

# “An Orchard of Runes”



## Pfaffenheck, Germany — March 16th, 1945

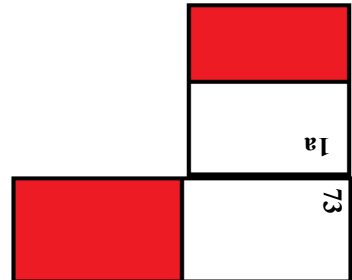
By mid-March of 1945, Patton’s 3rd Army was driving rapidly towards the Rhine River. After crossing the Moselle, the men of the 90th Infantry Division began the task of widening the American bridgehead and then moving to cross the Nahe River. German forces in the area began to concentrate in the Rhine-Moselle Triangle. And the village of Pfaffenheck would soon be the center of the vortex of battle as the 90th Infantry wrestled the 6th SS Mountain Division for control. After being pushed out on the 15th, the American 357th Infantry Regiment and five tank destroyers of the 712th Tank Battalion organized a dawn counterattack on the 16th to reclaim the village. The SS Mountain troops were entrenched in an orchard south of Pfaffenheck with supporting assault guns.



**VICTORY CONDITIONS:** The Americans win at game end upon controlling Hexes 1aJ8 and 1aN6. Any other result is a German victory.

### Board Configuration:

(Boards 1a & 73)  
(Overlay Hi12)  
Only Rows A-P on both boards are Playable and Hexes numbered < 10 on Board 1a.



German Player Sets up first	1	2	3	4	5
American Player moves first					



**Kampfgruppe Raithel (ELR 5) (SAN 3) (Set up: ON Board 73 in Hexes numbered >7 and on Board 1a in Hexes numbered <7)**



**3rd Battalion, 357th Infantry Regiment & 712th Tank Battalion (ELR 4) (SAN 2) (Set up: Enter Turn 1 on the South Edge.)**



### Special Rules/Notes:

1. EC are Wet with no wind at start. Kindling (B 25.11) and Bore Sighting (C 6.4) are N.A.
2. Place Overlay Hi12 on Board 1a on Hexes H4-I4.
3. German AFV’s set up HIP.
4. Place Rubble in Hexes 1aN7, 1aM8 and 1aL6.
5. Place Shell Holes in Hexes 1aN6, 1aM6 and 1aL5.



**Aftermath:** Kampfgruppe Raithel was tasked with defending Pfaffenheck. Raithel’s SS Mountaineers were supported with mobile flak guns and heavier assault guns. The Germans clung tenaciously to their entrenchments in the orchards south of the village. During the intense fighting, Pfaffenheck would change hands several times. By mid-afternoon hand to hand fighting raged in the woods and orchards. The Germans were inexorably pushed back and by nightfall the weight of numbers and additional American tanks signaled a German retreat. Pfaffenheck would finally belong to the Tough Hombres.