Euro-Pack II: THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

We challenge you to CHANGE HISTORY (at least on a small scale) with these eight scenarios set during Hitler's last desperate offesnive.... THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE!

In a strange twist of corporate logic the gang at Critical Hit decided to present you an interesting set of scenarios depicting Bulge actions in Belgium, fought over places like Ligneuville, Cour, and Thirimont designed by...yes, Belgians! Not your ordinary Belgians, either, but the kind that walk battlefields and pore over every minute detail of these engagements. We introduce to you Pedro, Philippe and Yves, our talented designers. Philippe is well known as the designer of Kampfgruppe Peiper[™] and Pedro's Stonne Heights module will be coming from Critical Hit soon. Yves, he designs a hell of a fine scenario!

So men, grab your squads and don't forget to bring along a few leaders because the Germans a r e coming down the road and we need your lead- ership to



make a differ- free ence. Our Belgian friends don't want Sepp Dietrich's men stomping through their villages 0658 lagain. We present below the historical conclusions to the firefights, artillery battery overruns, probes and spoiling attacks from this Battle of the Bulge pack. It's up to you to unseal this wrapper, grab your 'orders' and change the outcome of Wacht am Rhein...



THIRIMONT, BELGIUM, 15 January 1945: After absorbing the German assault, the 1st Battalion and its attachments pressed slowly forward through the village while enemy artillery fire rained down on them. The unusual determination and fire power employed by the Germans in this action made it one of the fiercest in the Division's experience. By early afternoon, the village was completely cleared. The fight for Thirimont and for control of the vi-

tal highway to the south was won, but the cost had been high. The 1st Battalion, numerically stronger, had just finished the bloodiest fight of its career and was exhausted.



STOUMONT, BELGIUM, 19 December 1944: Small arms fire from grenadiers, from seemingly nowhere, engaged the crew of Number 6 TD-gun in a firefight for its cemetery position. Suddenly a panzer appeared around the southwest corner of the graveyard and blasted the gun with HE. However, the intense fire laid by U.S. machine guns especially along the lane leading down to the graveyard -

inflicted heavy losses on the Germans who nevertheless took the first houses of the town. Soon joined by the attacking forces coming from the east, the Panzergrenadiers slowly pushed the Americans back into the village where the battle turned into vicious house-to-house fighting. The last house to be held by the U.S. was the Monville farm, at the extreme southeast corner of the village.



LIGNEUVILLE, BELGIUM, 19 December, 1944: The remnants of Peiper's forward elements drove through the town without any problem and took their objective: the bridge across the Amblève. When Peiper's engineers began to check the bridge for demolition charges, enemy MG caused several casualties. While the tanks reduced this rather light opposition, a few other German vehicles entered the town, including Peiper in a halftrack. A Panther

was suddenly hit and destroyed by a hidden Sherman on a side street. Two halftracks were also destroyed before the troublemaker was eventually knocked out. Peiper himself had to hide when the halftrack he was riding in entered the field of fire.



COUR, BELGIUM, 19 December, 1944: The Germans learned from the villagers the precise location of the huge dump at Cour. The German reconnaissance column halted only 500 yards from the depot, in front of a minefield. A .50 caliber MG opened up and in a moment or so everyone on both sides were blazing away. Finally, after 30 minutes of firing, the Germans withdrew - dashing their last hope for precious fuel, needed to continue the advance.

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MALMÉDY, BELGIUM, 21 December, 1944: The lead tank nosed into the edge a minefield and one of its tracks set off a powerful antitank mine. The entire tank burst into flames, revealing the defenders of Company K. It was the start of a violent firefight that would revolve around the paper mill overlooking the crossroads, in which a handful of American infantry, supported by 76mm AT-guns from

the 825th Tank Destroyer Battalion, would resist for hours. Determined GIs, armed with bazookas, disabled two Panthers and the AT guns destroyed two others. Skorzeny was soon forced to order the survivors to fall back to defensive positions.



North of DIEKIRCH, LUXEMBOURG, 17 December, 1944: By mid-afternoon the Germans were closing in on the U.S. batteries emplaced northwest of Diekirch. The gunners fought as infantry while the fire from a neighboring battery blasted the woods east of the road in which the enemy assembled. Hard pressed, the gunners were relieved by two friendly counterattacks. Two AAA halftracks raced up the Skyline Drive, and drove into the files of German infantry on the road, their quad-.50 caliber MG blazing. One was destroyed by enemy fire while the other fought its way to the batteries. A tank platoon with sup-

porting infantry, previously sent to the north to help the Hoscheid garrison, came back into the fight, clanking into the midst of the enemy. The batteries were saved.



CHAMPS, near BASTOGNE, 25 December, 1944: The fighting broke out around 4 A.M. during this, the latest attempt by the encmy to get through the American lines thrown up so quickly around Bastogne. The Germans succeeded in occupying some houses on the outskirts of the town but the American soldiers, despite their heavy losses, were never dislodged from the village. Nevertheless, this fight turned out to be one of the most dangerous attacks

towards Bastogne during the period of encirclement.



COO-BIESTER, BELGIUM, 20 December, 1944: The column quickly reached Coo and there it destroyed five trucks and two cars of a small, heavily camouflaged convoy. Indeed, unknown to the Americans, a small wooden bridge remained at Pctit-Spa, through which the Germans were sending supplies and reinforcements. Suddenly, another German convoy appeared around a bend in the road near a hamlet called Biester. It was ripped to pieces by the Shermans but not after four of them were knocked out and Lt. Hope was killed. The armored force nevertheless continued to the south.

CRITICAL HIT

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RED ON WHITE

Euro-Pack #45



HANDICAPS:

- All American infantry units have Winter Camouflage (E3.712).
- F German HMG and MMG may be Boresighted.
- Any mutually agreed upon alteration to either side's OB.

BOARD LAYOUT AND ENTRY:



Only hexrows A-P on boards 16/18 are playable.

OBJECTIVES: The Americans win at game end if they Control all but any one multi-hex buildings (counting each multi-hex rowhouse structure as one building) and building 41W5 (EXC: see SR 5).

SCENARIO RULES:

EC are Snow with no wind at start. Deep Snow (E3.73) is in effect.
 Place overlay O2 on 41V4-W4. The bridge 41U5 and the stream do not exist; treat all these hexes as level 0 Open Ground. Building 41W5 is a single-hex Two-Story building (O4.). All level 2 hill hexes are considered level 1;

however all other terrains still exist thereon. 3. In order to reflect the steep aspect of the area, each unit entering a (non inseason) Grain hex from a higher coordinated hex (e.g. from 4P3 into 4P2; from 41DD7 into 41DD6) must pay an additional 0.5MF/1MP.

4. The German may designate four Fortified Building Locations (EXC: no location of building 41W5 may be fortified). Tunnels are NA.

5. Each German squad entered in play reduces by one the number of the multi-hex buildings to be controlled by the Americans, unless the American player has entered his own reinforcement group, in which case the entry of the German reinforcements has no effect on the Objectives. Offboard deployment is NA for the German units.

6. All American M4A1 tanks are equipped with Gyrostabilizers (D11.1).
7. The Americans receive one module of 105+mm OBA. The Germans receive one module of 81mm+MTR OBA (Scarce Ammo).
8. The American 6-6-7 are Assault Engineers (H1.22).

THIRIMONT, BELGIUM, 15 January, 1945: By the end of 1944, the German offensive in the Belgian Ardennes was definitely stopped. But the Allies still had to push the Germans back behind the Siegfried Line before they could resume their strike into the Reich. By January 13 - cleven days after it was launched - the counteroffensive had expanded far enough to the east along the battle line to engage the US 30th Infantry Division into the fight, with the capture of St. Vith as a first objective. While its sister regiments were plowing south over the hills, the 120th Regiment was locked in a bitter three-day struggle for Thirimont, a ridge village which controlled the east flank of the attack. By irony of fate, this village was defended by the 1st Battalion of the 9th Fallschirmjäger Regiment, the same unit whom some elements, full of confidence while riding on the tanks of the powerful Kampfgruppe Peiper, had traversed Thirimont one month earlier on the way to the Meuse bridges...



Original Design by Yves Barette



HANDICAPS:

- Add one M3A1 HT to the U.S. OB. It is Abandoned (D5.4) but un-Scrounged at game start.
 - Add one MMG to the German OB.
 - Any mutually agreed upon alteration to either side's OB.

with a radius of 7 hexes of 13H7, inclusive, at game end.

BOARD LAYOUT:



OBJECTIVES: The German player wins if there is no U.S. unbroken unit

SCENARIO RULES:

1. EC are West with no wind at staft. Mist (E3.32) is in effect. However, the Mist Hindrance DRM is ± 1 at less than or equal to six hexes and is increased by ± 1 for each multiple of six hexes beyond the initial six-hex range. The stream is Deep.

- 2. All U.S. squads may be freely deployed at game start.
- 3. There are no Elevated Roads. These roads are considered at Level 0.
- 4. The road 13A5/A6 13 H7 13 Q1 is a Paved Road.

5. There is a Two Story House (B23.22) covering hexes 13L3 – 13M3. This Building is considered Inherent Terrain (B.6) and is of stone construction. All LOS traced along the hexsides of these two hexes are blocked, this including a LOS traced along the 13M3/13N2 wall hexside. Place 1st level counters in these hexes as a reminder.

6. The Germans receive one module of 120+mm Battalion MTR OBA with Scarce Ammunition. The Americans receive one module of 105mm OBA with Plentiful Ammunition directed by an Offboard Observer recorded prior to play at Level 2 on any north edge hex.

7. Due to the terrible effects of a new U.S. artillery ammunition (VT fuses), all German units have their morale level lowered by one as long as they are in the Blast Area of the U.S. OBA using HE (including Harassing Fire).

MALMÉDY, BELGIUM, 21 December, 1944: Only two days after beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, Colonel Otto Skorzeny realized that his commando effort had failed. There was no point in sending anymore American-uniformed SS commandos into the void and there would be no more opportunity to send his 150th SS Brigade raging deep into the American rear in the guise of a U.S. armored unit as one potential scenario contemplated it at first. Therefore the commando leader volunteered his brigade for a suitable eonventional assignment. His proposal was accepted by the 6th SS Panzer Army HQ and the 150th SS Brigade received the mission to capture the town of Malmédy. This would offer a vast new road net through which Kampfgruppe Peiper could be sustained and reinforced. The attack was planned for 21st December, at dawn. Skorzeny divided his brigade into two groups. The first group, attacking at the south edge of the town, was easily repulsed. The second one, the strongest, with Panthers disguised as American tanks and covered by a fog floating out from the Warche river, rolled along a secondary road which would bring it west of Malmédy with the Malmédy-Stavelot crossroads as the main objective...



Original Design by Yves Barette

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LOODY CHRISTMAS!

Euro-Pack #12



HANDICAPS:

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All American infantry units have Winter Camouflage (E3.712).

-1 1 German HMG and MMG may be Boresighted.

Any mutually agreed upon alteration to either side's OB.

BOARD LAYOUT AND ENTRY:



OBJECTIVES: The Germans win at game end if they Control ten Buildings on board 12 between rows M and V inclusive.

SCENARIO RULES:

1. Weather is Ground Snow (E3.72) with Wet EC and no Wind at start. 2. Night rules are in effect. The Base NVR is 6 without Cloud Cover and No Moon. Due to the German on board setup, there is no Scenario Attacker and no Scenario Defender. Majority squad type is Normal for both sides. 3. Germans have Winter Camouflage (E3.712).

4. A Bombardment (C1.8) must be resolved by the German player, after set up and before the start of the game. Whenever a DR = 12 is made when checking bombardment MC for a building, all occupants are eliminated along with any SW/Guns and the entire building is set ablaze. This result takes precedence over any possible rubble creation.

5. Despite night conditions, the SAN of both sides is not increased.

CHAMPS, near BASTOGNE, 25 December, 1944, around 0400 hours: One more time, the Germans tried to break through the American lines in a desperate attempt to enter Bastogne, already besieged for a week. This time, the attack was launched on the northwestern sector where A Company of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment held the village of Champs. Son after a fierce bombardment, a bloody house-tohouse fighting erupted...



Original Design by Yves Barette

LEAPFROG

Euro-Pack #10



SCENARIO RULES:

1. EC are Wet with no wind at start.

The 9A5/6 to 9GG5/6 road is Paved and represents *Skyline Drive*.
 Building 9DD3 does not exist. Treat it as Open Ground (OPT. place overlay OG1 over this hex). All Crag hexes are Woods; these hexes are covered with woods on their highest level *only*. Crags do not exist anymore.
 The U.S. player receives on module of 105mm OBA.

North of DIEKIRCH, LUXEMBOURG, 17 **December, 1944:** Only four infantry divisions were assigned by the Germans to cover the southern flank of their assault armies during the Battle of the Bulge. Their mission was to establish a bridgehead across the Sure and Our rivers and make limited advances west-ward to take blocking positions south of Bastogne. The 352nd Volksgrenadier division, composed mainly of ex-Luftwaffe and Kriegsmarine soldiers, had to assault a sector defended by the 109th U.S. Infantry Regiment. On December 16, after the opening artillery barrage, the 915th Volksgrenadier regiment crossed the Our and pushed aside the American outposts achieving a fast penetration to the northeast of Diekirch. However, its other sister regiment was pinned on the river banks by the well-directed fire of the U.S. artillery batteries emplaced near Diekirch. On the 17th, the Germans, hampered by U.S. counterattacks, spread through the rear areas near the ridge-line road that the Americans called "Skyline Drive". There, they threatened the gun positions of the U.S. field artillery batteries. By mid-afternoon the Germans were closing in on the U.S. batteries emplaced at the northwest of Diekirch. The gunners fought as infantry while the fire from a neighboring battery blasted the woods cast of the road in which the enemy assembled. Hard pressed, the gunners were relieved by two friendly counterattacks...

OBJECTIVES: The German player wins by exiting at least 15 VP through

any south/west road hex of board 18. He may deduct 2 VP for each non-vehicular U.S. Gun destroyed or Disabled (and 4 VP for Capturing it) from



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this victory margin.

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Any mutually agreed upon alteration to either side's OB.

BOARD LAYOUT:

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2	

KGP SR are in effect. (EXC: KGP SR 1, 4, 12, 13). Time of day is PM.
 The river flows from the north and is a Frigid Water Obstacle. The 40G10-C6 stream represents the same river (not a stream) and is therefore impassable. The bridge in 40C6 does not exist.

3. Place special ASL News overlays RR1 on 40M4-L4, RR2 on 40G5-5, RR3 on 40B8-A9, RR4 on 40H6-H7, RR5 on 4019-J9, and overlays X11 on 40Z5-Y5, X12 on 40V4-W4 and X7 on 40F7. Place (Railroad) bridge counters in 40H5-G6-D6 to connect the railway lines (these bridges are at level 1).

4. The 40GG6-DD6-AA5-Q4-H4-I10 road is Paved. Furthermore, it is considered bordered by a railway line from 40GG6 up to N3 where the railway line is connected to the one depicted by the overlays.

5. The 40T5 patch of Grain hexes represents Open Ground at Level 1. The Grain hex outlines are the crest lines.

6. All Convoys must follow the Paved Road (towards the south if US, towards the north if German) at the fastest speed possible until authorized to disband.

COO-BIESTER, BELGIUM 20 December, 1944: The strongest of the US 3rd Armored Division's Task Forces, named for its commander, Lt. Col. William Lovelady, consisted of a battalion of tanks and a company of armored infantry. Ordered to move south to check the advance of the 1st SS Panzer Division, it drove down the valley of the Roannay stream just east of La Gleize, without any incident, under cover of the mist. Although an enemy artillery observer detected the column from the Maréchal's Mill, the Germans did not intervene so that the US tanks eventually reached and cut the main road from La Gleize to Trois-Ponts, scaling Kampfgruppe Peiper's pocket even tighter. While some platoons were dispatched in support of the troops harassing the Germans dug in around the Maréchal's Mill, E Company, under 1st Lt. Hope, headed south at full speed trusting the fact that the German's rear had already been cut off at Stavelot, apparently ensuring a rather easy drive to the task force.

SPECIAL Euro-Pack OFFER: If you do *not* already own the ASLN#1 board. (a river with railway line and road running alongside it, and a steep, wooded hill, and other hilly terrain...*very* Ardennes-like) you may obtain an unmounted copy in one of the following ways: 1) Subscribe (re-subscribe or re-up for an add'l year) to Critical Hit Tactical Level Gaming magazine (\$35.00—3 issues; \$36.00 Canada; \$38.00 Int'l) and get it FREE or send \$5.00, plus \$1.00 S & H (\$2.00 Canada/Int'l) and we'll send you off a copy. Our new version is much improved over the original. Original Design by Yves Barette



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OBJECTIVES: The Americans win at game end if they have destroyed the King Tiger *and* Control the 40H4-H5 and G6 road Locations.

DEVILS IN THE GRAVEYARD Euro-Pack #54 🛨 AMERICAN Sets Up First 5 6 ALC: NO GERMAN Moves First Elements of Company I, 119th Infantry Regiment set up north of hexrow F; each Foxhole *must* be occupied by at least one MMC: Foxhole BAZ 45 62 Ing: 12 HMG Rng: 10 HMG Rng: 5 10F: 3 HMG ROF: 2 MMG SA: WP6 1 3-4-6 7 mórale 15 [ELR: 3] 5 5 2 {SAN: 3} No. 6 Gun, Company 1, 2nd Pltn., Cov. C, 743rd 823rd TD Battalion set up Tank Battalion set up on in any Open Ground hex, any road hex north of north of hexrow F: 2-2hexrow F: Elements of Kampfgruppe Peiper [ELR: 5; EXC: KGP SR II] enter along the south edge on any hex(es) numbered ≥ 8 : Tr's FP:3 dm MTR LMG Ang: 4 8 dm MMG Rop: 8 PSK **0**6-5-8 2 4-4-7 50 mm

3

@ 6-5-8

2

BOARD LAYOUT AND ENTRY:

[ELR: 5]

{SAN: 3}

6

3

2

Enter on turn 3 or later on any hex(es) south of

hexrow I along the east edge of the playing area:



OBJECTIVES: The German player wins at game end if he has amassed more VP than the American. Both sides obtain VP by causing casualties and/or controlling building/graveyard hexes. The control of each building hex is worth 1 VP while each graveyard hex is worth 2 VP.

SCENARIO RULES:

1. See KGP SR. Weather is Heavy Mist; time of day is AM (SR KGP 3). 2. One American M4 tank must be secretly designated as equipped with a FT instead of the BMG (U.S. Vehicle Note F).

STOUMONT, BELGIUM, 19 December 1944: All the efforts of Peiper to open a route to the west for his Kampfgruppe had been frustrated by the actions of a few U.S. engineers who managed to blow up several bridges at the right moment. As the only way out of the Amblève valley was through the village of Stoumont defended by the 3rd Battalion, 119th Infantry Regiment, a confrontation was unavoidable. Even before dawn, the Germans manoeuvered around the village to prepare the morning assault. Coming from the village of Cheneux, to the south, some panzergrenadiers crossed the Amblève river on the railway viaduct and climbed the cliff-like slopes to attack Stoumont from the southeast. Few U.S. units were actually covering this flank: a few squads shyly aimed their machine-guns in the thick mist covered by a lone tank destroyer gun set up near the cemetery. At 7 am, a Sherman tank platoon eventually arrived as support when the main German attack along the U.S. resistance line had already begun at the castern entry of the village...



PzIVH

Pz VG

LMG

9-1

11

2 4-4-7

SPW 25W

ROF

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FUEL DEPOT #2

Euro-Pack #53



9

American sets up in hexes numbered ≤ 6 on board 19.

Delete one LMG from the German OB.

Any mutually agreed upon alteration to either side's OB.

BOARD LAYOUT:



OBJECTIVES: See SR 3.

SCENARIO RULES:

1. KGP SR 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17 & 18 are in effect. Weather is Light Mist; time of day is PM. All Roads are Paved; Paved Road hexes which are not Woods/Road are Orchard/Road hexes.

2. Prior to set up the U.S. player must select 10 counters (only) from his OB, the remaining counters are unused in this action. Each mined hex counts as one counter regardless of the number/type of mine factors therein. Set up is otherwise normal.

3. The German player must amass \geq 50 VP to win. VP are awarded for: ·Inflicting casualties (A26.4);

·Exiting off the North and South edges. Units/Guns exited off the North edge count double their normal VP value.

·Gaining Information. 2 "Information VP" are awarded for each U.S. unit/ minefield that loses its HIP status (regardless of LOS): an M3 HT that is either put under a concealment counter or entirely revealed awards the German 2 VP. Under the same conditions, a 8-0 SMC and Crew with a Bazooka and award 6 VP.

COUR, BELGIUM, 19 December, 1944: The first battle at Stoumont was a clear victory for the SS, but the manoeuvering had only added to the Kampfgruppe's growing fuel supply problems. Unfortunately, Peiper did not yet know that the second and larger of the U.S. First Army's depots, with more than 2 million gallons of gasoline, was located near Cour - just north of La Gleize. On December 18th the only American Troops that stood in his way were from the HQ Company of the 9th Armored Group: 5 halftracks, 3 assault guns, and some Belgian Fusiliers. During the night 90mm AAA guns and trailer mounted Maxsons were added to the hastily organized defenses. At about midday on the 19th, a small German reconnaissance patrol of six AFV probed the area. At Cour, the Germans learned from the villagers the precise location of the huge dump. The recon column halted 500 yards from the depot, in front of a minefield. A .50 caliber MG opened up and in a moment everyone on both sides was blazing away. Finally, after 30 minutes of firing, the Germans withdrew - dashing their last hope for free gas. Fuel Depot # 2 was cleared out by 11 AM on the 22nd...



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TIME FOR LUNCH

Euro-Pack #52



BOARD LAYOUT AND ENTRY:



LIGNEUVILLE, BELGIUM, 19 December, 1944, 3:00 P.M.: Locked at the bottom of a steep slope leading down from the sinister Baugnez road junction, the little town of Ligneuville - known as Engelsdorf by the Germans – was occupied by the 49th AAA Brigade HQ along with company kitchens, supply trucks and some troops and tanks of the 9th Armored Division doing repair work on tank tracks. Suddenly in the early afternoon, a tankdozer came flying down the hill at breakneck speed announcing imminent danger. As sounds of battle were heard coming from somewhere to the north. General E.J. Timberlake and his staff decided to leave at once. The incredulous officer in charge of the 9th Armored supply column went up the hill to investigate and... was captured while standing face to face with German tanks...



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