

Eastern Front 41-45 Axis Survival Guide 8/2024 v1.1 Comments to fabio.governato@gmail.com
EF rewards playing strategies that closely mirror the historical ones, Read the Scenario Guide PDF (you have time, a game will last 6+ months!) BUT, here is a short survival guide with (mostly historically based) advice on operational level strategies.

Opening Turns and Summer 1941

- **Be aggressive in your advances, but rest your Panzers when at 30-40% supply/readiness**
- On Turn 1 Use your air force to bomb the Soviet airfields, aim for 1000-2000+ destroyed planes
- After the first turns set your Fighters on "Ignore losses" and your bombers on "Minimize"
- Pick three main rail lines and set all your Rail units to repair them. Place your supply Units within 3 hexes of the frontline to boost supply..
- Split and recombine your units as needed to cover your flanks and surround enemy units
- Place your HQs next to your frontline troops and to cross rivers to maximize supply¹
- Use your Panzers to advance on narrow fronts and encircle. Support them with the Luftwaffe
- Minimize Losses should be your default for the Infantry unless attacking in urban terrain
- Encircle and destroy as many units as you can
- It's fair to practice the opening turns, that is the experience you gained in France and Poland

Mud Season and Winter 41

- Make sure your units are close to roads and rail lines to avoid "overextended" penalties
- Decide when to stop, go on the defensive and entrench your infantry, sooner is better than later!

Spring Summer 42

- Moscow, Leningrad or the Caucasus? You can probably focus on only one at the time
- Concentrate your air and mobile forces
- Encirclements will be smaller and more difficult, but still possible
- Split units to cover the more quiet parts of the front
- Use Tactical Reserves to protect your frontlines, bring in heavy artillery to use on fortified positions
- If the Red Army gets too ambitious too early, give ground, then counterattack.

Winter 1942 - 1943

- You might have resources for one or two limited offensives.
- Your tank units will be stronger and slower. Use them as reserves and for counterattacks,
- Use geographical features (major rivers) to form strong lines of defense
- Do not be afraid to lose ground rather than infantry
- Form mobile reserves on railines a few hexes behind the front line.

1944

- Delaying and avoiding unnecessary infantry losses is the main strategy
- Hold on to the Dnepr (or the Don if you did well in 1943)
- Defend supply sources (Ploesti) and capitals/cities to avoid withdrawal of Axis satellites
- Your Recon capabilities will decrease, expect a good opponent to mask their offensives
- The Red Army will be mobile and its artillery strong, do not underestimate it.
- Do not get surrounded and protect your HQs!

1945

- Defending Germany will likely be your main goal., shorten your lines as much as possible
- Keep your infantry entrenched with HQs and reserves behind, disband unessential units
- If you make it to May 1945, you get the option to play an (unhistorical) counteroffensive!

¹HQs contain "Support Squads" to represent logistics. Losing Support Squads due to combat losses will decrease supply for that formation. Avoid using HQs in combat unless necessary. Losing an HQ or too many Support Squads will be a serious setback.