

# General Fritz Bayerlein

1899 - 1970

## Biographical Sketch



1899	January	Born Wurzburg, Germany			
1918		Served	9th Bavarian Infantry	World War I	Awarded wound badge
<b>1938</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Major</b>			Age 39: 21 years of service
1938	November	Logistics Officer	XV Army		
1939	April	Operations Officer	10th Panzer Division	Polish Campaign	Awarded Iron Cross
1940	February	Operations Staff	XIX Panzer Korps General Guderian	French Campaign	Solved close air support mapping problem for Guderian
1940	June	Operations Officer	Panzer Group Guderian General Guderian	Defeat of France	Planned Russian Campaign with Guderian
<b>1940</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>Promoted Lieutenant Colonel</b>			
1941	June	Operations Officer	Panzer Group 2 General Guderian	Russian Campaign	
1941	October	Chief of Staff	Africa Corps General Cruwell	North African Campaign	Guderian and Rommel arranged waiver for junior LtCol in CoS billet Awarded Knight's Cross
<b>1942</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Promoted Colonel</b>			
1942	June	Chief of Staff	Panzer Army Africa General Nehring General von Thoma General Rommel		Briefly served as acting Commanding General of Panzer Army Africa
<b>1943</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>Promoted Major General</b>			Rommel's influence
		German Chief of Staff	Army Group Africa		
1943	Fall	Commanding General	3rd Panzer Division	Russia	
1944	January	Commanding General	Panzer Lehr Division	Normandy	Guderian's influence
1944	November	Commanding General	LIII Corps	Belgium Battle of Bulge	
<b>1945</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Promoted Lieutenant General</b>			
1945		Surrendered to U.S. Army			

1. LtGen Bayerlein was a school-trained, certified, and widely-experienced General Staff officer. He served almost exclusively as the operations officer in a series of key units, in critical warfighting theaters, working for successful and demanding general officers.
2. As a General Staff officer, LtGen Bayerlein never commanded at any level until he was selected for command of the 3rd Panzer Division as a Major General.
3. What Operations Officer skills and planning experiences benefit a general officer? How does lack of command experience affect a general officer? Why did the German Army permit two separate paths to high command?