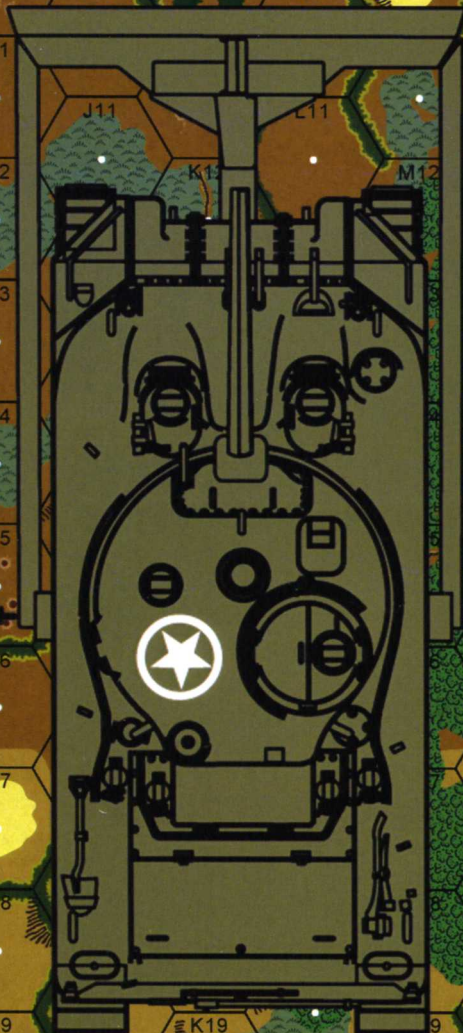


STALO

THE BATTLES FOR HILL 192

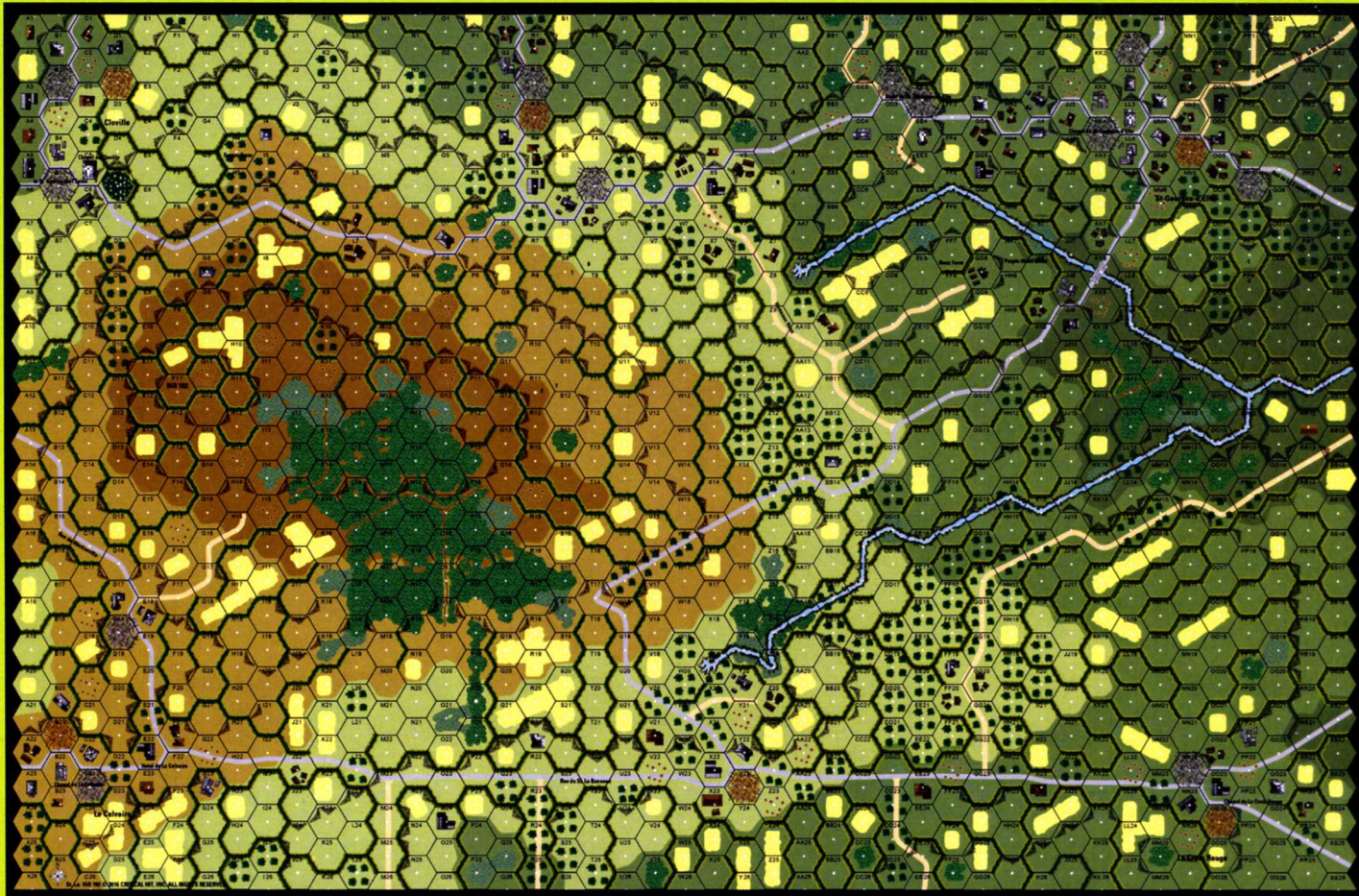


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Near Hill 192 and St-Georges-d'Elle, France, 11 July 1944: Pfc. Ralston A. Shepherd was not the only hero among the ranks of the American dogfaces fighting near Hill 192. The battle minted heroes, including Private Joseph Marez, an aid man with the 9th Regiment. Disregarding a "hail of machine-gun and rifle fire" according to the unit history, Marez ran forward to attend to two wounded riflemen. While he was holding a tourniquet to the first soldier's leg, Marez was hit in the head by a German bullet. Undaunted, he headed for the second man to render aid... but collapsed before reaching him. Marez received the division's first Distinguished Service Cross for his bravery. A corporal in the 38th Infantry Regiment was wounded too badly to be evacuated. As enemy soldiers approached, he covered his prone body with a camouflage sheet and, despite being unable to stand, began engaging the oncoming German soldiers as a sniper. This fire was kept up for 2½ days, despite a complete lack of food and water. Tank, artillery and air support were critical in digging the defenders out of their lairs on Hill 192. But it was "the doughboys", according to the unit history of the 2nd Infantry Division, that captured the hill, advancing "yard by yard up the slopes, digging the Germans out of (their) shelters as they came to them." By late afternoon on 11 July 1944, "The Hill" was in the hands of the men of the 2nd I.D. American survivors stood astride the St. Lo-Berigny highway and faced south, the direction of the anticipated breakthrough.

ASLComp ST LO: HILL 192™ is a detailed ASLComp variant module that follows the American 2nd Infantry Division as it attacks Hill 192 on the road to St. Lo. Located about five miles north-east of St Lo, Hill 192 would hardly be classed as hill on most military maps. But in a countryside where a significant high point is twenty or thirty meters (sixty-five to one hundred feet) above the surrounding countryside, Hill 192, named for its height in meters, was a strategic point that would cost a lot in American lives.

The hill was thickly covered with heavy foliage, and commanded a six-mile area. The Germans had been fortifying Hill 192 for months. It was studded with foxholes, machine-gun nests and expertly cam-

YOU RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: 1 × historical map on 4 folding boards; 9 scenarios on 5 cards; a 4-page Special Rules document in 3-hole punched format; and 3 sheets of color die cut counters (2 × 280 ½" German and American INF/SW+ 2 × 88 5/8" German and American AFVs/Guns).

This product is 100% MADE IN THE USA. This is an ASLComp variant product. For ages 10 and up. Manufactured by Critical Hit, Inc. Photo credits: National Archives.

ouflaged observation points. Hedgerows sprouted along its gradual slope. Behind these, Germans huddled in dugouts.

From Hill 192, the Germans had an uninterrupted view north over the 2nd Division's lines. The lines-of-sight also dominated towards the west, overlooking all the approach paths that would have to be used by the 29th Division's attack to capture the town. Following a pitched battle on the 11th of July, the 2nd Infantry Division finally secured this high ground, paving the way for the capture of St Lô five days later.

Success at Hill 192 came dear and re-named some of the terrain, including "Purple Heart Draw", so named for the cost in lives to the 23rd Regiment who had to clean the Germans out of there to secure the left flank of the attack and then on up the back of the hill along the paths used by the 38th Regiment in their fight to reach the summit.

Hill 192, near ST. LO, France, 16 June 1944: The attack on Hill 192, only one part of the larger operation east of the Vire directed at St. Lo, nevertheless tended to overshadow all other achievements of the first day's battle. This was due to the success of the 2nd Division against what had become the most noted strongpoint in the German defensive lines facing First Army. On 12 June, the 2nd Division had reached the Elle River, one mile away from the hill, and had launched a drive halted during the next two days by fierce resistance of the 3rd Parachute Division. On 16 June, the 2nd Division had tried again, in attack by all three regiments abreast. The 3rd Battalion of the 38th Infantry drove the enemy halfway up the forward slope of Hill 192, but was withdrawn when it could not dislodge the Germans from their well dug-in positions. The attacks had cost the 2nd Division 1,253 men. Since then, this dominating height had remained a thorn in the flank of First Army's salient toward Caumont. Its tactical importance lay in giving the enemy observation over the whole countryside from the Vire to Caumont, including all approaches to St-Lo, as well as the rear areas of V Corps as far as the beaches. Any successful attack on St. Lo would have to deal with this position. During the period 16 June to 11 July, the 2nd Division had worked on plans for capture of Hill 192, whenever attack might be ordered. Intensive training in infantry-tank tactics had been carried through and elaborate preparation for artillery and air support had been made. Artillery fire plans were based on numbered grid squares 100 yards to a side, designed to insure coordination of the supporting fires with infantry advance.

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE GAME! Ownership of the ASLRB and modules providing Germans and Americans is a requirement to use this product.