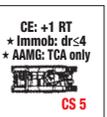
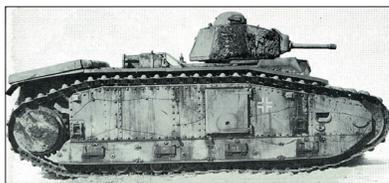


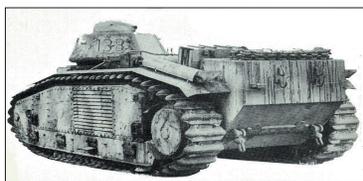
PzKpfw. B2 740 (f)

The char B1-bis was the most powerful tank in the French Army in 1940, some 365 having been built before the collapse in June. Perhaps as many as 160 tanks were re-used by the Germans. Because of their one-man turret and overall performance, they were mostly used by second line units or in refitting some divisions. Sixteen of these tanks were modified as SP artillery pieces with 105mm howitzer but, apparently these saw no action. Quite a few unmodified versions saw action in units serving outside France, including the Panzer-Abteilung (Flamm) 102 in Russia with 30 B2s - 6-7/1941, Pz.Kompanie z.b.V.12 in Yugoslavia with 16 B2s - 8-12/1943 – and Pz.-Kp. der SS Division « Prinz Eugen » in Yugoslavia with 17 B2s – 7/1942 to 8/1943. Most of the above B2s were in fact Flammpanzer – see below. The Pz.Abt..213 in the Jersey and Guernsey Islands had no less than 36 B2s including 10 with FTs between March 1942 and May 1945, but saw no action at all.



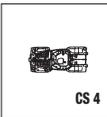
PzKpfw. B2 (Flamm) 740 (f)

In March 1941, Hitler personally ordered the conversion of some B2s to flamethrower tanks. The tanks had the hull 75mm gun and machine gun removed to accommodate a FT. This was the same compressed nitrogen system as found on the PzKpfw II (Fl) – see German Vehicle Note 4. The success of the first version gave way to a new improved version with 60 vehicles being transformed, the last one in May 1943. The FT could, theoretically, spurt 200 bursts to a range of 45 meters. Both versions use the same counter for game purposes. The Pz.Kpfw.B2 (Flamm) provided an AFV which still sported a main gun and a MG along with the FT. Pz.Kpfw.B2 (Flamm) were in fact the most numerous type of B2 tank used outside France. All the above mentioned units were mostly outfitted with B2 (Flamm) i.e. 24 B2s (Flamm) for six 75 mm gun-armed models in Pz.Abt. (Flamm) 102. Another unit which deserves attention was Pz.Kp.C (ND) 224 – ND stands for Niederland/Netherlands. In April 1944, it fielded one S-35 and 17 B2s, with no less than 14 B2 (Flamm). It fought against the British 1st Airborne Division in Oosterbeek in September 1944 and still fielded one S-35 and six operational B2s by the end of that year.



PzKpfw. 35-S 739 (f)

At least 140 Somua S-35 were re-used by the Germans. Some were assigned to first-line panzer divisions pending the arrival of German made tanks, while others were transformed into driver training vehicles, without turret or superstructure, “Fahrerschule-fahrzeug” as were some B2s. Many were issued to second-line units for occupation duties such as the Pz.Abt.206 which was in the Cherbourg peninsula on D-Day with its 10 Somua, 16 Hotchkiss and 4 B2s. But many Pz.Kpfw.35 S saw action outside France along with H-39 tanks. These mostly served with the Pz.Abt.211 in Northern Finland/Russia and Pz.Abt.202 in Yugoslavia. The latter unit despite exchanging its French tanks for Italian M15/42s in February 1944 still fielded 6 Pz.Kpfw.35 S and 4 Hotchkiss in July of 1944. Other Pz.Kpfw.35 S served in pairs as the mobile elements deployed from armored trains but, by 1943, most were replaced by the nimble Pz.38 (t). See also the German Chapter H note 9.3.

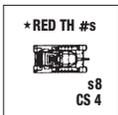


Panzerspähwagen Panhard

178-P (f)

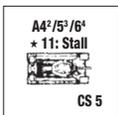
If French tanks suffered from the severe limitation in the form of the as the one-man turret, the famous P-178 was a design well able to compete against any other armored car. They were used as early as the 1940 campaign itself in the hours following their capture; such was the case with the “Totenkopf” SS-Division. Some two to three hundred served with the German forces, including first-line units (of course once outfitted with German radios!). In June 1941, Panzer-Aufklärung-Abteilungen 37 and 92, the armored reconnaissance groups of the 7.Panzerdivision and 20.Panzerdivision, entered Russia entirely outfitted with P 204(f) - one source gives no less than 64 and 54 vehicles respectively. Following the failure of « Barbarossa », these units were issued with German vehicles on a far modest scale ... From that time on, P 204(f) served only as second-line vehicle, some as a Panzerdraisine, patrolling railway lines with wheels adapted to drive on rails. But most were issued to Polizei-Panzer-Kompanien of the Order Police, in three vehicles platoons. Four companies – 7th to 10th – arrived in Russia between March 1943 and April 1944, each outfitted with 6 P 204 (f) and a 5-vehicle platoon of tanks. The 11.Kompanie fought in Croatia from December 1943 onwards with 6 P 204(f) and 5 H-39 tanks – with the 37* gun. A few P 204(f) were used in

France against the Maquis with some unusual armament, including a few with a fixed 50mm short barrel gun, one with a turreted 47mm gun and one with a fixed PaK 38.



PzKpfw. M 15/42 738 (i)

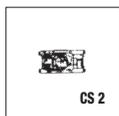
The most common Italian “Medium Tank” seized and employed by the Germans following the September 1943 armistice was the M15/42 renamed “Panzerkampfwagen M42 738(i)” or “M42” for short. One hundred and fifty-two were used by the Germans. The M42s saw extensive service from late 1943 to May 1945 in the Balkans and on the Eastern Front. But it was always criticized for its thin armor and lack of reliability. In Yugoslavia it was used by Panzer-Abteilung 202 and Panzer-Abteilung-z.b.V. 12 both of which exchanged their French tanks for M42s. Pz.Abt.202 received 67 M42s in February 1944 and used them until the end of the war, by 1 April 1945, 19 were still operational along with 8 Hetzers TDs. Pz.Abt.z.b.V. 12 (z.b.V. stands for special purpose) received 43 in March 1944 and used them until the end of the year when it turned over its last M42s to other units as it departed for Germany. Polizei-Panzer-Kompanie 12 had five M42s and nine 75/18 M42 SP-guns in Budapest from late October 1944. Eight M42s served with the Maria Theresa SS division – see Note 28. SS-Panzer-Kompanie 105, fighting in the area of Frankfurt am Oder in April 1945, also had 15 M42s.



T-34 M 41 747 (r)

From their first encounter with the T-34, the Germans were really impressed by this tank. During the earliest phases of Barbarossa they had no tank to compete with it. Therefore, the re-use of captured T-34 M41s and M43s – no information has emerged about the use of T-34 M40 – was eagerly sought after, however many difficulties were encountered, especially due to the lack of spare parts. Many German units used T-34s, even on a very modest scale, for example Panzer-Regiment 3 of the 2.Panzerdivision in the spring of 1942, fielded a lone T-34. In

1942 and 1943, there is evidence of the use of T-34s by no less than six panzer divisions, and probably more. In fact many units used T-34s until the war’s end. The followings are just some of the most commonly known examples. At least two Panzer-Kompanien were raised with at least one platoon of T-34s for rear-area security purpose. The 1.Ski-Jäger-Division formed in late 1943 had a reinforced company of 22 T-34s – with M41 and M43 models in evidence. In March 1944, the 5.Polizei-Pz.Kp. fielded ten T-34s in two platoons along with other armor and fought in Russia, Northern Italy and Yugoslavia. The most famous use of T-34 in German service was with the Panzerjäger-Abteilung of the SS-Division Das Reich during the Zitadelle operation. This unit mostly fielded T-34s, with 16 operational on 1 July 1943, but that number sunk to six by 1 August! The “ace” of the division, Emil Seibold, used his T-34 to good effect, claiming 25 kills at Kursk.



PzKpfw 35 R 731 (f)

The most common French tank in German service was the R-35. This AFV was also overall the most common “Beutepanzer” – captured AFV in German service during WW2, with more than 800 vehicles fielded. However, it was often times converted to a tractor or TD – see Note 44 – or had its turrets used in pill-boxes. Nevertheless, many saw service as proper tanks but only in rear-area security or second-line units. In Yugoslavia, Pz.Kp. z.b.V. 12, which, in April 1944, became the Pz.Abt.z.b.V.12 mentioned above, used Pz.Kpfw. 35R at least in 1943. Some ex-Yugoslavian army Pz.Kpfw. 35R were also used from late Spring 1941 on in independent platoons. Many Polizei-Panzer-Kompanien fielded one 5-vehicle platoon including the 2nd and 3rd in the Middle Don region in December 1942 during the “Little Saturn” Soviet offensive as well as in the Balkans. Most Pz.Kpfw. 3 R however remained in France. While Pz.Abt.206 had none on their TO/E, Pz.-Abt.100, primarily a training unit, had up to 14 Pz.Kpfw. 35R when it entered combat on the 6 June 1944 against US airborne troops.

