

History of Kampfgruppe Carlsburg (5/II/22PzrRgt/21st Pzr Div)
March 1944 to August 1944

Origin and mission scope:

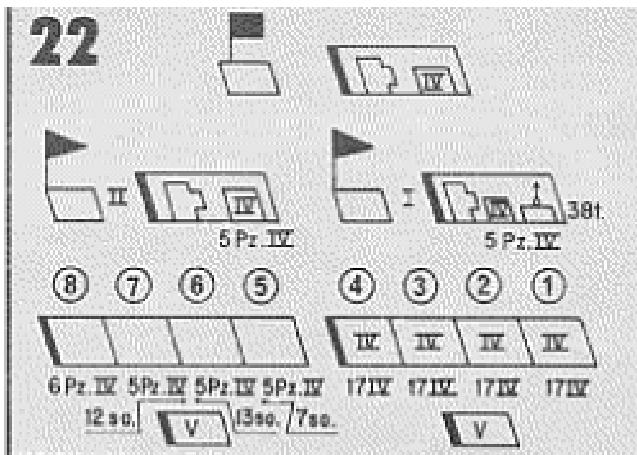
Formed as a rapid response division, 21st Panzer division rose like a phoenix out of the ashes of its destruction in North Afrika. Officers and senior NCO's from the original division were returned to France to refit and reform the division, again under the command of their old fieldmarshall Rommel, who was inspector of defenses for the westwall theater.

The mission of the newly formed division was to provide multiple rapid response task forces to immediately counterattack any allied landings along the French coast. Rommels theory was that no attacker must be allowed off the beach and that the first day of the invasion would be the most critical. This theory was not held by his commander General von Rundstedt or the High Command but was not completely discounted by either. The principal deployments represent a compromise between close supporting armour for immediate counter attacks and central reserves held behind the coast and relatively safe from allied fighter bomber sweeps.

To facilitate this mission, and offset the general lack of equipment available initially, Major Becker used captured French tanks and personnel carriers remodeled into vehicles of similar design and scope to their German counter parts, including Somua and Renault tanks, to train the crews prior to the arrival of Panzer IV's from Germany. Examples of Beckers handicraft included 'Marder' panzerjaeger and self propelled guns, liberally supplied to StugAbteilung 200 and Panzerjaeger Abteilung 220, as well as pak 40 antitank guns mounted on halftracks and other vehicles, plus a cadre of French 'volunteers' who were formed into workshops to maintain the French vehicles.



Document below details 22 Pzr Regt June 1944 with equipment as allocated per company. Note the '12 so' listed under 8th coy, showing 12 Somua S35 French mediums still employed. II Bn was to receive Panther tanks but these did not arrive until July 1944.



The formation depicted 5/II/22nd PzrRegt/21st Pzr Div is an adhoc formation using 5th Company as its nucleus, with elements of 200th Sturmabteilung (Maj. Becker), and s.Pzr Abteilung 506.

(Below is the list of elements in the kampfguppe as of 1/12/08.)

5/11/22 PzrRegt

<u>name:</u>	<u>type</u>	<u>points</u>	<u>description:</u>
hq	ind	190	CIC Stug IV, 2ic PzIVG/H
1pltn	combat	380	4 stugIII G
2pltn	combat	285	3 PzIVG/H
pioneers	weapons	200	1cr/mg, 6 r/mg, trucks
shw.pzr.	support	430	2 Pz VIE
		1485	