

Eastern Front 41-45 Red Army Survival Guide 7/2024

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Playtesting has shown that EF rewards playing strategies that closely mirror the historical ones. All out attacks and inflexible defense will likely fail against a good player...or even the AI! Read the Scenario Guide PDF (you have time, a game will last 6+ months!) BUT here is a short survival guide with advice on playing EF 41-45 as the Red Army/Soviets. Some probably applicable to other East Front scenarios as well.

Summer 1941

- **Don't panic and never underestimate your enemy. Counterattack!**
- Any line of defense will fail. Defend in depth and use tactical and operational reserves
- After the first few turns counterattack any weak or exposed Axis unit. Use Ignore Losses
- Split your armies to cover your frontline. Ideally 2 Corps at the front and one in Tactical reserve
- Save your HQ at all costs and keep them away from the frontline¹
- Save the mech units and use them only as reserves and/or for vital counterattacks
- New units arrive as empty shells. Wait a turn before moving them close to the front.
- Make sure you disband the "Replacements" units that arrive regularly (check PDF for details)

Mud Season and Winter 41

- Make sure your units are close to roads and rail lines to avoid "overextended" penalties
- Entrench your infantry and build a reserve. Grow your infantry up to 90-100+k squads.
- Use the blizzard bonus to retake important ground: focus on railways and defensible features

Spring-Summer 42

- **Defend Moscow, Leningrad and/ or the Caucasus? Be patient.**
- Concentrate your (still weak) mobile forces to form a reserve behind the frontlines.
- Give ground and avoid encirclements! Keep your HQ behind with your reserves
- Use Tactical Reserves and natural obstacles to protect your frontlines.
- Recombine your Corps into Armies to increase their proficiency. A dug in Army is strong
- Use engineer and reserve armies to prepare entrenchments, then disband them

Winter 1942 - 1943

- The initiative will be slowly shifting in your favor. Form reserves at the Front level.
- Decide the areas of your next offensive(s). Concentrate Supply, Rail Repair, Air and Tank units
- Wait for your Artillery Corps and HQs to fill in with heavy guns. They will be very powerful
- Disband any "light red counter" units to strengthen more modern units.
- Check which of your HQs have sufficient (70%+ of TOE) Support squads (logistic support)

1944

- Consider changing production focus if low on infantry or anything else
- railroads are important to support your offensives, decide what lines to repair first
- You will have Air Superiority. Set all air units to Ignore Losses to support attacks
- Use your HQs on the frontline to use their artillery on prepared offensives
- Use infantry+arty to break through, then exploit with tanks. Encircle the enemy when possible
- Aim for capitals/cities to cause the withdrawal of Axis satellites

1945

- Berlin should be your main goal! Focus your heavy artillery to cross the Oder
- Set Tanks Armies and the Air Force (the VVS) on Ignore Losses, preserve infantry

¹ HQs contain "Support Squads" to represent logistics. Unsuccessful offensives 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.