

The Road to Moscow I: Crossing the Border,
22 June - 3 July 1941

Operation Barbarossa Begins

INTRODUCTION

This is the first of a series of eight linked scenarios, depicting Operation Barbarossa from 22 June 1941 to 5 February 1942.

The scale of each scenario:

Map Scale: 10 km per hex

Time Scale: Full-day Turns

Unit Scale: Divisional Units

Scenarios vary from three to eight weeks in length, and an eighth hypothetical scenario VIII. What if?

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

My idea of a good game is one that allows a player to achieve the historic results with a skill and a bit of luck. I focus on that more than game balance and playability. But at the end of the day, it is really a balance of all three- historically realistic results, balance and playability.

DESCRIPTION

This West Point map shows the situation on the East Front in the early morning hours of 22 June 1941 as the German Army launches Operation Barbarossa. The invasion force was divided in three the operational army groups: North, Center and South as depicted on the map.

Army Group North make incredible advance through the Baltic toward Leningrad, just off the north edge of the map. To the south, Army Group South advanced half-way to the Black Sea in less than a month. In the middle, Army Group Center faced the bulk of the Soviet forces, conveniently packed, based on the idea of avoiding a war of attrition by engaging in an aggressive counterattack to any invasion.

The Road to Moscow will follow Army Group Center as it crosses the Bug River and advances towards I. Minsk and the Dnepr River, II. Smolensk, III and IV. Kiev, and V. Vyazma depicting on this map.

PLAYER NOTES

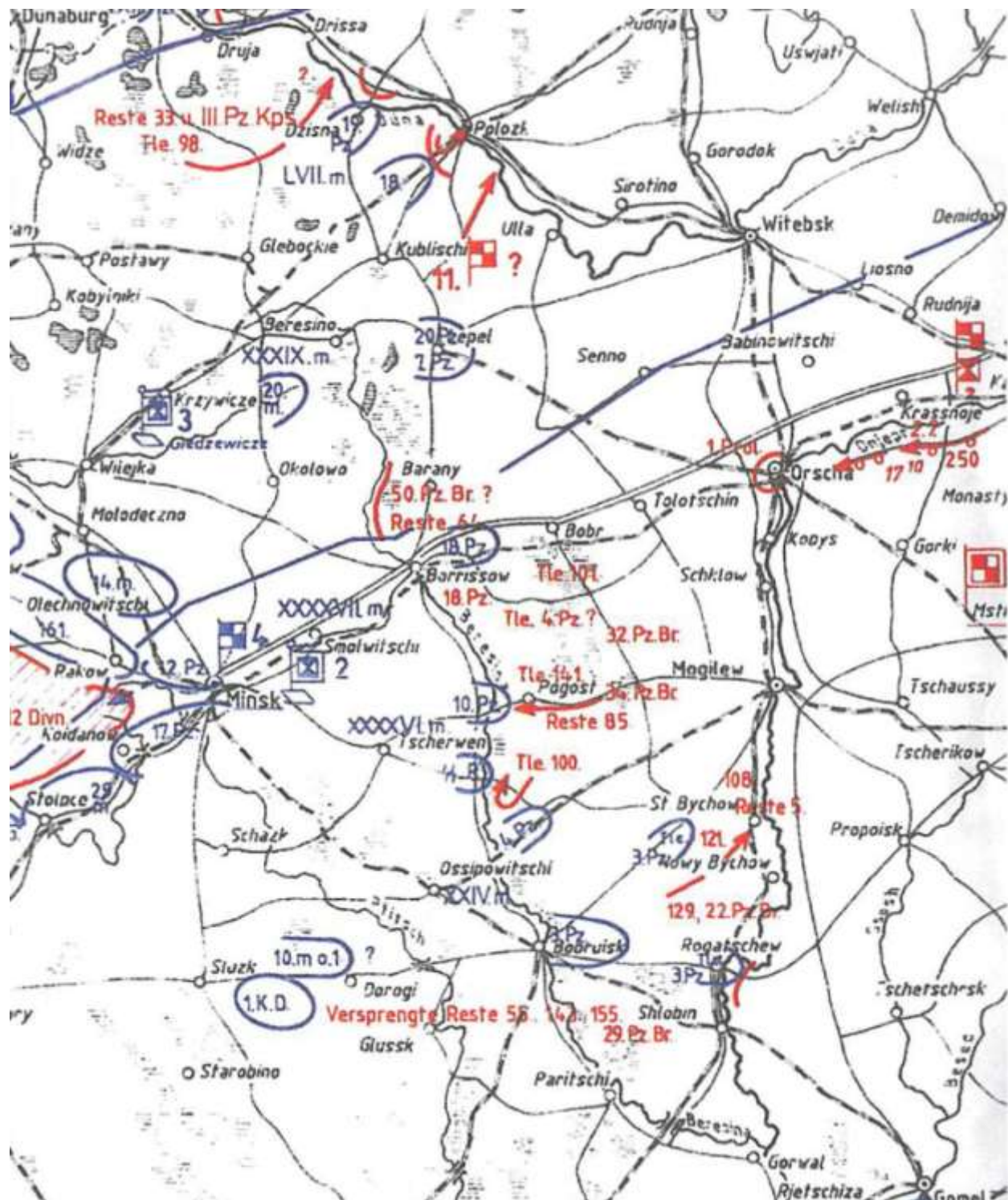
The Germans have a marked advantage over the Soviets. But to win, historically and in the game they must take most of the Berezina River crossing in just twelve turns. It does not take much to throw their time-table off.

Supply is also major factor- the Germans must carefully manage their railroad repair.

Map 1. The Operational Map of Army Group Center, dated 3.July1941, showing the sector from Minsk to the Dnepr River and the position of the lead elements of the panzer divisions.

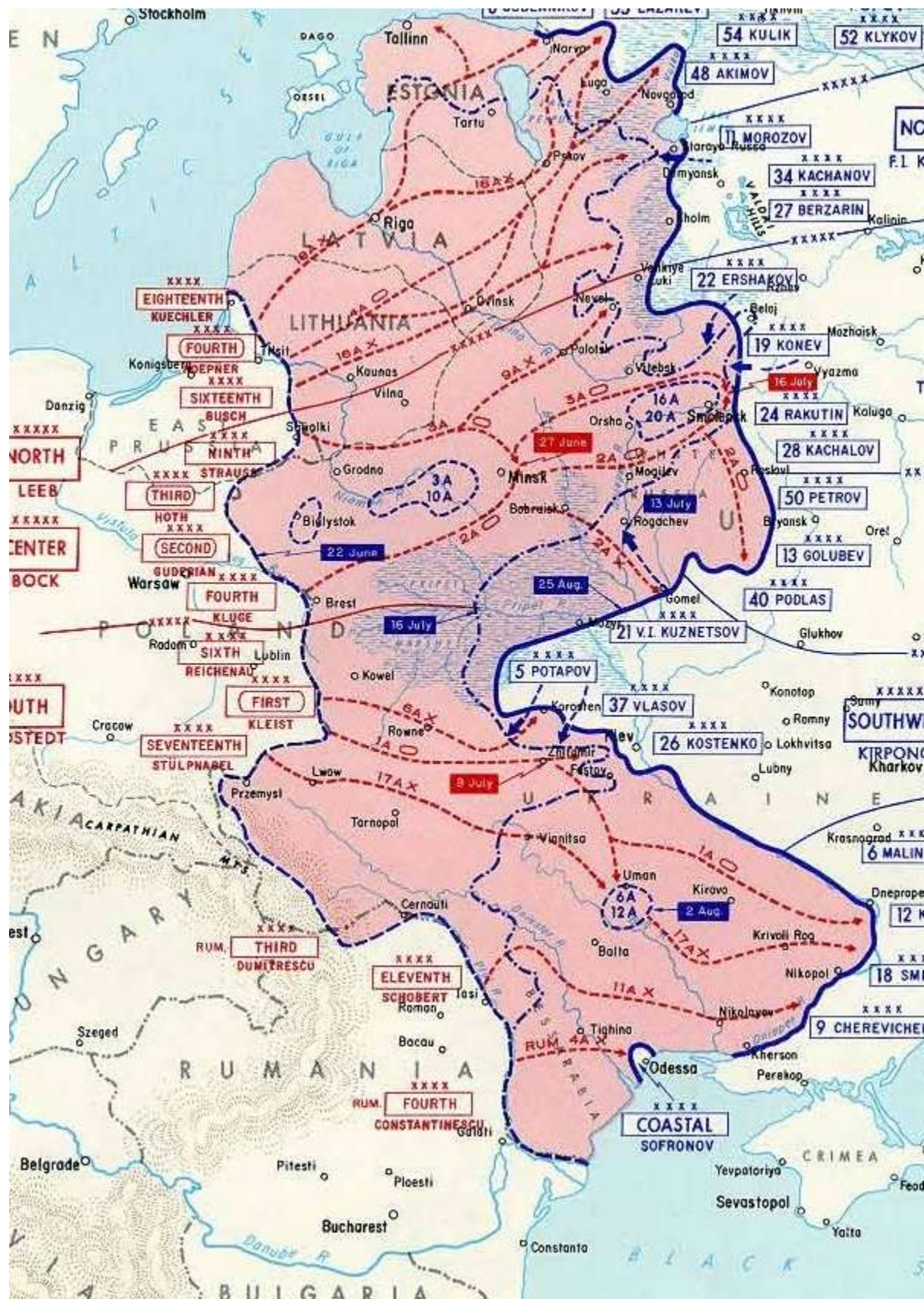
Map 2 shows the same area on the Operational Art of War scenario map. These are the German player's objectives. Holding all of five crossings will give the Germans a victory and in excellent position to advance to Smolensk.

Map 1



Map 2





Acknowledgments

Thanks to Oberst Wilhelm Klink (Klaus), Larry Fulkerson, Steve Sill for their helpful playtesting and constructive criticism.

Many thanks to Soren 'Doc' Gaun as well as other members of the FITE team, Kristian 'Teufel' Kristensen, Stefan 'Snefens' Kristensen for allowing elements of the OOB, TOE, and .eqp values of their scenario FITE2 to be incorporated in Road to Moscow Series

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