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When the German offensive in the Ardennes began, the "All American" Division was in SHAEF reserve 100 miles away, recovering from their recent part in Operation Market-Garden in Holland. Reinforcements were desperately needed so trucks were quickly rounded up and the tough paratroopers were sent to Werbomont to help contain the German thrust in the north. During a counterattack in late December, the 509th Battalion was so badly mauled that it was disbanded.