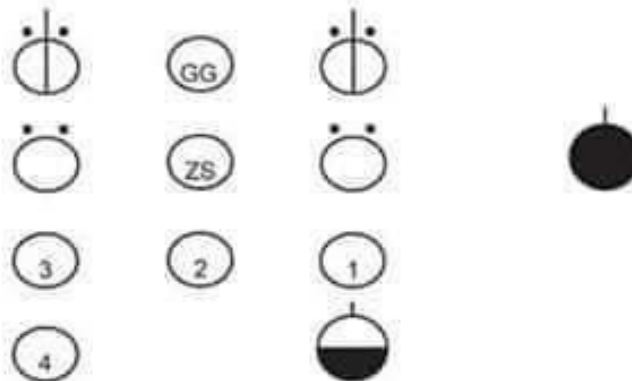


Formations for the Squad

The formations described below will be used for the organization of the squad. They form a clear delineation of responsibilities for weapon systems:

- a.) Automatic weapons (firepower)
- b.) Specialists (designated marksman (ZS) and rifle grenadier (GG))
- c.) Riflemen (shock effect)

A. Marching formation: (Illustration 1)



B. The Squad Column (Illustration 2)

When the squad is formed in column, the squad leader is in the leading position with machine gun team 1 (1. MG-Trupp) with the gunner (MG Schütze 1) and assistant gunner (MG Schütze 2) following one behind the other. The designated marksman follows, and then the rifle grenadier. Machine gun team 2 (2. MG-Trupp) with the gunner (MG Schütze 1) and assistant gunner (MG Schütze 2) are next in the column, followed by the riflemen in order 1, 2, 3, 4. The assistant squad leader takes the rear-most position in the column. Spacing between soldiers in 80 cm (roughly 3 feet), and cross country travel is in route step.

C. The Tactical Column (Army Regulation 130/2a, paragraph 250)

The tactical column is formed as for the squad column with the exception of spacing. When not otherwise ordered, as in Army Regulation 130/2a, paragraph 252, spacing will be at 5 paces between soldiers. Paragraph 250 specifies utilization.

The two machine gun teams are positioned forward. To ensure that both teams cannot be destroyed by a single artillery explosion, the designated marksman and rifle grenadier are positioned in between. Dependent on the enemy situation and terrain, the machine gun teams can be deployed either individually, or combined into a single element.

During the firefight, the designated marksman and rifle grenadier are not assigned to a specific location. When one or both machine gun teams begin to fire, the specialists report to the squad leader to receive their missions. They each perform their duties independently. For this reason, they must be near the squad leader immediately the firefight begins. This also assists them detect and confirm enemy targets as the action develops. Any targets which cannot be defeated by the platoon's organic weapons will be reported to heavy supporting weapons.

The riflemen - the shock effect of the squad - follow the machine guns as a single element, and with good spacing, oriented to terrain and enemy. They are only committed to the firefight when the machine guns (firepower) achieve fire superiority at effective range. It is then that the riflemen close in on their objective.

Until that time, the riflemen trail behind the machine guns, which achieve fire superiority assisted by the designated marksman and rifle grenadier, and with supporting fires from heavy weapons.

Duties of the squad leader and soldiers in the SS-Panzer.Grenadier-Gruppe:

The Column
(Illustration 2)



Duties of the squad leader: (Service Regulation 230/2a)

- 1) He is the leader and spearhead of the squad. He is responsible for the execution of his assigned combat mission.
- 2) Further, he is responsible for combat readiness and accountability of weapons, munitions, and equipment belonging to his squad.
- 3) In the firefight, he develops a tactical plan to accomplish his mission. This includes his weapon systems, i. e. two machine guns, rifle grenadier, and designated marksman. He utilizes the firepower of his organic weapons, heavy weapons, and those of neighboring units, all in order to bring his shock effect (riflemen) into the fight.
- 4) He is responsible for fire control measures.

Duties of the assistant squad leader:

- 1) When the squad leader is either absent, or becomes a casualty, he leads the squad.
- 2) In combat, he ensures that all elements of the squad, and squad equipment, stay closed up with the unit.
- 3) When the squad splits into two elements, he leads one or both as directed by the squad leader.
- 4) He is responsible for:
 - a. Transmitting instructions and orders from the squad leaders to individual soldiers in the squad. Conversely, he ensures that all reports are communicated to the squad leader.
 - b. Execution of all orders from the squad leader.

Correspondingly, he maintains standing contact between the squad leader and riflemen.

Duties of light machine gun soldier 1 (I.MG-1)

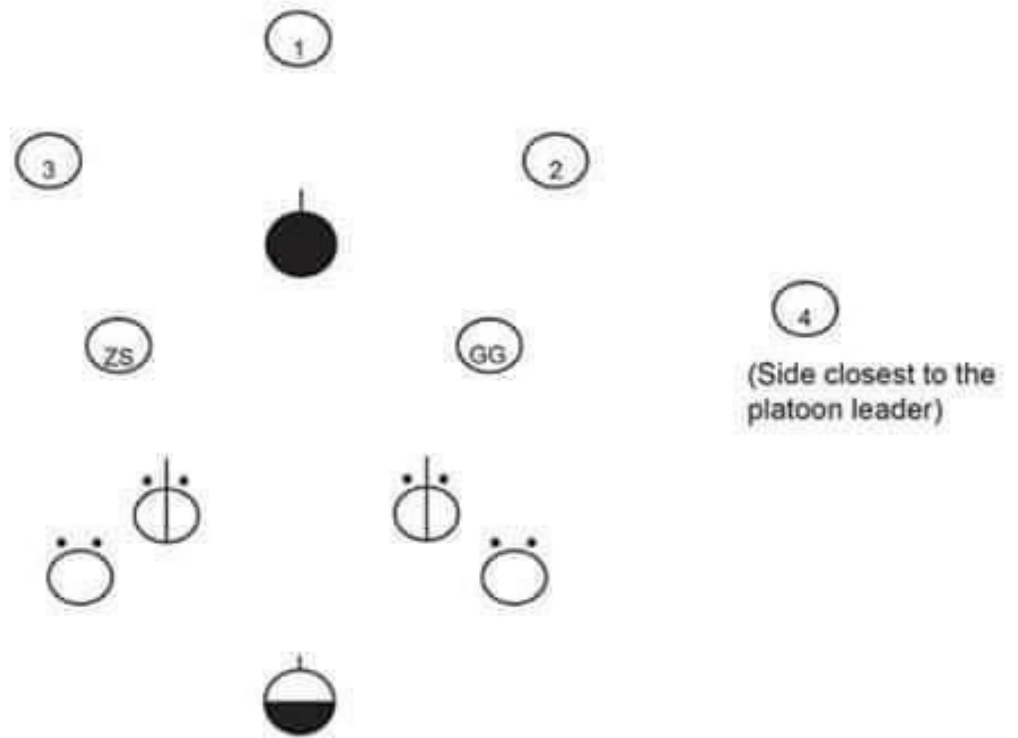
The I.MG-Schütze 1 is the machine gunner. He is responsible for operation of the light machine gun in combat.

- 1) The MG-Schützen 1 operate their weapons in the firefight from either the squad's vehicle or dismounted.
- 2) Observation of the battlefield to the front and terrain analysis for firing positions.
- 3) During the advance and in combat, they conduct enemy armor reconnaissance and armored vehicle identification.

Duties of light machine gun soldier 2 (I.MG-2)

They assist the gunner in combat. After the gun team is in position, MG-Schützen 2 takes a prone position to the left rear of the gun, under full cover if at all possible.

Illustration 3:



E. Firing Wedge:

The firing wedge is formed from the squad column when initiation of fire is expected shortly. The squad leader uses this formation for combined fires from the squad's organic weapons. The objective is rapid success against the enemy, thus enabling the squad to work its way forward. It is this goal to which the squad leader strives.

The squad leader can choose the firing wedge - both machine guns - in the forward line either in advance as an assault formation, or from behind cover against an identified enemy as an ambush using both machine guns.

After opening fire the squad leader executes the sustained firefight with one or both machine guns, dependent on the situation - enemy - and terrain.

