

BUESSENHOF/ YORKSHIRE-BRIDGE SCENARIO NOTES

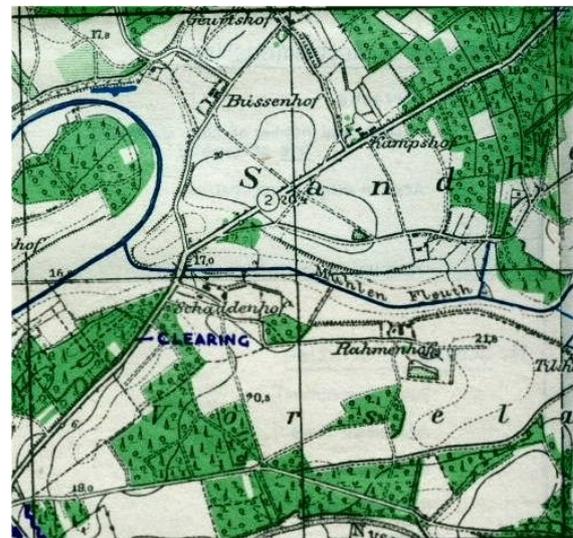
-by Huib Versloot-

The idea for this scenario was born after reading “*Der Zweite Weltkrieg zwischen Rhein und Maas*” by Heinz Bosch. This work describes the events at the Mühlenfleuth bridge in great detail. My main goal in all scenarios is to come as close as possible to a simulation of the real events in a playable game. Providing scenario designers use the right scale, Combat Mission is one of the best (if not THE best) suited games for such a simulation. Typical of the battles west of the Rhine in 1945 was the desperate situation the Germans found themselves in. They literally had to compensate the overwhelming material superiority of the Allies with fanaticism and ultimately blood. Especially the German Fallschirmjäger earned a reputation that they were not to surrender and would never give up, even if by this time in the war the majority of them was hardly 18 years or older. Thrown at them were some of the most brutal weapons in World War II such as the flamethrowers in the Churchill Crocodiles.

To make this scenario I walked the battlefield starting at the Mühlenfleuth bridge towards the Sandberg (which is now a military cemetery). Just before Weeze I turned east and walked through the woods for about 1,5 KM. Foxholes and massive craters (probably from the aerial bombing of Weeze) can still be found there. I then turned north towards the Rahmenhof, the farm where the Germans formed up for one of their counterattacks and where they took care of their wounded. From the Rahmenhof I walked towards the Schaddenhof, centre of the bridgehead. During the walk I observed that the landscape here is mostly free of hedges, ditches and fences or any other field separators. However tempting it may be to colour up the map with these, I decided to

leave them out for the sake of accuracy. The same can be said about the force mix. It is tempting to bring in a variety of weapons, but historical facts prevail. During this battle, the Fallschirmjäger didn't have anything other than their small arms and a lot of Panzerfausts. Later, during their counterattacks on the bridgehead they would be supported by artillery and a few Sturmgeschütze. These events are covered in the scenario “Yorkshire Bridge”.

Besides my own observations I used a British 1945 1:25000 map and Google Earth. The landscape has hardly changed in over 60 years.



These 4 square kilometres, I used for the scenario map.



The Sandberg is now a German military cemetery



Rahmenhof



The bridge over the Mühlenfleuth



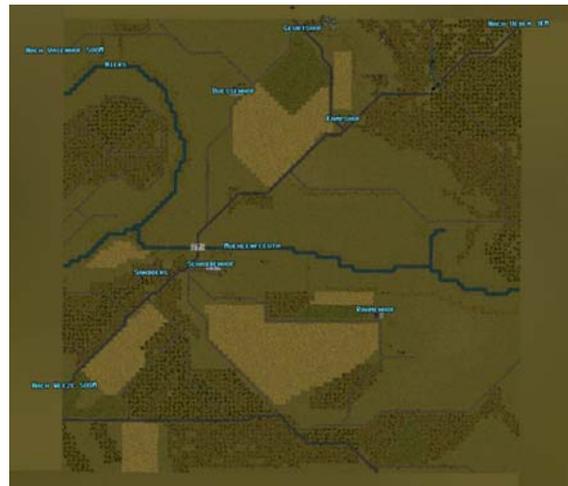
The patch of woods between Rahmenhof and Schaddenhof



Google Earth is an excellent tool



Schaddenhof



The CMAK map