

# Kampfgruppe Duchemin – Command summary

**Officer Commanding:** Herr Major Jacques Duchemin

## **Information on unit structure**

*This battle group is another amalgamated unit. The infantry elements are largely from detached companies of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. There are a few surviving assault guns from Major Duchemin's own 43<sup>rd</sup> Sturm Battalion of the 78<sup>th</sup> Sturm Division, some Rückkämpfer from destroyed units and finally Kinski's panzer battalion who actually rescued all of the other elements trapped in their own mini kessel for five days between 28<sup>th</sup> June and July 2<sup>nd</sup>..*

## **Unit History in the campaign so far**

*The story of this unit has absorbed more column inches than any other in the whole campaign. The infantry elements of 31<sup>st</sup> ID were defending a supply dump near Grobanchnik when on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tank Corps/11<sup>th</sup> Guards Army broke through the German frontline at exactly that point. Duchemin's SturmAbteilung 43 was rushed as a 'Feuerwehr' to seal the breach but after a furious battle was forced to retreat into the dump(Facility 69) with the rest of the survivors. For the next four days they endured repeated assaults by Siberian tank and infantry units causing enormous casualties to the enemy. They are true heroes and Duchemin has built a legendary reputation for impossible victories. As the German front line receded beyond their rear it looked as if the end was near until a breakthrough tank force under Kinski got through to the Facility on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Instead of heading west they headed south east toward the main kessel to try and help other trapped 4<sup>th</sup> Army elements escape. They ran into further Siberian units at Zhom on July the 3<sup>rd</sup> fighting a sharp action which resulted in a victory but heavy casualties particularly amongst the German infantry. This is where you assume command.....*

## **Other information**

*Unit cohesion is of the highest as Duchemin has led this motley force successfully in six battles against overwhelming odds. Duchemin(who is a Wallooner) has already received 4 citations for bravery including the ReiterKreuz with leaves and swords. Kinski has also been cited on 3<sup>rd</sup> of July for his tank attack at Zhom. Over the last five days they have destroyed nearly 150 enemy tanks, shot down three aircraft and inflicted over 2,000 casualties on their foes. Their own losses have been heavy and now only three of Duchemin's assault guns survive from his original battalion along with an under strength battalions worth of infantry which is a mix of the Landser from 31<sup>st</sup> ID, Rückkämpfer and a few Pioniers from StAb43. The Paks are from 31 ID. Kinski's panzers are the most formidable 'weapon' element of the force. He has 16 PzV and 4 PzVI under his command. These tanks are also a 'Feuerwehr' unit formed near Minsk from reserve vehicles and training tank companies.*

*Duchemin's original command at Facility 69 has earned the Germans 100 bonus victory points in the campaign.*

# PanzerLehr Abteilung Kinski (attached to Kampfgruppe Duchemin)



**Officer Commanding: Major Klaus Dieter Kinski**

Parent formation: Reserve and training companies from Minsk.

## **Information on unit structure**

The unit has five platoons (zug) with mixed medium and heavy armour. All tanks are of excellent quality and the crews well trained.

## **Unit History in the campaign so far**

Achieved a breakthrough of the Soviet encirclement of Facility 69 at Grobanchnik on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over ran a battery or artillery in the process. Joined with Duchemin's command and headed SE toward Zhodino. Encountered further Siberian units at Zhom cement works on the 3<sup>rd</sup> where Major Kinski's own platoon knocked out many enemy tanks at close range inside the factory.



## **Organizational Structure:**

Kompanie 1 : Hauptmann Holler

Kompanie 1: Hauptmann Bauer

PzV  
Zug 1

PzV  
Zug 2

PzV  
Zug 2

PzV  
Zug 2

PzVI

Stabs: Kinski



## Infanterie Bataillon 5 ( Infanterie Division 31)



### **Officer Commanding: Major Hellman**

Parent formation: 31 Infanterie Division & 43 Sturm Abteilung/78 Sturm Division

### **Information on unit structure**

The unit has two companies each of three rifle platoons(zug) and one support weapons platoon. It is a totally composite unit containing survivors of more than seven formations. Despite this, it has an impressive combat performance under Major Hellman and Major Duchemin.

### **Unit History in the campaign so far**

These men have repulsed five attacks by Soviet assault units around Grobanchnik and Facility 69. They even managed to shoot down two Sturmoviks during an air raid. Having seen more action since June 28<sup>th</sup> than any other 4<sup>th</sup> Army unit they have good combat cohesion and motivation but as yet have not developed the esprit de corps of long serving kameraden .

### **Organizational Structure:**

Komp 1 Führer: **Leutnant Cypra**

Bn  
HQ

Komp 2 Führer: **Leutnant Müller**

Rifle

Rifle

Rifle

Supp

Rifle

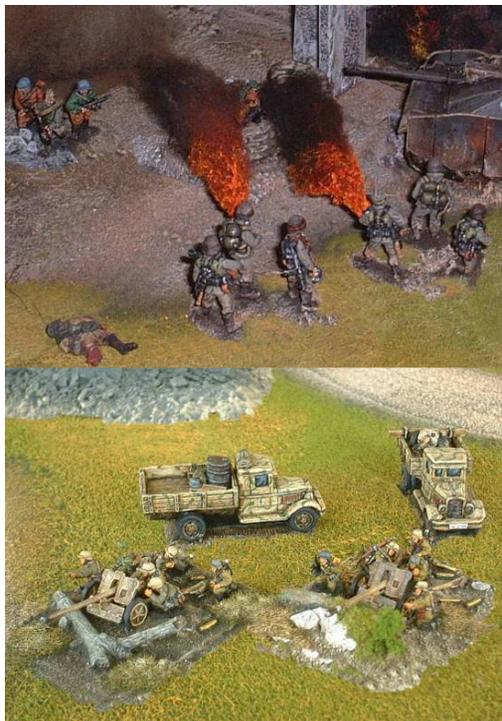
Rifle

Rifle

Supp

First company in Sdkfz251 semi tracks and Second company in trucks

# SturmAbteilung 43 (78 Sturm Division)



## **Officer Commanding: Hauptmann Ernst Weiss**

Parent formation: 31 Infanterie Division & 43 Sturm Abteilung/78 Sturm Division.

## **Information on unit structure**

The unit is in fact less than kompanie strength but contains the survivors of Duchemin's original battalion with a few men from the 31<sup>st</sup> ID. Its strength amounts to 3 stuGIII, 4 Pak40 and a 'company' of around 30 combat Pioniers. Their cohesion is the highest amongst all of the kampfgruppe.

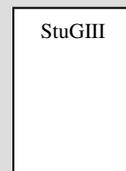
## **Unit History in the campaign so far**

These men put up an epic defensive in the darkness at Grobanchnik on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June knocking out Soviet tanks at close range with Panzerfaust, mines and flamethrowers. They then bolstered the defence at Facility 69 during the attacks by Siberian assault brigades. At Zhom they suffered heavy casualties in urban fighting against other Siberians whom they detest and also fear.

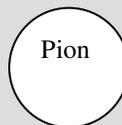
## **Organizational Structure:**

StuG Komp Führer: **Hauptmann Ernst Weiss**

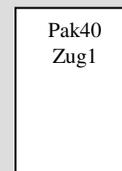
Pak Komp Führer: **Leutnant Schütze**



StuGIII



Pion



Pak40  
Zug1

The Pioniers have truck transport and Duchemin can either ride in a Kübel or the assault gun.