



Major Reconnaissance Formations

This chapter provides an overview of the major reconnaissance formation assigned to brigades and division formations of the German Army, the *Waffen-SS*, and the *Luftwaffe*. It is broken down numerically by major formation. Needless to say, the earliest and longest-serving divisions and brigades will receive the most treatment since documentary materials concerning the formations tends to become less detailed as the war progressed—partly because of lack of time or personnel to prepare the records that were so meticulously maintained in the early war years, partly because many daily logs for echelons below field army were partially or completely lost for the years 1943–45. As a result, data are sometimes needed from firsthand accounts or published unit histories, which frequently also suffer from the lack of solid documentary background material.

The capsule histories will attempt to capture, where possible, the designations and organizations of the major reconnaissance formations of the superior commands, the commanders,¹ the recipients of high decorations (while in the formation), any anomalies in structure, and specific notes for information that is not related elsewhere.

These armored cars belong to *SS-Standarte "Deutschland"* (stylized D on shoulder straps). Of interest here is the large tactical symbol for a heavy armored car painted on the turret of the *Sd.Kfz. 232 (Fu) (8 Rad)*. JIM HALEY