THE WINTER AND CONTINUATION WARS PART 2

By
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(*revised October 2015*)

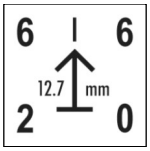
In the original article on this subject the author, Byron Henderson, did an excellent job in introducing us to the little covered Winter and Continuation Wars between Finland and the Soviet Union during the Second World War. Indeed, the only other article about these wars, at least as far as the game Panzerblitz is concerned, is "Panssari Salama" by Michael Bennighof in Issue #21 of the Grenadier magazine many years ago. But Byron's article is at best incomplete while Michael's article is strewn with inaccuracies. In addition, Michael's counters that were introduced in his article had a lot of wrong counter values, but then this is understandable as the details of the Dunnigan System was largely unknown at the time and most counter makers guessed at the values for the counters they made back then. Thus I felt the need to complete what these two gentlemen have started.

In this article I will first present all of the counters in the Finnish set with a brief history of their service in the Finnish Army. Next I will present all pertinent new Russian counters that were in the Winter and Continuation Wars as well as the early years of the war against the Germans. Next I will present new rules for some of the new counters. And last I will present the revised ten scenarios from the old Panssari Salama article.

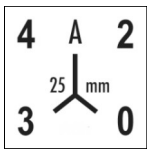
Finnish Army Counters

The following are all of the counters that one will need for the Finns in Panzerblitz. Not only are the counter values listed but also a brief description or history of the unit in question.

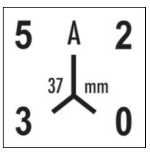
The Artillery



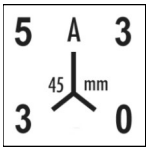
12.7mm MG (6-I-6-2-0): Like the Russians, the Finns had a heavy machine unit devoted to anti-aircraft defense through out both wars. Although they primarily used 7.62mm machine guns in the unit, they would frequently substitute the superior Russian 12.7mm machine gun in these units when they captured them.



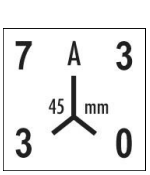
25mm ATG (4-A-2-3-0): This is the French 25mm anti-tank gun. About 40 were purchased and delivered during the Winter War and 200 more were bought and delivered during the Interim Peace. Used until 1942 when it was replaced by more powerful designs.



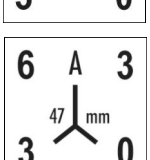
37mm ATG (5-A-2-3-0): This is the Swedish 37mm anti-tank gun. The Finns originally bought about 48 of them before the war, then purchased and received 66 more during the Winter War. After that war they received a license to produce it themselves and as a result manufactured over 350 during Interim Peace. This counter also represents the German and Polish 37mm anti-tank guns of which Finland purchased 200 and 10 respectively from the Germans during the Interim Peace. This was the most numerous anti-tank gun in the Finnish Army during the early Continuation War. The Swedish and Polish versions were removed from front-line service in 1942 but the German version soldiered on until the end of the Continuation War.



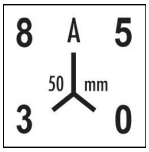
45mm ATG (5-A-3-3-0): This was the early war version of the Russian 45mm anti-tank gun. The Finns captured about 125 of these during the Winter War and they were incorporated into the Finnish Army during the Interim Peace. About 400 more were captured in the first year of the Continuation War and an additional 175 more were captured in the fighting in 1944, making it the most numerous anti-tank gun in Finnish service ever. It served in the Finnish Army until the late 1940s.



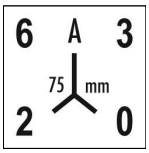
45mm ATG (7-A-3-3-0): This is the regular Russian 45mm anti-tank gun found in Panzerblitz. This gun was a rarity on the Finnish front. The Finns captured two them in 1943 and then dozens more in the fighting in 1944, quickly using them to replace the losses of the older versions in the final battles of the war. It served in the Finnish Army until the late 1940s.



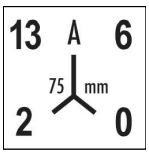
47mm ATG (6-A-3-3-0): The Finns bought ten of these guns from the Swiss and twelve of them from the Italians during the Winter War but they were not delivered until the Interim Peace. Both of these versions were licensed copies of the original Austrian 47mm ATG. The Finns also tried to buy the French version of this gun, but the French were unwilling to part with any of theirs prior to the Battle of France and the Germans would not sell any captured models of this gun as they were using it themselves. They served during the first year of the Continuation War until replaced by the 50mm ATG.



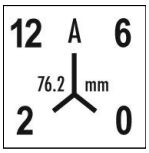
50mm ATG (8-A-5-3-0): This is the German 50mm anti-tank gun of which the Finns bought 27 of these in early 1942. It served in the Finnish Army until the end of the Continuation War.



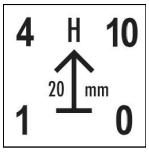
75mm ATG (6-A-3-2-0): These were the French 75mm field gun converted to an anti-tank role. The Finns bought 46 of these from the Germans in early 1943. They were used until the end of the war.



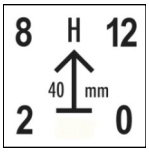
75mm ATG (13-A-6-2-0): This is the German 75mm anti-tank gun. The Finns bought 130 of these guns in 1943 and then 80 more during the fighting in 1944 to replace losses. 60 of these guns were lost in the fighting in 1944 but they more than caused their share of Russian tank losses during that time. It served in the Finnish Army until the early 1960s when it was replaced by the modern recoilless anti-tank guns.



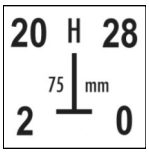
76.2mm ATG (12-A-6-2-0): These were the Russian 76.2mm dual-purpose anti-tank/field guns of Panzerblitz fame. The Finns captured many of these guns during the Winter War and the early years of the Continuation War but preferred to use them as artillery. However during the fighting in 1944 the Finns hastily converted several batteries of these guns to an anti-tank role to replace losses of the 75mm ATG. The Finns had replaced the Russian optics with Swedish optics which gave these guns a 20% increase in their maximum effective range over their Russian counterparts.



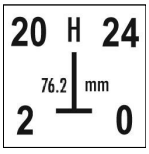
20mm AA (4-H-10-1-0): These are the 20mm anti-aircraft guns of Swiss, Danish, Italian, German and Finnish manufacture. Finland started the Winter War with only 30 of these guns, received 68 more during the Winter War, bought 40 more during the Interim Peace, bought 98 more during the Continuation War, and manufactured about 170 themselves. These guns served for many years after the war, the last being retired in the 1970s.



40mm AA (8-H-12-2-0): These were the famed Swedish 40mm anti-aircraft guns. The Finns started the Winter War with only 53 of them. During that war the Finns received 48 more from Sweden and bought 36 from Hungary. During the Interim Peace they bought 92 captured Dutch versions from the Germans. In 1941 the Finns received a license to manufacture the 40mm themselves and so made about 77 of them during the Continuation War. (The Finns also had bought four 37mm anti-aircraft guns from Germany during the Continuation War and captured a number of 37mm guns from the Russians in both wars but these were used to defend airfields and so will not receive a counter for them.)

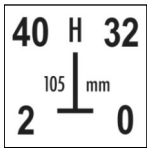


75mm How (20-H-28-2-0): These are various 75mm guns and howitzers used in an indirect fire role. They were of French, Swedish, and American manufacture and all were World War One designs. Only twelve were available at the start of the Winter War, 48 more arrived during the war, and 248 arrived during the Interim Peace. The French ones were sent to Germany in 1943 to be converted to anti-tank version listed above. These guns were placed in reserve after the war and gradually retired over the years, the last ones in the early 1990s.

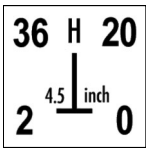


76.2mm How (20-H-24-2-0): These are various Russian 76.2mm guns, most of which dated from the First World War, used in an indirect fire role. The Finns started the Winter War with 206 of them, captured about 120 more during the Winter War, bought 54 more captured Polish ones from the German during the Interim Peace, and captured 101 more during the Continuation War. 86 of those guns captured in both wars were the modern 76.2mm dual-purpose anti-tank/field guns of Panzerblitz fame. Like the 75mm, these guns were placed in reserve after the war and gradually retired over the years, the last ones in the early 1990s.

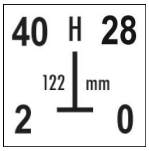
18 Pdr How (26-H-30-2-0): The Finns bought 30 of these from the British during the Winter War but they arrived too late to see action during that war. They were used in the Continuation War and for some years thereafter until they were retired in the early 1960s.



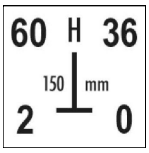
105mm How (40-H-32-2-0): These are various 105mm (and in one case 107mm) guns and howitzers of German, Swedish, Polish, French, and Czech design used in an indirect fire role. The Finns started the Winter War with ten 105mm guns. Sixteen more arrived from Sweden during the Winter War. 62 more were arrived from Sweden and Germany during the Interim Peace. During the Continuation War the Finns received a total of 81 modern 105mm howitzers (of Panzerblitz fame) from Germany. Also during the war Finland received a license to manufacture the Swedish version of the 105mm howitzer of which they produce 140 by the war's end. The World War One designs were retired after the war ended but the modern ones soldiered on into the 1980s in the Finnish Army.



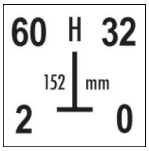
4.5 Inch How (36-H-20-2-0): 24 of these were donated by Great Britain during the Winter War and 30 more were purchased from Spain but did not arrive until the Interim Peace. 18 of these howitzers were mounted on the BT-42 assault gun. These guns remained in the Finnish Army until the early 1960s when they were retired.



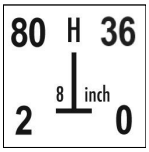
122mm How (40-H-28-2-0): These are various 122mm (and in one case 120mm) guns and howitzers of Russian, French, and Belgium design, mostly from the First World War used in an indirect fire role. The Finns started the Winter War with 82 guns and howitzers and captured 36 more during that war. During the Continuation War the Finns captured 186 more, including 41 modern howitzers (of Panzerblitz fame). Most of guns and howitzers that survived the war were used until the late 1950s, although the modern ones soldiered on into the 1980s.



150mm How (60-H-36-2-0): These are various 150mm guns and howitzers of Swedish, Japanese, Austrian, and German design, mostly from the First World War used in an indirect fire role. The Finns started the Winter War with 12 howitzers and received 12 more during the war from Sweden. During the Interim Peace they bought and received 68 more howitzers from Germany, including 48 modern ones (of Panzerblitz fame). After the Continuation War the older ones were scrapped but the modern German ones lasted in the Finnish Army until the early 2000s.



152mm How (60-H-32-2-0): These are various 152mm guns and howitzers (and in two cases 155mm) of Russian and French design, mostly from the First World War. The Finns started the Winter War with 21 howitzers and captured 14 more during that war. 24 more were bought from the French but did not arrive until the Interim Peace. During the Continuation War the Finns captured 162 more guns and howitzers (of which 82 were the more modern designs) and bought from Germany 262 more guns and howitzers which they had captured themselves from France and Russia (of which 84 were the more modern designs). Most of these that survived the war soldiered on into the 1980s (although the old French designs were scrapped after the war), but the more modern Russian designs (of Panzerblitz fame) were in service until the early 2000s.



8 inch How (80-H-36-2-0): These represent the 36 super heavy howitzers in Finnish service during the Second World War. During the Winter War the Finns bought 32 British 8 inch howitzers, along with 10,000 rounds of ammunition, from the Americans (who had used this weapon in the First World War) but these did not arrive until the Interim Peace. They also bought four 210mm howitzers from Sweden during this time. The guns arrived during the war but the ammunition for them did not arrive until after the war was over. All of these howitzers were used in the Continuation War. After the War these howitzers continued to serve in the Finnish Army until the 1960s.

81mm/82mm Mtr (3-M-12-3-0): At the beginning of the Winter War the Finns had over 900 81mm mortars of Finnish, Swedish, French, and Polish design, all modern. The 81mm mortar was the preferred mortar of use in the Finnish Army during both wars. The Finns captured 63 Russian 82mm Mortars during the Winter War and 415 more during the Continuation War but only issued them to Finnish units that had lost their original 81mm mortars. Since the Finns lost about 109 medium mortars combined in both war, this would be how many captured Russian mortars were used. Most of the surviving mortar after the Second World War served in the Finnish Army into the 1980s when they were scrapped and replaced by newer models.

120mm Mtr (12-M-20-2-0): None were used in the Winter War as the Finns had none and the Russians were only just beginning to issue them to their front line units at this time. During the Interim Peace the Finns started to manufacture their own licensed version of the Russian 120mm Mortar and about 100 were delivered during the Continuation War. During the Continuation War the Finns captured about 200 120mm mortars from the Russians and in 1943 bought 50 more captured ones from the Germans. The 120mm mortar continued in Finnish service to this day as the Finns continue to manufacture the mortar (in more modern versions).

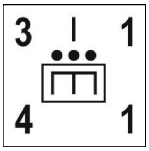
Note 1: While the scarcity of ammunition for Finnish artillery during the Winter War was a common problem, another common problem was that due to the multiple types of guns and howitzers of the same caliber in the Finnish Army. Artillery units would receive re-supplies of ammunition that though being of the right caliber, was for a different gun than what the particular unit was equipped with, thus being unusable. During the Interim Peace the Finnish Army vastly improved its logistics system to correct this and this problem rarely, if ever, occurred during the Continuation War.

Note 2: During the Interim Peace the Finns sought to create and maintain a large stockpile of ammunition for their army. They were pretty successful for most of the weapons in their inventory. The major problem was the weapons of Russian manufacture. The Russians were not selling any ammunition to the Finns for their captured weapons and captured wartime stocks would run out quickly in any future war. However the Finns found a source of Russian ammunition in of all places, Fascist Spain. During the Spanish Civil War the Russians supported the Republican side and when they were defeated, pulled out of Spain leaving behind tons of ammunition for the Russian weapons that the Republicans used. The victorious Fascists had no use for this ammunition and were looking for a buyer for it. Along came the Finns who bought the whole lot. This helped to create a large stockpile for the Russian artillery in the Finnish Army which when supplemented by new captured stockpiles in the Continuation War, and the sale of captured stockpiles by

the German to the Finns, lasted through out that war and even beyond that.

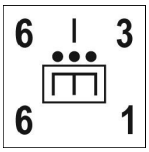
Note 3: The 76.2mm How, 122mm How, and 152mm How counters are really averaging counters as the counter values really reflect the average value of these classes of artillery as there are several different types represented by the each counter. The range values are a little longer than those of the respective Russian counterparts because some of the pieces represented are actually guns and not howitzers. These counters also have a defense factor of two instead of one because the Finns followed Western artillery doctrines and spread the individual guns in the batteries further apart than did the Russians in order to prevent more than one gun being knocked out from a direct hit on the battery. (The Russians tended to set up their guns closer to each other, thereby increasing the chances of more than one gun being knocked out be a direct hit.)

The Infantry

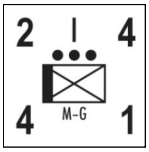


Engineer (3-I-1-4-1): These are the standard engineer counters for the period 1939-40.

Engineer (4-I-1-4-1): These are the standard engineer counters for the period 1941 to May 1944. The increase in the attack factors reflect three things; an increase in the number of submachine guns in the platoon, a standardization of anti-tank training in the platoon, and the inclusion of the 20mm Anti-Tank Rifle in its T.O.&E.



Engineer (6-I-3-6-1): These are the standard engineer counters for the period starting June 1944. The increase in attack factor reflects the inclusion of the Panzerfaust and Panzerschreck in its T.O.&E., the increase in the range reflects the increase of more light machine guns in the platoon, and the increase in defense factor reflects the increase in the number of personnel in the platoon.



Machine Gun (2-I-4-4-1): This is the standard machine gun platoon. Each infantry battalion had a company of three of these units which were normally used in support of the line companies to the tune of one platoon per company.

Rifle (1-I-2-8-1) These are the standard infantry platoons for the period 1939-40.

Ski (1-I-2-8-3): These are the standard ski unit versions of the infantry platoons for the period 1939-40. Through out the war, all infantry platoons were trained with skis and used them during the winter months.

Rifle (3-I-4-8-1): These are the standard infantry platoons for the period 1941to May 1944. Like the Engineers above their increases reflect an increase in the number automatic weapons in the platoon, a standardization of anti-tank training within the platoons, and the inclusion of the 20mm Anti-Tank Rifle in the T.O.&E..

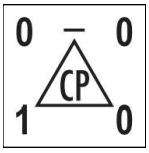
Ski (3-I-4-8-3): These are the standard ski unit versions of the infantry platoons for the period 1941to May 1944.

Rifle (4-I-3-8-1): These are the standard infantry platoon for the period June 1944 to the end of the war. Again the increase in the attack factor reflects the inclusion of the Panzerfaust and Panzerschreck in the T.O.&E..

Ski (4-I-3-8-3): These are the standard ski unit versions of the infantry platoons starting in June 1944. As the war was over for Finland by September 1944, these units are for DYO hypothetical scenarios for if the war lasted into 1945.

Sissi (2-I-2-8-1): These are the special Sissi units of the early war period from 1939-41. By 1942 most Sissi units had been absorbed into the regular infantry units as reconnaissance troops and those that were left were mostly used to hunt down Russian guerillas that raided across the border during the rest of the war.

Sissi (Ski) (2-I-2-8-3): These are the ski unit versions of the Sissi units.



CP (0- -0-1-0): The standard CP unit used through out both wars.

Cavalry (2-I-2-2-3): The standard cavalry platoon for the period 1939-40. Finland had a cavalry brigade of two regiments through out the war. Like most cavalry of the day, they rode mounted but fought dismounted.

Cavalry (3-I-2-2-3): The standard cavalry platoon for the period 1941-May 1944. Like the infantry and engineers above, they received more submachine guns, standardized anti-tank training, and the 20mm Anti-Tank Rifle in their T.O.&E.

Cavalry (4-I-2-2-3): The standard cavalry platoon for the period June 1944 to the end of the war. Again like the other infantry units above they received the Panzerfaust and Panzerschreck into their T.O.&E..

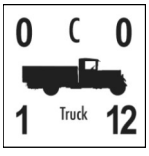
Note 1: The Finns had a SMG platoon which had 30 SMG armed soldiers. However it had the same number of anti-tank weapons and machine guns (both light and medium) as a Rifle platoon, thus giving it the same counter values as Rifle platoon counter of the appropriate time period. Therefore there is no SMG platoon for the Finns as the Rifle platoon represents it well enough in Panzerblitz.

The Vehicles

Wagon (0-C-0-1-3): The standard wagon unit for the war.

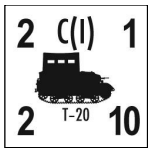
Sled (0-C-0-1-3): Also known as sledges, these units largely took over the role of wagons in the winter months. Indeed, many wagons were converted to sleds during the winter and back to wagons in the spring.

Limber (0-C-0-1-3): Special wagon units for towing artillery units. All armies with horse drawn artillery had them.



Truck (0-C-0-1-12): Standard truck unit for the war. The Finns used many different models.

Aerosan (2-C(I)-2-2-12): This is a generic counter for Finnish aerosans. The Finns used many different models, usually requisitioned from civilian sources and never had a specifically designed one for military use.



T-20 (2-C(I)-2-2-10): These were the Russian Komsomolyets prime movers. They were basically used for towing small artillery pieces. The Finns captured several hundred of them during the Winter War and restored over 200 of them to operating condition which they used in the Continuation War but by 1944 only 87 of them were still working. They lost 25 of them during the fighting in 1944.

Sd Kfz 8 (0-C-0-1-10): These actually represent the Sd Kfz 7 halftrack (which has the same counter factors as the Sd Kfz 8) The Finns bought several dozen of these vehicles and used them to tow the German 105mm and 150mm howitzers in their service.

BA-10 AC (2-I-4-2-12): This counter represents all of the machine gun armed armored cars that the Finns had in service in both wars. The Finns had only one armored car in service during the Winter War, which was a Swedish model. The Finns captured about fifteen Russian armored cars of all types during the Winter War and a few dozen more during the first year of the Continuation War, but do not have an accurate number as to the total number of cars used. Armored cars of all types were placed in five-car recon platoons that were directly under the headquarters of tank battalions and selected brigades, regiments and divisions during the Continuation War. Most were scrapped after the Continuation War and the rest were placed in museums.

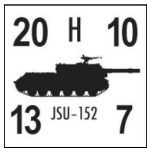
BA-32a AC (5-A-3-2-12): This counter represents all of the gun-armed armored cars in Finnish service. A few had the 37mm gun but the majority had the 45mm gun mounted in a turret. Finnish armored car crews preferred the gun armed cars over the machine gun armed cars.

Bicycle (2-I-2-2-2): This is a unique reconnaissance unit that was used by the Jaeger units who were equipped with bicycles during the warm weather months. Each Jaeger unit had a platoon of them in their T.O.&E.. (Designed by Greg Moore)

Landwerk (10-H-10-4-8): This is a Swedish self-propelled anti-aircraft vehicle mounting the famous Bofors 40mm AA gun in a rotating turret. The Finns bought six of these vehicles from Sweden in 1942 and placed them in a self-propelled AA battery in their Tank Division.

BT-42 (10-H-8-5-13): These were the Finnish home-made assault guns, mounting a 4.5 inch howitzer in a locally produced turret on top of the hull of the BT-7 tank. 18 of these were constructed in 1942 and placed in the separate armored company in the Tank Division (which was later renamed the assault gun battalion when the Finns had enough tanks to make a proper separate tank company). While the BT-42 was good against dismounted type targets, it was a failure against armored vehicles and eight of them were lost in combat in 1944. The Finns scrapped most of the surviving vehicles after the war with a few being saved for museums.

OT-133 (30-H-1-5-6): These are the Russian OT-130 and OT-133 flame tanks in Finnish service. About eight of these two vehicles were captured during the Winter War. Four were converted to T-26c tanks, but the other four remained in service as flame tanks, at least through 1941. They were placed in the tank battalions of the Tank Division in 1942 but sources differ as to whether they were still flame tanks or converted back to T-26 tanks. In any event they were scrapped after the end of the war with one flame tank being put into a museum.



JSU-152 (20-H-10-13-7): This is the Russian JSU-152 of Panzerblitz fame in a five vehicle platoon. The Finns captured several of these vehicles in 1944, including one virtually intact as they found its Russian crew asleep when they captured it. However they were only able to evacuate two of them to the rear, the rest were subsequently recaptured by the Russians. One was immediately placed into Finnish service and lost in less than a week in combat. The other was under repair when the war ended and was converted to a tank recovery vehicle. It served in the Finnish Army into the 1960s and when it was retired, was reconverted back into an assault gun and placed in a tank museum. This counter is for hypothetical DYO scenarios based on if the Continuation War lasted into 1945.

Stug IIIg (12-A-8-12-8): This is the German Stug IIIg of Panzerblitz fame in Finnish service. The Finns called it the St-40g. 18 of these vehicles were purchased in 1943 and placed in the tank destroyer battalion of the Tank Division. Eight were lost in the fighting in 1944 and the Finns purchased 20 more that year, ending the war with a total of 30 of them. They served well into the 1960s in the Finnish Army when they were retired.

FT-17 (3-A-2-4-2): These were the French FT-17 tanks from the First World War. The Finns purchased 32 of them in 1919 and then bought two more in the 1920s for a total of 34. These were organized into three ten-tank companies (Labeled Tank Companies 1, 2, and 3). By 1939 they were obsolete and during the Winter War some were used as immobile gun emplacements in the Mannerheim Line in dug in positions. Most survived the Winter War and found useful employment in towing captured Russian vehicles to the rear. But by 1943 only four them were left when they were retired from Finnish service.

Vickers 6 Ton Tank (3-A-2-5-6): These tanks were purchased from the British in 1936. 32 of them were ordered without armament or radios to reduce the cost. 26 of them had arrived by the beginning of the Winter War and the rest arrived during that war. None were ready at the beginning of the war and they were quickly armed with the 37mm gun from selected FT-17 tanks in Finnish service. Thirteen were ready by February of 1940 and placed in the 4th Tank Company. They fought their only action of the war that month and eight of them were lost (though two of these were recovered). During the Interim Peace the surviving 26 vehicles were converted into the T-26E tank.

T-26c (5-A-3-5-6): This is the Russian T-26c tank in Finnish service. The Russians lost over two thousand T-26a, b, and c models during the Winter War. The Finns recovered over a thousand of these wrecks. During the Interim Peace the Finns restored about a hundred T-26b and c models to working condition, scrapping the rest. More were captured during the Continuation War but those restored to working condition were used to replace losses during the war. By 1944 there were still 87 T-26's in Finnish service (mostly c models by now) and 25 of these were lost during the fighting that year. After the war the T-26 was largely retired with a few serving as training vehicles into the early 1960s.

T-26E (5-A-3-5-6): These tanks were converted Vickers 6 Ton tanks. The conversion was handled by replacing the original 37mm gun with a 45mm gun from a T-26c tank (which wasn't that hard as the Finns were scrapping hundreds of them). This made these tanks now equivalent to the T-26c. 26 were used during the Continuation War and seven were lost during the fighting in 1944. The remaining 19 were removed from front line service after the war and used as training vehicles after the war into the 1960s.

T-38 (2-I-3-3-8): These were the Russian T-37 and T-38 light amphibious tanks in Finnish service. About a hundred were lost by the Russians in the Winter War and the Finns recovered most of them. During the Interim Peace about 42 were restored to operating condition. Were mostly used as recon tanks in the Continuation War by the tank battalions and various higher level commands but by late war were being used up in northern Finland were they could operate in the terrain up there whereas the heavier tanks could not. They were largely retired after war with a few being used as training vehicles into the 1960s.

BT-5 (5-A-3-5-13): These represent various Russian BT-2, BT-5, and BT-7s in Finnish service. The Russians lost several hundred of these vehicles during the Winter War and the Finns recovered most of them. During the Interim Peace the Finns restored one BT-2, two BT-5s, and one BT-7 to operating condition and put them through many field tests to see if they were suitable for the Finnish Army. Although they found them very fast, their thin armor, high fuel consumption, and tendency to break down a lot made their service in the army doubtful. Still the Finns made a platoon of two BT-5s and three BT-7s and sent them into their only combat test in late 1941 against the Russians. Of these two broke down and the other three were quickly knocked out. After that failed test the Finns decided to scrap the rest of the BT vehicles they had in stock although they saved the hulls of 18 BT-7s for conversion to the BT-42 assault gun.

T-28e (6-H-6-7-10): These represent the Russian T-28e in Finnish service. The Russians lost 200 T-28 tanks in the Winter War but the Finns were only able to recover about a dozen of them (the Russians recovered the rest). During the Interim Peace the Finns were able to repair two back to operating condition. During the Continuation War the Finns captured five more, four in 1941 and one in 1942, and were able to repair all of them back into service so they ended up with a total of seven. All survived the war and remained in Finnish service until the early 1950s when they were retired and either sent to museums or set up as war memorials.

T-34c (12-A-6-9-11): These represent the T-34c tank in Finnish service. The Finns captured two T-34s in 1941 (one A and one B model) then one T-34c each in 1942 and 1943 respectively. All were repaired back to operating condition. In early 1944 the Finns bought three operational T-34's from the Germans so they had a total of seven by the summer of 1944. During the fighting in 1944 the Finns captured two more T-34's but did not repair them until after the war, so in the end they had nine altogether. All served in the Finnish Army until the early 1960s, although the A and B models were retired in the mid 1950s.

T-34/85 (15-A-8-10-11): These represent the T-34/85 in Finnish service. The Finns captured nine of these tanks during the fighting in 1944, repairing seven of them by the end of the war and the other two after the war's end. All served in the Finnish Army after the war but were gradually retired one by one through the 1950s with the last one being retired in 1961.

PzKw IVh (14-A-8-8-8): These represent the PzIVh tanks in Finnish service. In August of 1944 the Finns bought 15 of these tanks (which were really the J model) and they arrived in Finland a few days before the Continuation War ended, thus they did not see any combat. They served for years in the Finnish Army until finally being retired in the late 1960s. These counters are for hypothetical DYO scenarios where the Continuation War lasted until 1945.

KV-1 (12-A-5-10-8): These represent the KV-1 tanks in Finnish service. The Finns captured two KV-1 tanks during the Continuation War, an A model in 1941 and a B model in 1942.The counter values really represent an average of four different tanks in the KV-1 platoon (and there was only one in the Finnish Army), one KV-1a, one KV-1b, one T-34a, and one T-34b. Both KV-1 tanks survived the war and lasted in Finnish service until the early 1960s when they were both retired.

Note 1: During the Continuation War the Finns also captured and put back into operation one T-50, one T-70, and two T-60 light tanks. Because of the limited number of these tanks in Finnish service, they were used as command tanks in the Tank Division and thus do not get counters.

Note 2: Of the over 3,500 tanks that the Russians lost in the Winter War, Finland recovered about 2,000 of them. Only about 10% of these were repaired and put back into operation. The rest were scrapped to establish a supply of used vehicle parts for those vehicles in operation. It is interesting to note that the Finns took most of the turrets, with their guns, from these scrapped vehicles and mounted them on the various defense lines that they built during the Interim Peace and the Continuation War and also along the coastline and in the ports for coastal defense.

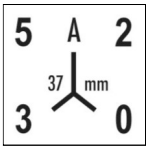
Note 3: During the Continuation War the Finns had four repair centers where wrecked armored vehicles were sent to be scrapped, repaired, or rebuilt, in addition to a maintenance company in their Tank Division. Thus their "armored corps" always had a rather high percentage of their AFV's available for combat at any time.

Note 4: While evacuating light armored vehicles to the rear was not a problem for the Finns, evacuating medium and heavy armored vehicles was. Essentially they needed another equivalent tank or assault gun to tow a captured one back to the rear. For example, during the Russian 1944 summer offensive against Finland, the Finns captured several JS-II tanks and JSU-152 assault guns but were only able to evacuate two assault guns to the rear. However the Finns were very adept at stripping what parts they could off of the captured vehicles before the Russians recaptured them and the Russians ended up with a useless vehicles that had to be sent back to depot maintenance to be rebuilt.

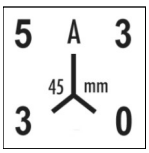
Russian Army Counters

The following counters are for the early years of the war, both against the Finns as well as against the Germans.

The Artillery



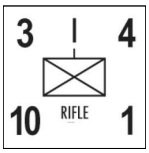
37mm ATG (5-A-2-3-0): The Russians used the Swedish designed 37mm anti-tank gun, which they manufactured under license, to supplement their limited number of 45mm anti-tank guns that they had on hand during the Winter War. This gun continued in service into 1941 in ever declining numbers as the production of the 45mm increased.



45mm ATG (5-A-3-3-0): This is the early version of the 45mm anti-tank gun. Although it was initially designed in the early 1930s, priority in production went to the tank mounted version of it during the 1930s to equip Russia's ever expanding tank force and not many 45mm anti-tank guns were manufactured during this time period. Starting in 1940 production of the anti-tank gun increased as the Russians switched over to the 76.2mm gun for their new medium tank designs that were coming out. This gun was in service throughout the war although by mid 1942 it started to be replaced by the longer barreled version (of Panzerblitz fame) in the front lines and mostly appeared in back water areas after that. On the Finnish front the older 45mm did not start to be replaced until mid 1943 as the Russians considered it adequate to deal with the tanks the Finns had up to that time.

The Infantry

Rifle (3-I-4-8-1): This is the original Russian rifle company of the early part of the war from 1939-40. Its attack factor reflects that it had little, if any, anti-tank training and it defense factors reflects the relatively low morale and cohesion it had under combat conditions.



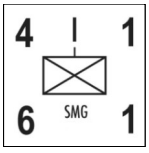
Rifle (3-I-4-10-1): This is the Russian rifle company from 1941. As one can see things had not improved much since the Winter War, although defensively it did get a little better.

Rifle (4-I-4-12-1): This is the Russian rifle company from 1942. The attack factor reflects the inclusion of standardized anti-tank training and the initial inclusion of the 14.5mm anti-tank rifle in the infantry. The increase in the defense factor reflects the continued improvement in the unit's cohesion in combat and also the increased numbers of men that the anti-tank rifle gunners provided to the unit.

Guards (5-I-5-13-1): This is the original Guards rifle company from late 1941 through 1942. Like the regular rifle company above, its attack and defense factors reflect the same improvements plus the additional men and weapons that the Guards always got over the regular troops.

Ski (3-I-4-4-3): These units are the original ski companies that the Russians created during the Winter War. They were really no more effective than the regular Rifle companies of the time. Their low defense factors come from the fact that they were equipped with skis that had the ski boot permanently attached to the ski, thus requiring them to stop and switch to regular combat boots, which they carried with them, when they wanted to engage in close combat. These skis also made it hard, if not impossible, to get into covering terrain and to fire their weapons accurately when prone. Not only that, their lack of winter camouflage clothing made them stand out in their brown uniforms against a snowy background, thus making them easy targets for spot and engage. They were only used during the Winter War.

Ski (4-I-4-12-3): These units are the first really competent ski companies that the Russians had during the war. These first appeared in the winter of 1941-42 and are used in scenarios during the winter months during the rest of the war. They are essentially ski troop versions of the 1942 rifle companies.



SMG (4-I-1-6-1): These units are the original SMG companies from 1940. These were experimental units formed for the final Russian offensives against the Finns during the Winter War and were considered to be successful, leading to the formal establishment of the permanent SMG company in the Soviet Army the following year.

SMG (6-I-1-10-1): This is the SMG company from 1941-42. The first SMG units were formed in the summer of 1941 and were considered somewhat elite (though not as elite as the Guards) and thus also had a larger share of the anti-tank rifles assigned to them during this period than what the regular rifle units received, hence their larger attack factor.

Cavalry (8-I-3-8-3): These units are the cavalry units from 1939-41. The Russian cavalry was always considered elite and thus their cavalry platoons would rate an attack factor of two. Since there are four platoons in a squadron (which is what a cavalry counter represents) the attack factor is eight. The same applies to the defense factor, as all mounted platoons rate a defense factor of two, the squadron thus rates a defense factor of eight.

Note 1: The relative increase in the attack values of the various infantry and cavalry units over the years comes mainly from the increase of anti-tank weapons in the Russian formations. Starting off with next to nothing at the beginning of the war, the increase started in September 1941 when the 14.5mm anti-tank rifle was introduced into service. By 1942 the infantry had also received both an anti-tank hand grenade and an anti-tank rifle grenade. While the Russians never had anything comparable to the Bazooka, Piat, or Panzerschreck (the first of the RPG rocket grenade launchers would not come until the late 1940s), they did use captured Panzerfausts in the last year of the war. It is interesting to note that the number of anti-tank rifles in the infantry rose from one platoon per battalion in 1942 to one company per battalion in 1943 plus more at the brigade or regimental level.

Note 2: The Russian Ski companies of the Winter War were considered to be abject failures. Besides the problem with the skis mentioned above, another problem was that they were recruited from the local population, many of whom had relatives across the border in Finland and who were not too keen on fighting against their own kin. Thus in Panssari Salama the Russian Ski platoons of the Winter War have special rules mentioned later in this article that approximates their historical performance.

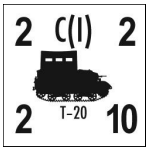
The Vehicles

Limber (0-C-0-1-3): Like most other countries, the Russians used limbers for much of their artillery in the infantry brigades and battalions.

Sled (0-C-0-1-3): Like the Finns, the Russians used sleds in the far northern regions in areas where there were no roads.

Tractor (0-C-0-1-4): The Russians manufactured various models of towing tractors for their heavy artillery pieces.

ZIS-42 (0-C-0-1-12): This vehicle was Russia's one and only native produced halftrack during the war. It entered service in 1942 in limited numbers. While it could keep up with the tanks cross-country, it was un-armored and thus very vulnerable to any type of fire. Once the Russians started receiving Brens, M-3 Scout Cars, and M-5 Halftracks through Lend-Lease, the ZIS-42 was reduced to towing artillery pieces for the rest of the war. Note that since the ZIS-42 is not an armored target, it is not replaced with a wreck counter when it is destroyed.



T-20 (2-C(I)-1-2-10): This is the Komsomolets prime movers in Russian service. It served in that capacity throughout the war.

NKL-6 Aerosan (0-C-0-2-17): This is the original Russian aerosan employed during the Winter War. It was un-armored. It served throughout the war.

NKL-6a Aerosan (2-C(I)-2-2-17): This was the modified NKL-6 with a 7.62mm machine gun mounted on top of the vehicle. It was introduced in the last month of the Winter War and served to the end of the Second World War. Contrary to what Michael Bennighof says, this vehicle was never armored.

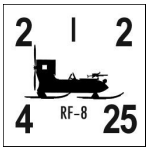
NKL-16 Aerosan (0-C-0-3-12): This is the NKL-16 aerosan which was introduced in 1941. It served throughout the rest of the war.

NKL-26 Aersoan (2-C(I)-2-4-15): This was the NKL-26 special assault aerosan that was introduced in early 1942. It was lightly armored and served throughout the war.

ASD-400 Aerosan (0-C-0-2-26): This was the ASD-400 large transport aerosan that was introduced in late 1942. It was lightly armored and could carry a platoon of infantry. Only a few dozen were ever made.

Motorcycle (3-I-2-4-12): This was the standard reconnaissance motorcycle company from 1939-41.

Motorcycle (4-I-2-4-12): This was the standard reconnaissance motorcycle company from 1942.



RF-8 Aerosan (2-I-2-4-25): This was a reconnaissance version of the aerosan introduced in early 1942. It was lightly armored and used throughout the war.

T-38 (2-I-3-3-8): This counter represents not only the T-38 but also the earlier T-37 light tanks. These were light, machine gun armed, amphibious tanks that the Russians built in the 1930s and used in the Winter War. About a total of 4,000 of these tanks were made.

T-38M2 (2-H-4-3-8): This was an experimental 20mm gun armed model of the T-38 tank. None were ever manufactured, all were simply upgrades of existing T-38's. Only a few dozen were converted and used in the Winter War.

T-40 (2-I-2-3-9): The T-40 was a light, machine gun armed, amphibious tank and the successor to the T-38. Only about 220 were made in 1941 before production was terminated in favor of the cheaper T-60 light tank.

T-46 (5-A-3-4-11): The T-46 was an experimental light tank which was an improved faster version of the T-26. About seventy of these tanks were produced in 1939-40 and combat tested in the final months of the Winter War. The tank was deemed a failure and withdrawn from service after the end of the Winter War.

T-50 (5-A-3-7-11): The T-50 was an experimental light tank with advanced features. Only 69 were produced in 1941 and placed in one tank brigade that fought against the Finns. While the tank had a lot of good points, it was difficult to mass produce and was terminated in favor of the cheaper T-70 light tank by the end of 1941.

T-100 (10-H-6-12-6): The T-100, and the similar SMK tank, was an experimental heavy tank which mounted a 76.2mm gun in an upper turret and a 45mm gun in a lower turret. Only a handful of these tanks were produced and combat tested in the final months of the Winter War. They were both deemed failures and after the war were terminated in favor of the KV-1 tanks that were just entering production.

Note 1: The Russians were prolific users of the Aerosan and during the winter months would form dozens of Aerosan battalions to support the various Fronts. However they correctly viewed the aerosan as a support and not a tactical vehicle as the aerosan was very vulnerable to all forms of fire, even the armored ones. The only tactical use that the aerosan saw was in the far north where it was used as a recon vehicle to patrol along and behind the front lines. Contrary to popular history, the Russian Army did not mount whole armies in aerosans and use them in the attack as Micheal Bennighof would have us believe.

Note 2: There is now some doubt that the T-35 heavy tank was ever used in the Winter War. All of the old sources stating that it was used came from the Finns and it is possible that they misidentified the experimental T-100/SMK heavy tanks used in the final battles as T-35's. Recent Russian sources state that all of the T-35 tanks in the Russian Army were kept near Moscow during the Winter War and did not first enter combat until 1941 against the Germans.

The Rules

The following rules were introduced by Micheal Bennighof in his article Panssari Salama but there was not much detail to them. I have clarified and expanded the rules somewhat, partly to make them more clear in most situations and also to make them compatible with Ward McBurney's new mapsheets. In addition, I am introducing rules for a new Finnish counter from Greg Moore's website and for the inclusion of early war Russian infantry and cavalry units in established scenarios that occur earlier in the war.

Winter Movement

(The following rules apply only to winter conditions in the far northern latitudes such as those where Finland located and should not be construed to apply to winter conditions everywhere else. Special winter units a listed separately in their own sections.)

1. For scenarios occurring during the winter months the movement factors of all vehicular units (including cavalry) are reduced to 2/3 of their printed values (all fractions rounded down). This accounts for the effects that deep snow and icy conditions have in slowing down movement in the winter.
2. Trucks, wagons, and limbers may only move along roads or enter town hexes. They may not perform the "passing maneuver" to go around units on a road but may stack with other units on a road and then on a later turn move off the stack using road movement.

3. Infantry units may only move one hex per turn regardless of the terrain (i.e. they may not use the road movement rate on roads).
4. Pond, River, and Swamp Hexes are considered to be frozen over. Dismounted infantry units may move through these hexes at the rate of one hex per turn. However, all attacks against dismounted infantry units on these hexes has a minus one (-1) die roll modifier in addition to any other applicable modifiers (this accounts for the chance of breaking up the ice, causing the troops to fall into water).
5. Wheatfields are not in effect during winter months and should be considered to be Clear terrain. Unimproved roads are also not in effect during winter months but any bridges that they cross are still in effect and any green hex-sides that they cross may still be traversed a vehicular unit.

Ski Troops

1. Ski Troops are special infantry units with a movement value of three but may only be in scenarios that occur during the winter months.
2. Ski Troops are not subject to any winter movement modifications. Instead they may enter most types of hexes at a cost of one movement factor (1 MF). However to leave a gulley or streambed costs them 2 MF. To enter a slope hex from either a hilltop or a hilltop/slope hex costs them 1 MF but from any other type of hex of equal or lesser elevation costs them 2 MF. Ski Troop units may not move along roads at the road movement rate, instead they must use movement rate of the surrounding terrain of the hex the road is in (in most cases this would be 1 MF, including crossing a River at a Bridge). A Ski unit may cross green hexsides.
3. A Ski unit may enter Pond, River, and Swamp hexes at the rate of 1 MF per hex. However they are subject to the same negative die roll modifier as dismounted infantry if they are attacked in any of these hexes.
4. A Ski unit may not perform an Overrun Attack. A Ski unit may perform a Close Assault Attack providing they did not move more than one hex in the turn that they made that type of attack.
5. A Ski unit may be transported by a carrier unit just like any other infantry unit. However any non-halftrack armored unit carrying ski troops may not use the road movement rate when moving along roads or moving through towns (in this case a Town or Bridge hex would cost 1 MF). (Trucks and wagons would normally carry the ski troops inside, the troops having removed their skis and placed them on the floor while in transit. Halftracks could too but it would be a little cramped inside. Other armored vehicles would transport them in a special way. Instead of carrying them on top of the vehicle, they would have tow ropes hanging off the back of the vehicle and they would pull the ski troops behind them. However, this put a speed limitation on the vehicle for safety purposes, hence no road movement.)

Russian Winter War Ski Troops

1. Russian Winter War Ski units perform in every way as normal Ski units listed above except that they may not perform Close Assault Attacks.
2. A Russian Winter War Ski unit may change into a regular Rifle unit by spending the entire friendly player turn in a hex performing no action. At the end of the friendly player turn, after all Close Assault Attacks are resolved but before friendly dispersed units are flipped over, the Ski unit is removed from the board and replaced with a regular Rifle unit. A dispersed Ski unit may not change into a Rifle unit. (Russian players would be advised to record the counter ID numbers of those rifle units which were formally Ski units on a piece of scratch paper when doing this.)
3. While as a regular Rifle unit, a Ski unit may perform all functions and abilities ascribed to the Rifle units, including Close Assault Attacks.
4. Likewise a Ski unit which is presently a Rifle unit may change back into a Ski unit by spending the entire friendly player turn in a hex performing no action. At the end of the friendly player turn after all Close Assault Attacks are performed but before friendly dispersed units are flipped over, the Rifle unit is replaced with a Ski unit. A dispersed Rifle unit may not back into a Ski unit. (Again, this is why we record the counter ID numbers so we know which Rifle units may be converted back.)
5. Regular Rifle units may not change into Ski units.
6. Russian Winter War Ski units are only used during the Winter War (December 1939-March 1940).

Sleds

1. Sleds (also known as Sledges) are special carrier units that are used during the winter months. These are literally wagons with skis instead of wheels. They were used by both the Russians and Finns during the wars. They were usually pulled by horses or in the far northern latitudes, by reindeer.
2. Sleds may transport any infantry unit (including ski units), CPs, 81mm and 82mm Mortars, and light anti-tank and anti-aircraft units (50mm or less). (Sleds usually had a weight limit on how much they could carry, if the weight limit was exceeded the sled would sink into the snow and no amount of animals could pull it out.)
3. Sleds are non-armored units which move like wagons but are not subject to any winter movement modifications. However, sleds may not enter or move along Gullies/Streambed hexes but may cross them at Fords or Road hexes (which transform the Gulley into a Clear Hex). Sleds may not move at the road movement rate when moving along Roads but instead must use the movement cost of the surrounding terrain that the Road is in. It costs 1 MF for a sled to enter a Town hex , to use a road cross-

ing a Swamp hex, or to cross a River hex at a Bridge.

Aerosans

1. Aerosans (also known as Aerosleighs) are special vehicular units that are used during the winter months. They were (and still are) used by both the Russians and Finns. These vehicles are mounted on skis and are driven by a motor powered propeller.
2. Aerosans (with the exception of the RF-8 model) are C class units. They may transport infantry units, CPs, 81mm and 82mm Mortars, and light anti-tank and anti-aircraft unit (50mm or less). They may also transport ski units but must carry them as if they are a regular armored unit. (Like sleds, aerosans had a limit on how much weight they could transport. Infantry and artillery crews would be inside the vehicle while the light artillery guns or mortars would be mounted on a sled and be towed behind the aerosan. Aerosans were too cramped to carry ski troops along with their skis so they would have tow ropes hanging off the rear of the vehicle and would pull the ski troops behind them.)
3. Aerosans are not subject to any winter movement modifications. However they may not use the road movement rate when moving along Roads but instead must use the movement cost of the surrounding terrain that the road is in. It costs an aerosan 2 MF to enter a Woods hex and 1 MF to enter a Town or Bridge Hex . It costs an aerosan 3 MF to enter a Slope hex from a Hilltop or Hilltop/Slope hex but from any other hex of equal or lesser elevation costs them 5 MF. Aerosans may not cross green hexsides. Aerosans may not enter or move along Gullies/Streambeds hexes but may cross them at Ford or Road hexes (which transforms them into Clear hexes).
4. When transporting Ski units an aerosan unit's Movement Allowance is halved (rounding fractions down). However, on the turn that an aerosan unit unloads a Ski unit, any remaining movement factors that the aerosan has from its reduced Movement Allowance at the point of unloading is doubled. (Again, the speed of the vehicle is reduced for safety reasons when towing ski troops.)
5. Aerosan units may enter Pond, River, and Swamp hexes at the rate of 1 MF per hex. However, if they are attacked while occupying these hexes, they are subject the same negative die roll modifier (-1) as any other unit. (Aerosans were light enough to travel over thick ice without cracking it.)
6. While most aerosans were non-armored vehicles, three of them, the Russian RF-8, NKL-26, and ASD-400 were armored and therefore are considered to be armored targets.. However, if any of these units are destroyed they do not leave a wreck counter. (Aerosans were largely wooden structures, with the armored ones merely having thin armored plating bolted on to the vehicle. While the armor protected the crew and passengers from small arms fire and shell fragments, thus giving them armored protection in the game, it did not turn the aerosan into a fully armored vehicle and therefore does not give it a wreck counter when it is destroyed.)
7. While three of the aerosans are armed, the Russian RF-8, NKL-6A, and NKL-26, and all three may perform Overrun attacks against non-armored units, only the NKL-6A and NKL-26 may perform the Panzerblitz Assault and only if they are transporting Ski units. (The inside of the aerosans were pretty cramped and getting into and out of them was time consuming, thus they could not perform Panzerblitz Assaults with on-board infantry. However the trailing Ski troops would let go of the tow ropes when the aerosans would start their overrun attack, kick off their skis, and following up with a close assault.)
8. The NKL-6A and NKL-26 while carrying Russian Winter War Ski units may not perform Panzerblitz Assaults. They may perform overruns though, dropping the Ski units in the entry hex, but the Ski units themselves may not perform the follow up Close Assault.

Amphibious Tanks

1. Amphibious tanks are those armored vehicular units which may enter any Pond, River, or Swamp hex. In Panzerblitz the only units that can do that are the Russian T-38, T-38M2, and T-40 Light Tanks.
2. For an amphibious tank unit to enter a Pond, River, or Swamp hex, it must expend its entire Movement Allowance to do so. It may not combine this movement with movement in any other type of hexes in the same turn.
3. An amphibious tank unit may not transport any passenger unit when entering a Pond, River, or Swamp hex. It may unload a passenger unit at the beginning of its movement step before moving into a Pond, River, or Swamp hex though.
4. When in a Pond, River, or Swamp hex, an amphibious tank unit defends with its full Defense Factor against all attacks against it. In addition, it receives a plus two (+2) die roll modifier to any attack against it while in these hexes (to reflect the difficulty in hitting such targets in the water). This would be in a addition to any other applicable die roll modifiers.
5. Amphibious tank units may not fire while in a Pond, River, or Swamp hex.
6. Amphibious tank units may not enter Pond, River, or Swamp hexes in scenarios occurring during the winter months except if it is moving along a Road. (Amphibious tanks needed certain preparations in order to move across the water and also needed to enter and exit the water in a certain way. They would not move across ice covered water in the winter because if they crashed through the ice, the tank would get flooded with water and sink before the tank's inherent buoyancy would take effect.)

Bicycle Troops

1. Bicycle units are regular infantry troops mounted on bicycles. Because of this they have a defense factor of 2 (for being mounted) and a movement allowance of 2. Bicycle units use truck movement when determining the entry costs for the different

hexes. (This means that they are faster on the roads than they are cross-country.) However, to enter a slope hex while moving along road from a ground level hex costs them their entire movement allowance. (Bicycle troops were equipped with cheap one-speed bikes, not expensive ten-speed racing bikes.)
2. Bicycle units may not make Overrun or Close Assault Tactics attacks. They may make regular fire attacks though.
3. During the game, a player may exchange his bicycle unit for an equivalent rifle unit for his side. (For the Finnish bicycle unit this would be the Sissi unit.) To perform this exchange, the bicycle unit can not be dispersed and may not move or fire during the player turn that it is exchanged. The actual exchange occurs at the end of the player turn when all friendly dispersed units are flipped back over. The exchanged rifle unit has the full abilities of any other regular rifle unit. Once exchanged the rifle unit can not be changed back into a bicycle unit for the remainder of the game. (When going into a combat situation, bicycle troops would ditch their bikes and go into action dismounted, going back and retrieving their bikes after the combat was over.)

Early War Russian Infantry, Cavalry, 45mm ATG, and Motorcycle Units

(The normal Russian infantry and cavalry units that come with the game and the motorcycle unit that was created for Panzerblitz really reflect these units' strengths from 1943 to the end of the war. Over the decades of Panzerblitz existence scenario designers, myself included, have used these counters in scenarios that have occurred earlier in the war. These have made it difficult for the German player to defeat the Russian infantry, especially given their weaker tanks in the earlier years. With the recent creation of early war counters for the infantry, cavalry, and motorcycle we now have appropriately weaker units to reflect the relative training and experience of those units in the early part of the war. The following rules are guidelines for replacing the late war units with the appropriate early war ones in any early war scenario.)

1. Scenarios occurring from 1939-40: Replace all Rifle, Ski, Guards, and SMG units with Rifle (3-I-4-8-1). Replace all SMG units with the SMG (4-I-1-6-1). For all 45mm ATG units, replace 2/3 of them (fractions rounded up) with the 37mm ATG (5-A-2-3-0) and the rest with the 45mm ATG (Early) (5-A-3-3-0). Replace all Cavalry units with Cavalry (8-I-3-8-3). Replace all Motorcycle units with Motorcycle (3-I-2-4-12).
2. Scenarios occurring during 1941: Replace all Rifle units with Rifle (3-I-4-10-1). Replace all Guards units with Guards (5-I-5-13-1). Replace all SMG units with SMG (6-I-1-10-1). Replace all 45mm ATG units with 45mm ATG (Early) (5-A-3-3-0). Replace all Cavalry units with Cavalry (8-I-3-8-3). Replace all Motorcycle units with Motorcycle (3-I-2-4-12).
3. Scenarios occurring during 1942: Replace all Rifle units with Rifle (4-I-4-12-1). Replace all Guards units with Guards (5-I-5-13-1). Replace all SMG units with SMG (6-I-1-10-1). Replace all Motorcycle units with Motorcycle (4-I-2-4-12).
4. For scenarios occurring Jan-Jun 1942, replace all 45mm ATG units with 45mm ATG (Early) (5-A-3-3-0). For scenarios occurring Jul-Dec 1942, replace 1/2 of all 45mm ATG units (fractions rounded up) with 45mm ATG (Early) (5-A-3-3-0).

Stacking

1. The Russians stack two units high per hex as in the regular game.
2. As all of the Finnish counters are platoons, they all may stack three units high per hex, just like the Germans in the regular game.

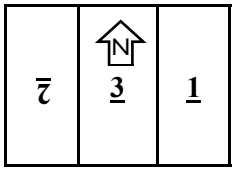
The Scenarios

The following scenarios are conversions of the Panssari Salama situations to the new counters as posted in the Imaginative Strategist.

SITUATION PS-1: Suomussalmi

12/11/39: Elements of the Finnish 27th Infantry Regiment attack units of the Soviet 163rd Rifle Division (662nd Rifle Regiment, 759th Rifle Regiment, 86th Artillery Regiment, 203rd Anti-Tank Battalion, 222nd Tank Battalion, 163rd Reconnaissance Battalion) as they attempt to evacuate to the east.

Map Configuration:



Finnish Forces: 16 Ski (39-40), 10 Sissi Ski, 9 MG, 1 25mm ATG, 2 37mm ATG, 2 40mm AA, 2 81/82mm Mortars, 12 Sleds, 2 Aerosans.

Finns set up second on Board One.

Russian Forces: 2 T-28e, 2 T-26a, 2 T-26b, 11 Rifle (39-40), 8 Ski (39-40), 5 Recon, 1 12.7mm MG, 2 45mm ATG (Early),
1 76.2mm ATG, 2 76.2mm IG, 1 122mm How, 5 82mm Mortar, 2 Sleds, 8 Wagons, 9 Trucks, 1 NKL-6 Aerosan
Russians set up first on Boards Two and Three.

Special Rules: Winter Movement is in effect.

Game Length: 16 Turns - Finnish move first.

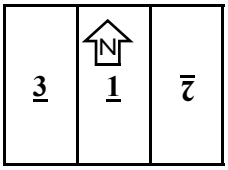
Victory Conditions:
Finnish: Destroy 14 Russian Units - Marginal Victory
Destroy 17 Russian Units - Tactical Victory
Destroy 20 Russian Units - Decisive Victory

Russian: Evacuate 10 Units off of the Eastern Edge of the Board - Marginal Victory
Evacuate 15 Units off of the Eastern Edge of the Board - Tactical Victory
Evacuate 20 Units off of the Eastern Edge of the Board - Decisive Victory

SITUATION PS-2: Tolvajarvi

12/12/39: Elements of the Russian 139th Rifle Division (364th Rifle Regiment, 609th Rifle Regiment, 169th Tank Battalion, 139th Reconnaissance Battalion) find themselves surrounded by the reinforced Finnish 16th Infantry Regiment and desperately try to break out to the east before the Finns destroy them.

Map Configuration:



Finnish Forces: 16 Ski (39-40), 24 Sissi Ski, 12 MG, 3 Engineer (39-40), 1 37mm ATG, 1 75mm How, 3 Sleds
Finns set up second on Boards Two and Three.

Russian Forces: 2 T-28e, 2 T-26a, 12 Rifle (39-40), 8 Ski (39-40), 5 Recon, 2 12.7mm MG, 2 37mm ATG, 8 Wagons, 12 Trucks,
2 NKL-6 Aerosans
Russians set up first on Board One.

Special Rules: Winter Movement is in effect.

Game Length: 14 Turns - Finnish move first.

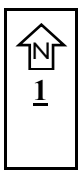
Victory Conditions:
Finnish: Destroy 15 Russian Units - Marginal Victory
Destroy 20 Russian Units - Tactical Victory
Destroy 35 Russian Units - Decisive Victory

Russian: Evacuate 10 Units off of the Eastern Edge of the Board - Marginal Victory
Evacuate 20 Units off of the Eastern Edge of the Board - Tactical Victory
Evacuate 25 Units off of the Eastern Edge of the Board - Decisive Victory

SITUATION PS-3: Saija

12/13/39: Finnish frontier troops in Detachment Pennanen move to block units of the Russian 112th Rifle Regiment, of the 52nd Rifle Division, which is attempting to encircle the port of Petsamo in the far northern Arctic regions of Finland.

Map Configuration:



Finnish Forces: 9 Sissi Ski, 3 MG, 1 81/82mm Mortar, 2 Sleds, 2 Aerosans
Finns enter along the southern edge of the board on Turn 1.

Russian Forces: 6 Ski (39-40), 2 Engineers, 2 82mm Mortars (Mot), 1 76.2 How, 2 Sleds, 2 NKL-6 Aerosans, 2 NKL-6a Aerosans, 1 Truck
Russian enter along the northern edge of the board on Turn 1.

Special Rules:
1. Winter Movement is in effect.
2. The hexes of the town of Adski are presumed to be Woods hexes for this scenario.

Game Length: 10 Turns - Russians move first.

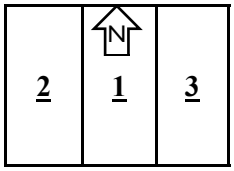
Victory Conditions:
Finnish: Finns win if they prevent the Russian victory conditions.

Russian: Russians win if they control all hexes of the town of Uschas (Saija) at the end of the game.

SITUATION PS-4: Summa

2/1/40: Units of The Russian 100th Rifle Division, supported by the 13th and 20th Tank Brigades, assaults a section of the Mannerheim Line defended by elements of the Finnish 7th Infantry Regiment.

Map Configuration:



Finnish Forces: 16 Rifle (39-40), 6 MG, 3 Engineers (39-40), 2 37mm ATG, 2 40mm AA, 3 75mm How, 1 105mm How, 1 CP, 1 FT-17, 4 Forts (40), 4 Forts (30), 6 Forts (20), 6 Blocks, 6 Mines, 8 Dummies
Finns set up on Boards One and Two.

Russians Forces: 3 T-28e, 1 T-35, 2 KV-2, 2 T-26a, 6 T-26b, 4 BT-5, 6 Rifle (39-40), 6 SMG (40), 8 Ski (39-40), 5 Recon, 4 82mm Mortars, 2 120mm Mortars, 2 122mm How, 2 152mm How, 1 203mm How, 14 Trucks, 1 Tractor
Russians enter anywhere along the eastern edge of the board on Turn 1.

Special Rules:
1. Winter Movement is in effect.
2. The Finnish may secretly place his units within the Forts (which means the Russian player must leave the room while the Finns set up). In order to simulate a full stack in a fort, the dummies (which are blank counters) may be placed under the forts counter. Not all dummies need be used. All other counters placed on top of forts and in other hexes not containing forts are placed face up on the board.
3. The Russian player may not inspect the units under the Fort counters. Individual counters under the Forts are revealed to the Russians when they first fire. When the Fort is dispersed by fire attacks or close assaulted by the Russians, all counters under the Fort are revealed to the Russians and any dummy counters are immediately removed. Merely having a Russian unit adjacent to a Fort is not sufficient to cause revelation.

Game Length: 12 Turns - Russians move first.

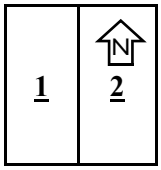
Victory Conditions:
Finnish: Destroy 10 Russian Units - Marginal Victory
Destroy 15 Russian Units - Tactical Victory
Destroy 20 Russian Units - Decisive Victory

Russian: Destroy 10 Finnish Units - Marginal Victory
Destroy 15 Finnish Units - Tactical Victory
Establish a corridor four hexes wide, free of Finnish units, from the east side to the west side of the board by the end of the game - Decisive Victory

SITUATION PS-5: Naykkijarvi

2/26/40: Units of the Finnish 5th Infantry Division (67th Infantry Regiment, 5th Artillery Regiment), supported by tanks from the 4th Independent Tank Company, attempt to recapture an important town held by elements of the Russian 84th Rifle Division (201st Rifle Regiment, 122nd Anti-Tank Battalion, 84th Reconnaissance Battalion).

Map Configuration:



Finnish Forces: 3 Vickers, 8 Sissi Ski, 3 MG, 1 Engineer (39-40), 2 76.2mm How, 1 105mm How, 1 Sled
Finns set up second on Board One.

Russian Forces: 8 Rifle (39-40), 5 Recon, 1 12.7mm MG, 2 37mm ATG, 3 45mm ATG (Early), 2 76.2mm IG, 2 82mm Mortars
Russians set up first anywhere on Hill 132 on Board Two.

Special Rules: Winter Movement is in effect.

Game Length: 14 Turns - Finnish move first.

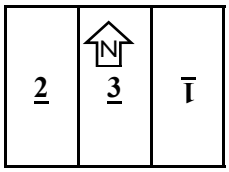
Victory Conditions:
Finnish: Destroy 8 Russian Units - Marginal Victory
Control Bednost at the end of the game - Tactical Victory
Destroy at least 8 Russian Units and Control Bednost at the end of the game - Decisive Victory

Russian: Control one hex of Bednost at the end of the game - Marginal Victory
Control two hexes of Bednost at the end of the game - Tactical Victory
Control all three hexes of Bednost at the end of the game - Decisive Victory

SITUATION PS-6: Tali

3/8/40: Elements of the Finnish 3rd Infantry Regiment defend against what proves to be the final attack of the Winter War by the Russian 123rd Rifle Division (245th Rifle Regiment, 255th Rifle Regiment, 41st Tank Battalion) and the 39th Tank Brigade before Finland sues for peace.

Map Configuration:



Finnish Forces: 9 Rifle (39-40), 10 Sissi, 6 MG, 2 Engineers (39-40), 1 25mm ATG, 1 37mm ATG, 2 40mm AA, 2 75mm How, 2 81/82mm Mortars
Finns set up anywhere on the board.

Russian Forces: 6 T-46, 3 BT-5, 1 BT-7a, 1 T-100, 1 BA-10 AC, 6 Rifle (39-40), 4 SMG (40), 8 Ski (39-40), 2 82mm Mortars, 2 120mm Mortars, 6 Trucks, 2 Sleds
Russians enter anywhere along the northern edge of the board on Turn 1.

Special Rules: Winter Movement is in effect.

Game Length: 16 Turns - Russians move first.

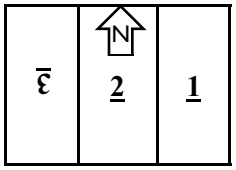
Victory Conditions:
Finnish: Win by having a line from the east side to the west side of the board covered by units, and fire from units, at the end of the game.

Russian: Win by having a corridor four hexes wide from the north side to the south side of the board free of Finnish units, and fire from them, at the end of the game.

SITUATION PS-7: Karhumaki

12/6/41: Units of the Finnish 1st Jeager Brigade, including the Finnish Tank Battalion, and supported by the 11th, 12th, and 15th Artillery Battalions, have pushed deep into East Karelia and have come up against the Russian 71st Rifle Division (126th Rifle Regiment, 2nd Ski Brigade, 462nd Anti-Tank Battalion, 548th Heavy Mortar Battalion) and the 124th Tank Brigade near Karhumaki.

Map Configuration:



Finnish Forces: 1 T-28e, 4 T-26c, 5 T-26e, 1 BT-5, 2 T-38, 18 Ski (41-43), 6 MG, 3 Engineers (41-43), 2 45mm ATG (Early), 1 47mm ATG, 1 76.2mm ATG, 4 76.2mm How, 2 4.5 inch How, 10 Sleds, 6 Aerosans
Finns enter along the western edge of the board on Turn 1.

Russian Forces: 2 T-40, 3 T-50, 6 Rifle (1941), 4 SMG (41-42), 6 Ski (41-44), 5 Recon, 5 45mm ATG (Early), 2 76.2mm ATG, 2 120mm Mortars, 8 Wagons, 4 NKL-6 Aerosans, 2 NKL-16 Aerosans, 2 NKL-26 Aerosans, 2 RF-8 Aerosans
Russians set up of Boards One and Two.

Special Rules: Winter Movement is in effect.

Game Length: 14 Turns - Finnish move first.

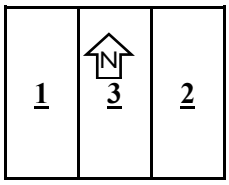
Victory Conditions:
Finnish: Destroy 15 Russian Units - Marginal Victory
Destroy 15 Russian Units and Control all of Hill 132 at the end of the game - Tactical Victory
Destroy 25 Russian Units and Control all of Hill 132 at the end of the game - Decisive Victory

Russian: Destroy 10 Finnish Units - Marginal Victory
Destroy 15 Finnish Units - Tactical Victory
Destroy 25 Finnish Units - Decisive Victory

SITUATION PS-8: Osinovets

7/17/42: Hypothetical attack by the Finnish Tank Division and Cavalry Brigade on the supply center located in Osinovets which is defended by elements of the Russian 21st Rifle Division (116th Rifle Regiment, 172nd Anti-Tank Battalion, 341st Light Tank Battalion).

Map Configuration:



Finnish Forces: 1 T-28e, 7 T-26c, 5 T-26e, 2 T-38, 2 BT-42, 10 Rifle (41-43), 5 MG, 1 Engineer (41-43), 12 Cavalry (41-43), 1 CP, 2 81/82mm Mortars, 2 75mm How, 2 105mm How, 1 150mm How, 1 8 inch How, 2 Sd Kfz 8, 10 Trucks, 4 Limbers
Finns enter anywhere along the western edge of the board on Turn 1.

Russian Forces: 1 T-60, 6 Rifle (1942), 2 45mm ATG (Early), 2 76.2mm ATG, 1 82mm Mortar, 1 120mm Mortar, 1 CP, 2 ZIS-42, 4 Forts, 3 Mines, 3 Blocks
Russians set up on Board Three.

Special Rules: Forts may not be set up in Town hexes.

Game Length: 16 Turns - Finnish move first.

Victory Conditions:
Finnish: Control the town of Zabvenia at the end of the game - Marginal Victory
Destroy two Forts and control the town of Zabvenia at the end of the game - Tactical Victory

Destroy all four Forts and control the town of Zabvenia at the end of the game - Decisive Victory

Russian: Control the town of Zabvenia at the end of the game - Marginal Victory
Destroy 10 Finnish Units and control the town of Zabvenia at the end of the game - Tactical Victory
Destroy 15 Finnish Units and control the town of Zabvenia at the end of the game - Decisive Victory

Note: Partial control of Zabvenia at the end of the game by one or both sides is considered to be a Draw.

SITUATION PS-9: Kuuterselka

6/13/44: The Finnish Tank Division makes a counterattack against the advanced elements of the Russian 109th Rifle Corps (72nd Rifle Division, 1st Tank Brigade, 27th Guards Heavy Tank Regiment, 31st Guards Heavy Tank Regiment, 1439th Heavy Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment) which results in a massive meeting engagement in the strategic heights near Kuuterselka.

Map Configuration:

Finnish Forces: 1 T-34c, 1 KV-1, 1 T-28e, 5 T-26c, 5 T-26e, 3 Stug IIIg, 4 BT-42, 2 Landsverk, 18 Rifle (1944), 6 MG, 3 Engineer (1944), 3 50mm ATG, 2 75mm ATG, 4 75mm How, 2 150mm How, 9 T-20, 2 Sd Kfz 8, 9 Trucks
Finns set up second on Board Three.

Russian Forces: 6 T-34c, 2 T-70a, 1 T-60, 2 KV-85, 2 JS II, 1 JSU-152, 8 Rifle, 6 SMG, 1 Recon, 1 57mm ATG, 2 76.2mm ATG, 3 Halftracks, 10 Trucks
Russians set up first on Board One.

Special Rules: None

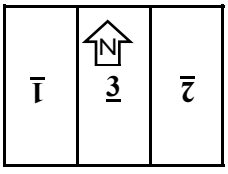
Game Length: 12 Turns - Russians move first.

Victory Conditions:
Finnish: Marginal – Destroy 10 Russian Units.
Tactical – Destroy 20 Russian Units.
Decisive - Preventing the Russians from controlling Hill 132 at the end of the game.
Russians: Marginal – Destroy 10 Finnish Armored Units (T-20's do not count).
Tactical – Destroy 20 Finnish units (including 10 Armored Units).
Decisive - Control Hill 132 (all Hilltop hexes) at the end of the game.

.SITUATION PS-10: Viipuri

6/22/44: Elements of the Russian 108th Rifle Corps (90th Rifle Division, 45th Guards Rifle Division, 37th Guards Tank Brigade) assault units of the Finnish 20th Infantry Brigade, who after repeated attacks, finally broke and retreated by then end of the day, but bought enough time for the city of Viipuri to be evacuated.

Map Configuration:



Finnish Forces: 18 Rifle (1944), 3 Engineers (1944), 3 45mm ATG (Early), 1 45mm ATG, 1 47mm ATG, 1 75mm ATG (French), 1 40mm AA, 3 18 Pdr How, 2 122mm How, 1 81/82mm Mortar, 1 CP, 6 Forts (40), 2 Forts (30), 6 Forts (20), 8 Blocks, 6 Mines
Finns set up first on Boards One and Three.

Russian Forces: 8 T-34c, 6 T-34/85, 1 SU-152, 10 Guards, 9 Rifle, 6 SMG, 2 Engineer, 2 120mm Mortars, 2 122mm How, 2 152mm How, 1 203mm How, 6 Halftracks, 17 Trucks, 1 Tractor, 4 Limbers
Russians enter anywhere along the eastern edge of the board.

Special Rules: None.

Game Length: 10 Turns - Russians move first.

Victory Conditions:
Finnish: Finns win by preventing the Russians victory conditions.

Russians: Russians win by having a corridor six hexes wide across the board, from the east side to the west side, free of Finnish units or their lines of fire, at the end of the game.