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FROZEN HELL[™]

Finland in the Winter War and Beyond



By **HUNTER JOHNSON**

STEVE JACKSON GAMES

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Take to the frozen forests of Finland to save your nation from the ruthless Red hordes in *GURPS WWII: Frozen Hell*. Inside you'll find:

- ☘ The histories of the three distinct wars that Finland found itself fighting during the WWII years.
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- ☘ An extensive sampling of the motley assortment of arms and vehicles that Finland had to piece together in order to fight.
- ☘ A wide sampling of campaign ideas, including a diplomatic setting that thrusts the players into the roles of negotiators and attachés trying to twist their way through the heated Baltic politics of the day.

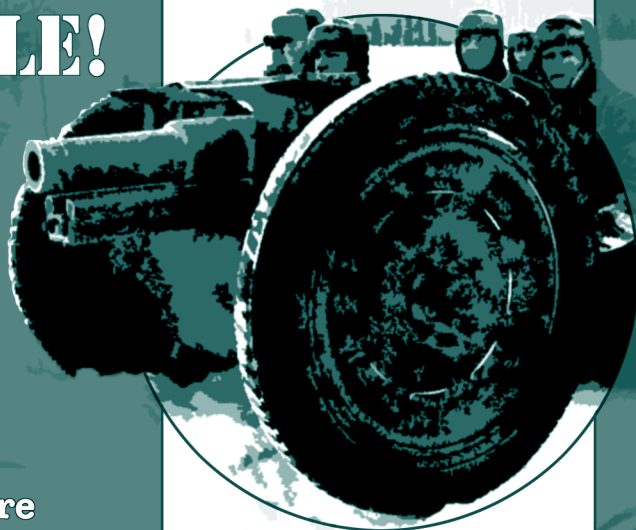
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Written by
Hunter Johnson

Edited and Illustrated by
Gene Seabolt

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GURPS®

FROZEN HELL™

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Page References

Rules and statistics in this book are specifically for the *GURPS Basic Set, Third Edition*. Any page reference that begins with a B refers to the *GURPS Basic Set* – e.g., p. B102 means p. 102 of the *GURPS Basic Set, Third Edition*. Page references that begin with CI indicate *GURPS Compendium I*. Others are HT to *High-Tech*, W to *WWII*, W:HS to *WWII: Hand of Steel*, W:IC to *WWII: Iron Cross*, and W:RH to *WWII: Return to Honor*. The abbreviation for this book is W:FH. For a full list of abbreviations, see p. CI181 or visit the updated web list at www.sjgames.com/gurps/abbrevs.html.

INTRODUCTION

On Nov. 30, 1939, the Soviet Union – an industrialized colossus of more than 200 million with the world's largest, most mechanized army – launched an assault on Finland, a rural democracy of 3.4 million whose poorly armed defense forces numbered about 400,000. History affords few examples of a conflict so one-sided.

Geography motivated Stalin. The Finnish border was only 25-33 miles from Leningrad. Finland steadfastly proclaimed “neutrality,” but the Soviets thought that eventually the Germans or Allies would not *allow* Finland to remain neutral.

Anticipating only “token resistance,” the Soviets put together an inept operational plan. (They did not think to paint their tanks *white* before hurling them into a snow-covered theater!) Their attack, however, was *big*, the idea being that the sheer size would awe Finland into quick surrender.

Numerical “odds” don't always foretell the outcome. Inspired leadership, brilliant low-level tactics, and the ordinary Finnish soldier's courage blunted the ponderous Red Army offensive. The main thrust on the Karelian Isthmus was stopped cold within weeks, and several Soviet secondary attacks had been destroyed by counterattacks.

In time, the Red Army regrouped and overwhelmed the Finns by sheer weight of numbers and firepower, but the Allied public – bored during this “Phony War” period on mainland Europe – was electrified by the Finns' courage and martial prowess. Meanwhile, the Allied governments did little to bolster “brave little Finland” militarily.

Stalin finally got his land, but the victory was expensive: some 250,000 men killed or missing, frozen to death in the trackless forests. The Finns destroyed or captured more than 900 tanks. One Soviet general remarked, “We have won just about enough ground to bury our dead . . .”

– William R. Trotter, author of
*A Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish
Winter War of 1939-40*

About the Author

Hunter Johnson has worked on *GURPS Japan*, *Bestiary*, and *Monsters*, and provides official support for *Knightmare Chess*. Besides writing, revising, and compiling, he also edits (*Another Fine Mess* from Grey Ghost Games), reviews (for *Moves* and *Fire & Movement* from Decision Games), translates (for Mayfair Games), designs (*gToons* for White Wolf and CartoonNetwork.com), and monkeys (for Cheapass Games and Mayfair Games). He occasionally plays games, too. You can find him on the web at www.hunterandlori.com.

I. FINLAND

AT WAR

Having only become independent from Russia in 1917, Finland was the youngest nation to fight in World War II. This youth may have brought with it a measure of political inexperience, which in turn led Finland to fight three very different wars during the course of a conflict that challenged most nations to fight just one well.

First, and foremost in the history books, Finland defended itself against an invasion from Russia in *Talvisota*, the Winter War. This occurred during the early war years, when Russia and Germany were allied. After an inspired effort, Finland surrendered much territory and monetary reparations to the Soviets.

After a period on the sidelines, Finland reentered the war, this time allied with Germany against the Soviet Union. This was *Jatkosota*, the Continuation War. The level of Finnish cooperation with Hitler's plans was never as great as Germany would have liked, while still much greater than suited the western Allies, much less the Soviets.

As Germany's fortunes waned in the war, Finland reached a separate peace with the Allies and agreed to drive the remaining German forces from its land. This much smaller conflict is known as *Lapin sota*, the Lapland War.

In all three conflicts, Finnish leaders did little more than respond to the forces at play on their borders. Their nationalism also limited their choices: They would cede no territory voluntarily, thus the Winter War; they would reclaim their land and prevent further loss, thus the Continuation War; they would keep an ally only as long as it helped the national defense, thus the Lapland War.

Historians still debate how much of this reasoning was actually rationalization – appeasement might have saved lives and land in 1939, for instance, and no one could have joined the Nazi cause blindly in 1941 – but analysis then and now generally sides with the Finns, in violation of the adage about the victors getting to write the history books. In the case of the Continuation War, however, even Finnish accounts have not cleared up the full story of why the nation joined Hitler's crusade.

A NEW NATION DEFINED

Though it had splintered away from Russia – which was in the midst of transforming into the U.S.S.R. at the time – Finland continued to find its foreign policy dominated by the old country.

The 1920 Treaty of Tartu

In 1918, the newly independent Finns fought a civil war between Red (Communist) and White (various democratic and right-wing) factions. The Whites won, then lent their support to the Whites fighting the Bolsheviks in Russia (see p. W7).

There, however, the Reds got the upper hand. Toward the end of the Russian civil war, the Soviet government invited the Finnish government to begin peace talks in Tartu, Estonia. Negotiations ran from June 10 to Oct. 14, 1920. The issue of self-determination for East Karelia (stretching along the nations' long eastern border) was the hottest topic, but remained mostly unresolved.

Finnish Pronunciation

The Finnish *ä* is pronounced as the *a* in *cat*. The Finnish *a* is pronounced as the *a* in *caught*. The Finnish *j* is pronounced as the consonant *y*. A little German helps with some of the sounds: the Finnish *y* is pronounced as the German *ü*, and the Finnish and German *ö* sound the same; if you don't know German, a little attitude and the *u* in *fur* will pass. The other vowels are pronounced as in these words: *red*, *rid*, *rode*, *rude*. The other consonants are as in English, although the *r* is flapped, as in Japanese or a shortened Spanish *r*, and the unvoiced consonants are not aspirated (so the *t* sound moves a little toward *d*, *k* toward *g*, and *p* toward *b*). Doubled consonants always *sound* doubled, too, as in *bookkeeper* rather than *Fokker*. The first syllable is always stressed, so it is *Helsinki* in Finnish, not *Helsinki*.

PLACE NAMES

Europe is home to many languages, and different nations often will use different names for the same village, city, river, mountain, etc. In this book, where Russian and Finnish names differ, the Finnish name will be given first, followed by the Russian or other name in parentheses the first time the name appears. After that, only the Finnish name will be used. Many Finnish place names include a suffix for the type of terrain. Some handy ones to keep in mind:

<i>harju</i>	ridge	<i>järvi</i>	lake
<i>joki</i>	river	<i>kallio</i>	rock
<i>kangas</i>	moor	<i>kirkko</i>	church
<i>koski</i>	rapids	<i>kylä</i>	village
<i>lahti</i>	bay	<i>lampi</i>	pond
<i>metsä</i>	forest	<i>niemi</i>	cape
<i>ranta</i>	beach	<i>saari</i>	island
<i>salmi</i>	strait	<i>suo</i>	marsh
<i>vaara</i>	hill		

So, rather than Lake Tolvajärvi or Lake Tolva, the text here will refer to simply Tolvajärvi, for example. Some exceptions for clarity: Laatokka is referred to as Lake Ladoga throughout this book, and Karjala as Karelia.

1932 Non-Aggression Pact

In 1931, the Soviet Union forced thousands of people out of Ingria as part of its collectivization program. The Ingrians were Lutherans who spoke Finnish, and their shabby treatment brought fresh criticism from the people of Finland.

Despite this, Finland and the Soviet Union signed a non-aggression pact in January 1932. It was a very general agreement, but a welcomed step for both nations. It was renewed on April 7, 1934.

The Mäntsälä Rebellion

Formed in the late 1800s, the earliest Finnish political parties distinguished themselves solely on the basis of language (pro-Finnish or pro-Swedish), but many shifts, splinterings, and realignments had taken place since then. During the first years of independence, the major political parties were the National Progressive Party, the National Coalition Party (also known as the Conservatives), the Agrarian Union, the Swedish People's Party, and the Social Democratic Party. The Communist Party was officially banned, but the Finnish Socialist Labor Party provided a front for it starting in 1920.

In early 1932, the Lapua Movement, which opposed both Communism and democracy, took up arms and tried to force their views. They chose Mäntsälä, between Helsinki and Lahti, for this confrontation. Pres. Svinhufvud (p. 5) used laws written to keep the left in line against this ultra-right-wing group. They promptly returned under a new name, The People's Patriotic League (*Isänmaallinen Kansanliike*, or IKL). On Nov. 22, 1938, the government tried to disband the IKL, but the ban did not hold up in court.

In the final peace treaty, Finland was granted the Arctic port city of Petsamo (Pechenga) while Repola (Revolvy) and Porajärvi were returned to East Karelia. Finland removed its fortifications on the islands in the Gulf of Finland and destroyed its batteries at the Karelian villages Ino and Puumala.

FIELD MARSHAL MANNERHEIM

Carl Gustav Mannerheim is the personality from the Winter War best known by the outside world. He was born on June 4, 1867. His first brush with military life ended unceremoniously when he was expelled from the Hamina Cadet School in 1886 for stubbornness and lack of discipline. He quickly straightened up and graduated from the Nikolai Cavalry School in St. Petersburg with honors in 1889.

When the Finnish War of Independence broke out in January 1918, Lt. Gen. Mannerheim led the Civil Guards against the Red Guards. He served as regent of the newly independent Finland from Dec. 12, 1918, until July 27, 1919. Pres. Svinhufvud appointed him chairman of Finland's Defense Council in 1931, a position he would hold until 1939.

Mannerheim served as president from 1944 to 1946, but joined none of the political parties. He died on Jan. 27, 1951.

Mannerheim's Drink

Mannerheim did not like the taste of the Finnish Liquor Store's *tikkuviina* schnapps and asked for some additional flavor. The result:

100 parts Rajamäki aquavita
2 parts dry French vermouth
1 part gin

A glass was filled to the brim, and nothing was to be spilled when drinking it at "Marshal's Court," his war headquarters in Mikkeli, 85 miles northwest of Viipuri. (He moved the court eight miles to Otava in mid-January 1940.)

FOREMOST FINNS

The following leaders played a large role in Finland's prewar years.

P. E. Svinhufvud

Pehr Evind Svinhufvud was Finland's president for six years from March 1, 1931. He was a member of the National Coalition Party and a hero of the Finnish Civil War. With a radio speech in 1932, he quelled the Lapuan coup d'état led by Kurt Wallenius.

Kyösti Kallio

Kallio was the premier and leader of the Agrarian party and served as Finland's president from March 1, 1937, until Dec. 19, 1940. He died the same day, on his way to retirement. Previously, he had introduced a land reform law, *Lex Kallio*, which enabled peasants to buy land from large estates, companies, local communes, or the church.

Eljas Erkkö

Eljas Erkkö was Finland's foreign minister as the Winter War began. In direct opposition to Marshal Mannerheim's counsel, he pushed hard for a defiant posture in the 1939 negotiations with the Soviet Union. This bravado was based on two things: a message relayed from Germany with a promise of military aid if needed, and an October report from the Finnish Ministry of Defense that the Soviet Union was not ready to make war even against weaker enemies.

The Soviets did not ask this much of Finland, but laid the groundwork in a foolish bid to justify any hostility as simply aiding a domestic revolution.

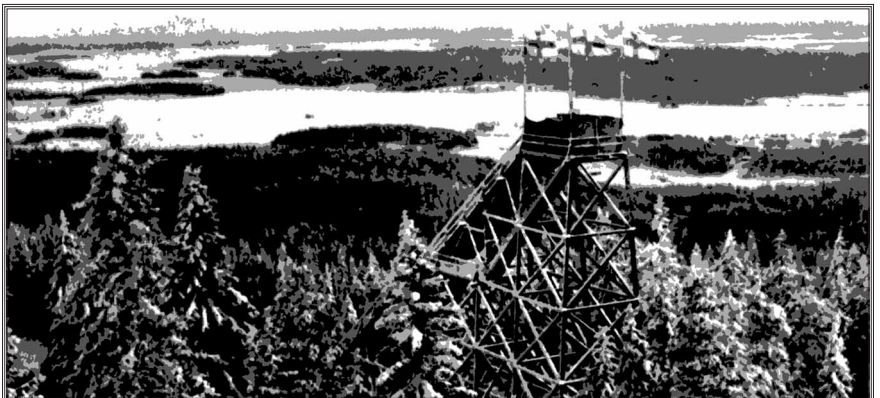
The Soviet demands had three main parts. First, the Mannerheim Line (p. 9) and other fortifications on the Karelian Isthmus would be dismantled and the border there would be moved back to about 20 miles from Viipuri (Vyborg). Second, Finland would trade four Gulf of Finland islands – Suusari, Lavansaari, Tytarsaari, and Koivisto – and most of the Kalastajasaarento (Rybach Peninsula) on the Arctic Sea for a much larger parcel of East Karelian land above Lake Ladoga. Third, Finland would grant the U.S.S.R. access to the Lappohja port and a 30-year lease of the Hanko (Hangö in Swedish) Peninsula.

Some Finns did not find this unreasonable, given that the Soviets both needed to prepare for German attack and seemed to have the might to take what they want. Mannerheim himself favored granting some concessions: the Ino fortress on the Karelian Isthmus and the smaller islands in the gulf along with half of Suursaari (Hogland Island). He knew that the Finnish military was not ready to face the Soviet juggernaut, while a request to Sweden for alliance drew only a hazy reply. He also knew that the Hitler-wary Soviets would not – could not – take “no” for an answer. The Finnish government disdainfully regarded his approach as timid, and Mannerheim offered his resignation.

Juho Paasikivi represented Finland at these discussions. His instructions from Pres. Kallio were clear and uncompromising: “If the Soviet Union should make proposals regarding the creation of Soviet Union military bases on the Finnish mainland, or, e.g., on the Åland Islands, such proposals should be rejected and any discussion thereof refused. The same applies to any proposals referring to frontier adjustments on the Karelian Isthmus . . . If the Soviet Union suggests the conclusion of a treaty of mutual assistance . . . it should be pointed out that such a treaty is not compatible with Finland's policy of neutrality.”

RUSSIA ON THE BRINK

On Oct. 5, 1939, Molotov, the Soviets' chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, demanded that Finland send a diplomatic delegation to Moscow. On Oct. 12, formal talks began. The Soviets had just completed similar talks with Estonia (Sept. 29), Latvia (Oct. 5), and Lithuania (Oct. 11). On the listed dates, they had signed treaties of “mutual assistance” that were later used to turn them into satellites.



THE SOVIETS APPLYING THE SQUEEZE

In 1939, the Finns found themselves at the mercy of these two steely-eyed Soviet principals:

V.M. Molotov

Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Skryabin was born on Feb. 25 (March 9 in the modern calendar), 1890, in Kukarka, Russia. Comrade Molotov adopted his Soviet name, which means “hammer” in Russian, in the 1910s. He founded the Bolshevik newspaper *Pravda* with Josef Stalin in 1912, and worked closely with Stalin during his rise to power. In return, Stalin made him chairman of the Council of People’s Commissars in 1930 and the Commissar of Foreign Affairs in 1939. He negotiated the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact of 1939, also called the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. He also negotiated the mutual-assistance agreements with Britain and the United States later in the war, and he was in charge of the Soviet atomic-bomb project until Germany’s surrender.

Molotov was expelled from the Communist Party in 1964 for his criticisms of Khrushchev, but was reinstated 20 years later. He died Nov. 8, 1986, in Moscow.

Beyond the ability to cede a few islands in the gulf to Russia, Paasikivi had no leverage at all with which to work. Talks broke off on Nov. 13, 1939, and shortly thereafter Soviet officials denounced the countries’ 1932 pact.

GERMAN RELATIONS

In the meantime, the Finns had kept up a long, fairly warm relationship with Germany from their very first days (p. 20). The country’s earliest leaders, under the grossly mistaken impression that the Kaiser was winning WWI at the time, had voted to become a kingdom under a Prussian prince. Like Russia, Finland had helped Weimar Germany maintain a secret and illegal military capacity.

After taking power, various Nazis also courted Finnish friendship. Hermann Göring had invited Mannerheim to Germany in 1935 to become familiar with their aviation industry. Göring’s brother-in-law, the Swedish Count Eric von Rosen, had kept Mannerheim in the loop with regards to the German view of world politics through the second half of the 1930s.

Von Rosen had a particular affinity for Finland himself, and had donated the inaugural plane of Finland’s air force in 1918. It was a Thulin D emblazoned with his personal luck symbol: a blue

Josef Stalin

Stalin had not much to like about the Finnish situation. When Lenin had been forced to give up Finland, the Soviets had assumed it could be brought back to the Russian sphere through some skillful propaganda and subversion.

All such efforts had failed. Stalin could remember the White Finns aiding the White Russians and British in staging attacks against Red Russia in the civil war. Finland and Great Britain were still in bed together, from Stalin’s point of view: Finland had given the British concessions to their newly discovered nickel deposits in Petsamo, and nickel was a vital war resource.

Even if Finland’s continued neutrality were assumed, the Soviet Naval War Commission concluded that Russia needed a presence in Hanko and Porkkalanniemi (Porkkala-Udd in Swedish) as well as control over two of the islands in the gulf: Suusaari and Tytarsaari to fend off the Nazi attack which would eventually come. Stalin made several attempts to reduce the Soviet demands to something more palatable to Finland, but on the issue of Hanko in particular they could find no common ground.

upright swastika. The Finnish air force – and later, the army – adopted the symbol. (In 1945, the Soviets forced Finland to abandon the swastika as part of their eradication of “Nazi symbolism.”)

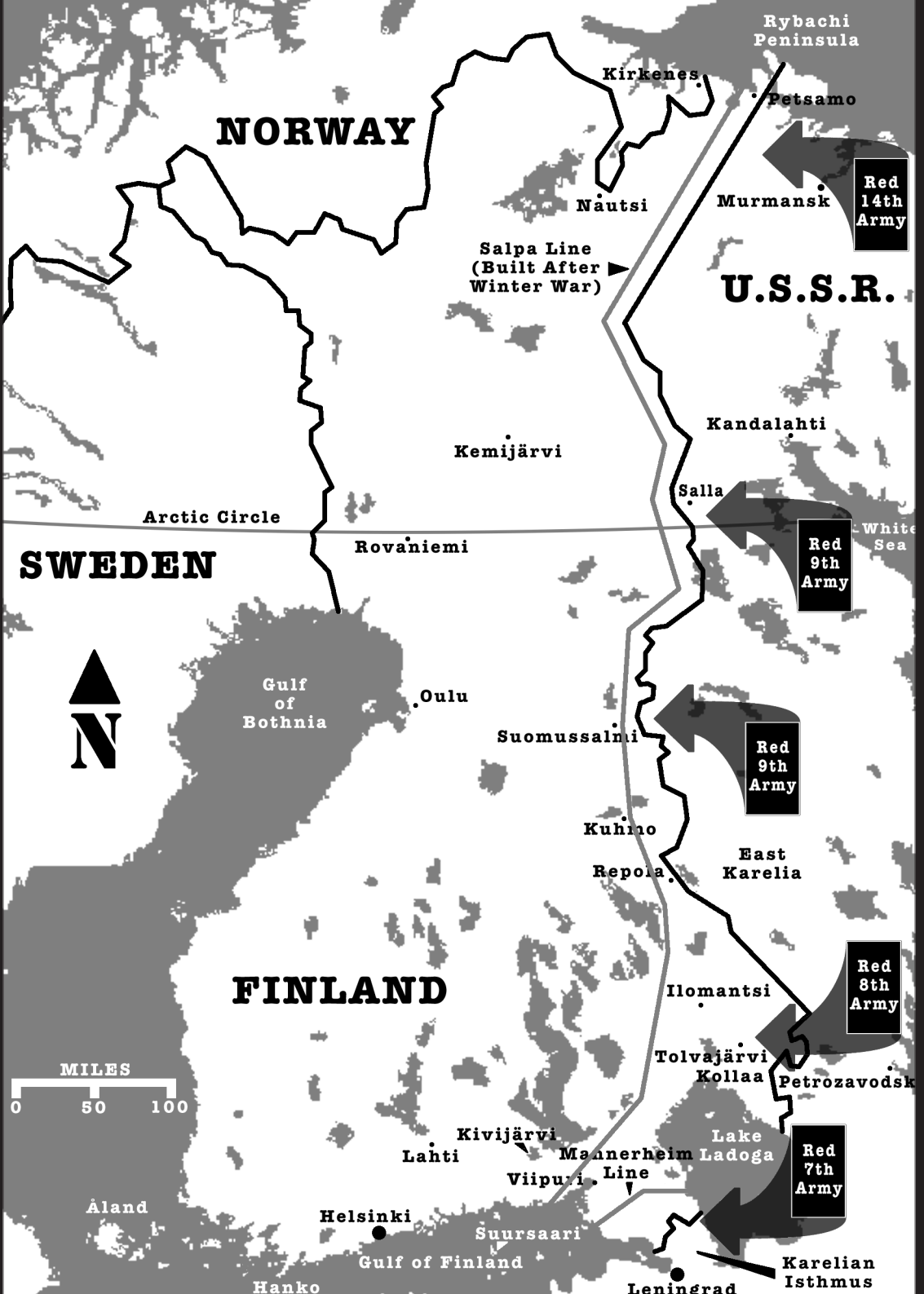
None of this eased Stalin’s suspicions about his neighbor a day’s march from his secondmost-crucial city. He could not take for granted that the Finns would object very strenuously to Germany staging an invasion from their lands.

Hitler Sells Out

Hitler needed a quiet Scandinavia, so was happy to loudly confirm Finnish declarations of neutrality, which only made Stalin even more wary. The Führer did sign over Finland into the Soviet “sphere of influence” in his secret 1939 pact with Stalin, but again, both dictators knew that one of them would eventually betray that treaty.

The invasion infuriated Hitler, but he did not want to confront Stalin yet, so gave the Finns only token secret aid. He in turn invaded Norway, partially because he feared the Allies would seize key Norwegian assets while nominally en route to aid Finland. (Indeed, they had planned to do exactly that.)

FINLAND



TALVISOTA, THE WINTER WAR

Between the fall of Poland and the German invasion of Scandinavia, the U.S.S.R. invaded Finland. Talvisota, or the Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-40, would run its course in the relative blink of an eye, though not fast enough for the U.S.S.R..

The first shots were fired on Nov. 26, 1939, when seven artillery shells fell near the Russian village of Mainila, 800 yards from the border. The U.S.S.R. used the attack to justify its invasion, but NKVD Marshal G. I. Kulik had set up the artillery strike, probably with the permission of Stalin and Andrei Zhdanov, commander of the Main Naval Soviet and political commissar of the Leningrad Military District. Finland's own artillery had been pulled back and could not have fired the shots.

The nations' border stretches from Kalastajasaarento on the Arctic down to the Karelian Isthmus between the Baltic and Lake Ladoga, some 750 miles. On Nov. 30, the Russians launched offensives at points all along this line. Bombing missions kicked off the invasion along with artillery barrages beginning at 6:50 a.m. The Soviet Union had not formally declared war.

Soviet troops began to move at 8 a.m., with Gen. Kirill A. Meretskov coordinating the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 14th armies. These comprised 23 divisions with 460,000 men and 2,000 tanks. The troops had firm – and optimistic – instructions not to enter Sweden once they overran all of Finland. A military band marched with the 7th Army; it needed to be on hand for the victory parade to be held in Helsinki before year's end.

THE TERIJOKI PRETEXT

Russia claimed its invasion was in response to an aid request from the new government of Finland set up in Terijoki, a village on the Karelian Isthmus. The Soviets installed Otto Ville Kuusinen, the founder of the Finnish Communist Party returned from exile, as the president of the new People's Republic of Finland. He was their second choice, but their leading candidate, Arvo "Poika" Tuominen, had declined the honor and urged all Finnish Communists to defend their country.

Kuusinen signed a "mutual-assistance treaty" with the Soviets on Dec. 2. When the time came to end the war, however, the Soviet leaders would ignore the Terijoki government and deal with the established government in Helsinki.

The Terijoki government would also field the 1st Corps of the Finnish People's Army. The corps had no more than 6,000 men, supposedly all Communist Finns but unofficially rounded out with

East Karelians who were exiled former Red Guards. The one other corps in the Finnish People's Army, commanded by Aksel Anttila, included Byelorussians, Ukrainians, and Kazakhs. The whole army numbered 28,000 men. The mixed nature of the men gave rise to a number of jokes that relied on a pun about "Finnish mines" (*Finskij mini*) and "Minskian Finns" (*Minskij Finni*).

THE FINNS STAND FAST

Upon the invasion, Mannerheim withdrew his earlier offer to resign (p. 5) and traded in his post as Defense Council chairman for a new position as commander of the Finnish armed forces.

For his part, Mannerheim planned to delay and harass the invading forces as much as possible during their initial assault. After the Soviets had reached the main defensive lines, the Mannerheim Line and another line between Lake Ladoga and Syskyjärvi, the Finns would launch some unexpected counterattacks while waiting for the democracies of the West to send aid.

In this David-vs.-Goliath meeting, the Russians had dramatic numerical superiority. Soviet forces as a whole outnumbered the Finns 50-to-1. In battle, however, this number was not quite as impossible. Most Russian forces were busy in other regions. They occupied parts of Poland and patrolled the other Baltic republics and the borders with Rumania and Japan, so there were only 460,000 Russian soldiers initially sent to face 160,000 Finnish troops. The Finns also enjoyed a marked advantage in leadership. In the late 1930s, Stalin had conducted several purges, which weakened his officer corps by about three-quarters of its experienced members.

The Soviet army also commanded the lions' share of heavy mechanized equipment in the Winter War, with 80 tanks for each tank the Finns could muster. The swampy, mostly roadless terrain negated part of this advantage, and the severe cold (temperatures ranged from just over freezing in Helsinki at the start of the war to -17° F in Viipuri in mid-January) and snow (30" or more) whittled it away even further. The Soviet tanks could not move through snow more than about a foot deep, and their engines would freeze up if they weren't started periodically or tended with heaters or air compressors, but when the Soviets could bring their tanks to the front, the effect was dramatic. "*Panssaripaniikki*" (also known as tank fever) struck many Finns, especially in the instances where they lacked any anti-tank

weapons of their own. (To reflect this, the GM might require Fright Checks from characters on their first encounter with enemy armor, or even the rare friendly units, with penalties if they haven't trained with friendly tanks or if they have only small arms to oppose the armor.)

The seas also belonged to the Soviets. Flagman Vladimir F. Tributs commanded the Baltic Fleet of the Russian naval forces. The battleship *Oktyabrskaya Revolutsia* would provide artillery support for the 7th Army on the Karelian Isthmus and offer protection for Leningrad, Kronstadt, and Luga Bay against the Finnish air force. The battleship *Kirov* was to attack airfields and batteries from Russarönsaari to Kotka, as well as provide anti-aircraft defense for the eastern gulf region. Air reconnaissance, bombers, and interceptor aircraft would assist the capital ships. Finally, submarine patrols would cover almost the entire coast of Finland, as well as several Baltic Islands and the Swedish coast near Stockholm. Finland's navy would need assistance from Sweden or elsewhere to interfere with this plan at all.

MANNERHEIM LINE

From 1920 to 1939, Finnish engineers built what would come to be called the Mannerheim Line along a natural, easily defensible network of rivers and lakes on the Karelian Isthmus. Around these bodies of water, they erected 119 fixed fire points (Russian *dolgovremennye ognevye tochki*, or DOTs), which were reinforced concrete bunkers. The earlier ones suffered from outdated design by WWII standards, and the later ones suffered from budget cuts in the form of softer concrete. The Finns also constructed other bunkers from wood and earth (*derevo-zemlianaia ognevye tochki*, or DZOTs) as needed. Numerous trenches connected the bunkers, and other obstacles such as minefields and machine-gun nests were placed around and forward of the line. The German blitzkrieg faced a similar fortified line in France, but the Russians did not have the Germans' tactical expertise and the Finns knew their defenses and terrain well.

THE KARELIAN ISTHMUS

The Soviet 7th Army had the task of piercing the Mannerheim Line at Taipale (Priozersk). It was under the command of Vladimir Yakovlev, but Meretskov went with them and made the decisions that Yakovlev carried out. They planned to join the 8th Army at Hiitola, and from there they

would take Viipuri and march (with their military band) on to Helsinki. With its mechanized corps, three tanks brigades, 12 artillery regiments, and 12 rifle divisions, the 7th alone represented more force than the Finnish general staff had expected to face during its 1930s evaluations of the potential Soviet threat.

Hugo Victor Östermann commanded the Finnish forces, six divisions, on the Karelian Isthmus. The Finnish Army had come in after the Moscow talks broke down and evacuated the civilians. In most cases, their houses were burned down after they were evacuated, to deny shelter to the advancing Russians. What was left in the villages was booby-trapped. Mines had been strung across lakes before they froze over completely; they wouldn't destroy a tank that drove across them, but they would crack open the ice, which would then swallow the tank and crew. Few of them had to be exploded before the Russian tank crews learned to stay off the ice, but that made them more vulnerable to ambushes in the wooded land areas.

Four Finnish covering groups of roughly 5,000 men each were positioned ahead of the Mannerheim Line to harass the enemy as he advanced. The Finnish military had no delusions about keeping the Russians from reaching the line, but they would certainly do what they could wherever they could. Mannerheim himself acknowledged that the Russians had the men and resources to take the line whenever they wanted, but he wanted to make sure that the "butcher's bill" would be high enough to make them seek other solutions.

Many Finnish soldiers got their first look at a tank of any kind during the initial days of the war. Men who were stalwart when facing other human soldiers would break and run when faced with the mechanical monsters. Even rumors of coming armored assaults caused withdrawals from areas said to be facing the impending attack.

Afterward, the Finnish soldiers did settle in and devise ways of dealing with the tanks, even without proper weapons. Logs and crowbars could be wedged into the treads. Stick grenades and satchel charges were also used. The Finns also took up the gasoline bomb and gave it its enduring name: the Molotov cocktail (*Molotovin Koktaili* in Finnish; see *Polttopullo malli 34*, p. 34). The Finns added kerosene, tar, and potassium chloride to the gasoline, and used a sulfuric acid ampoule instead of a rag for ignition. When they could, they would also add a vial of nitroglycerine. This actually made a potent weapon against many Soviet tanks.

The defense went according to plan, and after the initial Soviet assault lost momentum, Mannerheim ordered a counterattack Dec. 22. The Soviets' band would not play in Helsinki just yet.

LAKE LADOGA

The Soviet naval command deployed several ships in Lake Ladoga. Three battleships were brought in from the Baltic through the Stalin Canal at Schlüsselburg to join the Ladoga Flotilla under Capt. Kobyl'skii. The extreme winter conditions kept all but one of those battleships, the *Oranzenbaum*, from actually joining the flotilla. The *Oranzenbaum* was promptly beached on a sand bar near Taipale on the first day of operations, where it would stay for about two weeks. Neither the 7th nor the 8th armies would receive the naval artillery support that they had expected.

On Dec. 6, the torpedo boats *Dozornyi* and *Razvedchik* attempted to support a 7th Army attack on Taipalenjoki. They fired all their ammunition from a range of about 8½ miles. Almost all of it landed harmlessly in the water. They cheerfully reported that they had succeeded in avoiding danger from the Finnish battery at Jarisevänniemi.

LADOGA-KARELIA

The six rifle divisions and two tank brigades of the 8th Army, led by Ivan N. Khabarov, invaded the area just north of Lake Ladoga, launching from the Petrozavodsk area. The 8th planned to come in over the north side of Lake Ladoga to attack the Mannerheim Line. With the 7th's frontal assault, they hoped to catch the Finns in a pincer maneuver. Once they destroyed the forces at the Mannerheim Line, the 8th would join the 7th in taking the Finnish capital.

Opposing the 8th Army, Maj. Gen. Juho Heiskanen commanded the small, all-infantry Finnish 4th Corps. The 8th Army made slow but steady progress against his forces. Its 56th Rifle Corps was supposed to take the villages of Salmi, Käsnäselkä, and Suojärvi on the first day of the attack; it took two days to reach the objectives. Even then, only Brigade Commander G. F. Kondrashov's 18th Rifle Division took its target of Käsnäselkä; stiff resistance held the others back.

The Soviet 1st Rifle Corps, under Brigade Commander Roman I. Panin, came in to the north of the 56th. One of its divisions was southbound for Korpiselkä, Värtsilä, and eventually Viipuri,



while another would swing north to Ilomantsi and on to Oulu (Uleaborg).

Everywhere along the Finnish front, the Soviets' superior numbers were overwhelming the defenders, but the 8th Army was further threatening to pierce the main defensive line from Lake Ladoga to Syskyjärvi and outflank and isolate the forces on the Karelian Isthmus. It was creating the greatest crisis of the early days of the Finns' war, especially since the Finnish leadership had not anticipated any major offensives there.

On Dec. 1, the retreating Finns broke a dam on Suojärvi to delay the oncoming Russians. The tactic worked for a few hours, until the water froze solid and the Russians advanced across it. The Finns continued to give up ground.

Despite its successes, the 8th Army was not moving fast enough to suit the Soviet war plans, which called for twice as rapid of an advance. Though none of the Soviet units were doing any better than this, Meretskov chastised the 8th for "bickering" with Finland instead of waging war against it. On Dec. 4, he replaced Khabarov with Corps Commander V. M. Kurdyumov.

Changes also were under way on the Finnish side. Mannerheim relieved Heiskanen to give command of the 4th Corps to Maj. Gen. Woldemar Hägglund. From Dec. 4-7, Mannerheim allocated the troops from his two reserve divisions, splitting them up by regiment to fill holes in his ragged line.

Mannerheim himself took command of the 16th Regiment and ordered it to Tolvajärvi, where some of the most important fighting of the Winter War would soon occur.

TOLVAJÄRVI

At Tolvajärvi, a lake town north of Lake Ladoga between the Ilomantsi and the Kollaanjoki, the Finns deployed their makeshift units against Soviet Brigade Commander Belyayev's 139th Rifle Division.

The 139th, along with the rest of the 8th Army, had been making slow but steady progress against the Finnish forces in Karelia. They were headed to the Värtsilä via Korpiselkä, and the Tolvajärvi road net was their path.

The Finns fighting them, Task Force R, had been pushed back and back along the road to the lake. In this command, Lt. Col. Veikko Räsänen deployed the 10th and 112th Independent Battalion Groups, a 76mm gun battery, the "Obuhoff" platoon, the 7th Bicycle Battalion, and elements of the 37th Infantry Regiment.

On Dec. 6, Lt. Col. Aaro Pajari drove to Tolvajärvi to take stock of Task Force R and report his analysis back to Col. Paavo Talvela, and through him to Mannerheim. Pajari reported that the Finns here were exhausted and downtrodden after their week of retreat from the 139th. On Dec. 7, Pajari received orders to relieve Räsänen. Task Force R became Task Force Pajari, with the responsibility to hold at Tolvajärvi.

Pajari would find himself fighting three major battles over the next five days.

On Dec. 8, a Soviet regiment advanced toward the bridge across the Kivisalmi. Finnish battalions from the 16th and 37th opposed them, trying to delay the Soviets while another 16th battalion assembled its defenses on the western side of Tolvajärvi and Myllyjärvi. They eventually gave up the bridge, but had bought the time that their colleagues needed. The Soviets set up headquarters at a new chalet-style hotel on Hirvasharju, while one of their battalions took Kotisaari.

To raise his troops' morale, Pajari felt it was important to take some aggressive action. He led a raiding party to the eastern shore south of Kivisalmi, while the bicycle battalion provided a diversion by attacking the troops in Kotisaari. The engagement began about 1 a.m. Dec. 9. The cyclists lost their captain, Ericsson, and retreated hastily, but Pajari's team had more success. They reached the Russian bonfires at Kivisalmenkangas and opened fire. After only a brief stay, Pajari pulled his men back and returned to camp, but the surprised Russians continued to fire at their unseen foe – and each other – for a few hours.

Belyayev did not initiate any action Dec. 9. Pajari also took the opportunity to rest. Meanwhile, the 718th Rifle Regiment reinforced Belyayev.

The Sausage War

Late on Dec. 10, a 718th battalion marched around Hirvasjärvi for a surprise attack against Task Force Pajari's rear. Talvela had ordered Pajari (and Col. Per-Ole Ekholm) to launch a counteroffensive on the 11th, but the surprise attack would mandate some adjustments to that plan.

The Russians enjoyed some easy gains. Unfortunately for them, one of their first conquests was the 16th's field kitchens. Large amounts of sausage soup were being prepared, and the Soviets had not been eating well. Trading their momentum for a chance at a hot meal, the Soviet soldiers gave Pajari the opportunity to regroup. He scraped together about 100 cooks and other handy personnel, regardless of combat function, and led a charge against the encroaching enemy. The Finns and Russians fought one of the fiercest bayonet engagements of the Winter War that night. The battle also marked the return of the Finnish battle cry *hakkaa päälle* – loosely, "No quarter!"

The lapse in the Russians' progress through Task Force Pajari enabled some of the forward units to join the fray from the east. The Russians were put to rout in the pre-dawn hours of Dec. 11; only a few dozen made it back to their camps.

As the remnants of that battalion made their way back, and before he knew exactly what had transpired, Belyayev sent a battalion to attack from the south across the ice from Kotisaari. The Finns saw them coming and Lt. Eero Kivelä had three platoons from the 16th lying in ambush for them. They turned the Russians back easily. Belyayev finished the day with a frontal attack, but it fared no better than the others.

The Finns delayed their counteroffensives until the 12th, and made a few revisions to incorporate some new units that had reinforced them.

The Final Day

Finnish Maj. J. A. Malkamäki led the 9th Independent Battalion and two 16th companies in the initial attack from Hirvasjärvi down the main road behind the hotel. They set out around midnight.

At 8 a.m., at the southern part of Kotisaari, Capt. A. V. Kanerva attacked the occupying Soviets with two companies from the 112th. Another 16th company was supposed to join Kanerva's attack, but their headquarters had not relayed the order. Pajari held up his attack against the center until an ineffectual artillery bombardment had been completed at 9:15 a.m. Capt. H. Laakso then took a 16th battalion across Hevossalmi, with the help of suppressing fire from some machine-gun companies along the shoreline.

Around 9:30 a.m., under pressure from Panin, who had recently arrived at Tolvajärvi, Belyayev launched a new offensive starting with an artillery barrage at Hevossalmi. The infantry refused to advance after the barrage ended at 10 a.m., and Belyayev's staff had no luck in urging them forward. Panin then took the 139th Division and retreated to the south shore of Ala Tolvajärvi.

The three prongs of the Finnish attack met with varying degrees of success. Malkamäki's force was attacked from the north by two Soviet battalions that had been sent to Hirvasjärvi earlier; Belyayev was seeking to regain his earlier momentum. By 10 a.m., two Finnish companies were on their way back to Tolvajärvi. The remaining companies crossed Hirvasjärvi and took Hirvasvaara from the Soviet forces by 11 a.m. The retreating Russians turned and counterattacked, and Malkamäki withdrew around noon, regrouping at Tjokki and Kokkari later that evening. Some platoons of the 16th did not receive the withdrawal order, and so settled in to fight off the Russians alone.

Kanerva's men took Kotisaari and pushed on to Ruissaari and Kivisalmenkangas by noon, but could not wrest the Russians from those two points. Kanerva fell back to Väliisaari and Okkolansaari by 1:30 p.m.

Laakso's assault first faced the torrent of artillery from Belyayev's new offensive, but it was woefully inaccurate and did not impede the Finns at all. Two companies took the hill that jutted out between Tolvajärvi and Myllyjärvi and engaged in a longer firefight with the Russians in the gravel pits on the east side of the hill. Another

company brought some machine-gun units with it and helped move the Russians out of the pits.

Belyayev sent some of his T-26 light tanks up the road toward the hill, but they were driven back by Finnish 37mm anti-tank guns covering the road. The Finns moved up to the hill where the hotel stood, but they were pushed back by the Soviets to the gravel pits just before noon.

Pajari sent an 81mm mortar battery forward to provide additional support against the hotel, and a reserve infantry company, his battery of 76mm howitzers, and the Obuhoff platoon to the north to intercept the Soviets moving up to relieve their comrades in the hotel. The Finnish attack on the hotel itself was back on at 1:30 p.m., as was the attack against Kotisaari shortly thereafter.

The hotel battle raged over an hour with neither side gaining the upper hand. A company from the 10th Independent Battalion broke through Hirvashaju and attacked the hotel from the north, splitting the defenders' attention. Some of the Russians withdrew from the hotel, and the Finns pressed their advantage. They took the first floor at 3 p.m. The Finnish major leading the fighting forbade his troops to burn the Russians out of the hotel, so they used grenades to clear the second floor. They took 28 Russians prisoner.

Kotisaari fell to the Finns by 5:30 p.m., and Belyayev took the remnants of his division down to Ristisalmi to regroup and receive reinforcements. The Finn bicycle troops gave pursuit, but could not engage them before nightfall. Talvela would have Ristisalmi back by Dec. 14, however.

The Finns had won their first major victory of the Winter War.



The League of Nations

On Dec. 14, 1939, the League of Nations declared the Soviet Union the aggressor in the Winter War, expelled the U.S.S.R. from its membership, and recommended that Sweden and Norway render aid to the Finns. Sweden and Norway opted instead to maintain their neutrality, although Sweden did send clandestine aid to Finland.

THE KOLLAA FRONT

The Soviet 56th Division entered Finland near Suvilahhti. It planned to drive along the road from Suvilahhti to Loimola, through the line between Lake Ladoga and Syskyjärvi that Mannerheim needed to hold for his counterattacks.

In the beginning, they faced some Finnish border-guard detachments, the 34th and 36th regiments from the 12th Infantry Division, and some artillery. Along the rail lines in the Suojärvi area, the Finns also had an armored train dating from the civil war, armed with multiple machine guns and some French 75mm guns in its cupolas. This large, noisy, and effective weapon gave the defenders a much-needed boost to their morale – just as the Russians’ large, noisy, and effective tanks demoralized the Finns in other regions.

The Russians pushed the Finns out of Suvilahhti on Dec. 2, but the Finns burned every inch of the town as they left. The Finns regrouped at the Piitsionjoki to entrench for the next assault.

The 34th’s commander, Col. Teittinen, had plans for a counterattack that could be launched from Kivijärvi, against either the Soviet 56th on the road to Loimola or the 139th on the road to Tolvajärvi. He hoped the attack would go successfully enough to get strikes against both groups in before it was all done, but he needed until Dec. 6 to finish his preparations.

Mannerheim ordered counterattacks from both the 34th and 36th on Dec. 3. The men did not yet have all of their skis; some did not even have their rifles, yet. When they attacked as ordered, the 36th encountered Soviet tanks and routed. When more tank rumors circulated, the men fell back farther, to Loimola. Teittinen took the 34th back to the Kollaanjoki – a “river” never more than a few yards wide – to regroup, since there had been little enough point to the counterattack with two regiments, let alone trying it with a single regiment.

At the Kollaanjoki, the men sighted their anti-tank guns along the road and buried some wire obstacles in the snow along the sides of the road. Then they set about digging the trenches that

would be needed for a proper defense. The Kollaa Front battle would not be glorious, but it would inspire the Finns elsewhere. “Kollaa still stands!” temporarily became a sort of Finnish anthem.

The Russians cautiously caught up to the Finns at the Kollaanjoki on Dec. 7. The initial breakthrough attempt was simple: A column of tanks trundled down the road with infantry marching behind. The Finnish AT guns knocked out the first three tanks and the assault was over.

Those three tank hulks would remain on the road while the Russians tried to cross the Kollaanjoki with wider and wider assaults. More and more units reinforced both sides. What began with a Russian division against a Finnish regiment eventually became four divisions with supporting elements against two regiments.

The Russians tried different tactics and developed some new ones. To get the vehicles to the fighting, for instance, they needed a new road, since the three wrecked tanks blocked the existing one. They trampled the snow flat, and made corduroy roads from tree trunks. Once hosed down with water, these would ice up enough to support light tanks and artillery pieces.

No real breakthrough was made, however. Kollaa held until the end.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Planning to bisect Finland, the Soviet 9th Army invaded between Repola and Kandalahhti (Kandalaksha). Its five rifle divisions under Corps Commander Mikhail P. Dukhanov split into three columns. The northernmost division (the 122nd) drove for Salla from Kandalahhti, the middle column (the 163rd and 44th) marched toward Kemi-järvi and Suomussalmi from Uhtua (Ukhta), and the southernmost division (the 54th) aimed at Kuhmo from Repola. The 88th stood in reserve.

Not expecting any serious attack in these wilderness areas, Mannerheim had assigned the area to the North Finland Group, a band of Civil Guards, reservists, and such under Maj. Gen. Viljo Einar Tuompo. These second-tier soldiers would soon find themselves in the midst of some of the fiercest fighting.

Suomussalmi

Soviet Maj. Gen. Zelentsov split up his 163rd to attack the town of Suomussalmi in a pincer maneuver. On Dec. 5, 1939, two regiments attacked from the north around Kiantajärvi and the third attacked from the east along the Raate road. Once the 163rd had taken the town, the 44th Motorized Rifle Division, under Commander A. I. Vinogradov, would reinforce them.

The 163rd closed the jaws of its two-pronged attack in Suomussalmi on Dec. 7. The Finnish Civic Guard had done what it could to harass and delay them, and they continued to pick off patrols while they waited for reinforcements. These arrived in dribbles, a regiment here, a company there, until a makeshift "division" under Col. Hjalmar Siilasvuo was formed. (On Dec. 22, this was christened the 9th Division, since the previous 9th had been scattered across the fronts.) Artillery also was en route, but the Finns launched their counter-attack Dec. 11, before it could arrive.

The Soviet 44th set out from Kemi on Dec. 14. The division lacked enough transport to carry everybody, so the heavily armed troops went ahead in the trucks it possessed, while the lightly armed scout elements trailed behind on foot. In this way, the division entered combat Dec. 20 practically blind, with its reconnaissance and road-security units in the rear. Adding to its woes, on the next day the Finns began listening to the uncoded radio traffic that it received.

A roadblock between Kuomasjärvi and Kuivajärvi stopped the 44th on Dec. 22, still more than four miles outside of Suomussalmi. Finnish raiding parties from Capt. S. Mäkinen's task force of two companies kept the Soviets from breaking through.

The Civic Guard and the 9th cut off eastward lines of retreat for both Soviet divisions, and began using their *motti* tactics, splitting each division into smaller pockets and eliminating them. The Russians attempted a breakout Dec. 24, but the Finns fell back only far enough to let the Russians enter the wilderness, then counterattacked.

Motti

Motti is a Finnish word for a staked woodpile, eventually to be cut into firewood. During the Winter War, and perhaps before, it became a Finnish tactical doctrine, as well. After finding a road-bound enemy column, such as the Soviets could be expected to employ, the Finnish forces would first encircle it. This allowed the outnumbered Finns to isolate groups of the encircled enemy through concentrated attacks. Over the next few days, or even weeks, each isolated group in turn would be eliminated, starting with the weakest, to give the harsh climate time to soften up the stronger pockets.

The Finnish 9th's artillery showed up. They launched a proper counterattack against the 163rd on Dec. 27, and finished eradicating them Dec. 30. They then shifted their attention to the 44th, where Vinogradov asked his Soviet superiors for support.

The Soviet 9th Army's new leader, Corps Commander Vasily Ivanovich Chuikov, received permission to move back the 44th on Jan. 6. The remaining men returned to Vazhenvaara the next day – then Stalin's field representative, Lev Sakharovich Mekhlis, shot Vinogradov, his commissar, and his chief of staff for willfully ignoring orders, abandoning equipment, and not following Soviet doctrine. On Jan. 24, 27 "preventative detachments" of 100 men each were created and sent to key areas along the front to control desertion and clean up units such as Vinogradov's to prevent the repetition of such failures.

Of the other divisions, the 54th was encircled by the Finns near Kuhmo and subjected to *motti* tactics by the end of January. They would fight for their survival until the war ended. The 122nd reached Salla and split, some forces going to Pelkosenniemi (and theoretically on to Sodankylä and Rovaniemi to rendezvous with the 104th, see below) and others going to Kemijärvi.

Maj. Gen. Kurt Wallenius led the Finnish forces in the upper half of the country, as deputy in command of the Arctic front under Maj. Gen. E. V. Tuompo. Wallenius was a former leader in the Lapuan movement (p. 4), so there was no camaraderie between him and Mannerheim, but Wallenius received some reinforcing battalions once Mannerheim realized how much the Russians had committed to the area. With them, he was able to drive the northern group from their path to Pelkosenniemi back to Raatikka and out of action. The subdivision of the 122nd advancing south toward Kemijärvi was also stopped, but not pushed back as quickly. Wallenius and his men drove the Russians back to Märkäjärvi on Jan. 2.

PETSAMO

Division Commander V. A. Frolov commanded the Soviet 14th Army's three rifle divisions, ready to take Petsamo. He was to be in Rovaniemi by Dec. 12. The 104th Division carried the initial assault, with support from naval artillery and artillery batteries on the Russian coast. The Finnish 104th Independent Covering Company and four 1887-vintage guns opposed the invaders.

Petsamo was yielded after a brief encounter, and Wallenius began a delaying campaign. His men slashed and burned anything that could offer the advancing Russians protection from the elements. Sniper parties attacked from the beginning, and raiding parties became more frequent as the Soviet supply line stretched longer and more precariously back to the Arctic Ocean. At Petsamo, the Russians were also dedicating some of their resources to repel a hypothetical naval or

amphibious attack from Britain, France, or Sweden. Commander N. Kulakov from the Soviet Northern Fleet came ashore to place the coastal artillery and oversee the other defensive construction under way.

The Russians eventually reached the Salmijärvi nickel mines and the village of Nautsi, but would go no further. Wallenius's men pushed them back from Nautsi to Höyhenjärvi on Dec. 21. The Arctic front froze there for the duration of the war.

THE AIR WAR

During the Winter War, the Finnish air force grew from 100 planes to 200, with additions of American, British, French, Italian, and Swedish aircraft. By comparison, the Russians were using about 2,500 airplanes by January 1940.

The Finnish side had the Dutch Fokker D.XXI (p. 40), the British Gloster Gladiator II (p. 41) and Hawker Hurricane I, and Italian Fiat G.50. As new planes came in, the Finnish air force took the more obsolete craft and moved them from the southern fronts to the less taxing northern sectors. Some of their most common foes were Tupolev SB-2s and Polikarpov I-16s. One of Finland's ace pilots, Lt. Jorma Kalevi Sarvanto, in one famous attack went up against a formation of SB-2s and brought down six of them in four minutes.

Some Swedish volunteers eventually took up the outmoded Gloster Gladiators and Hawker Harts and flew them against larger Russian formations. The Swedes gave up five Gladiators and brought down six medium bombers and at least five fighters. Finnish pilots in total brought down 240 enemy aircraft while losing 26 in the process. Russian bombing missions had cost Finland about 650 civilian lives, 2,000 buildings, and 5% of its total production time in man-hours.

THE DIPLOMATIC THAW

On Jan. 1, 1940, Finnish playwright Hella Wuolijoki offered her services in reestablishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. With then-Foreign Minister Väinö Tanner's approval, she traveled to Stockholm on Jan. 12 to visit an acquaintance of hers, Alexandra Kollontai, the Soviet ambassador to Sweden. They discussed the outlook for Russo-Finnish negotiations.

Molotov was receptive to the overture and on Jan. 21 Moscow sent representatives to Stockholm to meet with former Foreign Minister Erkko (p. 5) and discuss the matter more directly. The Swedish government offered to mediate the eventual negotiations, and Molotov sent word to Stockholm on Jan. 29 that peace negotiations were possible.

Finnish Prime Minister Risto Ryti delivered a proposal Jan. 30 to Foreign Minister Christian Gunther, the Swedish mediator in Stockholm. The new proposal studiously avoided the issue of Hanko, but Moscow had just repeated that Hanko was still a requirement for any settlement. On Feb. 5, Tanner went to Stockholm to meet with Kollontai, who intimated that the Soviet position would only become harsher as the war progressed. Tanner and Ryti met with Mannerheim on Feb. 10, and he advised them to continue the peace talks in preference to seeking further assistance from either Sweden or the western powers.

BACK TO THE ISTHMUS

With the war taking much longer than he expected or preferred, Stalin made some changes with the new year. Frontal assaults on the Mannerheim Line were temporarily suspended, while more forces were sent to the Karelian Isthmus. He planned to pay the "butcher's bill" that Mannerheim had tried to set too high. The Red Army would simply bulldoze its way through to Helsinki.

Marshal S.K. Timoshenko volunteered for command of the Northwestern Front, formerly the Leningrad Military District. He understood what was required, and obtained Stalin's agreement that the required loss of Soviet lives would not be held against him afterward.

Stalin removed Zhdanov from military command, but he retained his political position and improved the Leningrad infrastructure to aid Timoshenko. Georgi Zhukov became Timoshenko's chief of staff. The forces were reorganized into two armies: the 7th, commanded by Meretskov, and the 13th, commanded by Gen. V.D. Grendal (originally Gröndahl). Grendal was half-Finnish, and his son Boris was a soldier in the Finnish army.

The two Soviet armies had 25 divisions, eight tanks brigades, and 17 artillery regiments. The armor brigades included the new KV heavy tank. The artillery consisted of some 3,100 guns plus two coastal batteries transferred from the Baltic Fleet to Perkijärvi and Naurisjärvi. Commander Pavlov controlled the reserve army. The 7th would have the task of taking Viipuri while the 13th tried for Käikisalmi. Breakthroughs were to be centered at Summa and Vuoksinjärvi. Pavlov's forces would follow up with thrusts across frozen Viipurinlahti as the 7th progressed. Timoshenko expected the new operation to take 7-12 days.

The Finnish army also restructured during the first weeks of 1940, with divisions changing numerals to confuse Soviet military intelligence. Thus, the Finnish 6th Division became the 3rd, the 10th the 7th, and the 11th the 2nd.

The newly renamed 3rd Division moved up between the 4th and 1st Divisions in the critical sector, replacing the weary 5th Division, which went into reserve defensive lines. The newly raised 21st Division, too poorly equipped for the front lines, backed up the 7th. The 23rd also was placed along the intermediate and rear lines of defense.

With everyone in place, the Red Army launched a new all-out attack on the Karelian Isthmus on Feb. 1 with 10 solid days of artillery and air bombardment. Finnish artillery sat silent as the bombardment wore on – they had few shells, and orders only to fire them against attacking infantry. In just over a week, they would be further restricted to attacks that could not be faced by small-arms fire alone. The Finnish air force was the only tool available to use against the artillery, but the flak and Polikarpovs, now used defensively, kept the Finns from flying daytime missions.

Even before the ground troops went in, some successes had been achieved, although the Soviets would not know it until later. Some of the Finnish DOTs became unmanned; all the troops inside died from the concussive effects of the shelling.

The incessant attack brought the individual Finnish soldier into the world that the Soviet soldier had suffered through in the previous months. Any whiff of smoke instantly drew artillery fire, so gone were the stoves and field kitchens upon which the Finns had relied. They became hungry and cold. The artillery did not let up at night; fatigue mounted. They also grew acutely aware of their odds, and that sapped many soldiers' morale.

For their part, the Soviet soldiers tasted a portion of the Finnish experience of the previous months. They now felt they were fighting for Russia's honor, to atone for the dismal performance to date, and not for Stalin's goals. They still held the advantage with which they had begun the fight, though: a nearly inexhaustible supply of men.

The Attack

When the "real" attack began, the Soviet regiments were to switch over from their standard bombardment to a creeping barrage, starting 200 yards in front of the troops. As the barrage moved toward the enemy, the first line of infantry and armor would advance along with it, keeping the 200-yard interval. Close-support artillery would follow behind them.

On Feb. 1, Timoshenko launched three test operations from the 7th Army and two from the 13th to see how well the lessons of the first months of the Winter War had been learned. A 7th Army division attacked at Summa, another at Hill 38 (the Soviet records refer to unnamed hills by their map

coordinates) near Karhula, and another at Muurila. The 13th assaulted Piiskan and advanced on the line between Vuoksinjärvi and Punnusjärvi.

Though the Soviets discovered that the DOTs were tougher than they had anticipated, they managed to take out two of them by Feb. 2. The demonstrations continued for three more days. The test runs overall were deemed a success, despite some mishaps . . . as when tanks from the 13th Army had fired on friendly infantry units. The operations were expanded into plans for the new offensive, scheduled for Feb. 11. Meanwhile, the Finnish forces strengthened their presence around Summa, where they had fared the worst.

In the next days, the Russians attacked and died in legions, so that the following lines would have to climb over their bodies before the Finns could get clear shots at them. Waves of tanks bore down on the defenders, too many for their anti-tank measures to keep at bay, but they did not fight with finesse – four divisions under Gen. Harald Öhquist killed 90 tanks during the first seven days of the onslaught.

Throughout the bloodbath, the Russians never blinked. Each DOT fell when the Red Army trained its sights on it. The Finns in the next DOT continued their defense undaunted, though, returning fire each time a new attack commenced.

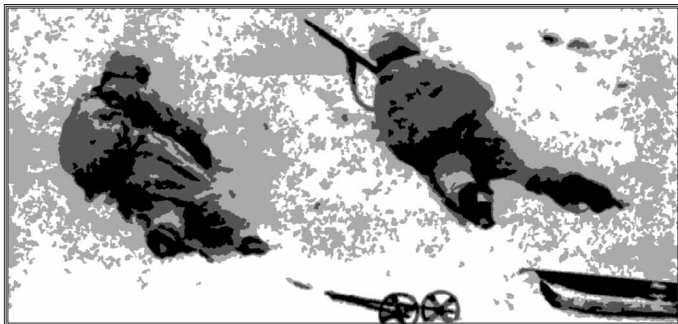
On Feb. 6, the 13th Army received the 11th Coastal Battery, two trains with 12" "ghost guns," presumably so called because they could relocate quickly. Grendal used them to bombard the Finnish headquarters and ammunition supplies at Pyhäjärvi and six DOTs near Herajärvi.

VZAIMODEISTVIYE

Vzaimodeistviye (cooperation) was one of the most important organizational principles in the new Soviet doctrine for combined-arms warfare. It proved instrumental in the Red Army's attack against the Mannerheim Line. Unit commanders were expected to remain in communication with their neighbors and use constant reconnaissance in order to render aid wherever it was needed. Regiment commanders observed and led from command tanks.

On Feb. 11, *vzaimodeistviye* got a boost from the radio, telephone, telegraph lines, and couriers issued to the divisions leading the attack. Telephone lines used for *vzaimodeistviye* were strung on poles several yards long rather than buried; underground lines did not survive tank traffic very well.

The 50th Rifle Corps, under Commander F. Gorolenko, led the new offensive with a strike into the Summa-area defensive network. On Feb. 11, thick fog prevented the scheduled aerial bombardment against the Finnish defensive lines, so the artillery got started an hour earlier. One division was to break through the line and advance to Autio while another was to advance to Lähde after overrunning the DOTs around Hammer Grove. (Anonymous groves were given names that described their shape on Soviet maps.) The attack toward Autio was turned back by the beefed-up defenses at Summa.



The Breakthrough

The Hammer Grove attack succeeded by employing a bit of trickery. The artillery fired at its Finnish targets intensively for about 15 minutes, then paused, which had previously heralded that the Russians were resighting their barrages farther behind the Finnish lines. The Finnish soldiers previously under bombardment climbed out of their defensive works – then the Russians resumed firing on their original targets, catching them in the open.

When the infantry went in behind the usual creeping barrage, they progressed quickly. The first DOT was destroyed 28 minutes into the infantry assault, and seven more followed through the course of the day, as the Soviets advanced three-quarters of a mile past the forward portion of the Mannerheim Line.

The Russians achieved in the Lähde area the breakthrough of the Mannerheim Line that they had been seeking. Mannerheim still held the experienced 5th Division in reserve, and if he had sent it to Lähde when the breakthrough was first reported, he might have extended the war. He had already refused to send them forward on numerous other “critical” reports from the front lines, icily holding them back for the one time that they would truly be needed. It turned out that, when that one time came, it went unrecognized until too late.

The next day, Meretskov and Gorolenko sent the infantry, armor, and artillery into their breach.

The division that created the breach, the 123rd, received the Order of Lenin on Feb. 14. The battle of Lähde proper was fought the next day; the Russians won after the Finns ran out of ammunition. On the same day the Soviets finally took Summa.

On Feb. 12, Finland’s parliament, the Eduskunta, agreed to the pursuit of peace terms with the Soviet Union. Flush from the recent advances, Moscow added the Karelian Isthmus and the area around Lake Ladoga to the earlier demands for Hanko.

The joy of the recent successes also clouded some judgments. In the Soviets’ rush to storm Viipuri, reconnaissance patrols were neglected, artillery was outpaced, communication with high command became intermittent, situation reports were disregarded, and intelligence was not shared. On Feb. 18, these errors would bring the 50th Rifle Corps to a screeching halt at Kämärä. The momentum was lost, and the 7th Army regrouped while Pavlov’s reserve corps came up to flank Viipuri. This gave the Finnish army time to regroup as well, and several successful delaying attacks were launched in the following weeks.

Viipuri

With the personnel and materiel already on the roads and rails, and with the Finnish defenses at Saarenpää and Koivisto still active, Pavlov took his troops to Viipuri across the Gulf of Finland. The gulf was frozen over, but never before had so much equipment been sent over the ice. The Winter Defense Detachment from the Baltic Fleet completed an ice road from New Krasnaia Gorka to Alipuumala on Feb. 19. Pavlov himself took a T-26 across, as did the rest of his staff, and the corps set out after them. The load eventually exceeded the ice’s capacity; the road cracked and three tanks plunged into the icy water. The flanking operation stopped until Feb. 22, with patrols to oversee the stability of the two newly created ice roads.

Molotov added a mutual-assistance pact and the towns of Käkisalme and Sortavala to the requirements of the negotiations on Feb. 21.

Soviet Supreme Command took the 56th Rifle Corps from the 8th Army and used it as the basis for a new 15th Army. The 15th was commanded by Mikhail P. Kovalev and intended to continue the encirclement of Viipuri by coming in from the northeast. Kovalev decided to set out on Feb. 23. On Feb. 24, the 7th Army resumed its advance. The intermediate Finnish defensive lines fell back to the final lines around Viipuri.

THE COSTS OF DELAY

Mannerheim's strategy of drawing out the conflict, and thus making his Soviet adversaries more and more eager to come to terms, was working. The Russians were growing increasingly tired of the international criticism that they had earned and their mounting losses. While the Red Army was enjoying some overdue success on the Karelian Isthmus, troops were still being lost elsewhere in Finland. The 18th Rifle Division had been encircled back in the middle of December, after briefly hooking up with the 168th on the north side of Lake Ladoga. Commander Kovalev gave them permission to retreat on Feb. 28. Fewer than a thousand of the original 2,700 men managed to break out of the encirclement. Their commander Kondrashov and the attached 34th Light Tank Brigade were not among the survivors. The 168th remained encircled.

The Finnish authorities went to extremes in their delaying tactics. Unbeknownst to the Soviets, they had opened the sluices at the Saimaa Canal at Juustila. The waters would flood Repola and Tali Stations to a depth of about 18" and further delay the 7th Army's advance to Viipuri.

Ultimately, though, Molotov saw through the Finnish tactics, and exacted a heavy price. His "logic of war" gave him grounds to demand more concessions for peace as Soviet casualties mounted.

sharper teeth to the new ultimatum: If the Finnish government did not respond, the Soviet government would resume its negotiations with the Terijoki government and leave the Red Army free to continue on its unstoppable path. A Finnish delegation left for Moscow to begin negotiations under these terms March 5.

Timoshenko also resumed (and accelerated) operations in Karelia on the 5th. The 15th Army paused on its way to the Karelian Isthmus long enough to aid the 168th Division (see sidebar). Even the Finnish People's Army was brought into play to secure Santajokisaari and Ristinieni.

On March 8, when the delegations met, Molotov added demands for the Kalastajasaarento and the Salla region, as well as the construction of a new rail line from Kemi-järvi to Kandalahiti to aid Russo-Swedish communications. He did drop the demands for Petsamo and a mutual-assistance treaty during the first day's negotiations. With the Russians closing in on Viipuri from the land and across the ice, Finnish high command warned the government that foreign assistance or a peace accord would be needed soon to forestall defeat.

The Finnish air force received more planes, and began bombing 7th Army. The Soviets, who had dominated the skies prior to

On Feb. 28, the 7th Army attacked the V-Line, the final prepared line of defense outside Viipuri. They broke through by the end of the afternoon and made it as far as Vääräkoski. They were unable to eliminate the retreating Finns, in part due to a bridge that the Finns managed to sabotage as they fell back. Pursuit continued Feb. 29.

On March 3, Pavlov again brought his forces across the frozen surface of the Gulf of Finland. His 86th Motorized Rifle Division took an ice road from Koivistosaari. They again lost tanks when the ice cracked, this time with four T-26s disappearing into the depths. The ice attack stalled when fog rolled in.

During the night, the Winter Defense Detachment supplemented the ice attacks with diversionary assaults. One of its units was able to draw away Finnish air support, called in when the defenders at Tuppuraa and Teikari believed they were witnessing the initial thrust of a new offensive.

Pavlov's divisions resumed their advance when the fog lifted the next morning. They finally fought their way to a bridgehead March 6.

On March 4, Molotov added Viipuri and Sorvala to the territories to be ceded to the Soviet Union in peace negotiations, and he put some

this, began to pay attention to their anti-aircraft protection. By March 12, the Finns continued to hold Viipuri, where a staggering stalemate had developed. Around Kuhmo, in the northern half of the country, the situation was reversed. The Finnish army continued its assaults on the Soviet *mottis*. Russian requests for relief went unfulfilled. But, like the Finns at Viipuri, the Reds at Kuhmo held.

The Allied War Council

The Allied War Council finally sent an expeditionary force of 50,000 men to aid Finland on Feb. 5, 1940. The Russians finished overwhelming the Finns before the new force could be put to use, however.

PEACE

The fabled national unity of the Finns showed its first signs of real strain at the end of the Winter War. A number of Karelian politicians and at least two Agrarian ministers deeply and publicly opposed signing the proposed peace treaty. Nonetheless, Finland and the Soviet Union came

to terms on March 12, 1940. The treaty would go into effect the following day. Stalin was feeling the growing threats from Japan in the east, and even worried that his Finnish war would unite the British and Germans against him. The spring thaws promised to bog down troops even more than had the harsh winter, and Finland had shown no outward signs of collapse.

Under the agreement, Finland ceded the Karelian Isthmus, Hanko, the Kalastajasaarento, much of Karelia-Ladoga, and the Baltic islands. Finland had lost nearly 25,000 people. Russia had lost approximately 10 times that number, although the immediate post-war KIA number was officially 48,745.

Fighting continued around Viipuri, Lake Ladoga, and Kuhmo to the very end. Fifteen minutes before the ceasefire took effect at 11 am (noon Moscow time) on the 13th, the Soviets unleashed a final punitive artillery barrage.

The Russians had not placed any conditions on the status of the Finnish military, nor on the Russian materiel that had been captured during the war.

POWs

The Soviet Union had built prison camps with the capacity to hold 30,000 Finnish prisoners of war. The total number they caught was about 1,000. Only 10 to 20 men died in the camps; the rest were returned to Finland. The Finns captured about 6,000 Soviet soldiers, mostly from the *mottis* (see p. 14). After the war, their fate was to be transported back to the Soviet Union to be charged with treason. Most served 6-10 years in the Gulag Archipelago, although some were executed and others (especially those who had suffered major wounds) were released without punishment.

THE YEAR BETWEEN WARS

As 1940 advanced, the political climate around the Baltic continued its downward trend, at least as far as Finland could see. For their part, the Soviets wasted little time in making further demands of Finland, beyond the terms of their peace treaty. The Russians took additional territory when it suited them, such as lands around Salla and the entire lumber town of Enso. They demanded that the Finns continue to supply power to Enso, at no cost to the Soviet Union. They compelled the Finns to repair and restore factories, railroads, bases, hotels, and even private homes that had been damaged (by either side) during the war.

In April, the tension across Scandinavia and the Baltics heightened as Denmark and much of Norway fell under German occupation.

In June, Molotov wanted the Åland Islands either jointly fortified by Finland and the Soviet Union or demilitarized altogether. On the 14th, two Soviet bombers shot down a Finnish airliner leaving Estonia. The next day, the Soviets dropped any illusion of "mutual assistance" and simply seized Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia. The following month, they requested troop-transport privileges from Leningrad to Hanko via Helsinki.

In the political scene, the Soviet Union also helped stage attacks on several Finnish leaders, including Foreign Minister Tanner, who subsequently resigned in August 1940. The Soviets'

Communist Finnish puppet, Kuusinen, bore a grudge against Tanner, and it is likely that he planted the idea with Stalin.

In September, the Russians again interfered when Finland tried to sign a defense pact with Sweden. Also, they wanted to oust the current British interests and take over the Petsamo nickel mines. The Finnish government was feeling the heat, and Germany in particular closely watched the ongoing developments in the north.

Finland built the Salpa Line along their new southeastern border with the Soviet Union. It comprised reinforced concrete bunkers, trenches, and anti-tank obstacles, like the Mannerheim Line, but of stronger and more modern design. Military materiel continued to arrive, some of which had been promised during the Winter War but not shipped until afterward. Adequate artillery and tanks were now available to the army, and the air force swelled with machines from every country fighting in WWII save the Japanese. In one delivery, the United States sent 44 Brewster B-239s to Finland via Sweden. Germany invaded Norway on the same day that the Finnish pilots arrived to fly the planes home, and Sweden decided to keep the planes for its own defense. In a non-combat display of *sisu* (p. 28), the Finns had aviation fuel delivered while the Swedish guards were at lunch and flew the planes out, anyway.



Finland as a whole took stock of the situation. The Soviet Union had taken Finnish soil and continued to threaten further erosion of Finnish sovereignty. The Allies had come forward with beautiful rhetoric, but little else, in Finland's defense during the Winter War.

In contrast, the White Finns could remember the more effectual assistance that they had received from Germany during the Finnish Civil War. The Kaiser had returned the Finnish Jäger Battalion and had sent crucial naval forces and ground troops of its own to fight the Red forces backed by the Bolsheviks. Furthermore, estimates of the Soviet ability to resist a potential German invasion were uniformly grim.

German Lt. Col. Joseph Veltjens secretly met with Mannerheim and a small group of others to discuss the possibility of a military agreement. As a result, on Sept. 23, 1940, Finland entered in the Transit Pact and allowed Germany to set up military bases in Lapland and to move troops through its territory to Kirkenes, Norway, in return for German military equipment, fuel, and food.

Molotov traveled to Berlin on Nov. 12, 1940, to question Hitler about the increasing coziness between Germany and "Soviet sphere" Finland. Hitler agreed to end the Transit Pact, but he also pointed out that Germany had to ensure that access to nickel and lumber resources went uninterrupted. A new war between Finland and the Soviet Union would likely disrupt that access and would thus have "unforeseeable consequences."

In December, the Finnish government outlawed the Finnish-Soviet Friendship Organization. It also doubled the period of mandatory military service to two years. The size of the army was increased to 16 divisions. A brigade was

activated outside Hanko. Finnish factories were turning out new 120mm mortars and other modern weapons. The Soviet Union stopped all promised grain and oil shipments to Finland. This had the side effect of increasing Finnish dependence on German shipments.

On Jan. 30, 1941, the chiefs of staff for Finland – Gen. Axel Heinrichs – and Germany – Gen. Franz Halder – met officially. Halder sought Finland's assistance in the planned Operation Barbarossa, but he met with refusal initially. Regardless, Mannerheim and the civilian leadership increased their collaboration with Germany through the course of the spring.

On May 25, 1941, Heinrichs and his delegation visited Salzburg to again discuss Finnish participation in the attack on Russia. The German chief of operations, Alfred Jodl, did most of the talking, as Mannerheim had instructed Heinrichs to let him do. Jodl wanted the Finns to reclaim Hanko and mobilize the rest of their military forces, to keep the Soviet forces diverted without open hostilities. On the 26th, Heinrichs went to Berlin and met again with Halder. Halder suggested that a hypothetical offensive action or two around Lake Ladoga would be useful to German aims.

The countries that had made so many empty promises during the Winter War watched these events unfold with increasing unease. Feeling Finland had moved completely into the German sphere, Britain halted access to shipments of grain, sugar, and fuel oil in June 1941. Hitler announced Operation Barbarossa with this: "In league with their Finnish comrades, the victors of Narvik stand on the shores of the Arctic Ocean."

Finland declared only that it would defend itself if attacked – but it would do more.



JATKOSOTA, THE CONTINUATION WAR

“A war between Germany and Russia may be to the advantage of the entire world. Germany is the only state presently capable of destroying Russian military power, or at least considerably weakening it; nor would the world greatly suffer should Germany itself be weakened in this process. But weakening Russia to as great an extent as possible is the primary condition for our survival.”

– Finnish Pres. Risto Ryti

On June 22, 1941, Finland and Germany cooperated in a surprise attack against the U.S.S.R. The German command of Norway now included the Finnish Third Corps, and German forces were massed in northern Finland prior to the thrust toward Murmansk. Finland fielded 16 reorganized divisions under its own command.

In the terminology of war, Finland and Germany were not allies, but rather co-belligerents or comrades in arms. No treaty of alliance existed between the two countries.

RETURN TO ARMS

That nation in Europe that is most fit for battle and most efficient, the German nation, is now crushing with its steel our traditional, ever treacherous, and ever deceitful enemy.

– *Suomen Sosiali-demokraatti*,
July 21, 1941

Russia responded to this new attack with an air raid on June 25, seeking to destroy German aircraft at Finnish airfields. On June 26, Finland declared war on the U.S.S.R.

In this early part of the war, Commander-in-Chief Mannerheim issued Order of the Day #4. In it, he reiterated a proclamation he had made in 1918 to drive “Lenin’s last warrior and hooligan” from Finland and Finnish Karelia. He received an official government reprimand for this.

The German front lines stagnated somewhat short of their goals. German Gen. Eduard Dietl had the task of leading Operation Platinum Fox, taking two German divisions and a Finnish detachment from Petsamo to Murmansk. It was only 60 miles, but those miles were all swamp in the summer and thin ice in the winter. Dietl made it 15 miles before digging in on Sept. 18.

Operation Polar Fox combined Germans under Lt. Gen. Hans Feige and the Finnish 3rd Corps under Siilasvuo, promoted to brigadier general after his successes at Suomussalmi (pp. 13-14). While Feige’s men, including the Finnish 6th Division, retook Salla and advanced toward Kandalahiti, the 3rd Corps advanced to Louhi (Loukhi).

Feige’s forces finished taking Salla on July 8 and then scraped along in the summer heat (twice, the temperature had hit 97°) until Hitler called off the attack July 30. They had advanced 13 miles.

Siilasvuo’s corps reached Kiestinki (Kestenga) on Aug. 7, then ran into some actual resistance from Russian reserves. Three weeks later, the Red Army’s 88th Rifle Division joined the action, and Siilasvuo stopped to regroup Aug. 25.

TAKING “INITIATIVE”

“With half the losses, the Finns will accomplish twice as much as the Germans.”

– German saying during Barbarossa

While the Wehrmacht operations were going on to the north, Mannerheim sent other Finnish forces back to East Karelia, Lake Ladoga, and the Karelian Isthmus. Paavo Talvela, promoted to brigadier as well, commanded the 4th Corps. His men briskly took Korpiselkä, Loimola, and the rest of the Karelian territory out to the Tuulos River, 15 miles past their old border, by July 24. By Aug. 10, the 2nd and 7th Corps descended upon Lake Ladoga and retook Sortavala. Then Mannerheim turned his attention to the Karelian Isthmus. By Aug. 29, the Finns reclaimed Viipuri.

The action rolled back up to Karelia as the 4th Corps resumed its advance. They took Lodeynoye Pole on Sept. 7, Podporozhe on Sept. 8, and the Syväri (River Svir) from Lake Ladoga to Ääninen (Lake Onega) by Sept. 15. Äänislinna (Petrozavodsk, sometimes called Petroskoi in Finnish) was next, subject to attack from the 7th Corps and the 1st Jäger Battalion, with the 2nd Corps following along for good measure. Äänislinna was in Finnish hands Oct. 1. The final scene in the opening act would close Dec. 6, when the towns of Karhumäki (Medvezh’yegorsk) and Povenets (Povenets) on Ääninen fell.

THE NEW AIR WAR

During the Continuation War, in addition to the Fokkers, Gladiators, Hurricanes, and Fiats, combat aircraft included the American Brewster Buffalo and Curtiss Hawk 75, French Morane-Saulnier MS.406 (see p. W:RH42), German Dornier Do 17Z, Junkers Ju 88A-4 (see p. W:IC87), Messerschmidt Bf 109G-6 (see p. W111), Soviet Petylakov Pe-2, and the locally produced VL Myrsky.

Capturing Äänislinna enabled the Finns to cut the main rail to Murmansk. They owned Ääninen and patrolled it with an ad hoc flotilla, thereby interrupting Vienanmeri (White Sea) traffic.

The Finnish front became static for the remainder of the war. The Finns officially wanted no more than their prewar territory, and Mannerheim had explicitly stated that his troops would not advance on Leningrad, nor shell it from the Karelian Isthmus. Mannerheim agreed to conduct some actions across the old border in exchange for some 15,000 tons of German grain, but only moved his troops around in ways that looked like action was afoot. While the army held the front, many of the Finns who had fled their homes in the disputed territory returned to the recaptured land. Only the Kalastajasaarento remained unrecovered.

In non-military matters, Finland maintained some distance from Germany. When Heinrich Himmler inquired as to how Germany might assist Finland with its Jewish problem, Prime Minister Jukka Rangell responded, "We have no Jewish problem." Jewish soldiers in the Finnish army fought just as any other soldiers, sometimes with ironic results. Salomon Klass, a Jewish battalion leader, was awarded the Iron Cross after rescuing a surrounded German unit. He declined the honor.

The Western Allies Respond

Great Britain asked Finland to end its part in the war against Russia on Sept. 22. The United States repeated the request Oct. 5. On Oct. 10, the British foreign secretary, Anthony Eden, warned that England would have to treat Finland as an enemy state if it persisted in the invasion. Britain eventually did declare war on Finland on Dec. 6, 1941, and even bombed German-occupied Petsamo; the United States never declared war. Finland stopped its advances in the same month, after occupying most of eastern Karelia.

On Dec. 7, Finland officially reclaimed the provinces it had ceded to the Soviet Union at the end of the Winter War. There were some factions in the political and military circles that favored continued gains. They wanted Finland to "fulfill its destiny" and annex the Finnic peoples of East Karelia into a new "Great Finland."

In 1942, Finnish public-opinion polls showed a majority even among the Social Democrats in favor of ultimate German victory in Russia. Traditional sympathies among the educated class were strong, but real fascist sympathizers were few, mostly contained within the IKL.

From December 1941 to May 1944, Finnish forces did not fight any major campaigns against the Soviet Union. Their exposure was limited to small engagements at their existing lines.

22 FINLAND AT WAR

LOSING A LOST CAUSE

With the changing fortunes of Germany in the Russian campaign, the tone of Finnish politics changed, as well. The press censors instituted a ban on the topic of "Great Finland." In December 1943, the Agrarian Party's Urho Kerkkonen, who had been anti-Soviet and voted against the Peace of Moscow in 1940, now urged "good neighborliness" with the Soviet Union as an essential part of Finland's future. The Eduskunta was shuffled, with the members of the fascist IKL left out.

In February 1944, this new parliament counseled withdrawal from the war if acceptable terms could be found, but the Soviets wanted the Germans expelled from Finnish soil by April and an indemnity of \$600 million. This was too much.

German politicians complained that the shift within Finland left them feeling that they were allied with an enemy nation. When a new Soviet campaign threatened in June 1944 to break through the Finn lines, Pres. Ryti signed an agreement with Germany not to seek a separate peace in return for more military aid. The Finns then said that Ryti had not consulted the Eduskunta before signing, thus he had agreed to the accord only in his personal capacity, and the country's obligation to respect it ended when he resigned on Aug. 1. The ruse had fooled more than just the Germans. The United States, while still not declaring war on Finland, broke off diplomatic relations on hearing of Ryti's agreement.

Mannerheim became Finland's sixth president when the parliament elected him as Ryti's replacement Aug. 4. Command of the armed forces fell to Antti Hackzell. Mannerheim's first act was to order the resumption of peace negotiations with Russia. Finland broke off diplomatic relations with Germany on Sept. 4 and declared an armistice Sept. 5. The armistice conference concluded Sept. 19, 1944.

Peace Terms

Finland was to expel or disarm all German troops within its borders by the end of the year and return its own forces to their peacetime levels and duties in the same period. Finland reclaimed Hanko, but gave Russia Petsamo and a 50-year lease on the Porkkalanmiemi Peninsula. The indemnity was lowered to \$300 million, but this was to be paid in specific goods at 1938 prices. The result was that, in real terms, the indemnity was closer to the original demand of \$600 million. Finland's anti-Communist laws were to be repealed and the Finnish Communist Party reformed. Finally, Finland was to remove the military installations on the Åland Islands.

LAPIN SOTA, THE LAPLAND WAR

“The Russians have learnt that the Finns are an indigestible people, but they also know that they do not have to swallow Finland in order to get what they require.”

— P. Winterton, *“The Aims of the U.S.S.R. in Europe,” International Affairs, #1, 1946, p. 19*

Expelling the Germans from Finland took considerably longer than expected. Finland declared war on Germany on March 3, 1945. The Germans and Finns made a show of it at first, keeping each other informed of their plans and movements, so that they could avoid any unpleasant gunfire.

Soviet pressure led to an actual firefight at Pudasjärvi, and a German amphibious landing on a Finnish-held island in the Gulf of Finland was also fought off. In the end, the Germans did not go quietly. Gen. Lothar Rendulic, the replacement commander for Dietl after his death in a plane crash, ordered scorched-earth tactics as his troops retreated through Lapland. Fighting continued until April 25, and Finland lost another 1,000 men in the Lapland War. The Germans left behind land mines as well, which killed or wounded at least 200 more Finns after the war was over.

Unlike all other nations under an Allied Control Commission, Finland did not lose authority over its media and other communications, and it was not occupied. (In fact, Helsinki was one of the three capitals of warring European countries to avoid foreign occupation throughout World War II; London and Moscow were the others.)



ALTERNATE HISTORIES

The F.S.S.R.

Finland signs a mutual-assistance treaty with the Soviet Union on Oct. 19, 1939. In 1940 it is absorbed and becomes a part of Russia again. As in the past, the Soviet Union allows the Finns their own parliament, as long as they don't get out of line. The German campaign against Russia faces a more rested opponent, but Russia has not yet learned the new lessons of fighting in the winter environment. The rest of WWII might unfold almost the same, or Germany might be repulsed even sooner. After the war, as the Cold War grows colder, the Western powers might aid Finland in a new war of independence. If not, it becomes independent again when the Soviet Union crumbles.

The Logic of War

Moscow and Helsinki do not reach terms in March 1940, and the Red Army presses on in the spring. Either the Allies come to Finland's defense, or Finland exhausts its ammunition and is forced to surrender. If Finland surrenders, it could become a part of the Soviet Union, as above. If the Allies intervene, fewer resources will be available to oppose the German Wehrmacht. Allied intervention might have even prolonged the Russo-German alliance, if Hitler saw it as a reason to postpone his invasion of the Soviet Union. With British planes balancing the skies over Karelia, the Battle of Britain could then go to the Germans.

Greater Finland

Finnish nationalism surges by the time of the Continuation War, and Finland allies more directly with the German forces. They cooperate in the attack on Leningrad and push further on all fronts. The United States and Britain declare war on Finland in 1941 and stage additional amphibious assaults from the Gulf of Finland, the Gulf of Bothnia, and the Arctic Ocean. Russia suffers even more losses while Finland's future is inexorably tied to the German military's success. With Finnish winter-warfare experience, General Winter may not be able to save Moscow, and then the Finns and Germans could return to focus on the Western and Northern Fronts.

2. THE FINNS

Given a small domestic arms industry – and having started out with no intent to fight – the Finnish military had to incorporate a host of foreign equipment while expanding and evolving rapidly to meet the Soviet threat.

Despite these pressures, Finnish service retained its own distinctive nature. As often as not, the country’s unforgiving climate and terrain shaped these characteristics – as well as the men who found themselves putting on the uniform.

MILITARY ORGANIZATION

The Finnish military was (and remains) based on compulsory military service for all males. Men were called up at the age of 21. Even after military service ended, they kept their skills up-to-date with periodical (once every few years) refresher courses, or *kertausharjoitus*.

The mandatory military service during 1935-1939 took 51 weeks, or 63 weeks for officers and non-commissioned officers in the reserves.

Basic Training

All conscripts undertook the same 17-week initial training. They then took one of three paths depending on their skills and capabilities. The initial training for enlisted men was done. For officers and NCOs, the next 17 weeks would be spent in the NCO training school. Officers continued even further with 17 weeks of reserve officers school.

Specialist training began after basic. Areas of specialization varied throughout the 1930s, but typically included rifles, light machine guns, machine guns, mortars, artillery, radio, field telephones, chemical defense, cavalry, and bicycles.

Due to the increased political instability in Europe, this system was changed in 1939 to include much more direct military exercise, totaling about six months of the whole military service. Just before the Winter War broke out, the government decided to organize a large military refresher course. This included about 7,500 men from the reserve, plus some conscripts that had just completed their military service. Shortly afterward, in order not to raise alert in the Soviet Union, “additional refresher courses” were announced – this was essentially a general mobilization. This meant that all reserve officers under 60 years of age and NCOs and enlisted men under 40 years of age were mobilized. Combined with the mass transportation of children to Sweden at the start of war – children were placed in foster families to get them away from towns in Finland that were subject to Soviet bombings and potential invasion – this resulted in Finnish home-front forces consisting mostly of women and old men.

Training reserve officers was of critical importance, because the number of regular officers – those that had completed military academy and actually worked for the military – was rather small. At the start of the Winter War, there were 1,985 regular officers and 16,135 reserve officers.

In addition to the military service, there were two related organizations. The volunteer Civil Guard, *suojeluskunta*, was officially a part of the Finnish military system and operated as the militia arm of the military. The Civil Guard concentrated on regional training and defense, and it provided the military with information on strategic changes in their area, for example, the building of new roads, telephone lines, and public buildings. The Civil Guard also stocked war materials and helped in building fortifications at the Russo-Finnish border. The guard was decommissioned in 1944.

FINNISH UNIT NAMES

U.S.	Finnish	U.S.	Finnish
Squad	Ryhmä	Division	Divisioona
Platoon	Joukkue	Corps	Kunta
Company	Komppania	Army	Armeija
Battalion	Pataljoona	Group	Ryhmä
Regiment	Rykmentti		

The same word is used for the squad and group – context distinguishes them, or the latter can be called an *armeijaryhmä*. A common abbreviation is JR, for *Jalkaväkirykmentti*, or infantry regiment. JR 37 is the 37th Infantry Regiment, I/JR 37 is its 1st Battalion, 1./I/JR 37 is 1st Battalion’s 1st Company, and I/1./JR37 is its 1st Platoon. The battalion designation could be omitted (I/1./JR37) because the 1st-3rd companies (and later 10th) were always in the 1st Battalion, the 4th-6th (and 11th) companies in the 2nd, etc.

Lotta-Svärd, created to support the Civil Guard, was an association of women that had traditionally been on the right wing of the political spectrum. At the beginning of the Winter War, the political issues were brushed aside. Each *Lotta* also served on the front, and some of them even carried guns for personal protection. Women in general filled in many positions that were left empty by men who were fighting the war on the front lines. Women largely provided the Finnish production of war materiel.

Service Culture

Service in military and refresher courses closely followed the daily rhythm of an agrarian society. Wake-up call was sounded about 5 a.m., followed by breakfast. Practice or other duties began shortly after 6 a.m., and about noon there was a break for a couple of hours. The afternoon training ended about 5 p.m., and the day was finished by 9 p.m. after the evening tea.

One of the focal points of a soldier's free time was (and remains) the service club, or *sotilaskoti* (literally, "soldier home"). This concept was imported from Germany and Denmark by the YMCA. The clubs were usually places where one could be at ease, and military hierarchy was cast aside. Female volunteers often ran the service clubs. During wartime, many service clubs near the border had to be made mobile; they operated from buses and lorries at night. Service clubs provided newspapers, literature, a place to hold religious ceremonies, and of course a source of coffee, tea, and fresh doughnuts, the last of which has become a Finnish military icon.

Before the 1930s, barracks were largely in poor condition. Most were crammed and dirty; there were numerous complaints about hygiene problems. New barracks were built toward the end of the decade.

Commendations

The most prestigious commendation awarded in Finland is the *Mannerheim Risti*, or Mannerheim Cross. It is worth a +4 Reputation bonus (see p. W63). Only Mannerheim himself and Gen. Erik Heinrichs were awarded first-class Mannerheim Crosses. Heinrichs was the chief of general staff from May 15, 1940, to Oct. 6, 1944, with a seven-month interruption starting at the end of June 1941 to command the Karelian Army.

There were 191 recipients of the second-class Mannerheim Cross, which could be awarded to a soldier of any rank. It came with a monetary award, as well. The recipients were commonly referred to as Mannerheim Cross knights.

The Tank-Killer's Badge was awarded to any tank gunner or infantryman who succeeded in destroying an enemy tank during the Continuation War. Additional tank kills merited stripes beneath the badge: one stripe for three kills, two stripes for seven, and three stripes for 15. It is worth a +1 Reputation, or +2 with stripes.

STANDARD UNITS

The army used two standard infantry squads. A 10-man squad consisted of a squad leader, eight riflemen, and a submachine gunner. A seven-man squad comprised a squad leader, five riflemen, and a man with an LMG. There were two of each type of squad in each infantry platoon.

The infantry company had four infantry platoons, plus a supply platoon and a headquarters platoon, for a total of 191 men. An infantry battalion included three infantry companies, a machine-gun company (154 men, including three platoons of four squads, each squad having a machine gun), a headquarters company (118 men with a main bandaging station and a first-aid station), and a six-man battalion HQ, for a total of 851 men.

The 2,954-man regiment had three infantry battalions, a mortar company with six 81mm tubes, and headquarters and supply formations.

A Finnish division consisted of headquarters and supply, three infantry regiments, an artillery regiment with 18 anti-tank guns and 36 field guns, two engineer companies, a signal company, a wire-laying company, and a light detachment with a bicycle company, a cavalry company, and a machine-gun platoon. Total manpower on paper was more than 14,000, but in the field the infantry division mustered only about 11,000.

Foreign Soldiers in Finland

Many soldiers from the Baltic region and around the world came to fight for Finland during the Winter and Continuation wars. Sweden provided the most foreign manpower during the Winter War, with some 8,000 volunteers forming an army brigade and an air group. Eight hundred men from Norway and Denmark also volunteered. Other volunteers came from Hungary, Italy (to fly their bombers), and the United States (mostly Finnish-Americans). A few men even came from Japan and one from Jamaica.

After that war, most returned home, but 400 or so remaining Swedes became a battalion in the Continuation War. This battalion also had an Estonian recon platoon. The Swedish battalion was the first to retake the Hanko base (and deal with the booby-traps left behind) after the Russians evacuated on Dec. 4, 1941.

Estonians made up the 200th Infantry Regiment. They volunteered to fight the Soviet Union, to get military training in anticipation of their own possible fight with Russia for independence, and to avoid conscription into German units. Finland declined German requests to extradite Estonians who had dodged the German draft this way.

Kermit Roosevelt (Teddy's son) recruited 230 men for his international force, the "Finnish Legion." Thirty percent of them had lost an eye, were too old, had criminal records, or were otherwise unfit for active duty. But it didn't matter; they arrived in Finland at the end of March 1940 – too late for action in the Winter War.

The three so-called "Tribal Battalions" of Brigade K were formed in 1941 by the Finnish military with Karelian and Ingrian volunteers, conscripts, and prisoners, along with Finnish soldiers. Brigade K saw action in the Ladoga area.

Finns in the Waffen SS

By clandestine agreement for German military aid, approximately 1,000 Finnish soldiers volunteered to serve in the Waffen SS in May to June of 1941, with another few hundred drafted as replacements in late 1942. The Germans asked for Swedish-speaking IKL members; of the men who served, some 13% were Swedish-speaking and about 20% were IKL members.

The Germans assigned them to either the newly created Finnish Volunteer Battalion or the "Nordland" Motorized Infantry Regiment attached to the "Wiking" Motorized Division. Wiking fought in the initial Soviet invasion, and both units participated in the advance on the Caucasus in the summer of 1942.

Most of these soldiers returned to Finland on June 2, 1943, where their units were disbanded and they rejoined the Finnish army. A few stayed in what would be the 11th SS Volunteer Panzer-grenadier Division "Nordland," which the Soviets eventually defeated in the battle of Berlin.

OPERATIONS AND TACTICS

Finland could not utilize all the innovative tactics that had been developed after WWI.

Its lack of men meant that forces had to be concentrated at points of main effort. Also, dense tree cover sometimes made it impossible to build defense in depth, as the range of machine guns was limited in forested terrain. This sometimes resulted in only a single chain of men forming a defensive line.

On the other hand, scarcity of roads, dense forests, and the cold winter all helped with the defense. Research was conducted in winter

warfare, with each branch of the military developing its own methods of overcoming and exploiting the harsh conditions.

In these conditions, Finnish tactics came to rely upon three main principles: concentration on points of main effort, and maximum exploitation of both surprise and reserves. The flanks were often weakened to allow for more men to be moved to the front. Artillery and infantry supported each other and had to be rapidly relocated after a successful operation. Reserves were used for counter-attacks and preparations. In some cases, reserves consisted of up to half of the available men. Surprise was seen as such an important issue that sometimes artillery fire support was not provided before the attack. Finns often targeted Soviet troops when they were on the move or camped, encircled them, and started a siege called *motti* (p. 14). Some of the Soviet soldiers were shot, but many perished in the cold from exposure or starvation.

Guerrilla warfare also was seen as a useful tactic. Guerrillas attacked enemy command posts, telephone and telegraph links, transports, and messengers. In winter it was deemed necessary to burn down any villages and houses that the enemy might use for shelter.

To defend against the Soviet tanks, the Finns would often try to catch them as they crossed one of the hundreds of frozen lakes that dotted the landscape. Soldiers used explosives to break up the ice dramatically, but they also employed compressed air to circulate warmer water from the bottoms of the lakes to thaw the ice on the surface. If this worked, the partially thawed ice would fail under the tanks' weight as they crossed.

SPECIAL UNITS

The independent Sissi battalions emphasized guerrilla techniques, and were structured toward this end. All Sissi squads used the SMG as their automatic weapon. There were three rifle squads and a sledge squad in each rifle platoon. The Sissi company included three rifle platoons, an LMG platoon, a signal platoon, and a delivery platoon. Three companies formed the core of the Sissi battalion, along with a regimental-sized headquarters.

Though not a special unit in the strictest sense, a unit made up of prisoners was fielded at one point. Given the acute shortage of men at the front, the military looked into the possibility of filling out their ranks from this source. About 100 criminal and political prisoners were rounded up, armed, and sent into battle. Fifty of the prisoners promptly defected to the Soviet Union, and 30 of them later parachuted into Finland as spies and saboteurs. This idea was never retried.



INTELLIGENCE

The national police (*Valtiollinen poliisi*), or Valpo, kept an eye on foreigners and dealt with espionage. Rather right-wing during the war, Valpo allegedly became riddled with hostile Communists shortly afterward, and was disbanded.

Both sides of the conflict had men who were fluent in the language of the enemy. Finnish soldiers could shout commands in Russian while ambushing an isolated force. Russians could tap phone lines that they came across during the invasion and intercept intelligence, or broadcast false information on Finnish radio frequencies.

Soviet military intelligence used paratroopers for reconnaissance. Many spoke Finnish and were of Finnish descent. Even though they were officially unwelcome, many country people offered them protection for various reasons. Many people in Finland were Communist, or at least leftist; in some cases, the paratroopers were already known to the locals from before the war. Some of them might even have lived in the region beforehand.

If the spy was wearing an enemy uniform, he was usually imprisoned when caught; if he was in civilian clothes, he was swiftly executed. If a family was discovered protecting a Soviet spy, the whole family was imprisoned, which was supposed to work as a deterrent. This is why Finnish prisons housed many women who were distinctly apolitical and non-criminal.

RESISTANCE

The resistance in Finland during the Second World War has gone unnoticed by many historians. The Winter War was said to have unified the people of Finland, who had remained politically divided since the civil war of 1918. However, at the beginning of the Winter War, many Communists were interned in prisons. Many were purely political prisoners – they had not committed any other crime than spreading pro-Communist leaflets.

During the Winter War, the resistance movement was virtually nonexistent. The situation changed during the Continuation War, especially after Finnish forces crossed the old, pre-Winter War borders into the Soviet Union. Resistance was born from the Finnish Communist Party that had been founded in Moscow in 1918 and operated underground before the Second World War. In Tampere, there was even one small armed faction.

As part of its security duties, Valpo was the main organization responsible for combating the resistance movement. Russian resistance was also alive and well in the occupied areas of Karelia. The Finns assumed that Karelian- or Finnish-speaking people in the region were pro-Finnish and Russian-speaking people pro-Soviet, and they segregated them accordingly. The political alignment apparently did not follow language lines and the uneven treatment worsened the situation there.

3. FINNISH CHARACTERS

GURPS WWII provides several templates for creating soldiers and resistance fighters; as well, this chapter includes some uniquely Finnish concepts. Finns can be created by following the general instructions on pp. W68-85 and applying the following special cases.

Female Characters

As an almost ironclad rule, the Finnish military did not employ women, but other chapters describes some close-to-the-action roles with the Lotta-Svärd and elsewhere on pp. 25, 27, and 46.

CREATING FINN CHARACTERS

The following national packages should be used in lieu of those on pp. W68-69.

Finn Advantages

Buy Military Rank and any resulting Wealth (see p. W63) with remaining points spent among: +1 to HT [10]; Absolute Direction (p. B19) [5]; Acute Senses (p. B19) [2/level]; Alcohol Tolerance (p. CI19) [5]; Appearance (p. B15) [5]; Combat Reflexes (p. B20) [15]; Composed (p. CI22) [5]; Reputation from Medals (pp. 17-18 and p. W63) or *sisu* (see sidebar) [varies]; Single-Minded (p. CI30) [5]; Strong Will (p. B23) [4/level]; Temperature Tolerance 1 (only to *lower* the range) (p. CI30) [1]; Toughness (p. B23) [10 or 25]; Versatile (p. CI31) [5]; any of Collected (p. CI22) [5], Composed (p. CI22) [5], Imperturbable (p. CI26) [10], and/or Fearlessness (p. CI25) [2/level]; improve Fit to Very Fit (p. CI31) [a net 10 points].

Finn Disadvantages

A typical set might be Poverty (Struggling) (p. W63) [-10], Sense of Duty (Finland) [-10] and (Comrades) [-5], and Stubbornness (p. B37) [-5].

Substitute among: Attentive (p. CI86) [-1]; Bad Sight (p. W184) [-10]; Bad Temper (p. B31) [-10]; Cowardice (p. W184) [-10]*; Fanaticism (Fascism, Finland, or Communism) (p. W184) [-15]; Gullibility (p. W185) [-10]; Honesty (p. B33) [-10]; Intolerance (p. W185) [-5]; Loner (p. CI91) [-5]; Overconfidence (p. B34) [-10]; Primitive (p. W186) -1 [-5] or -2 [-10] and Social Stigma (Saami tribesman) (p. W180) [-5]; Shyness (p. B37) [-5 to -15]; Staid (p. CI94) [-1].

* Often has -60% limitation, "Only vs. tanks," for a net [-4]. Combat experience can buy this off.

SISU

Sisu is the idealized Finn state of mind. There is no direct translation, but it is a mix of perseverance, tenacity, resilience, stamina, daring, and fortitude. "Guts" may come closest. *Sisu* is about getting things done, even if it requires a lot of work or time. This sort of mindset was crucial in historical Finland, because winters were long and hunters – and later on, farmers – had to be able to make the most of the short summer.

A player who wishes to play a *sisukas* (a Finn exhibiting plenty of *sisu*) should avoid the disadvantages Laziness and Weak Will. Sense of Duty toward your country, your family, or fellow soldiers goes very well with *sisu*, as do Attentive, a quiet version of Overconfidence, Staid, and Stubbornness. None of these are required, though. *Sisu*-like advantages include Composed (but not Collected – *sisu* is not foolhardy), Intuition, Single-Minded, Strong Will, and Versatile.

Cinematic *sisu* can be represented by Daredevil, Hard to Kill, Visualization, and, at its extreme, Harmony with the Tao.

A *sisukas* also can earn a positive Reputation, just as a character who obviously lacks *sisu* can earn a negative Reputation.

Sisu is also a collective spirit, and thus its effects will be even stronger if other characters around you also have *sisu* (roleplay it!). *Sisu* never applies if the act is ethically questionable to the Finn being portrayed.

FINNISH RANKS

MR	Finnish Army	Finnish Air Force	Finnish Navy
8	Marsalkka	–	–
8	Kenraali (kenr)	–	–
8	Kenraaliluutnantti (kenrl)	–	Amiraali
7	Kenraalimajuri (kenrm)	–	Vara-Amiraali
7	–	–	Kontra-Amiraali
6	Eversti (ev)	Eversti	Komentaja, Kommodori
5	Everstiluutnantti (evl)	Everstiluutnantti	Komentajakapteeni
4	Majuri (maj)	Majuri	Kapteeniluutnantti
4	Kapteeni (kapt)†	Kapteeni	Luutnantti
3	Luutnantti (ltn)	Luutnantti	Aliluutnantti
3	Vänrikki (vänr)†	Vänrikki	Reservialiluutnantti
2	Vääpeli (väöp)	Vääpeli	Pursimies
2	Ylikersantti (ylik)	Ylikersantti	Ylikersantti
1	Kersantti (kers)	Kersantti	Kersantti
1	Alikersantti (alík)	Alikersantti	Alikersantti
1	Korpraali (korpr)	–	Ylimatruusi
0	Sotamies* (stm)	–	Matruusi

* In Finnish service, soldiers who could have been lumped together as privates were given separate rank names depending on their duty. A *sotamies* was a rifleman while a *jääkäri* (*jääk*) was a rifleman or jäger often mounted on a bicycle. A gunner was a *tykkimies* (*tkm*); an engineer was a *pioneeri* (*pion*); a signalman was a *viestimies* (*vm*); a dragoon was a *rakuuna* (*rak*); and a cavalryman was a *ratsumies* (*ratsum*).

† In the cavalry, a second lieutenant was a *kornetti* (*korn*) rather than a *vänrikki* and a captain was a *ratsumestari* (*ratsmest*) rather than a *kapteeni*.

ADVANTAGES, DISADVANTAGES, AND SKILLS

See pp. W62-66 for a more comprehensive discussion. The following elaborates on particular facets of Finnish service.

ADVANTAGES

Wealth see p. W63

Finns use the Wealth rules as described, without modification for nationality.

DISADVANTAGES

Code of Honor see p. W184

Any Code of Honor (Finnish) overlaps considerably with Sense of Duty (see below). The GM should not allow both, unless the Code brings weighty *new* restrictions to conduct.

Sense of Duty see p. B39

In the Finnish wars of WWII, Fanaticism (Patriotism) often was attributed to the Finns, and it was certainly no less common than in other

armies. But the more nearly universal disadvantage was a Sense of Duty (Finland) [-10]. Soldiers fought in the face of such overwhelming odds not necessarily because they thought that Finland was right in every situation, but because they thought that Finland had a right to exist and that right was being challenged.

Much of their conduct in battle also could be attributed to a strong Sense of Duty (Comrades) [-5], as well. A German veteran described one incident where an overwhelming Soviet force hiding in nearby woods tortured a Finn captive to provoke the combined Finn and German force in which he had served. Even as they listened to the prisoner's agonized screams, the Germans would not have even considered going to his rescue, given that any "rescuers" almost certainly would be killed or join the captive. The Finns in the group quietly put on their weapons and disappeared into the woods – they could not even consider *not* going.

A Finn soldier may possess both sorts of Sense of Duty at the same time – for however long he manages to survive them . . .

SKILLS

Camouflage see p. W188

Camouflage proved crucial in the Winter War. Anyone can wear all-white clothes and be at -2 for others to spot in the snow. Completely concealing oneself or hiding large gear requires this skill.

The Finns held a decided advantage in this arena. The Russians initially underestimated the number of Mannerheim Line fortifications, because the Finnish camouflage foiled their aerial reconnaissance. Finnish ski patrols were able to attack the Russians without being seen, and thus kept their numbers secret; the Russians at Kiantjärvi (p. 13) assumed they faced several thousand invisible Finns, when in fact there were only about 500 Civic Guards swarming through the “impassable” forests around them. The Finns wore white uniforms, *lumipuku*, made from bed sheets, and they painted all of their equipment white, along with any that they captured. The Russian ski patrols were made up of adept skiers, and well armed, but they wore dark uniforms. When they went into the woods, they died without shots or screams, probably at Finnish knifepoint. The Soviet troops began calling the Finns *Belaya Smert*, the “White Death.”

In the woods, the Finns were nigh invisible. On the open snowy plain, however, they could still be seen easily; the straps for their rifles and kits were made of dark material.

By the Continuation War, Russia had learned many hard lessons of ski actions, winter camouflage being one of the main improvements.

Someone used to “regular” woodland camouflage would take a -2 to skill until learning the fine points of arctic camouflage, and vice versa.

Diplomacy see p. B63

See the discussion of diplomatic campaigns (pp. 43-44) for elaboration on using this skill.

Skiing (Overland) (P/H) Defaults to DX-6 or Skiing -4

The peoples of Finland have skied for perhaps 4,000 years. Nearly every Finn learns to ski in childhood. Some Finns use skis of different lengths for “ski-scooting,” a practice that was more popular in past centuries in which the skier wears a short right ski and pushes along with it. Skis as military gear made a comeback during the bitter conditions of the Winter War, after having been little used since the 19th century.

The Soviets had relatively few ski troops.

On foot, each 1” of snow adds 5 lbs. to effective encumbrance. Cross-country skiers may ignore this penalty. In advanced combat, skiers attempting to use a retreat with an active defense must make a DX or Skiing (Overland) roll at -2. Failure by 1-3 means the retreat fails as the skier stays in the same hex. Failure by 4 or more means the retreat works, but the skier then *falls* backward in the new hex. A DX or Skiing (Overland) roll also must be made for any backward movement (at -2) or sprint (no penalty). A skier may not change facing by more than one hexside after a *Step and (Anything)* maneuver.

In long-distance travel per pp. B187-188, those on foot should again add 5 lbs. to effective encumbrance to determine speed. (This *replaces* the p. B188 suggestion that snow degrades terrain type.) Again, skiers may ignore this effect *and* multiply their speed by (effective Skiing skill/5).

Tactics (Guerrilla) see pp. W65-66

Outnumbered and outgunned, the Finns came to excel at these tactics. This skill can be applied when picking off stragglers from an enemy column, when setting up an ambush for an enemy patrol, or for many of the smaller actions involved in eliminating forces in a *motti* (p. 14).

LANGUAGES

Not all of Finland’s troops spoke Finnish. Upper-class Finns often spoke Swedish exclusively. Other important tongues include Torneladen Finnish (defaults to standard Finnish -3) in the west, Karelian in the east, and Northern Saami in the north. Major dialects of standard Finnish include Häme, Southwestern Finnish, Karelian (different from the language Karelian), Peräpohja, Central and North Pohjanmaa, Southern Pohjanmaa, and Savo. These all default to each other at -2, except for the two Pohjanmaas at -1.

The army tried to place Swedish speakers in their own units, but some mixing was common.

The Winter Words

Nov.-Dec. autumn winter: *syystalvi*
Jan.-Feb. high winter: *sydäntalvi* or *keskitalvi*
March-April spring winter: *kevättalvi*
hard frost: *pakkastuhot*
hardened snow crust: *hanki*
ice hole cutter: *jäätuura*
ice hole: *avanto* ski pole: *suksisauva*
skiing: *hiihtää* ski: *suksi*

CHARACTER TEMPLATES

Finns can use the templates on pp. W72-85, but Marine, Paratrooper, Bomber Crewman, Sailor, and Resistance Fighter are uncommon.

DIPLOMAT

Diplomacy is the first line of defense (or offense) in any hostility. Diplomats try to reach the best results that warfare might bring their nation, but without the messy loss of life or inconvenient rationing of supplies. If the diplomats fail, then the generals will have their turn.

Attributes: ST 10 [0]; DX 10 [0]; IQ 12 [20]; HT 10 [0].

Advantages: Diplomatic Immunity [20]; Status 3 [15]; and 25 points spent on any of Administrative Rank [5/level]; Charisma [5/level]; Contacts [Variable]; Cultural Adaptability [25]; Empathy [15]; Intuition [15]; Language Talent [2/level]; Patron (Government or an individual politician) [Varies]; Security Clearance [2/level]; Sanctity [5]; Status (additional levels) [5/level]; Voice [10]; Wealth [Varies]; or *National Advantages* (p. 28, or p. W68 for other nationalities).

SKI TROOPER

The stereotypical Finnish soldiers, gliding through the night to take on 10 times their number, these men lie somewhere between commandos (p. W80) and rifleman (p. W72) in expertise, closer to the former in the war's mythology.

Attributes: ST 11 [10]; DX 12 [20]; IQ 12 [20]; HT 11 [10].

Advantages: Fit [5] and 25 points in *National Advantages* (p. 28).

Disadvantages: Extremely Hazardous Duty [-20], -30 points in *National Disadvantages* (p. 28).

Basic Skills: Camouflage (M/E) IQ [1]-12; First Aid (M/E) IQ-1 [1/2]-11; Guns (Light Auto) (P/E) DX+2 [1]-14*; Guns (Rifle) (P/E) DX+2 [1]-14*; Hiking (P/A - HT) HT-1 [1]-10; Jumping (P/E) DX-1 [1/2]-11; Knife (P/E) DX [1]-12; Orienteering (M/A) IQ-1 [1]-11; Skiing (P/H) DX [4]-12; Soldier (M/A) IQ+2 [6]-14; Spear (P/A) DX-1 [1]-11; Stealth (P/A) DX-1 [1]-11; Survival (Arctic) (M/A) IQ [2]-12; Throwing (P/H) DX-2 [1]-10; Traps (M/A) IQ-1 [1]-11.

* Includes the bonus for IQ 12.

Secondary Skills: Armoury (Small Arms) (M/A) IQ-1 [1]-11; Brawling (P/E) DX [1]-12; Demolition (M/A) IQ-1 [1]-11; Engineer (Combat) (M/H) IQ-2 [1]-10; NBC Warfare (M/A) IQ-2

When choosing optional skills, Animal Handling, Riding, Skiing, and Teamster will be more common than Driving, Mechanic, and Motorcycle.

65 POINTS

Disadvantages: Duty (to Government, all the time but not hazardous) [-10] and -30 points from Duty (increase to the usual hazardous sort) [adds -5]; Enemies [Varies]; Secret (Spy) [Varies]; or *National Disadvantages* (p. 28, or p. W69 for other nationalities).

Basic Skills: Administration (M/A) IQ [2]-12; Diplomacy (M/H) IQ+2 [8]-14; Savoir-Faire (M/E) IQ+2 [3]-14*.

* Savoir-Faire is bought up from the default for high Status.

Optional Skills: Spend 12 points on any of Area Knowledge or Savoir-Faire (Military) (both M/E); Acting, Fast-Talk, Language skills, Performance, or Politics (all M/A); or Cryptography, Detect Lies, Economics, History, Intelligence Analysis, Law, or Psychology (all M/H). Mid- and low-level officials often are military officers, as well.

70 POINTS

[1/2]-10; Scrounging (M/E) IQ-1 [1/2]-11; Survival (any other) (M/A) IQ-1 [1]-11.

Optional Skills: Spend 1 point on any of Guns (Flamethrower, Grenade Launcher, LAW, or Pistol) or Swimming (both P/E); Gunner (Machine Gun or Mortar) (P/A); Carousing (P/A - HT); Area Knowledge (any), Cooking, Savoir-Faire (Military), or Telegraphy (all M/E); Administration, Electronics Operation (Communications), Forward Observer, Gambling, or Intimidation (all M/A); or Explosive Ordnance Disposal (M/H).

Customization Notes: The Finnish ski patrols often used guerrilla tactics effectively against the Russian columns. Add Tactics (Guerrilla) as an optional skill.

Soviets: Once the Red Army began to field ski brigades in Finland during 1940, they used them as reconnaissance patrols. The patrols had three groups: a forward "holding" group whose members may take Acute Vision and Alertness as part of their *National Advantages*; a "diversion" group whose members may add Driving (Tracked), Gunner (Cannon), Gunner (Machine Gun), and Mechanic (Gasoline Engine) as optional skills, since they frequently used tanks as their diversion; and a "cover" group that makes no changes.

4. FINN ARMOURY

More than in most armies, the idea of a “standard” piece of Finnish equipment is, at the least, less than ironclad. To a large extent, the Finns scrapped and scrounged and employed whatever

weapon they could find. An easygoing GM might allow the player of a Finn soldier to carry just about anything, provided he created a good background story as to how his character obtained it!

PERSONAL GEAR



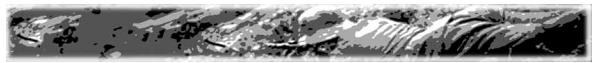
In addition to their firearms and white snowsuits, each Finnish soldier carried a *leipälaukku* (bread bag), where he stored his rations, mess kit, and hand grenades, and a separate bag for his gas mask. Most men also had a rucksack that was more like a bag than a proper backpack.

Helmets during the Winter War were WWI relics; by the Continuation War, supplies had improved to green or gray German and Austrian models, with salvaged Soviet helmets used in rear areas. The last reserves that were called to arms only received a cockade, ammo belt, and rifle; they fought in their civilian clothes. Soldiers, and most rural civilians, also carried a *puukko*, or large knife.

Each soldier also had a tin of food that would provide a day’s worth of sustenance in an emergency. Field kitchens were common on the Finnish side, but the usual fare was but one warm meal a day, along with a ration of three cigarettes. Potatoes were in good supply, so potato soup was often the hot meal. *Näkkileipä*, a hard and dry rye flatbread, was also common. The usual term for it was *vanikka*, derived from the word for “plywood.”

All types of equipment required special care in the Finnish winter environment, especially in a harsh winter like the one of 1939-1940. Regular grease and oils could freeze at some of the more extreme temperatures.

SMALL ARMS



See pp. W92-93 for the common arms of major WWII combatants, including the Soviets.

Pistols

Apart from those listed below, many Russian Nagant M-1895 revolvers (pp. W94, HT110) and Tokarev TT-33 pistols (p. W94) were also in use.

DWM Luger Pistooli malli 23 (1923): This variant of the German Luger (pp. W94, HT108) was the most common sidearm of the Finnish army during WWII. It differed from the standard German weapon only in caliber, being chambered for the 7.65mm Parabellum.

Husqvarna Browning Pistooli malli 07 (1917): The FN-Browning Mle 1903 was made under license in Sweden as the Pistol m/07. Several hundred of these came to Finland with Swedish volunteers, and were later donated to the Finn military.

VKT Lahti Pistooli malli 35 (1939): Commonly known as the L-35, this was designed by famous Finnish inventor Aimo Lahti, and outwardly resembled the Luger. Although intended to replace the imported weapons, it was never available in sufficient numbers. Sweden built it under license as the Husqvarna Pistol m/40 (1942) in much larger numbers, and some of these were supplied to the Danish resistance movement later in the war.

Rifles

The Russian Mosin-Nagant M-1891 had been the Finnish army’s standard rifle since the time of the nation’s independence in 1917. It was still widely used, and all later Finnish service rifles of the war were based on it. More than 100,000 M-1891/30 rifles (p. W95) were in use with the Finnish military during WWII. Thousands of Tokarev SVT-38 and SVT-40 semiautomatic rifles (p. W95) were captured during the Winter and Continuation Wars, and became popular with Finnish troops as the KautKiv/38 and KautKiv/40, respectively. Since they often came with 3.5× scopes, they were popular with Finnish snipers; scopes were scarce in Finland. A few hundred AVT-40 full-auto rifles (p. W95) also saw service.

During the Winter War, the army received about a hundred Boys Mk I anti-tank rifles (p. W95), which they named the PstKiv/37. Captured Soviet anti-tank rifles such as the PTRS-41 (p. W95) were used in some numbers, but never officially introduced.

Carl Gustaf Mauser Kivääri malli 96 (1896): The Swedish service rifle (Gevär m/96) was a full-size Mauser design. It was supplied in large numbers to Finland during the Winter War and in use with front-line units, the Civil Guard, and

Swedish volunteers. During the Continuation War, it was relegated to arm the Finnish navy, coastal defense, and second-line air-defense units.

SAKO Kivääri malli 39 (1941): The final Finnish variant of the Mosin-Nagants, this rifle combined elements of the army's Kiv/27 and Civil Guard's Kiv/28-30. It was one of the most common weapons of Continuation War front-line units.

Steyr-Solothurn Panssarintorjuntakivääri malli 40 (1941): Better known under its commercial designation S18-154, this weapon was very similar to the S18-1000 (p. W95), but chambered for a weaker cartridge. A dozen of these heavy anti-tank rifles were bought in 1940 via Italian middlemen in Rome. It was 1941 by the time that they were delivered from the embassy there to Finland, and the Winter War already had ended. They saw service in the Continuation War, but were already hopelessly obsolete by then.

VKT Kivääri malli 27 (1929): An extensively modified Russian M-1891, the Kiv/27 was the most commonly used Finnish rifle during the Winter War. Among the changes to the Russian original was a shorter barrel. Nicknamed *pystykorva* ("high ears") for its sight arrangement.

The Civil Guard's Kiv/28 (1928) was similar, but more closely resembled the original M-1891.

In 1930, it was decided to improve the Kiv/28 by adding a better rear sight; the resultant Kiv/28-30 (1934) was considered (along with the Kiv/39) the most accurate (Acc 11) Finnish rifle of the war.

VKT Kivääri malli 27 ratsuväki (1934): Designed for cavalry, this Kiv/27 variant had a further shortened barrel and revised sling attachments.

VKT Lahti Panssarintorjuntakivääri malli 39 (1940): This hefty anti-tank rifle – two yards long, and commonly known as the *Norsupyssy* ("elephant gun") – arrived too late for service in the Winter War; only two prototypes in 20mm Lahti saw combat (use the same stats). Regardless, from spring of 1940 it was widely used by Finnish forces. Apart from the AP round in the table, it could also fire an APCR round with Dam 6d×4 (2), a SAPHE shell of Dam 6d×3 (0.5) plus 1d-4 [2d], or a WP shell with damage as SAPHE, plus continuing burn damage as per the M-15, p. W98. During summer, the white phosphorus was used to ignite forest fires behind the Soviet lines, forcing them out of their trenches. The weapon's bipod had two positions; either normal legs or small skis for easier movement on snow could be deployed.

Winchester Kivääri malli 95 (1914): This version of the famous American lever-action rifle (p. HT113) had originally been made for the Russian army during WWI. In use with the Finnish Civil Guard prior to 1939, numbers were issued to second-line troops during the Winter War.

Submachine Guns

The standard submachine gun of the Finnish forces was the KP/31 "Suomi" (p. W96). Captured Russian submachine guns of all types were used, but were not officially adopted, because they required non-standard ammunition.

SIG Konepistooli malli Bergmann (1922): License-made in Switzerland, this variant of the German Bergmann MP18/I (pp. W96, HT115-116) was used by the Civil Guard until 1939, and then saw service with front-line troops in the Winter War. In 1941, it was relegated to home-front units.

Tikkakoski Konepistooli malli 31 Korsu (1939): This modified version of the standard KP/31 (p. W96) was designed for shooting through the narrow firing slits in the bunkers of the Mannerheim Line. The KP/31 Korsu received a longer barrel jacket (to ventilate the powder gasses outside) and lacked foresight and shoulder stock. This reduced long-range accuracy, but was sufficient for short-range suppressive fire.

A variant of this was the KP/31 Panssari-vaunu, or tank model (1940). The barrel jacket was modified to fit into the hull ball mount of the Finnish Vickers-Armstrong light tanks (p. 36). Only 31 were produced.

Tikkakoski Konepistooli malli 44 (1944): While the KP/31 was a very good weapon, it was also expensive and slow to produce. It was decided to adopt the Soviet PPS-43 (p. W96), a simple and effective design already proven in combat, but in the Finnish standard caliber of 9mm Parabellum. It used the same magazines as the KP/31, including the 20-round box (1.3 lbs.), 40-round drum (3 lbs.), and 50-round box (2.6 lbs.). It kept the folding metal stock.

Machine Guns

The most widespread light machine gun in Finnish service during WWII was in fact the Soviet's own DP (pp. W97, HT118), which was captured in large numbers and called the PK/27. Medium machine guns included large numbers of captured Russian Maxim PM-1905 and PM-1910 guns, and the coastal defense also employed lesser numbers of both the British Vickers Mk I (pp. W96, HT118) and the German DWM-Maxim MG08 (pp. W96, W:IC60).

Carl Gustaf Browning Pikakivääri malli 21 (1923): A variant of the Browning Automatic Rifle (pp. W96-97, W:HS20), this was made under license as the Kulsprutegevär m/21 in Sweden. A few were bought in Sweden in 1940, and more were brought to Finland by the Swedish volunteers, and later left to the Finnish army, which called it the PK/21.



Tikkakoski Maxim Konekivääri malli 09-21 (1924): An improved, Finnish-modified version of the Russian PM-1905, incorporating features of the German MG08 (pp. W96, W:IC60). It was mounted on a tripod, rather than the wheeled carriage of the Russian weapon.

Tikkakoski Maxim Konekivääri malli 32-33 (1936): The greatest drawback of the KK/09-21 was the malfunction-prone fabric ammunition belt, leading Lahti to develop a new weapon using a disintegrating metal belt. It also received a new tripod suitable for anti-aircraft fire. In 1939, the design was modified to include a “snow cap,” which allowed the cooling barrel jacket to be filled with snow instead of water – an ingenious improvement for a Finnish weapon. Other water-cooled machine guns were kept running by mixing glycol with the water to keep it from freezing.

VKT Lahti Panssarintorjunta Konekivääri malli 35-36 (1938): During the 1930s, the Finnish army was undecided as to whether to introduce a light, full-automatic weapon in 13.2mm or 20mm. In the end, preference was given to the much more effective *PstKiv/39* anti-tank rifle, but a few prototypes of a machine gun in 13.2mm Hotchkiss were made. Three of these were used in combat during the Winter War, one of them mounted on the single Landsverk 182 armored car in service (use the 12.7mm Ground HMG, p. W133), one on an anti-aircraft mount, and one on a tripod. The weapon fired AP rounds from a short 15-round belt.

VKT Lahti-Saloranta Pikakivääri malli 26 (1930): This LMG was another design of Aimo Lahti, together with his colleague Saloranta. It was a sturdy weapon, but production ceased during the war because of the abundance of captured Russian weapons. The *PK/27* (DP) also was considered more reliable.

Flamethrowers

Liekinheitin malli 44 (1944): Fewer than a dozen of these went through combat trials in 1944. They consisted of a backpack tank of normal (not thickened) fuel and a flame gun mounted under a KP/31 submachine gun (p. W96), which gave the gunner the choice between flame and bullets. It could not fire cold shots. It was not a success, and the Finns mainly used the Italian Mod 40 and the Soviet ROKS-2 (p. W99) flamethrowers.

Hand Grenades

Apart from the designs below, the Finns acquired large amounts of hand grenades from foreign sources; these included the German StHGr17, 24, and 39 (p. W98) and EiHGr39 (p. W:IC61), Soviet F-1 (p. W98), RDG-33, RG-42 (p. W98), and RPG-43 (p. W98), as well as numbers of British, French, Hungarian, and Swedish models.

Pullokranaatti malli 14-30 (1930): This was a Russian bottle hand grenade (so-called because of its shape) that was captured in huge numbers before and during WWII. The filler was picric acid, which was neither very effective nor reliable. It could be fitted with a 0.4-lb. fragmentation sleeve, which added [2d] of fragmentation damage.

Varsikranaatti malli 32 (1932): A stick hand grenade patterned after the German StHGr24 (p. W98). The almost identical VarsiKr/41 superseded it during the war.

Munakranaatti malli 32 (1932): This unique fragmentation hand grenade used the body of a 60mm mortar shell, simplifying production. Adding a tail and replacing the fuse allowed its use in the 60mm mortar.

Polttopullo malli 34 (1934): The *Molotovinkoktaili* (Molotov Cocktail), while not actually invented in Finland, was refined to a high degree there. The *Polttopullo* (incendiary bottle) consisted of a large beer bottle filled with a mixture of tar and ethanol or gasoline and fitted with a 60-second fuse. The Alko brewery bottled huge quantities. Treat as one shot from a flamethrower (p. W99).

Munakranaatti malli 41 (1941): The standard egg-shaped fragmentation hand grenade. A slight modification of the fuse resulted in the MunaKr/43.

Kasapanos (1936): The *Kasapanos* (satchel charge) was used in close combat against tanks. It consisted of a charge of TNT in a sheet metal box, with a wooden stick grenade handle and fuse. The charges were made in several weight classes: 4.4 lbs., 6.6 lbs., and 8.8 lbs. The 4.4-lbr. was considered adequate against armored cars, the 6.6-lbr. against T-26 tanks, and the heavier T-28 tanks required the 8.8-lbr. Early *Kasapanos* had their sides coated with sticky glue (covered with plywood until use), which proved ineffective and awkward to use. Late-production types had hooks or barbed-wire coils instead, to attach the charge to the vehicle’s engine grill or similar surface.

Mines

In addition to their indigenous designs, the Finnish military used large numbers of German and Russian mines. Some of their long-range ski patrols would place antipersonnel mines in small wooden boxes. These *latumiinas* would be put under the snow crust in their back trails to break the skis (and likely the feet) of anyone who came along after them.

Hyökkäysvaunumiina malli 36 (1936): Only limited numbers of this small anti-tank mine were available, and the vast majority were distributed on the Karelian Isthmus. It required 600 lbs. of pressure to be set off.

Jäämiina malli 41 (1941): This “ice mine” prevented Soviet troops from crossing frozen water. A sealed glass bottle filled with explosive, it was lowered below the ice through a small hole. It was command-detonated, rupturing the ice and opening a watery grave for the troops traveling above. At least two to three bottles spread 4 yards apart were used at a time. Usually, much larger numbers were used. It was sufficient for one bottle to be detonated – the shockwave ignited the others.

Saloranta Hyökkäysvaunumiina malli 39 (1939): A wooden anti-tank mine designed for wartime production, this debuted in late 1939. The trigger required 530 lbs. of pressure.

FINN SMALL ARMS TABLE

Semiautomatic Pistols – Use Guns (Pistol) Skill

Weapon	Malf	Dmg	SS	Acc	I/2D	Max	Wt	AWt	RoF	Shots	ST	Rcl	Hold	Cost
Luger Pist/23, 7.65mm Parabellum	16	2d+1-	9	4	140	1,850	2.3	0.3	3~	8+1	9	-1	0	\$50
Browning Pist/07, 9mm Browning Long	Crit.	2d+1	10	3	150	1,850	2.4	0.3	3~	7+1	9	-1	-1	\$80
Lahti Pist/35, 9mm Parabellum	Ver.	2d+2	9	4	150	1,850	3	0.4	3~	8+1	9	-1	0	\$45

Rifles and Anti-Tank Rifles – Use Guns (Rifle) Skill

Weapon	Malf	Dmg	SS	Acc	I/2D	Max	Wt	AWt	RoF	Shots	ST	Rcl	Hold	Cost
Mauser Kiv/96, 6.5mm Mauser	Crit.	6d	15	11	600	3,500	9.2	0.25	1/2	5+1	10	-1	-7	\$20
SAKO Kiv/39, 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant	Crit.	7d	14	11	800	3,900	8.9	0.3	1/2	5+1	11	-2	-6	\$25
Steyr-Solothurn PstKiv/40, 20mm Short S.	Crit.	7d×2 (2)	20	12	1,200	5,000	110	11	1	10+1	21B	-1	n/a	\$400
VKT Kiv/27, 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant	Crit.	7d	14	10	800	3,900	9.3	0.3	1/2	5+1	11	-2	-6	\$25
VKT Kiv/27rv, 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant	Crit.	6d+2	14	10	700	3,500	9.1	0.3	1/2	5+1	11	-2	-6	\$25
Lahti PstKiv/39, 20mm Solothurn	Crit.	6d×3 (2)	20	12	1,400	6,500	143	14.9	1	10+1	26B	-2	n/a	\$375
Winchester Kiv/95, 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant	Crit.	7d	14	10	800	3,900	7.8	0.3	2~	5+1	11	-2	-6	\$20

Submachine Guns – Use Guns (Light Auto)

Weapon	Malf	Dmg	SS	Acc	I/2D	Max	Wt	AWt	RoF	Shots	ST	Rcl	Hold	Cost
SIG KP/Bergmann, 7.65mm Parabellum	Crit.	3d-1-	10	6	160	1,900	10.3	1.5	8	32	10	-1	-5	\$80
Tikkakoski KP/31 Korsu, 9mm Parabellum	Crit.	3d-1	10	5	160	1,900	13.9	4.3	13*	70	10	-1	-5	\$160
Tikkakoski KP/44, 9mm Parabellum	Crit.	3d-1	10	6	160	1,900	10.7	4.3	10*	70	10	-1	-4	\$60

Machine Guns – Use Guns (Light Auto) or Gunner (Machine Gun)

Weapon	Malf	Dmg	SS	Acc	I/2D	Max	Wt	AWt	RoF	Shots	ST	Rcl	Cost
Browning PK/21, 6.5mm Mauser	Crit.	6d	17	10	600	3,500	20.5	1.3	8*	20	11B	-1	\$60
Maxim KK/09-21, 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant	Crit.	7d	20	10	1,000	3,900	79/140	20.5	10	250	37T	-1	\$220
Maxim KK/32-33, 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant	Crit.	7d	20	10	1,000	3,900	73/142	18	16	200	35T	-1	\$240
Lahti PstKK/35-36, 13.2mm Hotchkiss	16	13d (2)+	20	12	1,500	6,000	170/235	5.5	8	15	71T	-1	\$1,200
Lahti-Saloranta PK/26, 7.62mm Mosin-Nag.	16	7d	17	10	1,000	3,900	23	2	8*	20	12B	-1	\$90

Hand Grenades – use Throwing

Weapon	Damage	Wt	Fuse	Hold	Cost
PulloKr/14-30	2d+1	1.1	4 seconds	-2	\$10
VarsiKr/32	4d+1	1.1	5 seconds	-3	\$10
MunaKr/32	5d [6d]	1.1	5 seconds	-3	\$8
Polttopullo/34	Special	1.3	0	-3	\$15
MunaKr/41	1d+2 [2d]	1.5	5 seconds	0	\$10
Kasapanos 2-kg	6d×9	5.5	5 seconds	-4	\$10
Kasapanos 3-kg	6d×13	7.5	5 seconds	-5	\$15
Kasapanos 4-kg	6d×18	10	5 seconds	-6	\$20

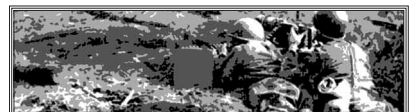
AMMO TABLE

See p. W91 for common ammo.

Common Name	Modern Name
6.5mm Mauser	6.5×55mm
7.65mm Parabellum	7.65×21mm
9mm Browning Long	9×20mmSR
13.2mm Hotchkiss	13.2×99mm
20mm Lahti	20×113mm
20mm Short Solothurn	20×105mmB
20mm Solothurn	20×138mmB

Mines and Demolition Charges

Weapon	Damage	Wt	Fuse	Cost
HvM/36	6d×12	12.1	600	\$10
JM/41	6d×6	6.5	Special	\$6
Saloranta HvM/39	6d×13	15	530	\$12



THE FINNISH MOTOR POOL

The Finnish army initially had only three types of armored vehicle: the British Vickers-Armstrong Mark VI Type E light tank, the French Renault FT17, and a handful of Swedish Landsverk armored cars. The antiquated Renault FT17s were too obsolete for even armor-starved Finland to make much use of them. Some were dug-in and used as emplaced guns during the Winter War.

During both the Winter and Continuation wars, the Finnish army captured large numbers of Soviet vehicles, including seven T-34/76 and

seven T-34/85 medium tanks (p. W105). In 1943-44, they supplemented their hodgepodge of bought and captured vehicles with a number of German AFVs. These consisted of 59 StuG III Ausf G assault guns and 15 PzKpfw IV Ausf J medium tanks (p. W103). The German machine guns were replaced with captured DT guns (p. W130). When the Continuation War gave way to the Lapland War, the Germans faced the unpleasant prospect of opposing their own tanks on the battlefield.

37MM PstK/36 ANTI-TANK GUN

This Swedish Bofors design was the only anti-tank cannon Finland had as the Winter War began. Small numbers were ordered in 1938, and from late 1939 it also was license-made in Finland. Effective against early tanks, it soon fell behind improvements in armor, and was removed from front-line service in 1944, replaced primarily by the 75mm PstK/40. A team of two horses usually drew it. A third animal drew the small ammo cart or sleigh.

Basically, the same weapon was also in service with the Danish, Polish, and Swedish armies, captured guns in turn being used by the Germans. Even the British employed a few as the QF Mk I, mainly in North Africa.

Use the statistics of the 37mm anti-tank gun found on p. W101 with these changes: The gunshield has PD 4, DR 16, loaded weight is 0.4 tons, length is 10', cost \$1,000, and HT 10.

VICKERS-ARMSTRONG 6-TON MARK E LIGHT TANK

Finland ordered 32 of these in 1938. They were acquired unarmed, then fitted with Finnish weapons; only a few were ready when the Winter War started. In February 1940, one company took part in the first Finnish tank battle. Technical problems and inexperience created heavy casualties, seven tanks being destroyed and one disabled.

The Finnish Vickers were very similar to Soviet T-26s, and therefore usually painted with white-and-blue markings to distinguish them.

Main armament was a 37mm Bofors PstK/36, with a coaxial KK/32-33 (p. 34). A ball mount in the hull fitted a KP/31 Panssarivaunu submachine gun (p. 33). The turret housed the commander, who also fired the main gun and machine gun, and a loader, who loaded both weapons. The driver was seated in the body and also fired the KP/31.

The tank used 3 gallons of gas per hour at routine usage. The commander manually rotated the turret at 3° per second. Fuel and ammo cost \$300.

Vickers-Armstrong Mark E

Subassemblies: Very Small Tank chassis +2; full-rotation Small AFV turret [Bod:T] +2; tracks +2.
Powertrain: 66-kW standard gas engine with 66-kW tracked transmission and 48-gallon standard tanks; 4,000-kWs batteries.
Occ: 1 CS Bod, 2 Tur Cargo: 2.8 Bod, 1.1 Tur

Armor	F	RL	B	T	U
Body:	4/45	4/45	4/45	4/15	4/15
Tracks:	4/30	4/30	4/30	4/30	4/30
Turret:	4/45	4/45	4/45	4/15	-

Weaponry

SMG/KP/31 [Body:F] (1,420 rounds).
Ground LMG/KK/32-33 [Tur:F] (4,000 rounds).
37mm Medium TG/PstK/36 [Tur:F] (90 rounds).

Statistics

Size: 16'x7'x8' *Payload:* 1 ton *Lwt:* 9 tons
Volume: 47 *Maint:* 100 hours *Cost:* \$3,950
HT: 12. HP: 800 Body, 135 each Track, 150 Turret.
gSpeed: 22 *gAccel:* 2 *gDecel:* 20 *gMR:* 0.25 *gSR:* 5
Ground Pressure Low. 2/3 Off-Road Speed.

Design Notes

The weight and volume of the SMG (but not the cost) were assumed to be negligible for the design process. Loaded weight and *gSpeed* were adjusted to the historical values.

Variants

After the Winter War, the remaining vehicles were re-armed with Soviet 45mm guns (use the 50mm Medium Tank Gun, p. W:IC66) and DT machine guns. The SMG was retained.

LEGGII TANK T-26

Ironically, the main Soviet tank of the Winter War was based on the same British design that the Finns used: the Vickers-Armstrong 6-ton Mark E. The U.S.S.R. had acquired six in 1930, and produced it as the T-26. More than 12,000 had been built when production ceased in 1941.

The T-26 saw combat against the Japanese at the Manchurian border (see p. W9) and 352 were employed in the Spanish Civil War (see p. W10) on the Republican side. Some 82 were given to the Chinese in 1938. It was the mainstay of Soviet armored units supporting the infantry during the Winter War, and used quite effectively despite its limited protection and mediocre armament.

By late 1939, the T-26 was obsolete, and suffered heavy losses during Barbarossa (see pp. W21, W:IC14). From 1942, it was replaced by more powerful designs such as the T-34 (see p. W105).

The T-26 obrazets 1933g (called T-26B-2 by the Germans) was the most common of the series – 5,500 were built between 1933 and 1936. Some 61 were captured by the Finns and used against the Russians; some stayed in service until 1961. Captured by the Germans, it was used as the PzKpfw 738(r).

Its turret, taken from the BT-5 and seating the commander-gunner and loader, was armed with a 45mm 20K (M-1932) gun and a coaxial DT machine gun, plus another one at the commander's hatch. The commander manually rotated the turret at 3° per second.

The T-26 burned 3 gallons of gas per hour at routine usage. Fuel and ammo cost \$960.

T-26 obrazets 1933g

Subassemblies: Very Small Tank chassis +2; full-rotation Small AFV turret [Body:T] +2; tracks +2.

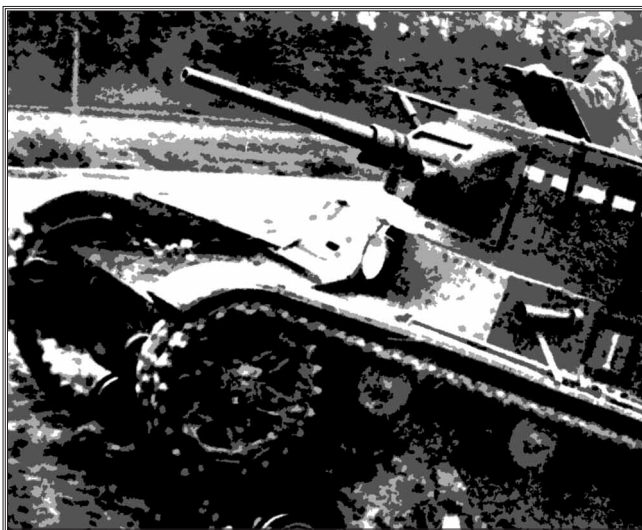
Powertrain: 67-kW standard gas engine with 67-kW tracked transmission and 75-gallon standard tanks; 4,000-kWs batteries.

Occ: 1 CS Bod, 2 Tur Cargo: 0.8 Bod, 0.3 Tur

Armor	F	RL	B	T	U
Body:	4/50	4/50	4/50	4/20	4/20
Tracks:	4/30	4/30	4/30	4/30	4/30
Turret:	4/50	4/50	4/50	4/30	–

Weaponry

Ground LMG/DT [Tur:F] (1,575 rounds).
47mm Short Tank Gun/20K [Tur:F] (147 rounds).
Ground LMG/DT [Tur:T] (1,512 rounds).



Statistics

Size: 16'x7'x8' Payload: 1 ton Lwt: 10.3 tons
Volume: 47 Maint: 98 hours Cost: \$4,200

HT: 12. HP: 800 Body, 135 each Track, 150 Turret.

gSpeed: 18 gAccel: 2 gDecel: 20 gMR: 0.25 gSR: 5
Ground Pressure Low. 2/3 Off-Road Speed.

Design Notes

The design purchases 160 45mm rounds and 3,000 7.62mm rounds; historical values were substituted. The non-rotating pintle mount on the turret top was ignored for the design.

Variants

The T-26 obrazets 1931g was directly based on the British original, mounting two limited-rotation turrets side by side. Both had a DT machine gun with 3,213 rounds each; Lwt 8 tons. Some replaced the right DT with a 12.7mm DShK-38 (Very Long Ground HMG) with 1,000 rounds. Fourteen were captured and used by the Finns.

The T-26 obrazets 1937g had a new turret mounting a 45mm M-1938 (50mm Medium Tank Gun, p. W:IC66) with 165 rounds and two DTs (many even a third in the turret back) with 3,213 rounds total. It also had a medium range radio and searchlight; Lwt 11.6 tons. Some 2,400 were made until 1939.

The Ognemetnyi Tank or OT-130 obrazets 1938g replaced the main gun with a KS-25 (Medium Tank Flamethrower) with 31 shots; Lwt 11 tons. Four of these also were captured by Finland.

The Sapernyi Tank or ST-26 obrazets 1933g carried an 8-yard vehicular bridge capable of supporting 15 tons; Lwt 9.5 tons. Only 65 were built.

Many late-model tanks received additional armor from December 1939; these were called *Ekranirovanniyi* (uparmored) and had DR 160 on body and turret front; Lwt 11.3 tons.

STURMGESCHÜTZE III ASSAULT GUN

Hitler never had enough tanks to fill his own needs, much less those of his industry-poor allies. In practice, if not in protocol (p. 21), Finland joined these German dependents in June 1941.

Given this armor shortage, the Führer had ordered that *all* panzers must serve in panzer divisions, even though small armor units also could play a crucial role supporting larger infantry formations. To bypass this restriction, the Wehrmacht had begun requisitioning and using *Sturmgeschütze*, or StuG, assault guns. These were built on a tank chassis, with a large superstructure replacing the turret. Not only did this make them not technically a tank, but production was far simpler, faster, and cheaper than for a comparable panzer.

The earliest StuGs utilized the Panzer III chassis and the short 75mm gun that had debuted on the Panzer IV. By September 1941, however, Hitler had become so impressed with the economical StuGs that he ordered them upgunned. While this blurred the line between their intended role as an assault gun and that of a tank destroyer (see p. WIC80), his generals had no reason to complain. The Soviets were beginning to make it painfully obvious that their best armor far outgunned the Wehrmacht's best panzers; the Germans did indeed need to field bigger tank cannons. Given its small turret ring, the Panzer III could not mount anything in the same league as the T-34's 76mm gun, but the StuG could.

On an open battlefield, even the upgunned StuG usually fought at a disadvantage. They could fire at the enemy, or advance to the next bit of cover, but rarely both at once like a turreted panzer could. Increasingly, though, the Germans fought on the defensive, from prepared ambush, where the lack of a rotating turret was rarely felt.

Finnish Use of the StuG

Finland bought 30 StuGs in 1943 and another 29 in 1944. The Finnish designation was Ps.531, for *Panssarivaunu 531*, nicknamed "Sturmi."

They replaced the German MG34 machine gun with the Soviet 7.62mm DT, because they had more of the Soviet ammunition.

Finland first fielded its StuGs on June 14, 1944, at Kuuterselkä. The Ps.531s racked up 87 kills while losing eight vehicles. The most lethal of the Finnish StuG crews were the men of Ps.531-10. Commander Senior Sgt. Börje Brotell, gunner Cpl. Olli Soimala, driver Solu Kappi, and loader Armas Launikko had 11 confirmed kills.

Some tank crews added informal armor to their vehicles; the Finns made a cottage industry

of it. Three cut logs were often added to each side of the StuGs. They also sometimes filled the StuG's mantlet with concrete for a bit of extra protection; in game terms, increase superstructure front DR by 3 and add 0.1 tons to empty weight.

The StuGs remained in Finn service till 1966. The Germans also exported StuG III Gs to Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, and Spain. Planned exports to Croatia, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey went unfilled by war's end.

The StuG driver and loader sit in the body while the gunner and commander stations are half in the body, half in the superstructure. The loader also serves as the radio operator.

The engine burns 10.1 gallons of gasoline per hour. A full load of fuel and ammo costs \$935.

StuG III Ausf G

Subassemblies: Medium Tank chassis +3; Small AFV superstructure with mild slope [Body:T] +2; limited-rotation Mini Open Mount [Sup:T] +0; tracks +3.

Powertrain: 224-kW standard gasoline engine with 224-kW tracked transmission, 82-gallon standard tank, 12,000-kWs batteries.

Occ: 2 CS Bod, 2 Both Cargo: 6.8 Bod, 1.2 Sup

Armor	F	RL	B	T	U
Body:	4/290	4/95	4/125	4/55	4/40
Tracks:	4/40	4/40	4/40	4/40	4/40
Sup:	5/330	4/95	4/155	4/55	–
OM:	4/15	–	–	–	–

Weaponry

75mm Long TG/StuK40 [Sup: F] (54 rounds).

Ground LMG/7.92mm MG34 [OM:F] (500).

Equipment

Body: Medium radio receiver and transmitter, fire extinguisher, 6 smoke dischargers. **OM:** Universal mount.

Statistics

Size: 20'×10'×8' **Payload:** 1.3 tons **Lwt:** 23.3 tons
Volume: 102 **Maint:** 45 hours. **Price:** \$20K

HT: 11. **HP:** 1500 Body, 540 each Track, 150 Sup, 30 Open Mount.

gSpeed: 29 **gAccel:** 3 **gDecel:** 20 **gMR:** 0.25 **gSR:** 5
Ground Pressure Low. 2/3 Off-Road Speed.

Design Notes

Weight and gSpeed have been adjusted to historical values. Historically, the StuG III Ausf G was priced at 82,500 RM.



Variants

More than with most of their armor, the Germans retrofitted upgrades to older StuG marks, and field workshops often customized the assault guns, so even the StuGs within a single mark displayed a considerable variety of statistics.

The first StuGs saw action in the invasion of France, where some of the first 30 prototypes helped pave the way through the Ardennes. These entered a short production run as the Ausf A.

An improved Panzer III chassis was introduced with the Ausf B. Like the A, it mounted the 75mm Short Tank Gun. Its frontal body DR was only 185 and superstructure front DR 285. The Ausf C and D were basically the same. The Ausf E had better radios, for use as a commander's vehicle. Some 550 of these StuGs were produced in 1941.

The Ausf F and G StuGs enjoyed thickened armor; they also got a better superstructure, and several minor improvements: the shielded MG in a limited-rotation mount, smoke dischargers, a better gun mantle, etc. The first F series had a 75mm 43-caliber gun, soon upgraded to the 7.5cm StuK40 of 48 calibers. (Both are 75mm Long Tank Guns in game usage.) The G series used the longer gun exclusively. Both vehicles were sometimes designated as StuG III (40)s, because of the latter gun. The G series had an improved superstructure, widened, raised in the back, and sloped to 79° on the sides. This gave the two upper crewmen a bit more headroom.

Production of the Ausf Gs began in December 1942. About 8,000 were built on the PzIII chassis, and another 1,000 on the PzIV chassis.

The standard gun mantle on the Ausf G presented dangerous shot traps and vertical facings. It could be replaced with a *saukopf* (sow's head). This was a better-sloped mantle, which was often (but not always) provided with a housing for a coaxial, linked MG. Even when this housing was available, the MG was not always fitted.

Fixed open mounts could be fitted to the back of the superstructure, but they could only be accessed from outside. These were thinly armored (perhaps DR 3, representing standard sheet metal) and carried additional spare parts, fuel cans, crew belongings, etc.

The fire extinguisher was not installed on all vehicles. Subtract 250 lbs. and \$50.

The shielded, limited-rotation MG listed here could be replaced late in the war with a ring-mounted, full-rotation, remote-controlled MG, as described for the Hetzer (see p. W:IC83).

Schürzen side skirts – i.e., stand-off armor – and track guards were often added. These add 15 stand-off DR to the sides, and the same to the tracks' side facing, but only 50% of the time when the tracks are hit (see p. W140-141). They add 0.57 tons to weight and cost \$650. These were quite common on the later runs. Note that these cannot be used along with the addition of logs to the sides in the Finnish tradition.

Additional track treads could be fitted to the front lower hull. These add some weight, and increase DR by 40, but applicable only to 50% of the hits in this area.

Later runs often were coated with *Zimmerit*, an anti-magnetic compound, or fitted with the *Nahverteidigungswaffe* discharger, or both. See p. W:IC69 for both features.

The StuG III Ausf. G chassis served as the basis for the StuH 42 (*Sturmhaubitze*), mounting a 105mm L/28 or L/30 field howitzer. It was otherwise identical to the Ausf G.

Later in the war, some StuGs had their main armament removed altogether and were used as ammunition carriers (*Munitionspanzer*).

No StuG III Gs were converted to use flamethrowers, but some of the earlier StuG III F/8s were. None of those saw action.

The Soviets captured a number of these guns from Germany. They replaced the superstructures and installed a 76.2mm tank gun. These were designated SU-76i, as were similarly modified PzIIIIs and PzIVs. Fewer than a dozen mounted a 122mm M-30 howitzer, instead; these were designated SG-122A.

The Soviet T-35

The T-35 may have made its first battlefield appearance in the Winter War, but Soviet archives record none present. The tanks reported as T-35s in Finnish records may have been prototypes of the SMK or T-100 heavy tanks.

FOKKER D.XXI

The D.XXI was designed in 1935 to meet a Royal Netherlands Indies Army specification for a modern but extremely simple single-seat fighter. The Dutch East Indies never bought the plane, but several European nations did.

Combining old and new technology, the D.XXI could not compete with entirely modern fighters, but did not fare terribly in the hands of a good pilot. For novices, it could be unforgiving. Yanking back on the stick caused a spinning roll to the left. The rudder had to be exactly centered in a loop or the plane would snap-roll at the top.

Denmark bought the first D.XXIs in 1937, though none got off the ground during Germany's 1940 invasion. The Dutch received 36 D.XXI-2s from 1938, and had 28 flying as their main fighter type when invaded. Only eight survived.

The Finns put the D.XXI to its greatest use, having purchased seven in 1937 and built 38 more under license at Valtion Lentokonetehtäs. Known as the FR in Finland, the plane scored at least 127 kills in the Winter War and 60 in the Continuation War, mainly against Soviet bombers such as the Ilyushin DB-3 and Tupolev SB-2. Only eleven Fokkers were lost during the Winter War.

Finnish fighter ace Lt. Jorma Sarvanto (p. 15), flew the D.XXI, as did Eino Ilmari Juutilainen for the first four of his 94 kills that made him WWII's leading non-German ace. (He flew a Brewster Buffalo for the next 36 and a Bf 109G-2 for the last 54.)

The Finnish D.XXI-3 carried two .303 Vickers LKK/39 machine guns in the nose (RoF 14) and two similar, but unlinked, weapons in the wings. The aircraft was powered by a British Bristol Mercury VII engine; most were actually built under license in Finland or Poland. Its Finnish-made radio was a receiver only.

The engine burned 31.4 gallons of fuel per hour at routine usage. Fuel and ammo cost \$40.

Fokker D.XXI-3

Subassemblies: Light Fighter chassis +3;
Light Fighter wings +2; three fixed-strut wheels +0.

Powertrain: 627-kW aerial HP turbocharged engine with 627-kW prop and 93-gallon tank; 4,000-kWs batteries.

Occ: 1 CS Body Cargo: 3.4 Body, 3.1 Wings

Armor	F	RL	B	T	U
Body:	2/3	2/3*	2/2C	2/3*	2/3*
Wings:	2/3W	2/3W	2/3W	2/3W	2/3W
Wheels:	2/3	2/3	2/3	2/3	2/3

* Treat as DR 2 cloth on 50% of hits.

Weaponry

2×Air. LMG/.303 LKK/39 [Body:F] (500 each).*

2×Air. LMG/.303 LKK/39 [Wings:F] (300 each).

* Linked.

Equipment

Body: Medium radio receiver; navigation instruments.

Statistics:

Size: 27'×36'×10' Payload: 0.5 tons Lwt: 2.3 tons

Volume: 144 Maint: 75 hours Cost: \$7.2K

HT: 7. HP: 50 Body, 70 each Wing, 5 each Wheel.

aSpeed: 286 aAccel: 8 aDecel: 22 aMR: 5.5 aSR: 1
Stall Speed 68.

gSpeed: 252 gAccel: 12 gDecel: 10 gMR: 0.5 gSR: 3
Very High Ground Pressure. 1/8 Off-Road Speed.

Design Notes:

The design purchases 2,000 rounds of LMG ammo but uses the historical figures; aSpeed was adjusted to historical. The rear fuselage and tail were cloth-armored; to model this, 1.5 points of metal and 1 point of cloth DR is purchased for the sides, bottom, and top, to represent DR 3 over half of each facing and cloth DR 2 on the other half.

Variants:

The Danish D.XXI-1 (1938) had a 481-kW Bristol Mercury VIS engine, which made it underpowered and slow. It was armed with twin 7.92mm DISA-Madsen M/26 machine guns (Aircraft LMG) with 500 rounds each in the fuselage and a 20mm DISA-Madsen M/35 cannon (20mm Long Aircraft Autocannon) with 100 rounds under each wing. Lwt 1.9 tons and aSpeed 245 mph.

The Dutch D.XXI-2 (1938) was powered by a 619-kW Bristol Mercury VIII; its armament consisted of twin 7.92mm FN-Browning M.36 machine guns (Aircraft LMG) with 500 rounds each in the fuselage and two more with 300 rounds each in the wings. In the Dutch air force, only the squadron commanders' aircraft carried a radio, making communications between the planes in a Dutch formation very difficult.

Since the Mercury engines were required for licensed-built Blenheim bombers, the final 50 Finnish aircraft were built as the D.XXI-4 (1941). These mounted a less powerful yet heavier 615-kW Pratt & Whitney Twin Wasp engine. The D.XXI-4 had only wing-mounted guns: four .303 FN-Browning LKK/39 machine guns (Aircraft LMG) with 500 rounds each. Lwt 2.6 tons and aSpeed 272 mph.

GLOSTER GLADIATOR

The Gladiator may have represented the epitome of British combat biplanes – and their swan song, as well. An anachronism at birth, the Gladiator was actually a younger design than the Hurricane. First flown on Sept. 12, 1934, it won its trials largely because many of its more modern competitors used an inappropriate engine that the Air Ministry had pushed upon the designers.

The production Gladiator's only nods to modern aviation were its enclosed cockpit, hydraulic flaps, and ability to mount four machine guns. Compact and attractive, it was also rarely forgiving. A powered stall was usually followed by a spin, which then reversed into a flat spin, which could be fatal for inexperienced pilots.

As the war began, the British already were trying to phase out the Gladiator, but would deploy it until 1942. Finland, Belgium, China, Egypt, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, and Sweden also flew Gladiators, and the Soviets and Germans employed captured examples, though rarely as fighters.

The Gladiator first saw combat in China, where Japanese fighters generally made short work of it. Those in Finnish hands gave a better accounting of themselves, but failed to excel. Soviet bombers often could flee them with ease, and the lack of proper cockpit heating caused the canopy to fog over in the frigid conditions.

The Gladiator did have a moment of real glory, in British hands, when the defenders of Malta found themselves without air cover in June 1940 as the Italians declared war. They assembled three Gladiators stored there as carrier replacements, and this trio – which came to be called “Faith,” “Hope,” and “Charity” in the resulting propaganda – harassed Italian bombers for more than a fortnight before reinforcements relieved them.

The engine burns 28.2 gallons of gasoline per hour in routine flight. Ammo and fuel cost \$15.

Gladiator Mark II

Subassemblies: Medium Fighter chassis +3;
Light Fighter wings with biplane option +2;
three fixed wheels +0.

Powertrain: 627-kW aerial gas engine with
627-kW aerial prop and 99-gallon light tanks;
4,000-kWs battery.

Occ: 1 CS Cargo: 1.7 Body, 3.1 Wings

Armor	F	RL	B	T	U
Body:	2/3	2/2C	2/2C	2/2C	2/2C
Wings:	2/2C	2/2C	2/2C	2/2C	2/2C
Wheels:	2/3	2/3	2/3	–	2/3

Weaponry

2×Air. LMG/.303 LKK/39 [Body:F] (600 each).*

2×Air. LMG/.303 LKK/39 [Wings:F] (400 each).*

* Each pair linked, additional link fires all four.

Equipment

Body: Medium radio transmitter and receiver.

Statistics

Size: 27'×32'×11' Payload: 0.5 tons Lwt.: 2.4 tons

Volume: 200 Maint: 59 hours Price: \$11.7K

HT: 10. HP: 120 Body, 135 each Wing, 12 each Wheel.

gSpeed: 233 gAccel: 11 gDecel: 10 gMR: 0.5 gSR: 2
Ground Pressure Very High. 1/8 Off-Road Speed.
aSpeed: 257 aAccel: 8 aDecel: 40 aMR: 10 aSR: 2
Stall Speed 53.

Design Notes

Design aSpeed is 236; this has been replaced with the historical value, as has wing area, which is 323 sf. The design purchases 1,000 rounds of MG ammo each for the body and wings, but the historical allotment is shown.

The Gladiator had a steel cowling over its engine, but cloth covered the rest of the body and wings, thus only the body frontal DR is metal, here. On the bright side, bullet-punctured Gladiators were very easy to patch up . . .

Variants

Some Gladiators in Finnish service were fitted with skis, for basing them on lakes or snow-covered fields during the winter. The Norwegians found out that this could be risky, when the Luftwaffe destroyed several such planes by bombing the ice on which they sat.

The British built some 380 of the original Mark I, which had an old-style wooden prop that reduced aSpeed to 253. The first examples mounted pan-fed Lewis MGs on the wings. Its engine had to be manually cranked from in front of the plane, thus it needed no batteries.

The Mark II, of which some 270 were built, introduced a modern prop and engine starter.

The Sea Gladiator incorporated an arrestor hook and catapult-attachment points; the latter are simply assumed in game terms. Though identical in game terms, their radios were of a new variety that used naval frequencies. The “cargo space” was used to stow a life raft. In most cases, their wings also had the capacity to amount an additional pair of MGs, bringing them to six total guns, but these were rarely fitted in practice.

5. FINNISH CAMPAIGNING

The various conflicts in Finland provide a special opportunity for WWII-based roleplaying. Finnish campaigns can be shaped as described in

pp. W157-173. Additionally, they can be filtered through the particularly Finnish circumstances described in this chapter.

MILITARY CAMPAIGN STYLES

Add the following considerations to the general guidelines on pp. W158-160.

WAR IS FROZEN HELL!

*“If you see a man walking along the road with a pair of skis on his back, that’s a Russian.”
– an unnamed Finnish soldier*

Though they enjoyed a considerable home-field advantage over their Soviet adversaries in the Winter War, the Finns did not have an easy time of it. They were constantly outnumbered, routinely lacking ammunition, and consigned to fighting a modern war in a backward countryside. A severely wounded PC might be comforted to be told that an aid station was only 1,000 yards behind the lines – until he realized that said distance represented several hours of travel through roadless forest with perhaps 6’ of snow on the ground . . .

For these reasons, Finland can fit a grimly realistic campaign just fine. The PCs should be forced to employ what few advantages they can muster – skis for traveling, their own Area Knowledge for avoiding tight spots, etc. – but the woes suffered by their Soviet adversaries should be little comfort. There’s always plenty more Red Army troops behind the ones that just succumbed to frostbite and starvation.

ICE-CRUSTED HEROES

*“I wish the Russians had brought more machine guns. We could do with a few more.”
– an unnamed Finnish officer*

The most common image of the Winter War fits into the vein of steely-eyed but realistically fragile heroes overcoming insurmountable odds. More than in many WWII scenarios, there’s some truth to this. The relatively few Finns in the field did do an admirable job of nipping at the Red

forces, bleeding them of men and their will to win as they paid dearly for each yard gained.

In this sort of campaign, the hardships described above still matter, but they’re more colorful backdrop than crushing everyday reality. When push comes to shove, the Finn PCs will always be able to scrounge up enough ammo to do the job, their fingers won’t be too frostbitten to pull the trigger, and the neverending waves of Red troops fuel their resolve, not their despair.

SKIS, SMGs, AND SISU

“They were able to get their man at distances of 800 to 1,000 yards. They fired rarely, and never missed.”

– a Soviet officer, on Finnish ski patrols

And again, it’s easy to ramp up from a square-jawed heroism to a cinematic excess in which a handful of Finn elites regularly mow down hordes of Soviet troopers, pausing only long enough to reload for the next horde.

In this sort of campaign, everything that the Soviets and Germans said about Finn soldiering is true: They glide through the forest as silently as a whisper left unspoken, either sending death whistling downwind from some invisible vantage point a half-mile away, or only revealing their presence by the bite of their knife’s blade at throat.

Of course, the PCs will need the skills to perform to this level. In a cinematic Finn campaign, even the most recent draftee should be able to justify making enormous investments in Guns (Rifle), Skiing (Overland), Stealth, Survival (Arctic), Area Knowledge, Tactics (Guerrilla), Camouflage, etc. They also should possess high attributes and a decent amount of Strong Will and Alertness (or at least Acute Vision). Most of the skills could be explained as background skills from a life spent hunting in the country’s vast forests.

ALTERNATIVE CAMPAIGNS

The Finnish situation provides some intriguing opportunities for non-military campaigning.

DANCING WITH DEVILS

“History teaches us that men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives.”

— Abba Eban

As described previously, the Finns did not really want to take part in WWII, but had little choice, given that their country’s southern lands essentially served as a stepping stone between two great and hostile powers. They resorted to intense diplomatic efforts to try to keep the Soviets from invading, and after that had to carefully weigh where they stood in relation to the inevitable clash between Germany and the U.S.S.R. Finally, when the Germans began losing the war, Finland had to carefully extricate itself from its de facto alliance, so that the sinking Nazi ship did not drag the Finns along in its undertow.

All of this provides ample opportunity for an intriguing diplomatic campaign. Such a campaign could include career diplomats (see the template on p. 31), military officers assigned to their office as attachés, and various other functionaries. (Someone has to drive the limousine, after all, then hangs out with all the other limousine drivers who have been listening to *their* employers talking in the back seat . . .)

The challenge set before the players should not be as simple as Avoiding War. Real diplomacy is infinitely more complex. For instance, there’s no question that Finland could have avoided war in 1939, by giving in to some portion of the Soviet demands. The questions were: Were the Finns willing to give up *any* substantial territory to avoid fighting? (Some influential leaders were, but many were passionately opposed.) If the Soviets did get what they wanted, would their demands stop there? (Unlikely.) If the Soviets did keep demanding concessions, would they stop before simply attempting to make Finland another puppet, thus requiring the Finns to fight regardless, but at a disadvantage for having already sacrificed key ground? (The big question, and one that no one can authoritatively answer – getting a good answer to this would be the 1939 Finnish diplomat’s version of rolling an 18 to check the results of a critical success . . .)

The Finnish diplomats would need to verbally wrestle with their Soviet counterparts, who could be portrayed as generally falling into the Molotov school of diplomacy, such as it was. That is, they would be close-mouthed, highly resistant to being “pumped” for information, but have a severe weakness for little acid insults that would reveal quite a bit about what they were thinking.

The Soviets would lie with little hesitation – even though in professional diplomacy an out-and-out lie is considered a serious breach of conduct – but then any competent Finn diplomat would strongly suspect as much by 1939. This would make it essential to also visit with third parties in the diplomatic circles – Swedish ambassadors and Wehrmacht attachés and various Baltic functionaries – to compare what they were told to what the Finnish diplomat had himself been told. Third parties also will prove crucial for “floating” questions to the Soviets for which the PCs don’t want to pin the Russians to an official response.



Regardless of the outcome of the 1939 Soviet negotiations, the Finns will still need to keep the Nazis at arm’s length, not so far away as to irritate them, but not so close as to allow their taint to rub off. Dealing with a pigheaded SS administrator insisting on establishing a concentration camp in Helsinki poses as much challenge as any MP40-toting grenadiers. Avoiding Nazi disgruntlement will pay off until late 1944, then having avoided too many concessions to them will pay off even more.

Obviously, this campaign promises little combat, though it can be introduced at intervals. The WWII-era Soviets were not above a bit of foul play; the passenger plane mentioned on p. 19 probably was shot down for intelligence purposes. An assassination or kidnapping attempt would allow the military sorts to unholster their sidearms and flex their combat skills a bit. Primarily, though, the threats in this campaign center upon the country’s fate and perhaps the PCs’ place in history.

In reaction to all this maneuvering, the GM has to decide whether or not he will allow the PCs' efforts to change history. For instance, he can rule that, if they excel enough, they will cause Finland to avoid the Winter War, then set up an alternate timeline. On the other hand, he could use the principles described in *Making It Matter* on p. W160 to make the PCs' goals nearly invisible to history as commonly understood. In this case, it is indeed historical fact that a few outside observers did not think the Soviets were out of line to demand what they did in defense of their borders. The PCs' main goal might be, not to avoid an inevitable war, but to ensure that Finland came away from the negotiations that led up to it appearing to be on the side of the angels. (Which, historically, the nation did.)

As an exception to the soldierly advice in *Making It Matter*, diplomats should not be most concerned with their personal fates. Their very survival does not, generally, hang in the balance as they set out to accomplish their goals. Also, if the PCs perform exceedingly well, or simply think far outside the box, even a GM trying to keep them within history's broad course should be willing to deviate toward an alternate timeline as a reward for this effort. A PC might come up with the idea of forming a thin accord with Stalin against Hitler in 1941, promising to keep the Germans out of Finn territory in exchange for returned lands and lots of hardware, and masterfully present this argument to his NPC superiors leading the government. In this sort of case, the GM should make his own wishes secondary to those of the players, in regards to playing history "straight."

Of course, diplomats plied their trade in all countries during the war, and the argument could be made that those in non-combatant nations did a far better job than those in most combatant countries. Many of these guidelines would apply to a diplomatic campaign set elsewhere, though the GM will be hard-pressed to find another nation contending with even more fascinating international pressures.

FINNISH SWEARING

Like English, the Finnish language has a rich arsenal of offensive words, allowing a soldier in dire straits to express himself with great emotional power. To add some grit to a Finnish character, consider inserting some of the following curse words into his speech:

Perkele and Saatana

Perhaps the most popular yet still powerful curse word is *Perkele*, a name for the devil. In extreme desperation or fury it can be pronounced without any vowels, as a growl followed by a clicking sound: prrrr-kl. *Perkele* is used mostly on its own, or at the end of a sentence for additional punch. To use it as an adjective, the genitive case is applied and the word becomes *perkeleen* as in "These *perkeleen* Russians just keep coming!" Notice that the genitive case implies possession, so the literal meaning of the above example would attribute the origin or fealty of the opposing force to the, well, opposing force. Another religious taboo, *saatana* is the Finnish version of Satan. Its use mirrors that of *perkele*. The genitive is *saatanan*.

Helvetti

Helvetti, like many other words in Finnish, is borrowed from Swedish. It means hell and functions much like *perkele*, above. The genitive is *helvetin*.

Jumalauta

Jumalauta is a shortened form of *Jumala auta*, literally "god help." It is less taboo than the others, but still rather powerful. It appears on its own, but can also be used at the beginning or end of a sentence.

Vittu

An extremely taboo sexual swearword, *vittu* is not used lightly in the first half of the 20th century. Its power will wane as time progresses, but a soldier with any manners will not speak it in a woman's presence. *Vittu* is a versatile word and its use is similar to that of the "F-word" in English. The genitive, used almost as often as the nominative, is *vitun*. It is more common (and less forbidden) in some Karelian dialects.

Paska

Not much of a taboo, *paska* is a rather honest word for excrement, similar to the English word *crap*. A child might be slapped for uttering it, but men use it without second thought. *Paska* can be added as a prefix to any noun to imply contempt, as in *paskaryssä* (crap Russian, or more figuratively, crappy Russian). It's also a popular word for name-calling, as in *paskahousu* (crap pants) or *paskanaama* (crap face).

BEHIND THE FRONT

WWII entered a lot of small nations uninvited, but relatively few of them were able to keep fielding an effective army – and thus claim a measure of independence – even after the greater powers had come knocking. For this and other reasons, a Finnish home-front campaign offers some special appeal.

In truth, this would be less of a home-front campaign than a behind-the-lines campaign, intermingling civilian and military concerns as in real life. Players could portray soldiers, civilian businessmen in trades directly supporting the army, locals who simply have the misfortune of living on what's become a battlefield, local hunters or trappers providing expert knowledge of the local terrain, or just about any other concept. The GM should not have to work too hard to find ways to intermingle them. Some good plot points include:

Supply

The Finnish logistics situation was even more fragile than that of the Soviets, mentioned on p. W161. The Finns had little in the way of

military industry, so relied heavily on a mixed batch of imported arms. Someone had to make the deals for these weapons, then someone had to transport them across northern European waters and wintery forests to get them to the troops.

This mixed arsenal, in turn, created a severe logistics problem. The Finns had to constantly scrounge to provide a wide variety of small-arms and artillery ammunition, and spare parts for vehicles purchased from all points south and west. A local backwoodsman with reloading skills, or a talented rural mechanic used to making do with less, would be worth his weight in gold.

This also created countless opportunities for confusion. In uniform, some Finns looked an awful lot like Wehrmacht troopers, while others bore more than passing resemblance to Soviet soldiers. Even a relatively informed civilian, stepping out his front door to find a squad of riflemen striding toward him, is going to be hard-pressed to be sure who they are at a distance.

On the Move

Soldiers and civilians alike crowded the Finnish roads when the Winter War began, though generally headed in opposite directions. Many parents began sending their children to the safety of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. They traveled at night, if the air-raid sirens were silent, and sailed from unlit harbors. During the short campaign, 80,000 children were evacuated. Some women and elderly people relocated to Sweden, as well.

Most of the children returned to their families after the Winter War. Should any particularly wary parents have left their offspring in Norway or Denmark, they would then have to agonize about their fates when the Germans invaded those countries shortly after the Winter War ended.



When the Continuation War broke out, about 70,000 children were once again sent to Sweden. (Obviously, the other two nations no longer represented ideal destinations, although technically the Finns had relatively little to fear from their occupation by an ally in practice, Germany.) An estimated 15,000 children stayed in Sweden until after the war ended.

Many residents of Karelia had to evacuate during the Winter War; their homes had become the front lines. (Of course, a patriotic PC civilian might choose to ignore this precaution, in order to offer aid to the defending troops.) For the most part, they stayed out as the Winter War ended and the Soviets claimed their lands. (The Soviet excess in these claims *really* turned the Finns against them, perhaps as much as the fighting itself.) They returned in late 1941, as the Finns took the land back in league with Germany, then had to leave yet again in late 1944, in front of rampaging Soviet forces.

Daily Life

One-fourth of the total Finnish male population was actively fighting, leaving most of the work at home to women, elderly men, and children. In the streets of any town not close to the front, Finns rarely saw young or middle-aged men.

Women handled the routine supply chores (p. 45), as well as communications jobs, both for military and civilian purposes. The Lotta-Svärd (p. 25) did most of this work. Hospitals and factories also depended upon the female workforce.

The postal service continued to function quite well during the war. When a soldier got a package from home, it was reason for celebration. Friends and family sent food, cigarettes, warm clothes, and other useful items.

Volunteers picked up some of the labor shortfall. Before the war had even ended, volunteers were building houses for donation to veterans.

Farm production had to be increased, as 10% of farmland was lost in settling the Winter War. Even some public places such as museum yards were converted into gardens. Crime statistics increased during the war, and a black market for rationed goods emerged. As in most warring countries, Finland had rationing coupons, queues, and campaigns to recycle metal and rubber.

The favorite pastimes during the war were sporting events, movies, and listening to the radio. Even though Finland was at war, it hosted some international sports events, and European film stars visited, usually from Sweden or countries controlled by Germany. Otherwise, there were very few entertainment opportunities.

Finland suffered acute fuel shortages during wartime, as did many other nations. Cars were converted to run on wood chips by equipping them with gasifiers (see p. W:RH43).

The War Comes Home

Many towns and cities were targets of Soviet bombings, especially Helsinki, which at one point suffered over 20,000 bombs dropped over the course of a fortnight. The Finns' formidable radar and effective anti-aircraft artillery may have kept Helsinki from being entirely devastated. The defenders also moved the city east of its real location – in the eyes of the attacking pilots – by burning decoy fires and using only eastern searchlights.

AS SILENT AS SNOW

“Nothing is heard or seen of them whether resting or marching, even from the closest proximity.”

*– an unnamed German soldier,
describing Finn colleagues*

While the Soviets found the Finns terrifyingly quiet as they skulked about in the woods, some Germans working with them noticed something just as significant: They were *always* that way.

The Finns have a reputation for being taciturn and withdrawn people, a reputation that they share with Scandinavians in general. Modern studies have shown there's more than a little truth to this. Nestling up to and beyond the Arctic Circle, the entire Scandinavian region – including the Baltic states and Leningrad region – can be an unsettling environment. In Finland, about 73 days each summer have constant sunlight; about 51 days in each formidable winter have constant darkness. The terrain – mostly forest dotted with some 60,000 lakes – does not support many dense populations. Many Finns have traditionally lived in small, isolated communities under conditions that can lead to depression (and sleep deprivation).

The GM might want to utilize this aspect of the Finnish character in several ways. Some Finn NPCs could be in the habit of conspicuous silence, declining to say anything to the point where it's unsettling. Others might be so shy that the players might perceive them as aloof and standoffish. The Finns themselves see their nature as valuing words – they say only and exactly what they mean, and expect others to do the same. This can create a bit of confusion, if one stops to consider the literal value of much of the chitchat common among non-Finns. For instance, an Englishman's “capital good idea” often really means “not a bad start, but . . .”

Not all Finns possess these traits, any more than all Americans are loud and boisterous. Players should feel free to portray glib and extroverted Finns.

Unlike in many other countries, men that were killed in action almost always were returned for burial near their homes. The Finns made it a point that their sons and husbands always returned from the war, whether or not they were still alive. Of course, dead troops who could not be identified were not transported in this fashion.

Rest and Relaxation

Like their enemy, Finnish soldiers tried to enjoy themselves whenever possible, before fatalistically facing their military obligations. As in all armies, this would involve drinking far too much alcohol if opportunity presented itself.

Finnish customs of the time tended toward the Russians' own "full speed until you pass out" school of imbibing. This isn't exactly Compulsive Behavior (Binge Drinking), from p. W64, because the average Finn won't exhibit any particular recklessness about *procuring* alcohol, per the disadvantage, but when alcohol's already present, the behavior is pretty much the same . . .

Rest time also meant relaxing in that Finnish icon, the sauna. Prior to the Winter War, sauna usage actually had dropped to low levels, but combat gave the sweat baths something of a new popularity, as they were both a luxury the Finns could still afford and useful. The army set up saunas, often portable affairs under canvas, to delouse the troops behind the lines.

In game terms, spending at least 20 minutes in a proper sauna – and in this period the Finns possessed many horribly designed concrete units that simply steamed the occupant – will replenish 1 point of Fatigue over and beyond that normally allowed for the rest period. This can even replace 1 point of sleep-related Fatigue, though not any associated with hunger, thirst, or illness. This benefit only can be taken once a day.

Also, for 5 minutes after leaving a sauna, the occupant has an effective +2 to Temperature Tolerance (p. CI30) for resisting cold, only. A sauna also will offset up to 2 points of skill penalties for unclean conditions if medical skills are used within it; the smoke and heat act as a mild disinfectant. Saunas are particularly effective for treating lice and other parasites that routinely plague soldiers.

The State and People

The Finns enjoyed a considerably looser command structure than their Soviet counterparts, who were often prodded into suicidal "human wave" charges by callous commissars. Few such political agents lurked behind the Finnish lines, and they had so few men that they neither needed a cumbersome, unfeeling bureaucracy to manage them nor could afford to squander them within the Soviet meat-grinder style of warfare.

Finnish junior commanders may not have been able to get the supplies to do the job appropriately, but they did have the initiative and the leeway to find new ways to do their jobs.

Most civilian Finns had a similar relationship with their government. It may not have provided that much aid in

getting through the dark days of war, but neither did it place an unreal burden upon them, either.

There were exceptions. In the Winter War, the Finns employed a scorched-earth policy in front of the Soviets, requiring many civilians living near the border to stand by and watch their homes burn down. For the most part, this was forgiven by the impacted civilians as a necessary evil.

The Valpo (p. 27) also kept an eye on the civilian populations, looking for potential traitors toward Finland's cause. Before the war, many Finns leaned toward socialism – or even out-and-out Soviet-style Communism – but had become passionate patriots when the Winter War began. When and if they came to Valpo's attention, however, they sometimes had a hard time making themselves believed. As mentioned on p. 27, even an apolitical civilian could get into serious trouble for showing mercy toward a former neighbor now wearing a Russian uniform.

While Karelia was controlled by Finland, some of the Russian population was interned in concentration camps.

DANCES WITH REINDEER

A very different sort of campaign could plop the PCs into the Finnish portion of Lapland, essentially that part of the country above the Arctic Circle. They could be Finn or Soviet deserters (or good soldiers who are well and truly lost), Luftwaffe aviators whose aircraft iced over and crashed, or (from 1942 on) various Allied sorts torpedoed by a U-boat on their way to Murmansk.

In Lapland, they will discover a strange and wonderful place, where all the lore about the Finnish winter applies doubly, with snow covering the ground from November to May while the northern lights flicker overhead. Undulating hills and forests in the south give way to craggy hills and bogs in the north.

Various related but distinct tribes called the Saami inhabit Lapland. Most support themselves as nomadic herders, grazing reindeer and hunting. They have their own languages (p. 30), from which we borrow the word *tundra*, and they only touched upon the European Finn world in limited ways. Survival would compel the PCs to befriend any Saami they might encounter, and living this ancient lifestyle might make them truly appreciate leaving all the bloodshed behind.

The war, though, eventually came to the Saami. The Soviets treated them harshly, and frantic Germans presented a real danger in the Lapland War. Of course, Lapland is a rugged and wild place. The PCs might be able to lead their adopted family in avoiding Soviet or (from late 1944) German columns, buying them one day at a time as modern war relentlessly closes in . . .

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