

“Ben, you’re the commander now.
We suspected the old man would crack the first time we slugged it out with the Germans.
The colonel just couldn’t handle the pressure.”

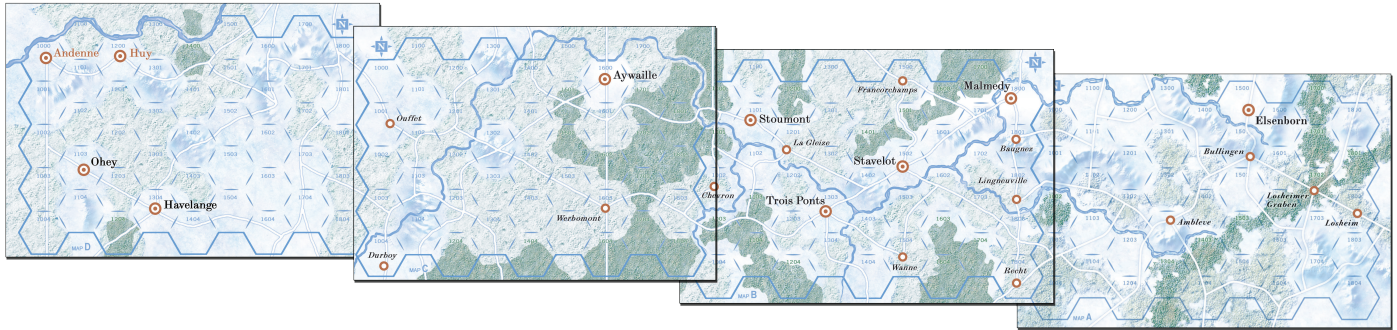
*--Battalion S-3 commander, CPT Bob McGee to CPT Ben Legare,
with news that he was assuming command of 2nd Battalion, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division,
via radio in the early morning of December 16, 1944.*

THE PEIPER DREAM

CAMPAIGN GAME AND OPTIONAL RULES

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Players can link all four of the *Peiper Pocket Battle Games* to form *The Peiper Dream* and play a “Grand” (using the term very loosely here!) Campaign that simulates the entire series of battles with KG Peiper during the Ardennes Offensive. The Campaign Game will also require the use of one six-sided die (not included) to adjudicate certain game outcomes. There can be up to 20 turns (run through the card deck up to 20 times) in the Campaign Game.



All four maps are arranged, with the east edge of Map B lining-up with the west edge of Map A. Similarly, Map C lines up with B and D with C. All units for both sides from *Paying the Peiper* set up per that card’s rules. Deploy one US Fuel Depot on Map B and one on Map C, on any hex containing a road. The US 99 and 106 BG units deploy anywhere on Map B, but may not move until a German unit enters Map B. Set up initial US and German (GE) forces and enter reinforcements for Turns 2, 3 and 4 as stated in the *Paying the Peiper* rules.

Subsequent Reinforcements: At the end of turns 6, 11 and 17 play is temporarily suspended and the new German and US units available with *A Dash of Peiper*, *The Bagged Peiper*, and *Just a Peiper Dream?* games enter play as follows:

Turn 6: The following 7 new German units from *A Dash of Peiper* are set up in or adjacent to the hex with the Spitzke panzer battalion unit if it is in supply. Otherwise the units can be placed anywhere on board A on a road hex that can trace supply back to the east A board edge.

- 1/1 LAH Panzer
- 3/2 LAH Panzer Grenadier
- 501 Tiger
- Spitzke Recon (Halftrack symbol)
- 3FJ/KG1 Infantry
- 3FJ/KG2 Infantry

Hexes chosen must not be occupied by US units. If there are insufficient hexes for these units to deploy with the Spitzke unit, the excess German reinforcement units set up in any road/city/town hex on Map A that is not adjacent to a US unit that can trace a supply line to the east edge of Map A (see German Supply below). The following 3 new US units from *A Dash of Peiper* may enter along the North or South map edges of any map.

- 30/117/1 Infantry
- 30/117/2 Infantry
- 2/23/3 Infantry

Turn 11: The following 6 new US units from *The Bagged Peiper* may enter along the North or South map edges of any maps B to D.

- 30/117/3 Infantry
- 30/119/1 Infantry
- 30/119/2 Infantry
- 30/119/3 Infantry
- CCB/3/1 Tank
- CCB/3/1 Tank

Turn 17: The following 2 new US units from *The Bagged Peiper* may enter along the any of the North map edges of boards B to D, or South map edges of maps C or D.

- 101/BG Paratroop
- CCB/3/3 Tank

US Reinforcement Entry: As stated, US Reinforcement units may enter along the North or South map edges of indicated maps on the reinforcement schedule. For example, a US unit scheduled to enter play along the north map edge of Map B on turn 6 could instead enter along the north map edges of Maps A, C or D on the same turn. Use the combined reinforcement schedule with entry location above for all units except those listed in *Paying the Peiper*.

Campaign Game Air/OBA markers:

- The German player can use up to 2 OBA and 1 Air markers during turns 1-6 (regardless of what map German units may have reached).
- Both players can each use up to 2 (GE) or 1 (US) OBA markers (no Air) from turns 7 through 16. Remember, if any German unit cannot trace supply, the German player cannot use his OBA units to support any ground attacks by the unsupplied unit(s) until the German units are back to being capable of tracing a supply line.
- The US player can use up to 3 OBA and 1 Air markers during turns 17-20 (if playing with the die-cut counters, use one of the US OBA markers twice). The German player cannot use any OBA during turns 17-20.

German Supply: Throughout the game, German units attempting to move or fire must normally trace a supply line back to the east map edge of Map A to be considered in supply. Units not in supply may move only 1 hex per ACT, have a +1 CD modifier when attacking, and the GE OBA marker may not be placed to assist in any attacks.



In addition, a German unit's Proficiency Rating (PR) is also reduced by 1 if out of supply. The only time German units do not have to trace a supply line is if a Fuel Depot marker is captured on Maps B and/or C. Each captured Fuel Depot allows the German player to ignore tracing supply lines for any and all units for 4 turns after the Depot is captured (**Note:** NOT the turn of capture, however). Place the captured Fuel Depot marker

on the Game Turn Record Track as a reminder of when the German player must resume tracing supply.

Regroup Phase: When playing the Campaign Game both players can attempt to return reduced units to full-strength, or return eliminated units, at reduced strength, to play. At the end of turns 7, 12, and 17 both players roll a die for each reduced unit. If the DR is < unit's PR the unit is flipped to its full-strength side. If \geq to the PR it remains as-is. For each eliminated unit the owning player performs a CD. If the German player draws a black face card the unit is returned to play on any hex with a town or village on Map A that is not occupied by a US unit. Eliminated US units are returned to play at any town/city hex under US control on Map D if the US player draws any red face, ace or 10 card. Any other CD will result in the owning player's unit remaining in the "dead pile" for now.



Rebuilding Bridges: Up to 2 bridges demolished by the American player can be rebuilt by the German player during each Regroup Phase. Up to 4 bridges can be rebuilt by the German player during the course of the game. The bridge(s) to be rebuilt may not have a US unit in either hex connected by the bridge, and both hexes must be able to trace a supply line to the east edge of Map A. Once these conditions are established, and the German player indicates the bridge is one of the four he can rebuild, the Blown Bridge marker is removed.

The US player can rebuild any number of bridges during the Regroup Phase, in a similar manner to that of the German player. The US player is not limited to rebuilding just 4 bridges, and can rebuild more than 1 per Regroup Phase.

Note: Players are encouraged to use other markers, coins or whatever to record demolished bridges. The US player is not limited to the counter-mix as to the number of these that he can destroy. The US player may demolish a bridge that he/she rebuilt earlier.

Use of Proficiency Ratings in Combat: After indicating the firing and target units, the firing player rolls a D6. If the DR is less than the attacking unit's PR the defender does not benefit from terrain, and the attacker also gets -1 CD instead. Add the terrain modifier back in and no favorable CD modifier if the attacker's PR check failed.

Winning the Campaign Game: In the Campaign Game, at the end of any turn, the German player wins if there are any unit(s) in Andenne and/or Huy that can trace a supply line to the east map edge of Map A. The game can end before the end of turn 20. Otherwise, the US player wins the game.

OPTIONAL RULES

The following rules can be used to add a bit more historical realism to the game, or to balance play between opponents of differing abilities. Enjoy!

Infiltration Movement: A unit that begins its activation in a hex adjacent to an enemy unit may move directly to another hex adjacent to an enemy unit (same or different) if $DR \leq$ to the unit's PR is made. The hex entered must be allowable for the unit to enter (non-prohibited terrain in the hex or the hex side crossed). If the PR check is failed the unit may not move at all (pro-German in *Paying the Peiper* and *A Dash of Peiper*, pro-US in *The Bagged Peiper* and *Just a Peiper Dream?*).

Tiger Tanks: Instead of firing on its own the 501 Schwere (heavy) Panzer unit can instead confer a -2 Anti-Tank modifier to any one unit with which it is stacked. This Anti-Tank CD modifier is -1 if the unit itself is reduced. The Tiger tank unit does not count toward stacking (i.e., this can be a third unit in a German stack (pro-German)).



German Surprise: All German attacks on Turn 1 have a -1 CD modifier, in addition to any others and regardless of any PR check results. Beginning with turn 2 the German player rolls a die after the deck is shuffled but before the first card is drawn for Activation. If the $DR \leq$ the number of turns played the -1 Surprise CD modifier is permanently lost. The Surprise CD modifier is permanently lost, if still in play, beginning with turn 6 (pro-German). US combat units may stack once German Surprise is ended.

Tougher Bridge Demolition: For those who feel the US has too easy a time in demolishing bridges the following is in effect:

- A US unit must be within 3 hexes of the bridge to be blown and designated as the demolishing unit. It cannot have moved or attacked earlier in the current turn. If the CD is even this counts as the unit's activation for the turn (i.e., it cannot move, attack, or attempt another bridge demo). If the CD is odd the unit may activate again in the turn. Add 2 to the bridge demo CD if the unit is reduced.

Note: If this rule is utilized it is recommended the German player be allowed to rebuild up to 6 bridges (not 4).

Malmedy Massacre: The turn following the one in which any German unit has exited Map A, the US player rolls a die.

If the DR is even the news that SS soldiers are massacring American POWs is out. Once a turn, for the rest of the game, the US player will receive either a -1 CD for any attack made by a US unit, or impose a +1 CD on any German attack. Continue performing this DR check each turn until the "news gets out" (an even DR is made). (pro-US)

"Panzers Marsch!": There was considerable debate among the German commanders as to whether the tanks should wait for the infantry to open a hole for them to drive through the morning of the 16th, or should the initial attack be made directly with their armor? To simulate this, allow the German player to freely choose any six units to enter Map A on Turn 1. All remaining units may enter on Turn 3 or 7 (for the remaining SS units) or later (neutral). Note: If this optional rule is used then do NOT use German Surprise (above). Also see the "Achtung! Minen!" rule below. **Designer's Note:** *The sound of so many tanks moving up would've tipped-off the front line troops something was up, even if the rear-area brass were clueless.*

Achtung! Minen!: If the "Panzer's Marsch!" rule (above) is taken by the German player the US player can designate any two German units and have a PR check made for them. Add 2 to the DR if the designated unit is SS. If the modified DR is \geq than the unit's PR it starts the game reduced. **Designer's Note:** *Historically, Peiper was very frustrated with the traffic jams and disorganization in the rear area that blocked his units' advance to the start line. At one point he even ordered his men through a minefield to bypass the clogged roads, losing a half-dozen tanks and halftracks, as well as some of the men inside the vehicles, in the process (and this has been taken into effect with the units in the game). One can imagine the effects of an even more frenetic and hurried deployment on his KG...*

Fall Back! A US unit that is hit in combat may retreat instead of being reduced or eliminated if it passes a PR check. Increase the DR for the PR check by the difference of the unit's PR and the "to hit" CD used for the combat. For example, a 1 result in the combat with a German AF of 4 would add 3 to the retreat PR check. If successful, the hex to which the unit retreats must be one it can enter normally (armor cannot retreat into a Rough or Heavy Forest hex unless along a road from the hex it defended, nor across an un-bridged river hex side). The hex the unit retreats to may be one adjacent to an enemy unit, but not further from the west map edge (i.e., a US unit cannot advance while retreating). If the unit fails its PR check, or there is no hex into which it can retreat, the unit must take the step loss (pro-US). **Designer's Note:** *Why not the Germans? They were under a great deal of pressure to attack and advance, regardless of the losses.*

“Our victory lies behind the last battle!” Any time the German player draws a face card in resolving a unit’s attack, the German player MUST draw another card. If this second CD does not result in the reduction or retreat of the targeted unit the German unit that fired is instead reduced (pro-US). **Designer’s Note:** *The German attack went in with little advance notice and with a great deal of pressure from Berlin for success. Losses among the poorly trained Volksgrenadier, as well as among veteran units who were attacking for the first time in months or even years, were very heavy.*

DESIGNER’S NOTES

“Hinter de letzten Schlacht dieser
Kriege Esteht unser Sieg!”

(“Behind the last battle of this war stands our victory!”)
--*Graffiti found scrawled somewhere in Luxemburg by
a German soldier during the Ardennes offensive.*

“I have no division... I have two regiments out on
the Schnee Eifel, and my son is in one of them.”
--*General Alan Jones, commander of the 106th Division,
December 16, 1944.*

I particularly enjoy designing the *Against the Odds’* Pocket Battle Game series, and when Steve Rawling offered me the opportunity to do a series of “linkable” ones that could be played separately as well as together, we both immediately thought of the Battle of the Bulge as the setting. Jochen Peiper’s Kampfgruppe became the subject, as the series of battles fought with what became the vanguard of the German Ardennes offensive, was a series of incredible against the odds battles. The determined stand by Americans as they contested the initial onslaught of Wacht am Rhine, to the increasingly desperate contests for crossroads, bridges and fuel depots waged by the SS as they made their way westward towards the Meuse River, put paid to the German’s final large-scale offensive on the Western Front, as well as any remaining notions of Aryan/SS supremacy (either on the battlefield or anywhere else).

The Pocket Battle Game series came together rather quickly as KG Peiper’s “dash” was essentially four days, and the route of the German’s offensive divided up rather easily into 4 map sections that each could be fit onto a postcard that linked to its neighbor. Once the concept was proven doable, then the research for both sides’ OOB was made, followed by playtesting for each individual game, and then for the “grand campaign.” The larger Campaign Game proved the most time-consuming as the optional and variant rules, as well as the linking rules, all had to be tested, tweaked and

then re-tested. The amount of time, effort and consideration that went into these little games easily matched, and in some instances, surpassed that made for some “regularly sized” titles I’ve done in the past. I commend Steve’s persistence and patience in giving me the time, resources, and opportunity to bring these games to you.

Historically, Peiper’s KG only made it onto the easternmost hexes of Map C. I’ve included Map D to show what the German’s were trying to do, as well as giving players a fuller scope of the challenges faced by their historical counterparts. That said, it should be very difficult for the German player to win the historical “Campaign Game.” Not only do they have to drive the length of all 4 maps to get to the objective(s), but the Germans will be challenged in maintaining a viable supply line back to the start-line in the face of growing American opposition, capturing Fuel Depots to keep the drive going should the supply line be cut, blown bridges, facing units that have regrouped, as well as American air and artillery support that is much more reliable than that fielded by the Germans.

I wish to dedicate this series of games to the memory of my Uncle Walter Rohrbaugh, who served in General Patton’s Third Army. Although his ordeals, part of which included having his unit overrun and his being missing in action behind enemy lines for nearly three weeks in mid-December to early January (of which no one in the family ever fully learned what happened), and those of thousands of other US soldiers like him, the history of the Battle of the Bulge, the end of WWII, and likely that of much of post-WWII Europe would have been very different. They endured and triumphed in countless against the odds situations that December of 1944 here in the Ardennes.

Enjoy and learn!

ADDITIONAL READING

Agate, Patrick. *Jochen Peiper: Commander Panzerregiment Leibstandarte*. Manitoba: J.J. Fedorowicz Publishing, 1999.

Cole, Hugh M. *U.S. Army in WWII, ETO, the Ardennes: Battle of the Bulge*. Washington, DC: OCMH, 1965.

Eisenhower, John S.D. *Bitter Woods: the Dramatic Story, Told at all Echelons, From Supreme Command to Squad Leader, of the Crisis That Shook the Western Coalition*. New York: Putnam, 1969.

GAME TURN RECORD TRACK

Note: Use a penny or some other marker to record the current turn

<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 1 12/16/44</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 2 12/16/44</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>End of German Surprise?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 3 12/16/44</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>End of German Surprise?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 4 12/16/44</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>End of German Surprise?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 5 12/16/44</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>End of German Surprise?</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 6 12/16/44</p> <p><u>US Reinforcements</u> <u>GE Reinforcements</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: End Luftwaffe support</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 7 12/17/44</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: Regroup Phase first</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 8 12/17/44</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 9 12/17/44</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 10 12/17/44</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 11 12/17/44</p> <p><u>US Reinforcements</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 12 12/18/44</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: Regroup Phase first</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 13 12/18/44</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 14 12/18/44</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 15 12/18/44</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 16 12/18/44</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 17 12/19/44</p> <p><u>US Reinforcements</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: Regroup Phase first. Start US Air support</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 18 12/19/44</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 19 12/19/44</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn 20 12/19/44</p>