

CB01 Typhoon over Tula [v1.30]

Late October 1941, Central Russia

Tula, Tsar Peter the Great's arsenal (1712), was a key city for the stalling "Unternehmen Taifun" (see note 1) and the southernmost starting point for a possibly ultimate rush onto Moscow, 110 miles northwards. Russian winter appeared as being early that year, therefore General Guderian (2) ordered a mission of confidence to a brigade-size ad hoc formation's Kommandeur:

"Forward at all costs, Eberbach. Take Tula!"

Battlegroup Eberbach was a mix of tanks, light & medium artillery, good to elite infantry units including the well-known Motorisierte Infanterie Regiment Großdeutschland, the Wehrmacht's prestige unit. Facing up Gruppe Eberbach was Major General Yermakov and his 50th Army's remnants, a resolute but heteroclit assembly of NKVD & regular infantry units, AT & AA artillery detachments, civilians & workers militia gathered to form up Colonel Melnikov's 69th NKVD Brigade, which had to rely on Colonel Yushchuk's battered 32nd Tank Brigade, a much reduced armored unit.

Best played as German Human vs Russian AI (3) / Difficulty to be set: HARD or + / Suitable for 2 Human players

Side A - Russian (AI: Hold): Infantry / AT SW & AA Ordnance / AFV / FBL / Trench

Side B - German (Advance): Combat Engineers (FT & DC) / Elite Infantry (numerous MG & Leaders) / AFV / OBA

Length: variable, 10 to 12 turns (1/6 chance the fight will be over on turns 10-11)

Map: 2 Sectors (4) / Terrain: Suburbs / Visibility: 4 hexes (i.e. Fall's thick mist)

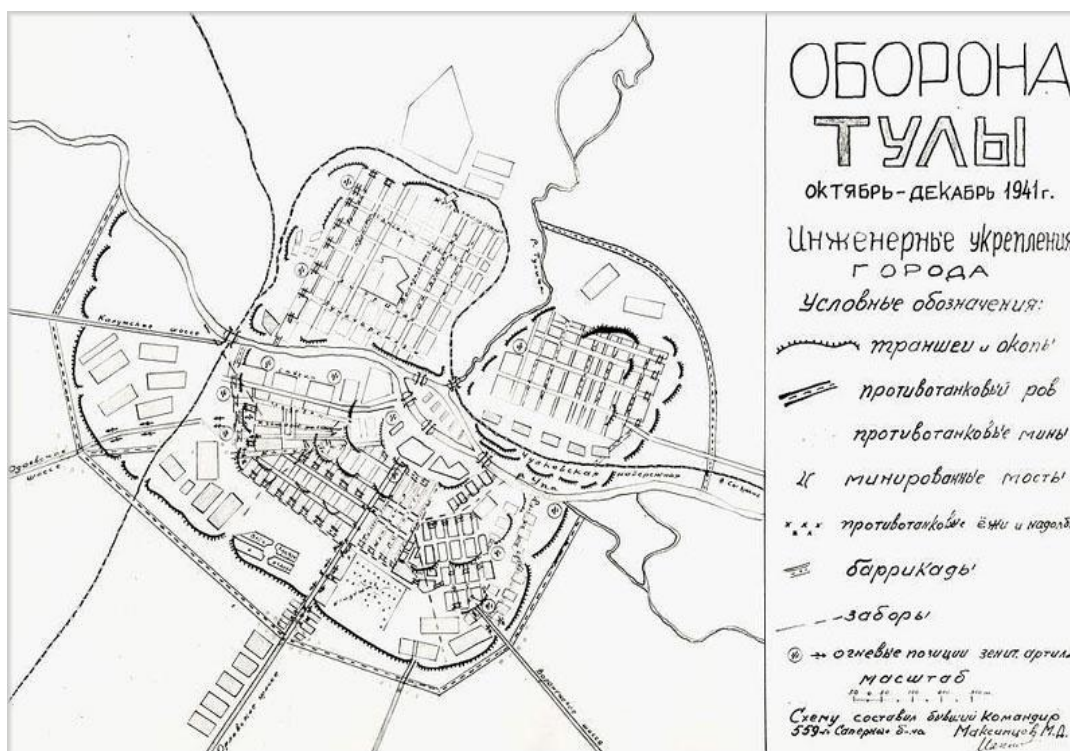
In fact, the map is only 16 (height) x 20 (width) playable hexes tall (a screen-size scale). So, not Big Map exportable (too small).

Please, consider the left side of your screen as the North edge towards Moscow.

Mod used when editing: Advanced Squad Leader Mod with MP & SM.



1. Soviet 85mm AA 52-K Gun of 6th Battery of 732nd Anti-Aircraft Regiment settled up on the "Proletarian Bridge" at Tula. October 30, 1941



2. "Oborona Tuli" - The Defense of Tula, October-December 1941

Your mission: 1) Grab the Barracks 2) Pull out your Panzer northwards 3) Limit your losses

Victory conditions:

The side with the most VP at the end wins. Both sides will get 5 VP by owning any hex of the four VP0 (5) building [4,9] locally known - and feared - as the NKVD Barracks (20 VP all). Achtung! Russians have had enough time to organize several points of resistance even though the German Arty Prep' Fire has pounded up the city with its 105mm. Surely not enough for the whole fortification to be erased. Note that German-only tanks' exit location is hex [0,8]. Be aware that the Russian side will earn a lot of VP while inflicting a heavy toll on IR (mot.) GD, Oberst (6) Heinrich Eberbach's Best.

The Tula Arms Plant (Tula Arsenal) was founded by Tsar Peter I of Russia in 1712. Significant ore deposits were situated relatively close to it.

In the 18th century this plant was recognized as etalon of Russian Arms Production. During the Napoleonic Wars, World War I, and World War II, **Tula was important in the production of armaments.**

In the end of October 1941 the city became the target of a German offensive.



Soviet 85mm AA gun in Tula, in Nov 1941

Soviet troops on the map below:

69th NKVD Brigade (Colonel Melnikov, see photo -->):

156 - 156th (NKVD) Infantry Regiment of three battalions: I, II, III. (Major Zubkov)

TW - Tula Workers' Infantry Regiment of three battalions: I, II, III. (Major Gorshkov)

732 - 732nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment

(Commander: Lieutenant-Colonel Bondarenko)

The regiment was formed in April 1941 in ... Tula.

It consisted of 76 85mm AA guns in three divisions, and several regimental units. Later was formed battalion of AA machine guns.



32nd Tank Brigade (Colonel Yushchuk, see photo -->):

32 - 32nd Tank Brigade

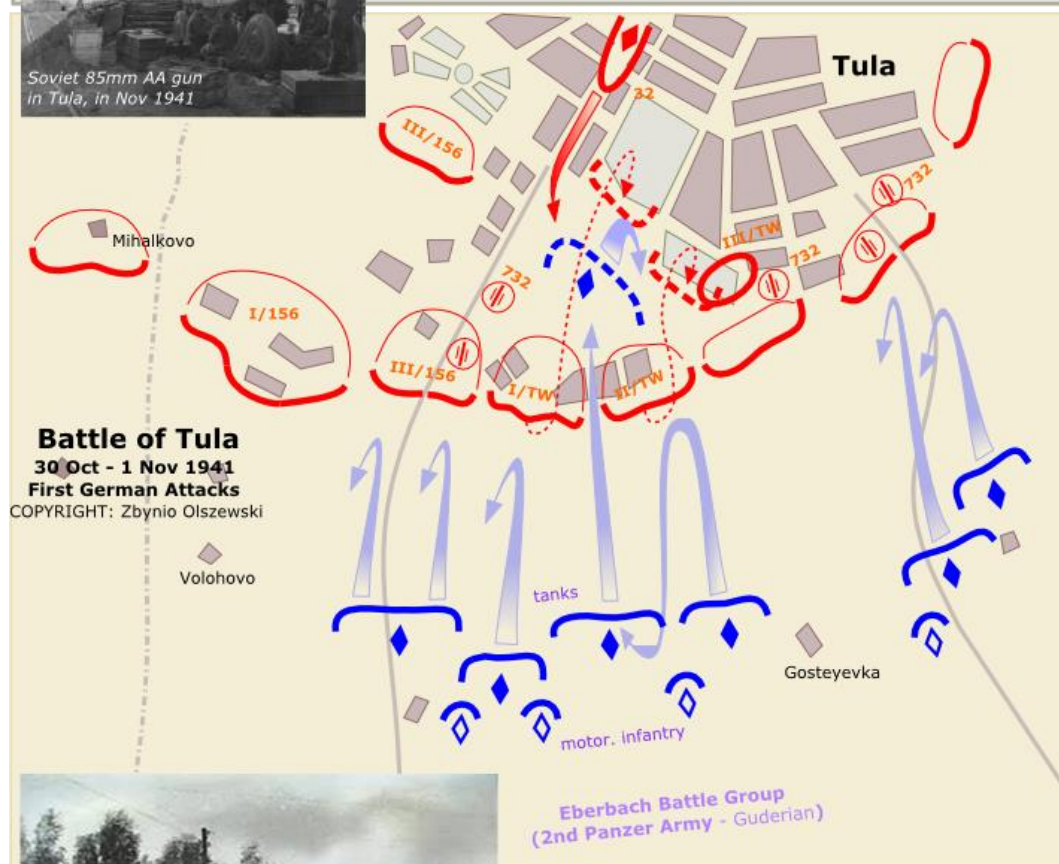
The brigade was formed between 5 and 25 October and consisted of three tank battalions (5 KV heavy tanks, 7 T34 medium, 22 T60 light tanks), motorized infantry battalion (960 men), anti-tank division, anti-aircraft division, etc.

NOTE: between 30 October and 10 November 1941 the brigade suffered **50 % (!)** killed, wounded, missing.



These troops had few 37mm AA guns, 45mm anti-tank guns, number of anti-tank rifles, etc.

The 69th NKVD Brigade and 32nd Tank Brigade were part of 50 Army (Commander: Gen.-Mjr. Yermakov. After 22 November Gen.-Lt. Boldin).



German troops on the map:

Eberbach Battlegroup, or Task Force (*Eberbach Kampfgruppe*):

- approx. 60 tanks (Pz II, Pz III, Pz IV)

- battalion of artillery

- two or three battalions of motorized infantry

They were supported with

- one company of motorized infantry in halftracks from the 3rd Panzer Division

- several companies of truck-borne infantry from the elite Grossdeutschland ("Greater Germany") Motorized Infantry Regiment

The troops were part of the 2nd Panzer Army (General Heinz Guderian).



Heinrich Kurt Eberbach
In July 1941 commander of 5th Panzer Brigade from the 4th Panzer Division.



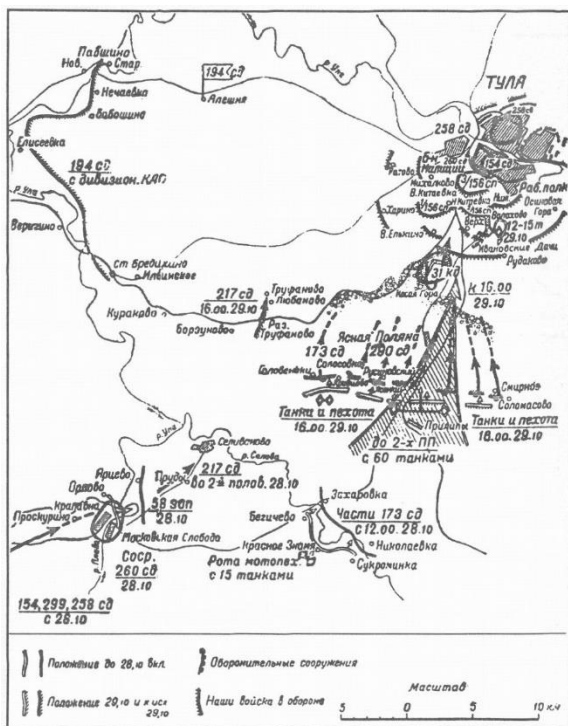
Aftermath:

Kampfgruppe Eberbach reached Tula's outskirts on October 29th. The next day, an assault was launched through the city's southern approaches. Lacking heavy artillery and air to ground support; enduring bad weather and poor supply lines; knowing that his tired tank crews were reluctant to enter inner city without sufficient accompanying infantry; watching his Landsers (7) going pinned down and decimated by Russian firepower; finally disgusted by the Reds' stubborn resistance, Eberbach had no choice but calling off the attack. Not a doubt about the consequences: within less than a couple of hours Guderian would be very, very disappointed. Bad, very bad indeed...

Moreover, during the following night Yermakov received unexpected reinforcements intended to 32nd Tank Brigade, then three more infantry divisions! Having turned Leo N. Tolstoy's estate at Yasnaya Polyana (7.5 miles south of Tula) into a field hospital and his own personal Command Post, Guderian perfectly knew from now on that his best chance to capture Tula had definitely failed. Even worse: a week later (November 7th) the Soviets were able to launch a counterattack, gaining so more precious time to secretly mount their Winter Great offensive with early December as deadline. Therefore, at obviously huge and appalling human and material costs - either on Defense or into Attack - as the rule seems to be more and more theirs since June 22nd, 1941.

Stalin's secret Order No. 227 (July 28, 1942) - the famous "Ni shagu nazad prikaz"(8) - wasn't still released at that moment. By the way and a rather cynical minded statement of fact, those utmost circumstances; a real strong patriotic-religious attachment to the destiny of "Our Mother Eternal Russia" willy-nilly linked with Stalin's cult of personality and communist ideology, plus other merciless and propagandist methods, have impressed an high level of motivation onto individuals - from USSR's political-military executives to ordinary soviet citizens. We have to admit that rough historic reality: there was no democratic means nor easy and enthusiastic decisions to have - or to execute - in leading the "Great Patriotic War". It was an authentic Total War and Apocalypse where the Fight could only be as far as "Salvation or Death". Who said:

"It will be a matter of blowing up the door with just one kick... and watching the whole house collapsing"?



Начало боев за Тулу

3. "Nachalo boyev za Tulu"

Beginning of the battle for Tula. October 28th–29th, 1941



Тулская оборонительная операция

4. "Tul'skaya oboronitel'naya operatsiya"

Defensive operations around Tula (against German easterly bypass attempt). Nov. 13th–Dec. 5th, 1941

Sources:

- Witnesses: Ilya EHRENBURG (RU), Vassili GROSSMAN (RU), August von KAGENECK (DE), Theodor PLIEVIER (DE)

- Historians: O. BARTOV (IL), A. BEEVOR (UK), D. GLANTZ (US), Sir B.H. LIDDELL HART (UK), J. LOPEZ (FR)

Sorry, no Russian author here but a link to an immense set of maps, photos, newsreels, data, facts, technical sheets, glossary, abbreviations, acronyms & organization charts, etc. All from originals collected between 2003 & 2007 by a single & "Benedictine Monk-working" Russian scholar and translator (pseudo "Alex" aka [AMVAS]) whose encyclopedic work has been freely released under that title: "RKKA in World War II"(9) - Yet hosted by ARMCHAIRGENERAL.COM at:

<http://www.armchairgeneral.com/rkkaww2/index.htm>

- "Battle for Moscow" on the web with very comprehensive maps, data, telling & webpage style at:

http://mapswar2.x10host.com/Battle_of_Moscow_1941_World_War_2_Campaigns.htm

and

<http://www.serpukhov.su/dima/war/eng/eindex.htm> (both in English)

- Original SL & COI (Avalon Hill) scenario: "Tempête d'Hiver sur Toula" by L. SERARD, tests: G. OSTERMANN, J. DESTREIT
"Casus Belli" Magazine, n°7, March-April 1982

TotH Adaptation/Extension:

LN59 - Sunday, April 3rd, 2016. Feedbacks are welcome! =;o)

Soon to be continued on other Fronts with 3 more scenarios to come and a lot more in reserve!

Notes:

(1) Operation Typhoon: September 30th - October 30th, 1941

Whose objective was to capture Moscow as soon as possible, i.e. before General Winter has come

(2) "Schneller Heinz" (Hurry Up Henry) who was in command of the German 2nd Armored Army (2. Panzerarmee) under Field Marshal (General Feldmarschall) Fedor von Bock's Army Group Centre (Heeresgruppe Mitte)

(3) I recommend the following Scenario Configuration for more historical background & flavor:

Difficulty: HARD or VERY HARD / Fog of War: ENABLED / Quality Path: HIGH / Russian radioless AFV Rule IN EFFECT

(4) MAP_1i.MAP(Sector 1) & MAP_4.MAP(Sector 2) are modified with TotH's Editor

A large number of MAP FILES are provided (ZIPPED) through the gamers' community on Matrix Games' Forum

Both files are within my ZIP. CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHIE61 for his great GREAT WORK upon maps!

(5) VPO: Victory Point Objective (see Manual, p. 44)

(6) Colonel - Russian: Polkovnik

(7) Grunt - Russian: Frontovik

Need a list of the most frequent WW2 military terms in four languages (guaranteed "f..." & "SoB" free)?

Please, read WG_Reminder.pdf that comes with this scenario SCN, MAP & TXT files

Don't miss having a look on the Historical Summary (PDF), there are interesting WW2 Era maps, sketches & snapshots

(8) "Ni shagu nazad!" - The Not one step back! order. Reading the complete text (kept secret until '98) is edifying. See Wikipedia at: https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Order_No._227_by_the_People's_Commissar_of_Defence_of_the_USSR

(9) "RKKA" for "Raboche-Krest'yanskaya Krasnaya Armiya" = (the) Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

Once more time,

Thank You PETER & JÖRGEN - and Paullus, Richie61, javafiend, idjester... for such a great game!

"Grand' merci à tous les enthousiastes d'un jeu qui deviendra sûrement un classique..."

Best Regards from France

Enjoy!

Lilian



"Ils ne passeront pas !"

(The French soldiers' motto - Verdun, 1916)



6. The Russian Winter Offensive in Tula area, December 1941



Coat of Arms of Tula

Tula was awarded the title Hero City in 1976