

The flower of life was youth which took a journey in all seasons of war



442nd Combat Team
Bruyeres, Vosges Mtns,
No. Italy



3rd Inf Div
Alsace, Colmar Pocket

Western Europe

The summer of 1944 was initiation for the 442nd Combat Unit, composed mainly of Nisei Americans, second-generation Japanese-Americans. The Japanese-American soldier fought in Europe, the Pacific and Asia with assignments ranging from military intelligence to frontline combat service in the 100th and 442nd; 10,000 were combat veterans. They passed through Rome in mechanized convoy on June 9 and made contact with the German on the 26th, in between Suvereto and Campiglia. They participated in the liberation of Livorno (Leghorn) and crossed the Arno River in late August. Some participated in the glider landings of Aug. 15. It was at this point in history that practically most American ETO units were being redeployed to France. People do not realize but in one of the little “unknowns” of history there were no plans for this unit to go anywhere but Italy. Because of the persistence of Colonel Charles W Pense the unit got the important Okay for France.



8th Inf Div
Huertgen Forest, Duren,
Cologne, Schweren

On September 30, the 442nd joined the Seventh Army and disembarked on the port of Marseille, France. They boarded their mechanized convoy and drove away from the seaport and its silvery balloons for the bivouac interior. They were given new French notes with “Emis En France, Serie De 1944,” printed on them, just like every new Allied unit. On the reverse of these was the tricolor in full color and the motto “Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité.” Troops were ordered to turn in old greenbacks from home for the money, which resembled store coupons according to one GI.



9th Inf Div
Huertgen Forest, Duren,
Cologne,

It was in their first bivouac that the young green troops got their lessons on how to cope with the weather. Within three nights of arrival, the weather at their bivouac area became down-right unpleasant, and they were still considered inside the “nice” part of the Mediterranean region. Winds blew constantly. Tents were blown down constantly.

“This is the French Riviera?” troops were heard to query.

In three successive nights that followed, the winds then rose to bizzare gale proportions; life in camp was miserable. Timing was always “just right” (in reference to the sarcasm which people of the forties were more prone to make as compared to today) for no sooner had the tents gone down on each of those nights when it began to rain. And pour it did from all accounts.



26th Inf Div
Moselle, Saar, Lorraine



4th Inf Div
Belgium, Huertgen Forest,
Prum, Ruhr



5th Inf Div
Iceland, Chartres, 1st to cross
Moselle River, Siege of Metz,
Luxembourg, Mainz-Worms,
Winterburg, Czechoslovakia



10th Mountain Division
and 8th Airborne
Divisions, Pe Valley

2nd Combat Team
Vogesen Mass.
No. Italy



8th Inf Div
Bogen Forest, Durpen
Cognac, Schweben



9th Inf Div
Bogen Forest, Durpen
Cologne



26th Inf Div
Welle, Saar, Lorraine



1st Armor
Italy, Italy



2nd Armor
Hell on Wheels
Aachen, Belgium,
Ruhr



3rd Armor
Spearhead
Liege, Namur, Belgium,
Ruhr, Cologne. 1st unit to
cross the German border



Over 40,000 Allied
troops were held in a
line in Western Europe
by German forces

The front of the U.S. Seventh Army was situated around the mountainous country surrounding Épinal. Battles lay in forcing open key passes, such as the Saarnie Gap and Saales Pass. The U.S. Seventh Army to which the 442nd was attached, was stretched out some 90 miles across the round topped Vosges Mountains and hills about Sarrebourg and Strasbourg—both the Vosges and its company the Jura Mountains are great natural barriers in Europe, though not as imposing as the Sierra Nevadas or the Rocky Mountains of America. On the eastern flank toward the Alps were the newly formed French 1st Army. Major passage was through a low pass little more than **300 meters high** and **20-30 kilometers wide** known as the Belfort Gap or Burgundian Gate, an ancient namesake. But all the rail lines and highways through the Belfort Gap were smashed.

Both those armies were given the assignment of liberating the region of France known as the Alsace-Lorraine. In this area, the mountain French were quite poor. Allied lines encountered the lower half of the so-called Siegfried Line. U.S. lines generally ran between Strasbourg and Wissembourg on a 22-mile front. Everybody's mission: press the Germans back to the Rhine.

The valleys around Bruyères, Biffontaine, St Dié and numerous others were full of knee-deep icy fox holes, command posts and forward lines that were always on red alert because the enemy was not only close, they launched bitter counterattacks. During one counterattack near St Dié, the 1st Battalion of the 141st Regiment of the 36th (Texas) Infantry Division was encircled and cut-off by the Germans. For two days U.S. units had been thwarted in their rescue attempts. This part was so forested, that tanks alone would not do the trick. On October 25 the doughfoots of the 100th and 442nd began moving in, along with various artillery and support units, including the 636th and 752nd tank battalions. Despite telescopic snipers, prodigious minefields, tanks and hand-to-hand combat— they managed to make contact with the "Lost Battalion." Sgt Takeo Senzaki, leading I Company of the 3rd Battalion, was the first to break through on October 30. The drive, the determined mission, took a high toll, as over 800 Japanese-Americans were killed or wounded. In the journals of the Second World War the rescue may seem a lost passage of history, but it was much more, as it demonstrated how Americans could



28th Inf Div
Luxembourg, Crilmar Pocket,
Harrigen Forest





Since the end of WW II, stories of heroic daredevil pilots have formed legendary accounts to all who request them; some are legend but some are true stories of the heavens. They flew P-38's, P-47's and what is seen at left, P-51's, considered by many the best Allied aircraft. The P-51 with red-tail is the 332nd Squadron; they never lost a bomber they escorted to enemy fighters; bomber squadrons requested them; they were the only American outfit to sink an enemy destroyer in Europe with fighters, and they shot down the last German fighters in their theater of operation. Over 800 pilots were college graduates from Tuskegee Institute in the war years, and many flew in the 332nd. Their exploits were rarely told in the war. Tuskegee was an all-black college. Tuskegee pilots destroyed 111 enemy planes in combat. They were a well-kept secret of WW II.



29th Inf Div
Brest, Aachen, Siegfried Line,
Titz



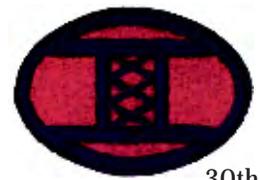
A Torment of Battle: down to the last man.

artillery and support units, including the 636th and 752nd tank battalions. Despite telescopic snipers, prodigious minefields, tanks and hand-to-hand combat—they managed to make contact with the “Lost Battalion.” Sgt Takeo Senzaki, leading I Company of the 3rd Battalion, was the first to break through on October 30. The drive, the determined mission, took a high toll, as over 800 Japanese-Americans were killed or wounded. In the journals of the Second World War the rescue may seem a lost passage of history, but it was much more, as it demonstrated how Americans could jump above the shackles of discrimination that was rampant at home, and show the world how Japanese-American troops held a determined loyalty to the United States.

All American troops occupied the central part of a great European

Forest Belt (Deciduous) where a cordon of man-made battle lines extended some 500 miles. Those 500 miles of battle front lines roughly paralleled Nazi Germany's border through December. Along northeastern Belgium, both the U.S. Ninth and the U.S. First Army lines were lined up just below the British Second and Canadian First Armies that went up into Holland. The XXIX and IX tactical combat aircraft of the U.S. Ninth Air Force, under Generals Quesada and Weyland, gave them air protection.

In the central position stood the U.S. Third Army with the aircraft from the XIX tactical Ninth A.F. Nearest the Swiss border



30th Inf Div
Aachen, Belgium,
Holland, Stavelot, Ruhr



34th Inf Div
Leghorn, Bologna,
Milan, the Po



35th Inf Div
Nancy, Rheinberg, Ruhr



36th Inf Div
Vosges, Alsace, Moselle,
Colmar, Oberhoffen,
Wissembourg



42nd Inf Div
Alsace, Vosges, Hardt



43rd Inf Div
Seine crossing, Huertgen



44th Inf Div
Alsace, The Saar, central
Germany



4th Armor
Moselle, Coblenz, The
Saar, Buchenwald,
central Germany,
Czechoslovakia



5th Armor
Huertgen Forest, Luxembourg, Trier, Moselle River Valley, first in
Germany



10th Armor
Bastogne, Battle
of the Bulge



9th Armor
Bastogne, Battle
of the Bulge



7th Army
Western Europe, fought up
Rhine, took Munich



80th Inf Div
Ardennes



17th Air-
borne
Ardennes



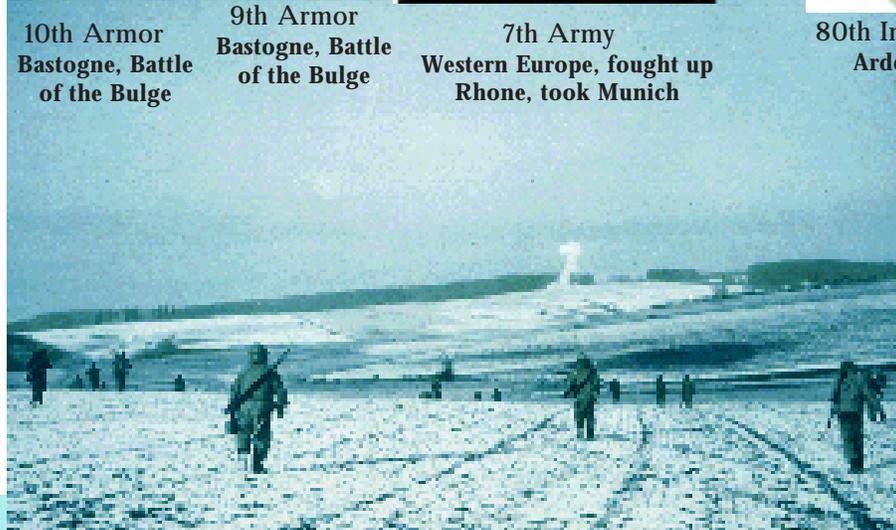
Bastogne



8th Armored
Ardennes



78th Inf Div
Ardennes



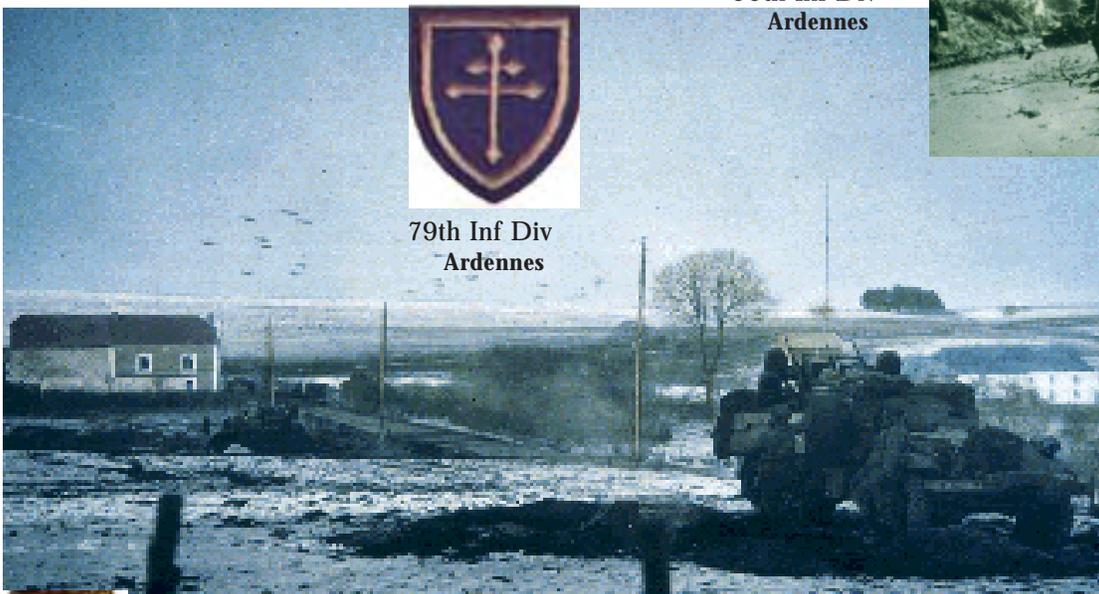
Forward command posts had to be reestablished all along the front and on the 22nd of December American GI's launched a counterattack in the snow and fog. Patton's Third Army was responsible for the operation. 19,000 Americans paid with their lives before the entire Battle of the Bulge ended; a world minus computers. On December 23, the fog which had concealed the German columns began to lift and the sun came out and so did Allied air support. Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg comprised the center of the battle. Many trains crisscross both countries. Bastogne calls (continued on p 225)



99th Inf Div
Ardennes



79th Inf Div
Ardennes



1st Army
Western Europe



3rd Army 9th Army
Western Europe

