



A BRIGHT IDEA

ASL SCENARIO UT1



SEelow, April 16, 1945: The long-awaited Russian breakout from their Oder bridgehead had finally begun. What the Russians didn't know was that the German commander, Col. Gen. Heinrici, had anticipated their starting hour exactly. During the night he had therefore withdrawn all German forces a few km so that when the Russian artillery opened fire at 0400 they hit nothing but empty fortifications. One of the principal objectives was a plateau of low hills called the Seelow heights. The reason for their strategic importance lay in the fact that they commanded the main road to Berlin, as the west bank of the Oder around Küstrin was full of marshes and low valleys. The heights were defended by the usual scrape of the barrel bottom: teenagers with one or two weeks of military training, pilots grounded due to lack of fuel and some old anti-aircraft artillerists. To top it off, their disparate weapons suffered from ammunition shortage. Nevertheless, their fortifications were good and well-placed and their morale was high.

BOARD CONFIGURATION:



3	33
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VICTORY CONDITIONS: The Russian player wins by exiting one AFV with a functioning MA off the west edge and/or if there are no Good Order German Infantry on any hill hex of Board 3.

TURN RECORD CHART:

GERMAN Sets Up First	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	END
RUSSIAN Moves First [168]											



Ad Hoc elements of Fallschirmjägerdivision 9 [ELR:2] set up on board 3 (SAN: 5)

C						HMG	MMG	Minefield	Roadblock	Trench
4-3-6	2-2-8	8-1	8-0	7-0		4pp 7-16	3pp 5-12	MINEN		OVR, OBA: +4 Other: +2
5	8						2	60		10
AA M(8)	ART M(6)	AA M(8)								
88L A5 1/4 1/4	105	*20L (20)								
3	3	2								



Leading elements of 1st Guards Tank Army enter on the east edge of the mapboard as indicated:

Elements of 67th Rifle Division [ELR:3] enter on turn 1:

1	1					MMG	LMG
5-2-7	4-4-7	8-1	8-0	7-0		2pp B11 4-10	1pp B11 2-6
11	14			2	4	6	

Elements of 65th Guards Tank Brigade [ELR:4] enter on turn 4: (SAN:2)

E	E					MMG	LMG	9-1	15-2m	13	16	13
6-2-8	4-5-8	9-1	8-1	8-0		2pp B11 4-10	1pp B11 2-6	2nd Lt	B(11)	26	11	8
6	6			2	2	4			122L 1/4 R2/4	85L	2/4	152

SPECIAL RULES:

- Weather is Mud (E3.6), with no wind at start. Kindling is NA.
- German forces may utilize HIP, are considered Fanatic (A10.8) and suffer from Ammunition Shortage (A19.131).

AFTERMATH: The Russians used more than a hundred anti-aircraft searchlights to provide battlefield illumination in the Seelow sector. The intention was to blind the German gunners and at the same time pinpoint their location. The plan was original, innovative and untried. Like so many of its kind it didn't survive the first contact with the enemy. The only thing achieved by the searchlights was to provide excellent battlefield illumination - for the German artillery. The Russian tanks were silhouetted against the searchlight beams and they were knocked out in scores. The scene was more reminiscent of ducks in a shooting gallery than of a storming. It was hardly necessary to aim as the Russian panic was complete. Not until late in the evening of 17 April were the heights cleared of their defenders. What was supposed to take a few hours had taken two days and cost the Russian dearly, although that hardly mattered anymore as the Russians could afford their losses, in contrast to the Germans.