"Into the Simmringen Woods"



Simmringen Woods, Germany — April 5th, 1945

By April 1945, the end of the Third Reich was nearing it conclusion by the hour. The Americans were driving hard into the Franconian region just northwest of Nuremburg. German resistance had been intense in this region and the Americans were having to fight hard for every village and town. East of Koenigshofen, the men of the 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division were attempting to enter the Simmringen Woods. These woods stood in the way of control of the R 19, a main highway between Wuerzburg and Ulm. Inside the woods were entrench German defenders comprised of SS Officer Candidates and SS Panzer Grenadiers. These diehards professed a slogan, "we fight and never give up." After keeping the woods under steady artillery fire for two days, the men of the 12th launched their assault into the dense woods.





Special Rules/Notes:

- 1. EC are moderate, with no wind at start.
- 2. Kindling (B25.11) is N.A.
- 3. Bore Sighting (C6.4) is N.A.
- 4. German units which set up in a Board 75 Woods Hex may setup entrenched.
- 5. Pre-Game Concealment is N.A. for American and German units which set up on Board 75.
- 6. Beginning on Turn 3, the Americans receive Air Support (E7) in the form of two 1945 FB's with bombs.



Aftermath: The men of the 12th had no illusions about the resolve of the German defenders. The men of the SS Reserve Officers Battalion Lenggries had been fighting hard throughout the Franconian fighting. They were well-equipped with Panzerfausts and a fanatical commitment to fight to the very end. The Americans struggled to gain ground in the face of German fire and the difficulty of employing armor in the dense woods. In fact, by the afternoon, the Americans had to fight off a fierce German counter-attack. P-47's provided limited air support due to the difficulty in identifying the Germans in the dense terrain. The attacks of April 5th would stall, but the Americans would renew the assault on April 6th and with flamethrowers and increased air support, they would push the Germans out of the Simmringen Woods. Postwar operational history of the US 7th Army would comment that the first week of April 1945 saw a German will to resist that proved to be surprisingly strong.