THE DEAD OF WINTER

NORTHWEST OF STARITSA, RUSSIA, December 29, 1941: The German Army was frozen in place. Bitter cold and deep snow made the thinly clad Wehrmacht dig in and fight first for warmth, then the Russians. The Siberians were well equipped for war in the snow but the Russian High Command still threw them piecemeal at the German strongpoints. The much heralded Soviet Winter Counteroffensive was a series of small unit actions amongst the white and evergreen of the Russian winter. The raid on the crossroad NW of Staritza was just one of many.

Board Configuration

VICTORY CONDITIONS

To win the Russians must exit seven squads off the south edge of the board from hexes 4AA1 through 4GG1 inclusive. Tanks with functioning weaponry count as two squads.

TURN RECORD CHART

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="German sets up first" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Russian moves first" /></td>
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Elements 18th Infantry Regiment of 26th Infantry Division, setup on any whole hex of board 4.

Siberians of 31st Soviet Army, enter on any hex of row R.

SPECIAL RULES

M.1 The German Panzer IVE may not move the body of the tank at all. It may rotate its turret.

M.2 Deep Snow rules are in effect.

M.3 The Siberians do not have skis but do have snow smocks.

M.4 Only rows R-GG inclusive are playable.

AFTERMATH: To protect the critical crossroads the Germans had cut a maze of trenches through the snow. If not in comfort, at least in cover, sentries peered into the snowy distance. Deep silence. Then, yes, the sound of tank engines. Where? The white boxy shapes of T34s with their snowmen-like covering troops emerged from the east heading straight for the crossroads. The Germans were momentarily stunned, until their hull-down tank, though immobile, had taken the advancing Russian tanks under fire as the German infantry moved from one fire position to another. The Siberians advanced in line abreast, some clinging to the sides of their slewing T34s. Within minutes it was over.

The German tank had been destroyed by Russian infantry assault and a number of Wehrmacht troops had died. However, all three T34s were smoking (two by tank fire and one from infantry-placed explosives) and there were no moving Siberians to be seen. The