

KEMPTEN, GERMANY; IMST, AUSTRIA; FUSSEN GERMANY

day 63 - 65

With the war nearing an end, southern Germany, Bavaria and Austria had become a free-for-all to see how much German territory could be captured and held.



Kempten, Germany, lay just twenty miles south of Memmingen. On Friday, April 27, CC B rolled into Kempten at dawn after another sleepless night on the move. Elements of CC B bypassed Kempten and immediately stabbed farther south traveling

Present day Kempten

approximately 50 miles across the Austrian border to capture Imst, Austria, on Saturday, April 28.

Sunday, April 29, the 10th Armored Division backtracked north entering

Fussen, Germany, late eve-

ning.

In trying to locate an alternate route through the Alps, CC B was ordered south along the Lech River

once again crossing the Austrian border for a second time. Rounding narrow mountain roads barely wide enough for the medium tanks, CC B entered a large Alpine meadow tall with spring

grasses. A small band of German infantry were lying in wait, positioned on the opposite and right-hand sides of the meadow. When the Shermans entered the grassy clearing, the German infantry opened fire



Imst, Austria



Imst, Austria Skyline



Fussen, Germany

with a combination of small arms and panzerfaust. At this short distance the German fire was accurate and effective. Two Shermans were immediately and completely destroyed. The whole of CC B instinctively fanned out on the edge of the meadow as they motored beyond the two burning lead tanks. The Sherman main



Castles near Fussen, Germany

guns were rotated towards the flash and lingering smoke created by the blast of the panzerfaust. The tank gunners fired volley after volley of 76mm high explosive toward the direction of the enemy positions while the .30 caliber ball gunners quickly sprayed the meadow edges with a blanket of lead. Tall dry

meadow
grass was
sheared in
half by the
hot metal
and set on
fire by the
exploding
shells and
tracer bul-
lets.



Within minutes, return fire from the opposite edge of the meadow fell silent and the smoke dissipated to be replaced once again by crisp clear Alpine air. The German infantry had taken a stand, and paid

the highest
price.

