

FIRESTORM

RED THUNDER



**TEAM
YANKEE**
WORLD WAR III



FIRESTORM RED THUNDER

The Weather

Today - Mostly sunny, high near 80, low near 60. The chance of precipitation is near zero through tonight.
 Thursday - Variable clouds with a high near 80. Yesterday's temperature range: 80-64. Details Page C3.

Hill Valley Telegraph

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Vol. XVII, No. 32

JULY 16, 1985

50 Cents

Persian Gulf War Heats Up

Escalation of the Persian Gulf War continued today when Iranian aircraft attacked two oil tankers just outside the territorial waters of Bahrain. A ship of Dutch registry was reported sunk early this morning shortly after leaving port. At this time there is no report of survivors. The second ship, registered in Panama, was inbound to Bahrain when it was attacked by two Iranian war planes. Casualties are reported to be high.

A significant feature of the stepped-up fighting, the military sources say, is that Iran has started hitting Saudi Arabian tankers again for the first time since early 1984. In Washington, the Administration has blamed Congress for the increased attacks on neutral shipping, saying its rejection of plans to sell new missiles to Saudi Arabia is encouraging Iran to become more aggressive.

Gulf sources believe the Iranians are also reacting to a tightening financial squeeze brought about by falling world oil prices, which they attribute to Saudi Arabia, as well as to the generous financial assistance Saudi Arabia and its allies give to the Iraqi war effort.



Since early 1984 Iran and Iraq have been locked in a bitter struggle for control of the Persian Gulf.

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Vol. XVII, No. 38

JULY 22, 1985

50 Cents



Iran Continues Attacks

Despite condemnation by the UN, Western European nations, Japan, and the U.S., Iran has pledged to continue attacks on any vessel that enters the Persian Gulf, now declared a war zone by that country. Outside the Straits of Hormuz, entrance to the Persian Gulf, the number of tankers sitting at anchor, waiting for a break in the deadlock, continues to grow. The ships' owners and their captains feel that this deadlock will not last long. As one ship's captain stated, 'They have tried this before and always backed off. They need us too much to keep this up for long.'

The so-called tanker war against commercial shipping began in January, 1984, when Iraq declared an "exclusion zone" around the Persian Gulf coast.

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Vol. XVII, No. 42

JULY 26, 1985

50 Cents



United Kingdom Stands Strong

"We did not fight two World Wars to defend Europe from dictatorship and oppression just to hand it over to the next tyrant bent on world dominance!" The British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, lived up to her nickname as 'The Iron Lady' today. Echoing Winston Churchill, the British leader during World War Two, she delivered a strong speech in parliament condemning the Soviet Union's demands and vowing that Britain would resist aggression in Europe "with every last breath".

The Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood, north-west London is also reportedly considering a 'show of force', including conducting naval exercises in the South Atlantic. These exercises are part of the Royal Navy's Response

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Vol. XVII, No. 43

JULY 27, 1985

50 Cents



U.S.S Charles Logan Attacked

The destroyer U.S.S. Charles Logan, while on patrol in international waters off the Straits of Hormuz, was rammed, then fired upon by a Soviet Cruiser of the Gorki class this morning. U.S. forces returned fire. Damage and casualties on either side are not known at this time.

Defense Department officials were unable to comment further at this time however unnamed sources have said that Soviet vessels have a history of acting aggressively but recent months have seen a significant spike in belligerent activity.

This recent incident is likely to increase tensions between the

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Vol. XVII, No. 44

LATE EDITION - JULY 28, 1985

50 Cents



Soviet Allies Stand Strong

A meeting of the Warsaw Pact ministers ended today with a pledge to stand together in the face of threats and increased war preparations on the part of the United States. Representatives from Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union released a joint statement pledging to meet American aggression against any member state with retaliation in kind.

By demonstrating the Warsaw Pact's ability to project military power on the world stage, the Soviet President and his allies have rallied nationalist sentiments around their governments. Kremlin policymakers have also successfully framed the

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Vol. XVII, No. 44

JULY 28, 1985

50 Cents



National Guard Called Up

In view of the current crisis, the President has issued an order federalizing 100,000 Army Reserve and National Guard personnel. Personnel and units affected have been notified and are reporting to their mobilization stations."

After providing critical aerial support in the fight against wildfires in central and eastern Washington last summer, more than 200 Guard members from the Camp Murray General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) will be deploying in support of ongoing monitoring operations up and down the East German border.

...the LH-1 Huey helicopters out of a

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Vol. XVII, No. 45

JULY 29, 1985

50 Cents



Pope Calls For Calm

A request on the part of the Holy Father to travel to Moscow to talk to the Soviet premier in an attempt to find a peaceful solution to the current crisis was denied. The Holy Father calls for both sides to remember their responsibility to their people and to the world and again offered his services in any future negotiations.

Meanwhile in Germany Chancellor Helmut Koh released the following press release; "Once more the storm clouds of war hang heavy over Germany. Despite our best efforts, the current crisis looks to be without a peaceful resolution. The Federal Republic of Germany will stand fast with our NATO allies and face any aggression directed against our nation and Europe. We

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Vol. XVII, No. 46

JULY 30, 1985

50 Cents



French Stand With NATO

A stormy session between the French president and the Soviet foreign minister in Paris today ended when the Soviet foreign minister warned the French president that the national interests of France would best be served if that nation did not involve itself in the current crisis between the Soviet Union and the United States. In a statement immediately after the meeting, the president announced that France would stand by her treaties and do her part to defend Europe against aggression from any quarter.

The president went on to announce that the French military forces, with the exception of its strategic nuclear forces, would actively cooperate with other NATO nations during the current crisis. Many will stand fast with our NATO allies and face any aggression directed against our nation and Europe. We stand as

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LATE EDITION - JULY 30, 1985

50 Cents



Iron Lady Prepares For War

Today the British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, informed the nation that the British Army was on a full war footing and ready to fight. She stated that the territorial army and reservists have been mobilised and most have joined their units, and the regular army units in Germany are at full war-time strength and on full alert, prepared for any eventuality.

Reports of NATO mobilisation have been flooding in from all over Europe. The Bundeswehr have mobilised their regular forces and massive troop movements have been observed as Federal units move up to the eastern border. American, British, Dutch, Belgian and Danish troops have also begun taking up positions in the Federal Republic. Along the East German and Czech borders locals report increased activity, mostly at night.

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Vbl. XVII, No. 47

AUGUST 1, 1985

50 Cents



Countdown to World War III?

Unconfirmed reports from Brussels, headquarters for NATO, state that the NATO nations have ordered their armed forces to mobilize and commence deployment to wartime positions. While there is no official word from Washington concerning this, announcement of an address to the nation by the president at seven o'clock this morning, followed by a joint press conference by the secretaries of state and defense, seems to add credibility to these reports.

East German authorities have closed all border posts to the east and cut the railway line to the west leaving West Berlin cut off from the west. Tegel Airport is operating and the West Berlin A...

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Vbl. XVII, No. 50

SPECIAL EDITION AUGUST 4, 1985

50 Cents

RUSSIANS INVADE WESTERN EUROPE!

AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN ALLIES GO TO WAR TO DEFEND FREEDOM FROM COMMUNIST OPPRESSION



The Weather

Hill Valley Telegraph

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THE COLD WAR



With the end of the Second World War in 1945, many hoped that peace might follow. These hopes were quickly dashed as the victors began squabbling over the spoils. For forty years, both sides faced each other across armed borders. Now, in 1985, this cold war is now a hot one. There is no more peace.

BALTIC SEA

Gdansk

POLAND

Poznan

Wroclaw

When the Germans took on the whole of Europe almost single-handedly in the Second World War, they sought to produce a bigger Germany. This would include much of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and some of France. When they lost the war, Germany not only lost all of their conquests, but Poland and the Soviet Union absorbed the eastern part of Germany.

Worse, the remaining part of Germany was split in four by the occupying Allied forces. Initially, this split was supposed to be a temporary administrative arrangement, but the formation of two opposing governments fixed this division in place. The Soviet-backed Communist government in the old capital of Berlin ruled the German Democratic Republic (GDR), known as East Germany, while the Western powers created a new government in Bonn to rule the remainder as the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), known as West Germany. The city of Berlin mirrored this configuration, being divided in to four parts as well.

The divide between East and West intensified in 1949 when France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and other minor states formed NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation),

for mutual defence, and then intensified further when the Soviet Union responded with the creation of the Warsaw Pact, uniting all of the Soviet-aligned states, in 1955.

Defections to the West from Soviet countries led to the creation of the infamous Iron Curtain, a mined and wired border strip running from the Baltic Sea to the Balkans, and the Berlin Wall. These fortifications limited passage between the two blocs to a few, carefully-controlled checkpoints.

Insurrections in East Germany and Poland, along with revolutions in Hungary and Czechoslovakia that required full-scale invasions by the Soviet Army to quell, added to Soviet difficulties. While NATO did nothing to overtly assist the revolutionaries, these incidents increased tensions.

Initially, the threat of Mutually Assured Destruction (given the appropriate acronym, MAD) in a massive nuclear counterstrike limited the size of the standing armies on both sides of the Iron Curtain. However, by 1980, the new Multiple Independently-targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) missiles, capable of destroying a dozen targets at once, and Anti-Ballistic Missiles (ABM) had forced a more layered nuclear strategy.

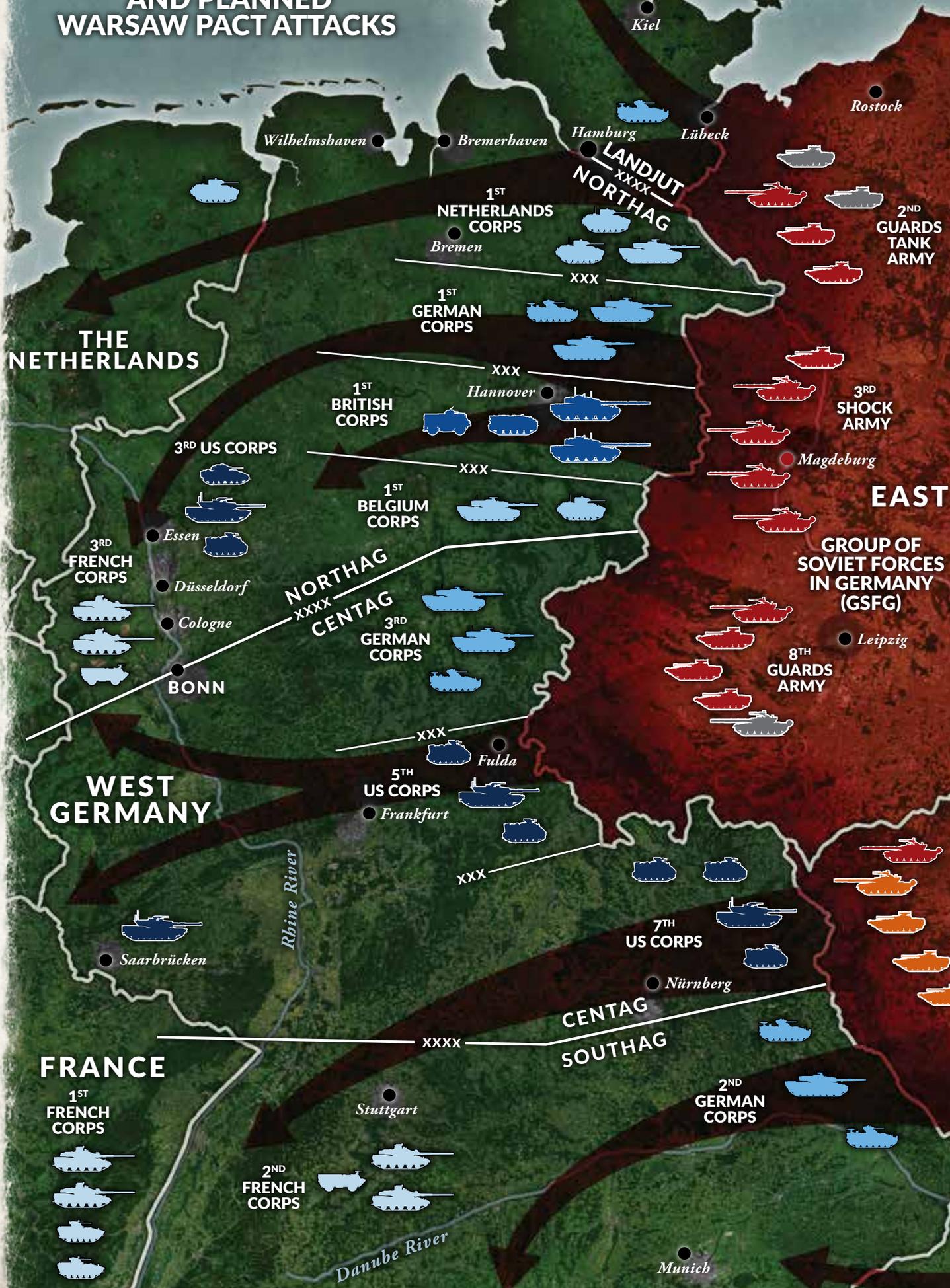
Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin, 1961



OSLOVAKIA

VIENNA

NATO AND WARSAW PACT DEPLOYMENT AND PLANNED WARSAW PACT ATTACKS





This change in strategy returned the emphasis to conventional warfare, and the 1970s saw a huge build up of military strength on both sides of the Iron Curtain, along with intensive efforts to modernise the ground forces' weaponry. Now in 1985, both NATO and the Warsaw Pact have huge armies deployed and ready to fight, with even more in reserve. The latest weapons are being deployed in ever-increasing numbers.

The main Soviet forces are the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG) of 25 Soviet and German divisions in the GDR, the Northern Group of Forces (NGF) of 16 divisions in Poland, and the Central Group of Forces (CGF) of 15 divisions in Czechoslovakia, a total of 56 divisions with around 13,000 tanks. This doesn't count the divisions in the western parts of the Soviet Union that will form the immediate follow-on waves.

Facing these are LANDJUT (Land Forces Jutland) defending Denmark and the Baltic Approaches with 3 Danish and German divisions, NORTHAG (Northern Army Group) covering the North German Plain with 11 Belgian, British, German, and Netherlands divisions, CENTAG (Central Army Group) covering the Fulda Gap with 10 German and US divisions, and the French SOUTHAG (Southern Army Group) facing Czechoslovakia with six French and German divisions. Another 12 British, French, Netherlands, and US divisions are ready to reinforce them at the first sign of trouble. These 42 divisions muster about 9000 tanks.

KEY

Each Symbol represents a Division

Armoured Divisions (represented by a tank icon)
 Armoured Divisions contain between 200 and 350 tanks and 11,000 and 20,000 troops

Mechanised Divisions (represented by a tank icon with a smaller turret)
 Mechanised Divisions contain between 50 and 220 tanks and 13,000 and 20,000 troops

NATO FORCES		WARSAW PACT FORCES	
United States			Soviet Union
Great Britain			Czechoslovakia
West Germany			East Germany
Belgium & The Netherlands			Poland
France			

AUSTRIA

COLD WAR HEATS UP

By 1985, the Soviet Union was in trouble. The hard-line Leonid Brezhnev had led the Soviet Union for eighteen years until his death in 1982. His successors were both old, sick men, and by April 1985, the post of General Secretary of the Central Committee was vacant again. Two decades of mismanagement and a war in Afghanistan (often described as the Soviet Union's Vietnam) had left the Soviet Union impoverished and discontented.

With a choice between the relatively young, reform-minded Mikhail Gorbachev and another hard-line Communist of the Stalin era, the Central Committee balked*.

** At this point, our story diverges from the history that followed Mikhail Gorbachev's appointment.*

Reform could mean the end of the Soviet Union. Instead, they chose to hold on to their lives' works. A victorious war to seize the resources of Western Europe would distract the people from food shortages, and stripping the Capitalist's wealth would buy time for their economy.

The Committee's plan required three carefully-managed steps to guarantee success. The army's reserves would need to be called up and front-line divisions brought to full readiness without alerting the West to do the same.

Then, a surprise attack would need to capture Denmark and the Baltic Approaches to get the navy out into the Atlantic, keeping the United States' reserves trapped on the wrong side of the ocean. Finally, the army would need to reach the Rhine in a matter of days, taking the German industrial heartland and the ports of Netherlands before the West could fully react. With NATO's armies smashed and the Soviet army on the Rhine, the West would be forced to sue for peace, sacrificing Germany for their own safety.

A routine exercise, enlarged to a full-scale test of mobilisation procedures, gave the excuse to ready the army, while reassuring the West that nothing bad was planned. The Iran-Iraq War in the Persian Gulf provided the perfect setting for an incident that provided an excuse for further mobilisation to 'protect the Soviet Union from unprovoked aggression'.





Loud protestations and vigorous diplomacy kept the West in a state of uncertainty, slowing their mobilisation. However, neither the US president, Ronald Reagan, nor the British Prime Minister, Maggie Thatcher, both strongly anti-Communist, delayed long in mobilising their forces. They quickly began the process of calling up reservists and preparing to send them to join their comrades in Europe. Other NATO countries followed suit, but mobilisation was still incomplete when the axe fell.

By Sunday, 4 August, 1985, everything was ready for the Soviet attack. Their forces crossed the border at dawn. By the end of the first day, Soviet operational manoeuvre groups had bypassed Hamburg and reached the ports of Kiel and Bremerhaven. The follow-on forces from the Northern Group of Forces were approaching the Danish border to meet up with naval forces landing on the coast. Third Shock Army was finding that its advance on Hannover across the North German Plain was progress-

ing more slowly as the 1st British Corps slowly retreated on their main line of resistance. Further south, the American 5th Corps was holding the Fulda Gap through the mountains in strength, virtually halting the advance on Frankfurt in its tracks. The Central Group of Forces out of Czechoslovakia were making progress through the mountains of the Bohemian Forest on the border, and were making good progress through neutral Austria.

As the days passed, the northern thrusts were the only ones even remotely on schedule. The entire NORTHAG now pivoted on 1st British Corps and extended westward to the Dutch coast. From there the front line extended almost due south, with CENTAG holding the Soviet advance in the Fulda Gap well short of Frankfurt. In the south, the advance had bypassed Munich and almost reached Stuttgart.

With the entire French Army committed and the British Army sending the last of its Territorial Brigades into action, ready or not, the last

NATO reserve were elements of the 3rd US Corps flown in from the United States to link up with pre-placed equipment. Things looked grim for NATO, but the Warsaw Pact was also running out of troops, having committed every available force to reach this far. Given time, both sides could muster more troops, but for the moment, that was everything.

It was at this point that NATO struck back with two major counterattacks. NORTHAG, using 3rd US Corps as a core, formed a multi-national force to strike from the British salient up towards Wilhelmshaven, aiming to cut off 2nd and 20th Guards Armies and the 1st Polish Army. Meanwhile CENTAG, having held the 1st Czechoslovak Army in front of Nürnberg, counterattacked reaching the Inner German Border with a thrust from 3rd German Corps. They then released part of 7th US Corps for a thrust towards Leipzig, and ultimately (if successful), Berlin. With these counterattacks, the war entered a new phase.



NATO

NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, was formed to defend Western Europe against an attack by the Soviet Union. Its main battleground was expected to be the western half of the politically divided Germany.

BRITAIN

Great Britain has maintained the British Army on the Rhine (BAOR) since the Second World War. Its mission is to defend West Germany, and in doing so Britain itself, from Soviet aggression. The British 1st Corps is deployed in front of Hanover on the Warsaw pact's main route to the Ruhr, the German industrial heartland. Its task is to halt any Warsaw Pact attack short of Hanover, or should that not prove feasible, to hold the Ruhr.

The approach of war has led to the raising of a British 2nd Corps in Britain. However, this cannot be expected to be ready for several weeks at best as it is being scraped together from Territorial units and detachments from around the world. Once it is ready to deploy, it will be used as a defensive force to free up 1st Corps for mobile operations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States has the strongest army in NATO, fielding the US 5th and 7th Corps in central Germany. On top of these, additional divisions are planned to fly in and link up

with pre-positioned tanks and equipment. A third layer of troops will be brought up to strength in the Continental US, then shipped in well-protected convoys across the Atlantic.

The US sectors holds some of the toughest terrain in Germany, so will prove a significant obstacle for Warsaw Pact attackers. However, a breakthrough here will undermine NATO defences further north.

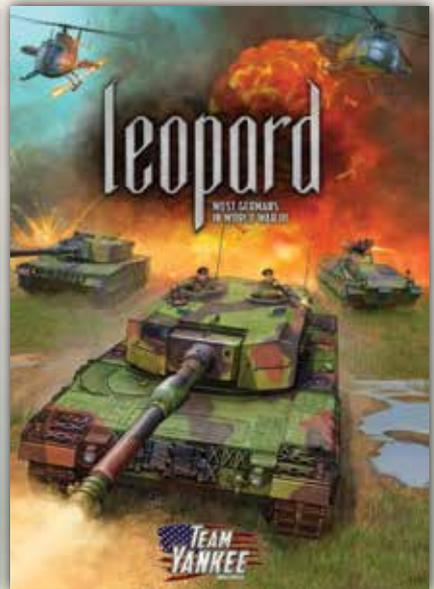
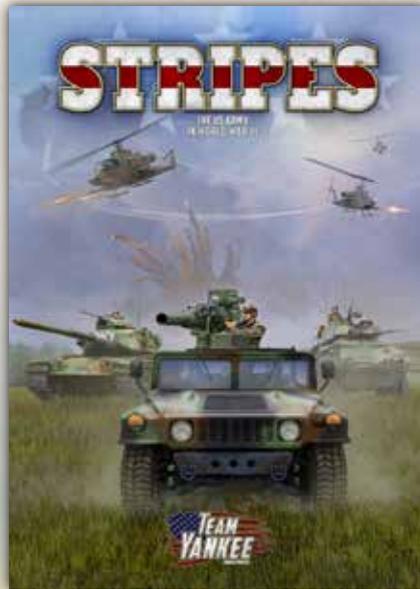
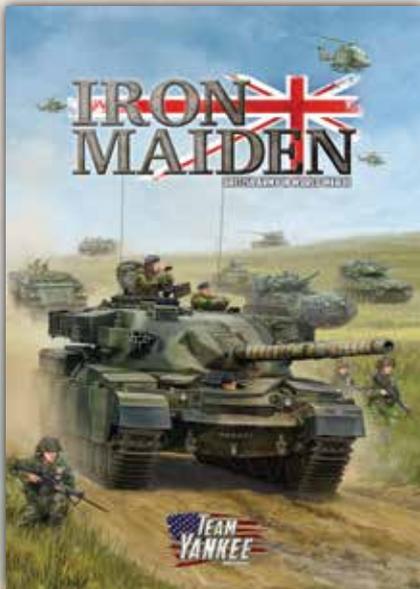
The US Army task is to hold the Fulda Gap and Hof Corridor, then prepare for mobile operations as a counterattack force.

WEST GERMANY

West Germany (the Federal Republic of Germany) has the most to lose in a war with the Warsaw Pact, and no other military responsibilities. As a result, it has three corps mobilised and in the field: German 1st Corps in NORTHAG alongside the British, German 2nd Corps in SOUTHAG, and German 3rd Corps in CENTAG alongside the US.

With a corps in each sector, their ideal is to defend all of their country. Practically though, the Germans recognise that a mobile defence based on aggressive counterattacks is their best chance against a Warsaw Pact attack.

Unlike the British and Americans, the Germans cannot afford to take a localised view of the battle. They must hold their own positions as best they can and assist their neighbouring corps if they are forced to give ground.



WARSAW PACT

The Warsaw Pact was the Soviet Union's answer to NATO, uniting the Communist Bloc into a single alliance. The armies of four Warsaw pact members faced NATO forces in Central Europe: the Soviet Union, the Democratic Republic of Germany (East Germany), Poland, and Czechoslovakia.

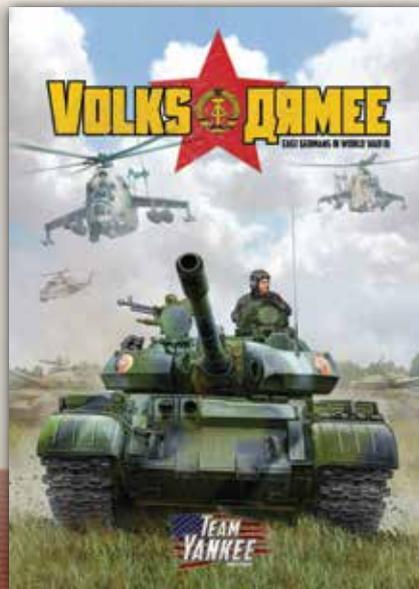
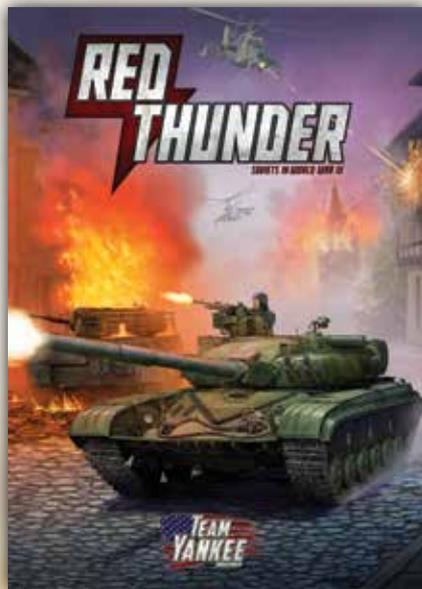
When the Central Committee of the Soviet Union decided to go to war with NATO, they realised that the only path to victory was a swift and brutal surprise attack that reached its objectives in a matter of days. The armies of the Warsaw Pact have been prepared under the guise of a full-scale test of mobilisation procedures, and now it is time to strike.

The most important initial task facing the Warsaw Pact is to capture Denmark and the Baltic Approaches (the narrow

passages between Denmark and Sweden) to allow the navy's Baltic Fleet out into the Atlantic where they can slow down the arrival of American forces.

Simultaneous thrusts to capture the German industrial heartland of the Ruhr and the Channel ports, Amsterdam in the Netherlands and Antwerp in Belgium will then increase in priority to become the main focus.

Further south, the most important goal is to liberate the rest of Germany as far as the Rhine, capturing NATO's stocks of tanks and other weapons awaiting American troops to man them. Should this thrust prove successful, it may be possible to cross the Rhine and enter France, driving it out of the war.



FIRESTORM: RED THUNDER

Firestorm: Red Thunder is the first instalment in an on-going campaign for *Team Yankee* that sees NATO and Warsaw Pact players fighting out the opening days of the Battle for Germany in August 1985.

To take part in the campaign, simply play games of *Team Yankee* and file battle reports on your victories and defeats (yes, even a report of a defeat can help your side in the on-going battle). Playing games will earn you achievement awards and increased rank in your nation's army.

NARRATIVE CAMPAIGN

As battle reports roll in, the graphs on the web site will update to show the situation in each theatre. When one side or the other achieves sufficient dominance in a theatre, they will capture it. As this happens, news reports will keep you up to date with the in campaign events and that theatre will be closed and the next one opened.

As the campaign is taking place in the wider world, events outside the players' control will also influence the course of the battle. Things like the arrival of American POMCUS reinforcements or Soviet high command committing the second-echelon Soviet breakthrough forces will have an impact as the campaign progresses. These events may carry the Warsaw Pact advance forward at an accelerated pace, or result in counterattacks that could potentially slow or even halt the advance.

BATTLE REPORTS

The key driver of the campaign is the games you play and the battle reports that you put up on the campaign website. You can make your battle reports as basic or sophisticated as you

like. If you are in a hurry, you can simply put in the result of your game, a win or a loss.

On the other hand, you can craft a battle report with photos and even videos to tell the story of your game. Players who read your battle reports can rate your reports and leave comments, earning you (and them) additional achievements and increased rank. Interesting battle reports may also impact the narrative of the campaign as the campaign develops.

STORES AND CLUBS

If you play at a local store or club, you can join their on-line profile and discuss your plans through the store's forum. If your store or club has played more battles than anyone else or has the best battle reports in your region, we'll feature you on the website at the end of the campaign.

One way great way of playing lots of games at your club or store is to run a *Firestorm: Red Thunder* event using the in-store campaign pack (see www.Team-Yankee.com for details). This allows you to run a map campaign, either in a single session over a weekend or over a period of weeks, and then enter the results into the on-line campaign for double the fun.

In addition, your club or store could win personalised tokens, templates, and objectives for their players just by participating in the on-line campaign.

START PLAYING

Take a look around the campaign website, visit your national briefing room to strategies with your compatriots, and plan a game.

