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Originally a personal bodyguard for Hitler, the Fuhrer Escort Brigade became a battalion, then a regiment and in August of 1944 it became a brigade. As were all the German armored formations at this time, the brigade was short on tanks and had assault guns or tank destroyers added to help make up the shortfall. During the Bulge, the Fuhrer Escort Brigade was transferred from OKW Reserve to reinforce the assault on St. Vith. After the fall of that town, the brigade shadowed the 2nd SS Panzer and made it nearly to Hotton before being moved to the Bastogne area. At the end of January, the brigade became the Fuhrer Escort Division.