

The Eastern Peoples Military Units of the German *Wehrmacht*

162. (Turk.) Infantry Division

In late 1941, General Erkiel of the Turkish General Staff visited Hitler's military headquarters in East Prussia and discussed the fate of Soviet prisoners of war of Turkic nationality. As Hitler was greatly interested in getting Turkish participation in his war against Russia, he agreed in principle to raise military units utilizing the services of Turkistanian peoples.

Accordingly, he ordered the formation of a *Turkistani* Legion in November of 1941.

On January 13, 1942, the *Turkitanisch-Kaukasisch-Mohammedanische Legion* was formed and on March 24, 1942 was built into the strengthened Turkistanisch Infantry Battalion 450.

The 1st and 2nd *Turkistanische Legions* were formed on July 4, 1943 and on May 21, 1943, the 162 (Turk.) *Infanterie-Division* was formed in the General Government and constituted as follows:

Infantry Regiment 303, I through III Battalions from the 2nd *Turk. Legion*

Infantry Regiment 314, I through III Battalions from the *Aserbeidschan. Legion*

Divisional Battalion 162

Artillery Regiment 236, I through IV Batteries from the 1st *Turk. Legion*

This division fought in the southern sector in Italy through 1945 and surrendered to the British in Austria in 1945.

Divisional Insignia



First issue national shield



Second issue national shield



Third issue national shield



Aserbeidschan national shield



Turkestan Legion Flag, First Issue