

# ATS TAC 20 Sad Baptism – ATS Conversion 10/22/2007



Gambsheim, North Alsace, 6 January, 1945: To give a new momentum to the battle for the Ardennes, Hitler ordered operation "Nordwind" to take Strasbourg. On December 31st, the German forces joined north of Alsace and simultaneously crossed the Rhine to the north of Strasbourg. On the 5th they seized Gambsheim, located to the south of the bridgehead, against a weak opposition. The American units in the sector had not fought before. Hurriedly equipped, the US 24<sup>th</sup> infantry Regiment was assigned to counterattack toward the north of the city while a joint attack was carried out to the south. Starting from Weyersheim, the units encountered the first German advanced positions. Artillery fire caused many losses and the regiment entrenched for the night within one kilometer of the objective. The communication between the companies and the rear was defective, and the German fire continued. As the night went on, stiff with cold, the young Americans were terrified. Some soldiers cried or bled all night. By the morning of the 6th, morale was low as the advance began again without any preliminary reconnaissance. The two companies were quickly engaged by the machine guns hidden in the forest adjacent to Gambsheim. Only the intervention of tanks made it possible for the progression to continue, but the deadly fire intensified as the first houses were reached. In spite of mortar support, it proved impossible to gain a foothold in the city. Worse, German tanks appeared and bazooka ammunition was lightly distributed

before the attack. The attack lost momentum, and when the radio operator lost contact with the artillery, the retreat was sounded. It quickly turned to a rout as the Germans infiltrated on the flanks. Heartbroken, the GIs had to leave their wounded comrades. The initial American attack to reduce the bridgehead ended in a complete disaster (the two companies lost 183 men, killed, wounded or captured) and south of the city the attack similarly failed. The following day, it would be the 3rd Algerian Infantry Division's chance. ASL Design: François Bourcier '92



Elements of the 553<sup>rd</sup> Volksgrenadier Div set up first on board 10 and board 5 in hexes numbered 4 or less.

6 5 7	1 1 7	MMG MG34	LMG MG34	LMtr	LAT Pf
14	4	2	2	1	5

Armoured support of Sturmgeschützkompanie 1553 enter on turn 5 along the east edge.

Jg Pz 38t
2



Elements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt of the 242<sup>nd</sup> Reg., (Linden Task force), F Co. enter on turn 1 on/between 5I10 and 5M10.

6 5 6	1 1 7	LMG 1919	LAT Baz	LMtr
12	3	2	2	2

A Co., 781<sup>st</sup> Tank Batt enter on turn 3 along the western edge.

M4A3 76w
2

E Co. enter on turn 1 between on/between 5W10 and 5AA10.

6 5 6	1 1 7	LMG 1919	LMtr
12	4	2	2

Forward Observer of G Co. enter on turn 3 along the western edge.

1 1 8 FO
1

## VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Americans win if they have 1.5 times as many non broken/surrendered as the Germans on board 10 on/south of hexrow Q at the end of the scenario.

## SPECIAL SCENARIO RULES

1. Spotting conditions are Optimal. Ground Snow is in effect. Vehicles – Fully tracked and all other vehicles: MIN hex entry cost is 1MP, ie road 1MP. Halftrack non road movement costs 1+ COT, Wheeled non road movement costs are 2x COT. Personnel - movement to higher terrain is additional +1 MP cost. .
2. On board 5, no American unit (exc. AFVs, FO) may move/advance from a hex of hexrow P to a hex of hexrow Q and from a hex of hexrow Q to a hex of hexrow P.
3. One Sherman has a Gyrostabilizer. A gyrostabilizer provides the vehicle with a -1 mod to all HPT rolls.
4. The German may use Hidden setup for 4 squads plus any Leaders and L or M weapons that setup with them.
5. The Americans have access to one battery of 80mm Mortar OBA.

## TURN RECORD MARKER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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## BALANCE

German reinforcements enter on turn 4  
Add an Elite Tank Commander to the US OOB

## MAP LAYOUT



5	10
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