

Chapter V-4: The Order of Battle (OOB) of German Land Combat Units from 22nd June to 4th July 1941

The Orders of Battle (OOB) of the German Army, Waffen SS and Luftwaffe flak combat units, in all areas of the Reich between 22nd June and 4th July 1941, are shown in the table **German Deployment Matrix**.

This table is referred to as the ‘German Deployment Matrix’, and all combat units in the ‘German Deployment Matrix’ are classified as in a Deployed (D) state in the German FILARM model.

For the purposes of this book (the German FILARM model) and the German Deployment Matrix, the terms **the East Front** (or the Eastern Front or the East), **the Western Fronts** (or the West), and **the Replacement Army** are used. These are defined as,

- **The East Front:** includes Army Group North, Army Group Centre, Army Group South, the Norway Army - *Befehlsstelle Finnland* (East Front only) and OKH Reserves.
- **The Western Fronts:** includes Army Group D (also the *Oberbefehlshaber West*), the Norway Army (Norway occupation duties), the 12th Army (Yugoslavia-Serbia-Greece-Crete) and the German Africa Corps (*Deutsches Afrika Korps* - D.A.K).
- **The Replacement Army:** includes all forces under the *Chef Heeresrüstung und Befehlshaber der Erstazarmee* (Chef H.Rust. u. B.d.E. or Commander of the Replacement Army).¹ The Commander of the Replacement Army controlled the German troops in Denmark (the *Befehlshaber der deutschen Truppen in Danemark*) and the Replacement Army troops (*Erstazarmee Truppen*) in the various military districts in Germany, Austria, and the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (the *Wehrkreise*).

In addition, for the German FILARM model, the ‘Replacement Army’ includes the administration and security forces under *Militarbefehlshaber (MB) Belgien & Nordfrankreich*, *MB Frankreich*, *MB Serbien* and *MB im General-Gouvernement* (Poland), and any additional forces in Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia (eg the Luftwaffe Flak forces).²

All the combat units that existed between 22nd June and 4th July 1941, and that are identified in Part V 3. (The Tables of Organisation and Equipment (TOE) for German Land Combat Units), are listed in the left hand column of the Deployment Matrix pages.

The table **German Deployment Matrix** lists each army group, separate army, separate corps (the DAK), OKH reserves, and major rear area commands in the *Reich* on 22nd June 1941. Within each army group the subordinate armies, panzer groups and army group reserves are shown as columns. In addition, within each army, panzer group and army group reserve, the subordinate corps, army reserves, panzer group reserves and rear area commands are shown in further columns. The individual combat units assigned to each corps, army reserve, panzer group reserve, or rear area command, are then listed. Relevant notes at the bottom of each column provide additional information on the combat units listed. Most importantly, these notes provide information on when units transferred from the Western Fronts or the Replacement Army to the East Front during 1941 (refer Part V 5., below).

¹ The commander of the Replacement Army was Colonel General Friedrich ‘Fritz’ Fromm until 20th July 1944.

² *MB Belgien & Nordfrankreich* (Military Commander Belgium and North France), and *MB Frankreich* (Military Commander France), also reported to the *Oberbefehlshaber West*. The *MD Serbien* (Military Commander Serbia) also came under the 12th Army. These were primarily administration (non-combat) HQs which controlled the district’s military security forces as well as local recruitment and initial indoctrination.

Table **German Deployment Matrix** indicates that on 22nd June 1941 there were 4 army groups, 4 panzer groups and 13 armies in the *Reich*. They controlled 34 infantry corps, 12 reduced strength special corps, 12 motorised (panzer) corps and 2 flak corps. The divisional forces in the German armed forces, including the Waffen SS, contained 208 ground divisions. These were made up of 152 infantry divisions, 4 light infantry divisions, 1 SS police infantry division, 20 panzer divisions, 11 motorised divisions, 3 Waffen SS motorised divisions, 1 cavalry division, 6 mountain divisions, 1 parachute division and 9 security divisions.³ The forces outside of the divisions included the following,

- Motorised infantry forces with 5 motorised infantry brigades (including 4 Waffen SS brigades), 3 motorised infantry regiments and 3 motorised infantry battalions.
- Mixed transport infantry and security forces with 4 (*Ersatz*) brigades, 12 regiments (including 7 SS police regiments), 321 battalions and 2 companies.⁴ The battalions and companies comprised 4 infantry battalions, 3 bicycle infantry battalions, 1 infantry battalion for special purpose (zbv), 1 naval infantry battalion, 312 *Landeschutzen* or *Wach* infantry battalions, 1 separate *Landeschutzen* company and 1 separate mountain company.
- Armoured forces with 2 tank brigades, 2 panzer battalions, 2 panzer companies, 18 assault gun (*Sturmgeschutz*) battalions, 5 independent assault gun batteries and 3 flame tank battalions.⁵
- Artillery forces with 2 *Harko* HQs, 59 *Arko* HQs, 40 special artillery regiment HQs (including 1 horse-drawn and 3 railroad artillery HQs), 36 artillery observation battalions (with 6 balloon artillery observation batteries attached), 129 artillery battalions, 7 separate artillery batteries, 171 coastal artillery batteries and 22 railroad artillery batteries.⁶
- Rocket artillery forces with 4 special rocket launcher regiment HQs, 5 *Nebelwerfer* regiments, 7 *Nebelwerfer* battalions, 1 *Nebelwerfer* battery and 8 decontamination battalions (*Entgiftungs-Abteilung*).⁷
- Army flak forces with 10 anti-aircraft battalions, 14 light anti-aircraft battalions and 51 light anti-aircraft companies.⁸ 21 of these self-propelled light AA companies were attached to panzer and motorised divisions, and 2 self-propelled light AA companies were attached to infantry divisions.⁹
- Luftwaffe flak forces with 59 Luftwaffe flak regiment HQs, 308 Luftwaffe mixed flak battalions and 46 Luftwaffe light flak battalions.
- Anti-tank forces with 6 motorised anti-tank battalions, 10 self propelled anti-tank battalions and 1 self propelled heavy anti-tank company.¹⁰
- Machine gun forces with 6 motorised MG battalions and 2 semi-motorised MG battalions.¹¹

³ The 5th Light Division (in the DAK in North Africa) was still classified as a motorised division in June 1941. It is therefore counted as motorised division in the Deployment Matrix despite having a panzer regiment attached.

⁴ The companies are each counted as one third of a battalion in the Deployment Matrix.

⁵ The panzer companies are each counted as one third of a panzer battalion, and the assault gun batteries are each counted as one third of an assault gun battalion, in the Deployment Matrix.

⁶ The separate artillery batteries are each counted as one third of an artillery battalion in the Deployment Matrix. The coastal artillery batteries are each counted as one third of a coastal artillery battalion in the Deployment Matrix.

⁷ The 8./222nd *Nebelwerfer* Battery in Norway/Finland is counted as one third of a *Nebelwerfer* battalion in the Deployment Matrix. Includes 3 Road Decontamination Battalions.

⁸ Does not include the 606th AA Battalion in the 5th Light Division, or the new 616th AA Battalion which was still forming.

⁹ These AA companies were attached to the panzer and motorised divisions on a semi-permanent basis, but they were still corps units and were not part of these division's TOEs.

¹⁰ Excludes the 605th Self Propelled Anti-Tank Battalion which was permanently attached to the 5th Light Division.

¹¹ Excluding the 2nd and 8th MG Battalions in the 5th Light Division.

- Cavalry forces with 2 SS cavalry regiments.
- Signals (communication) forces with 12 army/army group signal regiments, 11 army/army group signal battalions and 4 panzer group signal regiments.
- Combat engineer (*Pionier*) and engineer construction forces with 29 special engineer regiment HQs, 23 motorised combat engineer battalions, 31 semi-motorised combat engineer battalions, 6 assault boat companies, 1 armoured mine-clearing battalion, 29 bridge construction battalions (including 2 motorised), 1 bridge construction company and 11 bridge guard-engineer battalions.¹²
- Bridging forces with 120 motorised type B bridge columns, 50 type A-T bridge columns (including all heavy bridges) and 1 motorised heavy bridge transport battalion (the 800th). This does not include 59 type B bridge columns in panzer divisions (19), motorised divisions (10), motorised *pionier* battalions (25), Waffen SS motorised divisions (3), the LSSAH motorised brigade (1) and the 900th Lehr Brigade (1). Also, it does not include 23 type T columns in the infantry divisions: 16 in 2nd wave infantry divisions, 1 in the 72nd Infantry Division, 1 in the 262nd Infantry Division and 5 in the 5th wave infantry divisions.¹³ In addition, it does not include 1 motorised type K bridge column attached to the 62nd Motorised Combat Engineer Battalion.
- Army construction forces with 47 construction HQs and 147 construction battalions. This does not include any battalions from the Todt Organisation (*Organisation Todt* – OT) or the Reich Labour Service (*Reichsarbeitsdienst* – RAD). The construction HQs comprised 10 main construction HQs (*Oberbaustab*), 31 commander of construction troops HQs (*Kommandeur Der Bautruppen*), 4 fortress engineering construction HQs, 1 special purpose construction HQ (in the 4th Army) and 1 special snow clearing HQ in Norway. The construction battalions comprised 101 construction battalions, 23 road construction battalions (including 2 motorised), 7 bicycle road construction battalions, 1 marine construction battalion and 15 fortress construction battalions.
- 25 military police battalions (excludes the 9 MP battalions in the 9 security divisions).
- Railroad engineering and construction forces with 8 railroad engineering (*Eisenbahn-pionier*) regiment HQs, 8 railroad engineering battalion HQs, 53 railroad *pionier* companies, 13 railroad switching companies, 10 railroad engineer construction battalions and 27 railroad engineer construction companies.
- 16 armoured trains.

From table **German Deployment Matrix** we can ascertain the German Army, Waffen SS and Luftwaffe flak combat units committed in support of Operation Barbarossa (in the East) from 22nd June to 4th July 1941. These forces included those in Army Group North, Army Group Centre, Army Group South, the Norway Army - *Befehlsstelle Finnland* (East Front only) and OKH Reserves. The invasion forces used, up to 4th July 1941, were as follows.

- High level HQs with 3 army group HQs, 4 panzer group HQs and 8 army HQs.
- Corps level HQs with 31 infantry corps HQs, 3 reduced strength special corps HQs, 10 motorised (panzer) corps HQs and 2 flak corps HQs.

¹² The 4./17 *Ersatz* Bridge Construction Company (11th Army Reserve) is counted as one quarter of a bridge construction battalion in the Deployment Matrix.

¹³ 17 of these were motorised. The type T bridge column in the 78th Infantry Division and the 5 type T bridge columns in the 5th wave infantry divisions were horse-drawn.

- Divisional forces with 138 ground divisions. These consisted of 90 infantry divisions, 4 light infantry divisions, 1 SS police infantry division, 17 panzer divisions, 9 motorised divisions, 3 Waffen SS motorised divisions, 1 cavalry division, 4 mountain divisions and 9 small security divisions. All the forces listed below were outside of the divisions.
- Motorised infantry forces with 5 motorised infantry brigades (including 4 Waffen SS brigades), and one and a half motorised infantry regiments.¹⁴
- Mixed transport infantry and security forces with 6 regiments (including 3 SS police regiments), 43 battalions and 1 company. The battalions and company comprised 2 bicycle infantry battalions, 1 infantry battalion for special purpose (zbv), 1 naval infantry battalion, 39 *Landeschützen* or *Wach* infantry battalions, and 1 separate mountain company.
- Armoured forces with 2 panzer battalions, 11 assault gun (*Sturmgeschütz*) battalions, 5 independent assault gun batteries and 3 flame tank battalions.
- Artillery forces with 2 *Harko* HQs, 54 *Arko* HQs, 36 special artillery regiment HQs (including 1 horse-drawn artillery HQs), 35 artillery observation battalions (with 6 balloon artillery observation batteries attached), 122 artillery battalions, 7 separate artillery batteries, 13 coastal artillery battalions and 11 railroad artillery batteries.
- Rocket artillery forces with 4 special rocket launcher regiment HQs, 5 *Nebelwerfer* regiments, 7 *Nebelwerfer* battalions, 1 *Nebelwerfer* battery and 8 decontamination battalions (*Entgiftungs-Abteilung*).
- Army flak forces with 10 anti-aircraft battalions, 10 light anti-aircraft battalions and 47 light anti-aircraft companies.
- Luftwaffe flak forces with 13 Luftwaffe flak regiment HQs, 41 Luftwaffe mixed flak battalions and 17 Luftwaffe light flak battalions.
- Anti-tank forces with 6 motorised anti-tank battalions, 9 self propelled anti-tank battalions and 1 self propelled heavy anti-tank company.
- Machine gun forces with 3 motorised MG battalions.
- Cavalry forces with 2 SS cavalry regiments.
- Signals (communication) forces with 11 army/army group signal regiments, 6 army/army group signal battalions and 4 panzer group signal regiments.
- Combat engineer (*Pionier*) and engineer construction forces with 28 special engineer regiment HQs, 21 motorised combat engineer battalions, 30 semi-motorised combat engineer battalions, 5 assault boat companies, 1 armoured mine-clearing battalion, 27 bridge construction battalions (including 2 motorised) and 1 bridge construction company.
- Bridging forces with 119 motorised type B bridge columns, 46 type A-T bridge columns (including all heavy bridges) and 1 motorised heavy bridge transport battalion (the 800th).¹⁵
- Army construction forces with 41 construction HQs and 126 construction battalions (excluding any battalions from the Todt Organisation (*Organisation Todt* – OT) or the Reich Labour Service (*Reichsarbeitsdienst* – RAD)). The construction HQs comprised 7 main

¹⁴ The LSSAH Brigade's 4th battalion remained in Germany as Hitler's bodyguard unit. In addition, only half of the Lehr Regiment Brandenburg (800 zbV) was initially committed to Operation Barbarossa. The companies from this 'special forces' unit were distributed amongst the various army groups, and each company of the 800zbV is counted as one sixteenth of the regiment in the German Deployment Matrix.

¹⁵ Includes l.e.Z. (*Leicht Zerlegbar*) heavy combat bridge columns, H. (*Herbert*) heavy combat bridge columns, and s.S. (*schwere Schiffsbrücke*) heavy bridge columns.

construction HQs (*Oberbaustab*), 31 commander of construction troops HQs (*Kommandeur Der Bautruppen*), 2 fortress engineering construction HQs and 1 special purpose construction HQ (in the 4th Army). The construction battalions comprised 94 construction battalions, 23 road construction battalions (including 2 motorised), 7 bicycle road construction battalions and 2 fortress construction battalions.

- 24 military police battalions (excludes the 9 MP battalions in the 9 security divisions).
- Railroad engineering and construction forces with 5 railroad engineering (*Eisenbahn-pionier*) regiment HQs, 7 railroad engineering battalion HQs, 47 railroad *pionier* companies, 10 railroad switching companies, 6 railroad engineer construction battalions and 16 railroad engineer construction companies.
- 12 armoured trains.

Sample Only