

BLOCKS IN THE EAST



THE RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN 1941 - 45
RULES MANUAL AND SCENARIO BOOKLET

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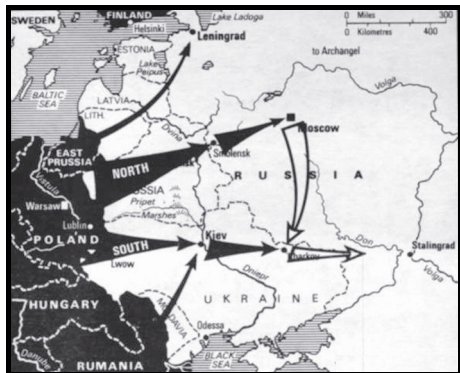
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BLOCKS IN THE EAST

PREFACE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On 22 June 1941, under the codeword *Dortmund*, the German Wehrmacht and other Axis powers started the invasion of the Soviet Union ("Operation Barbarossa") and thereby the biggest struggle in military history.



Over 150 divisions – ca. 3,6 million troops – of the Axis invaded the USSR along a front of 2,900 km. In addition to these troops, Barbarossa involved 600,000 motor vehicles, 750,000 horses, 3350 tanks, 7300 guns, and nearly 2000 planes – the largest invasion in the history of warfare.

ABOUT THE GAME

BLOCKS IN THE EAST (BITE) is a game of World War II conflict simulation at the strategic level. It recalls the most decisive battles fought on the Eastern Front from the beginning of the invasion in summer 1941 until the dramatic end in Berlin in spring 1945.

Although based on historical events and battles, the players in command of the two factions can modify the evolution of World War II on the Eastern Front.

The game is recommended for two or four players: one/two control the Soviet Red Army and the other one/two control Germany and the other Axis powers. In a threesome, one player controls one faction while the other two players control the other faction. The game is furthermore suitable for solitary play: the single player just controls both sides. In this case, a play with Fog of War is suggested. (See 37.0 for further details.)

RULES INTRODUCTION

The rules are divided into three major sections which can be learned one at a time: BASIC GAME RULES (BR): The first section introduces the basic concepts of BITE and enables players to start playing the game without too many rules to remember. The shorter scenarios (SBE1-4) are especially developed for this rules and to learn the mechanics of the game.

ADVANCED GAME RULES (AR): The next section provides more specific and detailed rules for an enhanced realism, such as Fuel Usage and the Advanced Production. The longer scenarios (SBE5-9) should be played with this rules.

OPTIONAL RULES (OR): Finally, for those players who want to get the best out of the game, these additional rules can be added

as desired (normally to the AR). They include Technology Research, Strategic Warfare with bombers and submarines, Partisans, Amphibious Landings, Airborne Assaults, Special Attack Actions, etc.

SCALE

A hexagon is approximately 53 miles (70 km) across.

A game turn is 1 month long.

A full strength counter represents a major military formation (normally a corps) of ca. 30,000 men, 300 Tanks, or 300 planes – depending on the unit type, equipment, nationality, etc.

SCENARIOS OVERVIEW

With over 300 unit counters and 300 different resource points of various colors, players can enjoy hours of fun by playing the full *Codeword Dortmund* campaign from 1941 to 1945 or by playing one of the other scenarios. Each scenario has a different difficulty level, rated in brackets from 1 (Very Easy) to 10 (Very Hard):

Short scenarios:

- SBE1: Road to Leningrad
June – September 1941 (1)
- SBE2: Road to Moscow
June – September 1941 (2)
- SBE3: Road to Rostov
June – November 1941 (3)
- SBE4: Short-Barbarossa
June – August 1941 (4)

Long scenarios and campaign:

- SBE5: Operation Barbarossa
June – November 1941 (8)
- SBE6: Case Blue: The Drive to Baku
June – November 1942 (7)
- SBE7: Operation Citadel: Battle of Kursk
June – November 1943 (6)
- SBE8: Operation Bagration
June 1944 – June 1945 (6)
- SBE9: *Codeword Dortmund*:
The Russian Campaign 1941 – 45 (10)

Every scenario has different victory conditions and length, with a different playing time of 2 to 3 hours for the short scenarios and 4+ hours for the long scenarios.

ABBREVIATIONS

(X.Y) = See rule chapter X.Y
 AA = Anti-Aircraft Gun
 AP = Action Point(s) of Headquarters
 AR = Advanced Rules
 BSS = Barbarossa Standard Setup
 BR = Basic Rules
 DF = Defense / Defensive
 (Air Units: Air-to-Air Firepower)
 H = Halved
 HQ = Headquarters
 MP = Movement Point(s)
 NA = Not Available
 NE = No Effect
 OF = Offense / Offensive
 (Air Units: Air-to-Ground Firepower)
 OR = Optional Rules
 PP = Production Point(s)
 Q = Quartered
 SBE = Scenario of BLOCKS IN THE EAST
 SRM = Strategic Rail Movement
 TECH = Tech Level
 VP = Victory Point(s)
 ZOC = Zone of Control

CREDITS

The basic concept of BITE was developed by **Emanuele Santandrea** starting from 2009, after over 30 years spent playing wargames. However, many other people have contributed in developing the final version of the game.

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BLOCKS IN THE EAST

BASIC GAME

1.0 GAME COMPONENTS

The following components of the Standard Boxed Edition are used for playing the game. Some components (*) are not needed for playing the BASIC GAME.

- N° 2 87x62 cm mapboards (laminated)
- N° 1 rules manual (scenario booklet incl.)
- N° 1 booklet with Germany Strategic Map, Scenario Setup Charts, Play-Example
- N° 156 wooden red blocks (Soviets, Soviet Development Tokens)
- N° 144 wooden black blocks (Germany, All Axis Minor Powers, Axis Development Tokens)
- N° 6 wooden light green blocks (Italian Forces)
- N° 6 wooden tan/white blocks (German Strategic Assets, Turn Tracker)
- N° 3 wooden dark green blocks (American Strategic Bombers)
- N° 2 wooden blue blocks (British Strategic Bombers)
- N° 318 PVC stickers (laminated, 2 stickers for the Turn Tracker Token)
- N° 60 wooden yellow cubes (General Production Points)
- N° 20 wooden red cubes * (Armor Production Points)
- N° 20 wooden blue cubes * (Air Production Points)
- N° 20 wooden yellow cylinders * (Repaired German Resources)
- N° 20 plastic black cylinders * (Oil Production Points)
- N° 10 plastic white cylinders ("Out-of-Supply" Markers)
- N° 20 dark red discs * (Soviet Partisans)
- N° 10 black discs * (Repaired German Oilfields)
- N° 25 red factories *
- N° 20 blue factories *
- N° 5 black factories *
- N° 7 dice

1.1 Mapboard

The mapboard shows the area in which the Russian campaign was fought.

A hexagonal grid on the map regulates movement and allows the precise positioning of the units. Individual hexagons are called "hexes".

Terrain is simplified and adapted to conform to the hex grid.

In the upper right corner of the mapboard, there's the Turn Record Chart used to record the current turn, the weather, Lend-Lease supplies, and other important events.

Tip: You can put a thin tile of glass or plexi-glass on the complete map to get a plain mapboard. (Low-reflection material is highly recommended.)

1.2 Unit Counters

317 wooden blocks of contrasting colors are provided for playing the game. These are the game's playing pieces. Most of them are the "units" of the game, some others are for a better game management only.

Apply one unit-sticker to each block of the following color:

- 148 Soviet Units (red/pink/orange): red.
- 140 German (grey/black), Finnish (white), Romanian (light blue), Hungarian (green), and Slovakian (purple) Units: black.
- 6 Italian Units (light green): light green.
- 5 German Strategic Assets (Interceptors, FFN, and U-boats): tan/white.
- 3 American Bombers (blue): dark green.
- 2 British Bombers (blue): blue.

Note: Some units of the Soviets and the Axis are blue or of another color, e.g., air units or navy units. For details, see the complete list of units on www.ventonuovo.net.

Also, a lot of wooden cubes and plastic cylinders are provided as a complement for the game. They are used for production, supply status, technology research, etc.

1.3 Fog of War

The game can be played with Fog of War on (= wooden blocks are placed on the map in such a way that the opponent player cannot see them) or with Fog of War off (= all units are visible).

Note: For solitary play, the use of Fog of War should be considered (37.2).

2.0 SETUP

2.1 Side Selection

At the beginning of the game, players choose randomly or by mutual agreement who controls the Soviet faction and who the Axis faction.

2.2 Scenario Selection

Both players choose a scenario to be played (see scenario booklet).

2.3 Game Setup

Place the Turn Tracker Token on the Turn Record Chart with the Axis icon face up (Axis always has the initiative). The starting month depends on the chosen scenario. Set up all units, cubes, and other components according to this scenario.

3.0 BASIC DEFINITIONS

The following rules are used many times in several different phases and steps of a turn. They are grouped here to avoid repetition.

3.1 Controlling Player / Enemy

A player always moves the units of his side, and is therefore the "controlling player" for his own units and territory. Whenever the rules refer to units moving, this means that the controlling player is the one moving them. What a player does not control is defined as the "enemy".

A player controls land hexes and cities if they are behind his front-line and not occupied by enemy units. If there is no clear front-line, mark controlled cities with spare cubes until occupied (and therefore immediately controlled) by units of the other faction.

A player controls a sea area if he controls at least 1 major or 2 minor ports in that sea. If both players meet this condition, then both players control this sea area.

3.2 Phasing / Non-Phasing Player

The "phasing player" is the player currently performing the phases for his side (= Axis or Soviet phases). Thus, the Axis player is the phasing player during the Axis phases of his turn, and the Soviet player is the phasing player during the Soviet phases of his turn. The player who is not the phasing player is the "non-phasing player".

3.3 Hex Control of Cities, Factories, and Production Centers

Once a ground unit enters and/or passes through a city, production center, or oilfield hex, that hex is immediately conquered and therefore controlled.

Conquered enemy factories are destroyed once captured.

City-Types: There are 5 city-types in BITE:

- A **Capital City** hex has a big red dot (i.e. Moscow).
- A **Major City** hex has a big orange dot (i.e. Kalinin). All rules for major cities also apply to capital cities.
- A **Minor City** hex has a yellow dot (i.e. Rubinsk).
- A **Fortress City** hex has an orange border and a fortress icon (i.e. Leningrad).
- A **Victory City** hex has normally a special icon: Moscow (Kremlin), Leningrad (Soviet-star), Stalingrad (Hammer & Sickle), Baku (Hammer & Sickle), and Berlin (Reichstag). Victory Cities determine the winner in some scenarios and in the campaign.



Note: Historical Battle Sites have a very small black/yellow dot. These hexes (e.g., Uman, Demyansk) have no special functions at all in the game. They have been added only for historical note.

3.4 Airbases

Planes must land in an airfield where they can be refuelled, rearmed, and eventually repaired.

An airfield is any controlled fortress, major city, and minor city hex that could serve as a supply source (4.0).

No more than 1 air unit may use the same airbase hex at the same time.



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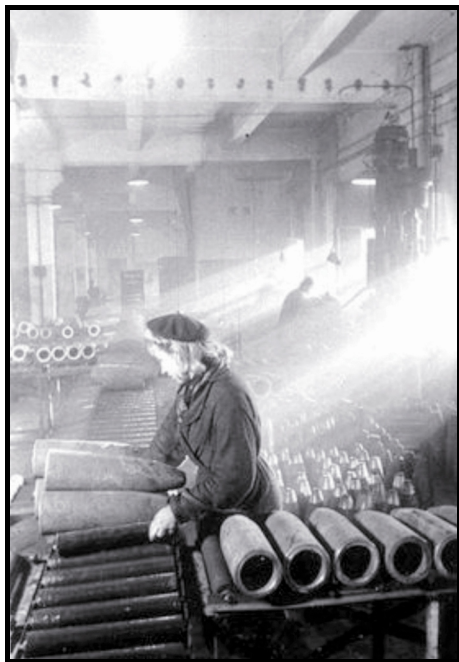
3.5 Railways / Strategic Rail Movement

Railways are the major rail lines mainly used for supply and strategic rail movement (SRM: 7.4).

3.6 Production Centers

There are 3 types of production centers in BITE that produce resources of different colors (Production Points: PP).

However, in the BASIC GAME only yellow Production Points are used. These PP are generated by population centers (some major cities) and mining centers (hexes with a mine trolley icon). A black number indicates how many yellow PP those hexes generate each turn.



3.7 Siberia and Off-Map-Boxes

There are 6 Off-Map-Boxes in the game: Narvik, Tromso, Petsamo, Murmansk, Krasnovodsk, and Siberia.

These special areas are just too far from the playing area to be represented in the game as a hex, but all the rules applied to hexes also apply to Off-Map-Boxes.

- **Narvik** is mountain terrain.

It has both land and rail connection to the map (Gallivare) and a land connection to Tromso.

- **Tromso** is mountain terrain.

It has no direct connection to the map, but is land connected to Narvik and Petsamo.

- **Petsamo** is forest terrain.

It has both land and rail connection to the map (Salla) and is also land connected to Tromso and Murmansk.

- **Murmansk** is forest terrain.

It has both land and rail connection to the map (Kantalahti) and has also a land connection to Petsamo.

- **Krasnovodsk** is forest terrain.

It has a land and rail connection to Siberia.

- **Siberia** is forest terrain.

It has a land and rail connection to Krasnovodsk and is rail connected to the map through 5 railways: Nizhny Tagil, Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, Magnitogorsk, Chalov.

Note: The Baku-Krasnovodsk sea-route is not active at the beginning of the game. The Soviet player can build it in some scenarios.

3.8 Combat Units

All units capable of attacking alone are combat units.

Artillery and headquarters are not combat units: they are ground support units.

3.9 Support Units

Artillery is a devastating weapon. It moves as fast as infantry does, but fires before the other ground units if it is part of a combined combat formation. When planning a good attack, don't let your army lack these units!

Headquarters (HQ) are the nerve centers of every military force. Each power has its own national Leader- or Supreme-HQ and some special headquarters: Armor-, Air-, and (Soviet) Navy-HQ. (These special HQ are not used in the BASIC GAME.)



3.10 Stacking

Normally, a maximum of 4 units of the same faction may be stacked in the same hex, regardless if it is a friendly, empty, or enemy occupied hex. However, no more than 1 air unit may use a city as an airbase hex.

No more than 3 ground units can stack in the same hex, of which maximum 2 can be ground combat units.

When attacking or defending, players may use 1 more air unit to support the combat (usually 1 fighter plus 1 bomber).

3.11 Steps (Combat Strength)

Every unit has a combat strength depending on how many steps the unit has. When involved in combat, a unit rolls as many dice as steps it has.

3.12 Action Points (AP)

HQs have special steps called Action Points (AP). These points function and are repaired as normal steps, but moreover they allow the HQ to perform as many actions and/or special actions as AP it has.

3.13 Tech Level (TECH)

The Tech Level defines how much training, experience and consequently firepower, Movement Points (MP), and special abilities a unit has.

The Tech Levels in the BASIC GAME are predetermined: technology breakthroughs happen at a fixed time listed on the Turn Record Chart and below:

- March 1942: Soviet Infantry TECH 2
- November 1942: Soviet Armor TECH 2
- January 1943: Soviet Fighter TECH 2
- July 1943: German Armor TECH 3
- September 1943: Soviet Bomber TECH 2
- May 1944: German Fighter TECH 3
- July 1944: Soviet Armor TECH 3
- September 1944: Soviet Infantry TECH 3
- October 1944: German Infantry TECH 3
- March 1945: German Bomber TECH 3

As a consequence, a prefixed amount of yellow PP may be subtracted every turn from the total amount of a faction (see scenarios). Higher Tech Levels could also be reached with research by spending a certain amount of Production Points for several turns. However, these rules are optional and thus not used in the BASIC GAME. (For further details see 17.0 and the Tech Level Chart.)

Note: The Tech Level of a unit has nothing to do with its steps (= combat strength).

3.14 Firepower

Firepower is the ability of a unit to hit the enemy, e.g., most of the units usually hit at 6, while armored units have a better firepower and hit at 5&6.

Fighters usually have a better defensive firepower than bombers (air-to-air combat), while bombers often have a better offensive (air-to-ground) firepower than fighters.

3.15 Hits

Hits are applied immediately after the die roll by reducing unit's steps. This is done by rotating the unit counterclockwise as many times as needed to fulfil the number of hits suffered.

Example: A German infantry unit at full 4-step strength needs 4 hits to be destroyed, while 1 hit only causes the unit to be reduced to 3-step strength.

The strongest unit must be reduced first. If two units have the same strength, the owner chooses.

Note: Some units (for example a Soviet Guards infantry unit with 7 steps) must suffer 2 hits to be reduced by 1 step (7.7.8).

3.16 Fractions

When halving or quartering any values (e.g., Movement Points, Attack Strength), fractions are always rounded down.

3.17 Minimum Fire

Even if reduced to fractions below 1 and rounded down, units always roll at least 1 die.

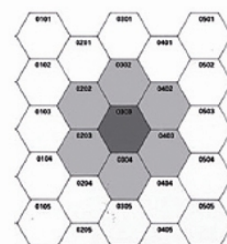
3.18 Minimum Movement

Even if reduced to fractions below 1 and rounded down, units always have at least 1 Movement Point.

3.19 Zones of Control (ZOC)

All ground and air units have a "Zone of Control" (ZOC). This zone represents a degree of control of adjacent hexes by a unit: hex control, supply routes, retreats, and strategic rail movement.

A unit's ZOC normally consists of all six surrounding adjacent hexes with the exception of hexes occupied by enemy units.



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Units in a battle hex and air units performing combat missions immediately lose their ZOC.

Also, a unit's ZOC does not extend across deep-water hexsides, straits, or into all-water lake, sea, or water portions of coastal hexes. In the ADVANCED GAME, the ZOC does not extend across a riverside hex, too.

Note: For a unit's ZOC it does not matter if the unit is supplied or unsupplied (4.0).

3.20 Axis Powers and RHG Units

The Axis forces consist of Germany plus its allies: Italy, Finland, Romania, Hungary, and Slovakia.

Slovaks and German Security RHG Units ("Rear Area of the Army"): These units are corps formations without any real combat efficiency. During the war, they have been used mainly for anti-partisan duty and are not used at all in the BASIC GAME.

3.21 First Turn: "Frozen" Units

During turn 1, Hungarian (H) units remain in Hungary, Romanian and German ground units in Romania (R) remain in Romania, and Finnish (F) units remain in Finland. None of these units can move or attack: they are "frozen" respectively neutral.

The same restrictions apply to *all* the Soviet units inside the Leningrad (L), the Odessa (O), and the Caucasus (C) Military District (white, orange, and brown dotted units).

These restrictions end on turn 2. However, Romanian air units are free to perform flying and combat missions over Soviet territory as German air units based in Romania can do.

3.22 Battle Hex

Combat in BITE occurs when a player moves at least one of his units into a hex occupied by one or more enemy units: this hex is called a "battle hex".

In some situations, when many battles occur in adjacent hexes, it could be helpful marking these battle hexes with a spare counter and removing the combat units from the hex and placing them face up in an unused space on the map. Place them face to face with the enemy units, with their actual step (combat strength) pointing to this temporary "front-line".

4.0 SUPPLY

Military forces require vast amounts of supplies – food, ammunition, fuel.

This supply is checked at the beginning of the turn. Units that are supplied at that time remain in action at full effects until the Armor Exploitation Phase (7.10).

4.1 Main Supply Sources

The main/national supply sources are:

- Siberia (*not* Moscow) for the Soviets,
- Berlin for the Germans,
- Belgrade for the Italians,
- Helsinki for the Finns,
- Bucharest for the Romanians,
- Budapest for the Hungarians,
- and Bratislava for the Slovaks.

4.2 Other Supply Sources

Any rail or port hex that is directly connected to the main supply source by rail or sea is a supply source itself.

Note: The rail hex does not need to be a city. (Naturally, ports are mostly cities.)

4.3 "Out-of-Supply" Units

To be in supply, units must be able to trace a lane of maximum 3 hexes to a friendly supply source at the beginning of their turn.

This supply lane can be traced through any land terrain hex, but *not*

- through mountain or all-water hexes,
- through any hex occupied by an enemy ground unit, or
- through any hex in an enemy ground unit's ZOC.

Note: A hex in the ZOC of two or more units of both factions does neither support the one nor the other side. Thus, the supply lane cannot cross it.

A unit that cannot trace such a supply lane to a friendly supply source is considered to be "Out-of-Supply" and is marked with a white (= empty) plastic barrel.



4.4 "Out-of-Supply" Effects

Supplied combat units perform normally.

All units marked with a white "Out-of-Supply" barrel cannot receive replacements of any kind during the Production Phase, have their Movement Points (MP) halved, and cannot attack during the Combat Phase.

Unsupplied air units may be used only to make a transfer movement from a friendly airbase to another one, but at half range.

Any unit marked as "Out-of-Supply" which is still unsupplied in the Final Supply Status Phase at the end of a turn is forced to surrender and is eliminated from play (see below and 7.9).

4.5 Surrender

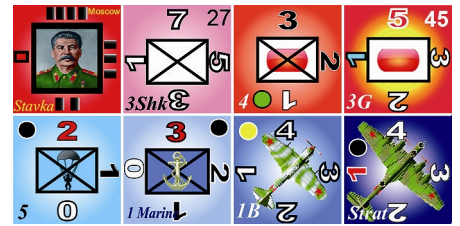
Each unsupplied unit that must surrender during the Final Supply Status Phase grants 1 PP to the enemy and is then removed from the map. (It can be rebuilt in a successive Production Phase.) This simulates the effect that the enemy can use some of the captured equipment, vehicles, aircrafts, weapons, and manpower for its own army and warfare.

In the BASIC GAME, the PP is a yellow one, in the ADVANCED GAME, the PP are of different colors and amount depending on the surrendering unit (12.5).

Note: 0-step units (e.g., Artillery, Soviet marine infantry and paratroopers, air units of Axis minor allies) do not surrender; they must be engaged and destroyed.

5.0 FIGHTING POWERS

5.1 Soviet Union (USSR)



Stalin's emphasis was on production instead of research, development and training.

Inadequately trained and inexperienced Soviet soldiers equipped with aged weapons could not hope to compete with the superior German forces when the invasion was launched.

But, provided the Soviet Union can survive the initial onslaught, she has huge reserves in terms of natural resources and manpower to fill the gap and finally overcome the Axis forces.

The Soviets in the game:

All units of the Red Army and Soviet Aviation (*Voyenno-Vozdushnye Sily*: VVS) start the game at TECH 1 in every field.

Soviets are well prepared for the winter war and do not suffer any penalty for fighting in snowy weather.

Note: The Soviets have no minor allies in this game.

5.2 Germany



At the time Barbarossa was launched, the units of the German Wehrmacht and the Luftwaffe were highly trained and equipped with the best weapons of the period.

However, the Wehrmacht was not prepared for either a long campaign or for the Russian winter. Securing the important industrial and mining areas and destroying the bulk of the Soviet Red Army are a must before it's too late...

The Germans in the game:

All German units start the game at TECH 2 in every field and have a considerable qualitative advantage in term of movement, firepower, and special abilities.

Each turn, Germany can spread help to *all* their minor allies by sending them any kind of Production Points for repairing or rebuilding their armies at a maximum rate of 3 PP per ally.

Note: Italy and Finland have no Production Points, so the only way to repair or rebuild their units is asking Germany for assistance.

BLOCKS IN THE EAST

5.3 Other Axis Powers

In middle of 1941, the Italians and the Axis minor allies (Romanians, Hungarians, and Slovaks; the Finns are an exception) did not have the same combat strength and the experience as the German forces.

Their troops were generally poorly trained and lacked of a real willingness to fight. In addition, their equipment was inadequate for a modern war.

The other Axis powers in the game:

All units of the Axis minor allies (except the Finns) and the Italian units start the game at TECH 1 in every field. So they act exactly as the Soviets do at the beginning of the game: ground units have 3 MP (cavalry 4), they always hit at 6...

Italians, Romanians, Hungarians, and the Slovaks cannot operate in the Soviet Union north of the green dotted line.

National air units may only support their own national ground units in combat.

Additionally note that the Romanians and Hungarians may never stack together in the same hex. However, if embattled together, the Axis player must immediately eliminate one of these units before normal combat is resolved.

The Finns have special rules (5.5).

5.4 Italy



Italy is an Axis major power.

Despite his strong effort in the Mediterranean theatre and Italy's global weakness, fascist leader Mussolini wanted an expeditionary Italian corps to join the German ally on the Eastern Front.

Italians have been often held in little regard by the Germans and were even accused of some cowardice and low morale: in reality, their relative ineffectiveness in combat was due to their very scarce equipment, obsolete weaponry, and primitive tactics of the Italian officers.

But especially the lesser ranks often fought bravely, and the Italian forces distinguished themselves in numerous battles, as in the battle of Nikolayevka.



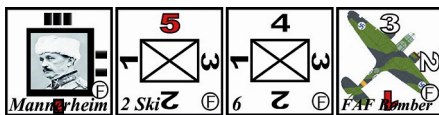
But absolutely unprepared for this kind of war, without trucks and worst commanded, the *Corpo di Spedizione Italiano in Russia* (CSIR), later expanded to *Armata Italiana in Russia* (ARMIR), was directly going down to Hell.

The Italians in the game:

Italy has no Production Points, but can hope to have some from Germany. However, eliminated Italian units cannot be rebuilt and are permanently removed from play.

Italians may only enter Yugoslavia, Poland, and the Soviet Union south of the green dotted line and cannot operate north of this line.

5.5 Finland



After the defeat of Finland in the Winter War 1939-1940, Marshal Mannerheim's Finnish troops were seeking revenge.

The Finns were very tough and fierce soldiers: during the overall war period they encircled and destroyed many of the entire untrained Soviet divisions that were unable to stand the Finnish impetus.



The Finns in the game:

Infantry class units start the game at TECH 2, so both infantry and artillery units have 4 Movement Points, and artillery hits at 5&6.

Because of their excellent snipers, Finnish infantry units receive 1 Bonus (7.7.6) when defending in forest or swamp hexes in their attacking zone (see following passages).

Finnish ski units receive also 1 Bonus when attacking in forest or swamp hexes in their attacking zone.

Furthermore, Finns are very well trained for the winter war and do not suffer any penalty for fighting in snowy weather.

However, their limited logistics make these excellent soldiers unable to both fight and move too far away from their homeland. So Finns (and German troops sent to Finland during the game) cannot attack enemy units behind the white dotted lines (= Finnish attack zone) and cannot move further (neither east nor south) than the hexes with the big white dots (= Finnish operational area).

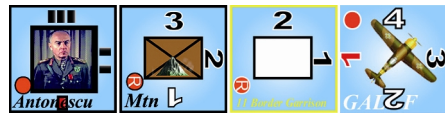
Finland has no Production Points, but can hope to have some from Germany.

The Germans in Finland:

German units supplied through Finland cannot attack Soviet units out of the Finnish attack zone.

No more than 1 German unit may be stationed inside the Finnish (red) borders of 1941 before a Soviet ground unit crosses these borders in 1941.

5.6 Romania



Romanians have been the most employed German allies on the Eastern Front with over 600.000 men led by Marshal Antonescu.

Romania was also the most important German oil supplier: Losing the valuable reserves of the Ploiesti oilfields equals losing the war.

Romanian mountain troops distinguished themselves for tough fighting – sometimes even barefoot –, and most of them had been honorably killed in action in the furious battles fought on the Caucasian Mt. Elbrus at the end of 1942.

The Romanians in the game:

Romanians may only operate in the Soviet Union (south of the green dotted line) and in Romania.

Remember: Romanian and Hungarian units may never stack together in the same hex (5.3).

5.7 Hungary



Hungarians were led by General Ferenc Szombathelyi.

The Hungarians in the game:

Hungarian units may only see actions in their homeland, in Yugoslavia, and in the Soviet Union south of the green dotted line.

Remember: Romanian and Hungarian units may never stack together in the same hex (5.3).

5.8 Slovakia



The puppet state of Slovakia, ruled by Monsignore Josef Tiso, joined Nazi Germany in the anti-bolscevic crusade from the early beginning, crossing the Soviet border at the end of June 1941.

However, the Slovaks were not ready for such a huge effort. After a short time they were retired from the first front-line and sent back for garrison duty.

The Slovaks in the game:

Slovaks cannot operate in the Soviet Union north of the green dotted line. Apart from that, Slovak units are normal units of an Axis minor ally (5.3). The Axis player can use them as he prefers.

BLOCKS IN THE EAST

6.0 UNITS

Units roll as many combat dice as steps they have.

Example: A Hungarian mountain brigade with 1 step rolls only 1 die, a strong Siberian shock army with 7 steps rolls 7 dice!

Units can have different firepower due to their Tech Levels (TECH) or nationality. The firepower when attacking could also be different to the firepower when defending.

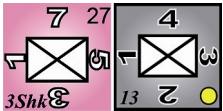
Units can gain significant advantages in firepower, Movement Points and special abilities reaching a higher Tech Level.

Note: The following terms "Bonus" and "Malus" are combat modifiers and described in 7.7.6.

6.1 Infantry Class Units

Part of this unit class are all standard infantry, static infantry, cavalry, mountain units, artillery, paratroopers, and marines.

6.1.1 Standard and Static Infantry Units



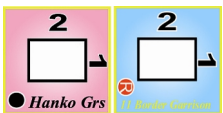
Infantry is the cheapest unit to employ. It is a must for defense and it constitutes the bulk of every good army.

Soviet and Axis minor allies infantry (except the Finns) had no real fighting experience in 1941 and were very poorly trained and equipped (TECH 1), while German infantry had already had many chances to build up a challenging experience (TECH 2).

At TECH 2, infantry is faster and also gains 4 important capabilities: Desperate Attack, Reserve Mode, and in special cases Amphibious Landings and Airborne Assaults. TECH 2 artillery gains 1 Bonus in both attack and defense battles.

Finally, when TECH 3 is reached, infantry gains 1 Bonus in defense, and artillery gains 1 significant extra Bonus.

Note that Soviet shock armies had already been employed in the Soviet-Japanese Border War of 1938/39 and gained a good fighting experience: they are TECH 2 and have 4 MP.



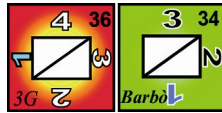
Static Infantry: These garrison units can only be moved by strategic rail movement (7.4) and by naval movement (OR 18.0). They can neither attack nor retreat.

6.1.2 Mountain Units



This special trained infantry is very well suited for mountain battles: when fighting in hills and mountain hexes, it gets no Malus when attacking and 1 Bonus if defending.

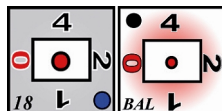
6.1.3 Cavalry Units



Cavalry is a special horse-mounted infantry class unit. It has the same firepower as regular infantry in both attack and defense whatever is the Tech Level, but is 1 MP faster.



6.1.4 Artillery



Artillery is a devastating weapon.

It moves as fast as infantry does, but it always fires *before* every other ground unit and, when attacking, also before the defender's artillery does.

If attacked, artillery defend normally firing before every other ground unit but after the attacker's artillery.

Artillery hits at 5&6 when TECH 2 is reached and at devastating 4-6 when TECH 3 is reached!

However, if embattled alone, it does not fire at all.

Remember that an artillery unit must be reduced (rotated counterclockwise) after firing to simulate the consumption of the ammunition. A 0-step artillery unit is no longer able to fight until "repaired".



6.1.5 Paratroopers and Marines



In the BASIC GAME, paratrooper and marine infantry units are treated exactly like other infantry units and have no special capabilities.

(For special rules see OR 23.0 and 24.0.)

6.2 Armor Class Units

Mobile forces made the difference on nearly every World War II battlefield they were employed, especially if they had been well commanded.

Armor units have the ability of move and attack twice a turn, so they can easily pocket and destroy the bulk of the enemy army.

There are two types of armor units in BITE:

- Tankettes: Light tanks, armored infantry.
- Tanks: Medium tanks, heavy tanks.

6.2.1 Tankette Units

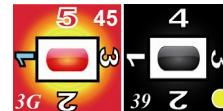


Light tank units don't have the same attack power as medium or heavy tanks, but they are smartly used to fill the gap between exploiting tanks and infantry lines.

At TECH 2, they move faster and gain 1 Bonus in defense. Furthermore, they gain the ability of Blitzing, Exploiting, Panzers Attack!, Desperate Attack, and Reserve Mode.

At TECH 3, they gain 1 additional Bonus in both attack and defense and can really work like unstoppable assault machines.

6.2.2 Tank Units



Medium and heavy tank formations were the most powerful ground units. Their presence on the battlefield gives a huge advantage and makes it easy to chase and encircle the enemy forces.

Basically, tanks attack at 6 and defend at 5&6, but when TECH 2 is reached, they attack at 5&6, move faster (4 MP instead of 3), and gain the ability of Desperate Attack and Reserve Mode.

At TECH 3, they become heavy tanks: they attack and defend at the very impressive firepower of 4-6.



BLOCKS IN THE EAST

6.3 Aircraft Units

Basically, there are two types of aircrafts in BITE: fighters and bombers.

6.3.1 Fighters



Fighters are the equivalent of infantry for an air army. They are cheap and good for escorting the precious bombers, even if they have a shorter operative range.

When they reach TECH 2, they gain 1 Bonus in air-to-air combat (hit at 5&6) and became able to attack enemy troops on ground (strafing attacks hit at 6).

At TECH 3, they become jet fighters with an increased range of 10 hexes, increased air-to-air combat firepower of 4-6 and better ground attack (strafing) firepower of 5&6.



Fighters on the ground can immediately take off and fight when attacked by enemy air units (7.6.1).

If fighters on the ground are attacked by enemy ground units and there are no friendly ground units in the same hex, the fighters must immediately withdraw to a friendly airbase within range by losing 1 step. If that is not possible, the fighters are destroyed (7.6.2).

6.3.2 Bombers



Bombers are the best way to attack enemy ground formations and aircrafts on ground. However, they are very expensive and very fragile, so a fighter escort may preserve them from enemy interceptors' firepower.

When bombers reach TECH 2, they gain 1 Bonus in ground attack (bombing hits at 5&6) and become able to fight in an air-to-air-combat against enemy fighters.

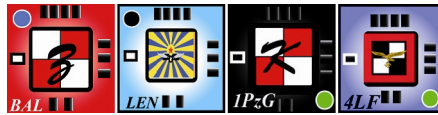
At TECH 3, they become jet bombers with an increased range of 15 hexes, increased air-to-air combat firepower of 5&6 and better ground attack (bombing) firepower of 4-6.

The Soviets also have *Aviatsiya Dal'nego Deystviya* (long range respectively strategic bombers) as special units. These bombers work like other bombers, but at an increased operative range of 15 hexes already at TECH 1 and without the need of air recon to attack at full capacity (OR 19.0).

If attacked by enemy air units, bombers on the ground must not take off in the first combat round (7.6.1).

If bombers on the ground are attacked by enemy ground units and there are no friendly ground units in the same hex, the bombers must immediately withdraw to a friendly airbase within range by losing 1 step. If that is not possible, the bombers are destroyed (7.6.2).

6.4 Headquarters (HQ)



Headquarters represent leaders but also the vital amount of ammunition, fuel, food, and general supplies for the units.

Armor-HQ, Air-HQ, Soviet Navy-HQ, and the national Supreme-HQ are support units. They have anti-aircraft firepower and, if activated, can make special actions: naval movement (18.0), air recon missions (19.0), command armor units or send air units into battles (13.0), etc.

Armor-HQ (but *not* Air-HQ, Soviet Navy-HQ, or national Supreme-HQ) are similar to tanks (i.e., they have the same firepower and special abilities), but they act and fire as artillery in any case (fire before other ground units, reduce 1 step after firing, etc.). However, like artillery, if embattled alone, they do not fire at all.

If sent directly into battle, they have the same firepower as tanks.

Note: Armor-, Air-, and Soviet Navy-HQ are not used in the BASIC GAME.

6.5 Anti-Aircraft Guns (AA)

Every ground unit (also every HQ) in BITE has anti-aircraft guns (AA) for defense.

If attacked by enemy aircrafts, the AA will try to shoot them down before they can drop their bombs or strafe.

The firepower of the AA is equal to the defensive firepower of its unit, and the unit rolls for AA as many dice as steps it has.



7.0 SEQUENCE OF PLAY

The game starts when all setup is complete. The game is played in turns, each representing the passage of one month's time. Each turn is divided into phases and steps which must be performed in a precise order.

After the weather is checked (AR; May and October only), the Axis player gets his complete phases first as described in the sequence below. Afterwards, the Soviet player gets his complete phases.

When both players have finished the phases, victory conditions are checked. Then, the turn is over and a new one may begin.

A. Weather Determination Phase

May and October (AR only)

B. Axis Phases

1. Strategic Warfare Phase (AR only)
2. Supply Phase
3. Production Phase
4. Strategic Rail Movement Phase
5. Movement Phase
6. Defender Reaction Phase
7. Combat Phase
8. Blitz Phase
9. Final Supply Status Phase
10. Armor Exploitation Phase

C. Soviet Phases

Like Axis Phases 1-10

D. Victory Phase

7.1 Strategic Warfare Phase

This phase is not part of the BASIC GAME. It is just important in the ADVANCED GAME with the OR 34.0.

7.2 Supply Phase

The phasing player checks which of his units are in supply and which are not (4.0). He marks every unsupplied unit with a white (= empty) barrel by putting it on the unit.

7.3 Production Phase

Scenario parameters and resources (e.g., factories or mining centers) generate a particular amount of Production Points (PP) for each faction per turn (3.6/11.0). These PP can be used to repair *supplied* units in play or to rebuild destroyed units:

- Each **black** step of a unit costs 1 PP.
- Each **white** step of a unit costs 2 PP.
- Each **red** step of a unit costs 3 PP.
- A **blue** step cannot be rebuilt.

The phasing player can spend all, some, or none of his PP out of his PP pool. Unspent PP are saved for future use and kept in the Saved PP Box of the Production Tracker on the mapboard.

Then, the phasing player checks his faction's Battle Sheet on the mapboard to see what reinforcements (new units) are available for free in this turn.

7.3.1 New Units Arrival

Unless otherwise specified, rebuilt units and reinforcement units may be placed in any friendly supplied fortress and/or major city hex located in the unit's home country, but no more than 1 unit per major city.

Note: Treat Poland as the "home country" for Italian units.

BLOCKS IN THE EAST

In all national capitals, Stalingrad, and Leningrad 2 units may be placed.

Armor units must enter at an armor factory plant (red). Air units and paratroopers must enter at an air factory plant (blue). Soviet marine infantry may only enter at either the Sebastopol or Leningrad shipyards (white). Reinforcement units enter at the strength level indicated on their Battle Sheet on the mapboard (usually at maximum strength).

7.3.2 Reinforcement Restrictions

Reinforcements and rebuilt units may only be placed in a city hex that is connected to their main supply source by rail or sea. When placed in cities, these units may overstack till the Movement Phase.

Reinforcements must be held back if their arrival location is controlled by the enemy or when it is out of supply.

7.3.3 Holding Back Reinforcements

Reinforcements that must be held back or that the player voluntarily wishes to hold back may be put into play during this player's Production Phase of any later turn. In this case, they can be put into play without any penalties or costs.

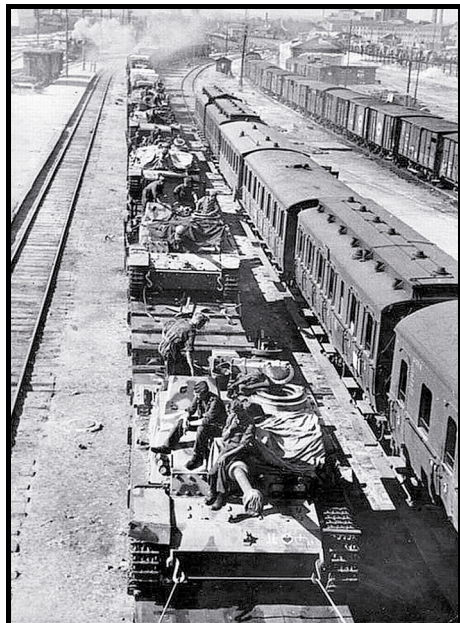
7.3.4 Disbanding Units

After all production is completed, the phasing player may voluntarily disband any number of his *supplied* units. These units may be rebuilt starting from the next turn.

7.4 Strategic Rail Movement Phase

The strategic rail movement (SRM) allows the immediate redeployment of a certain amount of troops from an area of the front to another. It is the best way to move new units to the front-line. It's also used to mass troops before launching surprise offensives in a light defended area or to reinforce an area under threat.

The Soviets can make a maximum of 5 SRM per turn. The Axis can make a maximum of 4 SRM per turn in the Soviet Union plus 1 in Finland. Moreover, the Axis powers can make an unlimited number of SRM out of the Soviet Union territory.



With each SRM a player can move 1 unit, but the SRM must be paid with 1 yellow PP or with 1 HQ Action Point (3.12/13.0).

To be eligible for rail movement, a unit must start the turn in supply, in a hex with a rail line, and not adjacent to any enemy units.

Then it can move any distance on rail, but it can never pass hexes adjacent to enemy units or end its movement adjacent to enemy units.

After this phase, the unit can move normally during the Movement Phase.

7.5 Movement Phase

Units may be moved alone or together in stacks that can be broken down at any point during movement.

Units are moved by tracing a continuous route of movement through the mapboard's hexgrid.

Hexes may *never* be overleaped or skipped.

7.5.1 Number of Units to Move

In the BASIC GAME, the phasing player may move as many or as few of his units as desired: all, some, or none.

7.5.2 Unit Movement Order

1. Ground Units: First, the phasing player moves his ground units during this step.

2. Air Units: After that, the phasing player moves his air units.

He may move any number of his *supplied* air units to any battle location hexes within 5 (fighters), 10 (bombers), or 15 (Soviet long range bombers) hexes of their airbases.

Alternatively, he may move any number of his air units from their current airbases to new airbases at double the above range (= rebasing).

Unsupplied air units may only rebase and get their range halved.

7.5.3 Movement Point Costs (MP)

Each unit has a Movement Point (MP) value depending on its type and/or Tech Level.

Example: A TECH 1 ground unit of the Soviets has 3 MP, while a TECH 2 ground unit of the Germans has 4 MP.

A ground unit that enters a hex expend a number of MP depending on the terrain of this hex:

- Plain (clear hex): 1 MP
- Forest: 2 MP
- Hills: 2 MP
- Mountains: 3 MP
- Swamp: 3 MP

Note: Crossing a river does not cost any additional MP.

Regardless of terrain, air units expend 1 MP per hex entered.

No unit may enter a hex for which it lacks enough remaining MP.

Unused MP are lost. They are not transferable from one unit to another and may not be accumulated from turn to turn.

Units may pass through hexes containing other friendly units without penalty, paying the normal movement costs for the terrain. Moving units may overstack when passing through a hex with friendly units (3.10).

The movement must end when a ground unit enters a hex containing an enemy ground unit.

A ground unit may move into a hex in an enemy unit's ZOC, but retreating ground units must not (7.7.15).

An air unit may enter and/or pass through hexes containing any enemy units without penalty.

Remember: Unsupplied units have their MP value halved.

7.5.4 Restricted Hexes

Ground units may not pass through or enter any all water hexes (although air units may).

Units may enter hexes that are partially land and partially water (called "coastal hexes") at normal movement costs, but may not move into partial hexes on the mapboard edges.

Partial Hexes: Partial hexes are not playable even if they sometimes give some Production Points, such as Sverdlovsk. The last playable hexrow in the north is the one passing through Salla. The last playable hexcolumn in the east is the one passing through Magnitogorsk.

7.5.5 Movement Across Red Arrows

Red arrows are connections over straits and to Off-Map-Boxes. Moving across these arrows always costs 3 MP.

If the phasing player does not control both connected hexes, only infantry class units can cross these particular hexes.

Kerch Strait: In order to attempt a crossing of the Kerch Strait, the Axis player must also control Sebastopol at the time the attempt is made. (See Play-Example for details.)



7.6 Defender Reaction Phase

After the phasing player has moved all of his units, the non-phasing player may react by moving any number of his *supplied* air units to any battle location hexes within 5 (fighters), 10 (bombers), or 15 (Soviet long range bombers) hexes of their airbases.

Air units which are already in a battle hex may *not* be moved in other battle hexes during this step. They are considered to be attacked on ground (except fighters: see below).

7.6.1 Airbase Attack

The phasing player as attacker may send its air units (fighters and bombers) to attack enemy planes on ground. If attacked by air units (combined with ground units or not), the fighters of the non-phasing player always immediately take off and fight, while his bombers do not and got bombed on ground in the first combat round.

As usual, both players may withdraw their *flying* air units after the Air-to-Air Combat Step as well as after the end of the first combat round (7.7.13).

BLOCKS IN THE EAST

7.6.2 Air Evacuation

If the phasing player's (= attacker's) ground units enter a hex where there are only enemy air units, those units must immediately evacuate this base: they lose 1 step and must rebase at an available friendly airbase in range (if any: 7.7.16). If they can't complete the evacuation movement, they are destroyed.

7.7 Combat Phase

Individual combats in various battle hexes may be performed in any order determined by the phasing player.



Every combat must be completely finished before the next may begin.

Every unit capable of fighting in the battle hex *must* participate in the combat. Resolve every single combat step by step as described below:

Sequence of a Combat Round

1. Air-to-Air Combat Step
2. Anti-Aircraft Fire Step
3. Air-to-Ground Combat Step
4. Artillery Fire Step (Attacker first)
5. Ground Combat Step (Defender first)

7.7.1 Air-to-Air Combat Step

This combat step happens only if both sides have air units in the battle hex and at least one side fighters; otherwise go directly to the next step.

In this step the air units of both sides fight against each other simultaneously. As usual, air units roll 1 die for every of their steps.

At the beginning of the game and for several turns after, German fighters hit at 5&6 while all other air units hit only at 6.

The hits are immediately applied.

Every hit normally reduces 1 enemy air unit by 1 step. Some air units need to suffer 2 hits before they are reduced by 1 step (7.7.8).

After each round of air-to-air combat, a side may decide to withdraw from the battle (defender decides first); otherwise, another air-to-air combat round automatically occurs.

7.7.2 Anti-Aircraft Fire Step

This combat step happens only if one side still has air units in the battle hex.

Before these aircrafts can attack enemy units on the ground, they must be attacked from the ground units' and/or localities' anti-aircraft guns:

- Ground units roll 1 die per step.
- Major cities or fortresses roll 2 dice each.
- Minor cities or bunkers roll 1 die each.

The AA firepower of a unit is equal to its defensive firepower (DF): At the beginning of the game and for several months after, bunkers, fortresses, German armor units (tanks, tankettes, Armor-HQ), other tanks, and Soviet Armor-HQ hit at 5&6. All other ground units and cities hit only at 6.

Hits are immediately applied.

Every hit normally reduces 1 enemy air unit by 1 step. Some air units need to suffer 2 hits before they are reduced by 1 step (7.7.8).

Air units will return fire in the next step.

7.7.3 Air-to-Ground Combat Step

Air units that survived the two phases above are now free to attack enemy ground units.

Every air unit rolls 1 die per step.

German fighters and the bombers of the Soviets and the Axis minor allies hit at 6. German bombers hit at 5&6. All other air units do not fire at all.

Hits are immediately applied.

Every hit reduces 1 enemy ground unit by 1 step. Some ground units need to suffer 2 hits before they are reduced by 1 step (7.7.8).

7.7.4 Artillery Fire Step

The artillery of the attacker fires first, then the defender's artillery returns fire. (This combat is *not* simultaneously.)

Every artillery unit rolls 1 die per step and hits at the beginning of the game at 6.

Hits are immediately applied.

Every hit reduces 1 enemy ground unit by 1 step. Some ground units need to suffer 2 hits before they are reduced by 1 step (7.7.8).

After the dice are rolled, an artillery unit is immediately reduced by 1 step (rotate it counterclockwise) to simulate the use of ammunition. (4-step artillery is reduced to 2-step strength after it has fired.)

7.7.5 Ground Combat Step

After both attacker's and defender's artillery have fired, all other ground units fire, the units of the defender first. (This combat is *not* simultaneously.)

Every ground unit rolls 1 die per step.

For determination of the firepower of each ground unit consult the Tech Level Chart.

Hits are immediately applied.

Every hit reduces 1 enemy ground unit by 1 step. Some ground units need to suffer 2 hits before they are reduced by 1 step (7.7.8).

This concludes a round of combat. Additional rounds may be fought as described in 7.7.12.



7.7.6 Combat Modifiers: Bonus / Malus

The terrain in a battle hex modifies the combat strength values of attacking and the firepower values of defending ground units by adding a *Bonus* to the defender or a *Malus* to the attacker.

Adding 1 Bonus means that the unit gets a better firepower: it hits at a higher chance of +1.

Example: Soviet tanks normally defend at 5&6. With 1 Bonus they defend at 4-6.

Adding 1 Malus works in the opposite way and reduces the unit's combat strength: the unit rolls half the number of dice (= halved).

Terrain features affect attacking ground combat units and their AA firepower, but not attacking support units (artillery and HQ) or air units. Some others, such as bunkers and fortresses, affect *all* attacking units.

(For details, see below BOX 1 or the Terrain Modifiers Chart on the mapboard.)

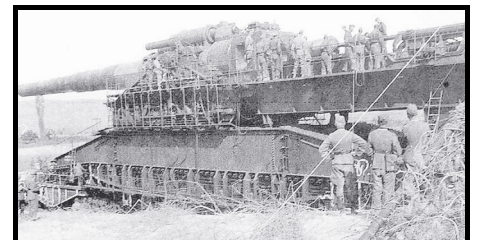
Air-to-air combat happens in the sky and is therefore not affected by the terrain. Air-to-ground combat is not affected by the terrain, too. (But it will be affected by bad weather and air reconnaissance when playing the ADVANCED GAME.)

Generally, only ground combat and the AA firepower is affected by the terrain.

Other circumstances add Boni or Mali as well (see AR and OR).

When given the same unit at the same time, a Bonus cancels a Malus and vice versa.

Example: A Finnish ski unit attacking in a forest hex (= 1 Malus) of the Finnish attack zone (= 1 Bonus) receives neither the Malus nor the Bonus; it can attack at full combat strength. If defending in a forest hex of its attack zone, it would receive the Bonus.



7.7.7 Cumulative Modifiers

All modifiers are cumulative.

Example 1: A German 5-step tank unit does normally attack with 5 dice. If it is getting a Malus, it rolls half the number of dice (= halved), rounded down: 2 dice. If it is getting 2 Mali, e.g., for attacking in a forest hex and at the same time crossing a river, its combat strength is quartered and therefore reduced to 1 (the minimum).

Example 2: A defending TECH 1 infantry unit hits at 6. If defending in a forest hex that is also a major city hex and behind a river, it receives 1 Bonus for the river plus 1 Bonus for the major city and therefore hits at 4-6.

In the same example, the attacker gets 1 Malus for the river, 1 Malus for the forest, and 1 Malus for the major city.

BLOCKS IN THE EAST

BOX 1: Combat Modifiers

Ground Combat Units

Forests, Hills, Mountains, Swamps: All attacking ground units (and their AA) except artillery get 1 Malus.



Rivers: In the first combat round, all ground units (and their AA) except artillery attacking across a river get 1 Malus and the defending ground units except AA and artillery receive 1 Bonus.

Major Cities: All attacking ground units (and their AA) except artillery get 1 Malus and all defending ground units except AA and artillery receive 1 Bonus.

Red Arrows, Straits: In the first combat round, all ground units (and their AA) except artillery attacking across red arrows get 2 Mali and all defending ground units except AA and artillery get 1 Bonus.



Remember: If the phasing player does not control both connected hexes, only infantry class units can cross these particular hexes (7.7.5).

Plains, Hist. Battle Sites, Minor Cities: These hexes do not cause any modifiers, but other terrain in their hex does.

Example: A minor city hex that is also a forest hex would cause the same modifiers as a forest hex.

All Units

Fortresses: Leningrad as well as Oranienbaum and Sebastopol are fortress hexes and very difficult to conquer if good defended.



All attacking units get 2 Mali (= their combat strength quartered), all defending ground units except AA and artillery receive 2 Boni. The German *Gustav Heavy Siege Gun* is not affected by any Malus when attacking a fortress hex. Instead, it receives 1 Bonus (26.0).

If a fortress falls into enemy hands, it immediately becomes a bunker and cannot be rebuilt in BITE.

Bunkers (Hanko, Tatarenwall at Armjansk, Solone Ozero): While a lot of trenches and fortifications of different types were built during the overall war on the Eastern Front, only some are noted in the game.



All attacking units get 1 Malus while all defending ground units except AA and artillery receive 1 Bonus.

The German *Gustav Heavy Siege Gun* is not affected by any Malus when attacking a bunker hex. Instead, it receives 1 Bonus (26.0).

If a bunker falls into enemy hands, it is immediately destroyed and cannot be reconstructed in BITE.

Note: The Solone Ozero hex is a bunker hex and also a swamp hex.

7.7.8 Hits

Hits are marked by rotating a unit counterclockwise for the appropriate number of hits it has taken. Thus, hits reduce a unit's steps respectively its combat strength. Some units need 2 hits to be reduced by 1 step. If such a unit takes a hit that cannot immediately reduce a step, this hit is marked with a die or a half-turn of the unit (by 45°) and carried over subsequent combat rounds of this combat. When the unit receives the next hit, it is reduced by 1 step.

7.7.9 Spreading Hits

Unless that side has only one unit involved in the combat, hits can be spread over different units. The strongest units must always be hit (reduced) first. If two units have the same strength, the owner chooses.

7.7.10 Eliminating Units

A combat unit is eliminated and removed from the mapboard when the number of hits that the unit has taken equals or exceeds that unit's steps.

Example: If a 1-step infantry unit takes 1 hit, it is immediately eliminated.

Most support units respectively 0-step units (such as artillery and some others) cannot be eliminated in this way. They remain in play until they are embattled alone by enemy ground combat units.

7.7.11 Allocating Excess Hits

If a faction's units that are engaged in a combat have been eliminated and not all hits could have been placed, any excessive hits and "half-hits" are lost at the end of the complete combat in this battle hex.

7.7.12 Additional Rounds of Combat

Unless the engaged units of one or both sides are eliminated or one side decides for a retreat (the defender always chooses first), the players have to fight an additional round of combat.

Later rounds of combat follow the same procedures and rules as the first round of combat, starting from the Anti-Aircraft Fire Step.

7.7.13 Retreats

After the completion of a combat round, the defender has the first choice to retreat any number of his units out of the battle hex.

If the defender does not retreat, then the attacker has the choice to retreat any number of his units out of the battle hex.

If neither side retreats, there will be another round of combat.

After the Air-to-Air Combat Step, some or all fighters and bombers in the battle hex may voluntarily retreat, while the ground units must remain.

After the Ground Combat Step, some or all ground and air units in the battle hex may voluntarily retreat, while the units staying in the hex continue fighting.

7.7.14 Retreat Movement

The controlling player moves a retreating ground unit into an adjacent hex and a retreating air unit to an airbase hex in range.

If there are several retreating units, they may be spread in any manner over a number of adjacent hexes (or airbases), as long as all "retreat hexes" conform to 7.7.15-16.

Units retreat only to save hexes. No unit may retreat into an enemy ZOC or in the partial hexes on the edge of the mapboard.

Retreat movement is "free" – it costs no MP.

7.7.15 Retreat of Ground Units

For ground units, the adjacent retreat hex...

a. must be in a direction from the battle hex where, if the unit continued moving in that direction any distance required, it would finally reach a supply source without passing through...

- an all-water hex,
- an enemy ZOC,
- an enemy controlled city,
- a hex occupied by an enemy ground unit, or
- another battle hex;

or the adjacent retreat hex...

b. may be a hex in any direction containing only friendly units or a friendly city (fortress, major, or minor).

If both these conditions fail to be met, the unit cannot retreat.

7.7.16 Retreat of Air Units

Air units retreat to an airbase hex in their range (5 hexes for fighters, 10 hexes for bombers, and 15 hexes for Soviet long range bombers). If they are unable to reach an available airbase hex, they cannot retreat.

7.7.17 Retreat Overstacking

Units cannot overstack due to their retreat. Ground and air units that are unable to reach a permitted retreat hex are immediately eliminated.

7.7.18 Units Involved in Retreats

Any type of retreat during an Air-to-Air Combat Step effects only air units – the ground units in the hex must remain until the Ground Combat Step occurs.

In both air and ground combat, the attacker and/or the defender may retreat some or all of his units after each combat round.

The defender always have the first choice to retreat, then the attacker chooses to stay or to retreat.

Remember: Any unit that chooses to retreat and is unable to do so is eliminated.

7.8 Blitz Phase

Blitzing is the best way to pursue and knock out units that survived and successfully escaped from the first attack.

Only armor units that have attacked in the Combat Phase may benefit from this special action.



BLOCKS IN THE EAST

Soviet tanks and Armor-HQ as well as all German armor units (tanks, tankettes, and Armor-HQ) may spend 1 additional MP to move in and attack an adjacent hex. (Soviet tankettes must reach TECH 2 to get this capability.)

TECH 2 air and artillery units involved in the original combat may follow the armor units in this pursuit.

The attacker may perform the eligible Blitz movement and combat in the order he desires. He can move his "blitzing" units in any empty or enemy occupied hex(es) that he wants as long as this costs every unit just the 1 additional MP.

A Blitz attack is resolved as a normal attack except that the non-phasing player cannot react with his air units (but with his units in Reserve Mode: OR 30.0).

Blitzing is not allowed in bad weather turns (as no hex entry costs just 1 MP).

7.8.1 Rebasing Air Units

At the end of this phase, all air units which have been involved in the combats and survived must rebase as described in 7.7.16. When completed, there should be no airbase hex containing more than 1 air unit. If this proves to be impossible, the controlling player must eliminate any excess air units.

7.9 Final Supply Status Phase

Any unit marked "Out-of-Supply" with a white barrel in the Supply Phase (7.2) must now be checked for supply again.

If the unit is now supplied, remove the white barrel.

If a combat unit is still unsupplied, it must surrender now and is removed from the map together with the white barrel (4.5).

Remember: 0-step units do not surrender; they must be engaged and destroyed.

In the BASIC GAME, the non-phasing player gains 1 yellow PP for each surrendering unit. In the ADVANCED GAME, the color of the PP depends on the surrendering unit.

7.10 Armor Exploitation Phase

The Armor Exploitation Phase consists of moving the phasing player's armor units (and no other units) a second time during the turn. Only Soviet tanks and Armor-HQ as well as all German armor units (tanks, tankettes, and Armor-HQ) are eligible for exploitation during the 1941 turns. (Soviet tankettes need to reach TECH 2 to gain the same advantage as the Germans. This event is scheduled to happen in November 1942.)

A unit must be in supply at the start of this phase in order to be moved. (The unit may be unsupplied during or after the conclusion of this phase, but *not* at the start). Check supply normally, but do not mark any unit with a white "Out-of-Supply" barrel – simply do not move the unit if not supplied.

The units move normally, exactly as during the Movement Phase, by using their full Movement Points. However, they must not start new combats and thus cannot enter a hex containing an enemy unit.



7.11 Victory Phase

Check the Victory Conditions of the scenario and apply them immediately.

The Finns, Romanians, and Hungarians surrender now if their capital is enemy controlled: check the control status of Helsinki, Bucharest, and Budapest, and in case remove all units of the surrendering Axis power from the mapboard.

In the BASIC GAME, Italy surrenders at the end of September 1943.

Now advance the Turn Tracker Token on the Turn Record Chart to the next field.

ADVANCED GAME

8.0 ZOC

The ZOC in the ADVANCED GAME does not extend across a river.

9.0 WEATHER

Most turns have a fixed weather: good = sunshine, bad = rain or snow. The months May and October need a die roll to determine if the weather is good or bad (rainy).

The Soviet player rolls for the weather:

1-3: Good 4-6: Bad (Rain)



9.1 Weather Effects on Supply Lanes

Bad weather reduces all supply lanes to 2 hexes.

9.2 Weather Effects on Movement

Bad weather affects movement:

Rain: All hexes cost 3 MP.

Air units cannot fly combat missions in rainy weather turns, but they still can rebase.

Snow: All plain, forest, and swamp hexes cost 2 MP while all hill and mountain hexes cost 3 MP.



All the ports in the White Sea, in the Gulf of Bothnia, in the Gulf of Finland, and in the Sea of Azov freeze during a snow weather turn. They are marked with a white anchor. Any kind of naval movement is forbidden in these waters and between frozen ports.

Also, a sea transport of resources (PP) and supply is not available through (both starting from and arriving to) a frozen port.

9.3 Weather Effects on Combat

Rain: During rain weather turns, air units cannot fly any kind of attack missions, although they are free to rebase.

All attacking ground combat units get 1 Malus, all defending ground combat units receive 1 Bonus. Artillery is not affected.

Snow: During snow weather turns, the skies are not clear. So all air units, all AA, and all attacking ground combat units get 1 Malus. All defending ground combat units get 1 Bonus. Artillery is not affected.

Rivers are considered to be frozen and have no effects on combat for neither the attacker nor the defender.

Remember: All Finnish and Soviet units and Axis mountain units do not suffer any combat penalties due to snowy weather, but they still suffer the movement and supply penalties.



10.0 ELITE UNITS

Both Soviets and Germans have elite units. These units were highly trained and heavily equipped with the best weapons available. Furthermore, their fighting spirit was much higher than the morale of other units.



German elite units:

- 22nd Airlanding Infantry Division
- 7th Flying Division
- Tank Corps Großdeutschland (GD)
- Tank Corps "Hermann Göring" (HG)
- All SS units



Soviet elite units:

- All Guards units (*Sowjetskaja gwardija*)
- All marine infantry units

Soviet Guards units and German GD/HG/SS units get 1 Bonus when attacking, while the Soviet marine infantry, the German 22nd Airlanding I.D., and the 7th Flying Division (and their AA) get 1 Bonus when defending.

BLOCKS IN THE EAST

Soviet Guards units are also fully motorized formations which have 4 MP from the beginning instead of 3 MP (so Cavalry Guards units have 5 MP).

However, Soviet Guards units can be repaired while still in play, but they cannot be rebuilt when destroyed.



11.0 ADVANCED PRODUCTION



When using the Advanced Production Rules, players receive additional resources (some more yellow PP) and also armor (red), aircraft (blue), navy (white), and oil (black) PP. (While nearly all PP are represented by wooden cubes of the different colors, oil is represented by black plastic cylinders. White PP are *not* used in BITE.)

Refer to the scenarios for more details about how many PP every player receives every turn.

However, to repair or rebuild an infantry class unit, there is no difference at all to the Basic Production Rules. Instead, for repairing or rebuilding armor, air, navy, and HQ units, for every 1 generic yellow PP 1 additional red, blue, white, or black PP must be spent per black step:

- Infantry: 1 Yellow
- Armor: 1 Yellow + 1 Red
- Air: 1 Yellow + 1 Blue
- Navy: 1 Yellow
- HQ: 1 Yellow + 1 Black



Remember: White steps cost 2 PP of every type, red steps 3 PP. Blue steps still cannot be repaired or rebuilt.

11.1 Population, Mining, and Oil Centers

Population centers are major cities with high density urban areas providing a lot of manpower for army recruitment and factory working.

Example: Leningrad has 2 manpower, so it produces 2 yellow PP each turn.

Mining centers (mine trolley icon) are mines where natural resources, such as coal, iron, copper, nickel, and bauxite, are extracted for armament production.

Example: Kerch produces 1 yellow PP each turn.

Oil centers (drilling tower icon) are oilfields and/or German hydrogenation plants where petroleum is extracted.

Example: The Maykop oilfields produce 5 black PP each turn.

11.2 Factories

There are 4 types of factories in BITE:

- **Armor factories** (red) are plants where tanks, tankettes, and Armor-HQ are built.

Example: Leningrad's factories produce 3 red PP each turn.

- **Aircraft factories** (blue) are plants where fighters, bombers, and Air-HQ are built.

Example: Moscow's factories produce 3 blue PP each turn.

- **Shipyards** (white) are plants where fleets and Navy-HQ are built.

Example: The shipyards of Oranienbaum produce 1 white PP each turn.

Note: Shipyards have no special function in BITE.

- **Hydrogenation factories** (black, only in Germany) are plants where the German synthetic fuel is produced. Only Germans are eligible to build this kind of plant.

Example: The Police hydrogenation plants produce 2 black PP each turn.

Note: Only encircled factories on the map-board are ready and produce resources.

Production Points can be saved from turn to turn, but red, blue, white, and black PP must always be saved together with 1 yellow PP each.

For a PP to be received and used, the resource center must be in supply by a rail or sea connection to the main supply source. (A sea connection exist only through major ports with the orange anchor icon, such as Sebastopol.)

Note: Soviet partisans on a rail-hex can block the rail supply for the resource transport from or to production centers (28.0).



11.3 Mine Die Roll

If a PP is connected to the main supply source only by sea (so through a major port), it could be subject to a Mine Die Roll:

- 1-5: Transport succeeded, PP received.
- 6: Transport failed, PP lost.

Example: In June 1942, the Axis player controls the Kerch mining center. However, a Soviet partisan is placed on the rail-hex south of Solone Ozero, preventing the PP to be rail-connected to Berlin. Also, even if the Kerch port is not frozen in June, it is not a major port; so the Axis player cannot transport the PP by sea.

If the Axis would have controlled Sebastopol, too, then the transport and a Mine Die Roll would have happened: on a die roll of 6, the PP would be lost for this turn, otherwise it would be successfully transported to Berlin.

12.0 ADVANCED SUPPLY

12.1 Siege Supply

Units in ports that are completely surrounded by enemy units and/or enemy ZOC are in siege supply.

Those units are marked as "Out-of-Supply" and cannot be repaired, but at the end of the turn they lose 1 step instead of surrendering.

Once they have only the last step remaining, they surrender like other units.

Remember: 0-step units do not surrender; they must be engaged and destroyed.

12.2 Fortress Supply: Sebastopol

Besieged units in the Sebastopol fortress hex are marked as "Out-of-Supply" and treated as all other unsupplied units: they cannot be repaired, cannot attack, and have their MP value halved.

However, they don't lose any steps at the end of the turn nor do they have to surrender.

Tip: Sebastopol can be put under siege to avoid that the besieged units could be repaired; but to take this fortress, a direct (and bloody) assault is necessary.

12.3 Fortress Supply: Leningrad and Oranienbaum

Leningrad's suburbs were reached by Fieldmarshal Von Leeb's troops in the first days of September 1941. By the end of the month, this important city was completely surrounded and *all* communications by land were cut off. However, the city succeeded in a painful resistance for 900 days, thanks to the special Дорога жизни (*Road of Life*) supply route open through Lake Ladoga.

If Leningrad is besieged but can trace a valid supply lane through Lake Ladoga to Volkhov and from Volkhov via rail to Siberia, then it is considered to be supplied.

The *Road of Life* is always in service, even during snow weather turns (although Leningrad's PP cannot transit through frozen ports, as usual).

Soviet units in the hexes that are supplied through Leningrad (= Leningrad's pocket hexes) are marked as "Out-of-Supply" and treated as all other unsupplied units: cannot be repaired, cannot attack, and have their MP value halved. However, they don't lose any steps at the end of the turn nor do they have to surrender.

The same rules apply to Oranienbaum.



12.4 Enhanced Attack Ability of "Out-of-Supply" TECH 2&3 Ground Units

Unsupplied TECH 1 ground units still suffer all the penalties already described in the BASIC RULES (4.4). In contrast, better trained and equipped units are able to better sustain such a kind of situation.

BLOCKS IN THE EAST

Example: The German 6th Army was an elite formation. It was surrounded in Stalingrad from the middle of November 1942 and was capable of fighting until February 1943.

TECH 2&3 ground units marked with an "Out-of-Supply" barrel have their MP halved but may make a Desperate Attack in an attempt to break out through enemy lines and restore their supply status.

12.4.1 Desperate Attack

A Desperate Attack is the only way unsupplied TECH 2&3 ground units can attack: they attack normally, but if they fail to clear the hex after the first round of ground combat, they must immediately surrender. "Out-of-Supply" armor units can attempt a Desperate Attack even without an extra HQ activation (13.0).

12.5 Surrender

In BITE, a surrendering unit grants PP to the opponent: an infantry class unit as well as a navy unit (white) grants 1 yellow PP each, while other units grant 1 yellow PP plus 1 PP depending on the type of the surrendering unit: red, blue, or black (11.0).



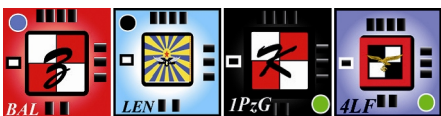
13.0 HQ, FUEL, MOVEMENT

Armor and air units need a huge amount of fuel to move and fight at full efficiency. This fuel can be provided by an appropriate Armor-HQ or Air-HQ that is activated for this purpose.

The phasing player can activate his HQ at any time he wants.



13.1 Appropriate HQ



Armor-HQ (red for the Soviets, black for the Germans) move only armor units, while Air-HQ (blue for both German Luftwaffe and Soviet VVS) move only air units.

Remember: For the Axis player, Armor-HQ and Air-HQ of the single Axis powers cannot move units of a different nationality. Only the German FHQ can move all Axis units of any type and nationality, but in a limited number (13.8.2).

13.2 Supply of Armor and Air Units

Armor units (tanks, tankettes, but also unactivated Armor-HQ) and air units (fighters and bombers) are in full supply *only* if the controlling player activates an appropriate HQ by revealing it (tipping it forward, face up). In this case, they may move at full MP efficiency and can attack as normal.

13.3 HQ Range

To be moved at full MP efficiency and attack, a unit must be within a range of maximum 5 hexes from the activated appropriate HQ.

Those hexes must be clear or friendly (not in an enemy unit's ZOC).

The phasing player may move an HQ up to its full movement allowance and then activate it.

The non-phasing player can activate his Air-HQ (if not already embattled) in the Defender Reaction Phase (7.6) in order to fly his air units, but he can't move the HQ: every HQ must be activated in the hex where it is.

In bad weather turns, the range of the HQ is reduced to 3 hexes.

13.4 Number of Units to Move

Players can move a number of units equal to the activated HQ's actual amount of oil barrels (= Action Points).

Example: A 4-step/oil HQ has 4 Action Points. So it can move a maximum of 4 units (1 unit per barrel).

13.5 Limited Supply

Without an HQ activation, all armor units are considered to be in limited supply: they cannot attack and have their MP value halved.

An armor unit in limited supply can only attempt a Desperate Attack if it is also "Out-of-Supply". In this case, the unit has its MP value quartered, and if it fails to clear the battle hex after the first combat round, it must immediately surrender to the enemy forces.



While air units can rebase without an HQ activation, they need it for combat movement.

If an HQ is marked as "Out-of-Supply", it still can be activated, but it works just at half efficiency. (Nevertheless, an unsupplied HQ can always move 1 unit.)

Example: An "Out-of-Supply" 4-step/oil HQ can only move 2 units. An "Out-of-Supply" 3-step/oil HQ can only move 1 unit.

13.6 HQ Deactivation

At the end of the Blitz Phase, every activated HQ must be deactivated by reducing it by 1 step and turning it upright in order to re-hide it.

Activated 1-step HQ are automatically removed from play when deactivating. They can be rebuilt in later turns.

13.7 Blitzing and Exploitation

Armor, artillery, and air units can blitz without an extra HQ activation.

In the Armor Exploitation Phase, Armor-HQ (but *not* national Supreme-HQ!) activation is still required to move armor units.

13.8 National Supreme-HQ

The national Supreme-HQ (Soviet Stavka, German FHQ, and the HQ of the military leaders of the Axis minor allies) have special abilities that they can activate with their Action Points.

13.8.1 Soviet Stavka



The Stavka (*Main Command of the Armed Forces of the USSR*) represents the Soviet High Command.

It can be activated to perform a number of special actions equal to its steps. The actions may be chosen from the ones below, but no more than 1 action of each type may be performed per activation:

- Move 1 armor unit as if it is in full supply.
- Move 1 air unit as if it is in full supply.
- Move 1 unsupplied unit as in full supply.
- Make 1 strategic rail movement (7.4).
- Make 1 naval movement (OR 18.0).
- Launch 1 airborne respectively airlanding infantry assault (OR 23.0).

The Stavka is placed in Moscow and can never leave it. If Moscow falls, the Stavka is eliminated and can be rebuilt in Chelyabinsk. If Moscow is not supplied or lost, the Soviet SRM capacity is reduced by 1 to 4 SRM per turn.

13.8.2 German FHQ



The FHQ (*Führerhauptquartier*) was the High Command of the German Wehrmacht in cooperation with the OKW, OKH, OKL, and OKM. Even if it is a national Supreme-HQ, it has different rules to simulate its operations and simultaneous actions in the other grand theatres of World War II (e.g., Africa, Atlantic, Western Europe).

It must be activated every turn at the start of the turn and must be repaired in every Production Phase before any other units.

So the FHQ will always be activated at maximum strength (4), but it can only perform 2 different special actions from the ones listed above.

The FHQ is placed in Rastenburg (East Prussia) and cannot leave this hex. If the Soviets enter any hex in Germany, the FHQ must be immediately redeployed in Berlin without any movement actions or costs. It will then remain in Berlin until the end of the game.

BLOCKS IN THE EAST



13.8.3 HQ of Other Axis Powers: Gariboldi (Italy), Mannerheim (Finland), Antonescu (Romania), and Szombathelyi (Hungary)



The HQ of the military leaders of the Axis minor allies function in the same way the Stavka works. (They also have 1 air recon attempt if playing with air recon: OR 19.0.) They can be used to move only their own units, not units of other allied nations.

Axis Cross Command: Once activated, the FHQ can move the units of Germany's allies, too. The reverse case is not possible.

Example: The FHQ can move an Italian unit, but Mannerheim cannot move a German or an Italian unit.

OPTIONAL RULES

14.0 NEW TERRAIN MODIFIERS

Mountains: All armor class units (tankettes, tanks, and Armor-HQ) are not allowed to move in a mountain hex.

In addition, only mountain units can enter mountain hexes during bad weather turns. Furthermore, mountain units spend 1 MP less when entering a mountain or hill hex. Mountain units (but not their AA) receive 1 Bonus when defending and ignore the Malus when attacking in mountain or hill hexes. (This modifiers are not in addition to similar previous ones.)

Swamps: Armor class units get 1 extra Malus if attacking in *unfrozen* swamp hexes.

Non-Mountains Terrains: Regardless of the weather, cavalry units never spend more than 2 MP for non-mountain/non-hills hexes.

15.0 NEW FACTORIES

Players may decide to start the production of new factories in order to improve their production throughput of a particular kind of unit.

- 1 red factory produces 1 Armor-PP/turn.
- 1 blue factory produces 1 Air-PP/turn.
- 1 black factory is equivalent to 1 oilfield and produces 1 Fuel-PP/turn (black barrel). *Remember: Only the German player may build this type of plant.*
- White factories cannot be built in BITE.

15.1 Building New Factories

To build a new factory of any kind, 10 yellow PP and 10 turns are needed. Every turn in the Production Phase, the player may spend a maximum of 1 yellow PP to build the new plant. So it needs 10 yellow PP and 10 turns (do *not* need to be consecutive) to complete one plant. (Use the Production Tracker of the faction on the mapboard to track the status of the build up process.)

When completed, the new factory is placed on the mapboard in a location randomly chosen by a die roll.

Use the faction's Production Tracker on the mapboard to select the location: after the die roll, the player chooses the location between one of the two possible city locations. If one location has already reached its limit for this kind of plant, then the other must be chosen. If both locations have reached their factory limits, then a new die roll is performed until the new factory can be placed.

When the factory limits have been reached in *all* possible locations (= 12 factories), then the player may freely choose one of his major cities for the next factory – even if this would exceed the factory limit of this location. The production of a new factory will start the next turn after completion.

Example: The German player wants a new armor factory. He spends 1 yellow PP and puts a red factory on the "1" box of the Axis Production Tracker. Each consecutive turn, he spends an additional yellow PP to finish this factory as soon as possible. When it finally reaches the "10" box, the factory is completed. The German player rolls a die and checks the result on the Axis Production Tracker. He scores a 2: Kassel/ Magdeburg. As Magdeburg has already reached its limit, Kassel must be chosen.

16.0 SCORCHED EARTH

"We must not leave a single kilogram of grain or a single litre of petrol to the enemy. Guerrilla tactics are to be employed: It is necessary to create in invaded areas conditions unbearable to the enemy. All workers must defend Russia in our patriotic war against German Fascism."

(Joseph Stalin, Radio Address, 3rd July '41)

This option allows the Soviet player to automatically destroy oil, mining, and population centers (not factories!) when retiring from this hexes. (If it is difficult to remember these destructions, please make notes.)

Because of this strategy, the destroyed centers do not start generating PP to the Axis player in the turn after their conquest.

Every center must be repaired before it can restart functioning properly. The repair is similar to building new factories (15.0) and requires 3 yellow PP and 3 turns (maximum 1 PP per turn) for every single PP of the scorched center. (As usual, the turns do not have to be consecutive.) Each repaired PP starts its production in the next Production Phase of the controlling player.

Note: The Axis player places 1 yellow cube or black barrel to mark the progression of the repair and a Repaired Resources/Oilfields Token when finished.

Due the mere economical power of the USSR, the scorched centers are immediately repaired to their full production if they are reconquered by the Soviet player.

16.1 Conquering Factories

Enemy factories are immediately destroyed when conquered and grant 1 PP of their specific type.

16.2 Evacuating Factories

The Soviet player has the option of shutting down and evacuate a factory at a cost of 3 SRM in the Strategic Rail Movement Phase.

When evacuating a factory, the Soviet player puts the appropriate factory counter on the "8" box of the Soviet Production Tracker and moves it forward by 1 box every successive turn.

When it reaches the "10" box, the new factory location is chosen randomly as for new factories, and the evacuated factory is once again ready for production.

17.0 TECH LEVELS

There are 4 different fields of research in BITE: infantry, armor, fighter, and bomber.

Every field is subdivided in 3 levels of technology (Tech Levels: TECH). The higher the level the better is the speed, firepower, and the amount of special abilities of a unit.

In the BASIC GAME, the Tech Levels are predetermined: technology breakthroughs happen at a fixed point of time (3.13). As a consequence, a prefixed amount of yellow PP may be subtracted every turn from the total amount of a faction (see SBE9).

With the OR, players have the option of modifying the research effort in the different fields by deciding their own research commitment:

- To reach TECH 2 in a specific field, a player must spend 20 yellow PP in 20 turns (maximum 1 PP per turn).
- To reach TECH 3 in a specific field (after reaching TECH 2 in this field), a player must spend 30 yellow PP in 30 turns (maximum 1 PP per turn).

(The turns do *not* need to be consecutive.)

Use the appropriate Technology Development Token on the faction's Production Tracker to monitor the evolution of the research.

Note: This Optional Research Rule replaces the automatic Tech Level progression of the BASIC GAME as well as some unit values stated in the BR (e.g., firepower, aircraft ranges, etc.). But due to the long research time for higher Tech Levels, the optional research makes only sense in the Codeword Dortmund campaign (SBE9).



BLOCKS IN THE EAST

17.1 Axis Minor Powers Tech Levels

The minor powers of the Axis do not make their own research. Instead, they benefit from their leader's efforts.

The Tech Levels of the Finns, Romanians, Hungarians, and Slovaks are 1 level below the appropriate Tech Levels of the Germans (except the Finnish infantry class units).

Example: As soon as the Germans get TECH 3 for their armor units, the Romanian or Hungarian armor units get TECH 2.

Italy as a major power of the Axis has its own research, but this is not represented in BITE. So Italy does *not* have any TECH development in this game.

17.2 National Research Bonus

The TECH research for Soviet infantry as well as for German armor is 5 PP cheaper and 5 turns faster.

18.0 NAVAL MOVEMENT



There are no naval units (like ships) in BITE. However, both players may move ground units by sea from a friendly port to another friendly port. The destination port must be within a range of 7 hexes.

Only the national Supreme-HQ (except the Finns and Hungarians) and the Soviet Navy-HQ can command such kind of movement with a special HQ-Action (13.8).

The Axis naval activity was very low in both Black Sea and the Gulf of Finland where the Soviet navy was forced to escape inside the protected harbors of Leningrad and Oranienbaum for the most time of the war. The Baltic Sea was a sort of an "Axis Lake".



18.1 Sea Transport of Ground Units

Some waters were highly mined (see mine icons on the mapboard). So naval transports were very risky and are therefore a subject to Mine Die Rolls (like 11.3). When moving a ground unit by sea, 1 die must be rolled:

- 1-3: Movement successful, unit reaches its destination.
- 4&5: Transporter hits a mine and is damaged, unit loses 1 step.
- 6: Transporter hits a mine and sinks, unit is lost.

18.2 Sea Transport of Resources

The same procedure applies when transporting any kind of resources (PP/Oil) by sea through heavy mined waters (e.g., Black Sea and Baltic Sea) or through waters controlled by the other player.

Remember: A player controls a sea area if he controls at least 1 major or 2 minor ports in that sea. If both players meet this condition, they both control this sea area.

A sea transport of resources could possibly happen for the Axis if partisans are blocking all the rail gauges from a specific resource center to Germany.

Roll 1 die for every PP that have to be sent to the main supply center via sea transport:

- 1-5: Transport succeeded, PP received.
- 6: Transport failed, PP lost.

19.0 AIR RECONNAISSANCE

Air reconnaissance allows the phasing player to reveal enemy units in the target hex.

It confers an advantage in combat, as air and artillery units need a clear vision of the target hex to attack at full strength: without a good air recon, attacking air and artillery units get 1 Malus in the Air-to-Ground and Artillery Fire Combat Step of the first combat round.

The defender and the powerful German *Gustav Heavy Siege Gun* (26.0) do *not* need any air recon.

19.1 Air Recon Procedure

In addition to its normal abilities, every activated Air-HQ may perform a number of air recon attempts equal to the number of its steps. The activated Supreme-HQ of minor Axis powers may make 1 air recon attempt, too.

Each attempt has a chance to reveal the enemy units in a target hex. This target hex must be in a range of 5-10 hexes depending on the Tech Level of that nation's fighters, and the same hex may be targeted more than once.

Note: It is not necessary to send an air unit for recon in the target hex. Air recon is just a special action of some HQ.



After the Anti-Aircraft Fire Combat Step, the air recon attempt is successful with a (modified) die roll of 1-4, and the non-phasing player must reveal all of his units in the target hex by tipping them forward, face up.

The die roll is modified by the following circumstances:

- Subtract 2 from the die roll for each Fighter Tech Level higher than 1.
- Add 2 to the die roll if the hex is a forest, hills, mountains, or swamp hex, or if the hex contains a major city or bunker.
- Add 4 to the die roll if the hex contains a fortress.
- Add 2 to the die roll in bad weather turns. (All modifiers are cumulative as usual.)

19.2 Air and Artillery Targeting

If the weather is sunny and the air recon successful, TECH 2 air and artillery units may target a specific enemy counter, such as an enemy artillery unit.

20.0 CAVALRY CHARGE!

If the attacker has cavalry units in the battle hex and the defender has neither cavalry nor armor units, the attacker may declare a Cavalry Charge! special attack. Moreover, the weather must be sunny and the hex must be clear for this kind of attack.

In this case only, the attacking cavalry units fire before defending infantry units, but they must be targeted and thus reduced first by enemy response fire.

Once in the game, and in memory of the Ibuscenskij battle, the Italians may claim a special attack bonus of 3 additional attack dice if Gruppo Barbò is charging the enemy.

21.0 PANZERS ATTACK!

If the attacker has armor units in the battle hex and the defender has none, the attacker may declare a Panzers Attack! and charge with his armors. Moreover, the weather must be sunny and the hex must be clear for this kind of attack.

Note: For this special combat option, TECH 1 tankettes are neither considered to be armored attackers nor armored defenders.

In this case only, the attacking armor units fire before defending non-armor units, but they must be targeted and thus reduced first by enemy response fire.

Tactical Note: The Panzers Attack! option could be the crucial breakthrough tactic in some specific situations, especially if attacking with elite armor units. But suffering heavy losses on these precious units could conversely be a disadvantage for a large scale offensive.

22.0 JERICO TRUMPETS



The Junkers Ju 87 Stuka was a main asset for Blitzkrieg. It was a kind of air artillery, able to place bombs with deadly accuracy and to spread fear in the hearts of the enemies.



BLOCKS IN THE EAST

Thanks to their terrifying sirens (the "Jericho Trumpets"), Stuka formations at full strength throw 2 more dice when attacking enemy units on ground if the weather is sunny and the air recon was successfully.

However, because of their high vulnerability to enemy fighters, these formations can't get this special attack if there are enemy fighters in the same hex.

So be sure that your fighter escort clear every threat to get this mighty attack!

23.0 AIRBORNE ASSAULTS



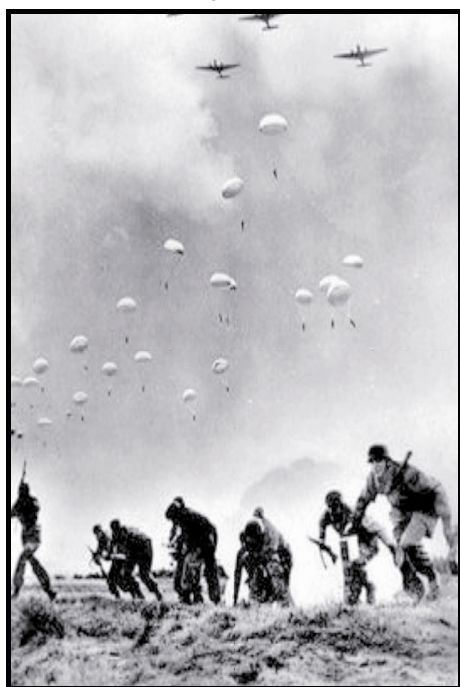
German and Soviet TECH 2 paratrooper and German glider units may attempt an airborne assault respectively an airlanding attack if...

- they are at full strength,
- they start the turn in supply and in an air-base hex,
- they are commanded with a special HQ-Action by Stavka or FHQ only,
- the weather is sunny,
- the target hex is a plain hex and within a range of 5 hexes of the assaulting unit.

Glider units, like the German 22nd Airlanding Infantry Division, also need a German bomber unit acting as a transport to bring them to the target hex.

The phasing player must declare the action when it is performed (Movement Phase).

He may add escort fighters to protect the action, and the non-phasing player may try to intercept with his fighters and also (if any) with armor units in Reserve Mode (OR 30.0). Then, an Air-to-Air Combat Step and an Anti-Aircraft Fire Step is resolved as usual, but every hit suffered is a hit to an air unit *and* to a paratrooper or glider unit. If any airborne unit respectively airlanding unit survives, it can be put in the target hex.



Eliminated German and Soviet paratrooper and airlanding infantry units may be rebuilt with yellow and blue PP and must enter at a hex with a blue factory.

Paratrooper and glider units may overstack in the turn they are used for their special attack.

24.0 AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS



In BITE, only Soviet marine infantry units get the special ability to make amphibious landings when the Soviet infantry reaches TECH 2.

To attempt an amphibious landing, the following circumstances must be given:

- The marine unit must be at full strength.
- The marine unit must start the attempt in the same port of its faction's Navy-HQ (which must be activated first).
- The weather must be sunny.
- The target hex cannot be a mountain or shoals hex (like in the Gulf of Bothnia) and must be within a range of 5 hexes.



An amphibious landing is considered to be a special kind of naval movement and it is therefore subject to a Mine Die Roll (18.1). Defending ground units (if any) receive 1 Bonus and fire first, while the attacking marine infantry unit fires thereafter and gets 1 Malus.

However, if things get worse, marine infantry units can be re-embarked after every round of combat at a cost of a new Navy-HQ activation. In this case, the marine infantry unit loses 1 additional step and is again subject to a Mine Die Roll.

Eliminated Soviet marine infantry units can be rebuilt with yellow and white PP and must be placed in either Leningrad or Sebastopol. (Only for this purpose, the Soviets have 1 white PP for this shipyard cities.)

Marine units may overstack in the turn they are used for their special attack.

25.0 EKATERINA BM-13

(or KATYUSHA BM-13)

Compared to other artillery, these multiple rocket launchers quickly deliver a devastating amount of explosives to a target area, but the accuracy is lower and the reload time longer. When the Soviet artillery reaches TECH 2, it will be equipped with this new 132 mm rockets instead of the standard 80 mm shells, and therefore it rolls 2 more dice. As usual, 0-step artillery cannot fire at all.



26.0 GUSTAV HEAVY SIEGE GUN



The German *Gustav Heavy Siege Gun* is a heavy artillery unit with the special feature to be effective against bunkers and fortresses.

This unit hits bunker and fortress hexes with 1 Bonus and without the Malus that this fortifications normally give. As soon as the German infantry reaches TECH 3, this mortal weapon gains 1 extra Bonus, hitting at 3-6.

A lack of air recon does not affect this unit, so its ideal to fight those kind of targets that could otherwise become too bloody for a combined ground/air attack.

When used in other terrain, it works like any other artillery, but the high cost of its shells would not justify this waste.

Even if it is not, the *Gustav* is considered an armor unit for movement purpose only, so an Armor-HQ or FHQ activation is needed for the full efficiency of the *Gustav* (13.0).

27.0 GARRISONS

In order to keep conquered Russian territory under control, the Axis player should garrison Soviet cities because ungarrisoned cities generate partisans as described in 28.0.

If playing with this rule, put in play the 3 German RHG Security Corps and the 2 Slovakian Corps.

The Soviets for their part must garrison the Turkish border in such a way that every Turkish border hex is in the ZOC of a Soviet unit freely chosen by the Soviet player. (A minimum of 3 units is required to do this.)

All these garrison units are brought into play and can act like normal units.

Historical Note: The Soviets had to secure the Turkish border because until August 1944 it was not totally clear if Turkey became an allied or an enemy state for the Soviets.

28.0 SOVIET PARTISANS

Beginning with September 1941, the Soviet player starts deploying partisans in his Production Phase of every turn.

Partisans prevent strategic rail movements and the transportation of resources by rail in or through the rail hex they occupy. Apart from that, they do not affect supply in any way and have no ZOC.

As soon as an Axis ground unit enters a hex with partisans, the partisans are immediately removed from play (but can return in the Production Phase of the next round).

BLOCKS IN THE EAST

28.1 Deploying Partisans

First, sum the number of Soviet minor cities without a garrison in the Axis controlled area and divide this sum by 3. Then, add 1 for each Soviet major city that was captured by the Axis and have no garrison.

After that, the Soviet player deploys the corresponding number of partisans (= large dark red discs) anywhere in the Soviet Union, but out of an Axis ZOC.

The maximum number of partisans that can be on the map at the same time is 20.

Vyborg, the Baltic States, and Bessarabia are excluded from both the city count and the partisan placement.

29.0 CHECH. REVOLUTIONARIES



The Chechnyan revolutionaries fought for the Chechen independence under the command of Mairbek Sheripov (1905 – 7th November 1942). He was one of the most important leaders of the insurgency against the Soviet Union in the 1940s and was killed 1942 in a Soviet reprisal raid.

When the Axis controls Grozny, or from January 1942 on if Grozny is not garrisoned by a Soviet unit, the Axis player may put the Chechnyan revolutionaries in play in his Production Phase.

This unit is for free and enters the game at full strength. It is a German unit for every purpose, but its main supply source is Grozny.

If destroyed, the revolutionaries can be re-put in play several times if one of the two above conditions is met.

30.0 RESERVE UNITS

Having units in reserve can make the difference in critical situations.

There are 2 different moments to put units in the Reserve Mode, both require TECH 2 for these units:

- **During the Movement Phase:** The phasing player can put infantry class units in Reserve Mode.

These reserve infantry class units cannot move during the Movement Phase but can instead move during the Armor Exploitation Phase as they were armor units.

- **During the Armor Exploitation Phase:** The phasing player can put his armor class units in Reserve Mode.

These reserve armor class units cannot move during the Armor Exploitation Phase but can instead move after the opponent's Movement Phase to reinforce battle hexes.

To put a unit in Reserve Mode, the phasing player have to spend 1 Action Point of an appropriate HQ and puts 1 black barrel out of the common barrel pool on the unit.

31.0 STRATEGIC BOMBING



Factories, ports, mining centers, population centers, and rail stations can be strategically bombed to reduce the enemy's PP or SRM.

During the Movement Phase, the phasing player may move his bombers to perform strategic bombing missions over a specific enemy target of his choice (e.g., 1 factory).

The defender can react as usual in the Defender Reaction Phase.

In the Air-to-Ground Combat Step of the Combat Phase, the normal bombers with at least TECH 2 as well as the strategic bombers (e.g., the Soviet long range bombers) are cleared to attack the target instead of ground units.

As this kind of target is big enough, there is no other Malus than the weather for the strategic bombers, while the normal TECH 2 bombers still need air recon to attack at full strength.

The air-to-ground combat lasts only 1 combat round, and the result of strategic bombing lasts for only 1 turn. All targets that have not been destroyed are automatically repaired to their full function at the end of the controlling players next turn.



31.1 Bombing of Factories, Population Centers, and Mining Centers

Every suffered bomb hit reduces the production of 1 PP for 1 turn.

10 hits in the same attack destroy a factory permanently.

31.2 Bombing of Ports

1 bomb hit impedes the use of the harbor for both launching amphibious landings and moving of ground units by sea for 1 turn.

3 hits in the same attack also impede the use of the harbor for supply purpose for 1 turn. (Mark these ports with a white barrel.)

31.3 Bombing of Rail Stations

Every city is a rail station. Every suffered bomb hit destroys such an amount of locomotives that the SRM-capacity of the non-phasing player is reduced by 1 for the next turn. Moreover, the railway cannot be used for strategic rail movement in that point: no SRM can start, arrive, or pass through the broken rail hex. (Mark these cities with a white barrel.)

32.0 AXIS' FIRST WINTERS

The winter of 1941-42 was one of the coldest of the last hundred years. The Axis troops were not equipped for temperatures of -30°C to -40°C, and many weapons and motors suddenly stopped working.

Because of the lack of working trucks, the supply lanes were already so stretched that it was almost impossible to resupply the combat units in an adequate manner.

In BITE, from December 1941 to March 1942, all Axis units (but not Axis mountain units and all Finnish units) get 1 Malus even when defending.

Supply lanes are reduced to 1 hex for all Axis units except for Finns and German units sent to Finland: they get the normal reduction to 2 hexes due to the bad weather.



32.1 Winterized Locomotives

Only 20% of Germany's "winterized" locomotives were operationally available in late 1941. Conversely, the Soviet (and the ex-Imperial Russian) locomotives seemed to be in their natural element during the winter months.

So from November 1941 to March 1942, the Axis player's capacity of strategic rail movements in the Soviet Union is reduced to 1 (plus 1 in Finland).

From November 1942 to March 1943, it is reduced to 2 SRM (plus 1 in Finland).

From winter 1943 there is no SRM-reduction anymore.

32.2 T-34 550 mm Winter Tracks

Because of their larger tracks (550 mm compared to 400 mm tracks of German panzers), Soviet tank and Armor-HQ units (but not tankettes) had much more mobility in snow theatre: they already have 4 MP from December 1941 to March 1942.



BLOCKS IN THE EAST

33.0 LEND-LEASE ACT



In 1941, the Soviet Union quickly recovered from the initial shock of the Axis' invasion thanks to foreign aid sent from the United States and Great Britain, usually known as *Lend-Lease Act*.

This help consisted of various kind of equipment, weapons, ammunitions, artillery, tanks, and aircrafts shipped to the Soviet Union through different routes:

- The main route was the **Pacific Route** from Alaska to Vladivostock, carried on Soviet ships to benefit from the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact (13.4.1941).
- The UK sent help through Murmansk and Archangelsk via the **Arctic Route**.
- Starting with May 1942, a third route was opened through Persia: the **Persian Corridor**.

Note: The Lend-Lease supplies of the single routes are stated on the Turn Record Chart.

The amount of help varied during the war period and depended on many factors and also on the willing of the USA and UK to help the Soviets by subtracting themselves of this precious resources.

In BITE, check the Turn Record Chart to verify the amount of *Lend-Lease* supplies for a specific period. The *Lend-Lease* for the Soviet player starts as follows with a fixed amount of resources per turn.

From September 1941:

- 8 PP: max. 5 Armor-PP, 3 Air-PP.
- 3 Armor-PP, 2 Air-PP from Vladivostock.
- 2 Armor-PP, 1 Air-PP from Murmansk.

From June 1942 (Persian Corridor opened):

- 10 PP: max. 6 Armor-PP, 4 Air-PP.
- 3 Armor-PP, 2 Air-PP from Vladivostock.
- 2 Armor-PP, 1 Air-PP from Murmansk.
- 1 Armor, 1 Air-PP from Persia.

From June 1943:

- 11 PP: max. 3 Armor-PP, 8 Air-PP.
- 2 Armor-PP, 4 Air-PP from Vladivostock.
- 1 Armor-PP, 2 Air-PP from Murmansk.
- 2 Air-PP from Persia.

Except for the *Pacific Route*, the other 2 routes are subject to shipping losses due to submarine attacks in the Strategic Warfare Phase.

34.0 STRATEGIC WARFARE

This is a new phase that occurs twice a turn (before the Production Phase of both the German and the Soviet player).

While the Soviets were directly fighting the Axis powers on the Eastern Front, Great Britain (and from 1942 also the USA) started a heavy bombardment campaign over the Reich to reduce the efficiency of the German industry and to demoralize the German civilians.

In contrast, Germany tried to destroy as much *Lend-Lease* convoys as possible to reduce the resources of the Soviet Union and the Western Allies.

34.1 Airwar Over Germany

The Western Allies (played by the Soviet player) fly their bombers over Germany, positioning them over specific target hexes (with a maximum of 2 bombers per hex).

The German player then reacts and flies his interceptors and fighters to attack the enemy bombers. In this special case, no Air-HQ activation is needed in BITE.



First, 1 Air-to-Air Combat Step occurs.

- Strategic bombers of the Western Allies hit German fighters at 6 and from January 1943 at 5&6.
- German interceptors and fighters hit the strategic bombers at 5&6 and from May 1944 at 4-6.

Thereafter, the German AA fires 6 shots (dice) against the enemy planes.

- German AA hits at 6 and from October 1944 at 5&6.

The surviving bombers can drop their bombs on their targets.

- They hit German factories at 5&6 and from January 1944 at 4-6.

Remember: The weather affects air-to-air combat and the AA firepower as well, but not the strategic bombers of the Western Allies when dropping bombs on the ground.

Every hit reduces 1 randomly chosen PP of a specific type that is produced in the target hex. Excessive hits are lost.

While the bombers of the Western Allies are automatically repaired every turn at no cost, the German fighters must be repaired by spending the appropriate number of PP.

Note: German interceptors (JF2 and 9FK) cannot be sent to the Eastern Front, while other German fighters may be assigned to protect the skies over the Reich if the German player desires.

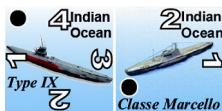
34.2 Land-Lease Convoy Attack

The Axis player can attack the *Land-Lease* convoys with his submarines and bombers.



Arctic Route: 3 German Type VII U-boats (= 1 unit with combat strength 3) and 2 bombers (= 1 unit with combat strength 2).

The submarines hit at 6, the bombers at 5&6.



Persian Route: 2 German Type IX U-boat (= 1 unit with combat strength 2) and 1 Italian Classe Marcello U-boat (= 1 unit with combat strength 1). All submarines hit at 6.

Every hit reduces 1 randomly chosen PP of a specific type that is delivered via that route. As usual, excessive hits are lost.

Note: In BITE, the Soviet player is not able to attack either the Axis' submarines or the German strategic air units. In exchange, the German player has no option to reinforce these units.

35.0 ITALY SURRENDERS

Italy does not automatically surrender in September 1943 as in the BASIC GAME. Starting from July 1943, the Soviet player rolls 1 die at the beginning of each turn. Italy surrenders on a die roll of 1 in July, 2 or less in August, 4 or less in September, and 5 or less from October 1943.

36.0 IRAN AND THE AXIS

In August 1941, the Persian leader Mohammad Reza Pahlavi refused to break relationships with Germany and other Axis powers. As a consequence and without a declaration of war, Soviet and British forces invaded the Iran.

In BITE, Iran becomes an Axis minor power at the beginning of August 1941, even if it has not any units.

Eventually frozen Soviet units in the Caucasus region become immediately unfrozen and can invade the Iran. As soon as Teheran is Soviet controlled, Iran surrenders. The Soviet player must maintain 1 ground unit in Teheran for the rest of the game.

Nine months after the fall of Iran, the *Persian Corridor* is opened and the Western Allies may start to send *Lend-Lease* transports through this route, too.

Note: The Axis submarines in the Indian Ocean can attack these convoys in the Strategic Warfare Phase (34.0).

37.0 TEAM AND SOLITARY PLAY

37.1 Team Play

The 4 short scenarios are not really designed to be played by 4 players, but the 4 longer scenarios and the *Codeword Dortmund* campaign can be played by 4 players in 2 teams.

The green dotted line (the one that the Axis minor allies cannot cross) is the border between the troops of the 2 players of every faction. Basically, one player takes command of all the troops north of this line, while the other player of this team controls the southern troops. If any units of a player cross this line, they immediately join the forces of his team-mate and change the "Commander-in-chief". (So the players will soon start to demand more troops and resources, as Generals usually did in World War II.)

Even though the team players are free to act as they want, they have to share all resources of their faction and therefore must work together to win the game.

37.2 Solitary Play

BITE has no special game mechanics (a "Game-AI") for solitary play. Nevertheless, the solitaire suitability from BITE is good for an experienced BITE-player. Due to the Fog of War and over 300 units on the map, the single player can act like playing chess versus himself. He can create plans of grand strategy for both factions and will always try to reach the obvious goals for every side.

BLOCKS IN THE EAST

SCENARIO BOOKLET

For BITE, 9 scenarios have been developed and can be played. Each scenario has a different difficulty level, rated in brackets from 1 (Very Easy) to 10 (Very Hard).

BARBAROSSA STANDARD SETUP (BSS)

Unit Block Description: Units may have a colored dot. The color indicates the area in which they start from the 1941 scenarios or campaign.

Example: The Odessa Military District units have an orange dot, as the Romanians and German 11th Army units have.

Black dot units are placed in a specified hex as mentioned on the mapboard.

Also, the position of the dot is very important and helps to setup a unit. For the Axis units, the dot must be on the right-bottom corner, for the Soviets on the left-bottom corner.

In the bottom-left corner there is the unit's name. In the upper-right corner there is the turn of appearance (if the unit does not have a dot).

Soviets: Generally, the Soviet units must be deployed on the east side of the Soviet national border (red line). All Soviet units with a colored dot must be deployed in the appropriate Soviet Military District so that every hex on both sides of the Soviet national border with Finland, Germany (Poland), Hungary, Romania, Turkey, and Iran is occupied by a Soviet unit or is in a Soviet unit's ZOC.

(The colors of the Military Districts are: white = Leningrad, blue = Baltic, yellow = Western, green = Kiev, orange = Odessa, brown = Caucasus.)

Axis: The German units with a colored dot must be deployed in the appropriate Army Group areas (blue = North, yellow = Center, green = South).

All Finnish units are deployed in Finland, Romanian units and the 7 German units with an orange dot in Romania, Hungarian units in Hungary, and the Slovak units in Slovakia. Every hex on the west side of the Soviet national border (red line) can (but may not) be occupied by an Axis unit.

The Italians are not part of the Barbarossa Standard Setup. They are important for the scenario "CASE BLUE". In the campaign "CODEWORD DORTMUND" they arrive on the mapboard as indicated on the Axis Battle Sheet.

Both Sides: Units with a black dot must be deployed in the hex indicated on the Battle Sheet.

Remember: No more than 1 German unit may be stationed inside the Finnish borders of 1941 before a Soviet ground unit crosses the borders of Finland in 1941.

(See the picture on the backside of this manual and the Battle Sheets of both factions on the mapboard for details.)

SHORT SCENARIOS

These 4 short scenarios have been developed with the precise intent to be played quickly while learning the rules or whenever there is no time for a longer scenario. Every scenario can be played with the BASIC RULES.

Soviets always deploy units first in 1941.

Note: Due to some necessary abstractions, not every rule of the short scenarios matches exactly with the ADVANCED RULES (e.g., the count of the Production Points).

SBE1: ROAD TO LENINGRAD

June – September 1941 (1)

This scenario is the easiest in the game.

Rounds: 4.

Map Area: Germany, Baltic States, Soviet Union north of the Dvina River.

Victory Conditions: The Axis player wins if he conquers Leningrad or at least can cut any communication possibilities with Siberia by railway and by the *Road of Life*. Failure to achieve one of these two conditions is a draw.

Setup: Setup is accordingly to the BSS, but deploy only the Baltic and Leningrad Military Districts for the Soviets and the Army Group North for the Axis.

Production (PP/turn starting from July '41):

- GER: 5 PP.
- USSR: 10 PP.

SBE2: ROAD TO MOSCOW

June – September 1941 (2)

Rounds: 4.

Map Area: Germany, Soviet Union south of Dvina River/Valdai Hills and north of the Kiev hexrow.

Victory Conditions: The Axis player wins if he conquers Moscow or is able to surround it completely by the end of the game. Failure to achieve one of these two conditions is a draw.

Setup: Setup is accordingly to the BSS, but deploy only the Western Military District for the Soviets and the Army Group Center for the Axis.

Production (PP/turn starting from July '41):

- GER: 5 PP.
- USSR: 20 PP.

SBE3: ROAD TO ROSTOV

June – November 1941 (3)

This is the hardest short scenario. The German player will face the best trained and equipped troops of the Soviet Red Army.

Rounds: 6.

Map Area: Germany, Hungary, Romania, Soviet Union south of the Kursk hexrow.

Victory Conditions: To win, the Axis must reach the Caucasus' door before the heavy winter comes: Rostov, Kharkov, and Sebastopol are mandatory objectives. If all 3 are conquered and held by the end of November 1941, the Axis player wins decisively. Just 2 objectives are a marginal victory, while only 1 is a draw. A failure to seize at least one of these cities is a Soviet victory.

Setup: Setup is accordingly to the BSS, but deploy only the Odessa and the Kiev Military Districts for the Soviets and Army Group South, the Hungarian Carpathian Army, the Romanians plus German Corps and the 11th Army in Romania for the Axis powers.

Remember that all units of the Odessa Military District, all units of the minor Axis allies, and the German Corps and 11th Army in Romania are frozen on the first turn.

Production (PP/turn starting from July '41):

- GER: 5 PP.
- ROM: 2 PP.
- HUN: 1 PP.
- USSR: 15 PP.

SBE4: SHORT-BARBAROSSA

June – August 1941 (4)

This scenario covers the entire early phase of the invasion from Finland down to the Black Sea.

Rounds: 3.

Map Area: Germany, Soviet Union south of Dvina River/Valdai Hills and north of the Kiev hexrow.

Victory Conditions: At the end of August 1941, the Axis player counts his Victory Points (VP): each Soviet major city controlled by the Axis counts as 1 VP, while Leningrad counts as 2 VP and Moscow as 3 VP. Thereafter, check the Victory Points Table to determine a winner:

- 0-3 VP: Soviet Decisive Victory
- 4-6 VP: Soviet Marginal Victory
- 7: Draw
- 8-18: Axis Marginal Victory
- 19+: Axis Decisive Victory

Setup: Setup is identical to the BSS, but no ADVANCED or OPTIONAL RULES are needed.

Production (PP/turn starting from July '41):

- GER: 15 PP.
- ROM: 2 PP.
- HUN: 1 PP.
- USSR: 46 PP.



BLOCKS IN THE EAST

LONG SCENARIOS

These 4 long scenarios and the campaign have been developed for players who have the time and are willing to challenge the most decisive battles of World War II on the Eastern Front.

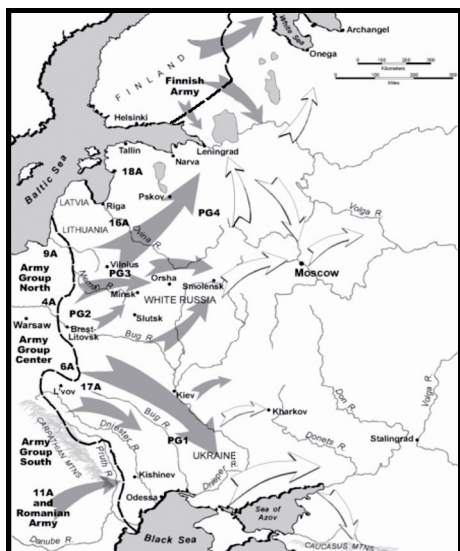
The **ADVANCED RULES** are a highly recommended for all these scenarios, while the **OPTIONAL RULES** can be added one by one as the players desire.

Scenario Setup Charts: These charts indicate how many blocks of a specific unit every power has at the beginning of the scenario and how many steps these units have in total. Players may freely decide how many steps each unit should get as long as the sum doesn't exceed the steps-number. Soviets always deploy first except in 1944.

SBE5: BARBAROSSA

June – November 1941 (8)

Even if many signals were clearly revealing the aggressive intentions of Germany, such as massive troop deployment at the borders and alerts sent from both British and Soviet Secret Services, the Soviet Red Army was literally caught with her panties down when the Axis' attack was launched at 3.00 a.m. of that bloody Sunday morning of 22 June '41. This is a very difficult scenario, especially for the Axis player. A mistake in the early steps of the invasion could compromise the final success.



Rounds: 6.

Map Area: Complete mapboard.

Victory Conditions: At the end of November 1941, the Axis player counts his Victory Points (VP): the Axis gets 1 VP each for controlling Leningrad, Moscow, Stalingrad, or Baku. Thereafter, check the Victory Points Table to determine a winner:

- 0 VP: Soviet Decisive Victory
- 1 VP: Draw
- 2: Axis Marginal Victory
- 3+: Axis Decisive Victory

Setup: Setup is accordingly to the BSS.

Production (PP/turn starting from July '41):

- GER: 24 PP, 3 Armor, 9 Air, 10 Oil.
- ROM: 2 PP, 2 Oil.
- HUN: 1 PP, 1 Oil.
- USSR: 46 PP, 7 Armor, 6 Air.

Note: The Soviets don't need to track oil consumption, as they have huge reserves.

Special Scenario Rules:

Barbarossa Surprise: During the first turn, Soviet fighters cannot take off. All Soviet forces are not eligible for any Bonus, while attacking Axis units are not affected by any Malus except for Mali due to missing or failed air recon attempts.

All German artillery units and all Axis air units eligible for attack receive 1 additional Bonus for the first round of every combat.

Because of Stalin's direct order, Soviet AA guns are furthermore not allowed to fire at any Axis air unit during the first round of every combat.

Frozen Units: The Stavka is shocked and cannot be activated in June 1941.

Romanians (but not their air units and the Antonescu-HQ), Hungarians, Finns, and Soviet units in the Leningrad, Odessa, and the Caucasus Military Districts are "frozen" during June 1941.

Luftwaffe Total Supremacy: All Axis planes roll double dice during the their first combat round of the surprise attack. This costs a double HQ reduction if playing with the **ADVANCED RULES**.

SBE6: CASE BLUE

The Drive to Baku

June – November 1942 (7)

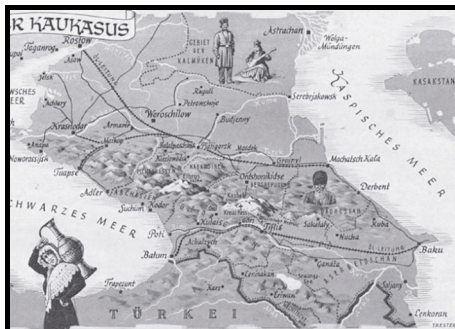
"If I do not get the oil of Maykop and Grozny, then I must finish [liquidieren] this war!"

(Adolf Hitler, HQ of Army Group South in Poltava, 1st June 1942)

"Not a step back."

"There is no land behind the Volga!"

(Joseph Stalin, Order No. 227, 28th July 1942)



After the initial success of the summer 1941 and the unexpected halt during the winter, the Wehrmacht is now back again at almost full strength for the last attempt to crack the legs of the Russian bear.

Once again the Axis is running against the time: when the Soviets armor units will reach TECH 2 in November 1942 and the fighter units in January 1943, Germany will probably not get any further chance to win the war.

As the Axis player, your logistic system does not allow you a large scale offensive like in 1941. So first make your strategy choice: go for Moscow and try to surround it and its precious factories, or try the Caucasus gambit – seizing Rostov, fighting (and hopefully win) the crucial battle in the streets of Stalingrad, and finally launching your mobile units to tonquer the vital Caucasus oilfields and Baku.

The Soviet Air Force, the *Voyenno-Vozdushnye Sily* (VVS), was swept aside by the German Luftwaffe. The VVS assembly in the area lost 201 aircrafts between 23th and 31st August, and despite meagre reinforcements of some 100 aircrafts in August it was left with just 192 serviceable aircrafts, of which just 57 were fighters.

The Soviets continued to pour aerial reinforcements into the Stalingrad area in late September, but they continued to suffer appalling losses: the Luftwaffe had complete control of the skies.

However, due to the massive relocation of the Soviet industry in 1941, Soviet aircraft production reached 15,000 in the second half of 1942. The VVS was able to preserve significant strength and to build up a strategic reserve that would eventually overpower the Luftwaffe.

Rounds: 6.

Map Area: Complete mapboard.

Victory Conditions: Moscow, Leningrad, Baku, and Stalingrad are the key objectives. If the Axis conquers and holds two of them till the end of the game, it automatically wins a decisive victory; to conquer and hold only one of them is an Axis marginal victory. Otherwise, the Soviet wins a decisive victory.

Setup: Details about the fighting forces are found in the Scenario Setup Chart for 1942.

The Axis and Soviet forces must be deployed on the west and on the east side of the yellow dashed line. Every hex on the border must be occupied.

Production (PP/turn starting from June '42):

- GER: 36 PP, 8 Armor, 12 Air, 12 Oil.
- ROM: 2 PP, 2 Oil.
- HUN: 1 PP, 1 Oil.
- USSR: 34 PP, 12 Armor, 12 Air.

Note: The Soviets don't need to track oil consumption, as they have huge reserves.

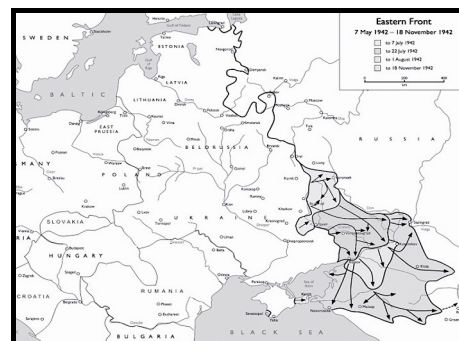
Moreover, Leningrad's 2 PP are sea-connected by the Road of Life.

Special Scenario Rules:

Soviet Infrastructure: From July 1942, the Soviets may start building the Saratov-Stalingrad (3 PP), the Stalingrad-Astrakhan (4 PP), and the Astrakhan-Baku (5 PP) railroads. These incomplete rail nets are marked with the larger black dots on the mapboard.

Also, a new expensive sea-route from Baku to Krasnovodsk (10 PP) could be built and become useful for the petroleum delivery if Astrakhan is under threat.

The Soviet player must spend the complete PP to build one of these projects in the Production Phase of a single turn. If he likes, he may build more than one project in a single turn.



BLOCKS IN THE EAST

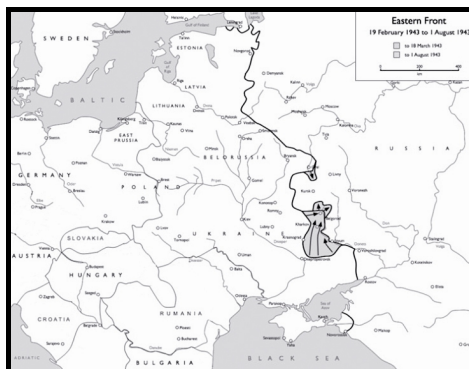
SBE7: OPERATION CITADEL

The Kursk Battle

June – November 1943 (6)

After the defeat at Stalingrad and the destruction of Paulus' 6th Army, Germany had to count on the formations of its weak allies to fill the front-line. The chances for the final victory decreased day by day, but there was still a good opportunity for a small scale offensive for destroying an entire Soviet army massed in the salient of Kursk – Operation Citadel in July 1943.

But a failure to achieve this objective will automatically force the Soviet juggernaut to unleash a dangerous summer offensive...



Rounds: 6.

Map Area: Complete mapboard.

Victory Conditions: To win, the Axis must destroy at least 8 of the precious and non-replacable Soviet Guards units by the game end. The Soviets win if they can override the Dniepr and establish a beach head on the west river bank. All other results are a draw.

Setup: Details about the fighting forces are found in the Scenario Setup Chart for 1943.

Axis and Soviet forces must be deployed on the west and on the east side of the blue dashed line. Every hex on the border must be occupied.

Production (PP/turn starting from June '43):

- GER: 37 PP, 13 Armor, 15 Air, 14 Oil.
- ROM: 2 PP, 2 Oil.
- HUN: 1 PP, 1 Oil.
- USSR: 34 PP, 18 Armor, 18 Air.

Note: The Soviets don't need to track oil consumption, as they have huge reserves.

Special Scenario Rules:

Soviet Infrastructure: See SBE6, but all projects are already completed in 1943.

SBE8: OPERATION BAGRATION

June 1944 – June 1945 (6)

After the landing of the Western Allies in the Normandy, Germany had no more chance to win the war. Now it was just a matter of time. While the Wehrmacht was only a shadow of the invincible army it had been in the past years, the Red Army had reached a total ground and air supremacy over all the Eastern Front.

Closed in between the Western Allies advancing from France and the Soviets pressing from the east with a massive summer offensive (Operation Bagration from June to August 1944), Germany had to play any attempt to delay the inevitable while its scientists were developing "unbelievable new secret weapons" in the facilities of Peenemünde.

Rounds: 13.

Map Area: Complete mapboard.

Victory Conditions: The Soviets must conquer Berlin and Peenemünde before the end of 1944 for a decisive victory. Achieving this objective before the end of June 1945 is a marginal Soviet victory, while a further delay is a draw.

Setup: Details about the fighting forces are found in the Scenario Setup Sheet for 1944.

Axis and Soviet forces must be deployed on the west and on the east side of the green dashed line. Every hex on the border must be occupied.

Production (PP/turn starting from June '44):

- GER: 28 PP, 15 Armor, 18 Air, 14 Oil.
- ROM: 2 PP, 2 Oil.
- HUN: 1 PP, 1 Oil.
- USSR: 43 PP, 18 Armor, 18 Air.

Note: The Soviets don't need to track oil consumption, as they have huge reserves.

Special Scenario Rules:

Soviet Infrastructure: See SBE6, but all projects are already completed in 1944.



SBE9: CODEWORD DORTMUND:

The Russian Campaign

June 1941 – June 1945 (10)

The Axis player must hit hard and run fast to reach and seize Leningrad, Moscow, and the important industrial area of the Donets Basin before the first snow falls. To hold the two most important Soviet cities will probably lay the ground to an Axis decisive victory.

After the summer happy time, the Russian "General Winter" will inflict a lot of unreplacable losses to the unprepared Axis forces, and the Red Army will have some good cards to play as soon as the Siberian shock armies arrive from the far east border of the Soviet Union in November.

German military doctrine was based on the principle of combined-arms teams and close cooperation between tanks, infantry, artillery, engineers, and ground-attacking aircrafts.

To counter this, Soviet commanders adopted the tactic of always keeping the front-lines as close to the Germans as physically possible. The later Marshal of the Soviet Union Vasily Chuikov called this "hugging" the Germans with an attrition war.

Rounds: 70.

Map Area: Complete mapboard.

Victory Conditions: The Axis player wins if he controls 1 of Moscow or Baku plus 1 of Leningrad or Stalingrad and scores a "1" with a die roll during the Victory Check Phase.

The Soviet player wins immediately if he controls Berlin before July 1945. The victory is decisive before January 1945 and marginal between January and June 1945. Other results are a draw.

Setup: Setup is identical to the BSS.

Production (PP/turn starting from July '41):

- GER: 24 PP, 3 Armor, 9 Air, 10 Oil.
- ROM: 2 PP, 2 Oil.
- HUN: 1 PP, 1 Oil.
- USSR: 50 PP (46 if not using rule 17.0), 7 Armor, 6 Air.

Note: The Soviets don't need to track oil consumption, as they have huge reserves. But if the Caucasus is lost (the Axis conquers Stalingrad or reaches the Volga), start tracking the oil consumption as normal.

Special Scenario Rules:

Barbarossa Surprise: See SBE5.

Frozen Units: See SBE5.

Luftwaffe Total Supremacy: See SBE5.

German 1st SS Panzer Corps "LSSAH":

The German 1st SS Panzer Corps that arrives as reinforcement in turn 44 is an upgrade of the LSSAH. If the LSSAH is in play and in supply, replace it with the new 1st SS Panzer Corps, but retain all hits. If the LSSAH has been eliminated or unsupplied, the replacement must be held back or the unit must be rebuilt.

Soviet Infrastructure: See SBE6.



Turn Sequence

A. Weather Determination Phase

May and October (AR only)

B. Axis Phases

1. Strategic Warfare Phase (AR only)
2. Supply Phase
3. Production Phase
4. Strategic Rail Movement Phase
5. Movement Phase
6. Defender Reaction Phase
7. Combat Phase
8. Blitz Phase
9. Final Supply Status Phase
10. Armor Exploitation Phase

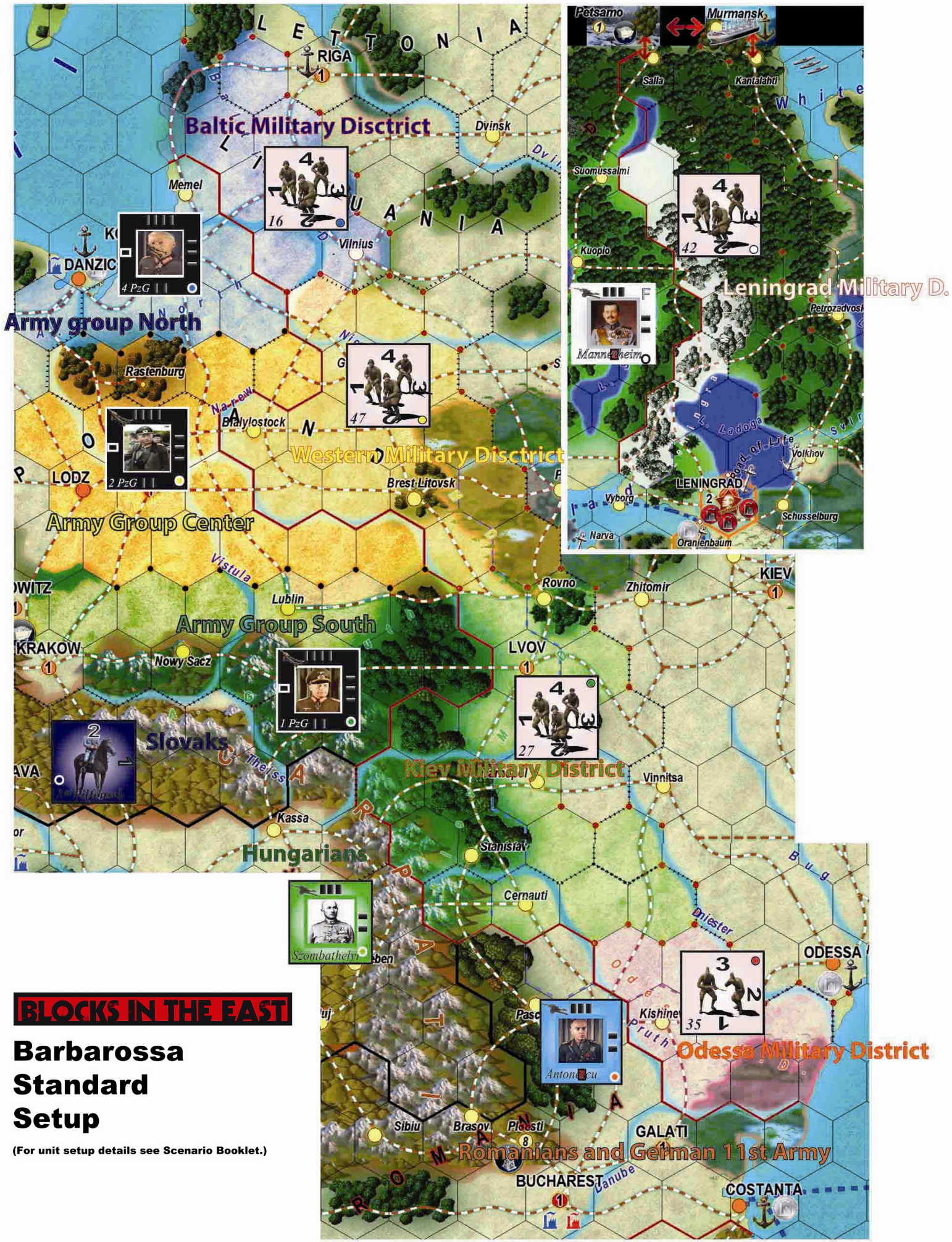
C. Soviet Phases

Like Axis Phases 1-10

D. Victory Phase

Combat Round

1. Air-to-Air Combat Step
2. Anti-Aircraft Fire Step
3. Air-to-Ground Combat Step
4. Artillery Fire Step (Attacker first)
5. Ground Combat Step (Defender first)



BLOCKS IN THE EAST

Barbarossa Standard Setup

(For unit setup details see Scenario Booklet.)