

# Corps artillery in the German Army 1957-1994

## Introduction

When the new army of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundeswehr) was formed in the second half of the 1950s, the operational units of the first line were given priority of course. Each brigade should have a gun battalion of artillery for combat fire support, each divisional regiment controlled a gun and a missile battalion each to give fire support to brigades, fighting enemy artillery and secure nuclear firepower.

Long range nuclear missiles of the army should be provided by the three corps commands and the German contribution to the Corps LANDJUT (GE/DK). Corps should also contribute conventional gun battalions to strengthen divisional fire where- and whenever possible. But it was clear that the first line battalions and nuclear role artillery had to come first. The rising of an army of about 500.000 soldiers within a few years meant that many gaps and deficiencies had to be accepted in the first years. Original plans suffered from many delays and the battle order was not accomplished before 1970/1975.

The German army contributed three Corps (I,II,III) with eleven divisions and a further division plus some corps support troops for the allied Corps LANDJUT (GE/DK) north of the River Elbe. Each Corps had a great number of units from all branches to strengthen divisions in crucial situations and to secure support (artillery, engineers, airdefence, nbc-warfare, communications, logistics, medical services). These support forces were organized in special corps commands (= HQs with a HQ company) for the different services. In LANDJUT-area the territorial army in Schleswig Holstein commanded all German support services for this combined corps.

Corps Artillery Commands' first role was to prepare nuclear combat in its defence zone along the iron girder. Corps Artillery commands didn't only control nuclear missile and gun battalions, but also units for special tasks of artillery support like observation (observation battalions 170,270,370 until 1966), topographical service (101,201,301 topographical batteries) and special units to transport and safeguard nuclear warheads and missiles. (supply battalion spec weapons 120,220,320). Some of the six NBC-battalions which were formed between 1958 to 1971 (120,220,310\*,610\*,900\* battalion) were also under artillery command as far as the areas of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> corps were concerned, but planning nuclear warfare and limiting damage of enemy NBC-weapons were a different business and in 1981 the NBC-units were transferred to the corps engineer commands where the jobs were more similar. (\* these battalions were not under artillery command)

Priority was given to form the heavy nuclear missile battalions first.

Nuclear corps artillery started with three Honest John battalions (no 140 Nienburg, 240 Ingolstadt, 340 Gießen), but they were transferred to divisional regiments when the training and establishing of heavy missile battalions (Sergeant) began in the early sixties (no 150 Wesel no 250 Großengstingen no 350 Montabaur, no 650 Flensburg). This heavy nuclear artillery was the backbone of corps artillery and these missile units were kept in service until the end of nuclear roles for NATO-landforces in 1992. Since 1976 these four missile battalions replaced their Sergeants by 26 Lance-systems at all (no 150,350 : three batteries two Lance each, no 250: four batteries two Lance each, no 650: two batteries two Lance each) . Each battalion owned an infantry company to safeguard systems and warheads. In 1985 a reorganisation meant a reduction of one battery in 150,250 and 350 battalion and a third launcher system in each battery. When these missile units disbanded in 1993/4 the era of corps artillery had come to an ending.

The second task of corps artillery was to provide additional conventional gunfire for divisions in the centre of combat operations. The completion of these gun battalions was delayed and suffered from deficiencies. Only two gun battalions (210 Philippsburg, 310 Idar-Oberstein, then Kusel) were formed between 1958 and 1963, but no 310 battalion lacked one battery until 1966 and was committed to training support of artillery school at Idar-Oberstein. In 1963 the gun battalion of 2 Artillery Command in Southern Germany was accomplished with two field gun batteries and one heavy howitzer battery. This support was urgently needed in the area of the 2<sup>nd</sup> army corps because two

divisional gun battalions (no 81 Kempten and 121 Tauberbischofsheim) were not completed until the end of the decade. There is no exact evidence but it seems consistent that 210 battalion field artillery at Philippsburg had a nuclear role, too. Missile battalion 122 (former 92 battalion) with its Honest Johns was also placed at Philippsburg, so that nuclear support and custody were available.

The conventional fire support of corps artillery was strengthened when reserve units were formed in 1968. They were equipped with FH 155 M114 and FH 105, which were no longer used in the first line battalions. A list in an army brochure from 1976 still lists 56 field howitzers 155mm (M114) and 147 field howitzers in German stocks. Military Balance 1978 lists 275 howitzers 105mm and 71 howitzers 155mm 105 (including the portable mountain howitzers which were still used in the two active mountain artillery battalions no 225 and 235) The M114 retired from active service in no 210 battalion in 1979 (see below) and isn't any longer mentioned in armament lists of the 80ies. So as a whole there were enough artillery pieces to equip reserve units. The increasing numbers of draftsmen who had finished service secured enough manpower to fill these battalions if needed. These reserve battalions survived many reorganisations in the following years.

Some corps battalions were transferred to territorial army in the 80ies. They moved to the new home defence brigades (six active, six reserve) under national territorial command. There they kept the old field howitzers 105 in service to secure a minimum firepower against airborne enemy or armoured forces which might have broken through the NATO front.

The corps gun battalions had to enforce divisional artillery fire in central defence positions and situations. In different jubilee brochures the reserve battalions no 120, 130, 140, 220, 230, 240, 320, 330 are listed in the battle order of the early 70ies. A gun battalion with field gun 155 mm "Long Tom" in LANDJUT area has been mentioned (Wiener), but is nowhere else confirmed for this decade (more remarks see below Territorialkommando Schleswig-Holstein).

The active gun battalions 110, 210 and 310 had to support mobilisation of these reserve battalions during field exercises. The last active corps gun battalion was not established before 1970, when no 110 battalion field artillery was raised at Dülmen with field howitzers 105 mm, but four years later it had already to fill gaps in the battle order of 20<sup>th</sup> armoured brigade. In 1980 only one active battery remained to keep 110 battalion alive, the same story repeated when 310 battalion at Kassel, being an armoured artillery battalion (training) since 1967, was assigned to 34 armoured brigade and only A-Battery of 310 battalion survived in the battle order of corps artillery. Only 210 battalion survived in full battle order until 1985 and became the heaviest active gun battalion of the German army when its obsolete field howitzers M114 were replaced by M107 in 1979. The seven corps battalions (110, 120, 210, 220, 310, 320, 640) received 18 M107 each which were upgraded with 203 mm barrels in 1982 and became M 110 A2. Only A-Battery 110, 310 and 210 battalion were active units In 1986 all gun battalions of corps artillery disbanded and their M110As were divided among eleven divisional regiments where the gun battalion (no 11- no 121) grew up to the strength of 18 field howitzers 155 (the new FH 155-1 GE/UK/IT) and 18 M110 A2 !!

#### **Abbreviations and comments:**

**GerE** =Geräteeinheit → a reservist-manned unit with equipment stored in barracks, depots, old factories etc.

#### **Numbers of compagnie/batteries in German battalions:**

1.=HQ Services 2.=A-Company 3.= B-Company etc.

Mind that field **guns** and field **howitzers** are different terms which indicate a different ballistic performance.

Nuclear artillery needed infantry support to safeguard their sensitive equipment. The German term for these guards units is "Begleitbatterie"

## Corps Artillery Command 1 (HQ Münster)

1957

Established as Korpsartilleriekommandeur 401. This command belonged to the HQ of 1<sup>st</sup> Corps /GE) at Münster/Westphalia and had to organise plans for nuclear warfare and fire support in the corps area. At first only topographical battery 695 (Münster) and the staff of observation battalion 451 at Idar-Oberstein, later Bremen-Grohn,

- were under control.
- 1958 Field artillery battalion 441 (Lingen) and air defence battalion 180 (Rheine) subordinated, no 180 bn was equipped with 75mm automatic guns Skysweeper battalion, but already in 1961 it was converted into no 31 airdefence battalion (Hawk) of the airforce.
- 1959 New name: Korpsartilleriekommandeur 1 with Observation battalion 170 at Lippstadt, topographical battery 101 (former 695 bty) and missile battalion 140 (Honest John) at Nienburg. No 441 battalion became 195 battalion field artillery and moved to 11 mech division.
- 1961 Formation of missile battalion 150 began at Eschweiler, no 81 transportation battalion spec weapons subordinated,
- 1962 No 150 battalion moved to Warendorf
- 1963 Formation of no 650 battalion began at Eschweiler
- 1964 Missile battalion 140 left battle order and became no 12 battalion of 1 mechanized Division, no 650 battalion moved to Itzehoe
- 1965 170 battalion moved to Wuppertal, 150 battalion moved from Warendorf to Wesel-Hamminkeln
- 1966 170 battalion disbanded and was converted into independent observation units on divisional level.
- 1968 Formation of gun battalions reserve no 120,130 and 140 under control of HQ artillery regiment 100 (reserve)
- 1970 No 110 battalion field artillery was formed at Dülmen, equipped with field howitzers 105 mm
- 1971 NBC-battalion 120 formed at Emmerich
- 1973 No 650 battalion transferred to 6 mech division
- 1975 No 110 battalion lost its A-Battery to form 205 battalion armoured artillery for 7 mech division, no 81 battalion became 120 battalion supply spec weapons
- 1977 NBC-Battalion 120 moved to Emden
- 1981 New army structure, topographical battery 101 became 800 top battery of territorial army (Territorialkommando Nord), top platoon 100 remained to supply 1<sup>st</sup> corps with maps. No 110 battalion (reduced to one active battery) and no 120 battalion(reserve) received M107 self propelled guns (175mm), which were upgraded to M110 A2 in the following year. NBC-Battalion transferred to 1 engineer command.
- 1986 Reorganisation of artillery affected all units, HQ arty regiment 100 (reserve), no 110 and 120 battalion disbanded. Their M110A2-systems transferred to divisional artillery.
- 1993 No 120 Supply battalion spec weapons at Werlte moved to 1 logistic brigade and 150 battalion transferred to no 7 artillery regiment of 7 armoured division.
- 1994 1 corps artillery command disbanded

## The units of no 1 artillery command:

### Topographiebatterie 101 (Münster)

1957 formed as Topographiebatterie 695 at Münster, renamed no 101 in 1959. In 1980 transferred to territorial army and renamed Topographiebatterie 800 (Territorialkommando Nord)

(see survey 1 artillery command)

### Feldartilleriebataillon 110 (Dülmen)

- 1970 No 110 battalion field artillery was formed at Dülmen when missile battalion 72 (Honest John) moved to Geilenkirchen to replace the training battalion missile artillery. 1./72 and 2/72 became the new gun battalion

- 1971 No 110 battalion was complete with HQ Service battery and firing batteries A,B and C. B-Battery served as salute battery for government when foreign heads of state visited Germany. The battalion at once started its firing practises at Munsterlager. The big stocks of ammunition 105 mm favoured training under real conditions. The battalion was able to fire many rounds on exercises. The howitzers were transported by FAUN GT 8/15 "Geräteträgern" which were not very reliable. These two-axled vehicles could lift and lower the howitzers by a special crane.
- 1975 No 110 battalion had to reduce to form no 205 battalion armoured artillery with M 109 G. No 205 battalion stayed at Dülmen and supported no 20 armoured brigade. The formation of this ( and two other) brigades had been delayed until the 70ies. So no 110 battalion lost its B-Battery as active unit.
- 1980 No 110 battalion reorganized again, C-Battery became the new A-Battery, the HQ Services company was needed to form observation battalion 73 (Dülmen), B-Battery became C-Battery of no 71 battalion field artillery (Dülmen), so only C-Battery of no 110 battalion survived and became the new A-Battery (2./110). The other batteries (1./3./4.) became reserve units
- 1981 The light field howitzers were replaced by self-propelled guns 175mm M107
- 1982 M107 upgraded to M110A2 status, rebarrelling of some guns was delayed until 1985 to use the old 175mm ammunition for training of observation units.
- 1986 Feldartilleriebataillon 110 disbanded.
- ### Feldartilleriebataillon 120 GerE (Unna)
- 1968 Formed as reserve bataillon at Unna-Massen, equipped with M114 and/or field howitzers 105mm
- 1982 Equipped with M 110A2
- 1993 Disbanded
- ### Feldartilleriebataillon 130 GerE
- 1968 Formed as reserve bataillon
- 1982 Became Feldartilleriebataillon 635 at Unna-Massen , a reserve unit of the new home defence brigade 66 (reserve), equipped with field howitzers 105 mm, disbanded in about 1992/3
- ### Feldartilleriebataillon 140 GerE
- 1968 Formed as reserve bataillon
- 1971 Disbanded when no 110 bataillon was formed at Dülmen, perhaps equipped with field howitzers 203 mm (?)
- ### Raketenartilleriebataillon 150 (Wesel)
- 1961 Raketenartilleriebataillon 150 (no 150 missile battalion) formed at Eschweiler (Donnerbergkaserne) for training personnel at missile school German army. US-training in White Sands began.
- 1962 Two batteries formed , battalion moved to Warendorf (east of Münster), 3<sup>rd</sup> battery established, first Sergeant systems arrived
- 1963 E-Battery (6./150) formed at Hildesheim to provide protection for missiles and war-heads
- 1964 Four batteries completed, , nuclear test programmes prepared
- 1965 HQ-Battery, A – C-Battery moved from Warendorf and E-Battery from Hildesheim to Hamminkeln (near Wesel /River Rhine). There a new camp (Schillkaserne) had been erected. The training company 2/I was added. 1<sup>st</sup> USFAD was garrisoned at Schillkaserne.
- Battalion completed after D-Battery was formed, each firing battery owned one Sergeant-system
- First firing practice on the Hebrides, nuclear tests started, a nuclear storage site was installed a few kilometres north of the camp at Diersfordter Wald.

Logistic Support was provided by Versorgungsbataillon 160 (Flugkörper) which had been formed at Delmenhorst-Adelheide in 1962. In 1965 it was reorganised and re-named Technisches Bataillon Sonderwaffen 160. Its B-Company (3./160) at Wesel-Hamminkeln secured maintenance of the Sergeants and its D-Company (4./160) at Delmenhorst cared for transport and supply of missiles.

- 1968 First firing practice at Crete
- 1976 Lance-system replaced Sergeant, D-battery disbanded and integrated into B-Battery, E-Battery became D-Battery. The battalion owned 6 Lance-systems in three firing batteries.
- 1978 First Lance-missile fired at Crete
- 1980 With the disbanding of missile school artillery Lance-training-battery moved from Geilenkirchen to artillery school at Idar-Oberstein and became new D-Battery (5./150) of the battalion at Wesel-Hamminkeln. The guards battery had to take its old number again (=6./150).
- 1985 5./150 at Idar-Oberstein was subordinated to Lance-Battalion 250 at Großengstingen (= 4./250). Training company 2/I was subordinated to no 170 transportation at Rheine and renamed into 18/I.
- 1987 C-Battery disbanded and divided among A and B-Battery with three launchers each. . Guards-company became C-Battery
- 1992 Last Lance-missile fired at Crete, no 150 battalion began to prepare introduction of multiple rocket launchers MLRS (German name "MARS"= mittleres Artillerieraketensystem) 227 mm and the light missile launchers LARS 110 mm. LARS had been used in the divisional missile battalions since 1970. The launchers had been installed on new MAN-trucks in the early 80ies. The MARS launchers were new systems. The guards-company was transformed into a firing-battery, because safeguarding nuclear equipment was no longer necessary.  
A-Battery owned 8 LARS, B- and C-Battery had 10 MARS each.
- 1993 First firing practice with MARS and LARS, no 150 missile battalion was subordinated to no 7 divisional artillery regiment (HQ Dülmen).
- 1995 The new command and control system ADLER was introduced, soldiers of no 150 battalion took part in the SFOR-mission in Bosnia.
- 2000 The LARS-systems left service, A-,B- and C-Battery had 8 MARS-launchers now.
- 2002 According to the new army plans no 150 missile battalion had to disband. A signal battalion (Fernmeldebataillon 284) which moved from Essen to Wesel occupied Schill-Kaserne.

### Raketenartilleriebataillon 650 (Flensburg)

- 1963 Established at Eschweiler (Donnerbergkaserne), subordinated to 1 artillery command.
- 1964 moved to Itzehoe in Schleswig-Holstein. It formed the nuclear component of Corps LANDJUT on German ground. Denmark didn't allow nuclear warheads on its territory in peacetime, so the Bundeswehr had to prepare nuclear defence for holding the front between Hamburg and Lübeck and, what was more important, maintain deterrence.
- 1966 First firing practice with Sergeant on the Hebrides. The battalion cooperated with 294<sup>th</sup> US Arty Group. No 650 battalion consisted of HQServices company, two firing batteries and a guards battery (4./650). It was supported by technical battalion special weapons 660 at Heide (Albersdorf until 1967). No 650 battalion was still under command of 1 artillery command in peacetime.
- 1973 The battalion left the battle order of 1<sup>st</sup> corps and moved from Itzehoe to Flensburg. It was subordinated to no 6 artillery regiment of 6 mechanized division, the German contribution to land forces of LANDJUT in Schleswig-Holstein. Under no 650 battalion's command came also Nachschubkompanie Sonderwaffen 611 for supply special weapons and the reserve unit Sicherungsbataillon 610 for infantry protection.

- 1976 NO 650 missile battalion equipped with Lance in two firing batteries  
 1993(?) disbanded
- Nachschubbataillon Sonderwaffen 120 (Werlte)**
- 1960 The first staff for Transportbataillon 932 assembled at Köln-Longerich and moved to Lüdenscheid where they became Transportbataillon 81 (special weapons) in Buckesfeldkaserne.
- 1963 They moved to Sögel (Mühlenbergkaserne), where the battalion cooperated with 552<sup>nd</sup> US Arty Group and 162<sup>nd</sup> Ordnance company. The battalion consisted of four companies: HQ-Services-Company , A-Company (guards), B-Company (transportation), C-Company (training)  
 It had to safeguard the nuclear storage site "Lahner Heide" near Werlte with its guards company (A-company). In case of crises or war the battalion would have had to empty the nuclear storage site and keep the warheads and missiles on mobile hold by the 10-ton-trucks of their transportation company (=B-Company). They would have supplied nuclear artillery with a second load of nuclear heads if necessary. These special weapons battalions were transportation and infantry units as well. They were equipped with 10-ton -trucks from FAUN and light 1,5- to- trucks UN-IMOG for the teams which protected the convoys and the nuclear storage sites.  
 C-company (training) became training company 9/1  
 1966 Training company 15/11 at Fürstenau was subordinated.  
 1967 Transportation battalion 81 (SW) moved to Werlte (Hümmelingkaserne)  
 1968 The missile transportation company of the technical support battalion 160 Delmenhorst (4./160) was added and the battalion at Werlte renamed to Nachschubbataillon SW 120. It owned two supply companies special weapons which comprised transportation and infantry platoons plus the special transportation company for missiles which stayed in Delmenhorst. This company used 24 x Faun 10 ton trucks for Honest Johns and eight trailers for Sergeants pulled by Magirus "Jupiter" . This company was still needed, but outphasing of Honest John and Sergeant was lying ahead.  
 In 1973 the author had also eyewitnessed US-Trucks M 55 and special US- trailers M 405 for missiles in Delmenhorst in the camp section of TBtl 160. Perhaps they were owned by missile battalion 112 (Honest John)
- 1976/7 The FAUN trucks in 120 battalion were replaced by MAN-trucks, which were all terrain vehicles as well.
- 1980 After Sergeant and Honest John had left service the special transportation company for these missile types was no longer needed. Lance-Containers could be loaded on normal army trucks. The MAN 10-ton trucks had their own cranes to load/unload the containers. So C-Company (4./NschBtl SW120) was integrated into the two supply companies . Now no 120 battalion consisted of a HQ-Sevices-Company and two identical operational supply companies with guards platoons, transport platoon and loading platoon.
- 1993 The battalion was transformed into a normal transportation battalion of logistic troops (Logistikbrigade 1) after US-Custody units (see above) had left in 1992. The new name: Transportbataillon 120. The battalion was equipped with about 210 MAN 10-ton-trucks (all terrain) and a militarized version of a civil MAN model with 10 ton trailers.
- 2003 Transportbataillon 120 disbanded and the garrison Werlte was abandoned

### **ABCAbwehrbataillon 120/110 (Emden)**

**NBC-Battalion 120 , since 1981 no 110 battalion.**

- 1971 ABC-Abwehrbataillon 120 formed at Moritz-von-Nassau-Kaserne in Emmerich (River Rhine) from NBC-Companies 10 (Hildesheim), 210 (Höxter) and 310 (Delmenhorst)

and two reserve-companies ( no 11 Holzminden and no 71 Höxter). The development of the battalion suffered from insufficient accommodation capacities in the camp at Emmerich. In battle order the battalion owned a HQService company, a nbc-reconnaissance company and two nbc-companies (reserve).

1973 A third reserve company was raised and the depot at Kranenburg near Kleve accommodated the equipment for the non-active B-,C-,D- companies.

1977 A reorganisation of NBC-troops meant that the divisional nbc-companies were subordinated to the NBC-battalion of the corps command. These companies were added to the two active and three reserve companies of the battalion. This device favoured peacetime-training. In operations the divisional companies would have been independent. The barracks at Emmerich which were also occupied by no 800 engineer battalion , were too small for additional companies. So NBC-battalion 120 moved to Emden (von-Müller-Kaserne) on the coast of the North Sea. The nbc-companies no 1 (Braunschweig) no 7 (Ahlen) and 3 (Lüneburg) followed, only nbc company 11 stayed in its camp at Achim near Bremen.

1980 NBC-battalion 120 renamed into 110 battalion. No 11 company at Achim became a training company for drivers. No 3 company at Emden became new no 11 company.

NBC company 90 at Combat School at Munster(-lager) became the new 3 company.

1981 NBC-battalion 110 with its divisional companies left 1 artillery command and was subordinated to 1 engineer command. NBC services better suited into engineer training and equipment.

1988 The new armoured NBC reconnaissance vehicle Fuchs replaced the NBC-detection teams on armoured carriers M 113.

1993 NBC-Battalion 110 disbanded. A reserve battalion of NBC-brigade 20, later NBC-brigade 100 continued its tradition. For this function, in 1998 the reserve battalion no 110 was attached to NBC-battalion 610 at Albersdorf. At the moment(2005) no 110 battalion is still a reserve unit of NBC-Brigade 100 (Bruchsal). Although only two active nbc-units will survive in army plan 2010 (no 7 Höxter, no 750 Bruchsal) the uncertain risks of terror attacks might prolong the life of the nbc-reserve units.

### Sicherungsбатаillon SW 100 GerE (Ahaus-Ottenstein)

1971 Reserve unit formed to strengthen protection for nuclear systems and warheads in the area of 1<sup>st</sup> corps (GE), equipment was stored in an old factory at Ahaus-Ottenstein.

1992 disbanded

### Feldersatzбатаillon GerE 120

1964 Formed as reserve unit to organise reserve personnel in field to replace casualties.

1993 Disbanded

## Corps Artillery Command 2 (HQ Ulm)

1957 HQ and HQ-battery "Korpsartilleriekommandeur 402" formed at Ulm (Kienlesbergkaserne). Topographiebatterie 696 was formed and subordinated at the same site.

1958 HQ moved to Bleidornkaserne (Ulm). Beobachtungs (observation)батаillon 452 at Bremen-Grohn formed.

1959 HQ and HQ-Battery Korpsartilleriekommado 2 with Beobachtungsбатаillon 270 and Topographiebatterie 201 (Wilhelmsburgkaserne), no 270 battalion moved from Bremen to Großengstingen

1961 Transportбатаillon Sonderwaffen 82 formed at Achern and Kirchzarten

- 1962 Raketenartilleriebataillon 250 formed at Eschweiler, Feldartilleriebataillon 210 formed at Philippsburg
- 1963 No 250 battalion moved to Großengstingen, Feldersatzbataillon 220 (reserve) formed at Großengstingen to secure replacement of personnel in combat. ABC-Abwehrbataillon 220 (Bruchsal) subordinated.
- 1966 Beobachtungsbataillon 270 disbanded, batteries transferred to no 4, 8 and 12 division. ReserveHQ of no 200 artillery regiment formed at Kronau near Bruchsal.
- 1968 No 220,230 and 240 formed at Friedrichthal and Oftersheim, these battalions received field guns 155mm or field howitzers 155 mm and finally 105mm and changed equipment several times. Field training exercise "Schwarzer Löwe" placed from Bavaria to the south-west of Germany to avoid escalation during occupation of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact. 2 artillery command displayed its firepower on Münsingen training site. First public demonstration of multiple rocket launchers 110 mm.
- 1971 New name "Artilleriekommando 2"
- 1973 Sicherungsbataillon 200 formed as "Geräteeinheit (GerE)" in Osterburken, to protect nuclear units against light enemy attacks (airborne, special forces etc.).
- 1975 Transportbataillon Sonderwaffen 82 at Günzburg reorganized and renamed: Nachschubbataillon Sonderwaffen 220.
- 1976 Lance replaced Sergeant in no 250 battalion.
- 1979 No 210 battalion replaced old field howitzers M 114 by M 107 self propelled guns
- 1981 Topographiebatterie 201 became Topographiebatterie 850 of territorial army (Territorialkommando Süd), Topographiezug (platoon) 200 remained for map supply of 1<sup>st</sup> corps
- 1983 No 210 battalion' s M 107s upgraded to M110 A2
- 1985 The gun battalions no 210 and 220 (reserve) disbanded, reserve HQ artillery regiment 200 became HQ artillery regiment of 9 airborne division.
- 1992 Nuclear role finished, US-Custody units and warheads left Germany
- 1994 2 Artillery command and 250 battalion disbanded, Nachschubbataillon 220 converted into transportation battalion for logistic services.

## The units of 2 artillery command:

### Topographiebatterie 201 Ulm

- 1957 Formed as Topographiebatterie 696 at Ulm (Kienlesbergkaserne)
- 1959 Moved to Wilhelmsburgkaserne and renamed Topographiebatterie 101. The battery had to produce and to supply maps for all units for 2<sup>nd</sup> corps.
- 1981 The battery was subordinated to Territorialkommando Süd and renamed Topographiebatterie 850. As there was still the need for a supply unit for maps, a special platoon, Topographiezug 200, remained under 2 artillery command.
- 1993 When Territorialkommando Süd disbanded, no 850 battery returned to 2<sup>nd</sup> corps and came under control of the signalsbrigade 2.(Führungsunterstützungsbrigade 2), 200 top platoon was transferred to 10 armoured division and renamed no 500 top platoon.

### Feldartilleriebataillon 210 (Philippsburg)

- 1962 No 210 battalion field artillery was formed at Philippsburg (Salmkaserne) with HQ-Services battery (1./210) and one heavy battery 203mm M 115 (4./210).
- 1963 Two more batteries (2./210 and 3./310) established and equipped with field guns 155 mm (M 59)"Long Toms". The guns and heavy howitzers were tracked by tractors M4/M5 which were rather unreliable.



- 1964 The tracked tractors were replaced by FAUN 912 trucks. After mobilisation the battalion would have become the nucleus for three gun battalions under command of no 200 artillery regiment. This regiment was only a reserve HQ. The field artillery battalions reserve no 220,230 and 240 were established at Friedrichsthal and Offersheim in 1968 (see below) .
- 1967-70 The firing batteries replaced their Long Toms and heavy howitzers 203 mm with field howitzers 155mm M114 , beginning with the two M 59- batteries (2./210 in 1967, 3./210 in 1969) and finishing with the heavy battery (4./210) in 1970.
- 1970 Feldartilleriebatterie 201 established with field howitzers 155 mm .
- 1980 No 201 battery disbanded and integrated into no 210 battalion. The field howitzers 155 mm M114 were replaced by 18 self-propelled 175mm-guns M107, which had left service in divisional artillery after the new field howitzer FH 155-1 had been introduced there.
- 1982 The M107 guns received 203 mm barrels and were upgraded to M110 A2. The battalion became the heaviest active gun battalion in the German army.
- 1985 In September no 210 battalion disbanded. With the help of its personnel the missile battalion no 122 at Philippsburg was strengthened to convert into a MLRS-battalion.
- Raketenartilleriebataillon 250 (Großengstingen)**
- 1962 First staff of „Artilleriebataillon 250“ formed at Eschweilerr (Donnerbergkaserne)
- 1963 Battalion moved to Großengstingen without staff, whose training in USA began, first launch of a Sergeant-missile, training company 6/II formed at Großengstingen
- 1964 First Sergeant equipment delivered
- 1965 Artilleriebataillon 250 renamed into Raketenartilleriebataillon 250. Firing practice of A- and B-battery on the Hebrides, camp at Großengstingen named Finckh-Kaserne , partnership with Sergeant unit 5<sup>th</sup> battalion 73<sup>rd</sup> US Artillery (Erlangen)
- 1966 Partnership with French artillery regiment no 73 at Reutlingen (became 24 rgt in 1981), firing practice of C- and D-battery on Hebrides
- 1967 Cooperation with 84<sup>th</sup> US Arty Detachment began
- 1968 Equipment on parade during field exercise "Schwarzer Löwe", which also was a political demonstration during the occupation of Chechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact forces. Although the field exercise had been placed in an area further west to give a signal for deescalation, the alliance wanted to demonstrate its ability for defence and deterrence.
- 1969 No 250 battalion organizes first mobilisation exercise of Feldersatzbataillon 220, first firing practice on Crete with C- and D-battery, Raketenartilleriebataillon proved to be best German Sergeant battalion several times in the following years. After the nuclear storage sites of Günzburg and Pfullendorf had been temporarily used and safeguarded by 6./250 the battalion received its own site.
- 1973 2<sup>nd</sup> Bataillon 42<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery (Crailsheim) continued partnership after the Sergeant battalion at Erlangen had disbanded.
- 1975 Last Sergeant-firing-practice on Crete with C- and D-battery
- 1976 First German missile battalion which received Lance-system, D-battery disbanded, E-Battery (Guards) became new D-battery (5./250).
- 1977 First Lance firing on Crete by A- and C-Battery, missile from A-Battery failed
- 1979 Best German Lance-battalion
- 1980 Training company 6/II disbanded,
- 1981 Peace demonstrations in front of camp, army school of missiles at Geilenkirchen disbanded, missile training now organized by training group B of artillery school at Idar-Oberstein.
- 1982 Peace demonstrations continue, nuclear site blocked for one week
- 1985 Reorganization: D-Battery disbanded, A- and B-Battery receive three launcher platoons Lance. Lance-training battery 4./150 at Idar-Oberstein becomes 4./250. and

would join the battalion in war. In peacetime this battery supported artillery school and was subordinated to 5 regiment artillery. Mobilisation exercise of Feldersatzbataillon 220. Raketenartilleriebataillon 250 continued tradition of Feldartilleriebataillon 210.

1993/94

disbanded

### Feldartilleriebataillon 220 GerE (Oftersheim)

1968

Formed as reservebataillon, equipped with field howitzers 155 or 105 mm

1981

Became Feldartilleriebataillon 655 (no 655 battalion field artillery) of the new home defence brigade 65(reserve). It was equipped with field howitzers 105mm. In the re-organised army structure no IV six active (no 51-56) and six reserve brigades (no 61-66) were formed since 1981 and equipped with tanks, howitzers and armoured personnel carriers which had been outphased in the first line units. These brigades had to fight airborne troops or fill gaps in the first line of forward defence. They disbanded in the early 90ies including their battalions field artillery.

1990ies

disbanded

### Feldartilleriebataillon 230 GerE

1968

Formed as reservebataillon, equipped with field howitzers 155 or 105 mm

1981

Became no 220 battalion and equipped with M1 10 A2

1990ies

disbanded

### Feldartilleriebataillon 240 GerE

1968

Formed as reserve battalion, perhaps it used the 155 mm field guns M 59 which were outphased from active service

1971

disbanded.

### Nachschubbataillon Sonderwaffen 220 (Günzburg)

no 220 supply battalion special weapons

1961

Transportbataillon (SW) 82 was formed with HQ-Service company (1./82) at Achern and transportation company (3./82) and guards company (2./82) at Kirchzarten

1962

1./82 and 3./82 moved to Kempten, 2./82 moved to the depot Urlaub together with 510<sup>th</sup> Ordnance company which came from Sandia Base in Albuquerque (New Mexico)

The battalion owned a guards company (= A-company) to safeguard the nuclear storage site Urlaub, and to protect the warheads and missiles on transport. The battalion cooperated with 512<sup>th</sup> US Army Artillery Group and 510<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company. In case of crises or war the battalion would have had to empty the nuclear storage site and keep the warheads and missiles on mobile hold by the 10-ton-trucks of their transportation company (=B-Company). They would have supplied nuclear artillery with a second load of nuclear heads if necessary. These special weapons battalions were transportation and infantry units as well. They were equipped with 10-ton-trucks from FAUN and light 1,5-ton-trucks UNIMOG for the teams which protected the convoys and the nuclear storage sites.

1963

A training company (4./32) was formed at Ludwigsburg. The battalion comprised 673 soldiers.

1964

Transportbataillon (SW) 82 moved to Günzburg (Prinz-Eugen-Kaserne), where a new nuclear storage site had been installed at Riedheim..

1965

4./32 became 9/II training company. 512<sup>th</sup> Arty Group with 510<sup>th</sup> ordnance company moved from Urlaub to Günzburg. No 82 battalion started partnership.

1968

No 82 battalion started partnership with the French 351. Groupe d'Artillerie at Horb, which existed until 1975. The French unit had a similar task in supporting nuclear units.

1971

9/II integrated into the new infantry battalion no 541 (for home defence brigade 18) at Oberhausen near Neuburg/Donau.

- 1975 The missile transportation company of the technical support battalion 260 Großengstingen (4./260) was added as 4./220 and the battalion at Günzburg renamed to Nachschubbataillon SW 220. It owned two supply companies special weapons which comprised transportation and infantry platoons and a special transportation company for missiles.
- 1978 The missile transportation company (4./220) disbanded after the Honest Johns and Sergeants had left service and the Lance-system required less capacities for transport and reload. Lance-Containers could be loaded on normal army trucks. The MAN 10-ton trucks had their own cranes to load/unload the containers. A missile transportation and loading platoon was added to each of the two supply companies (2. and 3./220), which were identical in structure and function. Each of the two supply companies (2. and 3./220) had three guards- and one transportation/loading service platoon and owned 60 vehicles (10 ton, 5 ton, 2 ton), 3 mobile cranes and 10 command vehicles.
- 1992 The nuclear role finished and US-custody units left Günzburg. No 120 battalion began to convert into a normal transportation battalion.
- 1993 The battalion became Transportbataillon 220 of no 2 logistic brigade. It comprised eight companies of different types.
- 2004 The army plan 2010 means that the battalion will have to disband.
- ABCAbwehrbataillon 210/750 (Bruchsal)**
- 1961 Formed at Tauberbischofsheim as NBC-battalion 210.
- 1963 Moved to Bruchsal and subordinated to 2 artillery command. There no 9 nbc-company joined as A-company (2./210)
- 1980 Left battle order of 2 artillery command and was subordinated to 9 airborne division and renamed ABCAbwehrbataillon 750. The number meant that its function in war was to grant nbc-support for territorial army in south west Germany. The number 210 was taken by the former nbc-battalion (trg) 220 at Sonthofen, which served as training battalion for nbc-school. (1980: 210 nbc-> 750 Bruchsal; 220 nbc-> 210 Sonthofen))
- 1984 Converted into a nbc-training centre (no 911) with nbc-training company 911, nbc-battalion 750 became a reserve unit
- 1993 The training centre was again converted into no 750 nbc-battalion of no 50 engineer brigade
- 2004 Army plan 2010 means that no 750 battalion at Bruchsal will become an nbc-regiment with six companies for peacekeeping forces.
- Sicherungsbataillon 200 GerE (Osterburken)**
- 1971 Formed at Osterburken and disbanded at about 1994, other sources report Günzburg as site for accommodation
- Feldersatzbataillon 220 GerE (Großengstingen)**
- 1963 Formed at Großengstingen and subordinated to missile battalion 250 and probably disbanded at about 1994

## Corps ArtilleryCommand 3 (HQ Koblenz)

- 1957 „Korpsartilleriekommandeur 403“ formed at Munsterlager, HQ moved to Koblenz, the HQ had to organise nuclear warfare and artillery support in the area of 3<sup>rd</sup> corps (GE)  
Renamed “Korpsartilleriekommandeur 403”

- 1958 Topographical battery 697 under command, and 1959 renamed into Topographical battery 301, the battery had to produce and provide maps for 3<sup>rd</sup> corps
- 1959 units under command :  
 Raketenartilleriebataillon 140 (Honest John) formed at Gießen  
 Beobachtungsbatterie 373 (observation battery) at Idar-Oberstein which became Beobachtungsbataillon 370.  
 Feldartilleriebataillon 310 ( M59 field gun 155 mm), only in war under command of Korpsartilleriekommandeur, in peacetime it was training battalion of artillery school.  
 Topographical battery 697, renamed no 301
- 1961 Formation of Raketenartilleriebattalion (Sergeant)350 began
- 1962 Raketenartilleriebattalion 140 left and became Raketenartilleriebataillon 52 of 5<sup>th</sup> armoured division
- 1966 Beobachtungsbattailon 370 disbanded to form divisional observation units  
 Transportbataillon 83 (special weapons) formed at Herbornseelbach and remained under command to safeguard and transport nuclear weapons till 1993, in 1975 renamed Nachschubbataillon 320 (SW)
- 1968 Several reserve battalions formed. ( 320,330 field artillery), reserve HQ artillery regiment 300, since 1971 guards battalion 300 (to safeguard nuclear weapons)
- 1972 Renamed "Artilleriekommando 3"
- 1975 First mobilisation exercise of no 320 battalion field artillery and HQ artillery regiment 300 (reserve)
- 1981 Topographical battery 301 reorganised: top bty 900, top platoon 300, land survey platoon 850. 900 bty supports Ministry of Defence
- 1985 Reorganisation of artillery, the gun battalions of corps artillery disbanded in 1986, corps artillery only responsible for nuclear fire power: Missile battalion no 350, Nachschubbataillon 320 (SW) and guards battalion 300 (reserve) remain. No 300 HQ artillery regiment (reserve) became no 9 HQ artillery regiment (reserve) of airborne division.
- 1994 The command disbanded

## The units of no 3 artillery command:

### Topographiebatterie 301 (Koblenz)

- 1957 Subordinated to Artilleriekommandeur 403
- 1959 Renamed Topographiebatterie 301
- 1981 Reorganised: 301 battery became Topographiebatterie 900, which had to provide maps for the Ministry of defence, and Vermessungszug 850 and Topographiezug 300 which supplied 3<sup>rd</sup> corps with maps.

### Feldartilleriebataillon 310 (Kusel)

- 1956 Artillerielehrbataillon (Training battalion artillery) for School of artillery formed at Idar-Oberstein as first battalion of artillery for "Bundeswehr"
- 1959 Artillery battalion (Trg) split into Panzerartilleriebataillon 51 (51 battalion armoured artillery) and Feldartilleriebataillon 310\* (no 310 battalion field artillery). \* FArtBtl 310  
 51 battalion became training battalion of artillery school and divisional artillery for 5<sup>th</sup> armoured division. Training battery 406 formed under command of no 310 battalion.  
 Feldartilleriebataillon 310 was also training battalion and equipped with two batteries field guns 155 mm M59 "Long Tom" (2. + 3./FArtBtl 310). In case of war it would have been under control of 3 corps artillery command. For training the battalion also owned field howitzers 105 mm. The battalion had to provide training support for the school of artillery at Idar-Oberstein. It was no operational unit of the first line and although it received a heavy battery (M115) in 1966 it is improbable that it was certi-

fied for nuclear role. In war it would have become a gun battalion of no 3 artillery command .

The "Long Toms" provided long range fire support because its range of 24 km exceeded M114 (155mm) and M 101(105mm) in divisional and brigade artillery of the 50ies and early 60ies. When M 107 with 32 km maximum range arrived in 1964 the 155 mm field guns became obsolete. "Long Toms" had only entered service in no 310 and 210 battalion field artillery and were dispensed with in 1969/70. (Further use in reserve units is uncertain, see above and below)

- 1960 HQServices battery (1./310) and D-Battery (5./310) were completed. D-Battery was a supply battery .
- 1965 No 310 battalion moved into a new army camp at Kusel (south of Idar Oberstein)
- 1966 Feldartilleriebataillon 310 received one heavy battery 203 mm howitzers M115 (=C-Bty), which had been replaced by M110 in divisional artillery in the mid-sixties. C-Battery had to supply artillery school with a heavy system for training. The battery did not only secure training on 203 mm guns, but was also used for a number of trials. So 4./FArtBtl 310 tried the new light multiple rocket launchers 110 mm in 1968 (see below)
- 1967 Feldartilleriebataillon 310 received tracked howitzers M109G in A- and B-Battery and became Panzerartilleriebataillon (Lehr) 310 (no 310 battalion armoured artillery, training) of Artillery School (Idar Oberstein). C-Battery kept its 203mm howitzers M 115 in service and kept its name 4./Feldartilleriebataillon 310. D-Battery (5./310)disbanded. 2./Feldartilleriebataillon 310 became 4./Panzerartilleriebataillon 310.  
An additional new no 310 battalion field artillery (Feldartilleriebataillon 310 GerE\*) was formed as reserve unit. So there existed an active battalion armoured artillery and a reserve battalion field artillery both with number 310. Probably the fire batteries of no 310 field artillery(reserve) were still equipped with field guns M 59, but gradually they were replaced by field howitzers 155 mm M114 or light field howitzers 105 mm until 1969.
- 1968 Two further reserve battalions field artillery (no 320, 330) and HQ no 300 Rgt Artillery (reserve) were formed to secure conventional fire support for no 3 corps artillery command. That means that the equipment was stored in military storage sites and that in case of mobilisation for war or during a field exercise, reserve soldiers were called to establish an operational unit.  
At that time a lot of old field howitzers 155 and 105 mm were available after the introduction of M107; M109 and M 110 since 1964. They found a new function in the reserve units of corps artillery. Later in the 80ies the field howitzers 105 mm continued service in territorial army for another decade.  
The reserve battalions of corps artillery were equipped with field howitzers M114 and FH 105. The heavy M59 and M 115 left service about 1969/1970.
- 1969 C-Battery Panzerartilleriebataillon 310 (L)= 4./310 moved to Geilenkirchen to become C-Battery of the new Raketenartilleriebataillon (L) 72 (missile battalion training) in 1970.  
After the trials of 4./ Panzerartilleriebataillon (L) 310 with the light multiple rocket launchers had proved successful in 1968 the new system entered regular service in the divisional missile battalions in 1970.  
So 4./310 became the training battery for these light launchers at school of army artillery at Geilenkirchen and Panzerartilleriebataillon 310(L) at Kusel needed a new C-Battery.
- 1970 When 4./Feldartilleriebataillon 310 outphased its M115 it became the new 4./Panzerartilleriebataillon (L) 310 with M109G.  
Field artillery battery 301 with field howitzers 105 mm was formed at Kusel. This battery was needed for training and trials of observation units. So the great numbers of ammunition 105 mm could be utilized.
- 1977 MAN 10-ton-trucks replaced Faun 912 for ammunitions transport.

- 1978 No 301 battery field artillery formed again
- 1979 no 310 bataillon field artillery got an active battery again, when 301 battery field artillery became A-Battery 310 battalion field artillery (2./FArtBtl 310). It was equipped with field howitzers 105 mm.
- 1980 Panzerartilleriebataillon 310 (L) at Kusel became Panzerartilleriebataillon 345 (L) to support 34 armoured brigade in case of war, but it also continued its first role as training battalion of artillery school. This battalion survived all reorganisations and reductions of the following decades and will become an artillery regiment for peacekeeping forces in the army structure 2010.
- 1981 FArtBtl 310 received 18 tracked guns 175 mm M107. The M107s had been replaced by the new FH 155-1 in divisional artillery and were free now to strengthen corpsartillery.  
B-Battery of 310 battalion field artillery remained active and had to be the nucleus for mobilisation of a heavy regiment corps artillery (no 300 artillery regiment) with two conventional fire battalions (310,320) . The second reserve battalion no 320 was also equipped with 18 M107.
- 1982 The M107s of 310 and 320 battalion were converted into M110 A2 with barrels 203mm. The active B-battery from 310 battalion gave support when these two battalions were mobilised during exercises.
- 1986 Conventional corps artillery left battle order, so that no 310 and 320 battalion disbanded. The M110 A2s of six semi-active or reserve battalions corps artillery (no 110,120,310,320,210,220,640) were divided among eleven regiments of divisional artillery. The eleven gun battalions of these regiments (no 11 - no 121) grew up to 18 new howitzers FH 155-1 and 18 M1102. It was planned to give the M110A2 more conventional firepower by 203mm shells with guided subammunition. These plans were not realised when the political situation changed in 1989 and M110A2 became a system to dispense with soon.
- 1988 5./Raketenartilleriebataillon 52 formed at Kusel and subordinated to no 345 battalion. The new battery had to become a training battery for the new MARS launchers. 5/52 received a firing platoon with field howitzers 105mm, which were still indispensable for training and trials.
- 1998 M109G A3 were replaced by the new Panzerhaubitze 2000. 345 battalion was the first unit with this new weapon.
- 2003 No 345 battalion became a part of 30 mech brigade, but still kept its training role.
- 2004 In army plan 2010 no 345 battalion will become a regiment for artillery support of peacekeeping forces.

### Feldartilleriebataillon 320 GerE

Probably formed in 1968 and disbanded in 1994

Feldartilleriebataillon 330 GerE, each corps artillery command should have three gun battalions, but it is not clear if no 330 battalion was raised. If it existed, it might have been converted into a reserve battalion for home defence (no 645?) in the 80ies.

### Raketenartilleriebataillon 350 (Montabaur)

- 1961 Formation of Raketenartilleriebataillon 350 began at Eschweiler near Aachen (Donnerbergkaserne) at missile school of German artillery.
- 1962 No 350 battalion comprised 114 soldiers
- 1963 Training of personnel at Fort Sill/Oklahoma  
Guards battery 6./350 (E-Battery) formed at Wolfhagen  
2. and 3./350 (A- and B-Battery) received Sergeant-systems in Aachen  
no 350 battalion under command 3rd corps (GE)  
first NATO initial training test
- 1964 No 350 battalion moved to Mayen  
First annual training test

- 1965 4./350 (C-Battery) received Sergeant-system  
first firing practice on Hebrides
- 1966 Guards battery 6./350 (E-Battery) moved from Wolfhagen to Montabaur (Westerwaldkaserne)  
In September the whole battalion moved to Montabaur  
In October safeguarding of nuclear site Horressen began
- 1967 Cooperation with 83<sup>rd</sup> USAFAD began
- 1968 4. + 5./350 first firing practice at Souda Bay/ Crete
- 1973 Formation of training company 3./III for basic training and drivers`training
- 1974 3./Technisches Bataillon Sonderwaffen 360 (B-company technical battalion special weapons) moved from Koblenz to Montabaur to support no 350 battalion.
- 1975 No 360 technical support battalion became no 310 maintenance battalion with 3./310 at Montabaur. 3./310 maintained missiles, airdefence- and radarsystems.
- 1977 Lance-training began at missile school of artillery at Geilenkirchen-Niederheid.  
Reorganisation began, 5./350 (D-Battery) disbanded, 6./350 became 5./350 (Begleit-batterie)  
Last Sergeant fired at Crete in April by 3./350  
First Lance arrived in June, initial training tests at 2.+3./250
- 1978 Initial training test at 4./350, first Lance firing practice at Crete,  
Sergeants delivered to equipment depot Hesedorf
- 1980 Training company 3/III disbanded
- 1981 basic training platoon formed at 2./350
- 1982 4./350 wins firing competition Minotaurus at Crete, best German Lance unit
- 1983 Improved Gunner Site Unit introduced
- 1985 Training platoons (basic trg, driver trg) moved to 5./350 (Begleitbatterie)
- 1986 Reorganisation "Artilleriestruktur 85" in 5./350.  
2<sup>nd</sup> platoon 5./350 formed in Gießen as part of Begleitbatterie 5.
- 1988 Reorganisation: 4./350 disbanded, only two Lance-batteries which were added by a third Lance-platoon each:  
Structure: HQ and services company (1./350) , two Lance-batteries (2.-3./350),  
guards battery (4./350)
- 1994\* No 350 missile battalion disbanded, no 310 maintenance battalion stayed at Westewaldkaserne, until the garrison and battalion were given up 2004.  
\* or 1993 ?

## Nachschubbataillon Sonderwaffen 320 (Herbornseelbach)

(eh. Transportbataillon SW 83)  
no 320 supply battalion special weapons  
(former transportation battalion SW 83)

- 1966 Transportation Battalion special weapons 83 was formed in a new camp at Herbornseelbach (Aartalkaserne) with a HQ and service company plus A- and B-company.  
A-Company (2./Transportbataillon SW 83) was a guards company to safeguard the nuclear storage site of Bellersdorf near Herborn and to protect the warheads and missiles on transport. The Battalion cooperated with 557<sup>th</sup> US Army Artillery Group and 96<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company. In case of crises or war the battalion would have had to empty the nuclear storage site and keep the warheads and missiles on mobile hold by the 10-ton-trucks of their transportation company (=C-company). They would have supplied nuclear artillery with a second load of nuclear heads if necessary.  
These special weapons battalions were transportation and infantry units as well.  
They were equipped with 10-ton-trucks from FAUN and light 1,5 ton trucks UNIMOG for the teams which protected the convoys and the nuclear storage sites.
- 1976 The missile transportation company of no 360 technical support battalion at Koblenz (4./360) was added and the battalion at Herbornseelbach renamed to Nachschub-

- bataillon SW 320 . It owned two supply companies spec weapons which comprised transportation and infantry platoons and a special transportation company for mis-  
siles (Sergeant,Honest John)
- 1976/7 The FAUN trucks were replaced by MAN-trucks, which were all terrain vehicles as well.
- 1979/80 After Sergeant and Honest John had left service the special transportation company with trailers for these missile types was no longer needed. Lance-Containers could be loaded on normal army trucks. The MAN 10-ton trucks had their own cranes to load/unload the containers. So C-Company (4./NschBtl SW 320) was integrated into the two supply companies . Now no 320 battalion consisted of a HQ-Sevices-Com-pany and two identical operational supply companies. Each company had three guards platoons and one transportation/loading service platoon and owned 60 ve-  
hicles ( 10 ton, 5 ton, 2 ton), 3 mobile cranes and 10 command vehicles.
- 1993 The battalion disbanded at Herbornseelbach in September after US-Custody units (see above) had left in 1992.
- ABC-Abwehrbataillone 310 und 900 (no 310 and 900 NBC-battalions) at Zweibrücken weren't subordinated to 3 arty command. In this point no 3 artillery command was different from the other commands. The chronicle of no 310 NBC bat-talion reports that the unit had always been a part of no 3 engineer command. no 310 battalion served as nbc-unit for 3<sup>rd</sup> corps and no 900 battalion was at disposal of supreme command Bundeswehr.
- 1971 Sicherungsbataillon 300 GerE Gießen was formed in the 70ies and had to strengthen safeguarding forces with infantry power after reserve soldiers had been called up. Disbanded with the end of nuclear role in 1992.
- Feldersatzbataillon 320 GerE had to organise reserve personnel in field to re-  
place casualties. Information about this sensitive issue was rarely discussed in public. It has been reported that the army had been enabled to "fill up" its personnel three times.

## Territorialkommando Schleswig-Holstein (HQ Kiel)

In Schleswig-Holstein north of River Elbe "everything was different". This area didn't belong to the NATO-Command Central-Europe but was assigned to the AFNORTH area. First line landforces were under command of the German-Danish corps LANDJUT (HQ Rendsburg) . The Germans contributed the 6<sup>th</sup> mechanized division with no 16,17 and 18 brigade and divisional units. LAND-JUT hat to fight along the iron girder between the Baltic Sea and River Elbe. The support on corps level was provided by units of the territorial army in Schleswig-Holstein, which since 1970 were un-  
der command of Territorialkommando Schleswig-Holstein (Kiel). Although being under national command in peace and war, these units were indispensable for support of the first line allied field forces. There were engineers, logistic troops and infantry units (reserve) for protection of the rear area and coastal defence. Since the 1970ies combat units (active and reserve) were formed to backbone defence behind the frontline at iron girder and along the Baltic coast. A special HQ was established at Schleswig (Verteidigungskommando 11, later Verfügungstruppenkommando 41) to control all these battalions in the rear area of Schleswig-Holstein in case of war. .

It is not quite clear how artillery support on corps level was provided. The Danish army owned a number of reserve battalions with old field howitzers 155 and 203mm. According to Danish restric-tions towards nuclear armament the Germans had to maintain nuclear artillery by divisional regi-ment no 6 (no 61 and 62 battalion) and missile battalion no 650. The latter one was under com-mand of 1<sup>st</sup> corps until 1973. Then it was subordinated to 6 regiment, which was the only German artillery HQ north of River Elbe. So no artillery command existed in the northern area. While the German army provided nuclear artillery systems it is probable that the Danish army had the re-



sponsibility to control conventional corps artillery. There is no report about a German HQ for artillery besides no 6 regiment.

The existence of an additional German gun battalion (reserve) in Schleswig-Holstein is reported by Wiener's handbook on NATO-landforces (editions 1966, 1974). Wiener mentions an equipment with field guns 155 mm M 59. In a late edition in the German military journal "Europäische Wehrkunde" (8/1988) the battle order of artillery in the early 80ies lists a gun battalion no 640 with M110 A2. According to reorganization plans of artillery model 1985 this battalion must have disbanded by 1986 like the other reserve battalions no 110,120,210,220,310,320. Isby (NATO-armies of the central front) also mentions a field artillery battalion no 630 (155mm) in addition to no 640 bn!

The number 640 might indicate that it could have had a similar equipment like the early no 140,240 and 340 battalions which were formed in 1968 and already disbanded in 1971. Probably these reserve battalions still had kept field guns 155mm M59 and field howitzers 203 mm M115 in service after they had been outphased by no 310 and 210 battalion at the end of the sixties. It is possible that no 640 or/and no 630 battalion in the north still used these guns for some more years before M107 arrived in 1979. As a gun (# howitzer) its ballistic performance made the 155mm Long Tom a suitable weapon to fight amphibious forces over a long distance. So this or these battalions might have been at disposal of the territorial headquarters (Verfügungstruppenkommando 11/41) which organized defence in the rear area of LANDJUT and along the coast, but clear evidence isn't found.

Author: Jürgen Dreifke, 48249 Dülmen (Germany), [xd300@hotmail.de](mailto:xd300@hotmail.de)