

# ✠ PANZER I F LIGHT TANK

## DEVELOPMENT

In the German Army, as in every army, the infantry generals wanted tanks to support infantry attacks rather than fighting their own battles elsewhere. They were impressed by the small and cheap British Matilda and the French Renault 10-tonne infantry support tanks, and demanded a similar vehicle. The resulting VK1801 design was a machine-gun armed 21-tonne light tank with 80mm of armour, over twice the weight and with considerably more protection than the Allied equivalents.

Although based on the Panzer I, the VK1801 featured torsion bar suspension, interleaved road wheels, and an up-rated engine with 50% more power. The commander's turret replaced the old MG13 machine-guns with the latest MG34 machine-guns and featured a cupola with five periscopes for all-round vision. All-in-all it was a magnificent piece of engineering, but it weighed as much as a medium tank and cost nearly as much to produce!

In December 1939 the VK1801 was renamed the Panzer I F and 100 were ordered, but production was cancelled after thirty were produced. A second order for 100 was also cancelled.

## COMBAT SERVICE

Most of the thirty tanks produced were sent to 1. and 12. Panzer Divisions for combat testing in early 1943. The rest were given to several army schools for training and evaluation purposes.

12. Panzerdivision used its Panzer I F tanks in the fighting around Leningrad before taking the surviving three tanks into the Kursk battles around Orel in the middle of the year.

1. Panzerdivision undertook occupation duties and fought partisans in Greece and the Balkans until late 1943 when it returned to the Ukraine to face the Soviet summer offensive.

## DESIGN FEATURES

The Panzer I F is a well-designed infantry-support vehicle. Its armour protects the Panzer I F from any anti-tank weapon it is likely to face. 20"/50cm-wide tracks enable the Panzer I F to cross any terrain, while its complex, but efficient, interleaved suspension distributes its weight evenly.

As a true product of German engineering, it would be hard to envisage a better design for a machine-gun-armed infantry support light tank!

The Panzer I F is the ultimate infantry tank. Perfectly engineered to take any objective.

Front 8, Top 2, Wide tracks



## INFANTERIEPANZER PLATOON (INFANTRY TANK PLATOON)

What the veteran German tank crews thought of the Infanteriepanzer is not recorded, but their performance remained exemplary.

Infanteriepanzer Platoons are rated as:  
**Confident Veteran**

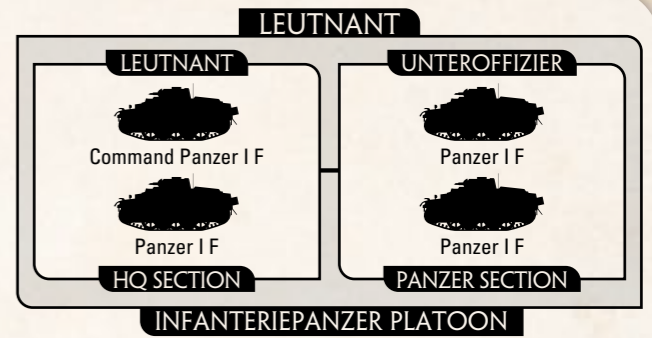
### PLATOON

- 4 Panzer I F ..... 280 points
- 3 Panzer I F ..... 210 points

## REPLACING STANDARD EQUIPMENT

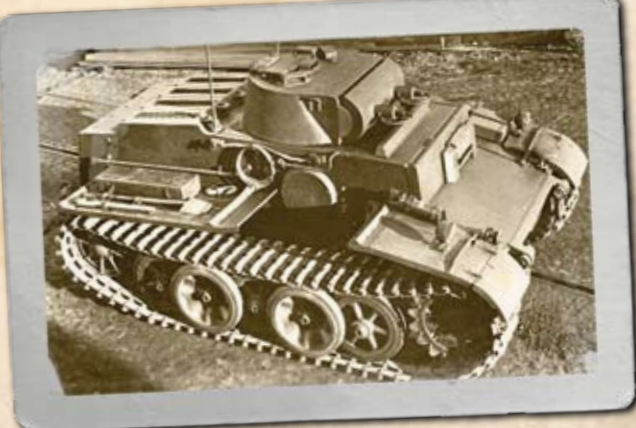
A German company may replace an Assault Tank Platoon with an Infanteriepanzer Platoon.

Name	Mobility	Front	Armour		Equipment and Notes
			Side	Top	
Panzer I F	Slow Tank	8	5	2	Wide tracks.
Weapon	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower	
Twin MG	16"/40cm	4	2	6	



The Panzer I F is sufficiently well armoured that it need fear nothing. It should advance boldly at the head of the infantry, leading them onto the objective. It should advance directly towards anti-tank guns to keep its thickest armour facing them, then use its weight to crush them beneath its tracks.

## PANZER I F SPECIFICATIONS



Designation: Panzerkampfwagen I Ausf F  
 Crew: 2 (cdr/gnr, dvr)  
 Weight: 46,294lb/21,000kg  
 Length: 14'4"/4.38m  
 Height: 6'9"/2.05m  
 Width: 8'8"/2.64m  
 Armament: 2x 7.92mm MG34 machine-gun  
 Armour Thickness: 25mm to 80mm  
 Engine: Maybach HL45P petrol, 285cu in/5 litre, 150hp  
 Transmission: Maybach double differential  
 Suspension: Transverse torsion bar  
 Maximum Speed: 16mph/25km/h  
 Road Radius: 93 miles/150km  
 Vertical Obstacle: 1'1"/0.33m  
 Trench Crossing: 4'11"/1.50m

✠ INFANTRY TANK PLATOON