



The 3rd Panzergrenadier Division had seen more than its share of fighting before the Ardennes Campaign. It had been nearly destroyed in the Stalingrad debacle but had been rebuilt around its survivors. It was sent to Italy and after a hard fight at Salerno, the division helped bottle up the Allies at Anzio. After being forced to retreat, the battered division was sent to France to recuperate and ended up heavily engaged in the fighting in the Hurtgen Forest in November of 1944. The tough panzergrenadiers began the battle in OKW Reserve and were sent into the fight on December 18 to help in the assault on Elsenborn ridge. After a series of costly but futile attacks, they were withdrawn and put on the defensive, where they waged a very stubborn fight against the Allied counteroffensive in January.