

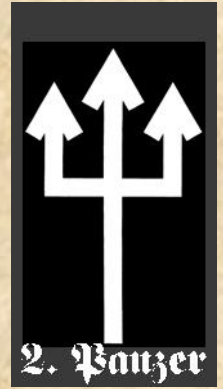
1/Panzerpionier Abteilung 38

Supported by

1/1/ Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilung 2

1/2/2 Panzer Regiment 3

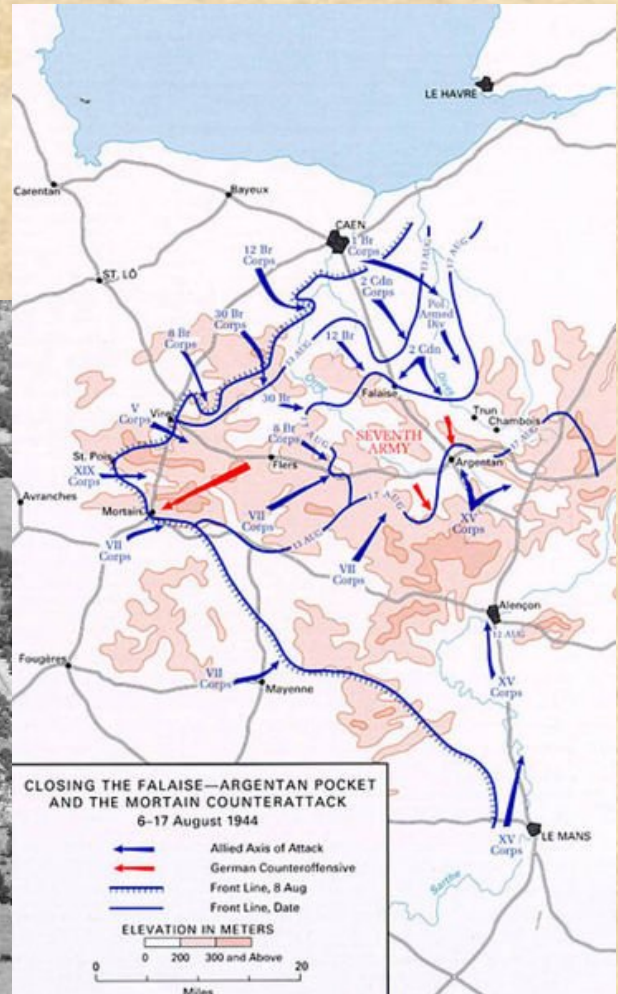
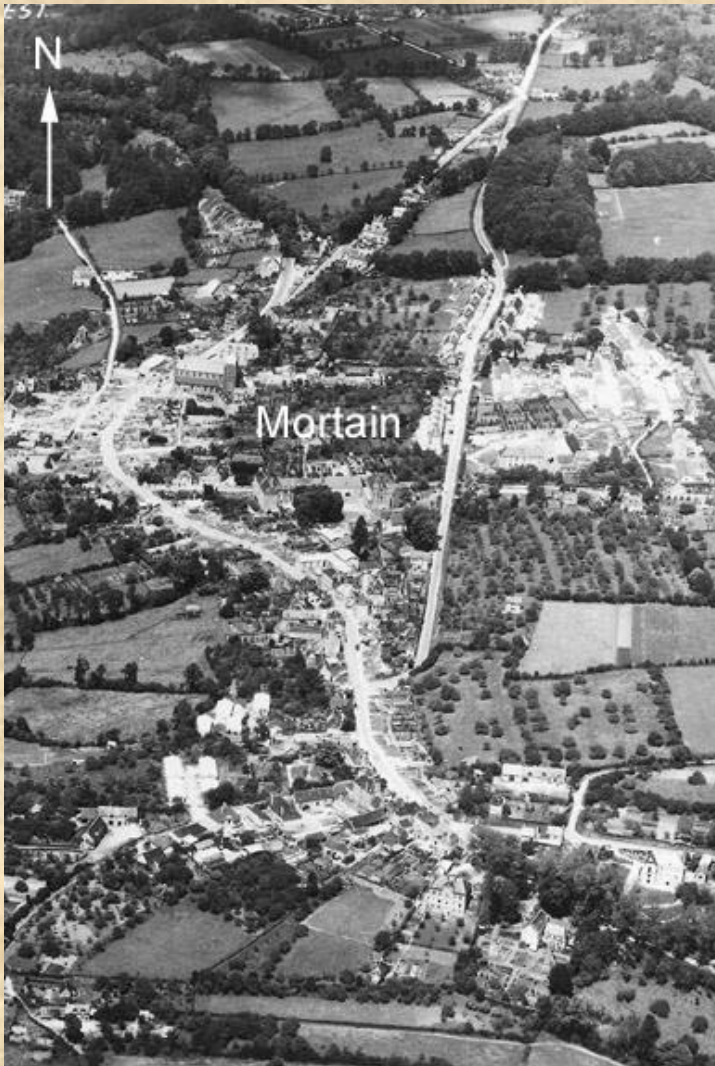
1/Artillerie Regiment 74



Player: Jon Cleaves

Force: German Panzer Pioneer Kompanie

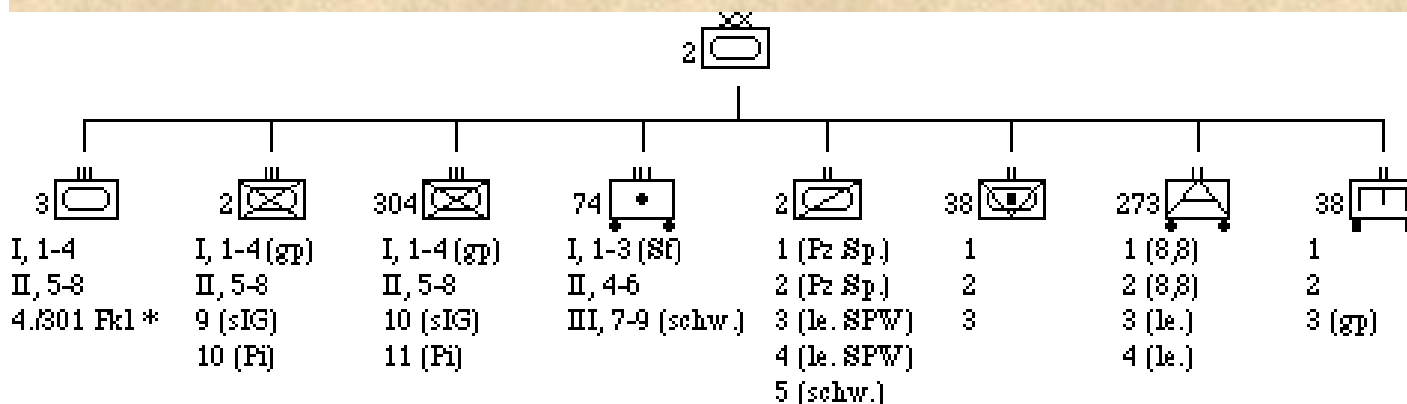
Source: Festung Europa



The 2d Panzer Division has the most success of any of the attacking German divisions in the ill-fated Operation Luetlich, the counterattack at Mortain.

North of Mortain, the division penetrated the American lines but was stopped by the 3d US Armored Division, arriving at the last minute on the highway from the southwest.




















The division was depleted after prolonged fighting on the eastern front and during the winter 1944 it was transferred to France for refitting. Since it had arrived in France early in 1944, the division was at full strength in most respects. It had also had time to train its replacements. Already on 1 April, the division was 573 men above authorized strength¹. The organization of the division when it arrived in Normandy was:



* The fourth company of 301. Fkl.Abt. was attached to 2. Pz.Dv. in Normandy



German Pionier Zug (Platoon)

| c) I. Zug | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| Z |  | | |
| | Zugführer, In Pistole | | |
| Zugtrupp | | | |
| G |  | | |
| | stellv. Führer, In Pistole | | |
| M |  |  |  |
| | Vermessungsmann (auf s. Krad mit Bewg.), In Karabiner | Melder (1 zugl. Hornist, 1 auf l. Krad), In Karabiner | Kraftwagenfahrer für gl. Pkw., In Karabiner |
| | | |  |
| | | | mittlerer gl. Pkw. mit Geratkasten (Kfz. 15) |
| Zug | | | |
| G |  | | |
| | Gruppenführer, In Karabiner | | |
| M |  |  |  |
| | 1. MG. Schütze, In le. M. G., In Pistole, In Karabiner | 1. MG. Schütze, In le. M. G., In Pistole, In Karabiner | 1. MG. Schütze, In le. M. G., In Pistole, In Karabiner |
| | | |  |
| | | | Kraftwagenfahrer (2 für gl. Pkw., 6 für gl. Lkw.), In Karabiner |
| M |  | | |
| |  | | |
| | Pioniere (darunter 1 Motorenschlosser, 6 zugl. Kw. Begl., 1 auf s. Krad mit Bewg., 1 auf l. Krad), 28x Karabiner | | |
| |  |  |  |
| | leichter gl. Pkw. (Kfz. 1) | leichter gl. Pkw. (Kfz. 1) | Pionierkraftwagen III (1 gl. Lkw. ... offen) |
| |  |  |  |
| | Pionierkraftwagen III (1 gl. Lkw. ... offen) | Pionierkraftwagen III (1 gl. Lkw. ... offen) | Pionierkraftwagen III (1 gl. Lkw. ... offen) |

"Looking over this whole set-up, the American soldier will see that a combat engineer in the German Army operates both as a fighter and a highly skilled technical expert. It may be said that if we destroy a German combat engineer, we destroy a man who is as useful to the Axis as any single person on the battlefield. Someone who is an infantryman -plus." -Intelligence Bulletin October 1942 of the Military Intelligence Division, U.S. War Department.

Stab/Pz.Pi.Btl. 38 This is the headquarters unit of the battalion.

1./Pz.Pi.Btl. 38 (1st Company) This was a motorized company equipped with trucks.

2./Pz.Pi.Btl. 38 (2nd Company) This was a motorized company equipped with trucks.

3./Pz.Pi.Btl. 38 (3rd Company) This company was equipped with Sd.Kfz. 251 armored half-tracks.

Bridging Kompanie.

Radio code names for the Bataillon on August 10, 1944.

Pz.Pi.Btl. 38.....Lustspiel

1./Pz.Pi.Btl. 38.....Hahnenfuss

2./Pz.Pi.Btl. 38.....Klosstrühe

3./Pz.Pi.Btl. 38.....Wiesenblume

Brücke.....Leineweber



Jon Cleaves, Panzer Pioneer

Aufklärungs Abteilung 2

According to German doctrine this was the eyes and ears of the Division. Second Panzer was one of only four divisions to receive the Puma armored car. This 8 wheeled armored car was generally considered to be the best made during the war.

Quoting Heinz Guderians war diary, October 1st 1944:

"Panzerspähwagen are fast, moveable, lightly armored vehicles equipped with radio with a long range, great firepower but with no armor piercing ammunition. As wheeled vehicles they are capable of crossing light terrain. They are the eyes of the battalion and only fight in self defense or to be able to complete their reconnaissance task. Using them as assault guns or tanks is forbidden. The armored recon group shall not be more than 3 vehicles. "See much, but not be seen!"

Panzerspäh-Kompanie Typ A

HQ:

1 x SdKfz. 234/2

2 x Kübelwagen

4 x (2x2) kleines Kettenkrad

1-4 Platoon (Zug)

Each platoon with 6 x SdKfz. 234/2

Total:

25 x SdKfz. 234/2



Hummel 150mm self-propelled artillery from the 74th Artillerie Regiment supported the pioneers as they pushed forward.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Weight: | 24380kg |
| Crew: | 6 men |
| Engine: | Maybach HL 120 TRM / 12-cylinder / 265hp |
| Speed: | Cross-Country: 20km/h |
| Range: | Cross-Country: 130km |
| Fuel Capacity: | 600 litres |
| Lenght: | 7.17m (with the gun) |
| Width: | 2.97m |
| Height: | 2.81m |
| Armament: | 150mm sFH 18/1 L/30 & 1 x MG34 or MG42 (1 x MG - carried inside) |
| Ammo: | 150mm - 18 rounds 7.92mm - 600 rounds |
| Armor (mm/angle): | Front Hull: 30/20 Front Superstructure: 10/37 Side Hull: 20/0 Side Superstructure: 10/16 Rear Hull: 20/10 Rear Superstructure: 10/10 Hull Top / Bottom: 15/90 |

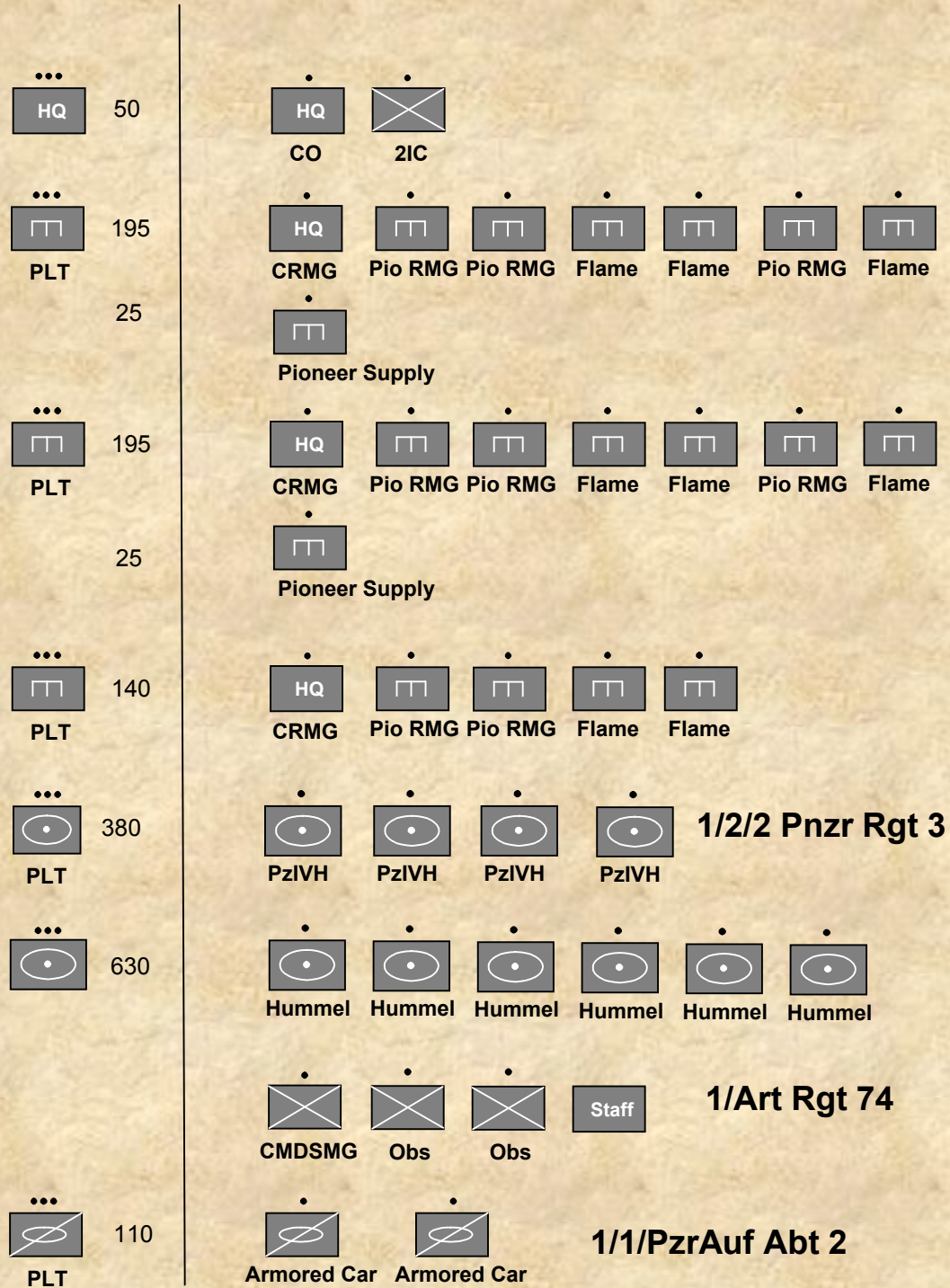


| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Z | | | | |
| | naechsthoender Offizier, 1x Pistole | | | |
| O | | | | |
| | Hauptkasschaefter, 1x Pistole | | | |
| G | | | | |
| | 1 Zugfuhrer (zugl. stellv. naechsthoender Offizier, zugl. Fuhrer), 1x Pistole | 2 Zugfuhrer, 2x Pistole | Geschuetzfuhrer, 2x Pistole | Rechenbueppfuhrer, 1x Karabiner |
| G | | | | |
| | für Richtkreis II, 1x Pistole | Sandkuehnenfuhrer, 1x Pistole | | |
| M | | | | |
| | Kanonenre (Ø zugl. Fuhrer, 6 zugl. 2. Kw. Fahr. für SR), 21x Karabiner, 3x MPI. | Rechner, 2x Karabiner | Funker (1 zugl. 2. Kw. Fahr. für gp. Kw.), 2x Pistole | |
| M | | | | |
| | Batteriefuhrer, 1x Karabiner | Waffenmeldegehilfe, 1x Pistole | Panzerfuhrer, 1x Karabiner | M. O. Schützen (1 zugl. M. O. Fuhrer), 2x Pistole |
| M | | | | |
| | Kraftfahrer als Melde- (auf s. Road m. Beleg), 1x Karabiner | Kraftwagenfahrer (Ø für Pkw., 1 für gp. Kw., 0 für SR), 10x Karabiner, 1x Pistole | Kraftwaegler, 1x Pistole | 2x le. M. O. |
| | | | | |
| | leichter, gl. Pkw. (Ø 15) Volkswagen | mittlerer Pkw. (Ø 15) (mit Fahrgestell des le. gl. Lkw. (1 1020)) | mittlerer Pkw. (Ø 15) (mit Fahrgestell des le. gl. Lkw. (1 1020)) | mittlerer Pkw. (Ø 15) (mit Fahrgestell des le. gl. Lkw. (1 1020)) |
| | | | | |
| | Beobachtungspanzerwagen III | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Summa: 1 Offizier, 13 Unteroffiziere, 46 Mannschaften, 37 Karabiner, 20 Pistolen, 3 MPI., 2 le. M. G., 4 Kfz., 7 gp. Kw., 1 s. Krad m. Beiwg.

Jon Cleaves, Panzer Pioneer

1/Panzerpionier 38 Jon Cleaves



1750

1/1/PzrAuf Abt 2

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