

## Additional information and *errata corrige* to the book

### The *Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanien* and *Panzer-Abteilung 208* – I. / *Panzer-Regiment "Feldherrnhalle"*

#### Chapter 1

Pages 8 (and 201): **3. Kompanie/Panzer-Regiment 35** was led by Oberleutnant Jochen Kästner during combat on the Eastern Front in early 1943 (when the company was subordinated to **Panzer-Abteilung 127**); other officers in the company were Leutnant Rudolf Petrelli and Leutnant Werner Sommer. The latter fell Novokrasnyanka, north of Lysychansk, on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1943. Neither Kästner nor Petrelli were later in **Panzer-Einsatz-Kompanie 35**, they remained with **Panzer-Regiment 35**.



Hptm. Kästner in a photo taken in the Danzig area in 1945, when he was Adjutant in **I. Abt./Pz.Rgt. 35**



Ltn. Petrelli in a photo taken in late 1943, when he was a member of the new **3. Kp./Pz.Rgt. 35**



Two photos of Obltn. Honstetter as a member of **I. Abt./Pz.Rgt. 35** in Russia in 1941-42.



(all four photos: Kameradschaft Pz.Rgt. 35 via <https://panzerregiment35.blogspot.com/> )

Page 8: replace

*"In this phase, the other officers in the company (employed as Zugführer, or platoon commander) were Leutnant Sperling and perhaps Leutnant Eberhard Krienke as well."*

with:

*“Zugführer (platoon commander) were Leutnant Walter Sperling for 1. Zug, Leutnant Eberhard Krienke for 2. Zug and Oberfeldwebel Jannek (or Janneck) for 3. Zug.”*

Page 9, footnote 13: correct as follows: *“but ~~which~~ were never official.”*

Page 9-10, photo captions: the insignia of the standing bear was only used by I. Abteilung of **Panzer-Regiment 35**, not by the entire regiment.

Page 11: Leutnant Heiner Reckel led **10. Kompanie/Panzer-Regiment 21** during combat on the Eastern Front in early 1943; other officers in the unit were Leutnant Eberle, Krieg and Hirschfelder. Only Eberle and Hirschfelder were later in **2. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie**. UPDATE:

On **10. Kompanie/Panzer-Regiment 21** see the article in the magazine "Militärfahrzeug", nr. 3-2011: <http://www.tankograd.com/cms/website.php?id=/en/militaerfahrzeug-3-2011.htm>

It can also be mentioned that Otto Carius, later to become famous as Tiger commander in **schwere Panzer-Abteilung 502**, served in **10. Kompanie/Panzer-Regiment 21** during 1942.

Page 11: the three Pz.Kpfw. IV kurz of **2. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie** were probably already in this phase an Ausf. C (with chassis number, or Fahrgestellnummer, 8030..., probably turret number 233), an Ausf. E modernised with 40 cm tracks (Fahrgestellnummer 80817, turret number 213) and an Ausf. F (perhaps turret number 203).

Page 11, footnote 18: replace

*“The Pz.Kpfw. IV 7,5 cm L/48 were numbers 201, 211 (?), 221 and 231, while the L/43 were numbers 202, 212 (?), 222, 223 and 232.”*

with:

*“Regarding the numbering of the Pz.Kpfw. IV lang, initially the L/48 were number 202, 221, 222 and (probably) 231, while the L/43 were number 201 and probably 211, 212, 223 and 232 (for these, photo confirmation is missing). After entering into Italy, the numbering was partially revised, with the L/48 being assigned to the company commander and the platoon commanders (with the exception of number 212): the Pz.Kpfw. IV 7,5 cm L/48 became number 201, 212, 221 and 231, the L/43 number 202, 211, 222, 223 and 232 (a photograph of number 212 taken after the renumbering clearly show that the figure 1 had replaced another number, probably a 2).”*

Page 14: some tanks (perhaps a platoon) of **Panzer-Einsatz-Kompanie 35** probably participated with elements of III. Btl./Gren.Rgt. 132 to the disarmament of the Italian garrison of Schio, which was reached after a road march from Rovereto, on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1943.

Page 14: replace

*“Following these actions, the company was transferred to the Veneto region, on 14<sup>th</sup> September it reached San Michele near Verona; from here on 19<sup>th</sup> September, still subordinated to Reichsgrenadier-Division “H.u.D.”, it moved to Mantova.”*

with

*“After these actions were concluded, the company took part in a progressive movement towards the south together with the units of Reichsgrenadier-Division “H.u.D.”. According to the march plan, by 14<sup>th</sup> September the company was to reach San Michele (all’Adige), near Verona. However, this timetable was not followed by the entire unit: a photo shows some of its Pz.Kpfw. III still travelling south between Eгна (Neumarkt) and Ora (Auer) (half way between Bolzano/Bozen and Trento) on 17<sup>th</sup> September. Around 19<sup>th</sup> September the company had arrived in Mantova.”*

Page 17: when **5. Kompanie/Panzer-Regiment 27** arrived at **Pz.Ers.u.Ausb.Abt. 11** in Bielefeld in April 1943 it was led by Oberleutnant Mroseck; other officers in the unit were Oberleutnant Bongard and Leutnant Küppers. By order dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1943 it was divided into two mittlere Panzerkompanien called A- und B-Kompanie. Following an order by the Wehrkreiskommando 6 (territorial headquarters) of 10<sup>th</sup> September 1943 [based on an OKH order of the previous day] A-Kompanie [also called Einheit A] was renamed **3. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie** and sent to Italy under Oberleutnant Bohn.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Michael Schadewitz, *Pz.Rgt. 11, Pz.Abt. 65 und Pz.E.u.A.Abt. 11*, Flechsig Verlag, 2016, vol. 3, pp. 290 and 292.

Page 14: the platoon commanders of 2. and 3. Zug of **3. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie** should be inverted: in fact, in this phase platoon commander of 2. Zug was Lt. Scharnhusen, of 3. Zug Lt. Meyer.

Page 17, footnote 25: Bohn had served in the 6. Infanterie-Division since the beginning of the war to early 1943, first in the Nachrichten-Abteilung 6, then in the divisional headquarters as 01, or Ordonnanzoffizier.

## Chapter 2

Page 24: Hauptmann (later Major) Werber briefly led **II. Abt./Pz.Rgt. 31** of 5. Panzer-Division during mid-August to mid-October 1944, then **Panzer-Abteilung 2107** of Panzer-Brigade 107 until early November 1944, when he became commander of **Panzer-Abteilung 190** of 90. Panzer-Grenadier-Division in Italy.

Page 24: not the entire **2. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie** was transferred to central Italy in late January 1944: only 14 tanks were taken there (3 Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. N, 2 Pz.Kpfw. IV kurz, 9 Pz.Kpfw. IV lang),<sup>2</sup> while four tanks with their crews and supporting elements remained in northern Italy, apparently in two separate groups: one in Turin (with two Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. N, nr. 224 and 225) and one probably in Milan (with one Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. N and one Pz.Kpfw. IV kurz). Presumably to reinforce the elements that had remained behind, it is documented that **3. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie** handed over its Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. N number 302 to the elements of **2. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie** in Milan at the end of January 1944. Additionally, little later were received two Pz.Kpfw. III 5 cm KwK. L/42 – probably handed over by **Panzer-Einsatz-Kompanie 35** – and in the following weeks two Pz.Kpfw. III 5 cm KwK. L/60. Consequently, on 10<sup>th</sup> March there were three tanks in Milano, three in Torino and three in Pinerolo.

Page 24: after the elements of **2. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie** transferred to central Italy moved back to northern Italy, on 15<sup>th</sup> March the company had one Zug in Milan, one in Turin (with the company headquarters and the elements that came back from central Italy) and one in Pinerolo. On 20<sup>th</sup> March the parts in Turin moved to Pinerolo, which became the company base for the coming weeks. A few days later, 2. Zug moved to Cuneo, in the barracks of San Rocco Castagnaretta (with Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. N number 224, 225, 234 and 302 and one Pz.Kpfw. IV kurz; it was led by Oberfeldwebel Leuser); it went back to Pinerolo in late April or early May. On 10<sup>th</sup> May the entire company (including the platoon that had presumably remained in Milan) was reported as being in Pinerolo.

Pages 24-25: in addition to what related in the book, based on new photo evidence elements of **2. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie** took also part in the following anti-partisan operations:

- in the area of Forno di Coazze in the Val Sangone Valley (west of Turin) on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1943;
- in the lower Val di Susa Valley (west of Turin) from 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> December 1943;
- in Traves (north-west of Turin) from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> January 1944;
- in the Val Sesia Valley (north-east of Turin) from 15<sup>th</sup> January to early February 1944 (supporting 3. Kp./SS-Pol.Rgt. 15), including in the village of Postua (probably also during the fighting in this village on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1944);
- in Cumiana (south-west of Turin) during March or April 1944 (exact date not know).

Page 25: Delete the sentence *“From 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April, elements of 2. Zug participated in an operation near Murazzano east of Cuneo”*

Page 25 and photos on pages 43-44: the action in the Val Varaita Valley was most probably the “Unternehmen Wien”, conducted from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1944.

Page 25 and 41: correct dates for “Unternehmen Stuttgart” are 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April 1944.

Page 25: Oberleutnant Müller was wounded in Russia during the advance towards Stalingrad on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1942 when he was Kompanieführer of **3. Kompanie/Panzer-Abteilung 129** of 29. Infanterie-Division (mot.), not in France in 1940.<sup>3</sup>

Page 27: read as follows (changes underlined):

<sup>2</sup> KTB 10. AOK, NARA, T 312 Roll 89.

<sup>3</sup> The episode is described in Jason Mark, *Panzerkrieg – German armoured operations at Stalingrad*, vol. 1, Leaping Horseman Books, 2017, pp. 241-242.

*“Raggruppamento Farina (Farina Group, consisting of the CARS unit, 1<sup>st</sup> Mobile Blackshirt Brigade and Kampfgruppe SS-Obersturmbannführer Heldman)” and  
“Raggruppamento Borghese (Borghese Group, consisting of units of the X. Mas division and Kampfgruppe Hptm. Reinke)”*

Page 28, top photo: the partially readable Fahrgestellnummer 8030... confirms this Pz.Kpfw. IV is an Ausf C. It is most probably the same tank that is seen undergoing repairs on the photo on page 46.

Page 32: the caption of the top photo should read: *“Another photograph taken on the same occasion of the Rivoli march”.*

Page 35, top photo: this photo was taken in Varallo, at the beginning or at the end of operations that took place in the Val Sesia Valley between 15<sup>th</sup> January and early February 1944.

Pages 37 and 38, top photo: these two photos, showing vehicles of **2. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie** leaving the “Cavour” barracks in Turin to move to Pinerolo, were taken on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1944.

Page 39, top photo: read *“from the left”* instead of *“from the right”*.

Page 41, top photo: the photo was not taken in Villar Perosa but in the nearby Perosa Argentina. Present-day comparative photos can be seen here: [http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow\\_pzabt208\\_2.htm](http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow_pzabt208_2.htm)

Pages 43-44: the photo order is not correct: if the photos as in the present order are numbered from 1 to 4, the correct order is 1-4-2-3.

The top photo of page 43 was taken just before the village of Rore in the Valle Varaita Valley. The bottom photo of page 43 and the bottom photo of page 44 were taken on the same spot near the village of Rore. Present-day comparative photos can be seen here: [http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow\\_pzabt208\\_2.htm](http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow_pzabt208_2.htm)

Page 52, bottom left photo: read *“first on the right”* instead of *“first on the left”*.

Page 55: this photo was taken in the hamlet of Breno (part of the Chialamberto municipality), in the Val Grande di Lanzo Valley, on 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> July 1944. The tank is travelling in the direction of Forno Alpi Graie, the last village of the valley. A present-day comparative photo can be seen here: [http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow\\_pzabt208\\_2.htm](http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow_pzabt208_2.htm)

Page 58, top photo: this photo was not taken in the Val d'Ala Valley, but in the Val Grande di Lanzo Valley, at the western exit of the hamlet of Borgo (part of the Groscavallo municipality), on 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> July 1944. The tanks are seen travelling back from the direction of Forno Alpi Graie, the last village of the valley. A present-day comparative photo can be seen here: [http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow\\_pzabt208\\_2.htm](http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow_pzabt208_2.htm)

Page 71, bottom photo and page 72, top photo: the Ordnungspolizei car Pol 185033 is not a Fiat 508 CM but a Tatra 57 K.



### Chapter 3

Page 89: replace

*"On an unknown date – probably in the last days of September – the company took part in an action in the area of Redipuglia – Miren with Bataillon Knuht ..."*

with

*"On 22<sup>nd</sup> September the company took part in an action in the area of Redipuglia – Miren with Bataillon Knuht ..."*

The corrected paragraph should be moved before the last paragraph on page 17.

Page 93, top photo: this photo was taken just east of the village of Koritnica in the Bača River valley during operations in early July 1944, not in Croatia in October 1943 (so it should belong to chapter 4); the tank is a Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. N from **3. Kompanie/Panzer-Abteilung 208**. A present-day photo can be seen here: [http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow\\_pzabt208\\_3.htm](http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow_pzabt208_3.htm)

Page 100: read "... Podgrad and Šapjane, two villages not far from each other, located along the main Trieste – Rijeka road" instead of "... Podgrad and Šapjane, two villages not far from each other, located along the main Trieste – Rijeka and Rijeka – Postojna roads".

Page 101: not the entire 1. Zug of **3. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie** was posted at the Rupa junction, but rather only two tanks and a motorcycle with sidecar; in total there were around a dozen men billeted in the house visible next to the tanks on the photos on page 108-109 (the house also hosted a tavern, like today).

Page 101: read "On 18<sup>th</sup> January 1944 three soldiers of the 1. Zug from the garrison of the Rupa junction were killed" instead of "On 18<sup>th</sup> January 1944 three soldiers of the 1. Zug were killed".

Page 101: in this phase, elements of **Panzer-Einsatz-Kompanie 35** were billeted in the villages around Šapjane, for instance at least two Pz.Kpfw. III were in Jelšane, on the road to Postojna – Ljubljana just north of the Rupa junction (see <http://www.kozina.com/premik/stojan4it.htm> and Volleth's writing, page 203).

Page 103, top photo: read "... in Šapjane, on the Trieste – Rijeka road" instead of "... in Šapjane, on the Ljubljana – Postojna – Rijeka road".

Page 103, bottom right photo: the officer is platoon commander Leutnant Krienke, not company commander Oberleutnant Honstetter.

Page 108-109:

an uncropped version of the bottom photo on page 108 shows that the Fiat 665 NM Scudato armoured truck photographed at the Rupa junction had registration plate nr. WH 1611366, just one digit higher than the Fiat 665 NM truck of the photo on page 125 (see detail below), which belonged to **3. Kompanie/Panzer-Abteilung 208** (this company was based in Šapjane at the time the photos of page 108-109 were taken, just a couple of kilometres west of the Rupa junction). It is therefore likely that the Rupa armoured truck belonged to **Panzer-Einsatz-Kompanie 35**, later **3. Kompanie/Panzer-Abteilung 208** and it is probably the vehicle partially visible on the photo on page 125.



## Chapter 4

Page 113: the **Stab and Stabskompanie/Pz.Abt. 208** were based at the “Caserma del Fante” barracks in Via Duca d’Aosta street in Gorizia.

Page 114: Oberleutnant Honstetter left **Panzer-Abteilung 208** in early June, Hauptmann von Stülpnagel arrived to replace him towards the end of June (not in early July).

Page 114, footnote 86: Honstetter was Regiments-Adjutant in **Panzer-Regiment 35** from summer 1944 to early 1945. Promoted to Hauptmann, he moved to **Panzer-Regiment 39** of 17. Panzer-Division, where he initially led the Versorgungskompanie of II. Abteilung. From early February 1945 he was acting commander of **II. Abteilung/Panzer-Regiment 39**.

Page 114, footnote 82: read as follows (changes underlined):

*“The figures indicated as the authorised strength are perhaps to be understood as 6 Pz.Kpfw. III 5 cm KwK., plus 22 Pz.Kpfw. III and IV 7,5 cm KwK. L/24 (probably 14 Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. N with former 3. Pz.Sich.Kp., now 2. Kompanie, plus 6 Pz.Kpfw. III 5 cm KwK. and 8 Pz.Kpfw. IV 7,5 cm KwK. L/24 with former Pz.Sich.Kp. 35, now 3. Kompanie). It is however not clear why such figures were provided, which were different from those of the K.St.N. applicable to the two companies.”*

Page 115: that the six tanks collected by soldiers of **Panzer-Abteilung 208** near Florence in the second half of July 1944 were Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. N from **Pz.Rgt. “Hermann Göring”** is confirmed by an order to Pz.Div. “HG” dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 1944, intercepted by British intelligence and summarised in F.H. Hinsley e.a., *British Intelligence in the Second World War* (vol. 3, part. 2), page 332: the order instructed Pz.Div. “HG” to hand over six Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. N to **Panzer-Abteilung 208**.

Page 115: read “3. Zug (Ltn. Meyer) was renumbered as 1. Zug” instead of “2. Zug (Ltn. Meyer) was renumbered as 1. Zug and 3. Zug (Ltn. Scharnhusen) became 1. Zug”.

Pages 116 and 117, top photo: these Pz.Kpfw. IV photos were taken inside the “Caserma del Fante” barracks, located in Via Duca d’Aosta street, in Gorizia. Present-day comparative photos can be seen here: [http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow\\_pzabt208\\_4.htm](http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow_pzabt208_4.htm)  
Curiously, Pz.Kpfw. IV number II13 shows the typical modifications to the hull stowage (side rack for spare wheels, spare tracks on the hull rear) seen on tanks from **9. Kp./Pz.Rgt. 39** of 17. Pz.Div. in 1941, while the turret rear basket is of the unique type used by tanks of **Pz.Rgt. 27** of 19. Pz.Div. in 1941.

Page 117, top photo: for the second Pz.Kpfw. IV, the spaced armour in front of the driver’s position is not the standard model mounted on the Ausf. D, but the type associated with the turret Vorpanzer. A photograph exists that confirms that **Pz.Rgt. 26** had a Pz.Kpfw. IV Ausf. D with Vorpanzer in Italy in September 1943. Regarding the third Pz.Kpfw. IV in the photo: although not immediately recognizable, the rounded shape of the external gun shield and the flap cover for the gunner vision port point towards this being an Ausf. A; as unlikely as this may seem, a photograph exists that confirms that **Pz.Rgt. 26** had a Pz.Kpfw. IV Ausf. A in Italy in September 1943.

Page 121, bottom photo: the Pz.Kpfw. III on the right with the partially visible turret number (23...) is probably number 232; note it carries a very large box on the hull rear, similar to the one visible on the tank number 232 pictured on the bottom photo on page 126.

Page 123, bottom right photo: the officer first on the left is Leutnant Krienke, not Oberleutnant Honstetter. This photo and the one on the next page were taken in Mossa, on the Gorizia – Udine road, not in Lucinico; a present-day photo can be seen here: [http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow\\_pzabt208\\_4.htm](http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow_pzabt208_4.htm)

Page 126, middle and bottom photo, and page 127, top photo: these photos were taken on the Gorizia – Ajdovščina road, near the village of Osek, possibly during the anti-partisan action of 21<sup>st</sup> May 1944 mentioned in the main text. Present-day comparative photos can be seen here: [http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow\\_pzabt208\\_4.htm](http://www.panzer-ozak.it/thenandnow_pzabt208_4.htm)

Page 134: the Pz.Kpfw. IV is an Ausf. E, not an Ausf. D.

Page 135, top photo: in front of the column is the “Spiess” Schlincke, not Werkmeister Bamann.

Page 138: the Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. N photographed in the workshop of **Panzer-Abteilung 208** had belonged to **Pz.Rgt. "Hermann Göring"** as shown by the white circle – the "HG" divisional insignia – painted on the fender (see enlarged photo below). Photos of a tank of the same type carrying the same insignia, destroyed near Giuncarico (Grosseto, Tuscany) in June 1944, are published in *Panzerwrecks* nr. 9, pp. 47-51.



Page 139, bottom left photo: the Pz.Kpfw. IV is an Ausf. F, not an Ausf. E (as correctly identified in the top photo on the same page).

Page 142, top photo: the men of the honour guard belonged to the Werkstattzug.

Page 142, bottom photo: this photo was taken at the brick-making plant located between Cormons and Capriva, just south of the Udine – Gorizia road; **2. Kompanie/Panzer-Abteilung 208** had an outpost there for some time in autumn 1944.

## Chapter 5

Page 144: the first two trains transporting **Panzer-Abteilung 208** that arrived in Hungary on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1944 were unloaded near Felsőgalla, south-east of Tata.<sup>4</sup>

Page 144: the elements of **Panzer-Abteilung 208** engaged on the Danube abandoned Dunaalmas in the night between 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December 1944, in order not to be cut off by Soviet forces that by-passed the village from the south and advanced to the river, taking up new positions just west of it.

This retreat prompted Armee-Gruppe Balck (= 6. Armee) to request a report on the episode, making reference to an "unbesetzter Panzer" (tank without crew – abandoned?).<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, the requested report or any other documents that could clarify these circumstances have not been found.

Page 145: **Panzerlage Panzer-Abteilung 208** on 30/12/1944:<sup>6</sup>

|             | Ready | In short-term repair | In long-term repair | Total | Total losses since 25/12/44 | Total          |
|-------------|-------|----------------------|---------------------|-------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Kompanie | 7     | -                    | 3                   | 10    | 4                           | 14 (Pz. IV/70) |
| 2. Kompanie | 10    | 2                    | 2                   | 14    | 2                           | 16* (Pz. IV)   |
| 3. Kompanie | 12    | 2                    | -                   | 14    | -                           | 14 (Pz. IV)    |
| Total       | 29    | 4                    | 5                   | 38    | 6                           | 44**           |

\* the company had originally 14 tanks; the figure of 16 probably includes 2 or 3 Pz.Befw. IV of the Stabskp.

\*\* it is not clear why the total is different from the 45 tanks received by the Abteilung

<sup>4</sup> <http://wwii.germandocsinrussia.org/de/nodes/7072-akte-408-unterlagen-der-ia-abteilung-des-aok-6-operationsakten-akte-c-bd-45-22-31-12-1944-befehle-und-weisungen-an-die-der-armeegruppe-fretter-pico-balck-unterstellten-gruppierungen-und-verb-nde-fernschreiben-mitgeh-rte-funkspr-che-u-a#page/92/mode/inspect/zoom/4>

<sup>5</sup> <http://wwii.germandocsinrussia.org/de/nodes/7074-akte-410-unterlagen-der-ia-abteilung-des-aok-6-operationsakten-akte-c-bd-46-1-18-1-1945-befehle-und-weisungen-an-die-der-armeegruppe-balck-unterstellten-gruppierungen-und-verb-nde-fernschreiben-mitgeh-rte-funkspr-che-merkbl-tter#page/35/mode/inspect/zoom/5>

<sup>6</sup> <https://wwii.germandocsinrussia.org/de/nodes/7046-akte-382-unterlagen-der-ia-abteilung-des-aok-6-ktb-akte-a-bd-29-t-gliche-meldungen-5-31-12-1944-lagemeldungen-des-ia-und-ic-der-armeegruppe-fretter-pico-sowie-der-unterstellten-korps-meldungen-zur-pak-und-panzerlage-u-a#page/543/mode/inspect/zoom/4>

It results from this table that 1. Kompanie had 3 more total losses between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December 1944 in addition to the already mentioned single Pz.Kpfw. IV/70 (A) lost east of Tata on 28<sup>th</sup> December. The table also shows that most tanks of 2. Kompanie hit east of Tata on 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> December were not total losses.

Page 156, footnote 141: read *"This battalion, formed in Fallingbostal, was assigned in early April 1945 to Panzer-Division "Clausewitz" ..."* instead of *"This battalion, formed in Fallingbostal in early April 1945, was assigned to Panzer-Division "Clausewitz" ..."*.

Page 156, footnote 142: as from 26<sup>th</sup> April 1945 Major Walter Schwerdtner was given command of **Pz.Rgt. "Feldherrnhalle"** ("mit Führung des Pz.Rgt. FHH 1 beauftragt"; NARA, T78 R937), but no further details are known.

Page 157: it is confirmed that the Pz.Werkstattkompanie of **Pz.Rgt. "Feldherrnhalle"** existed at mid-March 1945, when it was led by Oberleutnant Josef Emunds (BA-MA, RW 59/1571, sheet 249).

Page 158: read *"... the 356. Infanterie-Division which had recently arrived from Italy ..."* instead of *"... the 356. Infanterie-Division which had recently arrived in Italy ..."*.

Page 160, map: around 20<sup>th</sup> March 1945 the Abteilung set out from Galanta, not from Sala; also, the stretch to Komarom was covered by train, not by road march.

Page 161, footnote 172: read *"Brno"* instead of *"Bruno"*.

### Background and Documents sections

Page 170: the drawing of the charging knight insignia is also taken from the war diary of **3. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie / 2. Kompanie/Pz.Abt. 208**.

This is the insignia of 3. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie as used on vehicles:



Page 171: under **Panzer-Einsatz-Kompanie 35**, Lt. Krienke and Lt. Sperling should be inverted. Under **3. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie**, Lt. Meyer and Lt. Scharnusen should be inverted.

Page 172: under **2. Kompanie/Pz.Abt. 208**, Lt. Meyer and Lt. Scharnusen should be inverted. Also, 3. Zug was renumbered 1. Zug, while 2. Zug was not renumbered.

Under **3. Kompanie/Pz.Abt. 208**, Lt. Krienke and Lt. Sperling should be inverted. Also, for Lt. Krienke, *"(only from October 1944?)"* should be deleted. Lt. Walter Sperling left the Abteilung in early October 1944 to go to Pz.Jg.E.u.A.Abt. 13 (BA-MA, RW 59/1272); it is not known who took over his Zug.

Pages 173-174: a complete **Stellenbesetzung of Panzer-Abteilung 208** for 15<sup>th</sup> February 1945 has been found (BA-MA, RW 59/1401, sheet 201-203), leading to the following corrections / integrations:

- Stabskompanie: the position of Lt. Lehmann-Halens was Abt.Kraftfahrstoffizier (technical officer)
- 2. Kompanie: 1. Zug was led by Lt. Josef [Sepp] Mair
- 3. Kompanie: 1. Zug was led by Lt. Maier [arrived at the Abteilung in early February], 2. Zug by Lt. Krienke
- Versorgungskompanie: Kp.Chef was Obltn. von der Schulenburg, Obltn. Wedemeyer was Ordonnanzoffizier

- Panzer-Werkstattzug: Technischer Inspekteur (k) d.B. Karl Wahl is to be added with the position of Mitarbeiter (collaborator) to Lt. Hammer.

Page 178: under “Nachrichtenzug” add the following footnote:

*“As to the three Pz.Befw., the generally used Pz.Befw. III were replaced in this phase for Panzer-Abteilung 208 by two Pz.Kpfw. IV (kurz) converted to command tanks (see page 111).”*

Page 178: under “Fliegerabwehrzug” add the following footnote:

*“The anti-aircraft platoon was not authorized for Panzer-Abteilung 208 until January 1945.”*

Page 180: under “Fliegerabwehrzug” add the following footnote:

*“The anti-aircraft platoon was only authorized for Panzer-Abteilung 208 in January 1945; it was equipped with three towed 2 cm Flakvierling 38 instead of three Sd.Kfz. 7/1 (see page 150).”*

Page 191: in the table “Panzer-Abteilung 208 – 1945”, the sources are: BA-MA, RH 10/352 for the data on 15.1.1945; BA-MA, RH 10/218 for the remaining data.

Page 198: the place of death of Gefr. Hans Herzog (who died on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1944) was Emmendingen (DE).

Page 199: after the line:

| Unit           | Date      | Place | Wounded | Fallen / deceased | Name of the fallen | Notes                              |
|----------------|-----------|-------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Stabs-Kompanie | 3.12.1944 | Linz  | 1       |                   |                    | Wounded by aircraft bomb splinters |

the following lines are missing and should be inserted:

| Panzer-Abteilung 208 |            | Hungary – Slovakia, December 1944 – February 1945 |   |  |  |  |
|----------------------|------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| Stabs-Kp.            | 27.12.1944 | Dunaalmaas  | 1 |  |  |  |

Pages 201-205: the original German text of Karl Volleth’s memories of his time in **3. Kp./Pz.Rgt. 35, Pz.Einsatz-Kp. 35, 3. Kp./Pz.Abt. 208** and **3. Kp./Pz.Rgt. “Feldherrnhalle”** is also available on this webpage: <https://panzernachrichten.blogspot.com/> (note: there are a number of inaccuracies in his recollections, which to the extent possible are corrected in the book’s footnotes).

Page 201: Ganusovka is today’s Hanusivka, between Starobilsk and Rossosh; Osinowo is Osynove, north of Starobilsk; St. Bjelsk is Starobilsk; Mostko is Mistky, west of Starobilsk, Bologorowka is probably Bilohorivka, on the road between Lysychansk and Bakhmut.

Page 201, footnote 3: read *“Other data (from the WAST) show however that...”* instead of *“From data in the personal file of Honstetter, it shows ...”* (Honstetter’s personal file has not been found).

Page 203, footnote 20: replace by *“Here Volleth’s narration is not accurate: Oberleutnant Wedemeyer led the company for a few weeks during June, after Oberleutnant Honstetter had left the unit. The officer (slightly) wounded by the mine (the episode happened on 26<sup>th</sup> November, not on 27<sup>th</sup> according to data from the Deutsche Dienststelle (WAST)) was Hauptmann Jürgen von Stülpnagel, the new company commander from July 1944. The dead driver was Stabsgefreiter Andreas Bötsch.”*

Page 204: Uffz. H. Hummel is reported as wounded on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1945 4 km south-east of Nemet Szögyen (now Svodin, in Slovakia), near Hill 190 (Deutsche Dienststelle (WAST)).

Page 208: Gaya is Kyjov, south-east of Brno, in Moravia.

Page 210: Hill 311 is probably just north of Rosice (German name: Rossitz), a town a few km west of Brno (see map on page 13 of this document).

Page 200: to be added to the list of losses are:

- Unteroffizier Johann Reichert, fallen on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1945 near Auspitz (now Hustopeče, south of Brno),
- Franz Marchl, fallen on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1945 near Gurein (now Kuřim, just north of Brno; the town was in the rear area on that day, as the Germans had not yet lost Brno),

both belonging to **1. Kompanie / Pz.Rgt. "Feldherrnhalle"** (previously **1. Kp./Pz.Abt. 208**).

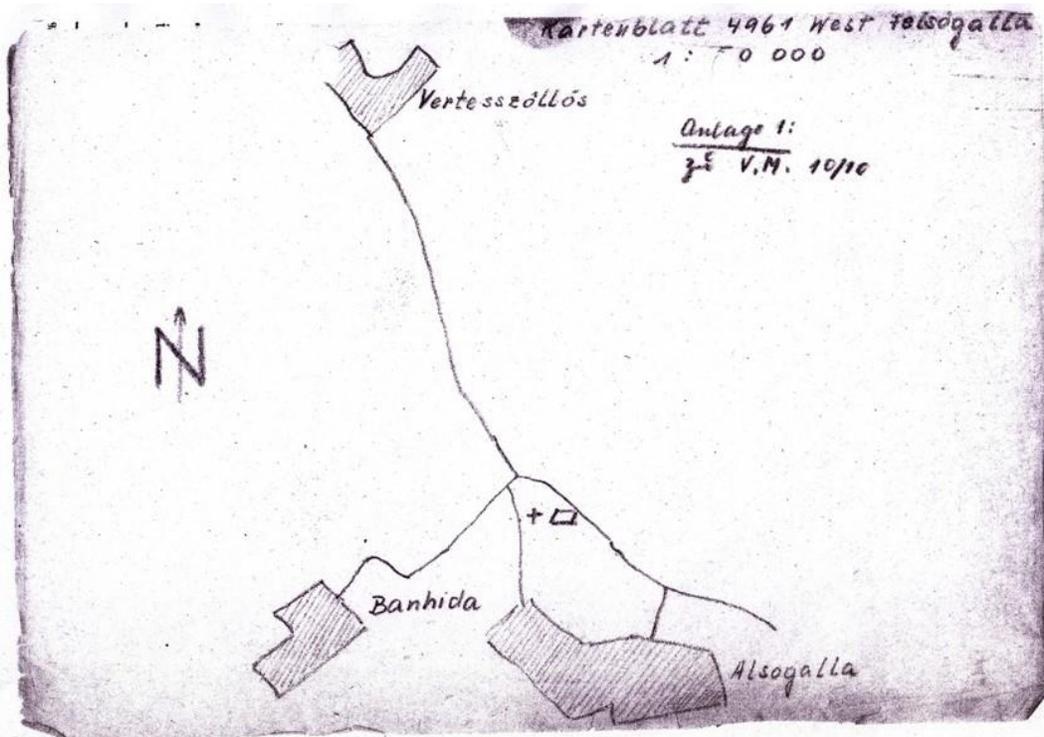
Reproduced here are their death notices.



A photo of Unteroffizier Adolf Gross from **1. Kompanie/Pz.Abt. 208**, and his death notice:



Pages 198-200: Original drawing showing the place of death of Obergefreiter Josef Reichert, from **3. Kompanie/Pz.Abt. 208**, fallen on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1945 between Banhida and Alsogalla. His Pz.Kpfw. IV was hit by an anti-tank gun ("Pakvolltreffer") and burned out. (Deutsche Dienststelle (WAST))

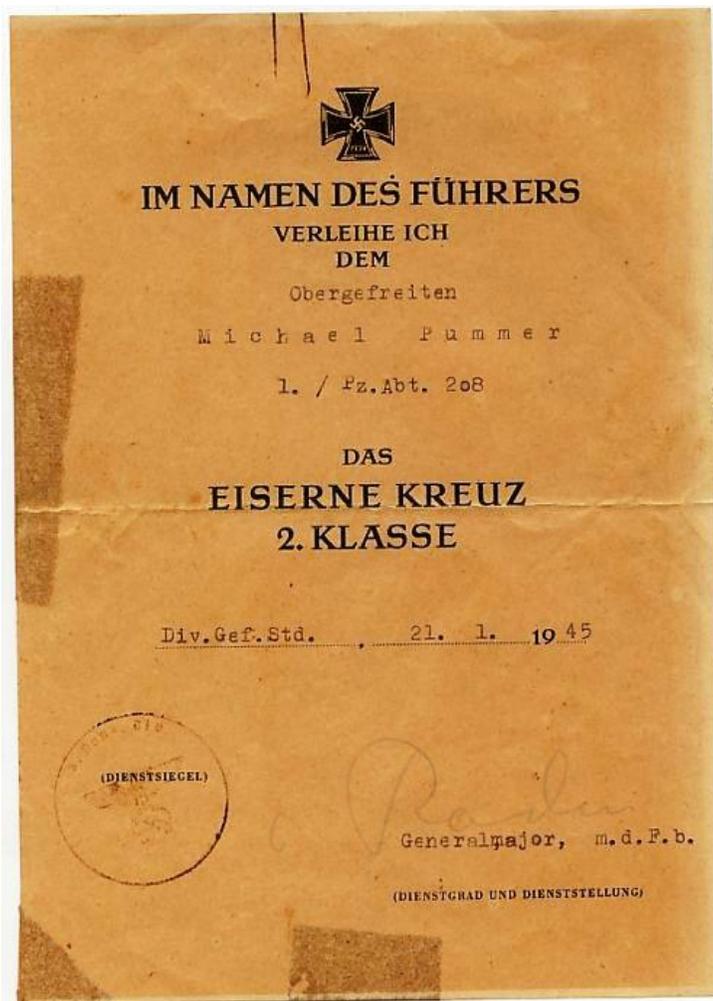


A set of award documents belonging to Gefreiter / Obergefreiter Michael Pummer, who was a member of **10. Kompanie/Panzer-Regiment 21**, later of **2. Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanie** and finally of **1. Kompanie/Panzer-Abteilung 208**, is available on this discussion forum:

<http://www.dokumentenforum.de/thread.php?threadid=417>

The Panzerkampfabzeichen award document is signed by Hauptmann Bruno Kahl, commander of **III. Abteilung/Panzer-Regiment 21** (he later commanded **Sturm-Panzer-Abteilung 216** - with which he was awarded the Ritterkreuz - and finally **Panzer-Regiment "Grossdeutschland"**).

The EK II award document (right) is signed by Generalmajor von Roden, who at the beginning of 1945 was temporary commander of 8. Panzer-Division. **Panzer-Abteilung 208** was subordinated to the division in early January 1945 during the defense of Komarom, on the Danube River.

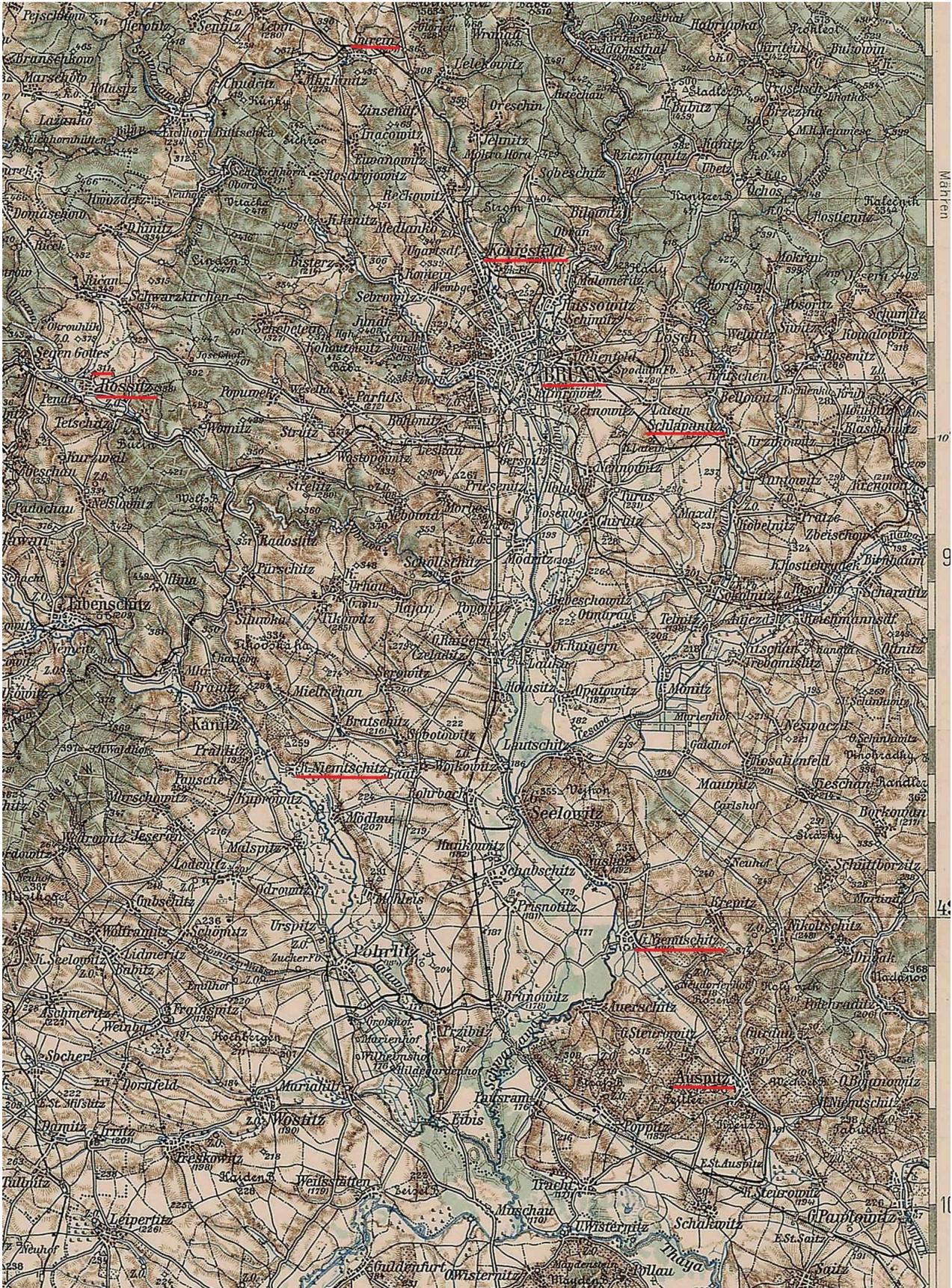


### Photos of Panzer-Regiment "Feldherrnhalle" in Slovakia and Moravia

Photos probably or possibly showing tanks of **Pz.Rgt. "Feldherrnhalle"** in Slovakia and Moravia can be found in the following books:

- 1) Marek Solár - Petr Doležal - Vladimír Kos, *AFV Photo Album*, vol. 1-3 (Canfora Publ., 2011-2017):
  - most probably from **Pz.Rgt. "Feldherrnhalle"**:
    - vol. 3, p. 27 bottom: Panther in Sobotište (Slovakia, north of Senica, towards Hodonin)
    - vol. 3, pp. 30-33: Panther and Pz.Kpfw. IV in Starovičky (south of Hustopeče)
    - vol. 3, pp. 46-49: Panther in Šlapanice (east of Brno)
  - possibly from **Pz.Rgt. "Feldherrnhalle"**:
    - vol. 1, p. 15 bottom: Panther in Josefov (west of Hodonin)
    - vol. 3, p. 67: Panther in Veselí nad Lužnicí (between Tabor and České Budějovice)
    - vol. 3, p. 117: Panther and Pz.Kpfw. IV in České Budějovice
    - vol. 1, p. 164: Pz.Kpfw. IV in České Budějovice (same tank as in vol. 3, p. 117)
- 2) Tomáš Jakl, *Květnové vítězství* (Mlada fronta, 2015), p. 49: Pz.Kpfw. IV between Podoli and Šlapanice (east of Brno), probably from **Pz.Rgt. "Feldherrnhalle"**
- 3) A.Tomzov - A.Nechaev - V.Ukhov - S.Malina, *Ostfront Panzers* n.1, pp. 90 and 94-95: photos of destroyed Pz.Kpfw. IV near Čelčice – Prostejov, probably from **Pz.Rgt. "Feldherrnhalle"**

A map of the Brno area from 1910 showing the German town names (underlined those mentioned in the book):



## Appendixes: Panzer-Abteilung „Adria“, Panzer-Abteilung 212, Pz.Einsatz-Kp. „Ligurien“

### Panzer-Abteilung „Adria“

Page 212: read “... *Podgrad and Šapjane, villages situated along the main Trieste – Rijeka road*” instead of “... *Podgrad and Šapjane, villages situated along the main Trieste – Rijeka and Rijeka – Postojna roads*”.

Pages 212-213: **Panzer-Zug “Adria” (behelfsmässig)** was also indicated as **Streckenschutzzug “Adria”** (train for the protection of railway lines).

### Panzer-Abteilung 212

Pages 215-220: Andreas Maurer was transferred to **Panzer-Abteilung 212** in early 1945; on page 47-52 of his memories (*Erinnerungen*, Böhlau, Vienna, 2009, preview available under <https://www.google.be/books/edition/Erinnerungen/F9aTfdNr3poC?hl=en&gbpv=0> ) he gives some interesting information on the unit and describes the final days of the war in the Casarsa – San Vito al Tagliamento area, where he was taken prisoner on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1945.

Page 215: **2. Kompanie/Panzer-Abteilung 212** was based in Mossa in February 1945

Page 216: MTW most probably means *Mannschaftstransportwagen* (personnel carrier), not *Munitionstransportwagen* (ammunition carrier); it may have been the Fiat 665 NM Scudato armoured truck used already by **Panzer-Abteilung 208**.

Pages 215-216: signing the Meldungen was Hauptmann Rudolf Gandert, who was given command over **Panzer-Abteilung 212** as from 5<sup>th</sup> February 1945 (“mit Führung H.Pz.Abt. 212 beauftragt”; NARA, T78 R937). He had been with the unit on Crete and was then transferred to the mainland in late 1944.

Page 216: the subordination of **Panzer-Abteilung 212** to LXXIII. Armee-Korps z.b.V. is linked to the fact that on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1945 – due to the Balkan front approaching the OZAK south-eastern border – the OZAK region was divided in two parts (only as far as the military authority was concerned): the part east of the Isonzo river remained under the LXXXVII. Armee-Korps z.b.V., which passed under the authority of Heeresgruppe E (OB Südost) (in charge of the Balkans), while the part west of the river remained under Heeresgruppe C (OB Südwest) (in charge of the Italian front) and was assigned to the LXXIII. Armee-Korps z.b.V. (which was already responsible for defending the Venetian coast).

The list of Heeresgruppe in Italy mentioned in the book, dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 1945, which already listed **Panzer-Abteilung 212** under the LXXIII. Armee-Korps z.b.V., probably anticipated the new situation by a few days.

It is not known if **Panzer-Abteilung 212** moved to a new area (for instance, closer to the crumbling Italian front) in mid-April 1945, but that seems unlikely and there are no indications that it did (as far as known, British units first encountered the Abteilung’s tanks near the Tagliamento river on 30<sup>th</sup> April).

The map dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 1945 mentioned and reproduced in the book, which appears to show the unit (indicated as **H.Pz.Abt. 212**) in the area near the Po River, probably indicated only its subordination to LXXIII. Armee-Korps z.b.V., not the area where it was actually stationed. UPDATE!

Pages 223-223: photos of some Pz.Kpfw. III of **Panzer-Abteilung 212** abandoned in Austria at the end of the war are published in *Panzerwrecks* nr. 18, p. 63, nr. 19, p. 41 and nr. 24, p. 25 (see <https://www.panzerwrecks.com/product-category/panzerwrecks-series/> ). At least the photo of *Panzerwrecks* nr. 19 was taken near Riegersdorf (a few km from the Italian border, between Arnoldstein and Villach), see <https://www.panzerwrecks.com/panzerwrecks-19-p41-location-update/> UPDATE!

A unique colour photo showing three Pz.Kpfw. III of **Panzer-Abteilung 212** abandoned in Austria at the end of the war is published in Daniele Guglielmi – Mario Pieri, *Panzer DNA*, Ammo Mig Jemenez, 2017, p. 113 (plus cover page; see <http://www.migjenez.com/en/english/1183-panzer-dna-english.html> ). The image – also taken in Riegersdorf – shows clearly the three-colour camouflage scheme and that the Balkenkreuz had a black centre and red outline.

Page 225, top photo: the truck is a French-produced Unic CD 3.

### **Panzer-Einsatz-Kompanie „Ligurien“**

Pages 228-231: the photos of the vehicle dump with the tanks of **Panzer-Einsatz-Kompanie „Ligurien“** were taken on the Po river shores just north of the city of Piacenza (the large building visible in the background on some of the photos is the historical Palazzo Farnese building in the city center). Identification courtesy of the FB group “WW2 2 Korpus Polski”, see <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=7530294720329663&set=pcb.10158833370164601>

Page 228: a new photo of the Bergepanzer III of 34. Infanterie-Division can be found in the book of Lukas Friedli *Repairing the Panzers*, Panzerwrecks Publ., vol. 1, p. 244 (see <http://www.panzerwrecks.com/product/repairing-the-panzers-vol-1/>).

Page 229, top photo: the Pz.Kpfw. IV in the foreground is an Ausf. F, not an Ausf. E (note the split turret side hatch); this is probably the tank previously used by Lt. Hirschfelder in **1. Kompanie/Pz.Abt. 208**, minus its rear stowage boxes – see the peculiar box on the front right mudguard, which is still in place. The second tank is most probably the modernised Ausf. E, previously used by the company commander of **1. Kompanie/Pz.Abt. 208** (the “Chefpanzer” of Obltn. Müller), minus its rear stowage box.

### **Observations on the book “Days of Battle” by Norbert Szamveber, Helion & Co, 2013**

The book “Days of Battle” by Norbert Szamveber mentions **Panzer-Abteilung 208** several times during the description of the battles north of the Danube in January-February 1945.

On one occasion there is an inaccuracy that should be corrected: the same episode – the failed attack east of Svodin (Nemet Szögyen) towards Kamenin (Kemend) and the Hron (Gran) river – is recounted twice on different dates, the first time on page 215 under the correct date of 19<sup>th</sup> February 1945, and then again on page 218 under 20<sup>th</sup> February 1945.

The source given for the first description is the book *The Panzer-Sicherungs-Kompanien and Panzer-Abteilung 208 – I. / Panzer-Regiment “Feldherrnhalle”*, for the second one the source used is Karl Volleth’s memories; the misunderstanding probably stems from the fact that Volleth wrote “On 19<sup>th</sup> February a night attack is ordered”, which probably led Szamveber to date the episode on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1945, but as mentioned above the correct date of the attack was 19<sup>th</sup> February 1945.