waffen-SS Karl. v. PFEFFER-WILDENBRUCH (56) (PW).

Formed in Croatia in the summer of 1944 to control newly formed Albanian and Croatian SS Divisions. Subsequently engaged against partisans. Late in 1944 transferred to Hungary, where it was responsible for the defense of Budapest in December 1944 and January 1945.

*XI. SS Infantry Corps.*

Commander :

In Southern Poland in December 1944.

*XII. SS Infantry Corps.*

Commander : SS-Ogruf. u. Gen. der Waffen-SS. Gen. der Inf. Gunther BLUMEN-TRITT.

Appeared on the western front in the autumn of 1944. Controlled Army units in the Aachen area.

*XIII. SS Infantry Corps.*

Commander : SS-Gruf. u. Genlt. der Waffen-SS Max SIMON (46).

C. of S: Oberst i.G. v. EINEM (reported as SS-Oberf.) (?).

Also reported as a Panzer Corps.

Probably began forming in Breslau in August 1944. Transferred to the western front in the autumn of 1944 to take charge of units engaged in eastern France. In the Saar area in January 1945, controlling 17th SS Pz. Gren. Div. and associated Army divisions.

*XIV. SS Corps.*

Commander : SS-Ogruf. Gen. der Polizei u. der Waffen-SS Erich von dem BACH-ZELEWSKI (46).

On the western front in the Strasbourg area in January 1945.

*XVIII. SS Corps.*

Commander : SS-Gruf. Genlt. der Polizei u. der Waffen-SS. Heinz REINEFARTH (42).

On the western front in the Mulhouse area in January 1945.

### C. SS DIVISIONS

*1st SS Panzer Division* (I. SS-Panzer Division "Leibstandarte—SS Adolf Hitler").

Commander : SS-Oberf. Wilhelm MOHNKE (34).

Formed early in 1941 as a motorized division. Heavily engaged in Balkans in Spring 1941, eastern front summer 1941. Summer 1942 transferred to northern France and reformed as Panzer Division. March 1943 in Kharkov; summer 1943 transferred to Italy; autumn 1943 returned to eastern front. Spring 1944 transferred to Belgium, January 1944 to Normandy and withdrawal from France. December 1944 in Ardennes offensive and in January 1945 withdrew. Possibly en route to the eastern front.

*2nd SS Panzer Division* (2. SS-Panzer Division "Das Reich").

Commander : SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS Heinz LAMMERDING (40).

Formed in winter of 1940-41 as motorized division from two regiments of former SS-Verfügungs-Division, and motorcycle regiment "Langemarck", composed partly of Germanic volunteers. Served in the Balkans, France, Russia. In autumn 1944 withdrew to NW Germany for rest and refitting under Sixth SS Pz Army. In reserve in Aachen area. December 1944 took part in Ardennes counter offensive. January 1945 withdrew from the Ardennes area; possibly en route to the eastern front.

*3rd SS Panzer Division* (SS-Panzer Division "Totenkopf").

Commander : SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS Helmuth BECKER (43).

Formed in October 1939 as motorized division mainly from guard units of concentration camps. November 1942 transferred to France and reorganized as Panzer division (at first designated SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division). December 1944 transferred from Warsaw to Hungary. Took part in German counter attack west of Budapest.

*4th SS Panzer Grenadier Division* (4. SS-Polizei-Panzer-Grenadier-Division).

Commander : SS-Standf. Walter HARZER (32).

Formed in Germany in October 1939 from members of German Police. Served in France, Russia and in May 1932 in Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and in Gouvernement General. Performed security duties. In summer 1943 transferred to Greece; September 1944 transferred to Serbia; November 1944 transferred to Hungary.

*5th SS Panzer Division* (SS-Panzer Division "Wiking").

Commander : SS-Standf. Rudolf MÜHLENKAMP (35).

Formed in December 1940 as motorized division from "Germania" Regt. of SS-Verfügungs-Division and two regiments of Scandinavian, Dutch and Flemish volunteers. Subsequent replacements drawn from Volksdeutsche from the Balkans and from Germanic volunteers. Summer 1942 in the Caucasus. Subsequently reformed as Panzer division (at first designated SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division). December 1944 transferred to Hungary. Took part in German counter attacks west of Budapest.

*6th SS Mountain Division* (6 SS Gebirgs-Division "Nord").

Commander : SS-Gruf. Genlt. der Polizei u. der Waffen-SS Karl Heinrich BRENNER (50).

Formed in spring 1941 in Austria as mountain division, including many Volksdeutsche. June 1941 transferred to Finland. Almost continuously on the front in northern Finland. Autumn 1944 transferred to the western front. January 1945 engaged in the Saar area.

*7th SS Mountain Division* (7. SS-Freiwilligen-Gebirgs-Division "Prinz Eugen").

Commander : SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS Otto KUMM (36).

Formed in spring 1942 as mountain division consisting mainly of Volksdeutsche from Yugoslavia and Rumania. In northern Serbia. Late 1944 elements of 21 Waffen-

Gebirgs-Division-SS "Skanderbeg" (Alban. nr. 1) believed incorporated and name "Skanderbeg" given to SS Mtn. Inf. Regt. 14.

*8th SS Cavalry Division* (8. SS-Kavallerie-Division "Florian Geyer").

Commander : SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS Joachim RUMOHR (35).

Originally contained two brigades comprising SS Cav. Regts. 15, 16, 17, 18. Two of these regiments possibly now part of 22 Freiwilligen-Kavallerie-Division SS (ungarisch). December 1944 elements encircled at Budapest. Probably suffered very heavy losses.

*9th SS Panzer Division* (9. SS-Panzer-Division "Hohenstaufen").

Commander : SS-Oberf. Sylvester STADLER (35).

Formed in early 1943 in NE France as a Panzer Division, but at first carried the designation Panzer-Grenadier-Division. Served in France and Tarnopol area. February 1945 withdrew from Ardennes, possibly en route to the eastern front.

*10th SS Panzer Division* (10. SS-Panzer-Division "Frundsberg").

Commander : SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS Heinz HARMEL (39).

Formed in winter 1942-43 in SE France as sister unit to SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Hohenstaufen". At first designated SS Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Karl der Grosse". Served in France and Tarnopol area; also Holland and Aachen. January 1945 transferred to the Saar area. Subsequently engaged in Alsace.

*11th SS Panzer Grenadier Division* (11. SS-Freiwilliges-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Nordland").

Commander : SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS Joachim ZIEGLER (41).

Formed in summer of 1943 in Germany as motorized division around the nucleus of "Nordland" Regt. of SS Division "Wiking". Consists partly of Norwegian and Danish volunteers and partly of Volksdeutsche from the Balkans. August 1944 heavy engagements at Narva bridgehead; October 1944, withdrew to Latvian coast.

*12th SS Panzer Division* (12. SS-Panzer-Division "Hitlerjugend").

Commander : SS-Standf. Hugo KRAAS (34).

Formed in summer 1943 in Belgium as a Panzer Division. Consisted largely of recruits from military fitness camps of the Hitler Youth and of cadres from SS-Panzer-Division "Leibstandarte-SS Adolf Hitler". Remained in Belgium. Served principally as training unit for other SS divisions. January 1945 withdrew from the Ardennes area. Possibly en route to the eastern front.

*13th Mountain Division* (13. Waffen-Gebirgs-Division-SS "Handschar") (Kroatische Nr. 1).

Commander : SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS HIMPEL.

In spring 1943 began forming as mountain division with Bosnian, Moslem and Croat volunteers and probably cadre from SS-Freiwilligen-Gebirgs-Division "Prinz Eugen". At first called "BH" (Bosnian-Herzegovinian) Division. Many Moslems and some Christians from Croat National Army were forced into division when recruiting of volunteers lagged. Personnel considered very unreliable and subject to desertion. Served in France, Lower Silesia, Austria and in January 1944 transferred to Slovenia. In December 1944 transferred to the southern Hungarian Sector of the eastern front.

*14th SS Infantry Division* (14. Waffen-Grenadier-Division-SS (Galizische Nr. 1)).

Commander SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS Fritz FREITAG.

Formed in April 1943 from Ukrainian volunteers and German and Austrian officers and NCOs. Trained in Galicia. Served on the eastern front in Poland and in July 1944 transferred to Germany for reforming. January 1945 in southern Poland.

*15th SS Infantry Division* (15. Waffen-Grenadier-Division-SS (Lettische Nr. 1)).

Commander : SS-Oberf. Nikolaus HEILMANN (42).

Formed in August 1943 as infantry division from Latvian volunteer and police battalions containing only a few German officers and NCOs. Served on eastern front, possibly in Germany or Latvia and in January 1945 possibly on Latvian coast.

*16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division* (16. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Reichsführer-SS").

Commander : SS-Oberf. Otto BAUM (34).

Formed in October 1943 in Slovenia as Panzer Grenadier Division by expansion of assault brigade of same name, which had been engaged in Corsica. Served in Hungary, Anzio Beachhead and in July 1944 entire division on the Italian Front. Continuously engaged. Absorbed SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Lehr-Regiment.

*17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division* (17. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Götz von Berlichingen").

Commander : SS-Standf. Fritz KLINGENBERG (33)?

Formed in October 1943 in western France as Panzer Grenadier Division, including numerous Belgians and Rumanians. Took part in Battle of Normandy. September 1944 refitted in France. Incorporated 49th and 51st SS Pz. Gren. brigades, which had moved to France from Denmark and were intended to form new 26th and 27th SS Pz Divs. Autumn 1944 engaged in eastern France and in January 1945 on the western front, Saar area.

*18th SS Panzer Grenadier Division* (18. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Horst Wessel").

Commander : SS-Standf. Wilhelm TRABANDT (34).

Formed in spring 1944 in Hungary by expansion of 1st Mts. Inf. Brig. which had been continuously engaged on the eastern front since 1942. July 1944 transferred to eastern front, central sector. In southern Poland. October 1944 transferred to Slovakia, engaged against partisans.

*19th SS Infantry Division* (19. Waffen-Grenadier-Division SS (Lettische Nr. 2)).

Commander SS-Gruf. u. Genlt. der Waffen-SS Bruno STRECKENBACH (43).

Formed in March 1944 on northern sector of eastern front from 2nd Latvian SS Volunteer Brig. which had been on the northern sector since winter of 1943-44. Heavily engaged. December 1944 on Latvian coast.

*20th SS Infantry Division* (20. Waffen-Grenadier-Division-SS (Estonische Nr. 1)).

Commander : SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS Franz AUGSBERGER.

Formed in December 1943 on the central sector of the eastern front from Estonian SS Brig. which had been on the central sector since October 1943. Subsequently transferred to the northern sector. October 1944 possibly transferred to Germany and December 1944 transferred to the central sector of the eastern front.

*21st Mountain Division SS* (21. Waffen-Gebirgs-Division-SS "Skanderbeg" (Albanische Nr. 1)).

Commander : SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS Auguste SCHMIDHUBER (44).

Formed in the Balkans in summer 1944. Consisted of Albanian personnel, considered unreliable. Believed disbanded and most of personnel absorbed by 14th Mtn. Inf. Reg. of 7th SS Mtn. Div.

*22nd SS Cavalry Division* (22. Freiwilligen-Kavallerie-Division-SS (Ungarisch)).

Commander : SS-Brigf. u. Genmaj. der Waffen-SS August Zehender (42).

Believed organized along similar lines to 8th SS Cav. Div. and possibly to have taken over two cavalry regiments from that division. These regiments carried two of the three numbers 15, 17, and 18. Summer? 1944 formed in Hungary. December 1944 elements encircled at Budapest. Probably suffered very heavy losses.

*23rd SS Mountain Division* (23. Waffen-Gebirgs-Division-SS "Kana" (Kroatische Nr. 2)).

Commander :

Formed in the summer of 1944 with Bosnian, Moslem and Croat volunteers and German cadres. Considered disbanded.

*24th SS Mountain Division* (24. Waffen-Gebirgs-Karstjäger-Division-SS).

Commander :

Formed in autumn 1944 in Italy in the Istrian by expansion of the Karstjäger Bn (known as Karstwehr Bn in late 1943) of the Waffen-SS. Reported staffed by Austrian officers from 7 SS-Freiwilligen-Gebirgs-Division "Prinz Eugen". May include many Italians.

*26th SS Panzer Division* (26. SS-Panzer (?) Division ("Hunyadi"?)).

Commander :

An unsuccessful attempt was made to form division of the number from 49th SS Pz Gren. Brig. in September 1944. Subsequently division began to be formed in NW Germany, probably with troops from SS Pz Brig. "Gross" (disbanded in November 1944) and young personnel evacuated from Transylvania.

*27th SS Panzer Grenadier Division* (27. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Langemarck").

Commander :

An unsuccessful attempt was made to form division of this number from 51st SS-Pz Gren. Brig. in September 1944. Subsequently the number was given to SS-Freiwilligen Sturmbrigade "Langemarck" in autumn of 1944. This brigade, activated in the autumn of 1943, had distinguished itself on the eastern front in the spring of 1944.

*28th SS Panzer Grenadier Division* (28. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Wallonien").

Commander : SS-Stunbf. Leon DEGRELLE.

Personnel mainly Belgian, including prisoner of war volunteers. Formed in Summer 1944 in Silesia by expansion of 5 SS-Freiwilligen-Sturmbrigade "Wallonien" which had fought on the eastern front and suffered heavy losses in Korsun encirclement. Late autumn 1944 transferred to the Hannover area. December 1944 transferred to the Bonn area.

*29th SS Division* (29. SS-Division).

Commander :

October 1944 : Possibly on the eastern front, central sector, Warsaw area.

*30th SS Infantry Division* (30. Waffen-Grenadier-Division SS (2. Russische)).

Commander : SS-Ostbf. u. Obstlt. der Sch. Hans SIEGLING ? (33).

Formed in summer 1944 mainly of Soviet personnel, probably with police experience and small proportion of former German police. Served in France and Germany. December 1944 withdrew east of the Rhine.

*31st SS Infantry Division* (31. Waffen-Grenadier-Division-SS).

Commander :

Believed formed in the Balkans in September 1944. December 1944 in SW Hungary.

*SS Division "Charlemagne"* (SS-Freiwilligen-Division "Charlemagne").

Commander : (SS-Brigf.?) Gen. PUACX ?

Not to be confused with former SS Pz Gren. Div. "Karl der Grosse", which was redesignated 10th SS Pz Div. "Fruntsberg". Probably formed in December 1944 at Wildflecken manœuvre area by expansion of former Waffen-Grenadier-Sturmbrigade der SS "Frankreich" formed near Prag in spring of 1944. Consists largely of French and other foreign personnel. January 1945, possibly in western Germany.

#### D. SS BRIGADES

*2nd SS Assault Brigade* (2. SS-Sturmbrigade).

Commander : SS-Oberf. Dr. Oskar DIRLEWANGER ? (50).

