

# Outskirts of Metz

by Stacey Hager

*When the allied forces began to advance rapidly into German-held territory following the Normandy landings, Metz became an important location for the German command to organize its defenses and attempt to contain the allied advance. The defense was undertaken by the German First Army, commanded by General Otto von Knobelsdorff. The number of German troops positioned in the vicinity of Metz was equivalent to four and a half divisions. By the end of August 1944, the German forces had managed to contain the allied advance and the newly introduced United States Third Army had come to a halt in face of the German defenses, resulting in a pause of operations in the western front. Armoured cavalry elements of the United States XX Corps, while on a reconnaissance operation in the direction of the Moselle, made*

*contact with elements from the 17th Waffen SS Panzergrenadier Division on September 6, 1944. On 18 September, Panzer elements made contact with US reconnaissance units again. The US forces had not expected the German forces to be in the area, and had to bring together their units that were spread out. Several small scale attacks were made by the US forces after this encounter. The first attack was launched by the US 5th Infantry Division, in which they attempted to capture a bridgehead to the north of Metz. This attack was repelled by the German forces, as was another attack on the city that followed. In another attack, the US forces captured a small bridgehead across the Moselle to the south of Metz.*

*By the end of September, German forces positioned to the north were*

*relocated in the southern area of Metz. Following this new development, the US XII Corps launched another attack but was countered by the German defenders. In the following two weeks, the US forces limited themselves to small scale attacks in the periphery of the city.*

## OBJECTIVE:

The American's must capture the objective on board 9A by the end of round 7.

*You know who won the war? The foot soldier. You don't read nothing about him. You read about Patton and McArthur, you don't read about the foot soldier because they know nothing about him.*

*- Nick Fusco, 95th Infantry Division veteran of Metz.*

## Rounds: 7

### Starting Initiative

German

### Actions

3

### Reinforcements

German reinforcements will arrive on the "R" hex.

## Terrain

The stream is deep.

\* Note the overlay pieces just below the 12A board numbering - It is a 3 hex triangular overlay piece with a single road overlay piece on top of it. Also on 12A, the stream is a 3 hex straight overlay with a bridge hex piece covering it.

## German Forces

### Division One

- 5 Squad Bases
- 15 Regular Infantry
- 1 Officer
- 2 Machine Gun Crew



x 1

### Division Two

- 4 Squad Bases
- 11 Regular Infantry
- 2 Elite Infantry
- 1 Officer
- 1 Machine Gun Crew
- 1 Opel Blitz Truck



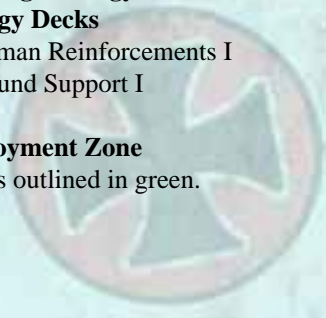
x 1

### Starting Strategy Cards: 2 Strategy Decks

- German Reinforcements I
- Ground Support I

### Deployment Zone

Hexes outlined in green.



## American Forces

### Division One

- 6 Squad Bases
- 13 Regular Infantry
- 8 Elite Infantry
- 1 Officer
- 1 Machine Gun Crew



x 1



x 1

### Division Two

- 6 Squad Bases
- 20 Regular Infantry
- 2 Officer
- 1 Mortar Crew
- 1 M3A1 Half Track



x 1



x 1

### Starting Strategy Cards: 2 Strategy Decks

- Command I
- Morale I

### Operations Cards

- Merciless Assault

### Deployment Zone

Hexes outlined in blue.

