



BREAKOUT TO LISYANKA

FEBRUARY 16-17, 1944



Setup order

- | | | |
|---|--|----|
| 1 | | x9 |
| 2 | | x8 |
| 3 | | x7 |
| 4 | | x6 |
| 5 | | x3 |
| 6 | | x2 |
| 7 | | x1 |
| 8 | | x2 |

Historical Background

In January 1944 a large pocket of 6 German divisions with over 56,000 troops had been cut-off by the Soviet Army's 1st and 2nd Ukrainian Front troops. For days the Russians continued the attack in an attempt to split up the pocket and destroy the German forces.

Just prior to midnight February 16, in a desperate attempt to escape what the German's called the 'kessel' (or cauldron), the 72d Division and 5th Panzer Division attacked from the Khilki-Komarovka pocket. Infantry regiments fixed bayonets and moved out. The Soviet defenders were caught by surprise and the German force broke through the first line and continued the attack up into the hills.

The Russians counter-attacked from Dzhurzhentsy with tanks and artillery. Many Germans panicked and began a mad dash for freedom. The Soviet guns caused horrific casualties, but relief soon came in the form of Panzers from 3rd Panzerkorps. The breakout force had lost most of its artillery, tanks and supplies but many of the German units made it to the Gniloy Tikich River and crossed to safety.

The stage is set, the battle lines are drawn, and you are in command. The rest is history.

Briefing

Axis Player (Germany):

- Take 5 Command cards.
- You move first.

Allied Player (Soviet Union):

- Take 4 Command cards.

Conditions of Victory

7 Medals.

Exit markers are in effect along the entire length of the frozen Gniloy Tikich River, for Axis units. German infantry units that successfully cross the river and exit the board, score 2 medals, while German tank units that do the same score 1 medal.

Special Rules

Place a badge on German and Russian elite tank units (Troops 2 - Specialized Units).

Place a badge on German engineer units (Troops 4 - Combat Engineers).

The Gniloy Tikich River is frozen (Terrain 47 - Frozen Rivers).