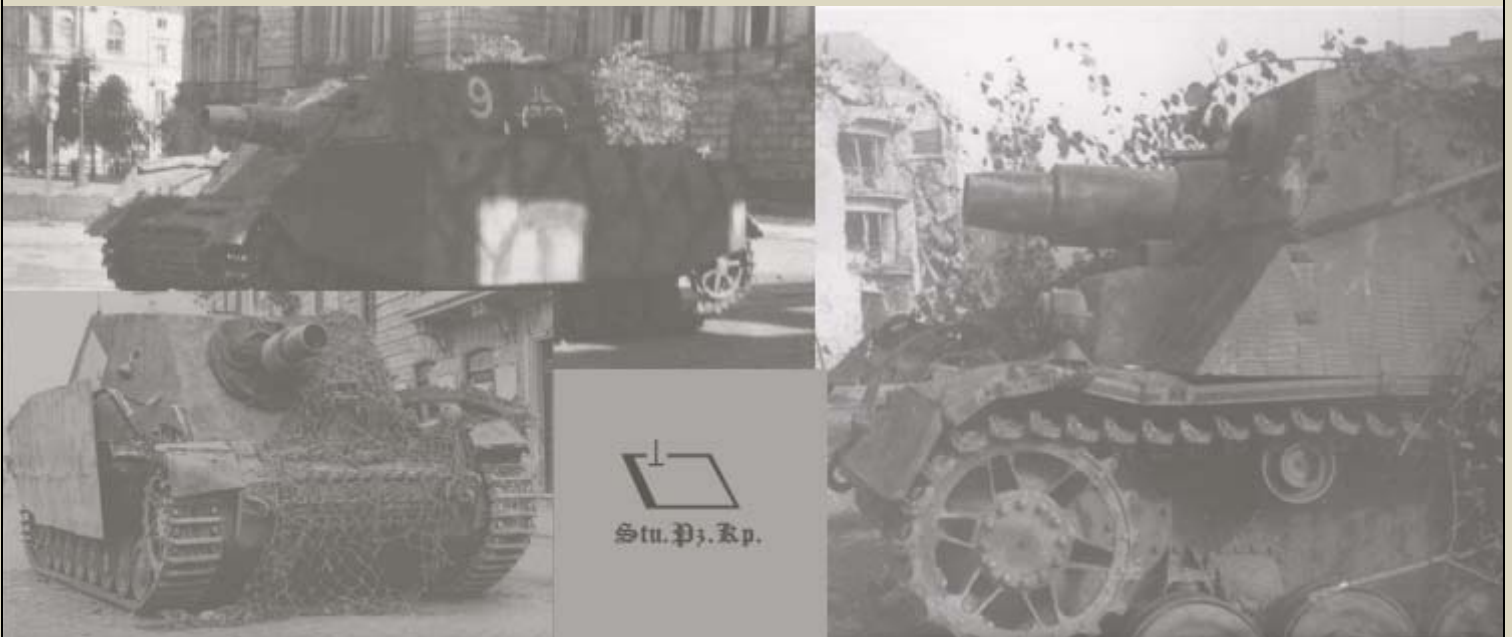


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## **STURMPANZER SPOTTERS GUIDE**

[Series 1]



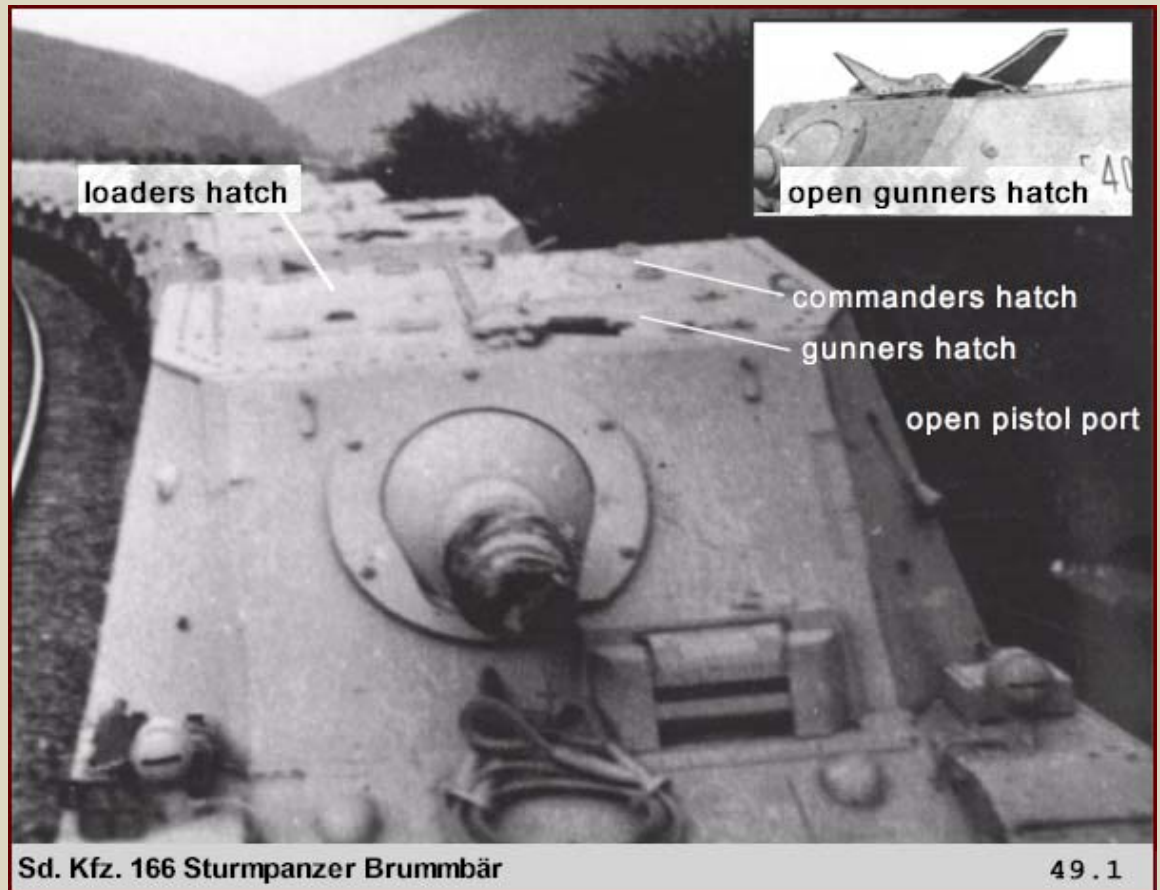
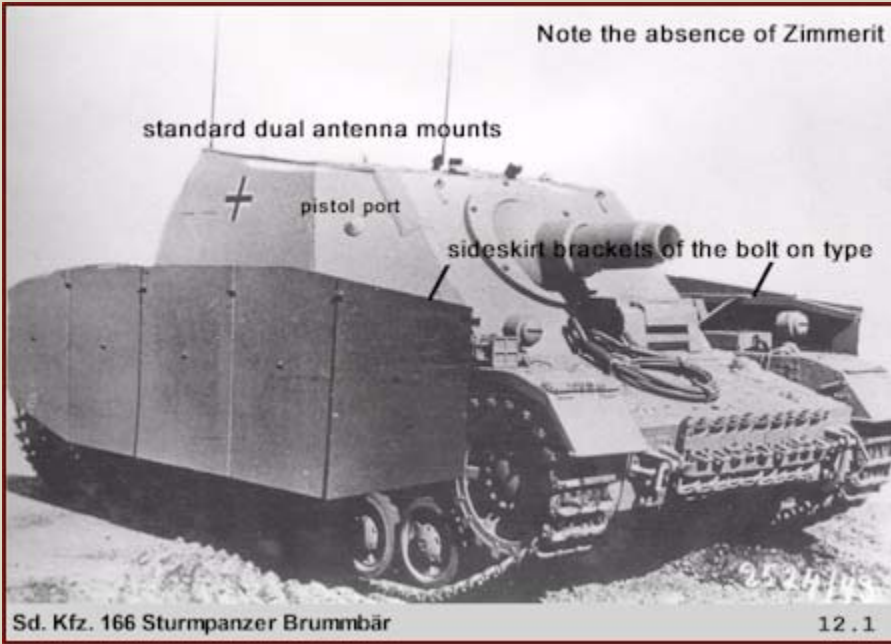
This is a publication of Sturmpanzer.com and is intended as an informative publication and research aid.

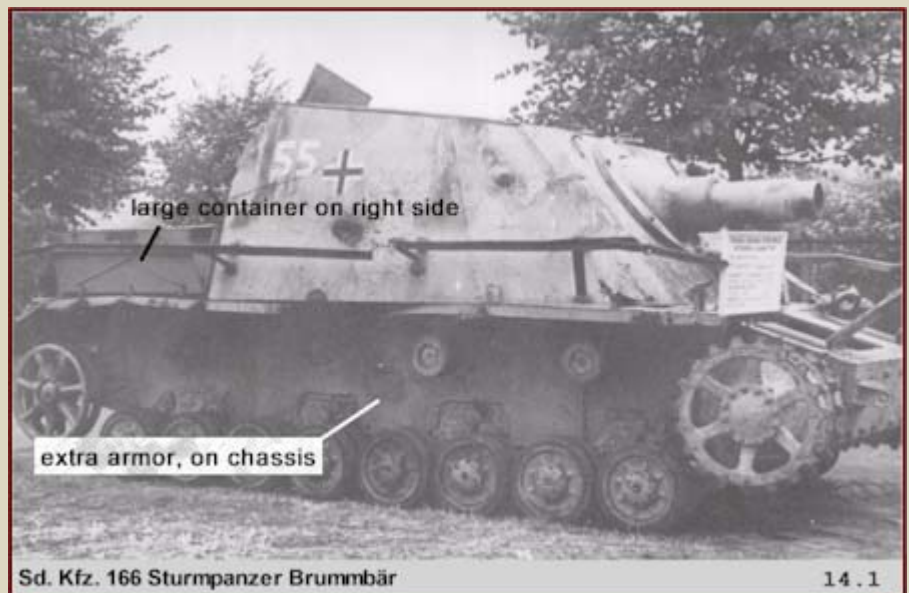
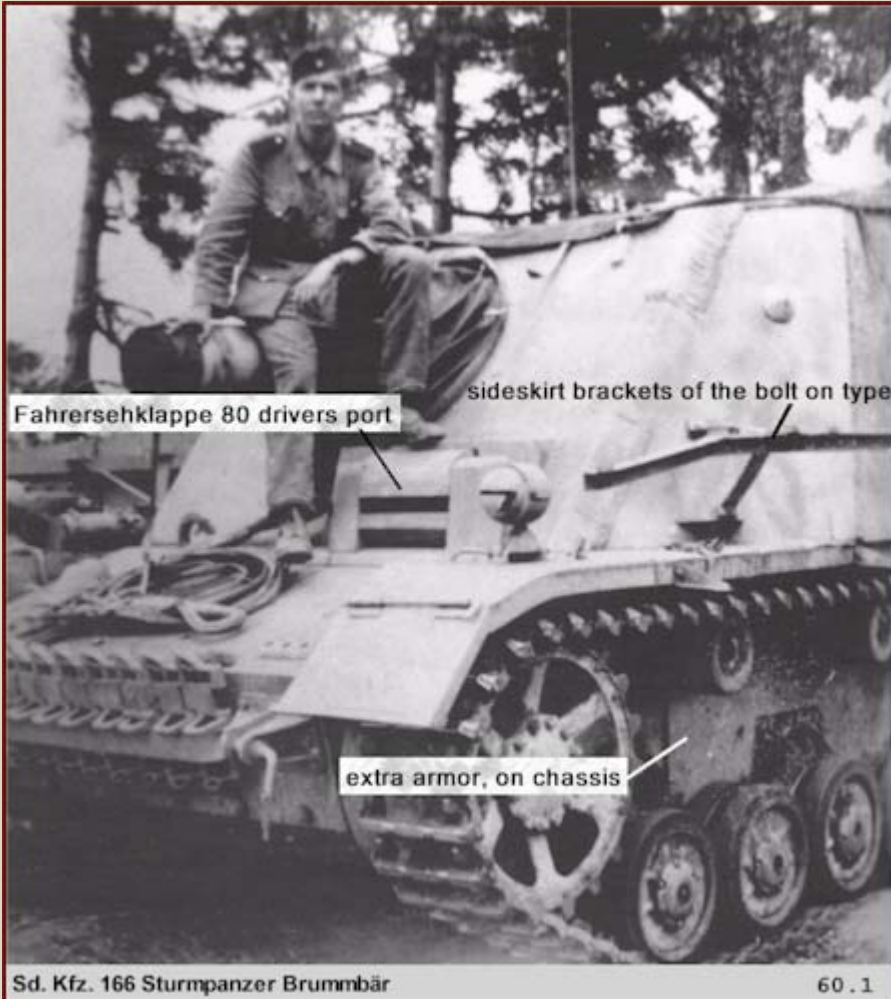
Sturmpanzer Abteilung 216 was the only unit to field this first series in its initial configuration so these Series 1 Sturmpanzers would only see action in Russia. The initial shipment of 20 Sturmpanzer were shipped in April 1943, with the balance of 39 being shipped in May 1943. A total of 59 Sturmpanzers were delivered, 45 being required to outfit a full battalion. They arrived in time to participate in Operation Citadel and were finally withdrawn in late 1943 to be sent to Vienna for overhaul. At this time about half of the Sturmpanzers remained. These overhauled series 1 would see service in both Italy and Western Europe.

The initial version of the Sturmpanzer was built on reconditioned and new Panzer IV E, F and G chassis. You will notice some of the specific features of these versions in photos of these early Sturmpanzers. Features such as long mufflers, added armor on the chassis sides and the cooling vents on the brake maintenance covers. Because of the Panzer IV versions used for the chassis all Series 1 would have rubber return rollers. These Sturmpanzers also had no Zimmerite and the early configuration of armored side skirts that bolted directly to the rail. The large container was located on the right side of the chassis, next to the engine compartment. It would be moved to the left side in subsequent series. The driver's port on the Series 1 was the Fahrersehklappe 80, like that used on the Tiger I. This however would not be unique to this series as it would carry over to the Series 2.

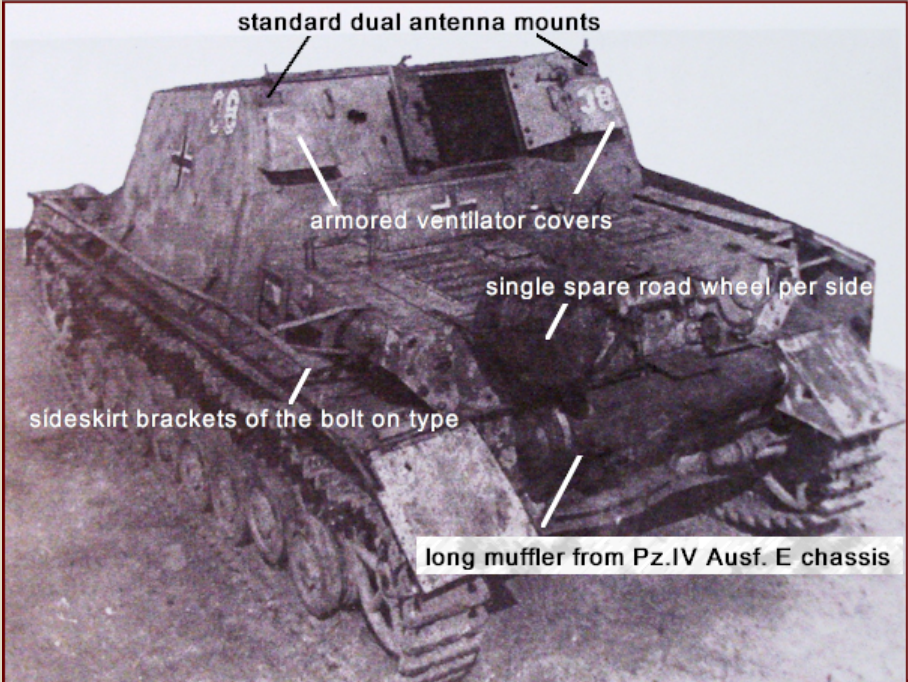
A distinctive feature of the series 1 was the vent covers on the back corners of the superstructure. The vents were used to ventilate the fighting compartment. Next to these vent covers were the antenna mounts. Oddly enough the series 1 seemed to have dual antenna mounts as standard. These would be replaced by single mounts in subsequent versions. This is excluding the befehlsturmpanzer [command] version which always had two. You will see in the accompanying photos a Series 1 Sturmpanzer command version. The spare road wheel storage was one per side on the rear of the vehicle.

The roof layout of the Series 1 would be unique to it as changes would occur in later versions. The distinctive feature of the roof layout was the gunner's hatch which would be removed in the later versions. The main gun on this version had a distinctively short armored sleeve around the barrel. Later versions would see this armored sleeve lengthened.









Achtung Panzer No.4

156.1



e.c.p.a.d.

160.1