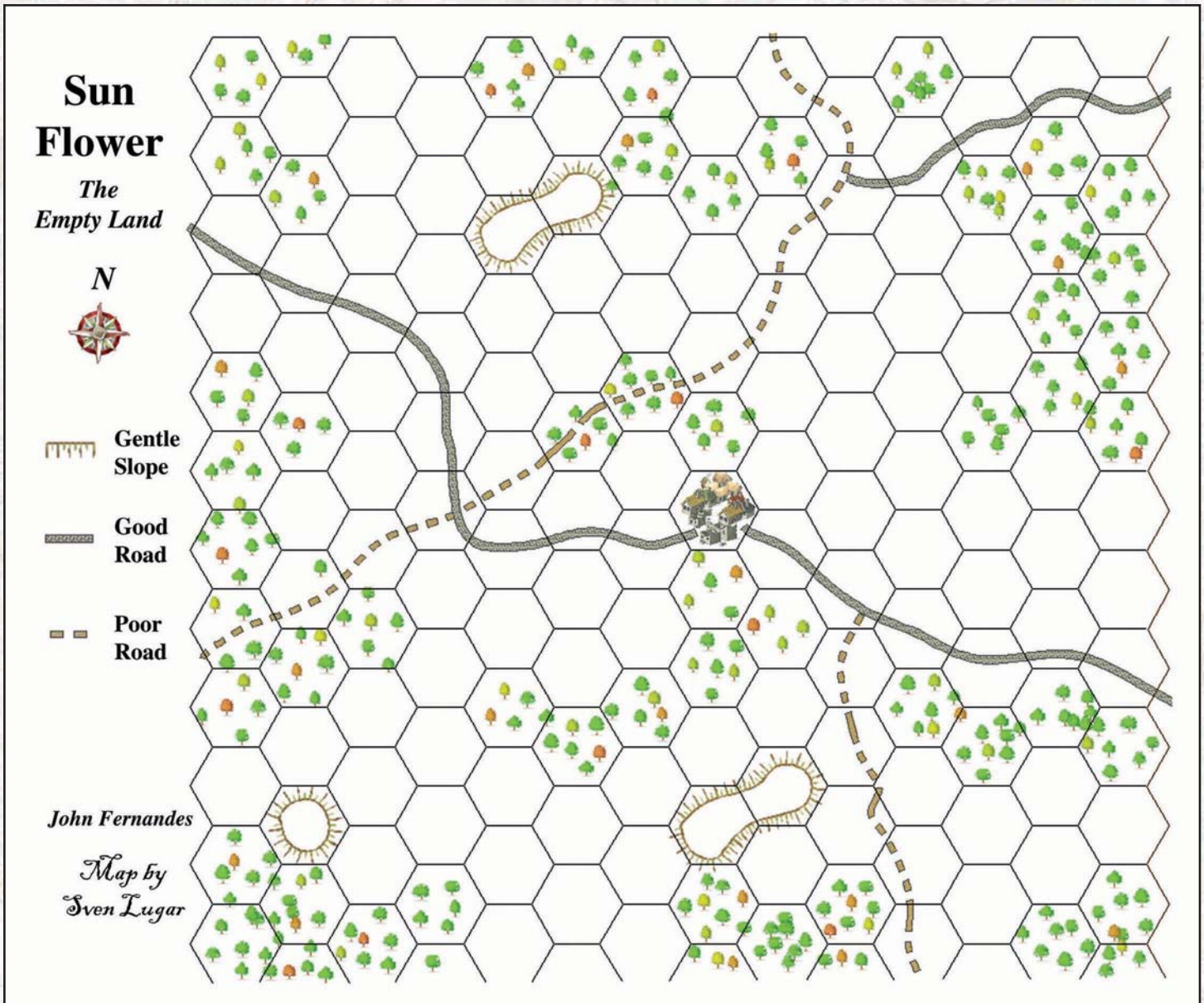


MICRO ARMOUR®: THE GAME - WEHRMACHT '47®

THE EMPTY LAND - JULY 15 1947

Meeting engagements between Soviet and German combat formations in the "Exclusion Zone", marking the limit of German sovereignty in the area known somewhat ironically as "Great Russia" during the seesaw year of 1947 were common. The Soviets were eager to demonstrate their growing confidence (and competence) to the rest of the United Nations as well as to their German enemies. The Germans, on the other hand were equally determined to punish any incursion into the exclusion zone as a way of maintaining their tactical ascendancy and political influence over the hodgepodge of subject peoples making up the German "Ostmark".

On 15 July 1947, the same day as the opening ceremonies at the United Nations "Casablanca Conference", units of the Soviet 20th Guards Armored Corps (now 20th Guards Tank Division)/Fifth Guards Tank Army collided with elements of the 1st SS Panzer Division, designated "KampfGruppe Frank" somewhere in the "Exclusion Zone" near the abandoned village marked GK:2825 on German maps ("Sunflower" to the Russians). These two formations have been engaged in a nearly continuous slugging match ever since the fierce, but inconclusive "Korsun Pocket" campaign years before.



THE EMPTY LAND

KAMPFGRUPPE FRANK/ 1ST SS PANZER DIVISION

Cohesion: 18
Break Point: 165 (40%)

KampfGruppe HQ: 1x Infantry GHQ/SdKfz.351/17,
1x Panther-3 E.50[R],
2x 88mm Flakpanzer Waffenträger I

Panzer Battalion: 1x Panther-3 E.50 HQ,
9x Panther-3 E.50,
1x Panther-3 E.50[R],
1x FlakPanther-2,
1x Engineer/SdKfz.351/7

Field Artillery Bn: 1x Infantry HQ,
2x 105mm "Waffenträger I"(2),
1x 37mm FlakPanzer Waffenträger I

Grenadier Battalion: 1x Infantry HQ/SdKfz.351/17
3x Infantry/SdKfz.351/1,
1x SdKfz.351/9(1), 1x SdKfz.351/24(1)
3x Infantry/SdKfz.351/1,
1x SdKfz.351/9(1), 1x SdKfz.351/24(1)
3x Infantry/SdKfz.351/1,
1x SdKfz.351/9(1), 1x SdKfz.351/24(1)
3x Medium MG/SdKfz.351/16,
1x E.10 Panzerjäger,
1x SdKfz.351/24(2), 1x SdKfz.351/21

Panzerjäger Co: 3x Panzerjäger E.25

Reconnaissance Co: 4x SdKfz.350/9[R],
1x SdKfz.350/13[R],
1x SdKfz.350/7(1)[R]

NOTES: One Infantry stand per Grenadier Company may contain an attached, Man-Packed Rochen or Rötkepchen ATGM team.

DEPLOYMENT: All German forces must enter the West edge of the map on turn one (1).

SPECIAL RULES

This scenario may be played in 'Rounds', each round representing a short firefight consisting of ten turns. Between rounds, each player does the following (representing rallying, recovery, and replacement of losses):

1. Remove any 'Suppression' Markers from his stands.
2. On a roll one or two (1 - 2) on 1D6, remove 'Disruption' markers from those stands which have them.
3. On a roll of one (1) on 1D6, return stands 'Eliminated' during the round to play.

8TH GUARDS TANK REGIMENT(+)/20TH GUARDS TANK DIVISION

Cohesion: 15
Break Point: 251 (46%)

Regiment HQ: 1x T.44/100 GHQ, 2x Ba.64[R]

Tank Battalion: 1x T.44/100 HQ, 9x T.44/100,
1x T.34/85[R]

Tank Battalion: 1x T.44/100 HQ, 9x T.44/100,
1x T.34/85[R]

Tank Battalion: 1x T.44/100 HQ, 9x T.44/100,
1x T.34/85[R]

Motorized
Rifle Battalion(+): 1x Infantry HQ/BTR.40,
9x Infantry/BTR.40,
2x Medium MG/BTR.40,
1x 82mm M43(3)/Halftrack,
1x ISU.130(1)

Field Artillery Bn(+): 1x Infantry HQ/Truck,
3x 122mm M.42(2)/Truck,
2x ZSU.37 AA

Recon Company(+): 3x Infantry[R]/M3 Halftrack,
3x Ba.32[R]

DEPLOYMENT: All Soviet forces must enter the East edge of the map on turn one (1).

SCENARIO LENGTH: This scenario is "Open Ended", meaning it has no specific number of turns.

VICTORY CONDITIONS: The scenario ends when one side or the other either 'Breaks' or concedes victory.

NOTE: The timing of this battle, coinciding with the opening of the Casablanca Conference, was not accidental. The Soviets were anxious to improve their bargaining position vis-à-vis future Allied aid in driving the Germans from European Russia. To do this they had to prove they could defeat the Germans on their 'home' ground in a stand-up fight. A victory in this rather small engagement would therefore boost their prestige considerably in the eyes of their allies. A German victory, on the other hand, coming as it would in the full glare of world attention, would cast a considerable pall over the proceedings in Casablanca, with who knows what consequences. Thus do great movements in history sometimes turn on seemingly trivial matters.