

German 5th Light Division

March, 1941



The 5th Light Division was a makeshift division built in piecemeal fashion from available units. It was not organized like the previous light divisions used in the Polish Campaign and was called a light division because it had a regiment of tanks but lacked enough pieces to qualify as a full panzer division. The 5th Panzer Regiment was sent from the 3rd Panzer Division but only after its 37mm armed Pz III's were traded in for 50L42 armed tanks. The infantry component was composed of two machine gun battalions put together in a provisional regiment (zbV 200). The artillery was only half a regiment. The 3rd Recon Battalion and 33rd Anti-Aircraft Regiment were also provided by the 3rd Panzer Division.

By Greg Moore gregpanzerblitz.com September, 2008