Shermans on the Rocks



SET-UP AND SUGGESTED VICTORY CONDITIONS The Germans set up anywhere except for the first two hex rows on southern edge. The Americans enter along the southern edge. Americans must capture and hold buildings to win.

TIME CHART

Battle runs from 11:00AM to 7:00PM





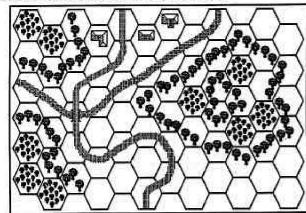






San Pietro Italy, December 15 1943: The 1st Armored Division landed in Italy during October of 1943. Since then the division stood idle awaiting a suitable engagement. This was embarrassing. First Armor was in Italy at Gen. Mark Clark's personal insistence. If he didn't use the division, and use it soon, it was going to be taken from him. Desperate for an armored demonstration of some sort, Clark seized on San Pietro.

The San Pietro battlefield was anything but favorable for tanks. The only viable road leading to the village crossed three small bridges. These potential choke points were no doubt mined and covered by antitank guns. Offroad approaches were blocked by rocky ravines and terraced vineyards. Both armored and infantry field commanders argued against using tanks, but Clark was adamant. Company A of the 753rd Independent Tank Battalion was thus ordered to take San Pietro.





ELEMENTS OF 29TH PANZERGRENADIER DIVISION

One complete Panzergrenadier Infantry Company (Motorized)

(For details see the enclosed table of organization)

Reinforced by a five-vehicle platoon of MkIII Sturmgeschütz



COMPANY A OF 753RD INDEPENDENT TANK BATTALION (reinforced)













SUGGESTED SPECIAL RULES

- 1. The Germans are veteran troops with superior commanders.
- The Americans are veteran troops with superior commanders.
- 3. Terraced hexes delineate elevations. Terraces consisted of a tree studded stone wall, running between three to seven feet tall. Terrace hexes stop vehicular movement. To cross a terrace, a vehicle must wait until its next movement phase and roll a three or less on a ten-sided die. If it fails, it must wait until the next movement phase, when it must roll a six or less. Failing that attempt, a nine or less on the next movement phase. Each time a terraced hex is crossed, there is a 20% chance of throwing a track. Infantry cross terraces at no penalty.

AFTERMATH: The attack commenced on December 15. Company A split itself into two pincers. One arm swung west to interdict German reinforcing attempts; the other, supported by infantry, took a direct route into San Pietro. As the shooting started both pincers began to fragment. The lead tank heading directly into San Pietro crossed the first bridge, but the following tank hit a mine. This side tracked the next three Shermans into an ambush and they were knocked out by sturmgeschütz. Tanks attempting to bypass these hulks hit mines in the road shoulder. Others trying offroad approaches either threw tracks or turned turtle in ravines. By day's end, Company A was reduced to just two tanks.

1943 PANZERGRENADIER BATTALION (Motorized)

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

