

For three days the Germans counterattacked. Massive mortar shelling was followed by the relentless tank squads and a swarm of infantry. "It was street to street, building to building, and sometimes room to room," Arnald says. Time was spent moving through the town, on perimeter watch, or trying to rest. There was very little of the latter. Standing watch was generally a four-hours-on, two-hours-off duty. Constant vigilance and lack of rest burned the eyes and, "When you go days like that, it's not hard to imagine the origin of the phrase 'the thousand-yard stare' when talking about the front-line soldier. Maybe you've seen that empty look in the eyes of combat men."