



21st Panzer Division



Afrika Korps

The 21st panzer division traces its origins to the 5th light Division, which was organized in February 1941, and was constituted from various units, including the 3rd panzer Brigade, 3rd Panzer Division. The units were shipped to Libya to stabilize the front after the British Army had routed the Italian army in North Africa. The division was officially redesigned as the 21st Panzer on August 1, 1941.

The 5th light division participated in Rommel's first offensive from and, and subsequent withdrawal to El Agheila. Subsequent battles saw the now redesigned 21st Panzer fighting vicious battles in the deserts of North Africa. , The subsequent capture of Tobruk and the run up to El Alamein marked the high water mark of their advance into Egypt. The Afrika Korps advance was first stalled and, then halted at this line. Subsequent British counterattacks pushed the Afrika Korps and the division back to Tunisia and ultimate surrender in 1943.

The division was reformed in 1943, fighting in Normandy, and subsequently the attack in the Alsace offensive (Operation Nordwind), and continued battles in German until ultimate surrender to the Russians in April 1945.

Schutzkompanie

My company represents an atypical Panzer grenadier company supported by tanks from the 5th Panzer regiment and other divisional support available to the division during the early war period.

Vehicles and equipment available to the 5th Light/21st Panzer Divisions:



Sometimes...things did not go well for the German tankers....a Mark III G in North Africa captured by the British.



SD Kfz 222 (2cm) – and sometimes it did not go all that well for the recon guys either... the British capture another one....



Bundesarchiv, Bild 1011-782-0041-31
Foto: Borchert, Erich (Eric) | 1941 März - April

Panzerjäger I in North Africa. Hot...and dusty – other vehicles appear concealed.....