

2nd Armor Hell On Wheels Normandy Breakthrough



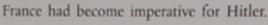
4th Inf Div Cherbourg, St Lo, Paris



Gen George Patton

Commander of the new U.S. Third Army. A captured secret document analyzed Patton as "the most dangerous general in all fronts. The tactics of other generals are well-known... Patton's tactics are daring and unpredictable."

3rd Armor St Lo, Falaise, Mortain Charters Spearhead



It was noon, August 1, when the American divisions in France were split into two official armies, the First and the Third. As the bulk of the First advanced along Barentain and Mortain (more on the First a little later) the latter advanced through Brittany. During the month of August, the U.S. Third was able to make the most advances, and so we'll touch upon them first.

General George Patton's Third Army had the mission of sweeping up Brittany, with his main infantry formation (the XV Corps) in motorized

columns heading diverse byways his principal artions (the VIII and driving west then along the city of on August third, told Patton to with "a minimum



south, then over
east; and with
mored formaXX Corps)
south-west
Nantes. When
General Bradley
clear Brittany
of force" in or-

der to make the drive eastward as the major push, only one U.S. Corps remained in Brittany. But no one foresaw the drive to be electrifying.

The first days of August were crucial, because they marked the beginning of expansion, and no one knew precisely what would ensue. Many soldiers had never been in Europe and were oriented by only a map; there were even times when they learned they had moved so fast that the spearhead was beyond a map. Like



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