

## ER Bickford Presents

# Operation Grenade Replay

Dec 11, 2012

**ER Bickford** - Dec 20, 2011 9:08 am (#729 Total: 2389)

### **Operation Grenade**

Operation Grenade has several 1st and 2nd turn restrictions to be kept in mind. On turn one, the German 9th Panzer is unable to move. On turns one and two the 11th Panzer is unable to move. German 2nd Corps is also unable to move [unless attacked] until the Strategic Withdrawal event occurs.

The Americans also have several restrictions. During the 1st three turns, no mechanized units may move. On turn four, this restriction is lifted. The US 7th Corps is also restricted to the southern sector for the entire operation. The US 12th Corps is automatically out of supply for the first six game turns. US 16th Corps is out of supply for the first two game turns.

The Germans have an important decision to make before the game ensues. This involves the Roer River flood. The Germans must decide whether to create a flash flood or a gradual flood. This choice has a significant implications. If a Flash Flood is selected, then the game begins on the first turn on the track, February 17th, 1945. The Upside is that Swamp hexes in the Roer Valley are defended on the hill top line of the CRT, which improves the defense. The downside is that a flash flood allows the US the highest number of turns to achieve their military objectives. Additionally, another effect of this type of flooding is that the Roer is reduced to a normal river for the remained of the game [as opposed to a larger type of river].

The other choice is to create a gradual flood. This will require the US to declare a D-Day sometime from February 17-24. The earlier the D-Day, the worse the conditions from the flood. The later the D-Day, the conditions improve, but less time is allowed to achieve the military objectives. An early D-Day also gives the US a temporary surprise bonus. Victory is related to the US capturing key towns and city locations, and 15 VP's are needed for a Marginal Victory.

The German commanders decide to go with a gradual flood, systematically damaging the valves. This will disrupt the first two game turns. The US commanders have to decide on a D-Day, and February 23, 1945 is chosen. The die is rolled to determine the current conditions on the Roar River. Its current is Rapid and the effect is that attacks across the Upper Roar will multiply the defender by 4X and the Lower Roar by X3. This is not what General Simpson has hoped for. By choosing the late D-Day, there was a 66 % chance [1-4 die roll] that the river would be normal. Nevertheless, the US will have surprise during the first turn giving a favorable column shift on the CRT [Combat Results Table].

**ER Bickford** - Dec 20, 2011 9:09 am (#730 Total: 2389)





## Turn 1

### February 23, 1945

The weather is clear and the USAAF will have six missions available. The Luftwaffe isn't ready until D-Day +1. The American commander decides to make as many attacks as possible to take advantage of the surprise modifier. Since both the 12th and 16th Corps begin out of supply, they are left out of the opening rounds.

To the south of Dueren, the US 8th Infantry attacks the 942nd Regiment, using the benefits of Divisional Integrity, Surprise and Artillery. The 942nd takes two step losses but holds its ground. Just to the north of Dueren, The US 104th attacks the 943rd Regiment. The Germans have the 58th Corps artillery available for defensive support. It is not enough for victory and the 942nd loses one step.

The US 104th Infantry Division also attacks the 27th Regiment. Although the odds are poor, somehow the Americans carry the day and the 27th is reduced by two steps and retreated. Part of the 104th Infantry crosses the river. 30th Infantry Division attacks the 49/12 using close air support and artillery, causing the 49th Regiment to take two step losses and retreat. The rest of the 30th Infantry attacks the 48/12 Regiment across the Roar. The attack odds are terrible, but the Germans take heavy casualties. The 48th Regiment loses two steps but hold its ground.

The US 175th Infantry Regiment attacks the German 1157th Infantry, but the Americans are pushed back. The US 175th loses two steps. The US 29th Infantry Division continues its attack. The 115th Regiment attacks the

German 1156th with support from artillery and aircraft. This attack too is repulsed and the 115th Regiment takes a step loss and retreats.

The US 102nd Infantry Division attacks the German 1158 Regiment. This one is effective and the Germans take two step losses and retreat. The 102nd Division continues its assault. The American attack breaks down and the US 405th Regiment takes a step loss and retreats.

The US 84th Infantry attacks elements of the German 59th Division. This attack is also repulsed and the US 333rd Infantry Regiment loses a step and retreats. The 84th Infantry presses on attacking the 1150th Regiment. The Americans are shut down again. The 334th Regiment loses a step and retreats.

[Although I didn't report the specific chit pulls, the Americans were extremely unlucky with their 3 morale chits. Fortunately, a few terrible odds attacks succeeded.]

During the Axis turn, one US unit has become isolated. KG Lehr arrives motoring from Rheinberg to the hill top west of Duellen.

**ER Bickford** - Dec 20, 2011 9:10 am (#731 Total: 2389)

**About Me.**  **Turn 2**

**February 24, 1945**

The weather turns to light overcast. This will limit air missions somewhat. The USAAF will have three missions and the Luftwaffe one.

The US mechanized units are still unable to move. Both the 12th and 16th Corps remain out of supply. The US 8th Infantry renews its attacks against the German 353rd Division. The 28th Regiment attacks the 942nd which is subsequently eliminated.

The US 104th attacks the 943rd Regiment. Both sides employ artillery support. The German infantry regiment is eliminated. The US 30th Division launches another round of attacks. The German 48/112 is the first target and it is eliminated after heavy fighting. The US 119th Regiment attacks the German 1156th using artillery and close ground support. As a result the 1156th loses two steps and the 49th is eliminated.

The US 104th attacks the German 12th Division. The 413th engages the German 27th Regiment, and the German unit is eliminated. The next attack is repulsed and then the US 406th Regiment takes two step losses and retreats.

The Axis fails to receive any of its variable reinforcements. Otherwise, there is limited actions undertaken. The German commander intends to make the Allies take as much time as possible in establishing a bridgehead.



ER Bickford - Dec 20, 2011 9:11 am (#732 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 3

February 25, 1945

The weather is clear. The USAAF has six missions and the Luftwaffe has two air support points. The US 16th Corps is finally in supply. Meanwhile, the Roar River has returned to normal. This will make attacks a little more favorable. AT this point, the US 30th Infantry is across the Roar and parts of the 8th Division and 104th Division are as well.

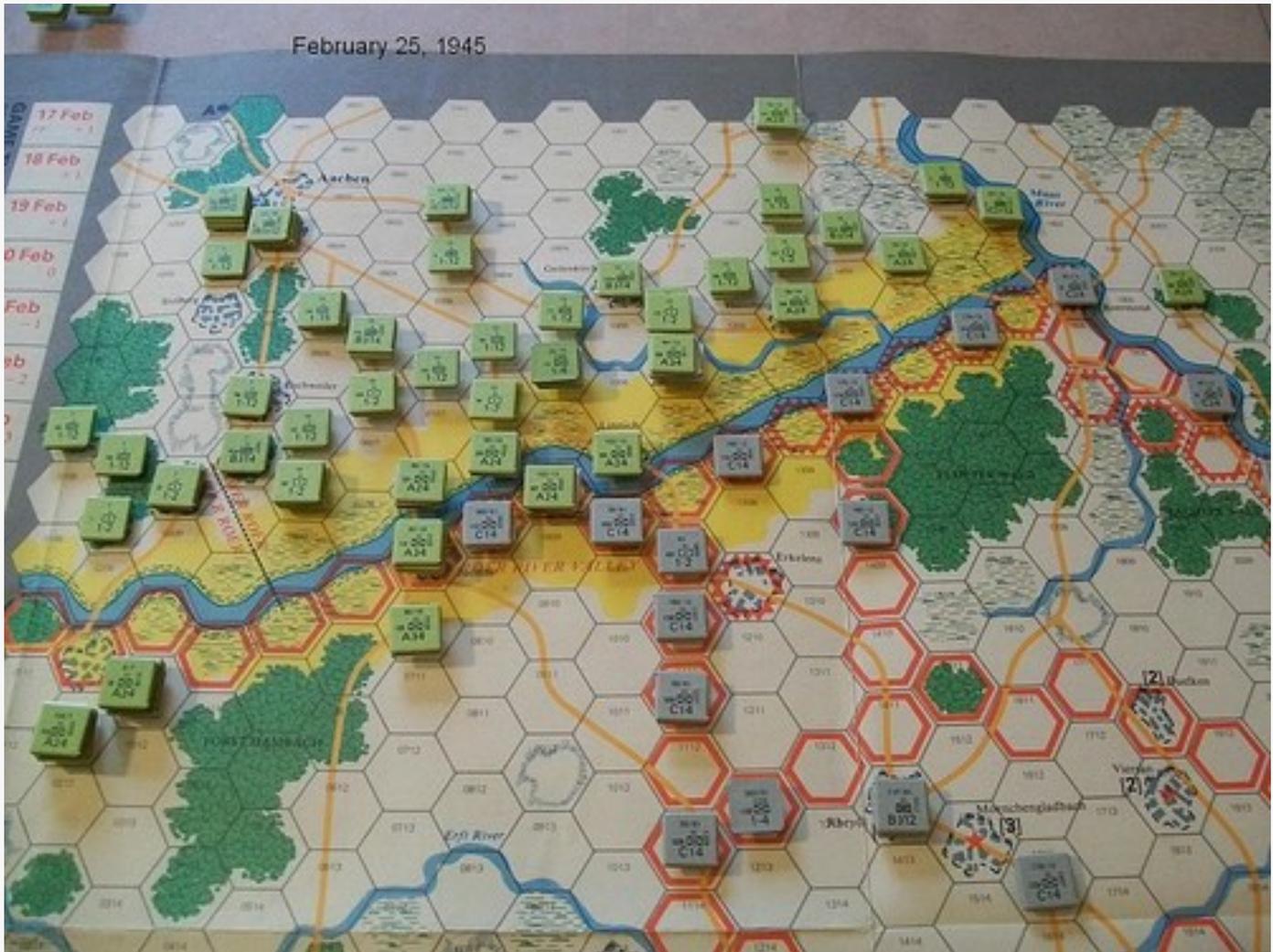
The US attacks continue. The US 413th Regiment strikes the 407th artillery which has been caught alone. It is eliminated. That's was unexpected. The US 8th and 104th Divisions attack the German 941st Regiment at Dueren. The US uses artillery support and manages to destroy the German 941st.

The US 30th Infantry attacks the German 1156th and 1158th Regiment nearby. Using artillery and air, the Americans encounter planes from the Luftwaffe. The German 1156th is eliminated and the 1158th loses two steps and retreats.

The US 83rd attacks the German 1157th Regiment. Both sides use artillery and air support and the American attack is repulsed. The US infantry regiment loses two steps and retreats.

The US 102nd attacks the German 1034th Infantry using artillery and close ground support. The 1034th is reduced by one step. The 84th attacks the 1035th Regiment. Despite support bonuses, the US attack is turned back and the 84th retreats.

The Axis 338 Infantry Division moves into Koeln as reinforcements.



ER Bickford - Dec 20, 2011 9:12 am (#733 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 4

February 26, 1945

The weather remains clear with the US having 6 air points and the Luftwaffe two. US 12th Corps remains out of supply. The US receives the 99th Infantry Division as reinforcements for the 7th Corps. As the German left flank has disintegrated, the US 7th Corps has poured into the area and now threaten Koeln.

The US 30th and 83rd Infantry Divisions coordinate an attack against the 1157th which has become isolated. The German infantry is subsequently eliminated in a Break Through. The US 102nd Division attacks the 1034th Regiment of the 59th Division. Both sides use artillery and close ground support. The 1034th Regiment eventually retreats.

The US 35th Infantry attacks part of the German 176th Division, just to the east of Heinsberg. The German 1219th Regiment loses two steps but holds its position across the river.

The Germans fail their Strategic Withdrawal die roll. [The Strategic Withdrawal will allow the German 2nd Corps on the northern flank to move. Otherwise it remains in place until attacked.] The 2nd Fallschirmjaeger KG arrives as reinforcements and moves into Krefeld. The 9th Panzer moves across the Rhine north toward Duesseldorf.



ER Bickford - Dec 20, 2011 9:13 am (#734 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 5

February 27, 1945

The weather remains clear. Both sides have all of their air missions available. The US 95th Infantry Division arrives from the west as reinforcements.

The US 34th Infantry Division moves toward the western side of Frechen. A Volkssturm battalion appears. [The first time a US unit moves adjacent to a town with a parenthesized number, it is possible that a Volkssturm unit will be generated.] The US 8th Infantry and 3rd Armored move in on Koeln [No Volkssturm].

The 30th Infantry moves to Grevenbroich. [No Volkssturm].

The US 104th attacks the German unit in Frechen and the Volkssturm battalion is eliminated. The 8th Infantry attacks elements of the 338th Division and achieves a breakthrough. The 757th Regiment loses two steps and retreats.

The US 3rd Armored and 7th Cavalry attacks the 759th Regiment. The Luftwaffe provides close ground support to the defense. The US infantry prevails and the German 759th Regiment is reduced a step and retreats across the Rhine. The Germans attempt to blow the bridge at Koeln and they succeed. The Americans capture the city of Koeln. [3 VP's].

The US 30th Infantry attacks the 59th Division in improved positions to the west of Grevenbroich. The result is a breakthrough and the German 1036th Regiment retreats. The 30th Infantry advances and closes in on Rheydt. [No Volkssturm]

The US 83rd Infantry attacks the 1035 to the east of Erkelenz. The Germans occupy an improved position. This is not enough to stop the American forces. The 83rd manages a breakthrough and the 1035th loses two steps and retreats.

The US 13th Infantry attacks the German 1151st on the Linnich Bridge. Both sides employ close air support. The 1151st sacrifices two steps but stubbornly holds onto the bridgehead.

The US 11th attacks the 1150th in improved positions south of Erkelenz. Raining artillery shells and air support, the 1150th gives up two steps, but holds its position.

The 35th Infantry attacks the 1219th Regiment in fortifications across the Roar River. Despite artillery and air support, the attack is repulsed and the US 320th Regiment loses a step and the force retreats.

Then the 35th Infantry attacks the 1152nd. The Luftwaffe supports the defense. The German 1152nd Regiment loses two steps but holds onto its position.

The Axis forces are in supply and the German commander passes the Withdrawal die roll. This means that the 2nd Corps can move. Then 7th Fallschirmjaeger KG arrives as reinforcements from the north.



ER Bickford - Dec 20, 2011 9:13 am (#735 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 6

February 28, 1945

The weather changes to light overcast, which limits the USAAF to three air support points and the Luftwaffe to one mission. The American forces approach Nuess and Moenchengaldbach and neither generate a Volkssturm unit.

The US 301st attacks the 1220th Regiment at Moenchengladbach. Despite numerous combat bonuses, the attack is repulsed with the aid of the single Luftwaffe mission. The US lose two tank battalions [743rd and 747th]

The US 83rd Infantry attacks the 1035th to the west of Rheydt. The Germans occupy an improved position. With support bonuses, the US destroyed the 1035th Regiment. The 83rd also attacks the forces in Erkelenz. With artillery support, the US force eliminate the 1034th Infantry.

The US 11th Cavalry attacks the German 1050th Infantry to the southwest of Erkelenz. The 1050th Regiment is destroyed. Then the 84th Infantry joins the 102nd and 29th in an attacks against the 1151st Regiment, which stubbornly holds Linnich Bridge. The attack results in a breakthrough and the destruction of the German infantry. The US 35th launches an assault against two German infantry regiments. Using Divisional integrity

and artillery bonuses, the American attack is a success. the 1152nd Infantry is destroyed and the 1219th retreats.

The US 79th attacks the 1218th nearby. American firepower wipes out the German unit. The 2nd Armored Division meets the Lehr KG near Duesseldorf. The 1158th Regiment is destroyed and the Lehr retreats across the Rhine River. The US attempts to use “Ruse” on the bridge, but this fails and the Rhine bridge is blown.

The Axis does not receive any variable reinforcements. The US now controls Nuess and Koeln [4 VP’s]



ER Bickford - Dec 20, 2011 9:14 am (#736 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 7

March 1, 1945

The weather is clear. The USAAF has 6 air points and the Luftwaffe has 2 AP’s. US 2nd Armored advances on Krefeld [No Volkssturm]. The 173rd Recon moves toward the north bridge at Duesseldorf. The bridge is successfully blown by the German forces. [Having German units on the eastern terminus hex greatly increases the odds of successfully blowing the bridge.]

The 95th Infantry moves in on Moenchengladbach, which generates a Volkssturm battalion. The 83rd Infantry encroaches on Duellen and it also produces a Volkssturm battalion. The US 19th Infantry attacks the German position at Moenchengladbach. Using artillery and Divisional integrity is not enough and the attack is repulsed. [The USAAF and Luftwaffe were both used and canceled each other out.] The Americans retreat and take a step reduction.

The US 5th Armored meets the 11th Panzer KG. The Americans are in way over there head in this one and are forced to retreat after taking a step loss. The 83rd Infantry attacks the Volkssturm in the city of Duellen. The Germans push the American forces back and the US 736th Tank Battalion is wrecked.

The US 102nd overwhelms the German 403rd Artillery brigade. The 84th Infantry achieves a breakthrough against the 1219th Regiment which is eliminated. The US 84th and 35th Infantry divisions march through the Elmpter Wald.

The US force launch an attack at Roermond at the crossing of the Roar River and the Maas. The American attack is repulsed and the US tanks are eliminated.



ER Bickford - Dec 20, 2011 9:15 am (#737 Total: 2389)

About Turn 8  
Me.

March 2, 1945

At this point the Americans have only 4 VP's [Koeln and Nuess]. They need at least 16 for a marginal victory. At this point the Germans have a Decisive Victory. There are still three turns to go though, and the German forces are becoming scarce, but the elite units still remain.

The weather is light overcast which halves the available air points for both sides. The US 113th attacks a Volksturm unit near Krefeld and the German force evaporates. The US 30th Infantry attacks the German position in Krefeld. It is defended by the 2nd Fallschirmjaeger KG. The US wins and the 15th Panzer is destroyed while the 2nd Fallschirmjaeger loses two steps. The German paratroopers manage to hold on the Krefeld and its VP's.

The 2nd Armored Division attacks the 1226th Regiment at Geldern [worth 3 VP's]. The US uses artillery, close ground support and divisional integrity to shift the battle their way. The 1226th is eliminated and Geldern is captured. [7 VP's]

The US 5th Armored attacks the Volksturm unit at Duellen. The Volksturm is wiped out and Duellen falls to the US tanks. The US 95th Infantry attacks the German position at Moenchengladbach. [worth 1 VP]. This attack is repulsed and the US infantry loses a step and retreats.

The 8th Armored Division joins the 79th Infantry to attack the isolated German force in Roermond. [Worth 1 VP] The 8th Fallschirmjaeger is eliminated but the Germans hold the position.





## Turn 9

March 3, 1945

The weather is light overcast. Limited flight. The Americans launch a massive attack against the German position at Moenchengladbach. This city has stubbornly resisted the American attacks. With all this fire power, the German defenses finally give way. The US achieved a breakthrough and the 1220th Regiment is eliminated along with a Volkssturm and the 1036th Regiment. The Americans gain another VP [8 VP's].

The 5th Armored attacks the Viersan [worth 1 VP] which is defended by the 11th Panzer KG. The 301st Panzer battalion is eliminated and 11th Panzergrenadier loses a step. The city remains under German control. 30th Infantry attacks the Krefeld which results in a breakthrough. The 2nd Fallshirmjaeger is wiped out and the American forces capture Krefeld [9 VP's].

The US 113th Regiment attacks the Axis position in Uerdingen. It is defended by the Lehr KG. The attack is turned back and the US Recon loses a step and retreats. Then the US 8th Armored joins the 79th Infantry to attack Roermond. Finally a breakthrough is achieved and the city falls to the American forces. The 8th Fallshirmjaeger is destroyed in the battle. [10 VP's]

The 106th Panzergrenadier and the 106th Panzer battalion arrive as reinforcements [a little late.] They move toward the north.



ER Bickford - Dec 20, 2011 9:16 am (#739 Total: 2389)

About Me. **Turn 10**

**March 4, 1945**

The weather is clear. The USAAF has 6 air missions, and the Luftwaffe defends with 2 missions. The US 8th Armored and 15th Cavalry link up with the 84th Infantry and attack the German position at Venlo along the Mass River. [This is worth one VP]. With artillery and air support, all the Germans can do is call in the Luftwaffe. The 1226th Regiment is eliminated in the battle and Venlo falls to the 8th Armored. [11 VP's].

The US 35th Infantry and the 5th Armored attack the position at Viersan. The 11th Panzer is destroyed and Viersan is captured. [12 VP]. The US 95th attacks the forces defending in Uerdingen. With attack bonuses, the US force clear out the remnants of the Lehr KG and subsequently capture the city.

The US 2nd Armored Divisions attacks the city of Moers. This city is worth 3 VP's. A weak German unit is defending and the attack results in a breakthrough. The Americans occupy the city. [15 VP's]

Then the 2nd Armored and 113th Recon attack the 7th Fallschirmjaeger at Rheinberg. Despite close ground support, the attack is turned back, by the elite German units.

The Axis launches a massive counterattack at Moers. If it succeeds the US will lose three VP's, enough to turn the game back around. The 3rd Panzergrenadier, 7th Fallschirmjaeger and part of the Lehr KG have surrounded the Americans in the city. The attack is repulsed and the game time runs out.

The US has 15 VP's which is barely a Marginal Victory. Generally, the weather was good for the entire campaign. No mud turns whatsoever. Unfortunately, the US units had the absolute worse luck on the strength chit draws, while the German C-1 regiment had incredible luck.

