Panzer 44 expansion: Soviet units description

**Mortar Platoon** - 6 x 82mm mortars, 18 men

**Heavy mortar Battery** - 4 x 120mm mortars, 18 men

**Infantry gun battery** - 4 x 76.2mm L16, 16 men

**Anti aircraft battery** - 4 x 37mm AA guns, 12 men

**Light field gun battery** - 76.2mm field guns, 36 men. The standard ZiS-3 gun.

**Field gun battery** - 6 x 122mm field guns, 36 men

**Light anti tank gun battery** - 4 x 45mm L66 a/t guns; improved version of 45mm L46

**Light anti tank gun battery** - 4 x 57mm L73 ZiS-2 a/t guns, 16 men; produced from 1943.

**Anti tank gun battery** - 4 x 76.2 mm L41 a/t guns, 20 men; a/t version of the ZiS-3 gun

**Anti tank gun battery** - 4 x 85mm L53 a/t guns, 20 men; introduced late in the war.

**Demi-company** from the line rifle division, 50 men, M1930 rifle, LMGs, grenades, a/t mines.

**Demi-company** from a guards rifle division, 60 men, more automatic weapons than the line rifle companies and more experienced troops.

**Tanko desant demi-company** - 40, PPSh-41 SMG, 7.62mm LMG, grenades and A/T mines, RPGs in 1945; the Soviets were short of transport so they were trained to ride the tanks.

**Horse cavalry platoon** - 30 men/1200 horses. PPSh-41 SMG, grenades, LMGs, M1930 rifle.

**Anti tank platoon** - 1 per rifle company - 32 men, PPSh-41 SMG, PTRD a/t rifles, a/t mines, Molotov cocktails, sticky bombs, RPGs in 1945.

**Engineer platoon** - 30 men, PPSh-41 SMG, flame throwers, explosive charges; in short supply.

**MMG/HMG platoon** - 1 per rifle company; 4 x 12.7mm DShK/HMG or 7.62mm Maxim or SG43 MMG, 12 - 16 men.

**Rocket battery** - 4 x BM-13 mounting M-13 132mm MRL, mounted on ZIL or lend-lease Studebaker US6 2.5 ton trucks; the 'Katushka'.

**Heavy SU battery** - 4 x SU-152 assault guns, 152mm L32 gun-howitzer on KV-1 chassis, 45 rounds. Found in Independent Heavy Self-propelled Artillery Regiments. 1 per regiment.

**Heavy SU battery** - 4 x SU-152 assault guns, 152mm L32 on JS-2 chassis. Introduced in late 1943, 46 t.

**Light tank demi-company** - 45mm L46 gun, 9 tonnes. 1 man turret. Replaced in recon units by T34 in late 1943, still used in SU regiments and Cav/Mech groups.

**Medium tank demi-company** - 5 x T34-70 or T34-40 model with 76.2mm L41 gun, 29 tons. Fast, well protected and armed, came as a shock to the Germans in 1941.

**Medium tank demi-company** - 5 x T34/85 with 85mm L53 gun in new 3 man turret, 32 tons.

**Heavy tank platoon** - 5 x KV-1 tanks with 76.2mm L41, 45 tonnes; heavily armoured. Outclassed the PzIII & PzIV, but so did the cheaper T34.

**Heavy tank platoon** - 5 x KV-85 with 85mm L53, 46 tonnes. An emergency upgrade of the lighter KV-15 in late 1943, only 128 built. Replaced by JS-2.

**Heavy tank platoon** - 5 x JS-2; heavy tanks with 122mm L43 gun, 46 tonnes; assigned to independent heavy tank regiments with 21 tanks.

**Heavy tank platoon** - 5 x JS-3; 122mm L43 gun, improved armour layout and new octagon shaped turret seen in all Soviet post war tanks.

**Light SU battery** - 4 x 5 x Su75 assault guns, 76.2mm L41 gun in open top mounting on T70 chassis, 10t.

**Medium SU battery** - 4 x 5 x Su85 tank destroyers with 85mm L53 gun on T34 chassis. 29 tonnes.

**Medium SU battery** - 4 x Su 100/1d with 100mm L60 gun, used T34/85 chassis. Replaced SU85 starting late 1944.

**Heavy SU battery** - 4 x 5 x Su122 assault guns, 122mm L22 howitzer, 30 tonnes. Heat round for this gun was a disappointment, but performed an a/t role. Built on T34 chassis.

**Heavy SU battery** - 5 x SU122 with 122mm L43. 45t. Due to a shortage of 152mm guns, many ISU hulls were fitted with a 122mm gun.

**Armoured car demi-company** - 7 x BA10 with 45mm L46 gun, envisaged to have an anti tank role, generally replaced by light tanks after early 1942. 5 tonnes.

**Light AC company** - 8 x BA64 4 wheel drive vehicles armed with a 7.62mm turret machine gun. Used from 1942 until the 1960s. 2 tonnes, 80 kmh road speed.
Panzer 44 expansion counters: additional German units

Rocket battery; 6 x Nebelwerfer 150mm 6 barrelled rocket launchers, 24 mm; mounted on light a/t gun mounting, could be towed by light vehicles. Concentrated in independent rocket artillery regiments; named 'Nebelwerfer', meaning smoke projector, as a disinformation device.

Medium a/t gun battery; 4 x captured Soviet 76mm a/t guns rechambered to use German 75mm a/t gun ammunition and modified to improve their effectiveness, designated 7.62 cm PaK 36(t), when these guns reached the battlefield in April 1942 they could destroy any contemporary tank at ranges under 1000m.

Assault gun battery; 4 x Sturmpanzer IV Brummbar, 15cm StuH 43 mounted on PzIV chassis/hull; 28 tons; issued to 4 Independent Sturmpanzergrenadierabteilung, #216 fought at Kursk, #s 217-219 were formed later.

Self propelled AA platoon; 4 x Flakpanzer IV/3.7 'Frostwind' mounting the 3.7cm L60 in an open topped turret; entered service December 1944, issued to the Flugabwehr (AA platoons) of the panzer regiments. 25 tons.

Light tank platoon; 5-7 x Panzer III 'Luchs' (Lyca) light tanks; 2cm L55 auto-cannon; 13 tons. Originally ordered in 1939 as a tracked armoured recon vehicle developed from the Panzer II, by the time it arrived in 1943 it was obsolete. 100 produced, plans for 700 more mounting the 5cm L60 gun (designated 'Leonard') were scrapped.

Medium tank platoon; 4 x late mark Panzer III L or M, 5cm L60 gun; 23 tons; 432 fought at Kursk, along side 841 Pz IV with 'long' 75s; was issued to the newly formed panzer regiments of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd SS panzer divisions for the Kursk offensive, and served in Sicily with the 901 and 15th PzG, later replaced by Pz IV & Pz V.

CS tank platoon; 4 x Panzer IV/F infantry support tanks; 7.5cm L24; 22 tons; the last Pz IV mark in original CS tank configuration. 60 were left on the eastern front in July 1943. Replaced by Pz III N, which took over the short 7.5cm guns made available when early mark Pz IV were rebuilt with long calibre 7.5cm or converted to SPG mounts.

Medium tank platoon; 4 x Panzer IV F2; 7.5cm L43 gun; 23 tons; an emergency conversion in 1943/4 to match the superior Soviet tanks; 200 produced and most issued to front line panzer battalions as replacements. Also used in North Africa in small numbers (aka Pz IV 'special') where it was not matched until the M4 Sherman arrived.

Panzerjäger battery; 6 x Panzerjäger 38(t), also named Marder III, 7.62cm L41(r) captured Soviet a/t gun mounted on Czech Pz 38 hull; another emergency conversion in 1942, about 350 were produced; crude but effective, some were also sent to the North Africa where they were able to defeat the front armour of the Matilda tank. 11 tons.

Panzerjäger battery; 6 x Panzerjäger M, aka Marder II; PzII chassis; 7.5cm L46 a/t gun in shielded gun mounting, 11 tons, 651 produced/converted, served from July 1942 to 1945. All the Marders served in the panzerjager abteilung of all types of divisions; deployment may be a better description than battery.

Panzerjäger battery; 6 x Panzerjäger 38(t) M; 7.5 cm L46 gun mounted on modified Pz38(t) chassis; 10.5 tons. The best of the "Marder" emergency series, "M" for 'mitte", indicated the engine had been repositioned at the centre of the chassis, and the fighting compartment to the rear and lowered to deck level.

Jagdpanzer detachment; 6 x Jagdpanzer 38(t) Hetzer ('Hitter'); 7.5cm L48 gun in fully armoured mounting on redesigned Pz38(t) chassis with height lowered and hull widened; 16 tons; entering service July 1944. It was intended to replace all the existing open topped Panzerjäger and towed a/t guns. 1000 per month build target for June '45.

Schwere panzerjäger detachment; 4 x Panzerjäger IIIV with 8.8 cm L71; in an open topped fighting compartment; 24 tons; 494 produced, issued from summer 1943 to the Independent schweres (heavy) panzerjagerabteilung; originally named Horrisse (Homer), the Nashorn (Rhinozeros) was another emergency conversion. Served to '45.

Schwere assault gun detachment; 4 x Panzerjäger VIPLE heavy assault guns; 8.8cm L71; 65 tons; Porsche built 90 chassis for its design for the PzVI A Tiger 1; when the Henschel model was selected, but could not mount the long 8.8 in its turret, the Porsche chassis were used to produce the 'Elefant'. Firepower and protection were stressed over mobility, fought at Kursk. Basically an immovable failure as an AFV. Lacked an MG, added later.

Armoured car platoon; 7 x SdKfz 222 4 wheel drive light armoured cars; 2cm L65 in open turret; 5 tons; issued to the panzerspahwagen squadrons of the aufklärungs battalions. Built from 1939 to 43, and served to '45.
Panzer 44 East Front Expansion