

AMBUSH IN THE HEDGEROWS

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Ambush in the Hedgerows is a short, systemless encounter designed for characters of any skill level. The encounter is set after D-Day, in the bocage hedgerows of Normandy. However, with slight modification it can be dropped anywhere into Europe.

SETUP

The characters are sent to scout the Allied route through the bocage. The PCs come across a herd of cattle blocking the road. As the PCs enter the open, a machinegun nest on a nearby hill opens fire.

1. ROAD: This old road is made of hard packed earth and is difficult to traverse after a good rain. A herd of cattle has escaped through a break in a stone fence. The cows are milling around, blocking the road. The animals are docile and can be directed by loud verbal commands.

2. FIELDS: These fields contain several dozen shaggy cows.

3. HEDGEROWS: The hedgerows consist of a 3' tall earthen berm with another 6' of hedges and vegetation on top. The hedgerows provide partial cover to anyone firing from behind. A wrought iron gate in the northeast hedgerow provides access to the field beyond. Otherwise, it takes a full round to cross through the tangled hedgerows, during which time no other action may be taken.

4. STONE FENCE: This stone fence is approximately 4' tall. It provides partial cover to anyone firing from behind.

5. HILL: This grassy hill is 20' tall. The hill is steepest closest to the road, but slopes gently on the other sides.

6. MACHINEGUN NEST: This machinegun nest is fortified with sandbags and provides partial cover to anyone firing from within. It is manned by a machinegun crew consisting of three German soldiers: a gunner, a loader, and a rifleman. The machinegun is an MG34. The nest itself can be taken out with heavy weapons such as bazookas or panzerschreks.

German Soldier (3): Kar-98 bolt-action rifles, two (2) grenades, bayonet.

OPTIONAL COMPLICATIONS

- The cattle on the road stampede once the machinegun opens fire.
- The slopes of the hill behind the Machinegun Nest are mined.
- A squad of German soldiers is positioned behind the hedgerows west of the road.

SUPERNATURAL/WEIRD

- The machinegun is a new superscience weapon whose rounds burn through cover without slowing.
- The machinegunners are ghosts of German soldiers from WWI that have risen to defend Germany.
- The hedgerows are abominations that entangle the living and drain their blood.

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