GUNNING FOR GAS

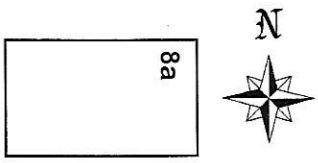
SCHWERPUNKT SCENARIO SP261

SITUATION: ORDZHONIKIDZE, Russia, 6 November 1942: The German blitzkrieg needed gas, and the main objective for the thrust into the Caucasus was to seize the oil fields located there. The 13th Panzer Division spearheaded the final offensive before the onset of winter. Beginning the offense in late October with good weather and Luftwaffe support resulted in the 13th Panzer Division trapping numerous units in encirclements and destroying them. Pushing onward to the strategic city of Ordzhonikidze, the offense started to stall when it began to rain, grounding the Luftwaffe. The Russians were able to establish a defense on the edge of town consisting of newly formed Guards rifle brigades from re-purposed airborne units, plus ample lend-lease items supplied through Iran. Just as the Germans were about to renew their offensive efforts, the Russians counterattacked. The counterattack came from the north and the south. The Russian counterattack destroyed the German support and supply units located to the west. However the combat units of the 13th Panzer Division faired well in a hedgehog defense. By the end of the day, the 13th held on, but was encircled themselves.

Source: Forczyk, Robert, *The Caucasus 1942-43, Kleist's Race for Oil* (Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, 2015) pp. 15-22 and pp. 80-87.

MISSION: The Russians win at game end if they control ≥ 9 stone building/stone rubble hexes.

MAP ORIENTATION:



OPTIONS:

★ Add a 4-5-8 to the 7th Guards Rifle Brigade.

✠ Add a 4-6-8 to the German at-start OB.

COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. EC are Wet, with no wind at start.
2. Due to fuel shortages, treat all German vehicles as if they have red MPs (D2.51) and stall on a DR 11 as per Russian vehicle note M.
3. The PzIVF1 has AP9.
4. The M3A1 SC(a) inherent HS passenger is a 3-2-8 (instead of a 2-3-7).
5. For the Valentine II(b), use either the British counter, or the Russian Valentine V(b) with following changes: ROF: 1, Slow Turret Traverse and Low Ground Pressure.
6. Russian 6-2-8 NKVD squads that enter on Turn 2 are NKVD (VotG 22).

Scenario Design: Mike Augustine 090316.9

MISSION LENGTH

★ RUSSIAN SETS UP FIRST AND MOVES FIRST	★✠ 1	★ 2	3	4	5

★

{ELR: 3}
{SAN: 2}

7th Guards Rifle Brigade set up ≤ 5 hexes from K1 and/or P5.

4-5-8	9-1	HMG	LMG	ATR
8				

5th Guards Tank Brigade and 6th Guards Rifle Brigade enter turn 1 on the north edge (see Coordinating Instructions #4 & #5).

6-2-8	8-1	LMG	DC	Lee(a) 2/4/2*	Valentine II(b) -/4	M3A1 SC -/-/6*
3				2	2	

11th NKVD Division enter turn 2 on the south edge.

6-2-8 NKVD	4-2-6	9-0	ATR
2	2		

✠

{ELR: 4}
{SAN: 3}

Elements of Panzer Regiment 4, Panzer Division 13 set up on board 8a outside the Russian set up area (see Coordinating Instructions #2 & #3).

4-6-8	9-1	8-1	8-0	MMG	LMG	ATR	DC	PzIIIH 3/5	PzIII J 3/5	PzIVF1 3/5	SPW 251/1
9					3			2	2		

Reinforcements enter on/after turn 1 on the west edge (see Coordinating Instruction #2).

4-6-7	8-0	LMG	ATR	SdKfz 10/5
3				