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# Uniforms, Insignia, and Ephemera

## SETTING THE STAGE

As with the vehicles of the armored reconnaissance force, the subject of uniforms, insignia and ephemera has been covered in great detail elsewhere.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of this chapter is to show items that were unique to the force and to explain the somewhat confusing and frequently misunderstood nature of the various branch-of-service colors—*Waffenfarben*—that were employed at various times within the force: rose pink, golden yellow, meadow green, copper brown, and even white.

## UNIFORMS

In general, the uniforms of the armored reconnaissance force were no different from those of other branches of service and mirrored the usage found in the *schnelle Truppen* and *Panzertruppe* as a whole—i.e., the black, field-gray, and special-purpose *Panzer* uniforms were intended for the crewmembers of armored vehicles, while the remaining uniforms, both field and dress, were intended for all personnel, including armored vehicle crewmembers when not actively on an armored vehicle. Over time, the lines began to blur about who was authorized to wear the distinctive *Panzer*-style uniform items since they were considered to be both stylish and iconic of an elite force.<sup>2</sup> By war's end, the popular style was worn by any number of personnel who had no relationship to armored vehicles.

When wearing standard dress and field uniforms, there was no way of determining whether someone was from an armored reconnaissance unit, except through

This *Panzer* *Aufklärer* from *Aufklärungs-Abteilung 5 (mot)* of the *2. Panzer-Division* wear a first-pattern *Panzer* jacket and early beret/crash helmet with embroidered/metal cockade without national insignia, thus placing the image in the mid-1930s.