

# "The Bloody Rag"



## Near Montelimar, France — August 29th, 1944

Following the success of Operation Dragoon, the US VI Corps was hard on the march north as the Germans retreated up the Rhone Valley. The fight to interdict and cut off the Germans resulted in the Battle for Montelimar. The US 36th Texan Division and 45th Thunderbirds Division were leading the American effort. For their part, the Germans threw various Kampfgruppen in a desperate rear guard effort. (Hypothetical now follows.) In the vanguard of the American advance was Easy Company of the 143rd RCT, 36th Infantry Division. And at the point of this vanguard was a platoon led by Sgt. Rock. Rock's platoon had entered a French village near Lorient. A command element of the German 198th Infantry Division was under attack by French resistance fighters, who were joined by Rock's men. A German colonel and several other German staff officers would be killed. The German colonel, though mortally wounded spoke briefly to Rock before succumbing to his wounds. He told Rock about the blood red battle flag attached to his command car. He told Rock that no German would allow him to keep that flag. Rock, liking his odds, tucked the flag into his web belt and ordered his men to advance into the forests beyond the village. Time to clear out the Krauts.

**VICTORY CONDITIONS:** The Americans win immediately upon exiting 8 EVP through the road Hex A6. Sgt. Rock is worth 3 EVP, Heroes and Half-Squads are worth 1 EVP. The German Player wins immediately upon killing Sgt. Rock in Close Combat. Any other result is a German victory.



### Board 52

(Only Rows V through A are in play.)

American Player moves First	1	2	3	4	5	6
German Player sets up First						



Elements of Easy Company, 143rd RCT, 36th Infantry Division (ELR 4) (SAN 0) (Set up: Enter Turn 1 on the west edge.)



Sgt. Rock carries the captured Nazi Battle Flag. See SSR 10.



Rear Guard elements of the 198th Infantry Division (ELR 3) (SAN 4) (Set up: within 2 hexes of the Road between Rows S and M.)



3

Rear Guard elements of the 198th Infantry Division (Setup: HIP within 3 hexes of the Bridge in Hex J5.)



3

## Special Rules/Notes:

- EC are Moderate with no Wind.
- Bore Sighting (C6.4) is N.A. Kindling (B25.11) is N.A.
- The Stream is deep and fast.
- Place Overlay St 1 on Hexes J6-J5. A single lane Stone Bridge is in Hex Overlay J5.
- The American 10-2 represents Sgt. Rock.
- Half-Squads may not recombine (A1.32) on either side.
- American units in the same hex with Sgt. Rock are Fanatic (A10.8).
- Bull Dozer carries the MMG without Penalty.
- Wild Man carries the Bazooka. Wildman may utilize the Bazooka against targets on the stone bridge.
- Little Sure Shot—removes HIP and/or Concealment when adjacent to a HIP/Concealed enemy unit.
- The captured Nazi Battle Flag causes German MMC's with an LOS to it to become Berserk (A15.4) or Fanatic (A10.8). Upon seeing Sgt. Rock with the flag, each German MMC must make a dr. On a 1 or 2, the unit becomes Fanatic, on a 3-6 the unit becomes Berserk. Officers do not roll, but instead become Fanatic or Berserk based on the unit, which they are stacked with upon seeing the Flag. If multiple MMC's are stacked with the leader and some go Berserk and some go Fanatic, the Player may decide which squad the leader goes Berserk or Fanatic with.

**Aftermath:** Rock's platoon spread out and began advancing along a forest road that would eventually lead to a bridge across a deep stream. The French resistance confirmed that the Germans had retreated along the same path and that rear guard elements should be expected to offer some resistance. Rock's men moved quietly down the road with their heads on a swivel. And sure enough, they were hit by German fire as an MG 42 chattered from the edge of the woods. Three men would be KIA'd, but Wildman and Bull Dozer took out the German machine gun team. Upon reaching the bridge, Little Sure Shot told Rock that he sensed a large number of Germans in the surrounding woods. It would be suicide to try to cross the bridge...unless there was a way to lure the Germans out. Rock tied the Nazi battle flag to his Thompson and then he and his platoon advanced onto the bridge. And sure enough...the Germans in a berserk fury rushed the bridge in a crazed effort to retrieve the flag. In desperate hand to hand fighting, Rock and his men managed to eliminate the Germans. Disgusted by the Nazi flag and the tragic loss of life for the bloody rag, Rock untied it and tossed it onto the pile of dead German grenadiers. They could have the worthless rag. Rock and his men moved forward...time to win the war.

