Surviving Panzer III Tanks

Listed here are the Panzer III tanks that still exist today.

PzKpfw. III Ausf. F – Musée des Blindés, Saumur (France)

PzKpfw. III Ausf. F – U.S. Army Armor & Cavalry Collection, Fort Benning, GA (USA)

This vehicle is currently stored and is not publicly visible
PzKpfw. III Ausf. F – U.S. Army Armor & Cavalry Collection, Fort Benning, GA (USA)
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Panzerbefehlswagen III Ausf. F – Bunichevo park, Mogilev, Mahilyow Voblast (Belarus)
PzKpfw. III Ausf. H – Academy of the armed forces of the Ukraine, Kiev (Ukraine)
This tank fell from a pontoon bridge in the Bug river in 1944, during a Soviet bombing, it was recovered in the 90s (Rafał Białecki). Pics of the recovery: http://www.detektorweb.cz/index.4me?s=show&lang=1&i=12975

PzKpfw. III Ausf. J – Forsvarsmuseet Oslo storage, Trandum (Norway)
This Pz III is an Ausf. J assembled by Henschel und Sohn in May, 1941. It is Fahrgestellnumber 73651. This Pz III has been in Norway since WW2, in use at Fornbu until mid 50’s and then put in storage at the Defence Museum in Oslo area in 1964. In 1988 it was loaned to the Memorial de Caen, Normandy but it has been brought back to Norway (Tor-Helge Yttervik)
Dmitry Bushmakow, March 2016

PzKpfw. III Ausf. J – Great Patriotic War museum, Minsk (Belarus)
This tank was formerly stored at the "Stalin Line" Museum, Zaslavl', Minsk Voblast (Belarus). New turret, carefully made with some small mistakes, but overall good anyway. New mudguards done of modern sheet (Dmitry Bushmakow)

Pedro Valverde, August 2008

PzKpfw. III Ausf. J – Kolbpak forest, Putivl, Sumy Oblast (Ukraine)
PzKpfw. III Ausf. J – Kubinka Tank Museum (Russia) – running condition
Fahrgestell number 72527, produced by MAN in late December 1941 or January 1942 (Yuri Pasholok). On a photo made at Kubinka in 1946, "the White phantom" - the emblem of 11th Panzer-Division - is visible on this tank. Characteristic for this division is two-valued tactical number "24". The 11th division didn’t fight at Stalingrad, but tried to make the way to the encircled troops (Alex Pankov). This tank is everywhere yellow from inside and outside, it was built surely for DAK, but used in Russia (Dmitry Bushmakow)

PzKpfw. III Ausf. J – Vadim Zadorozhny Museum, Arhangelskoe Moscow Oblast (Russia) This tank was rebuilt around 2016-2017 from various parts

Yuri Pasholok, June 2017
PzKpfw. III Ausf. L – Bovington Tank Museum (UK) – running condition

This tank is an early production Ausf. L, modified for “tropical” service. It was shipped via Naples to Benghazi in Libya in July 1942, arriving on the SS Lerica on 18 July. It was issued to the 8th Panzer Regiment, part of the 15th Panzer Division and probably fought in the battle of Alam Halfa. It was subsequently captured by the British Army and shipped to the UK; the details of its' capture and subsequent history are unclear. The Museum's staff have restored the tank to running order, have repainted it in its' original camouflage and markings and are currently replacing many of the ancillary tools and equipment that it carried.

(Official information from the museum)

PzKpfw. III Ausf. L wreck – Victory Park at Poklonnaya Gora, Moscow (Russia)

This vehicle carries a L/42 gun (Yuri Pasholok)
PzKpfw. III Ausf. L – U.S. Army Armor & Cavalry Collection, Fort Benning, GA (USA)
This tank was recovered from Tunisia (USA AFVs register)

PzKpfw. III Ausf. M – Kevin Wheatcroft Collection (UK)
This tank was in Norway in the 1990s
PzKpfw. III Ausf. M – Munster Panzer Museum (Germany) – running condition
This tank was recovered from Tunisia in 1986 (Achtung Panzer ! website)

Flammpanzer III Ausf. M – Wehrtechnische Dienststelle Trier (Germany)
PzKpfw. III Ausf. M – Etimesgut Tank Müzesi, Ankara (Turkey)
This vehicle is almost undoubtedly one of 56 PzKpfw. III Ausf. M L60 produced in January and February 1943 by MNH (Fgst Nr 76223-76278). Initially, Turkey was going to get 56 of them but it looks like some were shipped to German units. For example, Nr 76226 was issued to GD PGD and Nr 76228 was issued to 505. Schwere Panzer Abteilung in March of 1943. Finally, Turkey only got few of these Panzer IIIs (Henry G. Blanck)

PzKpfw. III Ausf. N – Troms Forsvarsmuseum, Setermoen (Norway)
This tank was, like another one currently in Finland, buried as a bunker at the North Norwegian air base of Bardufoss (Norway) before being recovered on 9 August 2007. This particular one was originally built as an Ausf. L. The Fahrgestell number is 74352. It first belonged to the 2.SS-Panzergrenadier-Division Das Reich and it was involved and damaged at Kharkov. It was recovered by Infanterie-Division Großdeutschland and involved in Zitadelle, the battle of Kursk like the other one listed below. Then, they were sent back to Germany for conversion to Ausf. N and sent to Norway, where they served most certainly in the Pz.Abt.211 (Simon Orchard)
PzKpfw. III Ausf. N – “Panserparken”, Rena Military Camp, near Elverum (Norway)

PzKpfw. III Ausf. N – Stored somewhere in a depot in Denmark

This tank was used by the Danish army as part of Minenkommando Dänemark, to clear up the German mines in Denmark (http://www.fun-online.sk). It originally carried the turret number 222. It was restored in the seventies or eighties to running condition at Garde Hussar Regimentet, GHR, then shown for many years at Tejhusmuseet, and now is storage, and is still looking to be in good condition (Niels Vegger)
PzKpfw. III Ausf. N – Bovington Tank Museum (UK)

The tank is based on a chassis ordered as a Panzer III Ausf. L. It was issued to a Tiger I heavy tank battalion, the 501st Schwere Panzer Abteilung and shipped to Bizerta in Tunisia in January 1943. The 501st Abteilung was absorbed into the 10th Panzer Division as the 3rd Abteilung of Panzer Regiment 7 on 26 February 1943. This tank, which was part of 8. Kompanie, Panzer Regiment 7, had tactical number 832 painted on its turret. It was abandoned at Kzar Mezouar, during Operation Ochsenkopf, also known as the battle of the Hunt’s Gap, in late February, 1943. It was then shipped to the United Kingdom for evaluation and later sectioned to show its interior. (Official information from the museum, corrected and completed by David Byrden)

PzKpfw. III Ausf. N – Auto + Technik Museum, Sinsheim (Germany)

PzKpfw. III Ausf. N – Being transferred to Finland
This tank and another one were buried as bunkers at the North Norwegian air base of Bardufoss (Norway) before being recovered on 9 August 2007. These two tanks still had their chassis numbers and were thus traceable. This particular one was originally built as an Ausf. M. The Fahrgestell number is 76219. It belonged to the Infanterie-Division Großdeutschland and was, with the other one, involved in Zitadelle, the battle of Kursk. Then, they were both sent back to Germany for conversion to Ausf. N and sent to Norway, where they served most certainly in the Pz.Abt.211 (Simon Orchard). It was transferred from Norway to Finland in September 2013.

PzKpfw. III Ausf. N – Muzeum Broni Pancernej, Poznań (Poland)
This tank has been originally built as a very early Ausf. F, and was later upgraded to Ausf. H and then Ausf. N with a larger gun and add-on armor superstructure (Dmitry Bushmakow). It was buried as a bunker at the North Norwegian air base of Bardufoss (Norway) and recovered in November 2006. It doesn’t carry any plate, but through Norwegian records from maintenance carried out on all 3 tanks in 1949, we now know that its Fahrgestell number is 66158. This makes it originally an ausf. H. It’s now almost certain that all three vehicles belonged to Panzer Abteilung 211 from mid-44 until the end of the war. That unit had 3 ausf. N and the Norwegian maintenance records come from a workshop just a few kilometres away from where that unit was in May 1945 (Simon Orchard). This tank was transferred from Norway to Poland in September 2013.
PzKpfw. III Ausf. N – U.S. Army Armor & Cavalry Collection, Fort Benning, GA (USA)

This tank was recovered from the European Theater of Operations (USA AFVs register)

PzKpfw. III Ausf. N (3.7cm gun) – U.S. Army Center for Military History Storage Facility, Anniston, AL (USA)

This tank was recovered from Tunisia. The original 7.5 cm KwK L/24 gun was replaced by a 3.7 cm gun at the museum. According to Thomas Jentz, the museum’s director took a 7.5 cm KwK L/43 for display out of a rebuilt PzKpfw IV Ausf D (presumably the D/E/F model) that came out of Sicily and replaced it with the 7.5 cm KwK L/24 out of this PzKpfw III Ausf N (USA AFVs register)
Pz.Bef.Wg. III – Vadim Zadorozhnny museum, Arhangelskoe, Moscow Oblast (Russia)
This Befehlspanzer III upper hull and turret were recovered in 2014 in Tver Oblast. The tank is now restored, with 85% of original parts.

SU-76i (Russian Assault gun based on PzKpfw. III Ausf. H/J)
Sarny, Rivne Oblast (Ukraine)
SU-76i Assault gun – Victory Park at Poklonnaya Gora, Moscow (Russia)
This tank has been used on a fire range near Ivanovo (north east of Moscow), and recovered in 2002. It has been restored in April 2002 (Yuri Pasholok). More pictures here: http://dishmodels.com/wshow.htm?p=461

PzKpfw. III Ausf. H hull – Motor Technica Museum, Bad Oeynhausen (Germany)
This hull was recovered from a military training range in Germany
PzKpfw. III Ausf. N main gun – Militärhistorisches Museum, Dresden (Germany)

The chassis was located in Sweden in the late 1980s, it was dug up from Swedish military training grounds and went to a military vehicles collector. It originally came from Norway after 1945, and was probably part of Panzer Abteilung 211 during WW2 (Krister Yderholt)

PzKpfw III Ausf. G/H chassis and Ausf. N turret – André Becker Collection (Belgium)
Panzerbeobachtungswagen III Turret – Wehrtechnische Dienststelle Meppen (Germany)

This turret is fitted with the Turmbeobachtungfernsrohr T.B.F.2 optical device

PzKpfw. III hull – Fort IX Czerniakowski, Warsaw (Poland)

The hull right wall is with frontal antenna, which makes it a PzBefW (Dmitry Bushmakow). Fahrgestell Number 702xx, Panzer BefehlsWagen Ausf.K (Maciej Boruń)

http://www.vffwts.de/de/turmbeobachtungfernsrohr-tbf2.html

http://www.facebook.com/
PzKpfw. III turret – Museum of Battle Glory, Yambol (Bulgaria)


Victory Park at Poklonnaya Gora, Moscow (Russia)

The vehicle carries a L/42 gun, some parts of the hull are not original ("Taranov"). The vehicle is made on base of original Stug III ausf B hull, with hatches, loops wheels from other vehicle and upper structure from a Panzer III
PzKpfw. III hull with StuG III main gun
Victory Park at Poklonnaya Gora, Moscow (Russia)
This tank is indeed a PzKpfw III hull with a StuG III gun. The superstructure is a reproduction (Yuri Pasholok)

SU-76i Assault gun reproduction – Museum of military equipment "Battle Glory of the Urals" Verkhnyaya Pyshma, Sverdlovsk Oblast (Russia)
This tank is a reproduction made from some original parts, but most of it is new material
PzKpfw. III Ausf J restoration project – Igor Shishkin Collection (Russia)

The owner collected a big bunch of parts, bought the back of a Stug III Ausf. B and will rebuild a Panzer III. The owner is professional, the restoration should be finished in 10-15 months to static display condition (Dmitry Bushmakow)
PzKpfw. III main gun – Red October factory, Volgograd, Volgograd Oblast (Russia)

PzKpfw. III turret – Private collection, near Moscow (Russia)

This turret seems to be a different one from the one below.
PzKpfw. III partial turret – Moscow Defence State Museum, Moscow (Russia)

I’m looking for photos of those tanks:

PzKpfw.III Ausf. L restoration project - Alexander Portik Collection, Staraya Russa (Russia)
This is the Commander vehicle of the Schw.Pz.Abt. 502 (Dmitry Bushmakow)
PzKpfw. III Ausf. M – Kevin Wheatcroft Collection, UK (better picture)

any other PzKpfw. III that I forgot….

This document is a synthesis of photos and information published on the web. I would like to thank the people who took these photos and put them on their websites, or sent them to me, and also those who helped me doing these lists (particularly people of the AFV News Discussion Board). For any question, you can email me at soldat_ryan@hotmail.com

Main page: http://the.shadock.free.fr/Surviving_Panzers.html