

WEST GERMAN

M48 PANZERKOMPANIE

Leutnant Fleischmann sat out of the commander's cupola of his tank, his platoon was deployed among some trees and farm buildings at the edge of a series of fields that gave them clear visibility towards the likely direction of the enemy's approach. He had received his orders just an hour ago to reposition his unit to their current location. The briefing with the company commander had detailed the situation, the Soviets had broken through the main line of defence and were expected to strike somewhere in the brigade's direction.

Fleischmann's platoon was made up of reservists, all men in their 30s who had served their compulsory service, and in this time of war had been called up. They were proficient, regular training had seen to that, and they knew their M48 tanks well, many of the men having served on the very same tanks during their initial conscription. The M48 was a good solid panzer, it didn't have the speed or mobility of the Leopard 1, but it had better protection and the same powerful 105mm gun.

As Fleischmann gathered his thoughts, some movement attracted his attention off in the distance, a shape moving along a tree line 1000 metres ahead. He alerted his platoon, but ordered them to hold fire. A few moments later the shape becomes clear and he identified a wheeled scout car advancing through a field of wheat. "BRDM, 900 metres," he radios to his unit, "let's wait and see what is behind them, hold fire."

His hunch was soon proved correct as a much larger shape emerges out of the tree line and moves into the wheat. It is followed by another, then another.

"Enemy Panzers, 900 metres, east. Free fire!" he announced across the platoon radio net, ordering his tanks to fire at will.

His own gunner was the first to open fire, hitting a tank emerging from the tree line at the rear of the enemy formation. It skews sideways across the field, as its gun rotates towards the direction of fire. Fleischmann's gunner put another sabot round into its vulnerable side armour and was rewarded by an explosion, quickly followed by a larger explosion that propelled its turret in the air on a gout of flames.

Meanwhile, the rest of platoon, as well as the enemy, had opened fire.

The better equipped *Heimatschutzbrigade* (Home Defence Brigade, or HSB for short) 51 and 56, the territorial reserves of the *Bundeswehr* (West German Federal Forces), were equipped with the Leopard 1 tank, but other HSB Panzerkompanies were equipped with the M48 tank. The

M48 was an upgraded US M48 tank, improved by the West Germans and given to the Territorial forces once the Leopard 1 tank was brought into service. It has the same gun as the Leopard 1 and a laser rangefinder. Its combat firepower was the same as the Leopard 1, with more armour, but slower and lacked the stabiliser of the Leopard 1.



M48 PANZERKOMPANIE


You can field 0-3 West German *Heimatschutzbrigade* M48 Panzerkompanies as additional Formations as part of an West German Force in *World War III: West German* (see page 22).

You can take a *Heimatschutzbrigade* M48 Panzer Zug in a *Heimatschutzbrigade* Jager Kompanie in *World War III: West German* (see page 61) instead of a *Heimatschutzbrigade* Kanonenjagdpanzer Zug or Leopard 1 Panzer Zug.



HEIMATSCHUTZBRIGADE M48 PANZERKOMPANIE


You must field the Formation HQ and one Combat Unit from each black box.
You may also field one Combat Unit from each grey box.



**M48
PANZER KOMPANIE HQ**
TG147

2x M48 **6 POINTS**
1x M48 **3 POINTS**

• TANK FORMATION • INFRA-RED (IR) •



COURAGE 3+	SKILL 3+
MORALE 2+	ASSAULT 4+
REMOUNT 4+	COUNTERATTACK 3+

IS HIT ON 3+		
FRONT	SIDE	TOP
13	8	2

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
10"/25cm	14"/35cm	20"/50cm	24"/60cm	2+

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	ROF MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
105mm L7 gun	40"/100cm	2	1	19	2+	Laser Rangefinder, Smoke
.50 cal AA MG	20"/50cm	3	2	4	5+	
7.62mm MG	16"/40cm	1	1	2	6	

ARMOUR



**M48
PANZER ZUG**
TG148

ARMOUR



**M48
PANZER ZUG**
TG148

INFANTRY



JÄGER ZUG
TG142

ARTILLERY



**M113 JÄGER
PANZER MÖRSER
ZUG**
TG144

ARMOUR



**M48
PANZER ZUG**
TG148

You may field a Combat Unit from a black box as a Support Unit for your Force.

HEIMATSCHUTZBRIGADE M48 PANZER ZUG

M48 PANZER ZUG

4x M48 **12 POINTS**
3x M48 **9 POINTS**

The *Kampfpanzer* M48 is a West German upgrade of the US M48 Patton tank. It replaced the 90mm guns with the British 105mm L7 cannon with new cast gun mantlet and a thermal sleeve. It was given passive night vision equipment for the driver, commander and gunner, and modifications were made to the fire-control system. A new circular cast commander's cupola with a MG3 machine-gun ring mounting was also added. It was also re-powered with a German MTU 871 diesel engine.



• TANK UNIT • INFRA-RED (IR) •

COURAGE 4+	SKILL 4+
MORALE 3+	ASSAULT 4+
REMOUNT 4+	COUNTERATTACK 4+

IS HIT ON 3+		
FRONT	SIDE	TOP
13	8	2

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
10"/25cm	14"/35cm	20"/50cm	24"/60cm	2+

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	ROF MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
105mm L7 gun	40"/100cm	2	1	19	2+	Laser Rangefinder, Smoke
.50 cal AA MG	20"/50cm	3	2	4	5+	
7.62mm MG	16"/40cm	1	1	2	6	

Crew: 4 - commander, gunner, loader, driver
Weight: 42.2 tonnes
Length: 9.3m (30' 6.4")
Width: 3.6m (11' 11")
Height: 3.1m (10' 0.5")
Armour: Upper glacis 110 mm at 60°
 Turret front 178 mm at 0°

Weapons: 105mm L7A3 rifled Gun
 1x 12.7mm MG
 1x MG3 7.62mm MG
Speed: 48km/h (30 mph)
Engine: MTU 871 V8, air-cooled, twin-turbo, diesel engine, 1200 hp (880 kW)
Range: 499 km (310 miles)