





The 9th SS (Hohenstaufen) Panzer Division was an unusual SS Division in that it was raised through conscription, rather than by volunteers. Like many German formations, the 9th SS had been caught in the Falaise pocket in Normandy and all but destroyed. After being rebuilt near Arnhem (and participating in Market-Garden), the division was refitted for the Ardennes Campaign. It's role in the battle was to act as a follow-up force in the north, supporting the 1st SS Panzerkorps. After the northern thrust ran into serious difficulties, the 9th was sent on the next road south to support Kampfgruppe Hansen of the 1st SS Panzer. The 9th SS fought an action against CCA of the 7th Armored, withdrawing from St. Vith, but the attack was busted up by a flight of P-38's which strafed the German column and a heavy dose of the everpresent American heavy artillery. The 9th SS was pulled from the line on December 30 and took no further part in the offensive.