



THE SOVIET – FINNISH WINTER WAR

HULKONNIEMI ON THE PALOVAARA ROAD

28th December 1939

Having pushed on to Suomussalmi Village, the Soviet 44th Division had won its objective after hard fighting, only to find the village completely destroyed by the Finns. The exhausted Soviet troops had battled through the worst northern winter in almost a century. Their food supplies had run out, they were short of fuel; the most basic medical services and their losses had been very high.

They had come to the realisation that promised supply columns were not going to reach them. The men had become demoralized, horse transport was stopping as their animals died in the extreme cold and through lack of food and care. Tanks and trucks had suffered many breakdowns, leaving all units very short of vehicles.

The only alternative seemed to be to fight their way back down the Palovaara Road in the hope of linking up with their main army, where supplies might be more available. However the Finns continued to apply pressure on their frontal positions making it hard to disengage.

After 24 hours without any communications along the road, a task force was sent back to see if their lines had been cut. Indeed they had, for Finnish forces had circled through the forests and set up a roadblock in front of the small village of Hulkonniemi. Felled logs blocked the roads. The Finns had also placed barbed wire and some of the few mines they had, to prevent the Russians retiring. The Troops manning the roadblock were a motley bunch by the standard of most armies, but the Soviets had already learnt that what ever else they might be, the Finns knew how to fight.

This scenario for 15mm miniatures has been designed for

BLITZKRIEG COMMANDER RULES

It will cover the desperate Soviet attacks of December 28th 1939 as the trapped Soviet forces struggled to break out of encirclement in this Frozen Hell.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WARGAMES MONGRELS.



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FINNISH FORCES

CO.

Colonel Mäkineniemi.

PPP6. (6th Bicycle Battalion.)

HQ. 1 Base. Captain Juutilainen.

1 Medium Machine Gun. (3/50 hits 5)

1 Medium Mortar. (Captured)

2 Anti Tank bases. (Molotov cocktail) (2/1 hits 2)

1st Company. (Operating as Ski troops) 3 Bases. (4/30 hits 6)

2nd Company. (Operating as Ski troops) 3 Bases. (4/30 hits 6)

3rd Company. (Bicycles & Skis) 3 Bases. (4/30 hits 6)

Engineers. (Ski troops with sled) 1 Base. (3/30 hits 6)

LIGHT COMPANY HALILA.

HQ. 1 Base. (Captain Paavola)

3 Bases Reconnaissance Ski Troops. (3/30 hits 4)

1 Ski anti tank base. (Logs, Molotov cocktails) (2/1 hits 2)

1 Medium machinegun. (3/50 hits 5)

GUN COMPANY 5.

Battery HQ. (Major Kylanmaki)

1 Forward Observer + telephone line.

2 x 76.2mm field guns. (Pulitov) (2/ direct fire to visibility.)

These guns have no anti tank rounds. Count as -1 on hits.

3 HE. 1 SMOKE.

53rd PST-J. (Anti tank platoon)

1 x 37mm anti tank gun. (Captured)

1 x anti tank rifle base. (2/20 hits 3)



SOVIET FORCES

44th Division task group.

CO. Colonel Marekov. 1 Base.

144th Infantry Regiment.

HQ. 1 Base. Lt.Colonel Basarinok.

1st Battalion. 3 companies but battalion is at half strength. 1 x 76.2mm Inf. gun.

2nd Battalion. 3 companies, but battalion is at 2/3rd strength. One MMG. 1 Mortar.

3rd Battalion. 3 companies, but battalion is at 2/3rd strength. One MMG. 1 Mortar.

Total for regiment, 1 HQ base, 17 bases of infantry, 1 x IG, 2 x MMG. 2 Mortars.

Tank Battalion.

1 HQ. Major Miokovic. With FAI armoured car.

1st Company. 2 x T28E.

2nd Company. 3 x T26S + 1 x OT26.

3rd Company. 2 x BT-5 tanks.

Light Tank Reconnaissance Company.

1 x BA-6 Radio version, as HQ. Captain Soulow.

3 x T37 light tanks.

3 Bases of reconnaissance infantry with Komsomolets carriers.

Anti Tank Company.

Under the direct command of Task Group CO.

3 x 45mm guns with Komsomolets tractors.

Artillery Battery.

1 x FAO base.

76mm Divisional guns x 2. Horse tow. 4 x HE. No smoke.

122mm M07/22 Howitzers x 2. Horse tow. 3 x HE. 1 Smoke.

AIR SUPPORT.

2 x I-16 or I-15 strafing attacks.

The force has 9 Moves in which to break the Finnish roadblock.



Hulkonniemi (ruins)

Small Wood

Tangled wood with shell holes and rocks. High bank on lakefront.

Whole battle area very deep in snow.

Light wood.

Wooded hill slopes this way

Cliff

SOVIET forces start from here.

Soviet reconnaissance force arrived this way before other units of task force via the Palovaara road.



Soviets need to open up supply route along the Palovaara Road.

Ruined farm with lots of wrecked vehicles and shell holes around it.

