



A counter Mod for The Operational Art of War III

GERMAN TACTICAL SYMBOLS · DEUTSCHE TAKTISCHE ZEICHEN



KEYS & NOTES



GERMAN TACTICAL SYMBOLS DEUTSCHE TAKTISCHE ZEICHEN

A counter mod for TOAW III

1.0 Introduction:

During WW2 the Germans used their own system of tactical symbols to represent military units in documents, on maps or as vehicle markings. Similar to the NATO symbols found in TOAW, it was somehow more detailed and had a different logic that I have tried to adapt to the game. The icons I've used are part of the last set published on 23 May 1943 and in use for the remainder of the War. It should be noted that due to space constraints, some adaptations had to be made, the little flags used to indicate unit sizes for example are on the left on the symbol when in reality they were placed right above it.

2.0 How to use them:

For now I've only modded the four sets of countersheets most commonly used by scenario designers to represent German units: the two gray ones, the feldgrau one and the black one for W-SS units, but new ones might follow if the need arises. Each set comes either with round or square corners, and should be placed in the Alt Graphics folder or in a specific folder bearing the same name as the scenario you want to use them with. I strongly discourage replacing the original sheets in the Graphics folder, however.

It is important to note that due to the way these symbols were used historically, they can only represent units from Company to Division size (except for HQ, see 4.1). It is still possible to use them for all unit sizes but the symbols for section, platoon, corps and army size haven't been altered and will appear as regular NATO ones.

3.0 Size Flags:

To work correctly, the new countersheets must be used with the accompanying modified Numbers.bmp file (this file only has the size "flags", the "masts" themselves have been drawn directly on the counters). The following flags indicate the size of the unit and are placed in the upper left corner of the counter:

	Company <i>Kompanie</i>
	Battalion <i>Bataillon/Abteilung</i>
	Regiment <i>Regiment</i>
	Brigade <i>Brigade</i>
	Division <i>Division</i>

4.0 Symbols:

Here's a list of all the symbols used, arranged by type. For each I've listed both the English and German name, the name of the TOAW icon that has been replaced in parenthesis and some notes on how to use them.

4.1 Command and Senior Headquarters:



Staff
Stab
(Headquarters)

Note: Use for HQ from company to division



Command
Kommando
(Headquarters)

Note: Use only for Corps or Army HQ (NATO size symbol will show)

4.2 Infantry Troops and Weapons:



Infantry
Infanterie
(Infantry)

Note: Use for all foot infantry



Heavy Infantry
Schwere Infanterie
(Infantry Hvy Wpns)



Jager/Light Infantry
Jäger
(Airmobile Infantry)



Infantry on Bicycles
Infanterie auf Fahrrädern
(Bicycle)



Security
Sicherheit
(Security)



Border Guard
Grenzschutz
(Border)



Regional Protection
Landesschützen
(Reserve)



Machine Gun
Maschinengewehr
(Machine Gun)



Fortress
Festung
(Garrison)

Note: Couldn't find the German equivalent so I kept a slightly modified version of the NATO symbol, use for all fortress or otherwise fixed troops.



Winter-mobile Infantry
Winterbeweglich Infanterie
(Ski)



Home Guard
Volkssturm
(Irregular)



Infantry Gun
Infanteriegeschütz
(Inf Artillery)



Mortar
Granatwerfer
(Mortar)

Note: Use for mortars up to 9cm calibre



Heavy Mortar
Schwere Granatwerfer
 (Hvy Mortar)

Note: Use for mortars 12cm calibre or above

4.3 Mountain Troops:



Mountain Infantry
Gebirgsjäger
 (Mountain Infantry)



Heavy Mountain Infantry
Schwere Gebirgsjäger
 (Mountain Hvy Wpns)

4.4 Parachute and Glider Troops:



Parachute
Fallschirm
 (Parachute)



Parachute Infantry
Fallschirmjäger
 (Parachute Infantry)



Heavy Parachute Infantry
Schwere Fallschirmjäger
 (Parachute Hvy Wpns)



Parachute Recon
Fallschirm-Aufklärung
 (Airborne Recon)



Parachute Artillery
Fallschirm-Artillerie
 (Airborne Artillery)



Parachute Antitank
Fallschirm-Panzerjäger
 (Parachute Antitank)



Parachute Engineer
Fallschirm-Pionier
 (Airborne Engineer)

All glider icons below are tentative and should not be considered 100% accurate



Glider
Lastensegler
 (Glider Infantry)



Glider Artillery
 ?
 (Glider Artillery)



Glider Recon
 ?
 (Glider Recon)



Glider Antitank
 ?
 (Glider Antitank)

4.5 Armor Troops:



Armor
Panzer
 (Tank)



Heavy Armor
Schwere Panzer
 (Hvy Armor)



Tank Destroyer
Jagdpanzer
 (Armored Antitank)



Heavy Tank Destroyer
Schwere Jagdpanzer
 (Hvy Antitank)



Assault Gun
Sturmgeschütz
 (Assault Gun)

Note: Historically part of the artillery branch.



Glider Tank
 ?
 (Glider Tank)

Note: tentative icon

4.6 Motorized Infantry and Panzergrenadiers:



Armored Infantry
Panzergrenadier
 (Mechanized)



Motorized Infantry
Infanterie (mot)
 (Motor Infantry)



Heavy Motorized Infantry
Schwere Infanterie (mot)
 (Motor Hvy Wpns)



Motorcycle Infantry
Krafttradschützen
 (Motorcycle)



Motorized Machine Gun
Maschinengewehr (mot)
 (Motor Machinegun)



Towed Infantry Gun
Infanteriegeschütz (mot)
 (Airmobile Artillery)



Self-propelled Heavy Infantry Gun
Schwere Infanteriegeschütz (Sf)
 (Armored Hvy Arty)

4.7 Antitank Troops:



Antitank
Panzerjäger
 (Antitank)

Note: Use for antitank guns up to 5.9cm calibre



Heavy Antitank
Schwere Panzerjäger
 (Antitank)

Note: Use for antitank guns 6cm calibre and up



Towed Antitank
Panzejäger (mot Z)
 (Motor Antitank)

Note: Use for antitank guns up to 5.9cm calibre



Towed Heavy Antitank
Schwere Panzejäger (mot Z)
 (Motor Antitank)

Note: Use for antitank guns 6cm calibre and up



Self-propelled Antitank
Panzejäger (Sf)
 (Airmobile Antitank)

4.8 Reconnaissance Troops:



Panzer Recon (4-wheeled)
Panzerspäh (4-rad)
(Transport)



Panzer Recon (8-wheeled)
Panzerspäh (8-rad)
(Motor Cavalry)



Panzer Recon (Tanks)
Panzerspähwagen
(Armored Cavalry)



Panzer Recon (Halftracks)
Panzerspäh (spw)
(Armored Recon)

4.9 Cavalry Troops:



Cavalry
Kavallerie
(Cavalry)



Cavalry Gun
Kavalleriegeschütz
(Horse Artillery)

The two icons below have been adapted for TOAW, the Germans didn't have such things as Mountain Cavalry



Mountain Cavalry
?
(Mountain Cav)



Heavy Mountain Cavalry
?
(Mtn Cav Hvy Wpns)

4.10 Artillery Troops:



Field Guns/Cannons
Feld Kanonen
(Hvy Artillery)

Note: Use for company-size units only



Guns in position
Kanonen in Stellung
(Coastal Artillery)



Guns in fixed or permanent position
Kanonen ortsfest
(Fixed Artillery)



Guns with armor or concrete protection
Kanonen unter panzer oder beton fertig
(Coastal Artillery)



Howitzer/Artillery
Feld Haubitz/Artillerie
(Artillery)

Note: For artillery units from battalion and up, the Germans didn't make anymore type distinction. Use this icon for howitzer companies or artillery battalions and higher.



Towed Howitzer/Artillery
Feld Haubitz/Artillerie (mot)
(Motor Artillery)

Note: see Howitzer/Artillery



Self-propelled Howitzer/Artillery
Feld Haubitz/Artillerie (Sf)
(Armored Artillery)

Note: see Howitzer/Artillery



Anti-aircraft Artillery
Flakartillerie
(Anti Aircraft)



Towed Anti-aircraft Artillery
Flakartillerie (mot Z)
(Motor Anti Air)



Self-propelled Anti-aircraft Artillery
Flakartillerie (Sf)
(Airmobile Anti Air)

4.11 Rocket Launcher Troops:



Rocket Launcher
Nebelwerfer
(Rocket Artillery)



Towed Rocket Launcher
Nebelwerfer (mot Z)
(Motor Rocket)

4.12 Engineer Troops:



Engineer
Pionier
(Engineer)



Motorized Engineer
Pionier (mot)
(Motor Engineer)



Armored Engineer
Panzer Pionier
(Armored Engineer)



Bridging Column
Brückenkolonne
(Ferry Engineer)



Construction/Railroad Engineer
Baupionier/Eisenbahnpionier
(Railroad Repair)

Note: Use for all non-combat engineers

4.13 Supply and Rear Area Troops:



Military Police
Feldgendarmerie
(Military Police)



Supply
Nachschub
(Supply)



Transport
Kraftfahr
(Transport)

4.14 Railway Troops:



Armored Train
Panzerzug
(Armored Train)



Rail Artillery
Eisenbahnartillerie
(Rail Artillery)

4.15 Air Units:

Normal plane icons have been conserved so designers can

chose which one they want to use



Air
Luft
(Air)



Fighter Squadron
Jagd-Geschwader
(Fighter)



Twin-engine Fighter Squadron
Zerstörer-Geschwader
(Fighter-Bomber)



Ground-Attack Squadron
Schlacht-Geschwader
(Light Bomber)

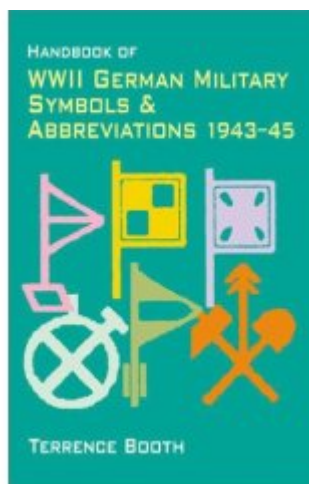


Dive-Bomber Squadron
Sturzkampf-Geschwader
(Medium Bomber)



Bomber Squadron
Kampf-Geschwader
(Heavy Bomber)

5.0 Sources:



Handbook of WWII German Military Symbols and Abbreviations 1943 – 1945 by Terrence Booth, Helion & Co, 2001

[Dr. Leo Niehorster website](#)

<http://www.wiidaybyday.com/>

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