

**Organizational History of
German Cavalry and Bicycle Formations
1939-1945**

1st Cavalry Division: Formed 10/25/39

- 1/,2/21st Reiter (Cavalry) Regiment
- 1/,2/22nd Reiter Regiment
- 2nd Reiter Artillery Battalion (3 batteries)

- 2/14/40 division reorganized, the 2/21st was disbanded and the three remaining regiments were brought to the same strength - 2 battalions, each of 4 squadrons, 9th Sqn was the SIG and the 10th Sqn was the HQ.

- 1st Reiter (Cavalry) Brigade (as of 4/2/41)
 - 1/,2/1st Reiter (Cavalry) Regiment
 - 1/,2/2nd Reiter Regiment
 - 1/,2/22nd Reiter Regiment
 - 1/,2/,3/,4/,5/21st Cavalry Regiment
- 1st Radio Battalion
- 1/,2/,3/1st Reiter (Horse) Artillery Regiment

- the 3/1st Reiter (Horse) Artillery Regiment was the heavy battalion and was organized in the Fall of 1940.

1st Cossack Division: formed on 8/4/43

Formed with the Pannwitz Reiterverband as its staff and the Platow Cossack Cavalry Regiment and the von Jungschulz Cossack Cavalry Regiment.

- 1st Don Cossack Reiter (Cavalry) Brigade
 - 1/,2/1st Don Cossack Reiter Regiment
 - 1/,2/2nd (Siberian) Cossack Regiment
 - 1/,2/3rd Sswodno Cossack Reiter Regiment
- Don Cossack Artillery Battalion
- 2/Kaukasus Cossack Reiter Brigade
 - 4th Kuban Cossack Reiter Regiment
 - 5th (Don) Cossack Reiter Regiment
 - 6th Terek Cossack Reiter Regiment
- Kuban Cossack Artillery Battalion
- 55th Division Support Troops

In 1944 it joined the Waffen SS and became the SS Cossack Cavalry Corps with the 1st and 2nd Cossack Cavalry Divisions.

2nd Cossack Cavalry Division: formed November 1944 from the 2nd Cossack Cavalry Brigade. It contained the:

- 3rd Kuban Cossack Reiter Regiment
- 5th Don Cossack Reiter Regiment
- 6th Terek Cossack Reiter Regiment
- 2nd Division (Einheiten) Service Units

3rd Cavalry Brigade: Formed in March 1944.

1/,2/,3/105th Cavalry Regiment Mitte
104th Light Artillery Battalion, Cavalry Regiment Mitte
177th Sturmgeschütz Battalion
3rd Heavy Cavalry Battalion, 3rd Cavalry Brigade
 1st Pioneer Company
 2nd Pioneer Company
 3rd Flugabwehr (AAA) Squadron
 Panzer Squadron
 Panzer Spähwagen (Armored Car) Squadron
 Cossack Battalion, 3rd Cavalry Brigade (3 sqns)

In September 1944 it was reorganized as follows:

1/,2/31st Reiter (Cavalry) Regiment
1/,2/32nd Reiter (Cavalry) Regiment
1/,2/,3/869th Artillery Regiment (formed from the 425th Heavy
 Artillery Battalion & the Artillery Battalion/Mitte
69th Panzer Reconnaissance Battalion
69th Cossack Battalion
69th Support Detachment
238th Signals Battalion

The 177th Sturmgeschütz Battalion became a brigade on 6/10 and on 8/9/44 became the 69th Panzer Jäger Battalion.

3rd Cavalry Division: Formed in February 1945 from the 3rd Cavalry Brigade. It was captured by Graz in May 1945 by the Americans.

4th Cavalry Brigade: Formed on 5/29/44 by Army Group Middle as the Süd und Nord Cavalry Regiment. It had:

1/,2/5th Reiter (Cavalry) Regiment
1/,2/41st Reiter (Cavalry) Regiment
1/,2/,3/870th Artillery Regiment
70th Panzer Reconnaissance Battalion
70th Support Troop
 387th Signals Battalion

A second artillery battalion was formed in 1945, creating an artillery regiment entitled 70th Cavalry Granatwerfer (Mortar) Regiment. A third battalion was later formed. The 189th Sturmgeschütz Battalion was assigned to the brigade as the 70th Panzerjäger Battalion.

4th Cavalry Division: Formed in February 1945 from the 4th Cavalry Brigade. In May 1945 it went into English captivity.

Nord Cavalry Regiment: Formed on 6/1/43 by Army Group North from the cavalry squadrons of the 32nd and 132nd Infantry Divisions and the cavalry of the other reconnaissance and bicycle units assigned as army troops. On 11/23/43 it formed a 9th company from the 1st Co., 112nd Infantry Regiment. It was restructured on 4/23/44 and an artillery battalion (2 btrys), two trench mortar squadrons, and a flak squadron were formed. In the summer of 1944 it

became the 5th Reiter Regiment.

Norwegian Bicycle Reconnaissance Brigade: Formed in April 1944 as the Norwegian Bicycle Reconnaissance Regiment. It had two battalions, each with four companies. The battalions were formed as follows: 1st from the 95th Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Mountain Division, the 2nd from the 233rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 196th Division. In July 1944 it was renamed the Norwegian Bicycle Reconnaissance Brigade. In November 1944 it was assigned to the 20th Mountain Corps. In February 1945 it was broken up. The 1st and 2nd Battalions, each with five squadrons, were redesignated the 11th Sturm Squadron and the 12th Gun Squadron.

Tessin, G., Verbänd und Truppen der detuschen Wermacht und Waffen-SS im Zweiten Weltkrieg 1939-1945, Biblo Verlag, Osnabruck, 1977.

Mueller-Hillebrand, B., Das Heer 1933-1945, Frankfurt am mein, 1956 Vol I & II, Verband der Truppen der deutschen Wehrmacht und Waffen SS 939-1945

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