

16 Panzer Division



Unit Description: 1st Panzerpionierkompanie, 16th Pioneer Battalion (mot)

16th Panzer Division, Stalingrad 1942.

Division History: The 16th Panzer Division traces its origins to the 16th Infantry Division formed in October 1935. The 16th Infantry Division was mobilized and participated in the invasion of Poland in 1939 and then later fought in the 1940 battle for France. In 1940 the division was split to form the cadres of two new divisions, the 16th Panzer and the 16th Motorized Infantry Divisions.



In December 1940 the new 16th Panzer was transferred to Romania under the pseudonym Lehrstab-R II as strategic reserve for the Balkan campaign. The division's services were not required. However, it was well positioned to take part in Barbarossa in June 1941 as part of the Army Group South.

The 16th Panzer was assigned to 6th Army under command of General der Panzertruppen Friedrich Paulus in the summer of 1942 leading to its participation in the upcoming and fateful Stalingrad campaign. They were further assigned to the XIV Panzerkorps commanded by General der Panzertruppen Hans Hube. Under the command of Generalmajor Gunther Angern, the 16th Panzer was heavily involved in the fighting at Stalingrad. Protecting the north flank of 6th Army, the 16th Panzer advanced to Stalingrad via Lvov, Pervomaisk, Zaporozhe, Taganrog, Maskeevka and Artemorsk. Resistance stiffened at Gumrak. The 16th Panzer then pushed on to the Volga River, sealing off the northern sectors of Stalingrad on August 25th. 6th Army forces to the south of Stalingrad advanced more slowly against heavy resistance until finally in position.



The 16th Panzer stood guard, in local reserve, during the first German onslaught into Stalingrad on the 14th through 26th, September. The 16th Panzer was then called in during the second major assault on September 27th.

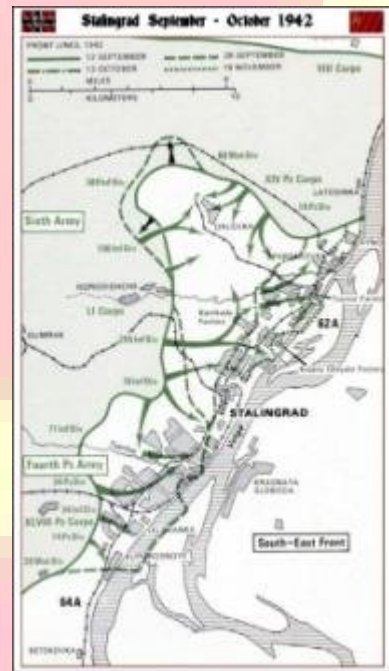
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the 16 Panzer, 60th Motorized, and 389th Infantry assaulted in the direction of the Tractor Works and the heavy industrial area in northern Stalingrad. They advanced nearly 3000 yards and virtually destroyed two Soviet Divisions, the 95th and 112th. They then surrounded and cut off the Barrikady and Red October factories while nearly reaching the Volga inside of Stalingrad. This was some of the heaviest and most intense fighting during the long Stalingrad conflagration. The northern German forces bogged down in this sector while only achieving local successes and then local defeats. Winter was approaching and the Germans knew the log jam had to be broken now.



Paulus threw in his third and final offensive on 14th October. The renewed push on the Tractor Factory by the 16th Panzer and others resulted in breaking the Russian 37th Guards and splitting the Russian 62nd Army. The 16 Panzer and 60th Motorized again attacked south advancing another 2000 yards taking the Tractor Factory and reaching the Barrikady Factory and the Volga while cutting off the Red October Plant. Then 6th Army activity began to slacken while Mother Russia welcomed her greatest ally. Winter was here and the 16th Panzer high-water mark had been reached.



Fighting now settled into a back and forth slugfest while the Russian offensive cut off the 6th Army. The 16th Panzer, along with the entire 6th Army were eventually surrounded and destroyed.

The 16th Panzer was later reformed in France and then transferred to Italy where they participated in the heavy fighting at both Salerno and Naples. The division was transferred back to the Eastern Front in November 1943 arriving in December. The 16th Panzer fought in the Kiev area where it eventually withdrew to the Vistula River. The 16th was re-fitted in Poland during the summer of 1944 and then transferred back to the Vistula River. The 16th Panzer eventually retreated into Czechoslovakia where it surrendered to elements of the both the Russian and American armies.

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Unit Organization: My force represents a typical, reinforced, Panzrpionierkompanie that participated in the fierce fighting in Stalingrad. The pioneers are reinforced with heavy weapons needed for such a city fight where heavy firepower and high explosives are required. They also have the benefit of air power, which was ever present in the skies over the city.

1st Panzerpionierkompanie, 16th Pioneer Battalion (mot), 16th Panzer Division, Stalingrad 1942.



Supported by:

Marder III H from 16 Panzerjager Abteilung



StuG F/8 and StuIG33B from the 2 Batterie, 244 Sturmgeschutz Abteilung (Oberwachtmeister Karl Pfreundtner)



Captured KV-1e from some energetic and resourceful tankers in the 2nd Panzer Regiment, 16th Panzer.



Nebelwerfer Rocket Launcher Batterie from the 30 NW Regiment, 6th Army Reserve.



Ju87D Stukas from Fliegerkorps VIII (Gen Lt Fiebig), Luftflotte IV (Gen Obst Wolfram von Richthofen).

