

# The 1946 Neu Heer ReservierenKorp

## A 1946 Storm of Eagle© article for C-P Models written by S. Pearson

*Total war gentlemen equates total commitment, even our youth must take their place in the ranks of the Armed forces!*

Reichsmarchell Goring speech during a triumvirate meeting in spring 1945.

### Introduction

By the autumn of 1944 it had become obvious to the leaders of the Neu-Heer that the reserve Army was incapable of meeting Germany's manpower needs if the war was to be continued after the death of Adolf Hitler. A new reserve structure was created to train volunteers from an earlier class of conscript. From September 1944 the call up age for new recruits was lowered to 16 years old. All German children between 14 and sixteen would henceforth serve in the German youth Corp.

### The ReservierenKorp

Gradually during 1945 many burned out Infantry Divisions were rotated back to Neu-Heer training facilities and re-designated Reserve Divisions, a few months later during wholesale changes ordered by the triumvirate: their names were changed to ReservierenGruppen or Reserve Groups, (Divisional sized units).

The new reserve groups contained a smaller 'bayonet' strength, around 5,000 men, smaller support units and little if any motorised components. Not intended for front line action, they were designed to train the young recruits in preparation for later combat in front line units, (Feldgruppen or SturmGruppen)?

'Alte Hasen' or old hares as the younger recruits called their NCO cadre who had seen front line service were expected to mould this fresh material in to professional soldiers. When a recruit turned 18 he was immediately transferred back to his military district for re-assignment to a front line unit.

During training the recruit was immediately made familiar with the weapon he would specialise in, rifleman the obsolete K98k rifle or if luckier the StG45 assault rifle. Artilleryman to the Gunnery arm, assault gun crew to the StuG zug ect....

Once the Reservieren-man, (easily identified wearing the obsolete M40 steel helmet) was proficient with his weapon he continued to train for combat until transferred to a regular combat unit. Many troops in barracks assisted the emergency services and

police forces with rescue work after enemy air raids, crop harvesting and increasingly as the war continued reserve troops found themselves 'thrown' in to battle when other reserves were not available.

In the event of civil unrest amongst the German population or foreign workforce the reserve units would be expected to support the new regime and put down any insurrection.

Not all under 18 year old recruits were inducted in to the Reserve units. During the summer of 1945 the German Army along the much vaulted westwall fortifications were combed through for experienced infantryman to fill the ranks of the depleted OstHeer fighting in the USSR. They were replaced by the new younger draught. The German High command or KVK gambled that they had enough time to train these new recruits before the allies attempted a new assault against the French coast. The average time taken to train a new recruit was three months; by the end of 1945 many of the units of the WestHeer were at full strength and full of inexperienced, but eager fresh young fighting troops.

The closer a Reservieren unit trained to the front, the more chance they would be sent in to battle during a crisis, (this occurred to the 702<sup>nd</sup> ReservierenGruppen during January 1946, which was routed while attempting to hold a line near the Baltic town of Elva, it's survivors learning to fight the hard way against a Soviet Armoured Corp!

Not content with creating Reservieren Gruppen, the KVK also ordered the creation of Korp sized units to control the scattered Reserve units and provide a reserve cadre of Corp trained officers, again these were smaller than front line Corps and were expected to provide most wheeled transport fort he units under their command.

*"Stillgestanden!" the Parade NCO thundered across the parade ground, his hard eyes never leaving the field brown ranks of the latest batch of 16 year old conscripts. "Well look what we MY Army has been saddled with now, a bunch of useless homosexuals, unfit to wear the sacred uniform of the Neu-Heer!"*

*Pausing he held up his hand as if to ward off their silent protestations and continued, "I know, I know, it's a challenge Herr Field Marshall Mannstein has set me, but I will turn you in to soldiers or KILL you trying, DISMISSED!"*

**Truppenbauplatz Brunn October 1945**

Pioneer-Zug  
Pz-Jg-Zug  
1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Waffengruppe, (4 sturm)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Waffengruppe, (4sturm)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Waffengruppe, (4sturm)  
4<sup>th</sup> Schwere Waffengruppe, (3 zug)

## Example ReservierenGruppen

Composition of the 320<sup>th</sup> ReservierenGruppen stationed in Northern Germany. This unit was constructed as part of KVK order KsTn45-327

**320<sup>th</sup> Stab HQ**

**1320<sup>th</sup> Feldgendarme-Zug**

**1320<sup>th</sup> Aufklarungs-Begleit Waffengruppe:** Three Zug

**1320<sup>th</sup> Nachschub-waffengruppe**

**1320<sup>th</sup> Gruppen-NachschubStab**

**1320<sup>th</sup> Gruppen-munitionslager**

**1320<sup>th</sup> Gruppen-betriebsstofflager**

**1320<sup>th</sup> Gruppen-verpflegungsamt**

**1320<sup>th</sup> Gruppen-bekleidungs-lager**

**1320<sup>th</sup> Gruppen-BackereiKompanies**

**1320<sup>th</sup> Gruppen-Kraftwagentransportgruppe**

**1320<sup>th</sup> Feldersatz-WaffenGruppe:** Five sturm

**1320<sup>th</sup> Nachtrichenwaffengruppe:** Three sturm

**1320<sup>th</sup> Sanitatwaffengruppe:** Three Kompanie

**1320<sup>th</sup> Wirtschaftswaffengruppe:**

WerkstattKompanie

Kw-WerkstattKompanie

KorpKraftfahrpark

VeterinarKompanie

**1320<sup>th</sup> FlaK-Sturm:** Three Zug

**1320<sup>th</sup> Artillerie W/Gruppe:**

Mitte Zug with 15cm guns

Lt. Zug with 10.5cm guns

StuG Zug with Maresal assault guns

ATG Abt. With PAK40

FlaK Abt.

**585<sup>th</sup>th Marsch-Brigaden:**

Staff HQ

Pioneer-Zug

Pz-Jg-Zug

1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Waffengruppe, (4 sturm)

2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Waffengruppe, (4sturm)

3<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Waffengruppe, (4 sturm)

4<sup>th</sup> Schwere Waffengruppe, (3 zug)

**586<sup>th</sup>th Grenadier-Brigaden:**

Staff HQ

Pioneer-Zug

Pz-Jg-Zug

1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Waffengruppe, (4 sturm)

2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Waffengruppe, (4sturm)

3<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Waffengruppe, (4 sturm)

4<sup>th</sup> Schwere Waffengruppe, (3 zug)

**587<sup>th</sup> Infanterie-Brigaden:**

Staff HQ

**Note:** The Grenadier, fusilier and Marsch Brigades do not differ in composition or equipment. The Marsch Brigade should always be on standby for front line duty with 48 hours notice, the oldest reserves and best equipment is usually given to this unit.

The new 320<sup>th</sup> ReservierenGruppen headquarter staff was formed at the Grafenwohr Truppenbauplatz under the command of Oberst i.G A. Vitzhum, (general staff officer) during March 1945 replacing the 320<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, (13<sup>th</sup> wave) destroyed during the Soviet offensive against AG Centre.

Essential support services such as the Bakery group and munitions depot staff came from the 'Schwabach' Nachschubstabschule near Nurnburg.

All the troops came from the first draft of 16 year old conscripts raised that year. NCOs the back bone of any fighting formation came from the Neu-Heer reserve Army, many NCOs were convalescents from the front line, no longer fit for front line service, or had wounds that would take a long time to heal?

## Mission

The 320<sup>th</sup> ReservierenGruppen as previously mentioned was to act as a police auxiliary in the event of a civil/foreign workers disturbance and be at the disposal of the TENO organisation, (emergency engineer corp.) during and after air raids and at a few hours notice be ready to repel enemy paratroopers.

The new troops were not to remain idle during their long training period. It was not unusual to find Reservieren units in the General Government district issued with the scarlet armband of the FeldJager and patrolling the rear echelon for deserters and black marketers. Kangaroo courts presided over by a senior front line NCO and fresh faced young boys issuing summery justice by a road side!

During September 1945 parts of the 320<sup>th</sup> ReservierenGruppen took part in operation 'Magnet' an anti-partisan operation in Alsace Lorraine along side military police and regular Neu-Heer troops.

## Operation Magnet

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 1945 the Marsch Brigade, commanded by Major of reserves Eduard Utgennant was ordered to send all units to Strasburg and report to the HQ of the

notorious Polezei Gruppen Alsace-Lorraine for an anti-Bandit operation.

Wheeled transport was provided by the nearby 19<sup>th</sup> FlaK Gruppen, the 1320<sup>th</sup> Artillerie Waffengruppe and the 1<sup>st</sup> Kompanie/1320<sup>th</sup> Sanitatswaffengruppe was attached for the mission.

Major. R. Utgennant had just over 900 17-18 year old recruits in his Brigade, (many of whom were a few weeks away from transferring to a regular front line unit) eight PAK guns and 6 Maresal assault guns. The unit drew rations for six days.

The so-called Kampfgruppen Utgennant operated in the eifel region for three weeks as a blocking detachment while hardened anti-partisan units of the Polezei Gruppen 'Alsace-Lorraine' combed the border region for French Maquis.

No contact was made between the Reservieren troops and the French Maquis working for the allies during the operation, but much forbidden contraband and many deserters were caught by the young soldier's road blocks.

Three weeks later returning by foot to Germany the Marsch Brigade had fare well to the soldiers eligible for front line service, (many of whom transferred to the Zerstrorer Brigaden 'Potsdam' being assemble in the Hungarian capital.

### **1946 Mission**

The Reservieren units provide the Neu-Heer with a reserve pool of fresh well trained young soldiers led by experienced combat NCOs, an army within an army.

The KVK is slowly building up a new Army to repel any invasion of the north German coastline. The Gruppen may be smaller than front line units and have less heavy weapons, but they provide the skeleton for the formation of fresh combat units to build on.

### **Uniform Notes**

Issued the M45 two piece uniform not dissimilar to the Luftwaffe blouse the FeldGruppen are equipped and dressed little different from the Feldgruppen except for the following differences:

Armed mostly with out-dated K98k rifle  
M42 Steel Helmet, with/without netting  
Shoulder straps display branch of service,  
(grass green)

M45 Greatcoat

Anti-Gas Poncho

No badge on the front of their helmet

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