#### German Schützen Battalion (motorised)

KStN 1108, 1114\*, 1116\*, 1122

### All dated 1st October 1937

#### \*Tables 1114 and 1116 are reconstructions

#### A www.bayonetstrength.uk PDF

#### Based on the Gliederung charts dated January 1940 and April 1940 for;

6<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division (4<sup>th</sup> Schützen Regiment)

8<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division (8<sup>th</sup> Schützen Regiment)

Both Regiments had three Battalions, each with three Motorised Rifle Companies and no Heavy Company. The Anti-tank Platoon was attached to the MG Company for administrative purposes.

#### Composed of;

#### Battalion Headquarters 5 Officers, 12 men

Communication Detachment (25 men)

Battle Train (7 men)

Repair Group (2 Officers, 14 men)

Rations Train (5 men)

Baggage Train (1 Officer, 5 men)

#### Three Rifle Companies, each 4 Officers, 212 men

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 12 men)

MG Group (19 men) - (two heavy machine guns)

Three Platoons, each (1 Officer, 54 men) - (one 5-cm mortar)

Company Trains (19 men)

#### Machine Gun Company 5 Officers, 215 men

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 23 men)

Two MG Platoons, each (1 Officer, 37 men) - (four heavy machine guns)

Mortar Platoon (1 Officer, 69 men) - (six 8-cm mortars)

Anti-tank Platoon (1 Officer, 29 men) - (three 3.7-cm guns)

Company Trains (20 men)

#### **Total strength 944 all ranks** (25 Officers and 919 men)

# Summary Table, German Schützen Battalion, October 1937 (Partial reconstruction)

		attalic dquar			G)			
Detail	Headquarters	Communication Detachment	Battalion Trains	Total, Headquarters	Total, Rifle Company (Motorised)	Total, MG Company (Motorised)	Anti-tank Platoon	Total, Battalion
i). Personnel								
Officers	5	0	0	5	4	4	1	22
Beamte (Officials)	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	3
NCOs ('O' group)	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	5
NCOs ('G' group)	1	7	6	14	30	29	5	138
Privates ('M' group)	11	18	24	53	181	156	24	776
Total, all ranks	17	25	34	76	216	190	30	944
ii). Transport								
Kfz.2 light personnel cars	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Kfz.11 medium personnel cars	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Kfz.15 medium personnel cars	1	3	0	4	4	5	0	21
Light personnel cars	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	3
Sd.Kfz 261 armoured cars	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kfz.69 light trucks	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Kfz.70 personnel trucks	0	0	0	0	23	19	0	88
Light trucks	0	0	8	8	5	5	0	28
Kfz.31 ambulance	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Motorcycles, solo	5	0	3	8	4	4	1	25
Motorcycles, with sidecar	3	0	1	4	6	6	1	29
iii). Weapons								
Pistols	6	9	11	26	48	75	15	260
Machine pistols	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Rifles	11	16	23	50	168	115	15	684
Light machine guns	0	0	0	0	18	0	1	55
Heavy machine guns	0	0	0	0	2	8	0	14
5-cm mortars	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	9
8-cm mortars	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
3.7-cm anti-tank guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3

# Battalion Headquarters (5 Officers, 12 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion commander	Officer - B	1	Pistol	1
Battalion Adjutant	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Orderly officer (also Gas officer)	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Battalion physician	Officer - K	1	Pistol	1
Assistant physician	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Clerk	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Messenger leader (also bugler)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
			Motorcycle	4
Motorcycle messenger*	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Motorcycle	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Motorcycle with sidecar	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.11 personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.15 personnel car	1
* also carries scissor scope	Total, all ranks	17		·

### **Communication Detachment (25 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Detachment leader (also radio	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
operator and telephonist)				
Radio operator (for special use)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.15/2 radio car	1
Two Telephone Troops, type 'c', each				
Telephonist, Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Telephonist	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Telephonist (also driver)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.15/1 signal vehicle	1
Continued				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Two Pack Radio Troops, type 'd', motorised, each				
Radio operator, Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Radio operator	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Radio operator (also driver)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.2/2 radio car (3-seater)	1
Two Panzer Radio Troops, type 'd' each				
Radio operator, Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Radio operator	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Radio operator (also driver)	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Sd.Kfz 261 (radio vehicle)*	1
			MP40	1
	Total, all ranks	25		•

<sup>\*</sup> the Sd.Kfz 261 did not enter production until the end of 1940. Later war KStN tables identify the Kfz.17 radio car as the substitute vehicle but this is not shown on the 1937 tables.

### Battle Train (7 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battle Train leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Medical NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Ambulance escort	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
(presumably also Stretcher-bearer)				
Cook*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light truck (field kitchen)	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Kfz.31 ambulance	1
*includes 1 vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	7		

# Repair Group (2 Officers, 14 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Works Foreman	Official - Z	1	Pistol	1
Technician (vehicle)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Motor mechanic*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Mechanic	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Senior armourer	Official - Z	1	Pistol	1
Armament NCO (armourer)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Assistant armourer*	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Shoemaker*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Tailor*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
			Light truck	4
			(one each for;	
			Armourer & medical eqpt.	
			Tools and pioneer equipment	
			Repair equipment	
			Fuel)	
*is, or includes 1, vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	16		

# Rations Train (5 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Rations NCO (leader)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Rations distribution*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Light truck	2
*also vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	5		•

### Baggage Train (1 Officer, 5 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Paymaster	Official - Z	1	Pistol	1
Battalion clerk	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
Leader				
(also Leader of all the	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Baggage Trains of the Battalion)			Motorcycle	1
Clerk*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light truck	1
*also a vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	6		

# Three Rifle Companies (4 Officers, 212 men), each

# Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 12 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Officer - K	1	Pistol	1
Company (HQ) Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Company transport leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Messenger (1 also bugler)	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Motorcycle	2
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Stretcher-bearer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Kfz.15 personnel car	2
	Total, all ranks	13		

# Three Rifle Platoons (1 Officer, 54 men), each

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Messenger (1 also bugler)	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Stretcher-bearer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.70 personnel carrier	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Mortar Troop				
Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Mortar gunner	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			5-cm mortar	1
Mortar gunner	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Three Squads, each				
Squad leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Troop leader (assistant squad leader)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Rifleman	Soldier - M	7	Rifle	7
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
8.16.11.10		_	Light machine gun*	2
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Kfz.70 personnel carrier	2
	Total, all ranks	55	*see comments	•

# Heavy Machine Gun half-Platoon (19 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
half-Platoon leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Rangetaker	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.15 personnel car	1
Two Guns, each				
Machine gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Heavy machine gun	1
Continued				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.70 personnel carrier	1
	Total, all ranks	19		

# Battle Train (15 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Senior NCO	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
Armourer	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Technician (vehicle)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Equipment (and gas) NCO*	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Medical NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Assistant armourer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Motor mechanic*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Cook*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
			Light truck	4
			(one each for;	
			Field kitchen	
			Ammunition	
			Fuel	
			Fuel and equipment)	
*is, or includes 1, vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	15		

<sup>\*</sup>is, or includes 1, vehicle escort

# Baggage Train (4 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Pay clerk (leader)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Tailor*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Shoemaker*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light truck	1
*1 of these also a vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	4		

# Machine Gun Company (4 Officers, 186 men)

### Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 9 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Officer - K	1	Pistol	1
Leader (ranging & weather)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Company transport leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Messenger (1 also bugler)	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Messenger*	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Motorcycle	2
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.15 personnel car	1
*also carries scissor scope	Total, all ranks	10		

### **Communication Detachment (14 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Kfz.70 personnel carrier	2
Three Telephone Troops, type 'a'				
1 <sup>st</sup> Troop				
Detachment (also Troop) leader*	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Telephonist	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Troops, each				
Telephonist, Troop leader	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Telephonist	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3

<sup>\*</sup>also telephonist Total, all ranks 14

# Two Heavy Machine Gun Platoons (1 Officer, 37 men), each

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Aiming circle NCO	Non-commissioned - G	2	Pistol	2
(1 also half-Platoon Leader)				
Rangetaker	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Kfz.15 personnel car	2
Four Guns, each				
Machine gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Heavy machine gun	1
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.70 personnel carrier	1
	Total, all ranks	38		

# Heavy (8-cm) Mortar Platoon (1 Officer, 69 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
General Duty (for special use)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.11 personnel car	1
Three Groups, each				
Group leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Rangetaker	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Telephonist	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.70 personnel carrier	1
Continued				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Two Troops, each				
Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Mortar leader	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			8-cm mortar	1
Mortar crewman	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Mortar crewman	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.70 personnel carrier	1
	Total, all ranks	70		

### Battle Train (16 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Train leader	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
Armament NCO (armourer)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Technician (vehicle)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Equipment (and gas) NCO*	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Medical NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Assistant armourer	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Motor mechanic*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Cook*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
			Light truck	4
			(one each for;	
			Field kitchen	
			Ammunition	
			Fuel	
			Fuel and equipment)	
*is, or includes 1, vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	16		

# Baggage Train (4 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Pay clerk (leader)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Tailor*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Shoemaker*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light truck	1
*1 of these also a vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	4		

#### Anti-tank Platoon (1 Officer, 29 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Observation NCO (HQ leader)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Rangetaker	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Assistant armourer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Kfz.69 light truck	2
LMG Troop				
Machine gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Machine gunner	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
			Light machine gun	1
Three Guns, each				
Gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			3.7-cm anti-tank gun	1
Gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Gunner	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.69 light truck	1
	Total, all ranks	30		

#### **Notes**

- 1. Battalion Headquarters includes 3 men trained as assistant stretcher-bearers.
- 2. Each Rifle Company includes 3 men trained as assistant stretcher-bearers.
- 3. The MG Company & Anti-tank Platoon include 10 men trained as assistant stretcher-bearers.

#### **Comments**

KStN 1114 in this model of the *Schützen* battalion doubled the allocation of light machine guns from nine to 18 per *Schützen* Company, and at time of writing I have found no reason for this increase. I've assumed in the above that it resulted in two light machine guns per Rifle Squad, however what is not clear is whether it was intended that the Squad should use both in the dismounted role. There was no commensurate increase in pistols for the Company, which might suggest that the four LMG numbers per Squad were now to operate as two teams, each of two men, all armed with pistols and serving one LMG per team. It is possible that the intention was to increase the anti-aircraft capability of the Company, with an MG34 on each Kfz.70 carrying a half Rifle Squad, and subsequently evolved into the later organization of two LMGs per *Schützen* (and later Panzer Grenadier) Squad.

#### Notes on reconstruction

Unfortunately, the KStN tables for the Rifle Company (ref 1114) and the Machine Gun Company (ref 1116) of the *Schützen* Battalion, dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 1937, both appear to be lost. The descriptions of these two elements in the forgoing have therefore been reconstructed using alternative contemporary sources, plus some guesswork.

#### **Contemporary sources**

Primarily, an undated document included in the holdings of the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), seemingly in file NARA T78 R659 H36/161. This is a 'pictograph' rather than a full KStN table, and omits full details of ranks, vehicle types and weapons. Also, it does not appear to be based on the 1937 KStN tables, nor the succeeding February 1941 versions. My personal guess is they were an initial draft of the February 1941 *Schütze*n Regiment tables, and they do match the overall organization for the Panzer Division as shown in the Gliederung charts for November 1940.

Secondly are the Special Appendices to the German Army Mobilisation Plan, for the period March 1939 to March 1940. One of these gives information on the vehicles authorised under all of the governing KStN tables for the *Schützen* Battalion, and includes the vehicle type and which subunit it was to be used by, and sometimes its intended load. There is though no information on the vehicles of the various Baggage Trains. There are also a series of summaries for the various types of Panzer Division and *Leichte* Division of the pre-war period, which include a single line entry for their particular model of *Schützen* Battalion and, where applicable, the *Kradschützen* Battalion.

Supplementing these are summaries for the various elements of the Battalion given in the Handbook for the General Staff in War, dated August 1939. These give summaries for each KStN, showing the breakdown of personnel by rank groups (O, B, G and M), the number of rifles and support weapons, and the number of motor vehicles. The latter is subdivided into cars and trucks, which are then further shown as light, medium and heavy, and also motorcycles, both solo and with sidecars.

#### **Deductions**

The *Schütze*n Rifle Company and the MG Company are largely based on the undated pictograph. In both cases transport has been amended in line with that given in the Mobilisation Plan figures for 1939. I have worked on the basis that the *Schütze*n Battalions of the Panzer Divisions were only slightly modified versions of the Battalions found in the normal Infantry Regiment, and all shared the same subunit organization for Rifle Platoons, MG Platoons and half-Platoons and 8-cm Mortar Platoons.

Company Trains offer the greatest margin for error. I've assumed that posts for personnel such as armourers, clerks, cooks, tailors and shoemakers remained constant across Company types.

My thanks to Massimo Baroffi for providing the Mobilisation Plan and Staff Handbook information, which gave me some actual figures to work with and eliminated a great deal of the guesswork.

If anyone happens to have any contemporary information on the actual organization of the Battalion then please drop me an email via the home page, which can be reached at the below link.