

## FORGING STEEL: THE MISSIONS



### Situation

Why this war had started, and how it could have been avoided, is a matter for politicians and statesmen. As a professional soldier the politics and reasons of how you come to be fighting on foreign soil are purely academic questions. The end result of the failure to reach a political solution is soldiers like yourself are sent to achieve what talk alone could not.

As the saying goes war is not about you dying for your country but making your enemy die for his. Now your main and immediate concerns are the lives of your men and fulfilling the forthcoming combat missions tasked to your unit.

The first major battle of this war was fought around a small road junction and village situated in a populated narrow river valley. For both sides the battle came as surprise. Due to the close proximity of civilians the US force were unable to fully deploy their massive air support for fear of inflicting enormous civilian casualties. The Threat mechanised force realising this, used the cover of the built up areas to position their armour and anti-armour units. You only have to look back at previous wars to see that massive air superiority alone does not decide the issue alone. In the final analysis, war is still won or lost by men who must face the enemy in close combat and force him to either run or die.

Another shock for the US tankers had been the use of T90 tanks which were an even match for their M1s. In ambush positions they proved deadly.

This first battle of the war had been a close run affair, but the US side had prevailed based on their skilful use of combined arms. The enemy was defeated, but not destroyed and under cover of bad weather managed to pull back in good order to hasty defensive positions east of the RIVER EGER and astride ROUTE BLUE, where they now wait for the US to make the next move.

This campaign covers the subsequent 24 hour period of combat which sees your task force spearheading the attack against Threat mechanised forces in their new positions.

### **Your Force**

You are "Hammer 6" the CO of a balanced mechanised company combat team called Hammer Team which is part of Task Force 1 – 40.

TF 1-40 was involved in the fight around the road junction and took heavy casualties. Many of the casualties were amongst officers and NCOs. You are newly arrived in theatre and have just taken command of 'Charlie Rock', a mechanised infantry company, as a replacement for your predecessor who was badly wounded in the fight at the junction.

Your company combat team is made up of a mix of old sweats who have been involved in many previous operations and a smattering of new recruits who have replaced those killed or wounded in action.

As a balanced Company Combat Team you have:

2 Platoons of M1 Abrams from Alpha Company with eight fully functioning tanks.

Call Signs:

1st Platoon: Red

2nd Platoon: White

2 Platoons of Bradley BIFVs from Charlie Rock with six full strength squads of dismounts.

Call Signs

1st Platoon: Rock 1

2nd Platoon: Rock 2

1 x Company HQ BIFV (Hammer 6)

1 x BFISTV (Anvil 1)

Other units may be cross – attached as the mission tasks and situation dictate.

At the moment your combat team is postured in Tactical Assembly Area Pittsburg 2km west of PL HAMPTON.

## Terrain and Weather



This 25km square sector consists of agricultural land, small wooded plots and orchards dotted with small villages and farming hamlets set in rolling terrain. A major water feature, the RIVER OLSA runs east to west. It is a deep and fast moving river, with the main crossing point over it being the bridge at NORBURG.

HIGHWAY 3 runs east to west along the southern side of this sector. ROUTE BLUE is a metalled road which splits off from HIGHWAY 3 runs east through some rough, hilly terrain before heading north and crossing the RIVER OLSA at NORBURG.

The forecast for the next 24 hour period is unsettled with overcast skies, bringing wet and windy weather.



### **Mission**

The timeline for this operation is twenty four hours. In this period TF 1- 40 will advance east, then north along ROUTE BLUE, securing the bridge crossing point at NORBURG and establishing a bridgehead on the northern side of the RIVER OLSA cutting the enemy MSR. TF 1-39 will trail securing ROUTE BLUE against enemy attacks.

### **Commanders Intent**

From Commander TF 1-40:

We will advance using our armoured punch to break through the enemy defences, and advance with all possible speed to secure the bridge at NORBURG, thereby cutting the enemies main supply and escape route.

Key Tasks to ensure success are: destroy enemy forces along the axis of advance, deny Threat reconnaissance the ability to determine our array of forces, secure the bridge at NORBURG, and prevent Threat reinforcements from linking up with their advance guard isolated on the south side of the RIVER OLSA.

At endstate, the Threat mech force is defeated south of the RIVER OLSA; we will have maintained the viability of the crossing point at NORBURG, and have retained sufficient combat power to defend against future Threat attacks or postured to attack with one combat team within 12 hours.

It is 0330Hrs on the 4th July. You are scheduled to move off at 0530Hrs. This gives you two hours to prepare your FRAGO.