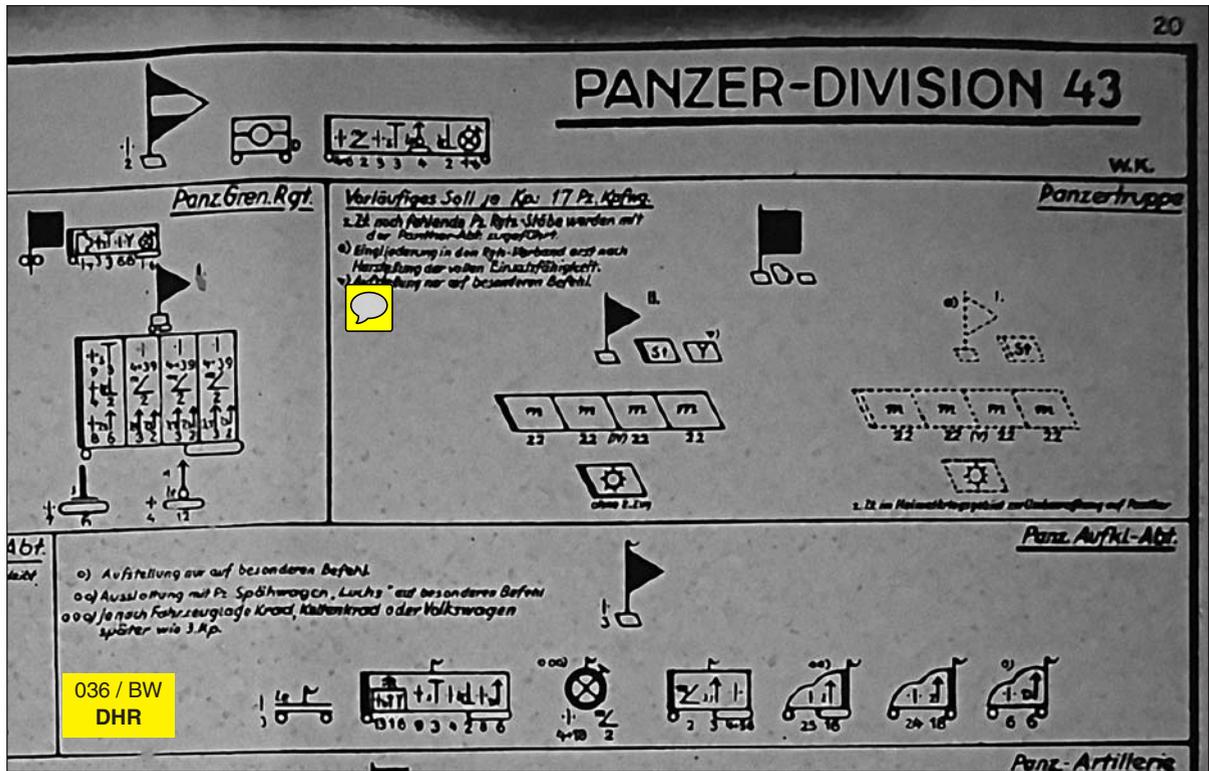


tion of the virtually all of the elements partially or completely destroyed; he also order a limited offensive for the East in 1943. The situation was partially alleviated by the declaration of total war on 13 January 1943, which served to free up non-essential personnel on the home front and increase the production of weapons, vehicles and equipment.

By the end of 1943, the *Organizations-Abteilung* initiated plans to standardize all the division-level combat forces within the army, thus leading to the *Infanterie-Division neuer Art* (infantry division–new type) at the end of 1943, as well as similar directives

for the streamlining of the mechanized infantry and armored divisions as *Panzergranadier-Division 43* and *Panzer-Division 43*. Within the infantry divisions, the reconnaissance elements reemerged under the designation of *Füsilier-Bataillon*, albeit without any armored reconnaissance assets authorized. The *Krad-schützen-Bataillone* were redesignated within the *Panzergranadier-* and *Panzer-Divisionen* as *Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilungen*, with corresponding organizational changes, which will be discussed in detail in the following sections.



Organizational charts for the “standard” armored and mechanized divisions that were introduced in 1943. While great strides were made in that respect, many formations still did not adhere to the new models or were only able to implement them incrementally. This resulted from a number of factors, chief among them the inability of Germany’s industry to produce sufficient arms and equipment for its forces, the wide variety in the fielding of equipment, and the increasingly chaotic situation at the front. The larger image shows *Panzer-Division 43*, which maintained an armored reconnaissance battalion of four line companies—two scout and two reconnaissance—and a heavy company.

033 / BW
DHRAbschriftAnlage zu GenStAb/Org.Abt.(II) Nr.3047/43
vom 24. März 1943 41389Umbenennung der Radf.-Abt. und Krad-Schütz.Btl.

- 1.) Alle Radf.Abt. - nicht Radf.Rgt. - erhalten ohne Rücksicht auf ihre Zusammensetzung die Bezeichnung Aufklärungs-Abteilung (Aufkl.Abt.).
- 2.) Sämtliche Radf.Schw., auch die der Schnellen Abteilungen, erhalten die Bezeichnung Aufklärungs-Schwadron (Aufkl.Schw.).
Dienstgradbezeichnung: Reiter, Oberreiter.
- 3.) Die Reit.Schw. behalten die Bezeichnung Reiter-Schwadron (Reit.Schw.).
bei. Dienstgradbezeichnung: Reiter, Oberreiter.
- 4.) Die schw. Schw. behalten die Bezeichnung schwere Schwadron (schw.Schw.).
bei. Dienstgradbezeichnung: Reiter, Oberreiter.
- 5.) Die Krad.Schütz.Btle. der Panz.Div., leichten Afrika-Divisionen und Infanterie-Divisionen (mot), sowie die Aufklärungsabteilung der 22. Infanterie-Division erhalten, ohne Rücksicht auf ihre Zusammensetzung, die Bezeichnung Panzer-Aufklärungsabteilung (Panz.Aufkl.Abt.).
- 6.) a) Die Panz.Sp.Kpn. verschiedener Art behalten ihre Bezeichnung Panzerspähkompanie (Panz.Sp.Kp.)
bei.
- b) Die 1e.Schütz-Kp.(gp.) erhalten die Bezeichnung Panzer-Aufklärungskompanie (Panz.Aufkl.Kp.).
- c) Die Krad.Schütz.Kp. bzw. Schützen-Kp. auf Volkswagen erhalten die Bezeichnung Panzer-Aufklärungskompanie (Krad) bzw. (Volkswagen) (Panz.Aufkl.Kp.(Krad) bzw. (Volkswg.)).
- d) Die schweren Kompanien behalten die Bezeichnung schwere Kompanie (schw.Kp.)
bei und, soweit sie gepanzert sind, die Bezeichnung schwere Kompanie (gepanzert) (schw.Kp.(gp.)).
Dienstgradbezeichnung: Einheitlich Panzerschütze, Panzeroberschütze.
- 7.) Nummerierung:
 - a) Die ^{Pf}Aufkl.Abt. der Panz.Div. und 1e.Afrika Div. erhalten die Nr. ihrer Div. (z.B. 10.Panz.Div.: Panz.Aufkl.Abt.10).
 - a) Die Aufkl.Abt. behalten ihre bisherige Nummerierung.

- 2 -

Correspondence from the *Organizations-Abteilung* on 24 March 1943 dictated a wide-ranging number of changes in the way formations and units were designated in an effort to further streamline the force. The bicycle battalion and companies of the infantry divisions were uniformly redesignated as *Aufklärungs-Kompanien* or *-Abteilungen*. The horse cavalry retained the traditional designation for their company-size elements, *Schwadronen*. The *Krad*schützen battalions were universally redesignated as *Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilungen*. Those formations equipped with *Volkswagen* or motorcycles/*Kettenkräder* were to indicate that at the end of their official designation—e.g., *Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilung (Krad)*. The heavy companies continued to be referred to as *schwere Kompanien*, regardless of the type of battalion they served. In addition, the armored division reconnaissance battalions were to be assigned the number of their division, and the reconnaissance assets of the motorized infantry divisions were to have the number of their divisions, except that the number 100 would be added to it—e.g., *Panzeraufklärungs-Abteilung 129* belonged to the 29. *Panzergrenadier-Division*. It was further established that the branch-of-service color (*Waffenfarbe*) for *Aufklärungs-Abteilungen* would be golden yellow (*goldgelb*), while that of the *Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilungen* would be rose pink (*rosa*). While this had generally been followed in the past, there were enough deviations that necessitated a formal reminder.