The relief operation was originally scheduled to include the LVII Panzer Corps of the [4th Panzer Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_Panzer_Army), under the command of General [Friedrich Kirchner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Kirchner), including the [6th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6th_Panzer_Division) and [23rd Panzer Divisions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/23rd_Panzer_Division), and Army Detachment Hollidt, consisting of three infantry divisions and two armored divisions ([11th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/11th_Panzer_Division) and [22nd Panzer Divisions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/22nd_Panzer_Division)).[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Winter_Storm#cite_note-30) In total, it was expected that four *panzer* divisions, four infantry divisions and three [Luftwaffe Field Divisions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luftwaffe_Field_Division) were to take part in Operation Winter Storm. They would be tasked with temporarily opening a passage to the 6th Army.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Winter_Storm#cite_note-31) The *Luftwaffe* field divisions—formed of non-combat soldiers, headquarters staffs and unit-less *Luftwaffe* and [*Heer*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Army_(Wehrmacht)) personnel—were poorly trained and lacked seasoned officers and enlisted soldiers, as well as sufficient anti-tank and artillery guns.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Winter_Storm#cite_note-32) Many of the personnel promised for the relief effort never arrived, partly due to the poor transportation service to the front, while some units originally chosen to be transferred under the command of Army Group Don were retained by their original commands.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Winter_Storm#cite_note-33) Other units in Army Group Don were in no shape to conduct offensive operations, due to losses sustained in the past month of combat, while many new formations which had been promised did not arrive on time.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Winter_Storm#cite_note-34)