

# THIRTIETH INFANTRY DIVISION



"OLD HICKORY"



## THUMBNAIL HISTORY

*Editor's Note: The original edition of "Scrap" Book, distributed in March, 1945, reviewed briefly and illustrated in map and sketches the combat history of the 30th Infantry Division from the time it started fighting in Normandy on June 15, 1944, until it jumped off from Malmédy, Belgium, January 13, 1945, to drive, through rugged, snow-clogged, mountainous terrain, the German army from the territory it had gained in the bold mid-winter offensive.*

*It told of the 30th's initiation to back the 30th effected when it linked its veteran-like execution of son to close the gap. It described the series Vire et Tante Canal to packs to expand the bridgehead in Germany and costly spearhead strength along the west bank of the Roer River July 25, its spectacular working over the 30th gave the German 1st SS thwarted four G (Adolf Hitler) when the Old Hickorymen were rushed to Belgium to aid the First U. S. Army after Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt launched his great counter-offensive into Belgium.*

*This issue of "Scrap" Book continues, briefly, the story from there.*

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**T**he fighting to pry the Germans out of the Belgian Bulge in the rugged Ardennes forested mountains was as painful as any the 30th Division had done.

For there Old Hickorymen had much more than the enemy to fight. There the Germans were sitting inside looking out—looking down the throats of the attackers—which was bad enough, but to advance into their flaming weapons 30th riflemen and their supporting elements had to struggle through snow knee-deep on the level and in places up to their arm pits to climb the mountains and rout the defenders.

Battle casualties were heavy, non-battle casualties—frostbite, trench foot, exhaustion and pneumonia—the heaviest of any period. But the battle against the Germans and the elements was successfully prosecuted and after 11 days the 30th held the high ground looking down on St. Vith and the Germans' last point of vantage in the Belgian Bulge was denied them.