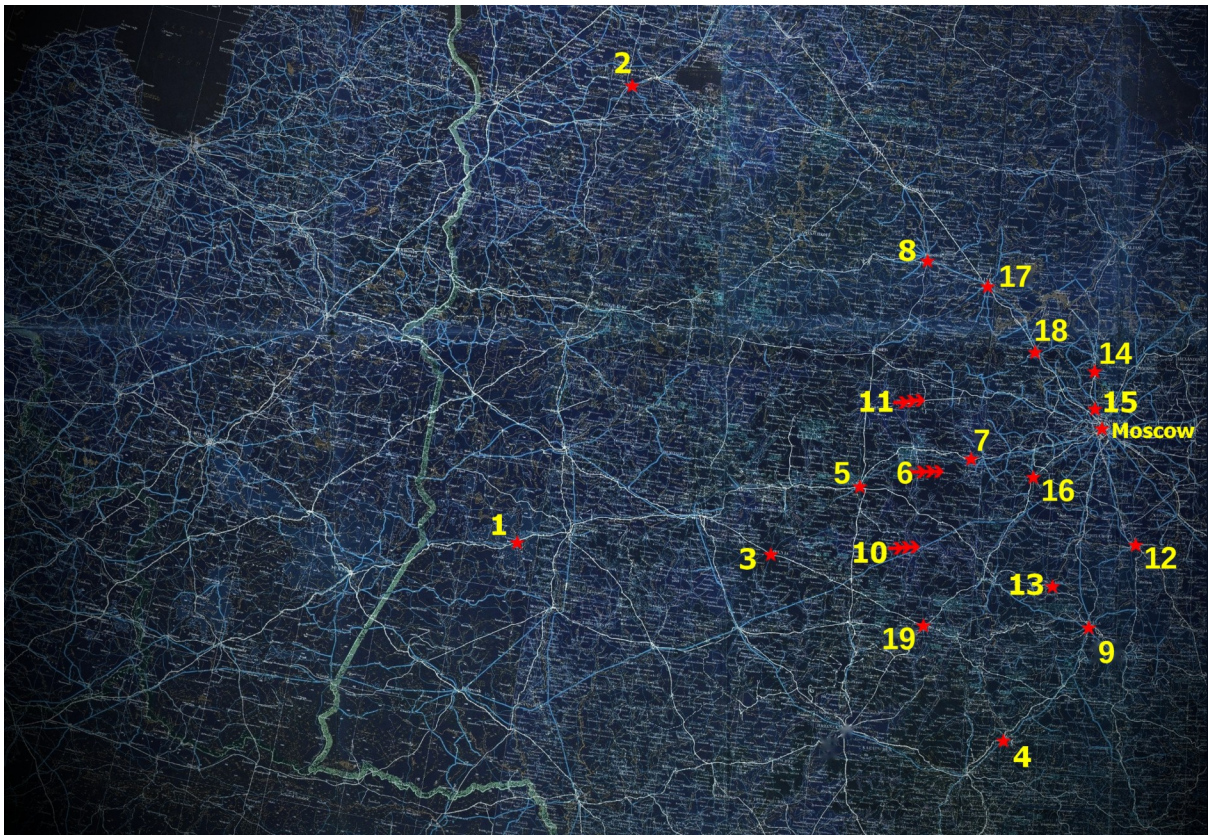
Eastern Front History Through Twilight in the East Scenarios

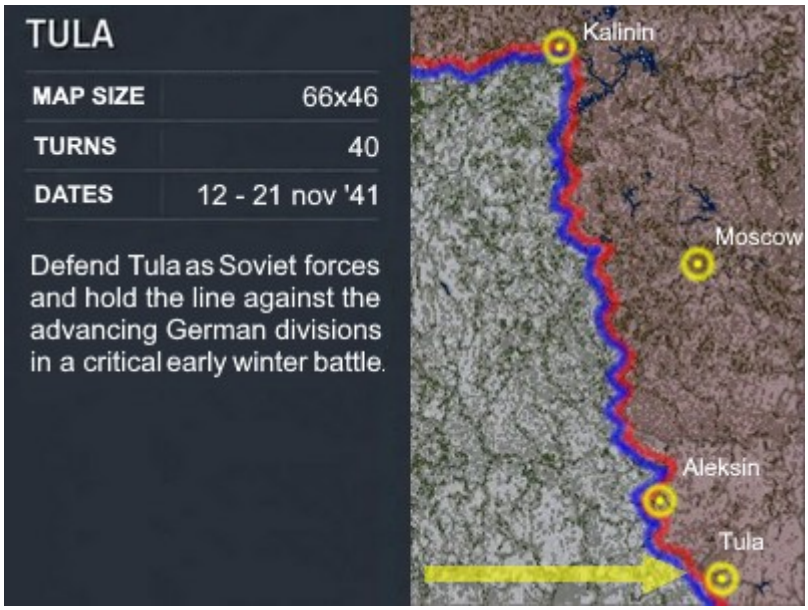
by Davide Gambina v.1.1

November 1941 – January 1942



Scenario	Timeline	Turns	Map
01 > Tolochin	07 - 09 july 41	7/12	(50 x 30)
02 > Soltsy	13 - 17 july 41	20	(40 x 28)
03 < Yelnya	01 - 08 sep'41	32	(37 x 37)
04 > Mtsensk	04 - 08 oct'41	20	(82 x 78)
05 > Vyazma	04 - 12 oct'41	36	(182 x 128)
06 > On to Moscow	10 - 21 oct'41	48	(296 x 114)
07 > Borodino	13 - 17 oct.'41	20	(32 x 26)
08 > Torzhok Road	16 - 21 oct'41	32	(80 x 40)
09 > Tula	12 - 21 nov'41	40	(66 x 46)
10 > Typhoon	16 nov.-5 dec'41	80	(296 x 334)
11 > Assault on Moscow	16 nov.- 5 dec'41	80	(250 x 200)
12 > Kashira	25 - 30 nov'41	24	(48 x 74)
13 > Aleksin	26 - 29 nov'41	16	(26 x 28)
14 > Yakhroma Bridg.	28 - 30 nov'41	12	(46 x 44)
15 > Khimky	29 nov-04 dec'41	24	(36 x 34)
16 > Naro Fominsk	01 - 05 dec'41	20	(40 x 30)
17 < Kalinin	05 - 11 dec'41	28	(90 x 64)
18 < Klin	11 - 15 dec'41	20	(46 x 34)
19 < Suchinichi	18 - 24 jan'42	28	(96 x 76)

" Tula " 12 - 21 November 1941 (40 Turns)



As the German war machine surged towards Moscow in the autumn of 1941, one of the pivotal clashes unfolded in the Tula region, a critical area that stood between the advancing Wehrmacht and the Soviet capital.

For the Germans, securing Tula was seen as a vital step in cutting off Soviet defenses and opening the door to Moscow itself. However, as the battle for Tula intensified in early November, the German forces, spearheaded by von Kluge's 4.Armee and Guderian's 2.Panzergruppe (renamed 2.Pz.Armee on october 5), found themselves embroiled in a protracted struggle that would test both sides to their limits.

Timeline of Key Events

On 2 November 1941, formations of von Kluge's 4. Armee entered the Tula region with the intention of capturing the city and neutralizing Soviet resistance. However, the advance was far from easy. The German forces were initially slowed by the resolute defense put up by the Soviet 194th, 238th, and 258th Rifle Divisions.

As frontal assaults against the Soviet defensive lines proved increasingly ineffective, the Germans sought alternative strategies, attempting to outflank the Soviet positions. However, these efforts were similarly thwarted by the strong Soviet defense and a series of timely reinforcements, including the remnants of the 50th Army, which had previously been trapped in the Briansk encirclement.

This intervention by the 50th Army helped stabilize the situation in the Tula region, buying precious time for the Soviets. Despite the setbacks, the Germans persisted in their efforts to break through, but the battle for Tula was far from decided.
General Heinz Guderian, after his initial failure to breach Tula's defenses directly, opted for a change in strategy.

On 3 November, he ordered his forces to bypass Tula to the southeast and east, aiming to strike through the towns of Dedilovo, Stalinogorsk, Venev, and Kashira in an effort to outflank the Soviet defenses. The move was bold, but it met with further complications.

By 7 November 1941, as Guderian's Panzers pushed towards Dedilovo, Soviet counterattacks from both the 50th Army from the north and the 3rd Army from the south struck the advancing German flanks, the German offensive had been halted, and Guderian's maneuver was checked.

Undeterred, General Heinrici's XLIII Korps launched another attempt on 10 November to sever the Soviet lines of communication by striking south of Aleksin. The objective was to disrupt Soviet supplies and force the 50th Army to abandon its defensive positions in Tula. However, the Germans were met with fierce resistance, and the attack failed to break through.

Despite these setbacks, the German forces regrouped. The first half of November had seen repeated attempts to capture Tula, whether by frontal assault from the south or by flanking movements to the north and east. Yet, the resolute Soviet defense, aided by the active participation of Tula's civilian population, held firm. The defenders were determined to keep the Germans at bay long enough for reinforcements to arrive.

On 18 November, after a 10-day pause to regroup and resupply, Guderian renewed his offensive in the northeast, focusing on the key towns of Dedilovo and Stalinogorsk. By the end of 18 November, German forces had captured Dedilovo, where Soviet resistance had been mounted by the 413th Rifle Division and the remnants of the 299th Rifle Division.

On 21 November, the Germans captured Uzlovaya, with Kampfgruppe Eberbach entering the town at 16:00. Then, on 25 November, Stalinogorsk fell to the Germans, marking a significant breakthrough. However, the Soviet response remained swift.

On 22 November, General Boldin replaced Yermakov as commander of the 50th Army, bringing renewed energy to the Soviet defense.

The Soviet retreat from Stalinogorsk left the Germans facing the potential for a deep breakthrough into the heart of Soviet positions. Yet, Guderian no longer had the strength or sufficient supplies, and the front line stabilized with both sides seeking to regroup their forces.

By 5 December, German forces had made limited progress toward Kashira but failed to achieve a significant breakthrough south of Moscow, and the Soviet defenses remained largely intact.

The winter was coming, and the Germans would soon be forced to contend with a harsh new reality.

Scenario Overview

This 40 turns scenario captures the fierce back-and-forth struggle for Tula and the critical German offensive towards Moscow in early November 1941. As the German forces under Guderian attempt to encircle and break the Soviet defenses, the Red Army, with the 50th Army and the determined garrison of Tula, fights to hold the line.

For the Germans: Your task is to breach Soviet defenses and capture key towns such as Tula, Dedilovo, Stalinogorsk. You must balance frontal assaults with flanking maneuvers, all while managing your forces against a resourceful Soviet defense. Can you break through before the winter sets in?

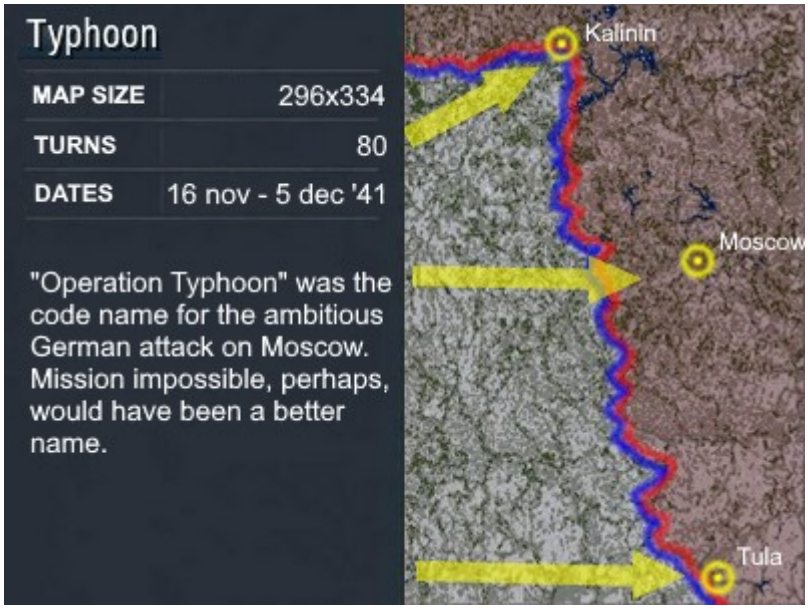
For the Soviets: You must delay and, if possible, repel the German advance, making full use of your entrenched positions and reinforcements. Hold Tula and prevent the Germans from executing their flanking maneuvers. Can you hold long enough for the situation to stabilize and prepare for the counteroffensive?

Victory Conditions

The Germans must capture Tula and the key towns in the region, Dedilovo and Stalinogorsk, and inflict significant losses on Soviet forces. The Soviets must prevent this, using their defensive positions and counterattacks to stall the German advance. The timing of your actions, especially given the winter's approach, is critical. This scenario presents players with a difficult challenge, balancing offensive aggression with the need to conserve and protect their forces as the Germans push deeper into Soviet territory.

The outcome of the battle for Tula, and the surrounding areas, will shape the course of the war, either paving the way for the Germans to threaten Moscow or delaying their advance long enough for the Soviet winter counteroffensive to take hold. The choices you make here may very well decide the fate of the entire Eastern Front.

" Typhoon " 16 nov - 05 dec 1941 (80 turns)



The German offensive towards Moscow, codenamed Typhoon (or Taifun), was one of the most ambitious and high-stakes operations of World War II. Launched on 2 October 1941, it aimed to encircle and capture the Soviet capital, thereby delivering a fatal blow to the Soviet war effort. However, despite early successes, the offensive found itself stalled by a combination of logistical challenges, weather, and fierce Soviet resistance.

By the end of October, the Germans were only 35 miles (55 km) from Moscow, but their advance had ground to a halt in the mud of the Russian autumn. The first phase of Operation Typhoon was a race against time as German forces, pushed to the limit of their supply lines, sought to break through Soviet defenses and encircle Moscow.

By 31 October, the worsening “rasputitsa”, the autumn mud season, halted German armored formations, leaving Heeresgruppe Mitte in a precarious position. A temporary halt was ordered by OKH to allow for logistical reorganization and to wait for the ground to freeze, permitting the German armor to resume their push.

By mid-November, the “rasputitsa” had ended as the ground finally froze, allowing the Germans to resume their offensive. This second phase was marked by a renewed push towards the Soviet capital, with the 3rd and 4th Panzergruppe tasked with advancing from the north and south to encircle Moscow. The Germans now sought to complete the pincer movement, with the northern arm aiming to capture Klin and Solnechnogorsk, while the southern thrust bypassed the still-defended city of Tula and pushed towards Kashira and Kolomna.

The Battle for Moscow

The Germans restarted their armored push on 15 November, their momentum renewed by the freezing ground. The 3. and 4. Panzergruppe advanced towards Klin and Solnechnogorsk with the goal of cutting off Moscow from the north. Stalin's counter-offensive plans, aimed at launching a series of Soviet attacks in the Volokolamsk sector, had drawn many of the Soviet reserves away from the immediate Moscow area, leaving the Germans with an opportunity to exploit gaps in the Soviet defense.

The Germans quickly seized Klin on 21 November, after fierce fighting, and then captured Solnechnogorsk just four days later. The resistance was stiff, but the Germans were able to push forward, although the pace of the advance began to slow as Soviet forces fought doggedly to defend their positions. Meanwhile, in the south, General Guderian's 2. Panzerarmee (renamed 2.Pz.Armee on October 5), bypassing Tula, advanced toward Kashira and Kolomna, seeking to link up with the northern pincer at Noginsk, to the east of Moscow. Despite these advances, the outcome of the battle was far from certain. Soviet resistance remained strong, and German progress was impeded by well-prepared defensive lines.

By 28 November, the 7.Panzer Division had captured a bridgehead across the Moscow-Volga Canal, only 22 miles (35 km) from the Kremlin. However, this would be the high point of the German advance. A fresh Soviet counterattack by the 1st Shock Army, launched shortly after, drove the Germans back across the canal, marking the beginning of the end for Operation Typhoon.

The Germans continued their push in early December, launching a direct assault on the Soviet defenses west of Moscow, but this offensive, conducted without adequate armored support and against formidable defenses, quickly ran into trouble.

By 5 December, after several days of intense combat and heavy losses, 10,000 men and dozens of tanks, the German attack was halted. As the Germans were forced to withdraw, the Soviet forces, bolstered by fresh reserves, counterattacked.

Soviet Resilience and German Strain

The Germans had gravely underestimated the strength and resilience of the Soviet forces. Early estimates had placed the Soviet defense at approximately 160 divisions and 40 brigades, with combat effectiveness rated at less than 50% due to training and logistical issues. However, by 1 December, the Soviets fielded 279 divisions and 93 brigades, many of them freshly formed and filled with units that had been hastily reconstituted and equipped.

On the German side, the situation had become increasingly dire. Logistical problems plagued Heeresgruppe Mitte, with supply lines stretched thin and the winter weather taking its toll. Temperatures dropped sharply in December, with lows reaching -20°C to -50°C, a climate for

which the Germans were ill-prepared. Troops, still lacking adequate winter clothing, suffered from severe frostbite, with over 130,000 reported cases.

German vehicles, designed for more temperate conditions, froze, and mechanical failures were widespread. Shells had to be heated before loading, and even the slightest delay in repairs or preparation could render vehicles immobile.

Scenario Overview

In this scenario, players will command both the German and Soviet forces during the critical months of Operation Typhoon from 15 November to 5 December 1941. The German player must attempt to push towards Moscow, exploiting the initial successes of the offensive and overcoming Soviet resistance. The Soviet player, on the other hand, must defend Moscow, holding key positions and managing limited resources to buy time for the eventual Soviet counteroffensive.

The scenario spans a total of 80 turns, covering the German attempts to reach Moscow, as well as the Soviet efforts to delay and counterattack.

The German player must balance speed with logistics, ensuring that their armored spearheads maintain momentum while avoiding overextension. The long supply lines and harsh winter conditions will pose significant challenges, and a failure to manage these will result in diminished effectiveness as the offensive wears on. The goal is to advance rapidly while securing key towns and cutting off Soviet forces before they can regroup.

The Soviet player must delay the Germans at all costs, using prepared defensive positions and harassing counterattacks to slow the German advance.

While the Soviets have numerical superiority, their forces are widely dispersed, and they lack the mechanized strength to confront the German Panzer divisions head-on. The key to Soviet survival lies in holding Moscow long enough to allow reinforcements to arrive and for the harsh winter to sap the Germans' strength.

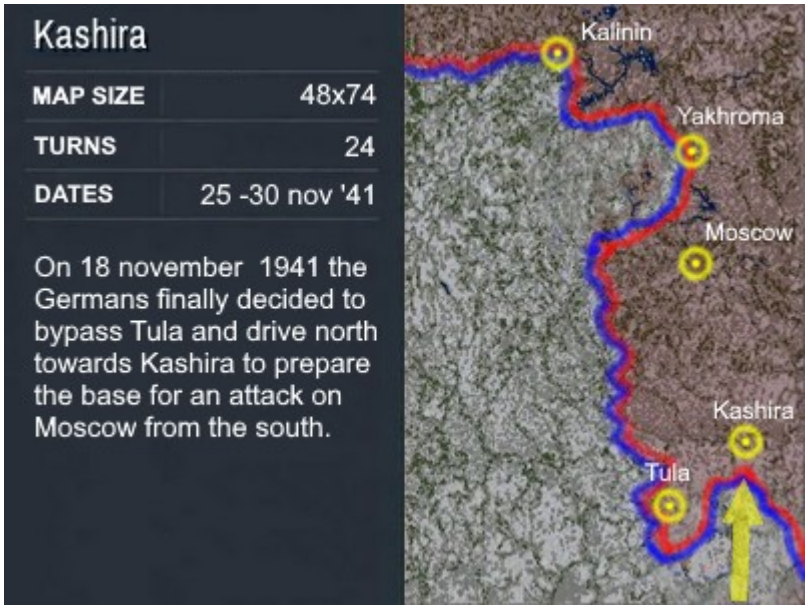
The Typhoon offensive was a high-stakes gamble for the Germans that ultimately ended in failure. While the initial successes were impressive, they were ultimately undone by logistical overreach, the resilience of the Soviet defense, and the unforgiving Russian winter. In this scenario, players can explore the complexities of this pivotal moment in history where strategic planning, logistical challenges, and the brutal realities of combat all played a role in shaping the outcome of the Battle for Moscow.
Can the Germans break through and claim the Soviet capital, or will the Soviet defenders hold their ground long enough for the tide to turn? The battle for Moscow hangs in the balance.

“ Assault on Moscow “ 16 nov - 05 dec 1941 (80 Turns)



This scenario is a variant of the Typhoon Campaign focused on the northern pincer of the German assault on the Soviet Capital. With the battlefield reduced to 250x200 hexes and 50% combat units on map is ideal for a faster game than the full campaign.

" Kashira " 25 - 30 November 1941 (24 Turns)



The town of Kashira, was a strategically vital location situated about 120 kilometers south of Moscow and 80 kilometers northeast of Tula.

The German High Command (OKH) issued orders on 18 November for Generaloberst Heinz Guderian's 2.Pz.Armee to bypass Tula and drive directly towards Kashira, intending to shatter Soviet defenses and pave the way to Moscow.

The Germans had already made significant progress, storming through the town of Venev and advancing rapidly, but Kashira remained a key obstacle in their path. Kashira was the last significant defensive line between the Panzer Group and the Soviet capital. The Germans, confident in their momentum, continued their advance, hoping to capture the town quickly and break the Soviet defenses. However, the Soviet response was swift and determined.

The Red Army's Stavka (High Command), recognizing the dire situation, called upon one of the Soviet Union’s elite cavalry formations to stem the tide: General Pavel Belov’s 2nd Cavalry Corps, which, on 26 November, would be granted the distinction of the Guards title, becoming the 1st Guards Cavalry Corps.

The Soviet defense in the area was bolstered by the arrival of the 173rd Rifle Division and Major A.P. Smirnov’s anti-aircraft artillery battalion, which proved to be a formidable opponent for the German Panzers.

Timeline of Key Events

On 24 November, the 17.Panzer Division, bypassing Venev from the east, forced the town's defenders to retreat, and soon the Germans surged towards Kashira.

On 25 November, a German Panzer vanguard reached the southern outskirts of Kashira but was repelled by the combined fire of Soviet 85mm anti-aircraft guns and infantry. The Germans were temporarily stalled, but their advance continued relentlessly.

By 26 November, the Soviet 2nd Cavalry Corps and the 112th Tank Division, which had withdrawn from the Serpukhov area under heavy pressure, regrouped and executed a forced march to the Kashira area.
With the arrival of more reinforcements, Soviet forces were positioned to launch a counteroffensive. The critical moment came on 27 November, when General Belov, reinforced with the 9th Tank Brigade and the 35th and 127th Tank Battalions, succeeded in halting the German advance.
The German drive on Kashira had been temporarily halted, buying precious time for the Soviets to fortify their defenses and prepare for the oncoming winter counteroffensive.

Scenario Objectives

This 24-turn scenario focuses on the intense struggle for Kashira during the final days of November 1941, as General Guderian’s 2.Pz.Armee seeks to break through the Soviet defenses, bypassing Tula and secure a path to Moscow.

For the Germans: Secure Kashira and neutralize Soviet resistance before the reinforcements can close in, thereby paving the way for further advances towards Moscow.

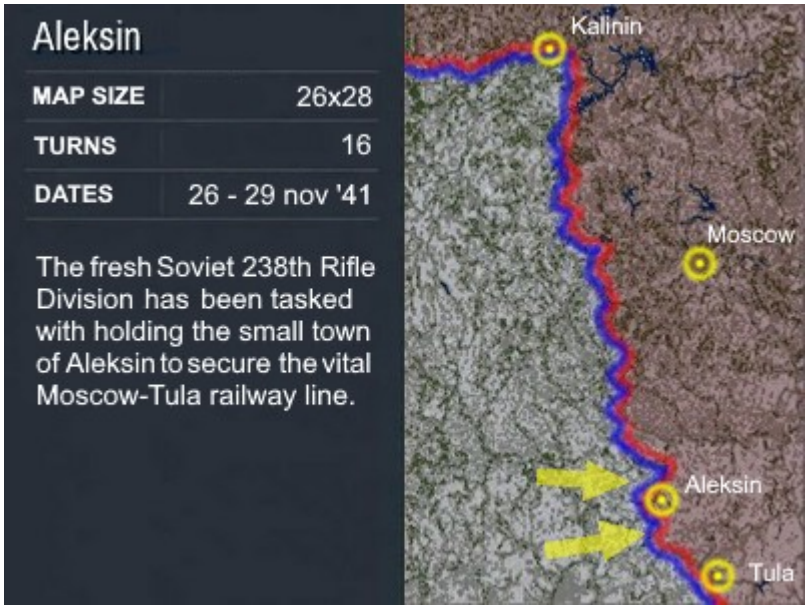
For the Soviets: Hold Kashira at all costs, using the terrain to your advantage and leveraging reinforcements to launch a counterattack. Prevent the Germans from breaking through to Moscow.

Victory Conditions

The Germans must capture Kashira and destroy or neutralize Soviet defensive forces, while the Soviets must prevent the Germans from achieving these objectives, holding off their attackers long enough to buy time for the larger Soviet counteroffensive.

This scenario offers an engaging tactical challenge, pitting the fast-moving Panzer forces against the Soviet cavalry and armor in a desperate, high-stakes battle on the approach to Moscow. The result of the fighting around Kashira could very well shape the outcome of the wider battle for Moscow, a battle that would be decided by both the forces on the ground and the impending Russian winter. As always, victory or defeat will hinge on your ability to make the most of limited resources in the face of overwhelming odds.

" Aleksin " 26 - 29 November 1941 (16 Turns)



In the late autumn of 1941, as the Wehrmacht's drive toward Moscow intensified, the German 52.Infanterie-Division, under the command of General Lothar Rendulic, was tasked with breaking through Soviet defensive positions along the Krushma River.

The operation aimed to seize the small town of Aleksin, strategically located between the Oka and Krushma rivers, before advancing to the Moscow-Tula railway line. Securing this route would disrupt Soviet supply lines, hampering the defense of Moscow.

The division had been in hot pursuit of retreating Soviet forces for several days, following the destruction of numerous enemy units. However, as the Germans approached the outskirts of Aleksin, they encountered a stark shift: instead of disorganized remnants of the Red Army, they now faced the prepared defenses of the Soviet 238th Rifle Division, freshly arrived from the rear.
This division, commanded by Colonel Korotkov, had been tasked with holding Aleksin at all costs.

The Battle

For several days, the German forces engaged in bitter and costly fighting to breach the Soviet defenses. The 52.Infanterie-Division, despite its battle-hardened veterans, was already strained after its previous engagements, and the fighting in the dense terrain surrounding Aleksin proved brutal.

The Germans pressed forward, but the resistance offered by the 238th Rifle Division, bolstered by fresh Soviet troops and defensive works, was formidable.

By 29 November, after a prolonged and exhausting struggle, the Germans succeeded in capturing Aleksin. However, their victory came at a heavy price.

With their forces exhausted and their lines of communication strained, they lacked the strength to push further eastward toward the Moscow-Tula railway, their original strategic objective.

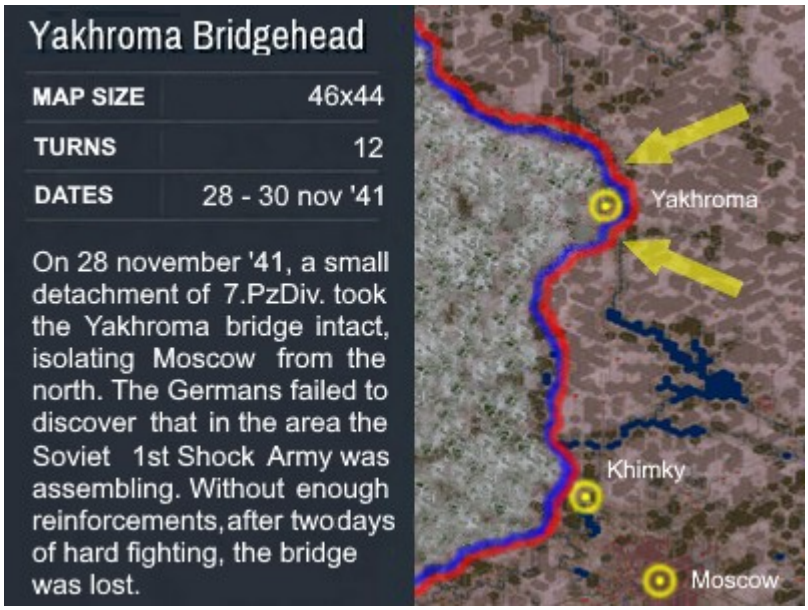
Key Notes for Wargamers

German forces are under pressure to exploit the breakthrough quickly, but the Soviet defenses are well-prepared and stubborn. The balance between aggression and conservation of strength will be critical for the German player, overextension could lead to disastrous attrition.

The arrival of the fresh Soviet division at Aleksin represents a shift in the tactical dynamic, making early advances potentially more costly. A decisive push for the Moscow-Tula railway will require careful coordination and resource management, while Soviet counterattacks will escalate as time passes.

The Soviet player must simply try to check all German breakthrough attempts, slowing the enemy advance as much as possible at any cost.

" Yakhroma Bridgehead " 28 - 30 November 1941 (12 Turns)



In the waning days of November 1941, the German Army, having reached the outskirts of Moscow, sought to secure vital positions along the strategic routes leading into the Soviet capital.
On 28 November, a detachment from the 7.Panzer Division, specifically the 6.Schützen Regiment, under the command of Oberst Hasso von Manteuffel, succeeded in capturing the Yakhroma bridge intact.
The Soviet defenders, consisting of a handful of infantry, withdrew to the north, retreating toward Dmitrov as the 29th Rifle Brigade was detraining in the area. By 10:00 hours, the Germans had made significant progress, capturing key locations such as Peremilovo, Semenskhi, and Ilinskoje. With the bridgehead established, the German forces began to consolidate their gains, awaiting reinforcements to expand their position further eastward.

The bridge at Yakhroma was seen as a crucial entry point for future operations aimed at pushing deeper into Soviet territory, and the Germans were eager to exploit it. However, German intelligence had failed to detect a critical development just a few kilometers east of the bridgehead: the assembly area of General Kuznetsov's 1st Shock Army, which was in the final stages of preparation for a powerful counteroffensive set to launch in early December.

The Soviet command had managed to conceal the movements of this formidable force, a mistake that would prove costly for the Germans in the coming days. Despite the initial success at Yakhroma, the German forces were stretched thin, lacking the reinforcements necessary to hold their tenuous bridgehead.

Over the next two days, the situation deteriorated as the Soviets, with fresh units and the newly arrived 1st Shock Army, launched a determined counterattack. After two days of fierce

fighting, the Germans were forced to retreat. By 30 November, the Yakhroma bridge was lost, and the bridgehead had been eliminated.

Historical Context & Gaming Notes

The Yakhroma Bridgehead scenario reflects a pivotal moment in the German winter campaign of 1941. While the initial capture of the Yakhroma bridge seemed promising, it quickly became apparent that the Germans were facing a more resilient Soviet defense than anticipated.

The failed intelligence on the location of the 1st Shock Army highlights one of the recurring challenges the Germans faced on the Eastern Front: the difficulty in maintaining accurate and timely intelligence in the vastness of Soviet territory. From the perspective of the German player, the scenario offers an opportunity to capitalize on the surprise success of the Yakhroma bridge capture. The key challenge lies in expanding and securing the bridgehead before the Soviet counteroffensive can materialize. Given the scarcity of reinforcements and the pressing need to consolidate their position, the German player must carefully manage their forces, balancing the need to hold key locations with the risk of overextending. The clock is ticking, and every turn brings the Soviet counterattack closer.

For the Soviet player, this scenario presents an opportunity to launch a counteroffensive at a critical moment, exploiting the gaps in German intelligence and reacting quickly to the emerging threat. The arrival of the 1st Shock Army is a game-changer, and the Soviet player must carefully time their counterattack, using the strength of their fresh forces to throw the Germans back and recapture the vital bridge.

Victory Conditions

For the German player, victory is achieved by holding the Yakhroma bridge and the surrounding key locations (Peremilovo, Semenskhi, and Ilinskoje) for the duration of the scenario. The Germans must expand their bridgehead and hold out long enough to allow reinforcements to arrive, preventing the Soviet counteroffensive from reclaiming the position.

For the Soviet player, victory hinged on a successful counteroffensive that dislodged the Germans from the bridgehead and recaptured the Yakhroma bridge. The timely arrival of the 1st Shock Army is the key to breaking the German hold on the area, and the Soviet player must use their numerical advantage to force a German retreat. This scenario encapsulates the high stakes of the early winter campaign, where each side’s success or failure would have far-reaching implications for the broader battle for Moscow. Both players must adapt to a rapidly evolving battlefield, where the loss of momentum can prove disastrous.

" Khimky " 29 Nov - 4 Dec 1941 (24 Turns)



The 331st Rifle Division, newly deployed to the defense of Moscow, played a pivotal role in halting the German advance during the critical days of late November and early December.

Comprising fresh units, the division exhibited remarkable tenacity under pressure. General Sandalov, former chief of staff of the 20th Army, inspected one of the Division's units, the 1106th Rifle Regiment upon its arrival in Moscow and noted, with measured optimism, that the troops were "warmly clothed and adequately equipped," a reassuring sign of the Soviet leadership's commitment to the defense of the capital.

From the last days of November, the division fought tenaciously in the vicinity of the Moscow Volga Canal, contesting the German advance at Lobnia Station. Despite being forced into a gradual withdrawal, the 331st inflicted substantial losses on the German units and slowed their momentum, denying them a clear path to the city.

By 2 December, as the Soviets prepared for their wider counter-offensive, the division launched a spirited counterattack towards Krasnaia Poliana. Supported by tank and artillery units, the initial assault made only modest gains. However, with the broader offensive kicking off shortly thereafter, the 331st, in coordination with the 28th Rifle Brigade, launched a renewed push that ultimately secured Krasnaia Poliana. In doing so, they captured a vital German artillery position that had been bombarding Moscow itself.

The strategic importance of this success cannot be overstated: it represented a significant blow to the German siege effort and bolstered Soviet morale at a critical juncture.

The days that followed saw the 331st Rifle Division and the 28th Rifle Brigade continue their relentless advance, progressively breaching German defenses and exploiting weaknesses in the Axis lines. By 20 December, the division had successfully liberated the town of Volokolamsk, a key victory in the larger context of the Soviet counteroffensive that ultimately reversed the tide of the Battle of Moscow.

Scenario Objectives

This scenario recreates the tense and hard fought struggle for Khimky and the surrounding area, a critical sector in the defense of Moscow.
The scenario challenges players to consider their force composition carefully, balancing the use of fresh, less experienced Soviet units against the veteran but overstretched German forces.

The Germans must inflict significant damage on Soviet forces to break the defensive line and reach Moscow outskirts.

The Soviets must prevent a German breakthrough by inflicting enough casualties to halt the enemy offensive and hold firm to buy time for the impending counter-offensive destined to turn the tide of the war.

Scenario Variant

Historically the 334th Rifle Division was forming around Moscow and had only 3.273 men on 7 November, raised to 11.826 on 1 December when it was finally transferred to the Naro-Fominsk front. This variant assumes that the division was available to defend the Khimky front.

" Naro-Fominsk " 1 - 5 December 1941 (20 Turns)



By early December 1941, the German offensive towards Moscow, part of Operation Typhoon, had reached its zenith, but the Soviets were far from defeated.

After months of brutal fighting and heavy losses on both sides, the Germans had failed to break through either the northern or southern pincers of the Soviet defenses, and their advance on Moscow was stalling.

The arrival of the harsh Russian winter, combined with stiffening Soviet resistance, had begun to turn the tide. In response, the Germans, under the command of von Bock, shifted their focus to a more direct approach.

On 1 December, having been repelled at both the northern and southern flanks of their offensive, the Germans launched a direct assault towards the Soviet capital, aiming to strike at Moscow's defenses via the key highway running from Minsk to Moscow, through the town of Naro-Fominsk. This route, vital for access to the heart of Moscow, was a critical link in the German drive towards the Soviet capital. However, the Germans were not prepared for the fierce opposition they would face.

The Soviet 1st Guards Motorized Division, one of the best formations of the Red Army, was tasked with holding the vital position near Naro Fominsk. Reinforced by elements of the 5th and 33rd Armies, the Soviets mounted a determined defense, which included not only direct resistance but also aggressive counterattacks on the German flanks. These attacks, combined with the harsh winter weather and growing German supply problems, halted the German advance.

By 5 December, after four days of intense fighting, the German offensive had been decisively repelled. The Germans had suffered significant losses, including more than 10,000 men and over 100 armored vehicles—damage that would prove difficult to replace, particularly as supply lines were stretched thin and the winter's full fury began to set in.

The failure of the Naro-Fominsk offensive marked the beginning of the collapse of the German drive on Moscow and set the stage for the Soviet counteroffensive that would eventually push the Germans back from the Soviet capital.

Scenario Objectives

This 20-turns scenario places players in the heart of the battle for Naro-Fominsk during the critical days of 1–5 December 1941. The German forces must attempt a direct assault on the Soviet defenses along the Minsk-Moscow highway, while the Soviet player must hold the line and prevent the Germans from breaking through.

For the Germans the goal is to capture Naro-Fominsk and breach the Soviet defenses on the direct route to Moscow. Use your Panzers and infantry to break through Soviet lines and exploit any weaknesses. Time is of the essence—failure to make significant progress could spell disaster for the German cause.

For the Soviets the task is to hold the Naro-Fominsk area and disrupt the German advance. The 1st Guards Motorized Division must defend the position, while the 5th and 33rd Armies launch counterattacks to drive the Germans back. You must hold the line long enough to gain time for a larger Soviet counteroffensive.

Key Features

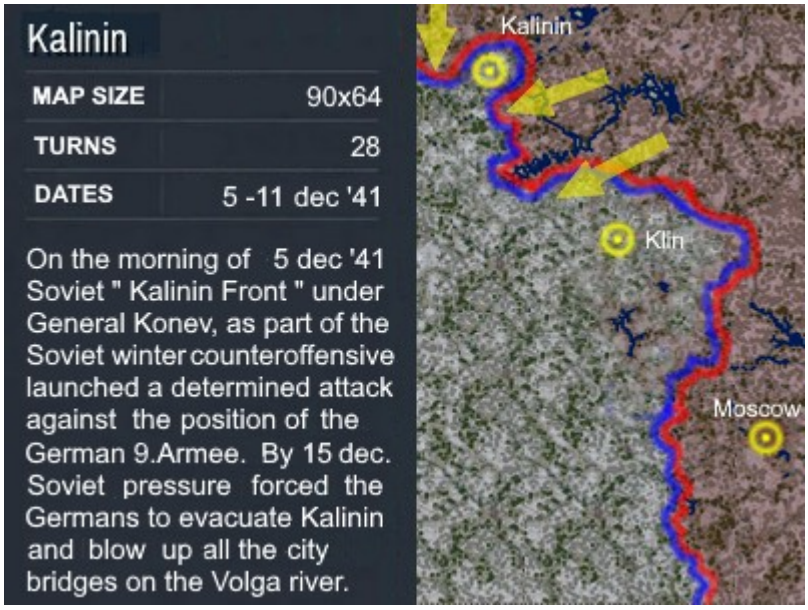
The German forces consist of elite Panzer and motorized divisions from the German Army Group Center, while the Soviet defenders are made up of the 1st Guards Motorized Division, with reinforcements from the 5th and 33rd Armies.
The Germans have the advantage of mobility and firepower, but the Soviets benefit from their defensive positions and counterattack capabilities.
The terrain around Naro-Fominsk is a mixture of open fields, forests, and rivers, making it both an opportunity and a challenge for maneuvering forces.
The strategic importance of Naro-Fominsk itself, sitting along the Minsk-Moscow highway, makes it a key objective for both sides.

Victory Conditions

The Germans must capture Naro-Fominsk and inflict significant damage on Soviet forces to break the defensive line. The Soviets must hold Naro-Fominsk and prevent the German breakthrough, causing enough casualties to disrupt the German offensive.

This scenario provides a tense, high-stakes battle with both sides on the edge of collapse. The Germans, already strained by the failure of their flanking attacks, must break through or risk losing the momentum of their offensive. The Soviets, fighting with a mixture of determination and desperation, must hold fast and buy time for the counteroffensive that will ultimately turn the tide of the war. Every decision counts, and the outcome of this battle could have far-reaching consequences for the future of the Eastern Front.

" Kalinin " 5 - 11 December 1941 (28 Turns)



On the morning of 5 December 1941, the Soviet Kalinin Front, under General Konev, launched a determined offensive against the positions of the German 9.Armee.

The Soviet counteroffensive

Initially, Soviet forces achieved only a limited breakthrough to the southeast of Kalinin, where the German defensive line appeared to hold.

In response, the Germans swiftly committed from the rear area the 251.Infantry Division to bolster the defense of the city, reinforcing key positions along the front. However, the Soviet momentum quickly shifted to the south.

The 30th Army, advancing rapidly, neared the town of Turginovo, over 40 kilometers behind German lines, posing a severe threat to the German southern flank. This unanticipated breakthrough triggered a crisis along the entire front. German forces were now faced with the prospect of encirclement, and despite efforts to stabilize the situation, the 9. Armee defensive position collapsed.

By the end of the first day of fighting, the retreat of the German forces had become inevitable. As the Soviets pressed forward and encroached upon vital supply lines, General Strauss, the 9. Armee commander was forced to request permission to withdraw from Kalinin. Remarkably, that very day, underscoring the gravity of the situation, the order to abandon the city was issued, marking a significant setback for the Germans and a critical victory for the Soviet forces in the broader context of Operation Typhoon's collapse.

This scenario captures a pivotal moment in the early stages of the Soviet counteroffensive. The dynamic shifts of momentum, with the Germans struggling to contain Soviet breakthroughs, provide a tense and dramatic backdrop for wargamers to explore the ebb and flow of this critical phase of the battle for Moscow. The game challenges players to manage their forces effectively under pressure, making timely decisions in the face of overwhelming Soviet advances.

Victory Conditions

For the German player, victory is achieved by holding a continuous frontline, protecting the supply lines, slowing down the Soviet counteroffensive while retreating, and attempting to limit losses by avoiding encirclements.

For the Soviet player, victory hinges on a successful breakthrough that drives the Germans out of Kalinin and forces them into a general retreat, encircling as many enemy units as possible.

" Klin " 11 - 15 December 1941 (20 Turns)



Following the initiation of the Soviet offensive on 5 December, which began north and east of Kalinin, the momentum of the Red Army quickly accelerated.

Timeline of Key Events

By 6 December, the Soviet 30th Army, 1st Shock Army, and 20th Army had joined the assault, compounding the pressure on the German 9. Armee. The Soviet 30th Army, in particular, launched a powerful attack in the north, forcing the Germans into a hasty fighting withdrawal towards Klin. The situation rapidly deteriorated for the Germans as Soviet forces pressed their advantage.

On 7 December, the headquarters of the German LVI Korps (mot.) was struck 10 km northeast of Klin, with Soviet forces bypassing the German positions from the north. The specter of encirclement loomed large over the already depleted Panzer divisions, further complicating their precarious retreat.

On 8 December, the Germans mounted a sudden and unexpected counterattack, with the 1. Panzer Division striking hard against Soviet infantry positions. This brief yet potent offensive succeeded in stalling the Soviet advance, buying the retreating German divisions precious time to consolidate their positions and extricate themselves from the tightening Soviet grip.

By 11 December, however, Soviet infantry forces had effectively enveloped Klin from both the north and south. The 1. Panzer Division, once a key component of the German defense, was now all but surrounded, with its escape routes rapidly closing. The Red Army's encirclement strategy had reached its peak, with the German position becoming increasingly untenable.

The situation further deteriorated on 12 December, as Soviet forces captured the key town of Solnechnogorsk, just a few kilometers south of Klin. This marked a decisive shift, as the German lines were now even more severely threatened. With the Soviet pincers tightening around the town, the Germans were left with few options.

By 15 December, the last remnants of the 1. Panzer Division, in a desperate and chaotic breakout attempt, managed to escape the encirclement at Klin. However, the damage had already been done. The German forces had been decisively pushed back, and the Soviet advance into the heart of the German-held territories surrounding Moscow had gained significant ground.

Scenario Overview

This scenario highlights the critical phase of the Soviet counteroffensive, where rapid maneuver and the threat of encirclement played key roles in breaking the German lines.
For the wargamer, the scenario offers an intense mix of close-quarters combat, fluid maneuver warfare, and the delicate balance of timing and logistics. Players will need to manage both the offensive momentum of the Soviet forces and the desperate, yet resilient, retreat of the German troops, deciding when to commit fully to the attack and when to consolidate for the inevitable breakout or collapse. The outcome of this struggle could determine the fate of the German forces on the outskirts of Moscow.

" Suchinichi " 18 - 24 January 1942 (28 Turns)



By December 1941, the tide of war on the Eastern Front had begun to shift.
After the launch of the Soviet counteroffensive, the Wehrmacht found itself on the defensive for the first time since the start of Operation Barbarossa.

Amidst the chaos of retreat and the mounting Soviet pressure, General Werner von Gilsa's 216. Infanterie Division was urgently redeployed from France to the Eastern Front. Upon arrival, the division was hastily organized into three combat groups, each tasked with bolstering the crumbling German lines.

These combat groups were dispersed across the front, with the division staff and one regimental group detrained in the small town of Suchinichi, located at a vital crossroads.
In line with the Wehrmacht's practice, Hitler had designated Suchinichi as a "Fester Platz" , a fortress or strongpoint intended to be held at all costs. Despite the strategic significance of the town, the 216.ID arrival was anything but fortuitous.

By 29 December, the newly arrived "Gilsa Group" found itself completely surrounded by the advancing Soviet forces. In the face of encirclement, Hitler ordered an immediate counterattack to relieve the beleaguered German forces in Suchinichi. However, the retreating German units, exhausted and depleted after weeks of retreat, were in no condition to launch a coherent offensive.

Over the following weeks, as the situation grew increasingly desperate, the encirclement around Suchinichi hardened, leaving the Germans trapped and vulnerable.

The Battle for Suchinichi

It wasn't until mid-January 1942 that the German High Command was able to gather sufficient strength to break the Soviet ring around Suchinichi.
Led by the battered 18.Panzer Division under General Nehring, a collection of kampfgruppen from various depleted units, some drawn from the remnants of other divisions, began to coalesce.
Despite the ongoing Soviet pressure, these forces were tasked with mounting a desperate attempt to break through and relieve Suchinichi.
The Soviet forces, meanwhile, had dug in and strengthened their positions, having recognized the strategic importance of the town and its rail links.
The Germans faced formidable defensive lines and well-coordinated Soviet resistance, but the combined strength of the German counterattack, bolstered by the 18.Panzer Division, began to show promise.

By 24 January, after several days of intense combat, the German forces succeeded in breaking the encirclement, although at great cost. While the immediate crisis at Suchinichi was averted, the German relief force was left heavily depleted, and the outcome of the wider conflict in the region remained uncertain.

Scenario Overview

This scenario places players in command of the forces attempting to relieve the encircled "Gilsa Group" at Suchinichi. The German player must manage a series of ragtag kampfgruppen, including elements from the 18.Panzer Division and other depleted formations, and attempt to break through Soviet defenses to rescue the trapped forces.

Meanwhile, the Soviet player must hold their ground, ensuring that the encircled German units do not escape and reinforcing their defensive positions to delay the German relief effort as long as possible.

Spanning from 18 to 24 January 1942, this 28 turn scenario focuses on the desperate struggle to break a Soviet encirclement, requiring both strategic planning and the effective use of the limited forces at the Germans' disposal.

Key Tactical Considerations

The German player is in charge of a collection of hastily assembled kampfgruppen, many of which are severely understrength and disorganized. The 18. Panzer Division offers a strong but battered core, but it must be carefully managed.
The German player needs to balance the urgency of breaking the encirclement with the constraints of their limited forces and logistical challenges. Successful coordination between the different kampfgruppen will be crucial to ensuring the breakthrough.

The Soviet player, meanwhile, must utilize their superior numbers and fortified positions to deny the Germans any opportunity for escape.
The key to Soviet success will be holding the town and preventing the German counterattack from gaining momentum. Soviet reserves, particularly mobile units, must be positioned to strike any gaps in the German advance and to reinforce critical defensive points.

The German forces are ill-prepared for sustained combat, and logistics will be a constant challenge. Players will need to ensure that their forces are properly supplied and that their counterattack is well-coordinated. The timing of the relief effort will be key, waiting too long could mean the complete destruction of the Gilsa Group, while moving too quickly could risk overextending the already battered forces.

The Soviet player will need to hold key defensive positions and prevent the German breakthrough. Their ability to launch timely counterattacks or reinforce critical sectors will determine whether the Germans succeed in breaking the encirclement. The Soviet player must avoid the trap of becoming overly defensive and allow the Germans to gain the initiative.

Closing Thoughts

The struggle for Suchinichi was one of many critical moments during the Soviet counteroffensive of 1941–1942. The Germans, caught in a web of encirclements and logistical difficulties, faced the challenge of breaking free from Soviet grasp while the Soviets fought desperately to deny them that opportunity. This scenario offers players the chance to experience the desperation and drama of the early months of 1942, when the Wehrmacht's offensive momentum had been shattered and the Soviets were beginning to take the initiative. Whether as the Germans, trying to escape the jaws of encirclement, or the Soviets, holding the line at all costs, players will need to think critically and act decisively to shape the outcome of this tense and pivotal battle.

Moscow Defense OOB - november 1941

Kalinin Front	**(I. S. Konev)**
--22nd Army	(V. I. Vostrukhov)
249th Rifle Div.	(G. F. Tarasov)
179th Rifle Div.	(I. S. Kuzma)
186th Rifle Div.	(N. I. Biryukov)
178th Rifle Div.	(A. P. Kvashnin)
220th Rifle Div.	(N. G. Zhoruzhenko)
--29th Army	(I. I. Maslennikov)(V. I. Shvetsov) 11 dec
174th Rifle Div.	(P. P. Miroshnichenko)
183rd Rifle Div.	(K.V. Komissarov)
243rd Rifle Div.	(V. S. Polenov)
246th Rifle Div.	(I. I. Melnikov)
250th Rifle Div.	(P.A. Stepanenko)
--31st Army	(V. A. Iushkevich)
119th Rifle Div.	(A. D. Berezin)
133rd Rifle Div.	(V. I. Shvetsov)(F. D. Zakharov) 12 dec
252nd Rifle Div.	(A. A. Zabaluyev)
Western Front	**(G. K. Zhukov)**
--16th Army	(K.K. Rokossovky)
18th Rifle Div.	(P. N. Chernyshev)
126th Rifle Div.	(E.V. Bedin)
316th Rifle Div.	(I. V. Panfilov)
--5th Army	(L. A. Govorov)
32nd Rifle Div.	(V. I. Polosukhin)
50th Rifle Div.	(N. F. Lebedenko)
144th Rifle Div.	(M.A. Pronin)
82nd Mot. Div.	(G. P. Karamyshev)
--33rd Army	(M. G. Efremov)
1st Guards Mot. Div.	(A. I. Lisyukov)
110th Rifle Div.	(I. I. Matusevich)
113rd Rifle Div.	(K. I. Mironov)
222nd Rifle Div.	(F. A. Bobrov)
--43rd Army	(P. P. Sobennikov)(D. K. Golubev)15 Oct.
17th Rifle Div.	(D.M. Seleznyov)
19th Rifle Div.	(A. I. Utvenko)
53rd Rifle Div.	(A. F. Naumov)

93rd Rifle Div. (K. M. Erastov)
5th Airborne Corps (S. S. Guryev)

--49th Army (I.G. Zakharkin)
112th Tank Div. (A. L. Getman)
5th Guards Rifle Div. (P. V. Mironov)
7th Guards Rifle Div. (A. S. Gryaznov)
60th Rifle Div. (M.A. Zashibalov)
194th Rifle Div. (P. A. Firsov)
238th Rifle Div. (G.P. Korotkov)

--50th Army (A.N. Yermakov) (I.V. Boldin)22 nov.
154th Rifle Div. (Y.S. Fokanov)
217th Rifle Div. (V.P. Schlegel)
260th Rifle Div. (V.D. Khokhlov)
290th Rifle Div. (N.V. Ryakin)
299th Rifle Div. (I. F. Seregin)
413th Rifle Div. (A. D. Tereshkov)
258th Rifle Div. (M. A. Siyazov)
41st Cavalry Div. (P. M. Davydov)
31st Cavalry Div. (M.D. Borisov)

Moscow new and reformed armies

--30th Army (D. D. Lelyuschenko) 16 nov.
5th Rifle Div. (A. I. Svetlyakov) (V.R. Vashkevich) 16 nov.
185th Rifle Div. (K.N. Vindushev)
251st Rifle Div. (S. I. Orestov)
256th Rifle Div. (S. G. Goryachev)

--39th Army (I. A. Bogdanov) (I. I. Maslennikov)12 dec.
355th Rifle Div. (A. Y. Khodunovich)
357th Rifle Div. (D. A. Kirschev)
361st Rifle Div. (D. V. Mikhailov)

--1st Shock Army (V. I. Kuznetsov) 29 nov.
29th, 44th, 47th, 50th, 55th, 56th, 71st, 84th, 43rd, 60th Rifle Brigades
12 Ski Battalions - 3 Guards Mortar Regt. (katjusha) - 2 Tank Battalions

--20th Army (A. A. Vlasov) 30 nov.
331st Rifle Div. (F. P. Korol)
352nd Rifle Div. (Y. M. Prokofiev)
31st Tank Brigade (Y. M. Kravchenko)
28th, 35th, 64th Rifle Brigades - 2 Tank Battalions

--1st Guards Cavalry Corps	(P. A. Belov) 26 nov.
1st Guards Cavalry Div.	(V. K. Baranov)
2nd Guards Cavalry Div.	(N.S. Oslikovsky)
--10th Army	(F. I. Golikov) 24 nov.
57th Cavalry Div.	(I.I. Murom)
75th Cavalry Div.	(M.E. Moskalik)
324th Rifle Div.	(N.I. Kiriuchin)
325th Rifle Div.	(N.B. Ibyanski)
239th Rifle Div.	(H.O. Martyrosian)
326th Rifle Div.	(G.P. Karadamyshev)
323th Rifle Div.	(I.A. Gartsev)
328th Rifle Div.	(P.A. Eremin)
322th Rifle Div.	(P.I. Filimonov)