

## General Notes on Kriegsständenachweisungen (KstN)

I have a whole range of German WW2 Kriegsständenachweisungen (KstNs). They are NOT Kriegsgliederung (OOBs) and are not intended to be so but more the evolution of the German Tables of Organization (TOE) sorted by type, date and KstN number. There's nothing new in the KstNs themselves just how they are displayed as in nearly all previous documents they were always part of an OOB.

I stated doing them many years ago before the advent of the internet in the days of the Apple ][e and are aimed at tactical level games, initially SSIs Kampfgruppe on the Apple and then Steel Panthers

If people find them useful I'll make the rest available.

### Understanding what's here.

I've used a combination of English and German and before some asks I don't speak German but do now have an understanding of many German terms as used in WW2. Mostly unit names and equipment are in German except for a few locations. E.g. In the totals box located on the left of all units and any notes.

Except for a few rare entries, and explained why in the notes, all units names, KstN numbers and dates are taken from Georg Tessins 'Errata Verbände und Truppen' accessed through Leo Niehorsters website:-

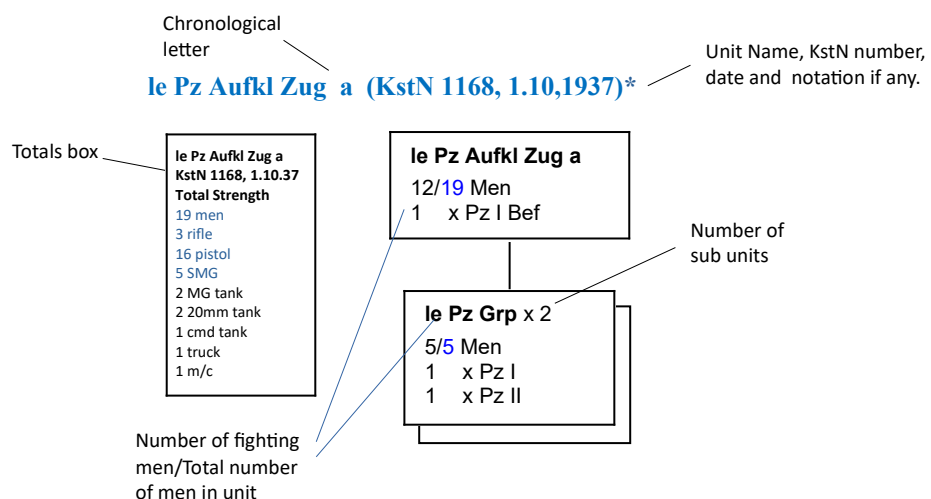
[http://www.niehorster.org/011\\_germany/tessin/\\_tessin\\_intro.html](http://www.niehorster.org/011_germany/tessin/_tessin_intro.html)

Some units are totally correct being reproduced from existing KstN. These have their name, number and date in green. All figures are based on the original KstN and do not include any amendments through German General Army Memorandums (AHM - Allgemeine Heersmitteilungen).

Due to the fact that KstNs were supposed to be destroyed when a new one was issued, copies of many KstNs no longer exist, especially early war one. In this case the name, number and date is blue as is the doubtful totals in the total box. These have been calculated from existing KstN or other available documents. In the example below, it's been recreated with the vehicles probably correct but men and personal weapons less so. This information is taken from LN website and/or his Organisational Series although these lack information on the number men and weapons, hence the calculated values by me.

You may also see a chronological letter directly after the name such as the 'a' shown below. These simply allow you to identify the chronological order of that type of unit, if it lower case I added it, if its UPPER case it was already part of the units name.

The diagram only shows the fighting elements and men that manned them. In the example below the le Pz Aufkl Zug has 12 active men manning the various panzers. The other number (19) in blue gives the total number in the group, the difference 7 is made up of men manning the group support elements which could include such things as supply/munitions, kitchen, messengers, medics etc. Remember these are aimed at tactical games where these elements have little effect.



\* KstN details unknown but it was probably similar to KstN 1168c date 1.2.1941.

## **Note on HQs**

Unlike most other countries German HQs tended to be large. This was mainly due to each HQ having its own supply train (until early 1944 anyway). Few HQs actually had a HQ Kp/Zug of any size other than a variety of messengers/scouts, many mounted on M/c or bicycles.

## **Why these Dates etc.**

As I said earlier I started doing this little project in the early 80s when there was no internet. I had no idea about a KstN so all unit just had names. Although it worked for me there were not accurate as information I had from books and magazines was inconsistent and, as I found out later, wrong in many cases. Partly I assume because confusion arose due to what was authorized and what they actually had. I eventually stopped doing it.

Come the mid 1990s I now had access to the internet but information was still sketchy until I eventually came across Leo Niehorster's invaluable website in the late 90s. That's where I got the list of KstNs from and now understood what a KstN was. Work started again but I had to stop through work commitments and didn't get very far.

I restarted again in the late 00s and then found the original KstN in the National Archive Records (Nara). These were made accessible through <http://www.sturmpanzer.com>. Now with these original KstNs and with LN's work I could start properly but didn't, work got in the way again. I restarted when I retired 7 years ago.

## **Unit sizes**

The following is taken from Leo Niehorster's Organizational series

Units smaller than companies appeared on organizational charts only if they had their own KStN. Exceptions occurred, particularly if headquarters sub-units had specialized equipment. They were depicted on a smaller scale than company-sized units.

*Staffel* (Detachment) An elastic designation for several components under a headquarters section, these components being from section to platoon size. Often this was merely an administrative grouping, and the components were distributed to other sub-units in combat. It could either have its own small headquarters section, or one of the components' leaders could carry out a dual function.

*Kolonne* (Column) An independent transportation unit, varying from company to platoon size, transporting equipment or supplies such as a bridge column (which in fact did not actually build the bridge it was transporting), or even as a light 'infantry' column (which consisted of a set number of horse-drawn vehicles capable of transporting a fixed tonnage).

*Zug* (Platoon) An independent unit or the typical main sub-division of companies and batteries. Usually, the 1st and 2nd platoons in each company-sized unit, and also of independent platoons, were led by a lieutenant, while the other platoons were headed by a senior NCO.

*Gruppe* (Squad, Section) This was normally the smallest subunit that existed in the German Army. In this book, the word "Squad" has only been used for infantry and reconnaissance infantry units. All other units of this size have been designated as "Sections".

*Trupp* (lit. Troop; Section) A small unit, equipped with specialized equipment; it could also be part of the designation for a headquarters echelon unit.

*Halb-Zug* (lit.: Half-Platoon) Some platoons, for example HMG Platoons, could be divided into two parts.

*Halb-Gruppe* (lit. Half-Squad, i.e. Team) In the case of infantry and reconnaissance units, squads could be broken down into two parts. Infantry and reconnaissance squads were built up around the squad LMG. Where only one LMG was provided, the LMG team provided cover while the other team was the movement element. Where two LMGs were available, the teams covered each other in turns. Reconnaissance teams, on the other hand, were trained to work independently, although they too could function as a squad.

## **References**

Nara records made available by [www.sturmpanzer.com](http://www.sturmpanzer.com). KstNs, the primary source and totally accurate.

Leo Niehorster, his website [www.niehorster.org](http://www.niehorster.org) and German WW2 Organization Series without which I could not have done this.

Other sites include [www.wwiidaybyday.com](http://www.wwiidaybyday.com), Axis History Forum (<https://forum.axishistory.com/index.php>, [www.feldgrau.net](http://www.feldgrau.net), [www.lexikon-der-wehrmacht.de](http://www.lexikon-der-wehrmacht.de) and a host of other online documents and books that I have unfortunately lost track off.

Georg Tessin for his work *Verbände und Truppen der deutschen Wehrmacht und Waffen-SS im Zweiten Weltkrieg 1939-1945*. Bd. 1-16. I don't have these, they are rare and expensive but the ultimate historical source.