

"Queen of the Battle Field" Counter Attack at Anzio

On February 16th, 1944, Hitler ordered the "Abscess" at Anzio to be lanced. To support the infantry, a division of Brummbars (Sturmpanzerabteilung 216) was transferred to Italy for the Anzio counter attack. Although the honor of spearheading the assault was given to the unproven Berlin-Spandau Lehr Division, numerous other divisions such as 362 Infantry Division was to take part in this offensive. The 362 was placed under the command of the LXXVI Panzer Corps and placed in the center of the attack line to push south.

It would be easy to envision that a platoon of "Grizzly Bears" from the Sturmpanzerabteilung 216 was assigned to the 362 SIG Battalion to support the advance. In addition, two 88's from the 312 AA Battalion (part of the Panzer Corps) could have been transfer to protect the Brummbars from enemy aircraft. The 362 Infantry Division also had it's own inherit capability. The 362 SIG Battalion (now possibly reinforced with Brummbars), the 362 Artillery Battalion, in addition to the 955 and 956 Infantry Regiments.

So the Grendier Kompanie here could represent one of the anonymous "Queens of the battle Field". As the glamorous Berlin-Spandau Lehr Division collapsed and the tanks of the LXXVI Panzer Corps was mired in the boggy ground, it was left to Grendier Kompanies such as this one to press the assault in defense of the Italy.