German 3rd Fallschirmjaeger Div.





Though paratroop divisions were still being created in the German Army, large scale air airborne operations had been forbidden since the drop at Crete in 1941. Most of the fallshirmjagers had never even practiced jumping out of an airplane but they were excellent ground troops and were given important roles in the Ardennes Offensive. The job of the 3rd Fallshirmjagers was to open the hole for the Panzer Divisions and then follow behind them to provide protection to the flanks and to mop up any resistance bypassed by the panzers. They successfully opened the door for 1st SS Panzer and then were posted as northern flank protection, holding until January when they were nearly destroyed in the Allied counteroffensive.