THE BORDERS ARE BURNING

Scenario 22

KUHMO, FINLAND, November 30, 1939: Along the Karelian Front, as the Soviets crossed the borders, the Finnish forces executed a planned withdrawal to the Mannerheim Line. In the north, however, the Finns were ordered to oppose the Russian advance at every opportunity. At Kuhmo, the 54th Russian Division led by Major General Gusevski advanced along the Repola-Hukkaajarvi road. The 13th Finnish Reinforced Battalion, numbering some 1200 reservists led by Lieutenant Kaarala, sought to block their advance. At 1030 hours, a mere 9 hours after the Soviets renounced their non-aggression pact with Finland, the lead Russian elements encountered the Finns in prepared positions.

Board Configuration

Rules Introduced: Sections 108 - 113

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Russian must exit 20 squads off the west board edge via any road hex. Russian tanks which exit count as two squads. Crews, trucks, and/or leaders do not count toward victory conditions. The Finnish player wins by avoiding the Russian victory conditions.

TURN RECORD CHART

Finn sets up first

Russian moves first

1 2 3 END 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Elements of the 13th Reinforced Battalion set up first anywhere west of or including row Q:

Battalion elements of the 54th Division set up second anywhere east of or including hex row T:

SPECIAL RULES

22.1 Deep Snow rules (111.8) are in effect.
22.2 The Finnish player may utilize Bore Sighting (78) for his medium and heavy MGs.
22.3 Prior to the Finnish setup, the Russian player may select and record any four hexes regardless of LOS as the initial targets for his pre-game artillery preparation. After setup has been completed but prior to the normal start of play, two turns will be played in which the only action which may take place is the resolution of four separate Russian 120mm Harassing Fire (107.7) FFEs—two in each “turn”. Each FFE must be placed after normal resolution of direction and extent of error die rolls (46.22) utilizing the pre-selected target hex as an Artillery Request counter. Such fire may not be corrected or held for later use. Any Finnish units broken during the pre-game turns may not attempt to rally until the Russian Rally Phase of turn 1.

22.4 The Finnish mines may not be placed on a road hex unless they are placed on rows P or Q.
22.5 The ATM’s shown above represent Finnish Klarihartsi pipe grenades (108.4).

AFTERMATH: After a brief firefight, in which the Russian point troops took heavy casualties, Gusevski committed 35 tanks. Kaarala, having no heavy anti-tank weapons available, withdrew his battalion into the heavy forest. The 54th Division continued its drive along the road, attaining its first day objectives.