during this time." By nightfall outlying pillboxes had been reduced and the main defense positions had been reached.

On the morning of the eleventh "without sleep for two days and nights," Meigs again led his battalion in an attack. He and his lead tanks reached the top of a ridge which the enemy proved to have "zeroed in" with 88 mm. guns from well-concealed positions. Three tanks were hit as the first assault wave reached the top. Meigs sent back orders to his company commanders to stop and try to locate the enemy guns. He himself with his lead tanks began to reconnoiter toward the village of Betthuville, 1,000 yards to the right flank. Seeing a gun flash there, he ordered the company commanders to fire smoke on the edge of the village and the lead tanks to withdraw to cover. At that moment his own tank was hit in the turret by an 88 and he was instantly killed. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star; "Lieutenant Colonel Meigs's actions during the three days' operations under artillery, mortar and small-arms fire set an example for all the officers and men of his battalion, inspiring them to continue the attack on the Division objective, which was taken on December 12, 1944."

Before going overseas, Meigs had been married to Elizabeth Griggs, daughter of Captain John B. Griggs, U.S.N. Montgomery Cunningham Meigs, Jr., was born January 11, 1945, one month after his father's death.

Note (Excerpt from a letter): "The history of the 12th Armored Division can never be adequately written. . . . My only hope is that we will not have to take the same ground again, for I have learned what must be paid to take it. Most of my friends, as well as Mont's, were killed. Of the three original Tank Battalion Commanders, two were killed and the other crippled for life. Of the original twelve Company Commanders, six were killed and the others were wounded, or captured after being wounded. The 43rd Tank Battalion was entirely annihilated at Herrlisheim in Alsace on January 17, 1945, with a 100% loss in Tanks in 24 hours. I spent the last five months of the war in Europe in German hospitals and prison camps. . . . I don't want you to feel that it was a strange quirk of fate that caused Mont's death. To the contrary: it was a strange quirk if a man got back." 

The 43rd and 23rd Tank Battalions were both in the 12th Armored Division.