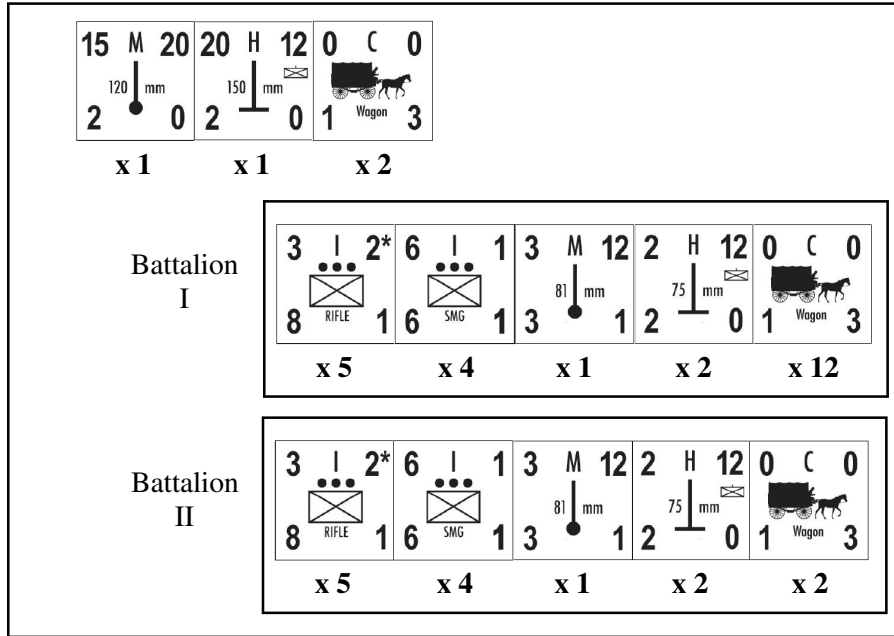




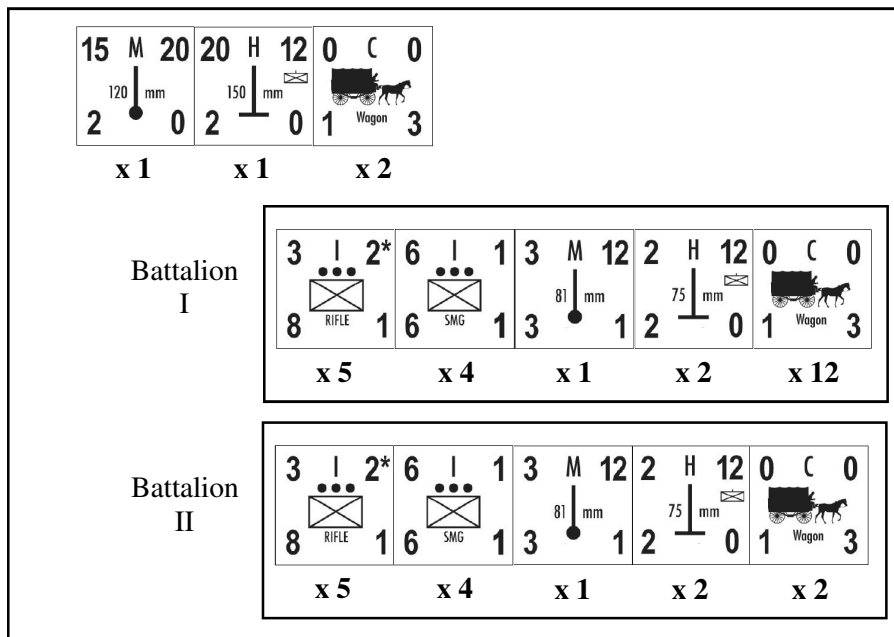
German 18th Volksgrenadier Div.

December, 1944

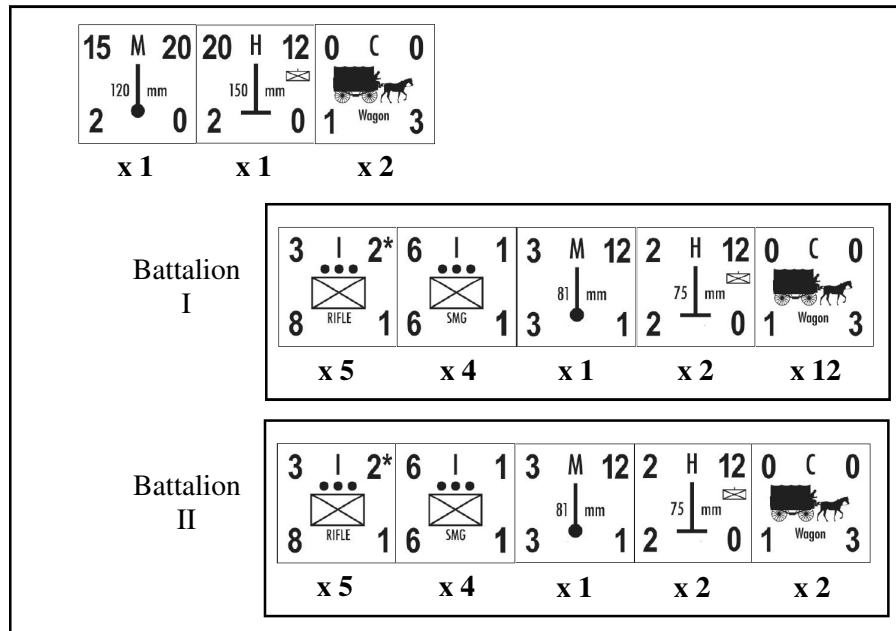
293rd
Volks-
grenadier
Regiment



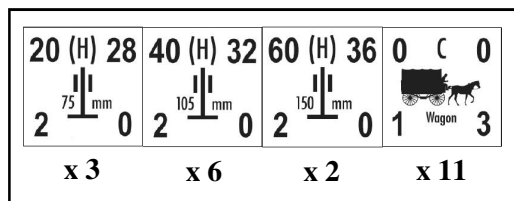
294th
Volks-
grenadier
Regiment



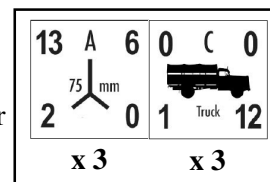
295th
Volks-
grenadier
Regiment



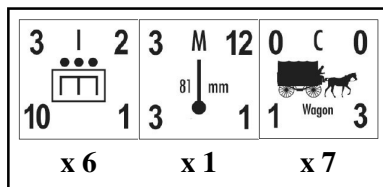
1818th
Volks-
Artillerie
Regiment



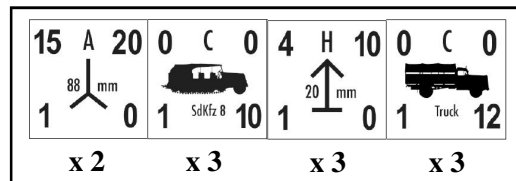
1818th
Volks-
PanzerJager
Battalion



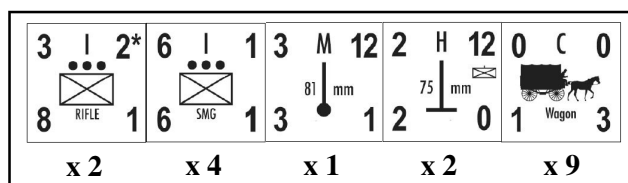
1818th
Volks-
Pioneer
Battalion



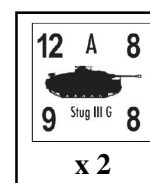
1818th
Volks-
Flak
Battalion



18th
Fusilier
Battalion



244th
Assault
Gun
Battalion
(attached)



Perhaps the most unlikely performer of the entire battle was the 18th Volksgrenadier Division. It was a new and inexperienced division made up of Luftwaffe personnel, former Kriegsmariners out of a job, and middle aged reservists. Its commander had no previous combat experience. During the battle, it inflicted the worst defeat of the war on an American division in Europe when it forced the surrender of two whole regiments of the 106th Infantry Division. The 18th Volksgrenadiers then followed up that feat with the capture of St. Vith, which was just as important an objective as Bastogne. The Ardennes offensive was the division's first and last battle as it was disbanded after being largely destroyed in the January counteroffensive.