

“Tank Desant”



Near Demidov, Russia — September 22nd, 1943

By late September 1943, the Soviet advance towards Smolensk seemed unstoppable. German units were falling back rapidly towards the Panther-Stellung defensive line. This supposed sanctuary was where German leadership sought to arrest the Soviet advance. Near Demidov, the German line was thinly held by Jaeger Battalions of the 256th Infantry Division. Equipped with some anti-tank guns, these light infantry battalions could only offer the possibility of token resistance should the Soviets attack the sector in force. One such, German force held a village roadblock on the outskirts of Demidov. At the sound of approaching tanks, the Germans quickly manned their positions and awaited their fate.

VICTORY CONDITIONS: The Russian Player wins immediately with the clearance (B24.7-B24.8) of the German roadblock. Any other result is a German victory.



Board Configuration:



Board DASL k

German Player Sets up first	★	1	2	3	4	5
Russian Player moves first						



Elements of the 43rd Army (ELR 5) (SAN 2) (Set up: enter Turn 1 on the east board edge-Squads enter as riders)



4

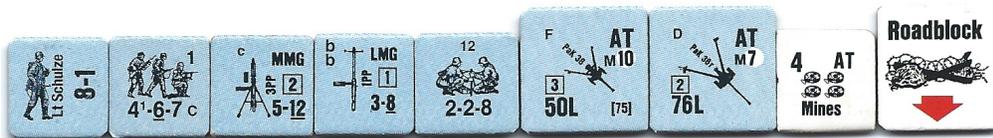
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SSR 5



Elements of 256th Infantry Division (ELR 3) (SAN 4) (Set up: HIP on or between Rows G and L)



3

2

Special Rules/Notes:

1. EC are moderate with no wind. Kindling is N.A.
2. Orchards are not in season.
3. “D6.21 Restrictions for Riders” is modified as follows. Tanks with Riders may enter Orchard Hexes and by paying an additional MP negate the requirement for their riders to bail.
4. Germans may bore sight C6.4.
5. One counter of Civilians is included in this scenario. This counter represents local peasant girls who are located in an Orchard Hex in Row D. As Russian units pass through this hex row, the Russian player makes a dr. On a 1-3 the Russian peasants are placed on the map in the hex with the Russian Unit. This will end the movement phase for the Russian unit. In Close Combat, the Russian player make another dr. On 1-2—the Peasant girls reveal the location of the German minefield Hex. On a 3-4 the Peasant girls reveal the location of the road block. On a 5-6 the Peasant Girls provide no useful information. Once activated the Peasant girl counter is removed at the start of the next Turn. Note: while on the board, the Peasant girl counter is subject to being hit by the German sniper.

Aftermath: As the Russians neared the roadblock, they were forced to slow down due to numerous orchards in the vicinity of the village. As luck it would have it, a group of local Peasant girls were in the orchard. The lead Russian tank stopped to speak with the girls, who quickly told the tank commander where they had seen Germans laying mines. With this information, the tank commander gave new orders to his platoon and ordered the attack. The Germans fought back briefly, before being overrun by the T-34’s and their supporting infantry. The roadblock was quickly destroyed and the Soviet advance would capture Demidov on the 23rd of September.

