

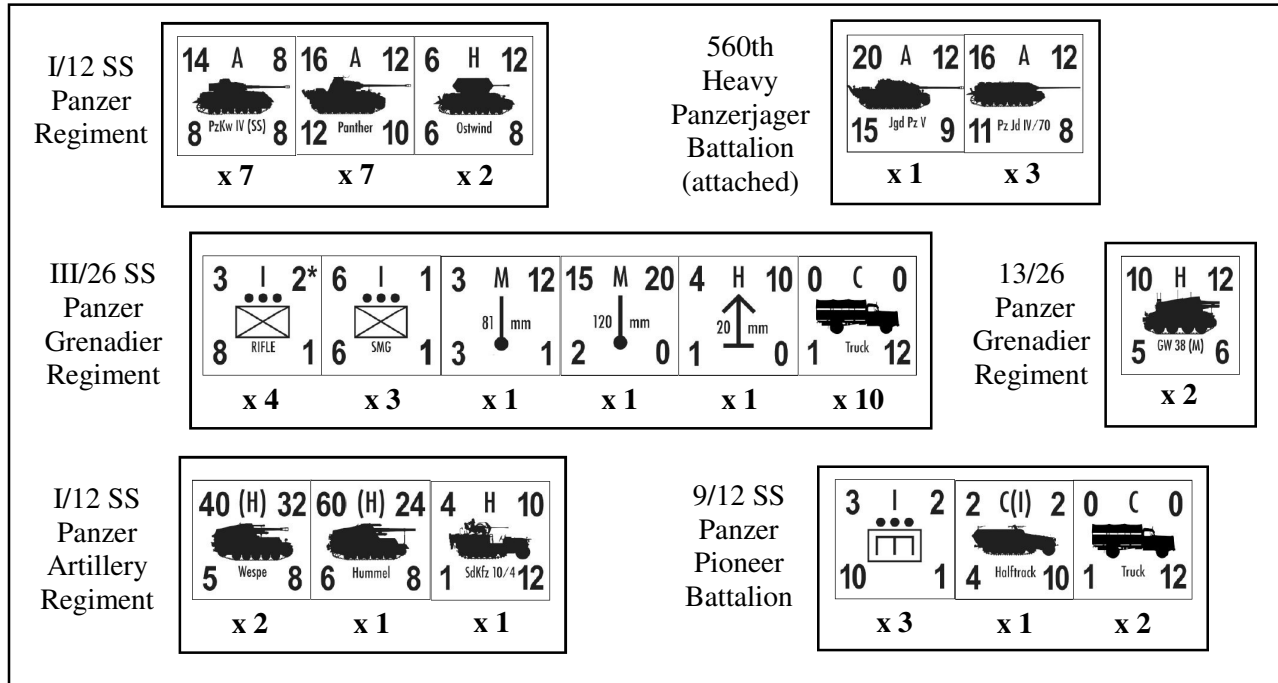


German 12th SS Panzer Division

December, 1944

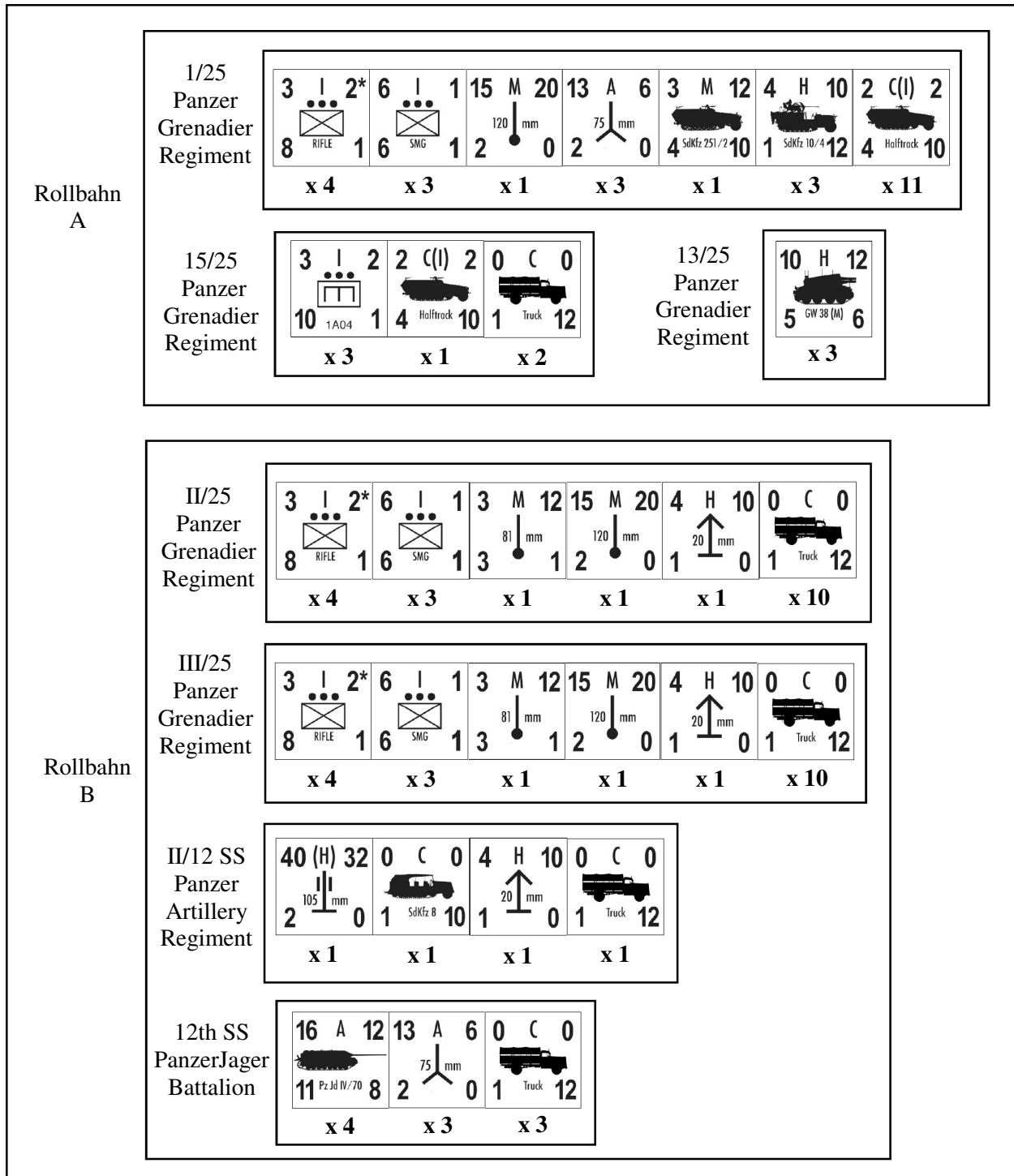
The SS Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth) Division contained many 17 and 18 year old youngsters recruited from the Hitler Youth. Though short on experience, they were long on enthusiasm and fought with a fanatical passion. The 12th SS Panzer had suffered heavily holding the Falaise Pocket open and was still being rebuilt at the beginning of the Ardennes Offensive (panzergrenadiers are partly reduced to reflect this). The 12th SS Panzer division was organized into four specialized kampfgroupes for this battle. They are presented as follows, along with their objectives:

Kampfgruppe Kuhlmann






































































































Kampfgruppe Kuhlmann contained all the tanks of the division. Because the 12th SS was short so many tanks, they were organized into a single battalion. For this battle, they were reinforced by the understrength 560th Heavy Panzerjager Battalion, equipped partially with JagdPanthers. The goal of Kampfgruppe Kuhlmann was to advance along Rollbahn A, the northernmost road. Unexpectedly tough opposition from the green 99th Infantry put the whole division seriously behind schedule and they never came close to a breakthrough. A later assault on Elsenborn Ridge was a failure.

Kampfgruppe Muller















Kampfgruppe Muller was divided further into two groups, The main group was to advance on Rollbahn B while a reinforced battalion of panzergrenadiers was supposed to advance up Rollbahn A and make contact with Heydte's paratroop drop. The advance was slowed too much to help the paratroopers who had scattered ineffectively anyway.

Kampfgruppe Krause

<p>1/26 Panzer Grenadier Regiment</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3 ●●● RIFLE 8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2*</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6 ●●● SMG 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15 M 20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13 A 6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3 M 12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4 H 10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2 C(I) 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">x 5</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">x 4</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">x 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">x 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">x 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">x 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">x 13</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	3 ●●● RIFLE 8	2*	6 ●●● SMG 1	1	15 M 20	13 A 6	3 M 12	4 H 10	2 C(I) 2										x 5		x 4		x 1	x 3	x 1	x 3	x 13
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x 9		x 1	x 1	x 3	x 8																							

Kampfgruppe Krause contained most of the artillery and the flak battalion as well as the pioneer battalion. Their job was to advance behind the other two main Kampfgruppen and provide support as needed.

Kampfgruppe Bremer

2nd Panzer Recon Battalion	2 H 4  2 SdKfz 222 10	2 H 4  3 SdKfz 234/1 16	6 A 5  3 SdKfz 234/2 14	5 H 8  3 SdKfz 234/3 14	3 M 12  4 SdKfz 251/2 10	4 H 10  1 SdKfz 10/4 12
	x 3	x 2	x 1	x 1	x 1	x 1
	3 I 2*  8 RIFLE 1	6 I 1  6 SMG 1	3 I 2  10 1	13 A 6  2 75 mm 0	2 C(I) 2  4 SdKfz 250/1 12	2 C(I) 2  4 Halftrack 10
	x 2	x 4	x 1	x 1	x 3	x 5

Kampfgruppe Bremer consisted of the recon battalion. Their job in this offensive, after the initial breakthrough, was to race ahead and take and hold bridges that the main part of the division would need to cross. The Americans managed to prevent such a breakthrough in the north and therefore this Kampfgruppe ended up just fighting in support of the other Kampfgruppen.

After being repulsed initially at St. Vith and the drive in the north not showing any real sign of success, the 12th SS Panzer Division was pulled from the battle.