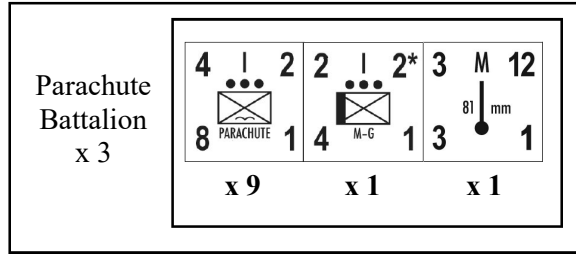




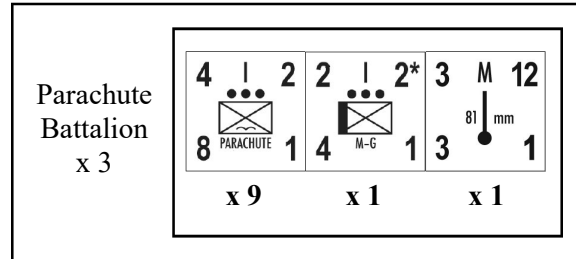
US 82nd Airborne Division

September, 1944

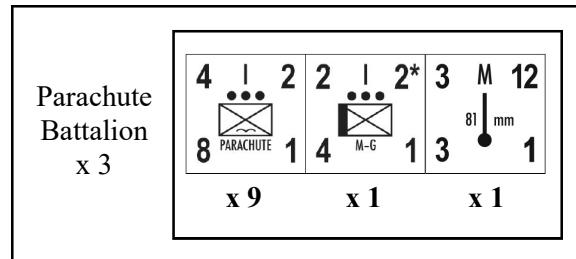
504th Parachute Regiment



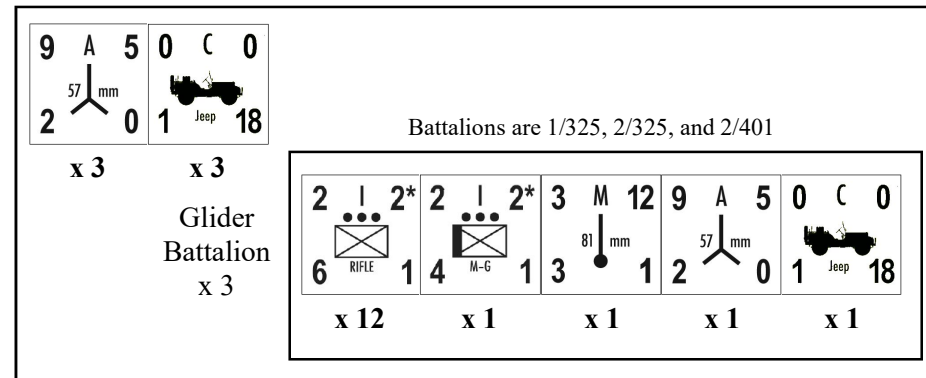
505th Parachute Regiment



508th Parachute Regiment

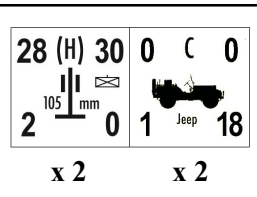


325th Glider Infantry Regiment

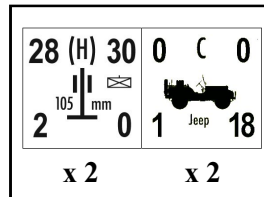


This regiment scheduled to arrive on day 2. Bad weather delayed its arrival until day 7.

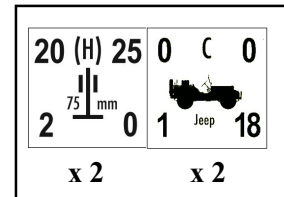
319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion



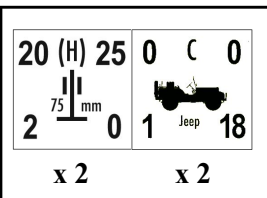
320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion



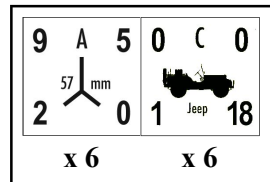
376th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion



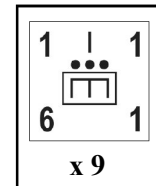
456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion



80th Airborne AA Battalion



307th Airborne Engineer Battalion



Battalion contained AA and AT batteries. AA batteries left behind on this operation.

By Greg Moore
gregpanzerblitz.com
May, 2024

The 82nd Airborne was given the challenge of trying to accomplish a number of mission critical objectives over a wide area with what turned out to be only 3 of their 4 regiments. They were ordered to seize the major bridge over the Waal River at Nijmegen, the major bridge over the Maas River at Grave, at least one of the bridges over the Mass-Wall Canal in between those, and seize and defend the high ground to the east on the border of Germany itself, where vigorous counterattacks were expected to come from. They were expected to hold all these objectives until relieved by XXX Corps.

The 505th Parachute regiment landed just outside Groesbeek, near the German border. They successfully captured Groesbeek and were dug in on the nearby slopes by the end of Day 1. Most of the regiment would remain on these slopes for the rest of the campaign, hard pressed by persistent German tank and infantry attacks, but eventually reinforced by the Coldstream Guards of the Guards Armored Division.

The 504th Parachute landed 4 miles southwest of Nijmegen with a battalion quickly capturing the major road bridge at Grave, spanning the Maas River. Another battalion moved northeast on the road to Nijmegen to capture at least one of the road and rail crossings over the Maas-Wall canal. Two major crossings were blown by the Germans, but the 504th was able to capture the third major bridge intact. On Day 4, the 3rd Battalion of the 504th under Major Julian Cook was chosen to conduct a river assault across the Waal to capture the north ends of the road and rail bridges while the Grenadier Guards and elements of the 505th attacked Nijmegen from the south. Despite many casualties in the crossing, the determined troopers of the 504th were able to successfully help capture both bridges and prevent their destruction to open the road to Arnhem.

The 508th Regiment was given the multiple objectives of securing the landing zone and part of the ridge at Groesbeek, helping the 504th capture the Maas-Wall Canal bridges, and capturing the major bridge across the Waal on the north side of Nijmegen. Although accomplishing nearly all of this, only 3 companies were left available to attempt the important Nijmegen bridge capture (considered to be only lightly defended) and one company got lost on the way. The remaining 2 companies advanced to within 400 yards of the bridge but encountered heavy fire from local garrison forces and advanced elements of the 10th SS Panzer Division and were forced to withdraw. The failure to capture this bridge on Day 1 would come back to bite them on Day 4. Also, because the glider regiment did not arrive on day 2, the 508th was not relieved of its assignment of defending the drop zone.

Due to weather problems, the 325th Glider Regiment did not arrive until day 7, when the campaign was mostly decided. Fortunately, however, the divisional artillery arrived on schedule on Day 2 and was immediately put to work, mostly helping to defend the heights outside Groesbeek.

As with the 101st, the 82nd was hard pressed by the attacking Germans to defend the areas under its control, especially against tanks.