U.S. 2nd Armored Division





When the German offensive began, the "Hell on Wheels" 2nd Armored Division was resting to the north after having reached the Rur River in late November. The division was rushed to the bulge over December 22nd and 23rd. On Christmas Day, CCB of the 2nd Armored inflicted a major defeat on exhausted elements of the German 2nd Panzer Division near Celles at the tip of the bulge, which stopped the most western thrust of the attack. After a rest of a few days, the division went back into action and captured Houffalize in mid January, linking up with Third Army to the south and cutting off the bulge for good. The 2nd Armored was a "heavy" division still organized under the old '42 structure with six tank battalions of 3 companies each.