

By the conclusion of June 6, 1944, more than 150,000 enemy troops were ashore in Normandy. Supported by specialized armor as well as the unprecedented firepower of Allied air and naval units, the assault divisions of the invasion force had cleaved deep chunks from Hitler's vaunted Atlantic Wall. This scenario details the 12 SS Panzer Division "Hitler Youth" when it creates a "Black Day" for the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment (1<sup>st</sup> Hussars). The personnel losses of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars during this engagement equalled roughly one-third of their entire losses for the European Campaign 1944-45. The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars and the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (an infantry battalion) were to advance from the French town of Norrey-en-Bessin, and, via a right hook through the town of le Mesnil-Patry, seize the high ground south of Cheux. This operation was set to get under way on June 12<sup>th</sup>, however to better coordinate an advance by a neighboring unit, the XXX British Corps, the date was changed to June 11<sup>th</sup>. As a result the engagement around le Mesnil-Patry was inadequately prepared, with little or no time set aside for reconnaissance and no artillery preparation provided. All told in the ensuing debacle the 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment lost 37 tanks, the Queen's Own Rifles suffered 99 casualties, of which 55 were fatal. The 12<sup>th</sup> SS suffered 150 casualties, including 48 dead and 11 missing. The 12<sup>th</sup> SS only lost four panzers. This costly failure of the Canadians was the last operation they launched during the month of June 1944. On the night of June 16-17, the Canadians occupied le Mesnil-Patry without opposition.

All details of the battle have been made as accurate as possible from the information I have in my possession, of which the book Blood and Honor, The History of the 12<sup>th</sup> SS Panzer Division "Hitler Youth," 1943-1945, written by Craig Luther, provided most of the data. Please report any historical inaccuracy to me as soon as possible.\*\* This scenario is part II of a campaign chronicling the history of the 12<sup>th</sup> SS Panzer Division. The division was made up mostly of sixteen and seventeen year olds who were recruited from the Hitler Youth Class of 1926 (born in 1926). The Hitler Youth Division became a first-class formation of the Waffen-SS-it's special nature underscored by intimate ties to the super-elite Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler Division. Cadre personnel transferred from the Leibstandarte to the 12 SS Panzer Division provided the latter with an experienced nucleus and insured it would be imbued with the fighting qualities and élan of its sister division.

6<sup>th</sup> Armored - 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armored Brigade, 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment, the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars  
Queen's Rifles - 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division, 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada  
26<sup>th</sup> SS PGR - 12 SS Panzer Division "Hitler Youth", 26<sup>th</sup> SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment  
12 SS ENG - 12 SS Panzer Division "Hitler Youth", Engineer Battalion  
HJ/2<sup>nd</sup> Batt. - 12 SS Panzer Division "Hitler Youth", 2nd Panzer Battalion

\*\* Panthers weren't actually present at the battle, I just thought I'd throw them in the scenario for fun.

HJ - Hitler Jugend - Jugend is youth in German....

To install and play the scenario unzip it into the c:\steel\scen dir and start the game!

The scenario was designed by Richard M. Rockwood. Feel free to enjoy it and distribute it!!!

Any comments, suggestions, etc.... would be gratefully appreciated.

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