

I finally played against Bill Bird of Winnipeg for the first time. Bill and I have know each other since the early nineties. We always met at tournaments however, and had never been matched together. We played AP52 "Into Vienna Woods". We both bid German. Bill had the Russians with the balance of an extra SU-76M. Most of my units attacked to the right and left of the pine woods on the German left. I also sent one squad up the German right, and a couple of half squads up the middle, to interdict Russian repositioning. I quickly found two dummy stacks so I knew the rest of the stacks were real units. Bill had a fairly spread out defense, all in fox holes, and I managed to concentrate most of my forces against less than half of his. The Alpine hill rules helped my Germans to safely get up the hill once I broke the troops in front of me. A squad and a half squad on the German right managed to pin or break the Russian troops that tried to reposition, although I lost a half squad in CC. By the end of German turn 3, the Germans occupied all the trenches, and had a couple of units outside the trenches in various places. There were four 527 squads still on the board, but not all were in Good Order. The 8-0 leader had also survived. Bill positioned the bulk of his reinforcements of the Russian right, managing to avoid the German 10-2 leader directing the one MMG I had remembered to assemble. He used armored assault and riders to approach the trench on the German left. I took a lot of shots and rolled low. Unfortunately for Bill, he rolled high. Many Russians were broken or eliminated on the way up the hill, although the Russian 9-1 leader battle hardened to a heroic 9-2. Bill positioned some AFVs within PF range and lost one fairly early. Although the leftmost German squad broke, I was able to rotate in a replacement. On the German right, outside of the trenches, I eliminated a stack of three 527 squads for failure to rout. On the German left, a German 8-0 and squad was able to approach a SU-76M from the gully area and PF it to death. By Russian turn 4, all the Russian AFV were burning. Bill had lost a lot of infantry and I still held all the trench hexes, so Bill conceded the match.