

Document type: ReadMeKussen.pdf

Singleplayer version: v1.1 (31-10-01)

Singleplayer version: v1.2 (03-11-01)

Mission title: A Prussian Nightmare

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Mission background:

Kussen, East-Prussia, 120 km East of Königsberg:

By Januari 14th, the German 1st infantry division at Pillkallen, East of the fortress Königsberg, was methodically being annihilated by assaults of General I.L. Lyudnikov's Soviet 39th Army. In a desperate move to reinforce the defenders, German General Gerhard Matzky ordered the corps reserve, the 22nd Fuselier Regiment, into the battle. The Fuseliers, unable to reach Pillkallen and vastly outnumbered set up defenses at a key road junction at Kussen.

There they faced the merciless nightmare onslaught of continual Soviet tank and infantry assaults by the Soviet 94th Motorized Rifle Brigade supported by the 3rd and 18th Guards Tank Battalions. position after position was lost and things were looking grim for the defending Germans. As the Russians prepared their final assault, the lead companies of the 10th SS Panzer Regiment arrived on the scene.

You are the new commander of 22nd Fuselier Regiment and as such you are responsible for the sector in our frontline where we have noticed a massive buildup of Soviet forces. It is our belief the winter-offensive will start very soon and it is your task to avoid a Soviet breakthrough and thus a total collapse of Heeresgruppe Mitte. Your predecessor followed the tactic of constant retreat to take the speed out of any Soviet assault. The Führer was convinced he didn't want to make a heroic stand like our teutonic ancestors against the Romans, and had him shot. Noticing that we are running low on good field-commanders (remember the executions following the bomb plot at the Führer's headquarters) it is our belief, you'll do a splendid job and make the Reich proud. We strongly and most urgently advise you to make a flexible defensive stand. It has been proven very unwise to adapt a static defensive role against the attacking Bolshevik hordes. The Soviets can field many times more of everything we have so don't make it a Great War like battle or the Iwan will be drinking vodka on the Alexanderplatz in Berlin within days.....

At your command is the 22nd Fuselier Regiment and some support troops (independent Heeresgruppen as well as units from 1<sup>st</sup> Division). After the previous engagements with the enemy this amounts to the following units:

- 1 Regimental HQ (mot.)
- 2 batteries of Field Howitzers (mot.)
- 2 batteries heavy FLAK (88's)
- 1 STUG platoon (Mark III)
- 1 Heavy tank platoon (Mark VI)
- 3 Supply columns (mot.)

- 1 Fuselier battalion HQ (mot.)
- 1 Fuselier battalion (foot)
- 1 Volkssturm infantry platoon (foot)
- 1 Grenadier platoon (mot.)
- 1 Grenadier platoon (mot.)
- 2 batteries Rocket Launchers (foot)

In your sector is an army repair and supply depot. We will ask OKW if the troops that are presently there can be placed under your command. The following units are now at the depot:

- 1 tank platoon
- 1 AT platoon (mot.)
- 2 Volkssturm platoons (foot)
- 1 Supply column (mot.)
- 1 battery heavy FLAK (88's)

Order of Battle:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> battery of 38. Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battalion (Heerestruppen)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> battery of 38. Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battalion (Heerestruppen)
- 1<sup>st</sup> battery of 985. Rocket Battalion (Heerestruppen)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> battery of 985. Rocket Battalion (Heerestruppen)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> battery of 459 Assault Gun Battalion [II-3/459]. (Heerestruppen)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> company of 508. Heavy Panzer Battalion [3-2/508]. (Heerestruppen)
- 1<sup>st</sup> battery, I Artillery Battalion of 37 Artillery Regiment (1<sup>st</sup> division troops)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> battery, I Artillery Battalion of 37 Artillery Regiment (1<sup>st</sup> division troops)
- I/22 Battalion HQ (22<sup>nd</sup> Fuselier Regiment)
- 1<sup>st</sup> company, I/22 Fuselier Battalion (22<sup>nd</sup> Fuselier Regiment)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> company, I/22 Fuselier Battalion (22<sup>nd</sup> Fuselier Regiment)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> company, I/22 Fuselier Battalion (22<sup>nd</sup> Fuselier Regiment)
- II/22 Battalion HQ (22<sup>nd</sup> Fuselier Regiment)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grenadier platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> company of II/22 Fuselier Battalion (22<sup>nd</sup> Fuselier Regiment)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Volkssturm platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> company of II/22 Fuselier Battalion (22<sup>nd</sup> Fuselier Regiment)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grenadier platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> company of II/22 Fuselier Battalion (22<sup>nd</sup> Fuselier Regiment)

At the depot:

- III platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> company of I/10 SS Panzer Regiment (10<sup>th</sup> SS Panzer Regiment)
- 1<sup>st</sup> battery of 38. Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battalion (Heerestruppen)
- II platoon 22<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Tank Company (22<sup>nd</sup> Fuselier Regiment)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Volkssturm platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> company of II/22 Fuselier Battalion (22<sup>nd</sup> Fuselier Regiment)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Volkssturm platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> company of II/22 Fuselier Battalion (22<sup>nd</sup> Fuselier Regiment)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> battery, I Artillery Battalion of 37 Artillery regiment (mot.) (1<sup>st</sup> division troops)

## History:



# 1. Infanterie-Division

This unit was formed in October 1934 in Königsberg, East Prussia. It was originally known as Wehrgauleitung Königsberg.

Shortly after the unit was established it was given the cover name Artillerieführer I.

The organic regimental units of this division were formed by the expansion of the 1.(Preußisches) Infanterie-Regiment of the 1.Division of the Reichswehr.

The division was made up almost exclusively of East Prussian recruits, its traditionalist lineage could be denoted by its use of the Hohenzollern coat of arms (the emblem of the ruling family of Imperial Germany from 1871 to 1918), as its divisional symbol.

With the formal announcement of the creation of the Wehrmacht (which had covertly been in place for over a year) on October 15th, 1935, the cover name Artillerieführer I was dropped and this unit became officially known as the 1. Infanterie-Division. On February 3rd, 1936, it was transferred to Insterburg from Königsberg.

In 1939, during the invasion of Poland, the division was part of XXVI. Armee-Korps (Armee-Korps Wodrig), which in turn was part of General von Kuchler's 3. Armee beneath von Bock's Heeresgruppe Nord. The 1. Infanterie-Division first saw combat when the 3. Armee launched across the East Prussian border. The 3. Armee was attempting to break through the Polish lines north of Warsaw, and in so doing, had to first crush the strong Polish defensive positions in and around the Polish city of Mława. Mława was one of the few heavily defended Polish fortifications, and was being held by the Polish 20th Infantry Division and the near-by Mazowiecka Cavalry Brigade. The 1. Infanterie-Division attacked the right wing of the Polish 20th Infantry Division in an attempt to take Mława and thus help open the way for the advance of the rest of the 3. Armee towards Warsaw. The Poles held back the attacks of 1. Infanterie-Division though, until German units to the east created a dangerous gap in the lines between the 20th and the Mazowiecka Cavalry Brigade, effectively compromising the defensive positions it held, and causing it to pull out of Mława to new defensive position along the Vistula River to the south, just north of Warsaw. After the heavy engagements between September 1st and 4th along the border, the 1. Infanterie-Division pushed south and east where it crossed over the Narew and Bug Rivers, fighting near Wegrow and Garwolin, finally ending the Campaign to the east of Warsaw near Siedlce.

The division took part in the 1940 invasion of France, though only being lightly engaged.

In June, 1941, the 1. Infanterie-Division invaded Russia as part of Heeresgruppe Nord, and was heavily engaged during the drive on Leningrad. While suffering very heavy losses in the first campaigns of 1941, it would remain as part of 1. Armee Korps, a staple of the Leningrad fighting, taking part in the battles of Lake Peipus and Lake Ladoga, until October 1943 when it was seconded to Heeresgruppe Süd as part of XXXXVIII. Panzer-Korps. Here the Division saw heavy action in the battle of Krivoi Rog in the Dnieper campaign, and was later encircled with 1. Panzer-Armee between the Bug and the Dnestr rivers in March 1944. The Division managed to breakout as rear-guard of XLVI. Panzer Corps, suffering heavy casualties.

Rested and refitted, the Division was next sent to the Central sector of Heeresgruppe Mitte. Escaping piecemeal from the overwhelming Soviet Summer 1944 offensive, but still relatively intact, it remained with what was left of Heeresgruppe Mitte, later ending the war in early 1945 fighting in its native East Prussia.

#### **Organization 1. Infanterie-Division 1944**

Grenadier-Regiment 1

Füsilier-Regiment 22

Grenadier-Regiment 43

Artillerie-Regiment 1

I./Artillerie-Regiment 37

Panzerjäger-Abteilung 1

Division-Füsilier-Bataillon 1

Pionier-Bataillon 1

Nachrichten-Abteilung 1

Sanitäts-Abteilung 1

