

# Perspectives in Military History

## Smashing Hitler's Panzers

The Defeat of the Hitler Youth Panzer Division during the Battle of the Bulge

**Mr. Steven Zaloga**

Independent Scholar and Author

Late in January 1945, through the snowy forests and farms of the Ardennes, the cream of Hitler's remaining army struggled through a muddy retreat, defeated in the final offensive the Wehrmacht attempted during World War II. The stubborn American victory over Hitler's "Autumn Mist" attack was by no means a foregone conclusion when the German command launched the attack a month earlier. Actions by the U. S. Army's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 99<sup>th</sup> divisions from the very start of the offensive stymied the push of the 12<sup>th</sup> SS Panzer Division on the roads to the essential port of Antwerp. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 7:15 PM, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, will host author and scholar Mr. Steven Zaloga who will present a talk based on his newest book, *Smashing Hitler's Panzers: The Defeat of the Hitler Youth Panzer Division during the Battle of The Bulge*. Mr. Zaloga will argue that the defeat of the 12<sup>th</sup> SS *Hitlerjugend* Division in the opening hours and days of the offensive were essential to the over-all failure of the German Ardennes Campaign.

Mr. Steven Zaloga will outline his argument that the German offensive through the Ardennes Forest, known as the "Battle of the Bulge," hinged on the first days of the attack. The only Americans to hold their section of the line capitalized on German planning mistakes pushing back one of the primary components of the attack, the 12<sup>th</sup> SS Panzer Division. The failure of the 12<sup>th</sup> in the battles of Krinkelterwald, Krinkelter-Rocherath, and Dom Butenbach against portions of three U.S. Army infantry divisions was essential to the German defeat, well before the fighting at Bastogne.

Mr. Steven Zaloga received his BA in history from Union College in New York, his MA in history from Columbia University, and completed his graduate work at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. He has been involved in defense studies since 1978 and has been a senior analyst at Teal Group Corp. in Fairfax, VA since 1992. He has served as adjunct staff with the Strategy, Forces, and Resources Division of the Institute for Defense Analyses and is the author of numerous books on military history and military technology, including extensive publications on tank and armored vehicle development, as well as World War II military history. Some of his recent books include *The Devil's Garden*, about the German defense of Omaha Beach on D-Day, and *Patton vs. the Panzers* about the Lorraine campaign in September 1944.

**DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

**TIME: Doors open at 6:30 PM and the talk begins at 7:15 PM**

**PLACE: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multipurpose Room**

**For updates and any last-minute changes in "Perspectives" meeting times and places, please check: [www.USAHEC.org](http://www.USAHEC.org) or call the Information Desk: 717-245-3972.**