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WWII-ETO-Germany 1945

BERLIN, 1945

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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George Patton's Third Army came closest to the German capital that spring. See Third Army histories, in particular the 3-volume After Action Report (#03-3.1945/2), which includes maps on its route across Germany. The map on p. 357, Vol. I, indicates that the closest Third Army came to Berlin was the town of Geringswalde, about 50 kilometers southeast of Leipzig and at least 175 kilometers from the capital. The 6th Arm Div was in the Geringswalde area 19 - 21 April. See also:

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NOTE: The first Russian artillery shells fell in Berlin at 1130 hrs, 21 April, according to Ryan's Last Battle (cited above, p. 417). The exact hour when the first Russian soldier stepped into the city is not known, but street fighting commenced on the 22d, according to these sources:

U.S. Military Academy. The War in Eastern Europe (June 1941 to May 1945). West point, NY, 1949. p. 139. D764.U5.

Willemer, Wilhelm. "The German Defense of Berlin." USAREUR Foreign Mil Study, 1946. 8 p. D739.F6713nop-36.

ANGLO-AMERICAN DECISION

Apparently no detailed operational plan was ever prepared for the Anglo-American capture of Berlin. By spring 1945, when its capture became plausible, Soviet offensives from the east undercut the military necessity for such Anglo-American action, leaving the matter to historical hindsight and speculation.