

ER Bickford Presents

Patton's 3rd Army Replay

Dec 11, 2012

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:50 pm (#704 Total: 2389)

Patton's 3rd Army Campaign

There are a number of first turn restrictions that must be remembered. The US 4th Armored and 6th Armored Divisions may not move. The German 11th Panzer and 82nd Corps may not move either. Additionally, the US 20th Corps is considered out of supply during the first turn and the 83rd Infantry is treated as out of supply for the entire game.

Weather is a major factor, and even a little bit of rain will impacted several game turns as mud is created. Rain and heavy overcast takes the American air support out of the mix as well.

Each US attack must expend a Support Point. They begin with 75 SP's divided between the 12th Corps and the 20th Corps. [I split them evenly, 37, 38]. Support is obtained primarily through resting an entire division for a full turn.

In the 24 turn extended campaign, the victory conditions are adjusted. Essentially, everything is shifted two toward the Germans, making A US decisive victory, only a US marginal Victory. To obtain a Substantive or Decisive Victory, the Americans must do more than in the 12 turn game. The American commander is shooting for the stars, a Decisive Victory and if it is something less, it will still be some type of victory.

The Requirements for a Decisive Victory are as follows. The Americans must capture eight of the following ten positions. Morhange, Chateau-Salins, Falquemont, Dieuze, Koenigsmacker, Saarburg, Sarrelouis, Sarreguemines, Sarre-Union, and Sarrebourg. In addition, the Americans must capture Metz and the surrounding fortifications. Further, they must capture three of the four of the following positions: Trier, Merzig, and the two Saarbruecken sections. Lastly, They need to capture Neunkirchen and Nohfeldon. That is a tall order indeed. The Axis commander will try to hold on to as much territory as possible, while slowly ceding ground to maintain an adequate defense.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:50 pm (#705 Total: 2389)

Turn 1

November 8, 1944

Weather: Heavy Overcast with rain. [This is automatic on turn one] No US close ground support is available as the aircraft are grounded. Additionally, this creates mud which will last at least through turn 4. Mud affects movement and shifts the combat results table one column toward the defender.

Since Gen. Walker's 20th Corps is out of supply, it is left out of the opening rounds. 20th Corps is deployed along the Moselle River and is responsible to secure a bridgehead toward the Orscholz Line. The rest of the 20th Corps is west of the Metz garrison and will try to push through the heavily fortified position.

12th Corps has the US right. Its first order of business is to cross the Moselle and capture Chateau-Salins, which is included in the victory conditions.

The 26th Infantry advances and meets elements of the 361st Infantry Division. Using divisional integrity and available artillery, the Americans somewhat counter the effects of mud. The German 952nd Regiment loses a step and retreats along with the 111 Flak battalion. 12th Corps expends a Support Point leaving 36 left.

.Using Combines Arms and artillery, the 35th Infantry Division also launches an attack against the 361st Division. The battle goes to the Americans. The German infantry regiment loses two steps and is forced to retreat. The 35th Infantry advances and 12th Corps expends another SP [35].

During the Axis segment, the 1125 Infantry Regiment moves into Chateau-Salins. Artillery is re-deployed to better support the Axis defense in the area.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:51 pm (#706 Total: 2389)

About Me.  **Turn 2**

November 9, 1944

The weather changes to light overcast. Although the mud conditions continue, the US will have half of the air support points available [4]. During this part of the battle, the Axis has no air support.

The 12th Corps continues to focus on the Germans' left flank. 2nd Cavalry attacks the 361st Division which is supported by the 43rd Infantry battalion. The American attack is turned back and the US 704th Tank battalion is eliminated while the 2nd Cavalry retreats. The 12th Corps expends an SP [34]. Then the 26th Infantry Division attacks the 361st Division. Despite artillery, close air support and divisional integrity, the attack is repulsed by the 952nd Regiment and 111th Flak. The 104th Regiment loses a step and the US troops retreat. 12th Corps uses a Support Point. [33]. The defenders are receiving a favorable column shift due to the mud.

35th Infantry Division attacks the 1125th Regiment in Chateau-Salins. Artillery, close ground support and divisional integrity help to offset the mud and city terrain. The 1125th is overpowered and forced to retreat. The 35th Infantry captures Chateau-Salins and establishes a bridgehead. The 12 Corps expends an SP [32].

35th Infantry also attacks the nearby 1127th with the aid of artillery and ground support. This attack bogs down and the US 320th Regiment loses a step and retreats. The 12th Corps uses another SP [31].

The 20th Corps also begins to get involved, now that it is in supply. 90th Infantry Division attacks the 485th Flak battalion and manages to eliminate it. The 20th Corps uses a Support Point [37]. The Axis commander continues to re-deploy to make sure to take advantage of the defensive terrain. The area has a number of Improved Positions, which can hide the defender and add 2 strength points to defensive combat strength.





ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:52 pm (#707 Total: 2389)

About Me. **Turn 3**

November 10, 1944

The weather turns to heavy overcast. The Mud continues to plague the Americans and there will be no ground support aircraft available this turn. 12th Corps renews its attacks.

The 35th Infantry Division attacks the 1125th Regiment. Despite having artillery support and combined arms the mud is enough to spoil the attack. The 35th Infantry is repulsed and the 702nd Tank Battalion is eliminated while the rest of the troops retreat. 12th Corps uses an SP [30].

35th Infantry attacks the 361st Division which is supported by a Flak battalion. This attack is also repulsed and the Americans retreat. 12th Corps expends a Support Point [29].

Maybe the 20th Corps will have better luck. The US 5th Infantry Division attacks the German 55th Infantry Battalion with artillery support. The German battalion retreats and links up with the 1010 Security Regiment. The 20th Corps uses an SP [36].

The 90th Infantry Division attacks elements of the German 19th Infantry. The Americans are able to use divisional integrity, combined arms and artillery bonuses to help offset the mud. The German 74th Infantry regiment is reduced a step and retreats to Koenigsmacker, a key fortress on the Moselle River. [It is also a VP location]. The 20th Corps uses an SP [35].

The Axis troops are all still in supply, and the 25th Infantry Division arrives through Trier and moves onto the battlefield. The 25th Infantry is using strategic movement and finally arrives in the Foret de Villers. The Germans do not launch any counterattacks.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:52 pm (#708 Total: 2389)

About Me.  Turn 4

November 11, 1944

The weather is light overcast. Mud continues and the Americans receive half of their available air support, which will provide 4 close ground support missions. The 20th Corps still has 35 Support Points and begins to maneuver against the German north and central positions.

83rd Infantry division prepares to attack. This division operates at half strength as it is out of supply for the entire game. Nevertheless, it launches an attack against the German 416th Infantry Division. With artillery and air support, the Americans inflict damage on the 713th Regiment which loses a step and retreats. . The 20th Corps expends an SP [34].

The 90th Infantry Division also attacks the German right flank. This is targeting the 19th Infantry Division. Using artillery, air and combined arms bonuses, the attack is a success and the 74th Infantry Regiment take a step reduction and retreats toward better defensive ground. The 20th Corps uses another SP [33].

Along the center, the US 5th Infantry, which is one of its better units, attacks the Metz position. This area is heavily defended. With artillery and air support, the 55th Infantry battalion is eliminated, but the US infantry conservatively proceeds with caution. 20 Corps expends an SP [32]. 5th Infantry attacks again into the Metz region, but this time the artillery and close ground support are not enough to win. The Germans turn the Americans back and the 11th Infantry Regiment loses a step and retreats. The 20th Corps issues an SP [31].

Next, Gen. Eddy's 12th Corps redoubles its efforts against the southern flank. The 43rd Infantry is holding the German left flank. It is attacked with combined arms and artillery bonuses. As a result, 43rd Battalion is eliminated and the US 12th Corps expends a Support Point [28].

80th Infantry Division attacks the German 1127th Regiment with artillery and air support. The Germans take a step loss and retreat. 12th Corps issues an SP [27]. A further attack is made against the 1126th Regiment. Despite artillery and a full complement of ground support, the attack is stopped. The 318th Regiment loses a step and retreats. 12th Corps uses another SP [26].

The Axis find all of their units in supply. More reinforcements have arrived. The 36th Infantry Division comes through Trier and moves into the Orschulz Line in the north. The 17th SS Division moves to the West-Stellung. No counterattacks are made.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:53 pm (#709 Total: 2389)

About Me.  Turn 5

November 12, 1944

The weather continues to be light overcast. Mud has finally ended which will eliminate that tough left column shift during attacks. Also, the light overcast conditions will allow the US to have 4 close support points from their available aircraft.

The US 2nd Cavalry picks up the American right flank. Meanwhile, 35th Infantry makes a move against the German position in Foret de Bride. The defender is the German 951st Infantry Regiment, which loses a step

and retreats with the Flak battalion. US 12th Corps uses up a Support Point [25].

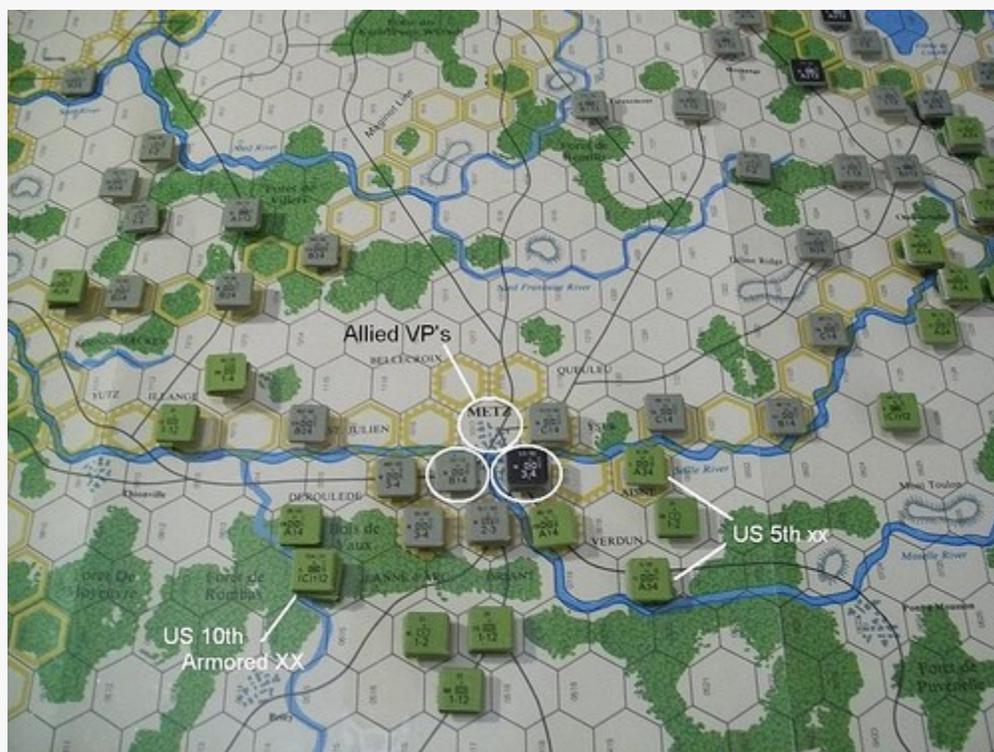
20th Corps also works on the German right and center. 5th Infantry Division attacks the Metz region again. Despite the use of artillery and close ground support, the 5th Infantry has a serious mishap. The 10th Regiment is completely eliminated. The 20th Corps spends one SP [30]. The implications of this reversal is that there are no more divisional integrity bonuses for the 5th Infantry Division. Nonetheless, the 5th Infantry presses on with another attack versus the 379th Regiment and the SS battalion of the Metz garrison. This attack is largely successful and both Axis unit pull back into Metz. 20th Corps expends an SP [29].

The 90th Infantry Division attacks the German 19th Infantry, represented by the 74th Regiment cadre. The result is a breakthrough with the elimination of the 74th cadre. Breakthrough's cost no Support Points.

The rest of the 90th Infantry attacks the 59th Regiment of the 19th Division. This attack is repulsed and the US 259th Regiment is reduced to a cadre.. The Americans retreat. 20th Corps uses an SP [28].

The 83rd Infantry [OOS] attacks the 416th Division on the northern flank. This attack is repulsed and the 329th loses a step. 20th Corps uses another Support Point [27].

The Axis received more reinforcements. The 347th Infantry arrives near Sarrebourg and advances toward Foret de Fenetrange in the southeast. The 21st Panzer moves in as reinforcements and heads to Falquemont. No attacks are made.





ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:54 pm (#710 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 6

November 13, 1944

Weather is Clear. The US will have a total of eight support missions from the Air Forces. This weather is also a window of opportunity to use the American heavy bombing capabilities. The Axis has made a mistake in placing their 110th PG regiment in a entrenchment, where they are eligible to be targeted. As a result, the 110th Regiment is reduced to a cadre. Another German unit is eliminated an a second successful attack. [The heavy bombing can only occur sometime during the first seven turns and the weather has to be flyable. Clear weather is the best chance for success, but light overcast gives a fair chance of inflicting damage. Waiting too long for clear weather may squander the opportunity altogether though.]

The US 12th Corps launches a series of attacks on the south flank. The 35th Infantry attacks the German 361st Infantry in the Foret de Bride. The Americans have artillery and air support. As a result, the German 951st Regiment is eliminated and the Flak battalion pulls back. [Flak battalions negate combined arms effects.] 12th Corps uses an SP [24]. Meanwhile the 26th Infantry Division attempts to rest so as to gain Support Points for the 12th Corps. Unfortunately, the good weather has appeared at a time when the southern sector is least ready to take advantage.

The 20th Corps also launches a series of attacks. The 95th Infantry attacks the German 45th Battalion with artillery and air support. The German unit is eliminated. The 20th Corps uses an SP [26]. Then the 90th Division attacks the German 19th Infantry near Koenigsmacker. Artillery, air and combines arms bonuses are in effect. The result is a breakthrough and the 73rd Regiment is reduced to a cadre and is forced to retreat. The US 90th advances. There is no support point expense.

The Axis commander does not receive any reinforcements and must make do with the forces on hand. Some units are shifted and re-deployed to take better advantage of the terrain and cover some of the new holes in the

defense network. [Improved Positions are useful, in that the Germans do not have to attack out of them and they add 2 combat factors to the defense.]

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:54 pm (#711 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 7

November 14, 1944

The weather takes a turn for the worse. Heavy overcast with rain. The countryside turns to mud. [This will last even when the rain stops.] The US 26th Infantry Division has successfully rested and the 12th Corps adds one support point [25].

The 12th Corps renews its attack on the German left flank. The 2nd Cavalry and 35th Infantry Division attacks 361st Infantry Division. Despite the muddy conditions and no air support, US artillery and combined arms bonuses effect a breakthrough. The German 952nd Regiment is eliminated and the US forces advance. There is no support point charge.

The US 35th Infantry launches its attack against the German 347th Infantry Division near Lake Etang de Lindre. The German Flak battalion is eliminated while the 861st Regiment is reduced by one step. The 12th Corps expends an SP [24].

Now the 20th Corps goes back to work. The 5th Infantry Division attacks the SS battalion in the Metz garrison. Although the defenders take loses, the position holds up. 20th Corps uses a support point [25].

The 95th Infantry attacks the German 22nd Regiment in Metz. The German regiment is reduced to a cadre and the US 20th Corps uses an SP [24].

The 90th Corps attacks the 35th Panzergrenadier Division near Koenigsmacker. The artillery is not enough to win the day and the defenders stand fast. The US 359th Regiment is eliminated and the 713th Tank battalion is likewise wrecked. The 20th Corps uses another SP [23].

The 83rd Infantry Division [OOS] attacks across the Moselle River. [This doubles the defender's strength.] The German 713th cadre is forced to retreat. 20th Corps issues a support point [22]. The Axis commander still has no reinforcements and thus re-deploys with what is available. No doubt the rain and mud are aiding the defense.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:54 pm (#712 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 8

November 15, 1944

Heavy Overcast and rain continues. [Heavy overcast adds a modifier to the die roll making severe weather more likely. Whereas clear weather modifies toward further good weather.] The weather this turn means there is no US air support and mud will continue longer than expected. The 12th Corps continues to rest the 26th Infantry Division to increase the available support points. This time the 12th Corps adds 2 SP's [26]

Next, the US 12th Corps attacks the German southern flank. The 2nd Cavalry and 35th Infantry Division use

artillery and combined arms against elements of the 347th Infantry. The German 861st Regiment is defending in wooded terrain but loses a step and retreats. The 12th Corps expends an SP [25]. Then 80th Infantry Division attacks the 11th Panzer. The 15th Panzer battalion is eliminated as a result and the rest of the defenders retreat. The US 12th Corps uses another SP [24].

20th Corps opens another round of attacks despite to poor weather conditions. An attack is launched at the Metz garrison position. Combined arms and artillery bonuses are used and the German 22nd Infantry Regiment is eliminated. 20 Corps uses an SP [21].

The US 83rd Infantry [OOS] attacks the German right flank. With combined arms and a little of 20th Corps artillery, the German 44th battalion is forced to retreat. [An out of supply unit has its attack strength halved. This is the lot of the 83rd for the entire battle.] 20th Corps uses another SP [20].

The Axis commander hopes for the arrival of the 15th Panzergrenadier Division [a 1-6 chance] but is disappointed. The forces in place are maneuvered to treat the latest American threats.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:55 pm (#713 Total: 2389)

About Me. **Turn 9**

November 16, 1944

The weather improves to light overcast. Although the mud continues, the Americans will have limited air support. [At this point the maximum air support has been cut from 8 points to 6 points. Due to the overcast conditions, the US will have 3 points available].

The 12th Corps renews its attacks. The well-rested 26th Infantry Division attacks the German 48th Infantry Division. The American forces use artillery and combined arms bonuses to inflict a step loss on the German 127th Infantry Regiment, which subsequently retreats. 12th Corps uses a support point [23].

The 20th Corps orders another round of attacks against the Metz garrison. The 95th Infantry Division attacks with artillery and air support, but the assault is turned back. The American 778th Tank Battalion is eliminated. The 95th Infantry retreats. 20th Corps uses an SP [19].

The 5th Infantry Division launches an attack near Aisne. The German 1431 Fortress Battalion is eliminated while defending. The 20th Corps expends a support point [18].

The 95th Infantry attacks the enemy near Koenigsmacker. Although the Americans have artillery and air support, the attack is repulsed and the 95th Infantry loses two steps. The 20th Corps uses another SP [17].

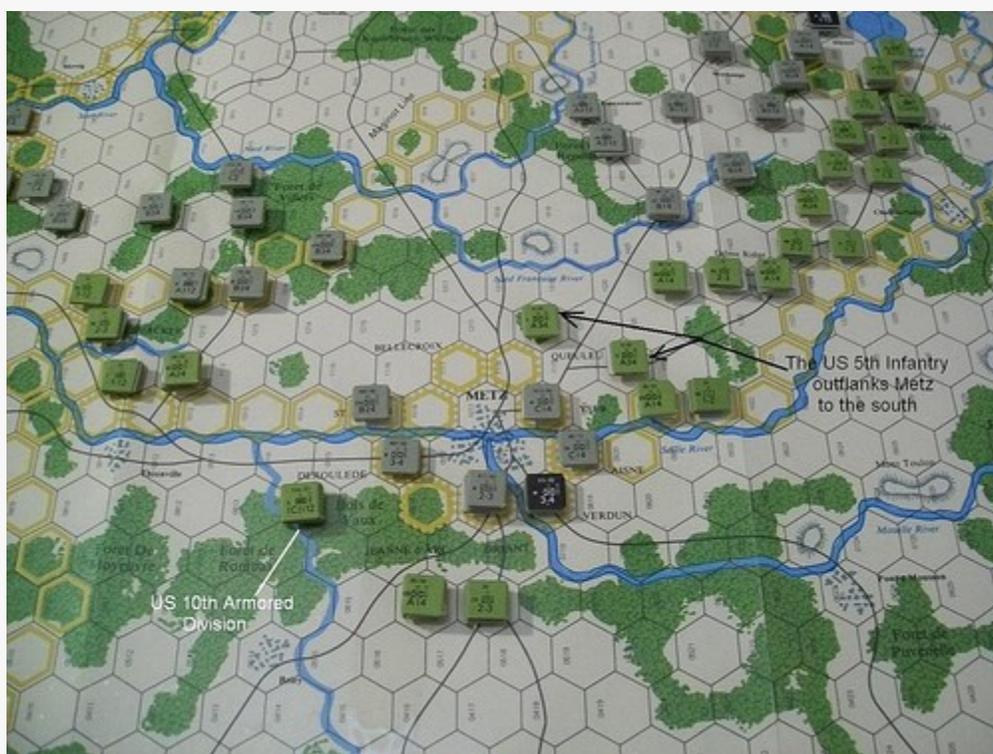
The 83rd Infantry [OOS] attacks the German's north flank. Artillery and airplanes are not enough to overcome the division's supply problems and the attack is repulsed. The 818th Tank Battalion is eliminated. 20th Corps issues an SP [16].

The Axis awaits the release of the 15th Panzergrenadier, but still no answer. Hope for worsening weather.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:56 pm (#714 Total: 2389)

November 17, 1944

The weather degrades to heavy overcast. There is no flight although the Luftwaffe now has one air point available for support. [It will most likely be used to negate the USAAF's air]. The US 95th Infantry remains neutral to rest, hoping to gain some additional Support Points for the corps. The 15th Panzergrenadier arrives as reinforcements and they use strategic movement to deploy in the center near Falquemont, a key VP location.





ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:56 pm (#715 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 11

November 18, 1944

The weather is light overcast. The US has three air support missions available. The Luftwaffe is not available. Due to a resting Infantry division, the 20th Corps gains one Support Point [17].

The 5th Infantry, which has outflanked the Metz garrison, attacks Metz from the east. The 1010 Security Regiment is defending. Despite the mud, the US forces have bonuses for artillery and air. As a result, the 1010th is reduced to a cadre. 20th Corps uses up an SP [16].

The 26th Infantry Division attacks the German 127th Regiment across the Nied Francaise River. This attack is made with a full complement of bonuses. The 127th Regiment takes a step loss and is forced to retreat. 12th Corps expends an SP [22].

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:57 pm (#716 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 12

November 19, 1944

The weather returns to heavy overcast. The mud conditions have finally dried up, but no air missions will be flown today. The US 95th Infantry continues to rest. This frees up 2 Support Points for the 20th Corps [18].

In the south, the 6th Armored Division attacks the Germans left flank. Unfortunately, it is an exposed artillery

unit which is easily dispatched with a breakthrough result. No Support Points need be wasted here. Next, the 80th Infantry and the 26th Infantry join in an attack against the German 1127th Regiment, east of Delme Ridge. This attack is rather successful and reduces the German infantry unit to a cadre, which retreats. The 12th Corps expends an SP [21]. The Axis continues its delaying tactics with no counterattack.

At this point the Americans have used up a lot of support points. The 12th Corps has used 40 percent and the 20th corps has used over 50 percent. Resting has returned some support points. Thus far, the US has lost 5 tank battalions and two infantry regiments from 20th Corps. The Germans have lost 5 infantry regiments and 4 infantry battalions. Additionally, 2 anti-tank, and a panzer battalion have been lost and one artillery brigade. This is where the short scenario would end. At this point the situation would end as a draw, as Metz is no longer in supply, yet the Americans have not taken enough of the VP locations to win a marginal victory. Presently, the US controls Chateau-Salins and Koenigsmacker.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:57 pm (#717 Total: 2389)

About Turn 13
Me.

November 20, 1944

The weather is light overcast. The US receives 3 air support missions. The Luftwaffe is still unavailable. The 20th Corps adds one Support Point for rest [19]

The day gets started with the 35th Infantry attacking the German 347th Division. The 860th Regiment is poised south of the West-Stellung. American artillery and close ground support are employed and the 860th is reduced to a cadre. 12th Corps uses one Support Point. [20] The US 6th Armored attempts a flanking attack on the German position in the south. Close air support is called in but to no avail. The 6th Armored is repulsed and retreats without damage. US 12th Corps expends one SP [19].

The 20th Corps opens up with the 95th Infantry attacking the 1010 Security Regiment in Metz. Despite decent attack odds, the stubborn 1010 stalls the American assault. The US 379th Regiment retreats. 20 Corps uses an SP [18]. The 5th Infantry attacks the German 128th Infantry Regiment east of Bellecroix. This results in a breakthrough. The 128th Infantry is reduced to a cadre and then retreats. No Support Points are needed. The Axis commander ponders his deployment.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:57 pm (#718 Total: 2389)

About Turn 14
Me.

November 21, 1944

The weather is clear. The US Army Air Force has all 6 support missions available. The Luftwaffe has 2 air support missions. The US 6th Armored renews its attack against the German position at Dieuze. This is a VP location. The result is a breakthrough and the 37th PG and 38th PG are both reduced to cadres and retreat. Dieuze falls to the Americans. No support is spent.

The 35th Infantry attacks the 15th Panzer battalion. The panzers are completely destroyed. The 12th Corps issues one SP [18]. 4th Armored Division attacks the 11th Panzer Division. Artillery and close ground support are used, while the Luftwaffe also makes an appearance. Ultimately, the 243rd Panzer Battalion is eliminated. The rest of the force retreats. Col. Abrams phones Patton. 12th Corps uses one SP [17].

83rd Infantry [OOS] on the left launches an assault on the Olschultz Line, at a position defended by the 774th Regiment. Air support is called in by both sides, but the US 83rd wins the battle. The Germans retreat. 20th Corps uses one Support Point [17].

The Axis forces give a little ground but are still satisfied with the results.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:59 pm (#719 Total: 2389)

About Turn 15
Me.

November 22, 1944

The weather is clear. The USAAF has 6 ground support missions and the Luftwaffe has 2 ground support points. The US 26th Infantry holds back to rest.

The 12th Corps prepares to attack the 11th Panzer at Morhange. Both the 35th and 80th Infantry Divisions attack and benefit from divisional integrity. The Germans have infantry and panzers which disallow combined arms effects, but the Americans have several artillery units available. The US ground support is canceled out by the Luftwaffe. After heavy fighting, the 11th Panzer sends the 12th Corps reeling. Both the 35th and 80th divisions sustain heavy casualties and retreat. 12th Corps uses one Support Point [16].

20th Corps attacks the 1010 Security Regiment in the Metz garrison area. With artillery and close ground support, the 1010th is eliminated. The 20th Corps uses 1 SP [16]. 90th Infantry attacks the German 36th Infantry in Foret de Villers, just west of the Nied River. With both air and artillery support, the Germans give up ground but retreat unscathed. 20th Corps uses 1 Support Point [15]. The 83rd Infantry attacks the German 713 Regiment that is situated in hill top to the north. The 713 is eliminated. 20th Corps uses an SP [14].

The Axis commander receives units from the Lehr Panzer Division as reinforcements. The 901st and 902nd Regiments arrive with panzers near Saarbruecken. They use strategic movement to deploy on the northern side of Foret de Fenetrage.





ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 8:59 pm (#720 Total: 2389)

About Turn 16
Me.

November 23, 1944

The weather becomes overcast and the USAAF has 3 support missions to the Luftwaffe's 1 mission. The 26th

Infantry has rested and retrieves one SP for the 12th Corps [17]. The 6th Armored Division attempts a flanking maneuver on the south side of the German position. CCA makes a bold move on Sarrebourg. The 83rd Infantry [OOS] attempts to surround the German 416th Infantry Division in the north.

The 12th Corps begins its first attack with the 35th Infantry against the German 1125th. The Germans are in improved positions in the western Fenetrage. The American force has artillery, Combined Arms and ground support, while the Germans counter this with the Luftwaffe. The 1125th is forced back and takes a step reduction. The 12th Corps expends 1 SP [16]. A second attack pits the 6 Armored against the 37th SS Panzergrenadier. The Americans have combined arms and ground support bonuses. As a result, the 37th PG is eliminated. The 6th Armored captures Sarrebourg, which is a VP location. 12th Corps expends another SP [15].

The Metz garrison forces are now isolated. The 119th Panzergrenadier Regiment arrives at Trier as reinforcements and begins to move through the thick Schwarzwald Hochwald. Two artillery brigades reinforce from the east. With the fall of Sarrebourg, the German 13th Corps forms up a better defensive position along the Soar River. The 82nd Corps gives a little ground near the West Wall fortifications.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 9:00 pm (#721 Total: 2389)

About Turn 17
Me.

November 24, 1944

Weather is light overcast, which allows the US 3 air missions and the Luftwaffe one. The 26th Infantry has rested and given the 12th Corps 3 Support Points [18]. The Americans rest two more infantry divisions.

20th Corps renews its attacks on the Metz garrison, which is now isolated and defensively at half strength. But first, the 83rd Infantry attacks Saarburburg in the north. It is defended by the 774th Infantry Regiment. The 774th is ultimately forced back and reduced by one step. The Americans capture the city, which is a VP requisite. 20th Corps expends one Support Point [13].

95th Infantry and the 10th Armored attack the Metz garrison. They include artillery and close air support, but this is negated by the Luftwaffe. In the end, the US Army prevails and the German battalion retreats, although still intact. 20th Corps spends an SP [12].

35th infantry Division musters another attack. The target is the Lehr Regiment in the improved position north of the Foret de Fenetrage. The Americans bring on artillery and ground support, as well as divisional integrity bonuses. The Germans also have defensive artillery support. The 136th Panzer Battalion is eliminated and the rest of the force retreats. 12th Corps issues SP's [17]. Just to the east of the prior battle, the Americans attack the 1126th Regiment. Artillery and combined arms provide bonuses and the 1126th is forced to retreat and lose a step. The 1126th is reduced to a cadre. 12th Corps uses 1 SP [16].

The Axis units in Metz remain isolated. The 82nd Corps is attempting to delay the Americans in the north. The 416th Infantry Division moves southward toward Merzig, the next area of defense.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 9:00 pm (#722 Total: 2389)

About Turn 18
Me.

November 25, 1944

The weather clears. This allows all 6 US air missions to fly and two Luftwaffe missions. 12th Corps gains Support Points due to rest [21]. 20th Corps closes in on the Metz garrison. 95th Infantry Division launches an attack against the forces east of Metz. They are in fortified positions. The US provides artillery and air support, but the Luftwaffe also flies a mission. After heavy fighting the German 53rd Infantry and 48th Infantry are eliminated. Only the SS battalion survives. [What a surprise]. 20th Corps expends an SP [11]. Then Metz itself is attacked. The US 10th Armored attacks Metz which is defended by the 811 Flak and the 43rd Fortress Defense battalion. Both are eliminated and Metz falls to the 10th Armored. 20th Corps uses 1 Support point. [10] .

Then the 80th Infantry and 26th Infantry divisions attack the 104th Panzergrenadier Regiment in the Foret de Remilly. The Americans have ground support and divisional integrity bonuses, which swings the battle in their favor. The 104th loses one step and retreats to Falquemont. 12th Corps uses 1 SP [20]. In the east, 35th Infantry Division attacks the 1126th Regiment. The Americans have a number of support bonuses, but the Luftwaffe counter this to a small degree. The 1126th is still destroyed. 12th Corps issues one SP [19].

The 35th Infantry and 4th Armored Divisions launch an attack against the German position in Morhange, a VP city. Despite the use of artillery and ground support, the attack is repulsed with the aid of German artillery in defense. The 610th AT battalion is eliminated and the Americans retreat. 12th Corps still expends an SP [18].

The Axis commander moves the 119th Panzergrenadier Regiment to the improved positions on the West Stellung. In the north, the 774th Regiment counterattacks the US AT battalion, but is repulsed. After losing a step, the Germans retreat toward Trier.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 9:01 pm (#723 Total: 2389)

About Turn 19
Me.

November 26, 1944

The weather is clear. This means the US has 6 air missions and the Luftwaffe has two. The 20th Corps renews its efforts to capture Metz. The city is completely surrounded and the one battalion left is isolated. This halves its defense factors. With artillery and air support, the SS battalion is eliminated and Metz falls to 20th Corps. This drops the support points to nine. Then the 83rd Infantry Division [OOS] attacks the 774th Infantry cadre near Trier, with air support. The German unit retreats but survives. 20th Corps uses 1 SP [8].

The US 26th Infantry Division attacks the Axis position at Falquemont. With divisional integrity bonuses and artillery and air, it is quite a powerful attack. Both the 104th and 115th Panzergrenadier regiments lose a step and retreat. Falquemont, a VP city, falls to the 26th Infantry. 12th Corps uses an SP [17].

80th Infantry and the 106th Recon attack the 127th Infantry regiment in the woods near Falquemont. The 5th Panzer battalion is destroyed and the 127th Regiment retreats. 12th Corps expends a support point [16]. 35th Infantry attacks the 118th Regiment with artillery and air support. The 118th Infantry retreats. 12th Corps uses an SP [15].

At Sarre-Union the 6th Armored attacks a strong German position. The USAAF is canceled out by the Luftwaffe. The attack goes poorly and the American tanks take heavy losses and retreat. 12th Corps expends an SP [15].

The Axis defense in Morhange is now isolated. Therefore, the 11th Panzer flees to the east, escaping. The 36th Infantry launches a counterattack to help these isolated units. The attack is a success and the American units retreat. The US 602nd Tank battalion is lost.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 9:01 pm (#724 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 20

November 27, 1944

The weather continues to be clear. Thus the US has 6 ground support missions and the Luftwaffe has two. Supply is okay for both sides.

The US 83rd Infantry captures Trier, which is a VP city in the campaign game. The 80th Infantry Division captures Morhange, another VP requisite. Then the US 26th Infantry launches an attack against the 48th Division caught in the open near Nied Allemande River. The Americans have artillery, divisional integrity and air bonuses, but the Luftwaffe appears too. The 115th Panzer Battalion is eliminated in the fray and the 127th Regiment retreats. 12th Corps uses an SP [13]. The Axis troops pull their lines back and remain quite relatively strong.



ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 9:02 pm (#725 Total: 2389)

About Me. Turn 21

November 28, 1944

The weather is clear so the US has 6 air missions and the Luftwaffe has two. The US 95th Infantry has rested earning 2 more Support Points for the 20th Corps. [10].

20th Corps launches an attack along the northern side of the Nied Allemande River with the US 48th Infantry. Artillery, combined arms and air support complement the plan. The Luftwaffe also uses an air point to deflect one of the column shifts. The Axis has a unit on the hill nearby which reduces the combat odds by another column. This is not enough though, and the 110th Panzergrenadier Regiment is eliminated. 20th Corps expends an SP [9].

In the south, the 80th Infantry Division attacks the 1125th Regiment near the West Stellung highway and the Foret de Fenetrange. Both sides use their available aircraft but the Americans have bonuses for artillery, divisional integrity and combined arms. Thus the 1125th Regiment is destroyed, and US 12th Corps uses one Support Point [12].

The Axis has a couple of units that are now exposed, so the commander pulls them back. One of the units is a valuable artillery brigade. These all pull back toward the east.



ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 9:03 pm (#726 Total: 2389)

About Turn 22
Me.

November 29, 1944

The weather continues to be clear. The USAAF has 6 Air Points and the Luftwaffe has two. Due to rest, the 20th Corps receives another 2 Support Points [11]. US 10th Armored Division attacks the German 486th Flak battalion at the western edge of the Forst der Karlsbrunn Warndt. The US uses artillery, air, and divisional integrity bonuses while the defenders bring on artillery fire too. The 486th fights a successful delaying action and retreats intact. US 20th Corps uses one Support Point [10].

US 90th Division with support from the 3rd Cavalry, attacks the German 1217th Regiment, which retreats. The 20th Corps expends another SP [9]. The US 5th Infantry attacks the German 1215th Regiment in

4th Armored attacks the German 462nd Infantry with combined arms, air, and artillery, while the Luftwaffe attempts to counter some of the advantage. The Germans are forced to retreat and 12th Corps uses one support point [8]. Then 5th Infantry Division attacks the German 1215th Infantry Regiment with artillery and close ground support. This results in a breakthrough and the 462nd's regiment is eliminated. There is no support point expenditure.

The US 318th performs a diversionary attack and is repulsed, losing one step and retreating. The 12th Corps uses an SP [7]. At this point the US has captured Merzig and Saarlouis. The Axis forces retreat farther.

ER Bickford - Dec 19, 2011 9:03 pm (#728 Total: 2389)

About Turn 24
Me.

December 1, 1944

The weather is heavy overcast which prohibits close ground support. The US 20th Corps attacks the 1217th Regiment along the road through the West Wall defenses. The 1217th is easily eliminated. The 20th Corps uses an SP [8]. Then 5th Infantry attacks the 21st Panzer west of Saarbruecken. This results in a breakthrough and the 192nd Panzergrenadier is destroyed. There is no change in support points.

The US 80th Infantry strikes the German 36th Infantry, using artillery and combined arms. The German 185th Regiment loses two steps and retreats. US 12th Corps uses an SP [6]. 80th Infantry joins the 106th Recon in an attack against the 11th Panzer, which is on the West Stellung Highway. The US also uses artillery support and forces the 111th Panzergrenadier to retreat and reduce a step. The 12th Corps uses a Support Point [5].

More action occurs on the southeastern flank. The US 6th Armored attacks the 38th SS, which is eliminated. US 12th Corps issues one SP [4]. Then 36th Infantry attacks the Lehr at Sarre-Union, but the Americans are repulsed again, losing two steps and retreating. The 12th Corps uses an SP [3]. Although the Axis seems to have a couple of counterattack opportunities, there is nothing to be gained. The Germans have a strong defense.



By this point the Americans have made a lot of progress. They Metz area has been completely captured and the Axis cannot supply the area and all Axis units have been destroyed. Additionally, the Americans have captured Morhange, Chateau-Salins, Falquemont, Dieuze, and Koenigsmacker. The US forces have also captured Saarburg, Saarlouis and Sarrebourg. [Sarreguemines and Sarre-Union remain Axis held.] This is enough to give the Americans a Marginal Victory. Working toward the next level, The US has captured Trier and Merzig, but has failed to get into Saarbruecken, which is required for a Substantive Victory. Thus the battle ends in a US Marginal Victory.