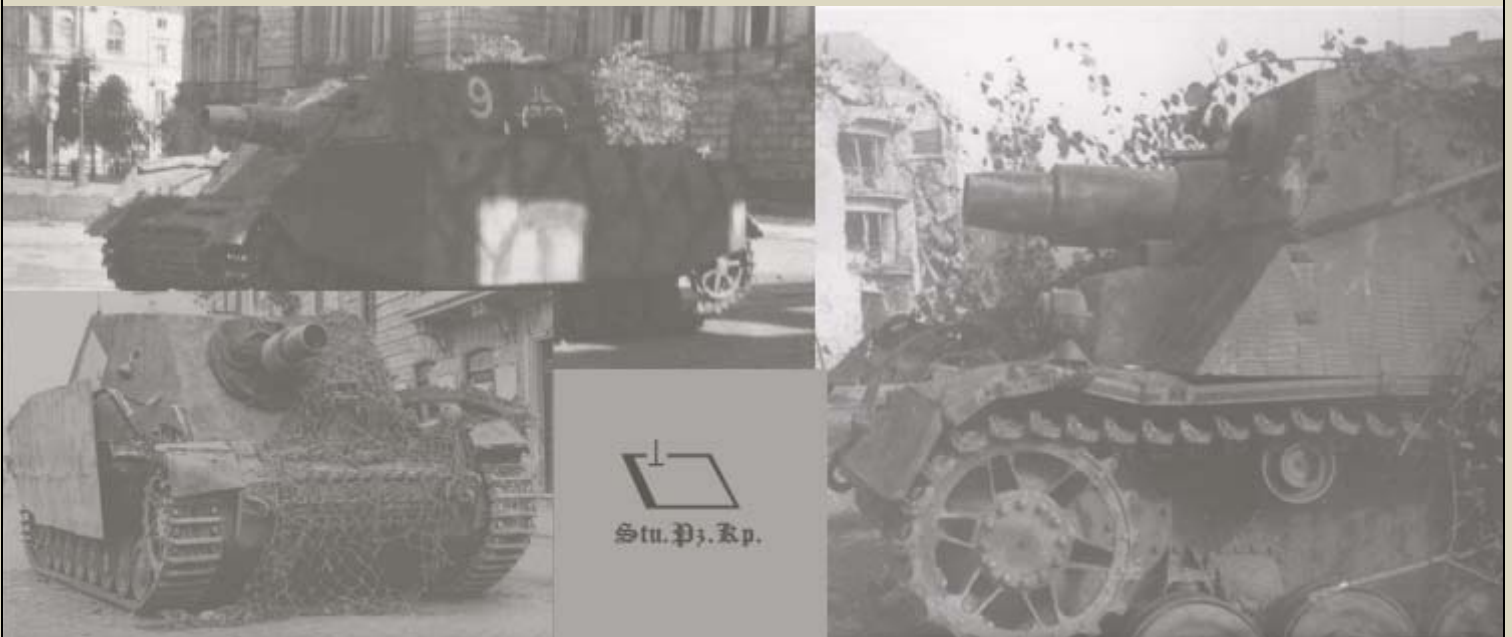


STURMPANZER SPOTTERS GUIDE

[Stu.Pz.Kp. z.b.V. 218]



In August of 1944 a Sturmpanzer company was formed with 10 Sturmpanzers and sent to Warsaw to help combat the uprising. With the aid of the accompanying photographs we will attempt to establish some characteristics of these Sturmpanzers.

Based on the date these Sturmpanzer were assigned these would have been produced about mid way through the series 4 production run. Typical for vehicles in this time frame is the likely hood of all steel wheels. All photos of Sturmpanzer from the unit where the wheels are visible seem to suggest all steel wheels. Early to mid Series 4 also had zimmerit. The zimmerit actually came in two types and the photos seem to indicate these have the fine zimmerit. In summarizing, these vehicles would have been Ausf. J models with steel return rollers, standard exhaust, a series 4 superstructure, fine zimmerit and all steel wheels. This is an educated guess, without photographs of each individual vehicle there is no way to know for sure what features each vehicle had.

Though the number photos available are fairly few we can establish that there were some tactical markings. From photographs of the company in Warsaw we can see that a large tactical number, in white, was applied to the side of the superstructure forward of center with a Balken Kreuz behind the number. If there was a 9 and 10 in photographs we can make the assumption that 1-8 were likely used at some point being that there were a total of 10 vehicles in the unit. You will notice that the number 9 and 10 are on opposite sides of the superstructure which hints at the possibility of having a number on both sides. No other markings seem to be visible. Photographs of these vehicles, post Warsaw, seem to show a new numbering scheme of black or dark color tactical number and cross. This possibly would have been early 1945 when the unit was in East Prussia.

*A special thanks to Martin Bryja of Warsaw for his help with identifying the location of these photographs and for providing the post war photos.



Figure 1.

Sturmpanzer near Marshall Pilsudski's Square.

This is a great photo that clearly shows the large tactical number in white along with the balken cruz. You can also clearly see the camouflage pattern on the side skirts. Close inspection also reveals all steel wheels.

This photo was possibly taken soon after arrival as all the side skirts are still in place.

Source: internet

Figure 2.

This is an expanded view of the same location. This is actually a prewar photo.

Source: Martin Bryja.





Figure 3.

Sturmpanzer in during the Warsaw uprising. You will notice the large tactical number 10 and steel wheels on the visible wheels. The zimmerit is not noticeable but it is obviously a series 4 model.

Source: internet

Figure 4.

Sturmpanzer in the streets of Warsaw. Not much can be made out from this photo other than it is a series 4.

Source: internet



Figure 5.

Sturmpanzers along with Sturmgeschütze and BIV's of Pz.Abt.302(Fkl) in Pilsudski Square. They are passing in front of a monument of a mounted Prince Jozef Poniatowski.

Source: Funklenkanzer: J.J. Fedorowicz (JJF)



Figure 6.

The monument was destroyed by the Germans after the uprising but a replica was made in Copenhagen, Denmark and presented to Poland by Denmark's King. The monument was moved from its original location in Pilsudski Square and can be seen here in front of the presidential palace.

Source: Internet



Figure 7.

Sturmpanzer and Sturmgeschütze in the western part of Warsaw, an area known as “Mokotow”.

Source: Funklenkpanzer: JJF

Figure 8. (below)

Now and Then photos of the tower on the left. The exact address of the modern photo is Ulica Pulawska 59 (59 Pulawska Street).

Source: Martin Bryja





Figure 9.

Sturmpanzer with fine Zimmerit

Source: Wydawnictwo Militaria

Figure 10.

Sturmpanzer with course Zimmerit.

Source: Ground Power #59

