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Germany

## **THE FULDA GAP**

A Survey of MHI Sources

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### **SINCE 1945**

Cook, John L. Armor at Fulda Gap: A Visual Novel of the War of Tomorrow. NY: Avon, 1990. 224 p.  
PZ4.C645Ar.

U.S. Army Engineer Topographic Laboratories. "Effects of Built-up Areas on Armor Operations in the Fulda Corridor: (MOBA Phase II)." Arlington, VA: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, 1976. 87 p. UG473.G3.E33.

### **WORLD WAR II**

Near the end of war, when Anglo-American forces raced eastward across Germany toward the Elbe River, the Third U.S. Army swept through the southern part of the Fulda area, early Apr 1945. The First U.S. Army did likewise in the northern end. See:

Dyer, George. XII Corps: Spearhead of Patton's Third Army. Baton Rouge: Military Press of LA, 1947. pp. 392, 396, 400 & 402. #04-12- 1947.

Gersdorff, Frhr. v. "The Final Phase of the War: From the Rhine to Czech Border." USAREUR Foreign Military Study draft translation, 1946. pp. 1 & 23-33. D739.F6713noA-893.

MacDonald, Charles B. The Last Offensive. In USAWWII series. Wash, DC: OCMH, 1973. pp. 374-76. D769A533v3pt9.

Shalka, Robert J. "The 'General-SS' in Central Germany, 1937-1939: A Social and Institutional Study of SS-Main Sector Fulda-Werra." PhD dss, U WI, 1972. 437 p. DD253.62.F86.S52.

Steward, Hal D. Thunderbolt. Nashville, TN: Battery Press, 1981 reprint of 1948 edition. pp. 15 & 17-18 of section entitled "Over the Rhine." #05-11AR.1981.  
11<sup>th</sup> Armored Division.

U.S. Army. First Army. Report of Operations. Vol. 12. Wash, DC: GPO, 1946. pp. 55-58.  
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\_\_\_\_\_. Third Army. After Action Report, Third U.S. Army, 1 August 1944-9 May 1945. Vol. I. Regensburg, Germany: 1945. pp. 337-342. #03-3.1945v1.

U.S. Army. V Corps. V Corps Operations in the ETO, 6 Jan 1942-9 May 1945. France, 1945. pp. 422-23. #04-5.1945.

\_\_\_\_\_. XII Corps. HQ. "Report of Operations, 1 Apr-8 May 1945." Germany, 1945. pp. 5 & 9-13.  
#04-12.1945/4.

\_\_\_\_\_. 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division History, World War II. Germany, 1945. pp. 38-39 & 41. #05-26.1945.

Zehler, Albert. "409<sup>th</sup> Replacement Division." USAREUR Foreign Military Study, 1946. 15 p.  
D739.F6713noB-209.

**See also:**

-Diaries of Chester Hansen (12<sup>th</sup> Army Group HQ), William Sylvan (First Army HQ), and Hobart Gay (Third Army HQ), Arch.

**AUSTRO-PRUSSIAN (Seven Weeks') WAR, 1866**

In this brief conflict, which culminated in the decisive defeat of the Austrians at Sadowa (or Koniggratz) in Bohemia, a peripheral campaign along the Main River involved the Fulda Gap. Frankfurt am Main was defended by Austrian-allied forces, chiefly under Prince Alexander of Hesse and Prince Charles of Bavaria, who attempted to secure the region by marching on and holding Kassel. They were driven back by a Prussian Army under von Falkenstein, who then proceeded south through the Fulda Gap to defeat the South German forces in a series of battles along the Main River. See:

Adams, C. & King, C. Cooper. Great Campaigns. Edinburgh: Blackwood & Sons, 1877. pp. 342-43, 374-75 & 378-85. D361.A21.

Hozier, H.M. The Seven Weeks' War: Its Antecedents and Its Incidents. Vol. II. London: MacMillan, 1867. DD438.H8.

Narrative of the campaign in Chaps II-III.

Malet, Alexander. The Overthrow of the Germanic Confederation by Prussia in 1866. London: Logmans, Green, 1870. pp. 233-35 & 263-77. DD438.M34.

von Moltke, Helmuth K.B. "Moltke's Military Correspondence, 1866." Army Staff College typescript, Ft Leavenworth, KS, 1911. pp. 279-83. D436.M72513.

Prussia. Army. General Staff. Campaign of 1866 in Germany. [Translated from the German by Colonel von Wright & Henry M. Hozier] Nashville, TN: Battery, 1994 reprint of 1872 edition. pp. 33-37, 46-47 & 59. DD438.C3613.

Rothert, Eduard. Karten and Skizzen aus der Vaterlandischen Geschichte der letzten 100 Jahre (Neueste Zeit). Vol. IV of Historischen Kartenwerks. Dusseldorf: Bagel, 1916. Map #19. DD89.R84v4.

### **NAPOLEONIC WARS-Third Coalition-Jena Campaign, 1806**

Napoleon and his Grand Army invaded Prussia from positions in southern Germany along the Main River. In early October, he marched northward through Saxony and concentrated superior numbers at Jena, where he decisively defeated the divided Prussian-Saxon army. The remaining Prussian forces also met defeat at nearby Auerstadt, allowing Berlin to fall to the French. Meanwhile, the key to Napoleon's successful strategy had been the protection of his left flank and line of communications. The latter ran along the Main River from Mainz to Wurzburg. He anticipated that the Prussians would threaten his flank and communications by attacking through the Fulda Gap while his Grand Army entered Saxony. Although some Prussian units did reach Fulda, the threat was eliminated by the rapidity of French movement to Jena and the decisive battle there. See:

Dodge, Theodore A. Napoleon. Vol. II. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1904. pp. 350-52, 354-57 & 364-65. DC151.D62v2.

Lachouque, Henry. Napoleon's Battles: A History of His Campaigns. London: Allen & Unwin, 1966. pp. 136-39. DC151.L313.

Marshall-Cornwall, James. Napoleon as Military Commander. London: Batsford, 1967. pp. 152-53 & 156-57. DC203.95.M3.

U.S. Military Academy. Department of Military Art & Engineering. A Military History and Atlas of the Napoleonic Wars. NY: Praeger, 1964. pp. 58-60. G1796.S62.E8.

**SEVEN YEARS' WAR, 1756-1763**

In this long conflict, Prussia and its renowned soldier-king, Frederick the Great, battled most of the major powers of Europe, save Great Britain. The Fulda Gap figured in at least four campaigns of Frederick's able general, Duke Ferdinand of Brunswick, whose allied army in western Germany kept the French at bay throughout the war. In the Minden campaign of 1759, Ferdinand's army advanced south from Kassel through the Fulda Gap to Frankfurt am main, where it was repulsed by the French forces under Broglie. Ferdinand's line of retreat ran north through the gap to the vicinity of Minden, where he gained the initiative and a victory. The next year, Ferdinand again maneuvered against Broglie's forces, which had advanced against him from Frankfurt via Fulda-Kassel. In 1761-1762, the gap yet again figured in the movements of these contending forces. See:

Germany. Great General Staff. Der Siebenjahrige Krieg, 1756-1763. Vol. 11. Berlin: Mittler und Sohn, 1912. Map: "Skizze zum Gefecht bei Fulda am 30 November 1759" DD411.P97v11.

Jomini, Baron. Treatise on Grand Military Operations: Or a Critical and Military History of the Wars of Frederick the Great..... [Translated from the French by S.B. Holabird] Vol. II. NY: Van Nostrand, 1965. pp. 49-55, 185-89, 304-11 & 379-83. U102.J8v2.

Keegan, John, & Wheatcroft, Andrew. Who's Who in Military History. NY: Morrow, 1976. p. 118. U51.K43.

Longman, F.W. Frederick the Great and the Seven Years' War. NY: Longmans, Green, 1903. pp. 160-65. DD411L66.

Rothert, Eduard. Karten und Skizzen aus der Vaterland Geschichte der Neueren Zeit (1517-1789). Vol. III of Historischen Kartenwerkes. Dusseldorf: Bagel, 1920. Maps 17-18 & 20. DD89.R84v3.

**THIRTY YEARS' WAR, 1618-1648**

In this protracted religious-political conflict, which centered around the aspirations of the Hapsburg dynasty, the various German states served as battleground for the contending forces. They involved the Fulda Gap on at least three occasions: once in 1631, when the Imperial army under Tilly passed through Fulda in pursuit of the Protestant army of Gustavus Adolphus, and twice again in 1645 and 1646. In the latter campaigns, French Marshals Turenne and Conde, along with Swedish General Wrangel, maneuvered against Bavarian and Imperial armies under Archduke Leopold. See:

Dodge, Theodore A. Gustavus Adolphus. 2 vols. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1890 & 1895. D246.D64v1-2.

Vol. 1, pp. 272-73 & 286-87, and Vol. II, pp. 474-77.

Hozier, H.M. Turenne. London: Chapman & Hall, 1885. pp. 77-79. DC130.T9.H6.

Lloyd, Francis. Marshall Turenne. London: Longmans, Green, 1907. pp. 102-05 & 110-13.  
DC130.T9.L3.

Malleeson, G.B. The Battlefields of Germany: From the Outbreak of the Thirty-Years' War to the Battle of Blenheim. London: Allen, 1884. pp. 42-45 & 203-07. D247.M25.

### **PAX ROMANA: Rhine Frontier, ca. 29 B.C.-37 A.D.**

While attempting to define and defend its northern frontiers, the Roman Empire of Augustus and Tiberius dispatched expeditions into territories of the Teutonic tribes east of the Rhine River. The territory of the Chatti or Chatten tribe comprised the areas later known as Hesse and Thuringia. At least one Roman punitive expedition, the fourth under Nero Claudius Drusus, appears to have marched through the Fulda Gap in 10-9 BC. See:

Dupuy, R. Ernest, and Trevor N. The Encyclopedia of Military History. NY: Harper & Row, 1977. pp. 115-16 & 125-26. D25.A2.D8.

Ferguson, Adam. History of the Progress and Termination of the Roman Republic. London: Jones, 1829. pp. 423-24. DG243.F35.RareBook.

Niebuhr, B.G. Lecture on the History of Rome..... Vol. III. London: Taylor, Walton & Maberly, 1849. pp. 158-59. DG209.N55v3.RareBook.

Rothert, Eduard. Karten und Skizzen aus der Geschichte des Mittelalters. Vol. II of Historischen Kartenwerkes. Dusseldorf: Bagel, 1915. Map 1. DD89.R84v2.

The Works of Tacitus. Vol. II. London: Bell & Daldy, 1872. pp. 320-22. DG207.T3213.