

24th Panzer Division

The **24th Panzer Division** was formed in 1942 from the 1st Cavalry Division based at Königsberg.

It served under the Fourth Panzer Army in Army Group South of the Eastern Front. In late December 1942 it was encircled in the Battle of Stalingrad and destroyed. It was reformed in March 1943 and served in Normandy, Italy and then went back to the Eastern Front where it suffered heavy casualties around Kiev and the Dnepr Bend. During spring-1944 it took part in the Battles of Târgu Frumos, part of the First Jassy-Kishinev Offensive. Near the end of the war it saw action in Poland, Hungary and Slovakia before it surrendered to the British in May 1945.

In keeping with the Division's mounted origins, the 24th Panzer's tank crewmen wore the golden-yellow *Waffenfarbe* of the cavalry rather than Panzer pink.

Generalmajor Arno von Lenski was in command of the Division at the time of the Stalingrad operation.

The units forming this particular Kampfgruppe come from the 2nd Battalion 24th Panzer Regiment, the 2nd Battalion, 21st Panzergrenadier Regiment (motorized, and with its own internal self propelled anti-air artillery), and A Company, 24th Reconnaissance Battalion. Support comes from the 283rd Heavy Flak Battalion and from the 89th Panzer Artillery Regiment. All these units were part of the 24th Panzer Division at the time of the Battle of Stalingrad, and along with the Division and the rest of 6th Army, were caught in the Cauldron and destroyed.