

Jon Cleaves  
5<sup>th</sup> Gebirgsjaeger Division



**Hurrah,  
Die Gams!**

**5<sup>th</sup> Gebirgsjaeger Division**

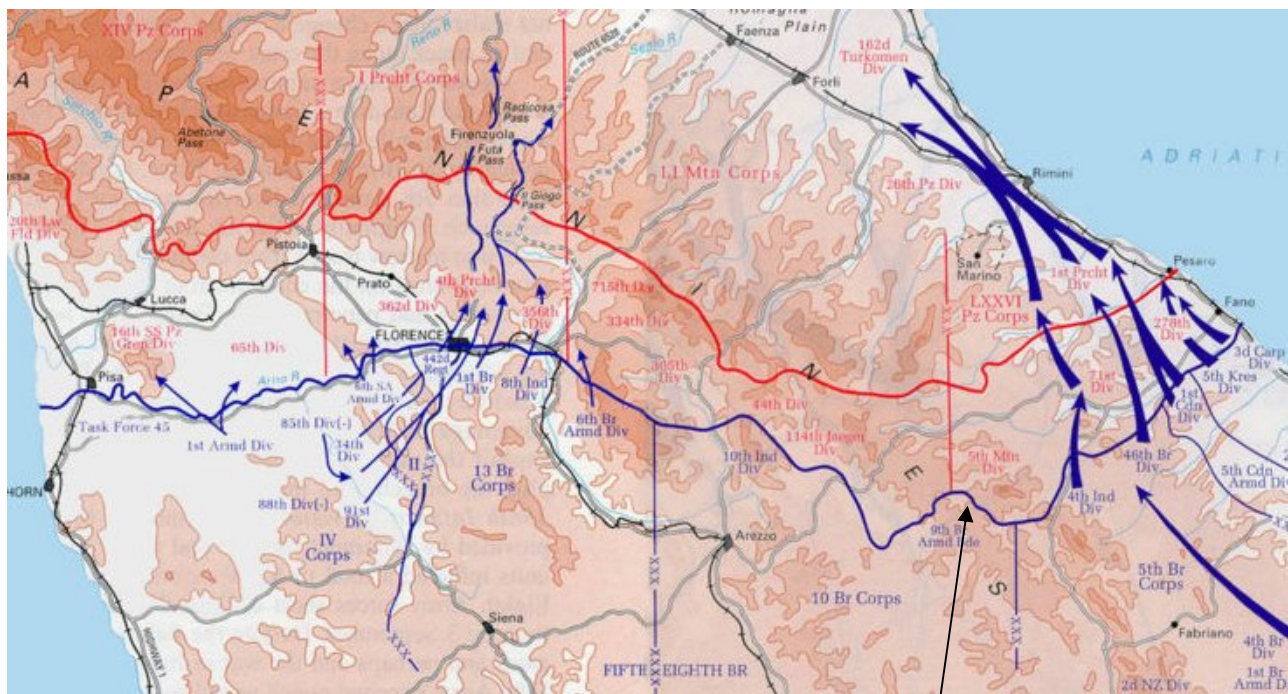
**Gebirgs-Infanterie Regiment 85**

**Gebirgs-Infanterie Regiment 100**

**Gebirgs-Artillerie Regiment 95**

**Radfahr Abteilung 95**

**Gebirgs-Panzerjäger Abteilung 95**



My force fights here!

**JON CLEAVES, German Gebirgsjaeger (Infantry)**



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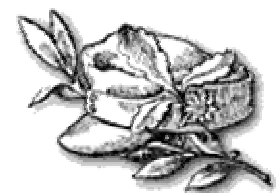


1/1/Geb Regt 100

HQ	CMD SMG x 2	40
	PanzerSchreck	25
Jaeger	CMD SMGPf, 6xRMG	165
Jaeger	CMD RMG, 4xRMG	110
Mortar	CMD SMG, Obs, 2xMtr	85
Mtn Arty	4x105mm, Mules	190
	CSMG, 2xObs, Staff/mules	
Pio Plt	CMD Pio, 4xPioneer, 2xPio/FT	175
	Pioneer Supply Wagon	
AT	4xStuG M42 75/34	280
Pzr Plt	2xTiger 1E	430



1500



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# 100<sup>th</sup> Gebirgsjaeger Regiment

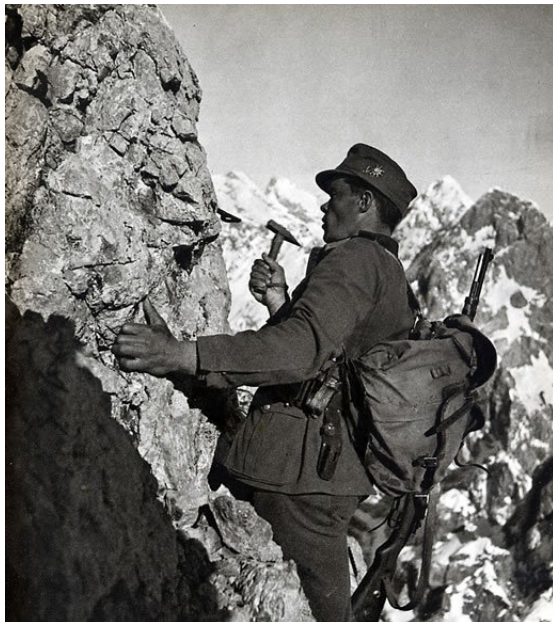


The 100<sup>th</sup> GJR transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> GJD from the 1<sup>st</sup> GJD in 1940 as part of the 5<sup>th</sup>'s creation. The regiment went on to serve in the 5<sup>th</sup> GJD continuously until war's end.

The regiment began its service in 5<sup>th</sup> GJD in the Balkans, spearheading the breakthrough of the Metaxas Line and marching through Solonika into Athens. It then airlanded in Crete and pushed the New Zealanders from their positions around the airfield, earning the golden KRETA stripe for their distinctive uniforms. The regiment fought throughout 1942 and 1943 as part of Army Group North, serving with seven different army corps as the "fire brigade" of 18<sup>th</sup> Army.

In December 1943, the 5<sup>th</sup> GJD transferred to Italy. Over the next sixteen months, the 100<sup>th</sup> Regiment fought a series of delaying actions in the Appenines against troops from seven different allied nationalities.

Troops from the regiment are the last German soldiers to fight in an alpine environment, combating the French in the Western Alps in April 1945.



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# The Battle of Gemmano

Gemmano, Italy

September 1944

On 11 September a broadcast from German radio announced: “In the hard defensive fighting on the Adriatic, in the sector of Gemmano, the 100th Gebirgsjäger Regiment, under the orders of Lieutenant Colonel (Oberstleutnant) Ernst together with an artillery group at his orders, with its indestructible firmness and gallant counterattacks has behaved particularly well” (Paesani, 1998, Pg. 3).

General of Mountain Infantry (General der Gebirgstruppen) Ringel told his old comrades how proud he was of them: “You know me, my comrades and I know you! We never wasted too many words; I know that you have remained the same old friends. Let come what may.....I salute all of you with our battle cry: Hurrah, die Gams! “ (Kurowski, 2003, Pg. 365).

Oberstleutnant Ernst later wrote of this battle; “How much blood this unhappy pile of ruins has drunk!....we fought for every house, for every ruin. And as Cassino was the tomb of the 1st Fallschirmjäger-Div, so was Gemmano the tomb of my Regiment” (Paesani, 1998, Pg. 3).

The 100th GJR won an incredible 5 Knight's Crosses for this heroic action, the recipients' being; Oberstleutnant Richard Ernst – Commander 100 GJR, Captain (Hauptmann) Helmut Hermann -Commander I. Battalion, Hauptmann Fritz Bachmaier - Commander III. Battalion, Ensign (Oberfähnrich) Rappel - Platoon Leader, 14th Company and Lance Corporal (Gefreiter) Schmeid - Squad Leader, 8th Company.



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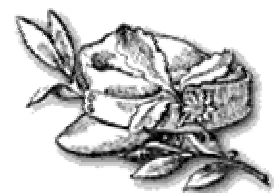


*Capt. HERMANN (CO I /100th GJ)*



## Hauptmann Helmut Hermann

Helmut Hermann was awarded the Ritterkreuz for valor in battle while serving as the commander of I Gebirgsjäger Regiment 100, 5 Gebirgsdivision. He led the battalion's desperate defense and served with distinction at the Battle of Gemmano.



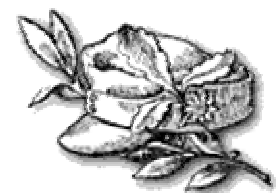
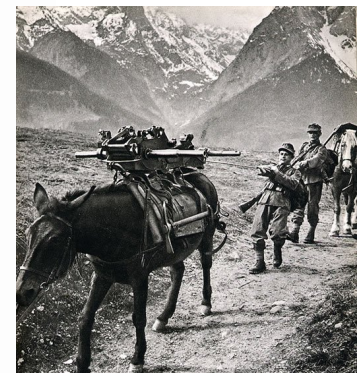
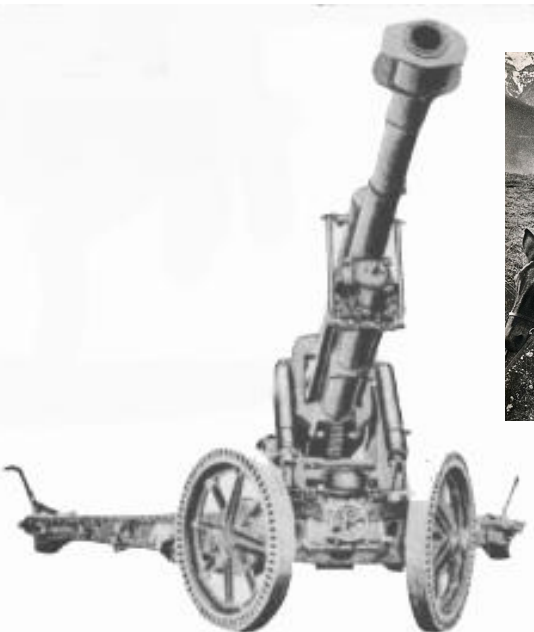
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## GebH40 105mm Mountain Howitzer

This remarkable equipment was the heaviest weapon ever developed for mountain use. It was produced by the Austrian firm Böhler and issued to troops from 1942.

Its appearance gives the impression of too much gun for too little carriage, but the ingenious design insured stability and safety during firing. It could be towed as a complete equipment, broken into four loads on single-axle trailers to be towed by four NSU Kettenrad tracked motor-cycles, **or completely broken into five pack-loads for transport on mule-back.** The wheels were attached to the split trail legs by spring suspension which together with the independent wheel brakes was built into each leg. As a result the wheels moved with the trail legs and when the legs were opened adopted a characteristic 'toed-in' attitude. Among the best mountain guns ever built numbers of these weapons survived the war and were to be found in service with a number of European countries until the middle 1960s.



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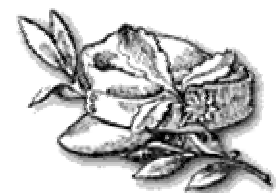
**Sturmgeschütz M42 mit 75/34 851(i)**

**When the Italians signed their armistice in 1943, a large number of their vehicles were confiscated by the German Army.**

**The Semovente 75/43 is an improved model of the Semovente 75/18 armed with the new 75/34 gun and based on the M15/42 hull with the more powerful petrol engine.**

**The Germans usually referred to both Semoventes as the StuG M42 and they issued a total of 294 to German units from 1943 to 1944.**

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Gebirgsdivision had a total of 14 in its Panzerjaeger Abteilung.**



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