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The 4th Armored was part of Patton's Third Army to the south when the Germans attacked in the Ardennes. It was rushed north and was at first ordered to go to Bastogne (in fact a small task force with a company of tanks, a company of infantry and a battery of arty did arrive at Bastogne before being ordered back to the CCR at Haybay-la-Neuve). It later spearheaded the drive to relieve Bastogne and elements of this division were the first to establish contact with the beleaguered defenders of the town. During the battle, the division operated in three task forces as follows:

Combat Command A— 35th Tank Battalion, 51st Armored Infantry Battalion, 51st Armored Artillery Battalion, 25th Cavalry Recon Squadron (1 troop), 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion (1 company)

Combat Command B— 8th Tank Battalion, 10st Armored Infantry Battalion, 22nd Armored Artillery Battalion, 25th Cavalry Recon Squadron (1 troop), 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion (1 company)

Combat Command R— 37th Tank Battalion, 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion, 94th Armored Artillery Battalion, 25th Cavalry Recon Squadron (1 troop), 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion (1 company), 1 battery towed 155 How from 177 Corps Reserve Arty