Scenario 8

THE BITCHE SALIENT

BITCHE, Southern Germany, January 14, 1945: Elements of the U.S. 175th Infantry Regiment have been ordered to continue closing the ring around German forces trapped near Bitche. However, due to poor radio security, the Germans are quite aware of this latest development and have planned a flank spoiling attack by elements of the 11th Mountain Reg't in an attempt to ambush the advancing Americans.

Board Configuration

SPECIAL RULES

8.1 The Americans can delay or cancel the arrival of either/or both the 1st and 2nd Bn.
8.2 The 3rd Bn may elect to withdraw from the playing area anytime prior to the commitment of the 2nd Bn. If it is withdrawn, it may not reenter.
8.3 The American may not elect to bring on part of any force. He must commit all of them as designated or none at all.
8.4 The German may not withdraw units from the playing board.
8.5 The German player gets one module of random artillery support available from the start of the game. The American player gets a module on turn 4 and another on turn 7. The modules are drawn prior to the Rally Phase of the indicated turn. This is the only artillery support allowed regardless of number of radios in play.

TURN RECORD CHART

Rules Introduced: Sections 53—54

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The side that eliminates the most enemy squads wins, thus reflecting the strategic objective of the Low Vosges campaign which was to simply wear down the enemy while maintaining a continuous front. Destruction of an AFV counts as a squad eliminated even if its crew survives. Destruction of an AFV and crew would count as two squads destroyed. Note that trucks and unarmed halftracks have no inherent crew squad although destruction of the latter does count as one eliminated squad.

The Americans were caught off balance and hit by accurate artillery fire in conjunction with a strong flanking effort by the Germans. To attempt to restore the situation, the Americans quickly committed the 2nd Bn and elements of the 1st Bn to support the hard pressed 3rd Bn. The American reaction forced the Germans to release their death grip on the 3rd Bn, but the Americans had been badly mauled nonetheless with five companies effectively put out of action. As a result, the Americans pulled back the entire 175th for a much needed rest.