



**PAVLOV'S HOUSE
COMPANION**
— THE BATTLE OF STALINGRAD —

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A WWII tactical and operational strongpoint defense game



60 - 75 minutes



ages: 12+



1-3 players

*In **Pavlov's House**, you take control of the valiant defenders of a Soviet strongpoint in Stalingrad as they hold out against constant German attacks for almost two months. You also control the key leaders throughout the Soviet 62nd Army that made the defense of Pavlov's House possible.*

Purpose of this Book

Pavlov's House Companion serves as a primer for the Battle of Stalingrad, gives a detailed look at the history surrounding Pavlov's House, and gives insight into the design process for this game.

CREATED BY

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If you are interested in playtesting and providing feedback for this game, please contact me via email (djackthompson@mac.com) or Geekmail (skirmish_tactics) on BGG.

Fonts used in this manual include Baskerville and Gill Sans. Foundational GIS datasets for maps were created in Mapbox Studio.

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STALINGRAD



Introduction

In June 1941, Germany initiated Operation Barbarossa, the code name for the invasion of the Soviet Union. Germany's invasion was driven by three primary goals: to control the oil fields of the Caucasus, to seize the grain supplies of Ukraine, and to capture Slavs to use as part of Germany's slave labor force.

Germany achieved many early successes across the Soviet Union, ranging from the Baltics in the north to Ukraine in the south. Eventually the German advance was halted in Moscow in October 1941 during the Battle of Moscow.

The Soviet Union's successful counterattack was a key turning point in WW2. It forced Germany to regroup and eventually opened up the Eastern Front - the largest military confrontation in world history.

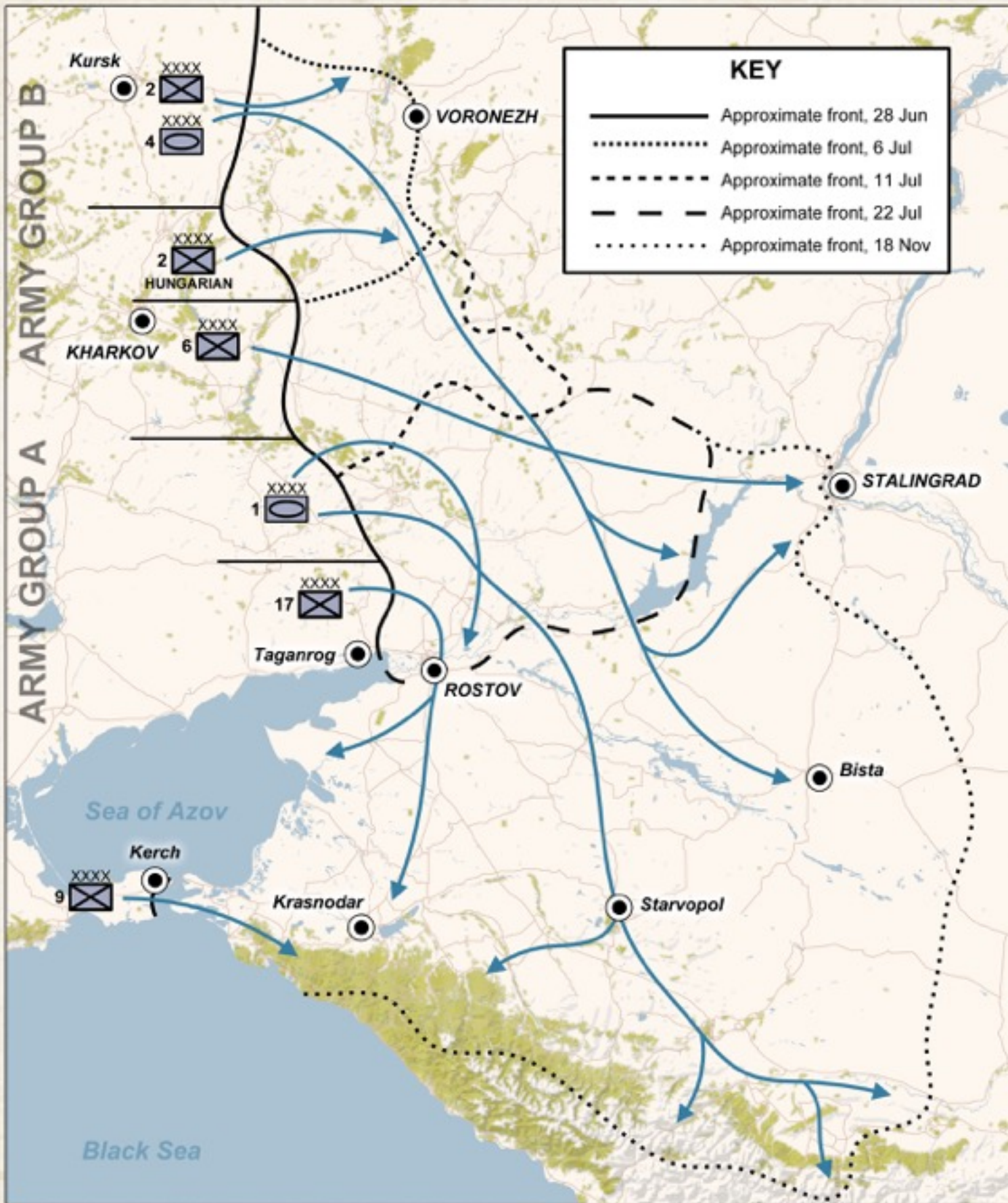
Desperate to eliminate the Soviet Union from the war, Germany planned a new offensive for the summer of 1942: Operation Blue (or "Case Blue" from the German "Fall Blau"). This operation was aimed at capturing the oil fields of the Caucasus. A critical part of the effort was an advance on Stalingrad, which would serve as a blocking maneuver to protect the operation's northern flank. However, the Wehrmacht was halted in Stalingrad and capture of the city became an obsession for Hitler.

**“Not one step back”
— Stalin**

It is the Battle of Stalingrad which is most closely associated with Stalin's famous line: "Not one step back." This slogan of Soviet resistance against German invasion was epitomized by the Soviet soldiers in Stalingrad, defending key strongpoints across the city for over two months against constant Wehrmacht assault. This is the story of one of those strongpoints: Pavlov's House.



Soviet soldiers, anti-tank riflemen N. Seregin and A. Bakaev with antitank gun, disguised in a ruined building in anticipation of German tanks at Stalingrad 1942





Operation Blue

(28 June - 18 November 1942)

Case Blue was the German strategic offensive in southern Russia between 28 June and 24 November 1942. The goal of Case Blue was to eliminate the Soviet Union from the war. It included a two-pronged attack against the oil fields of Baku as well as a move towards Stalingrad to cover the flanks of the advance towards Baku. During the operation, Army Group South was divided into Army Groups A and B. Army Group A was tasked with crossing the Caucasus mountains to reach the Baku oil fields, while Army Group B protected its flanks along the Volga. Initially, the offensive saw gains, with an advance into the Caucasus capturing large areas of land and several oil fields. However, the German advance ended in Stalingrad.

Belligerents

 Soviet Union	 Germany
	 Italy
	 Romania
	 Hungary
	 Croatia
	 Slovak Republic

Strength

Personnel 1,700,000 1,000,000 (reserve)	Personnel 1,000,000 German 300,000 Allies
Armor 3,720 tanks	Armor 1,900 tanks

Casualties

2,226,400	1,013,000
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Battle of S

17 JUL

The Battle of Stalingrad begins, as the Luftwaffe bombs the city as well as Soviet shipping on the Volga.

28 JUL

Stalin issues Order No. 227, in which he commands "Not one step back." Red Army soldiers are expected to fight in place until the bitter end.

23 AUG

German bombing creates a firestorm in Stalingrad. Stalin refuses to allow civilians to evacuate the city due to the motivation they give to the soldiers. Stalingrad is turned to rubble.

DISPOSITION OF FORCES

13 SEPTEMBER, 1942



DISPOSITION OF FORCES

20 SEPTEMBER, 1942



KEY

— Approximate front, 13 Sep

Stalingrad

12 SEP

13 SEP

25 SEP

Vasily Chuikov is named the commander of the Soviet 62nd Army. He places his HQ on Mamayev Kurgan, a hill overlooking Stalingrad.

Germany launches its offensive on Stalingrad, taking much of the central and southern portions of the city. Chuikov is forced to evacuate his HQ.

Pavlov leads a storm group assault on an apartment building in 9 January Square. The building is soon reinforced by the 42nd Guards Rifle Regiment and comes to be known as Pavlov's House.



Battle of S

27 SEP

4 OCT

5 OCT

The 6th Army launches a new offensive, clearing the southern portion of the city, reaching the Volga River in the central portion, and opening new operations in the north.

The 62nd Army is constricted to the Dzerzhinskiy Tractor Works, Red Barricade Ordinance Factory, and Red October Steel Mill. The Germans advance with five divisions across a 3-mile frontage.

900 dive bombing sorties are flown against Soviet positions at the Dzerzhinskiy Tractor Works, wiping out entire regiments of entrenched troops.



Stalingrad

14 OCT

The 6th Army launches its third major offensive. The Soviets are forced into a 910-meter strip of land on the bank of the Volga River and are short on supplies due to the German control of the air.

8 NOV

Hitler transfers entire units of the Luftflotte 4 to southern Europe in response to Allied landings in North Africa. Soviet aircraft gain air superiority for the first time.

19 NOV

The Red Army launches Operation Uranus, the strategic operation which ultimately led to the encirclement of the German 6th Army.



Stalingrad

Germany's initial objectives for advancing on Stalingrad were the destruction of the city's industrial capacity and the deployment of forces to block the Volga River. By blocking the river, Germany could cut off the Caucasus and the Caspian Sea to central Russia and disrupt crucial commercial river traffic.

On 23 July 1942, Hitler rewrote the objectives for Case Blue, expanding them to include the occupation of the city of Stalingrad. Both sides began to attach propaganda value to the city based on it bearing the name of the leader of the Soviet Union. In addition, if the city fell it would firmly secure the northern and western flanks of the German armies as they advanced on Baku and its oil fields.

The German offensive to capture Stalingrad began on 23 August 1942, using the German 6th Army and elements of the 4th Panzer Army. The attack was supported by intensive Luftwaffe bombing that reduced much of the city to rubble. The fighting degenerated into house-to-house combat, and both sides poured reinforcements into the city. By mid-November 1942, the Germans had pushed the Soviet defenders back at great cost into narrow zones along the west bank of the Volga River.

“That is to say that we have it now. Only a few small pockets of resistance are left.”
— Hitler



German soldier near Stalingrad

62nd Army

The 62nd Order of Lenin Army was formed in May 1942 as part of the Stavka Reserve. By July, the Army was in action on the Stalingrad Front against the German 6th Army. The 62nd Army was responsible for the successful defense of Stalingrad and was granted Guards status due to its performance in the critical battle.

The 62nd Army was commanded by Vasily Chuikov from 12 September until the end of the battle. The Major General was forced to relocate his command post numerous times, as it was destroyed by German attack and overrun on multiple occasions.



“The streets of the city are dead...
everything has perished in the flames.”

— Chuikov



62nd Army Command Post. Nikolay Krylov (Chief of Staff), Vasily Chuikov (Commander), Kozma Gurov (Divisional Commissar), and Alexander Rodimtsev (Commander, 32nd Guards Rifle Corps)

62nd Army

Design Note

Pavlov's House was originally conceived as a tactical/skirmish level defense of "Pavlov's House" itself, without consideration for the operational level elements of the game. However, when researching the history surrounding the famous story of Pavlov's House, it became clear that only through the coordinated actions of the 62nd Army could it have been possible for the defenders to hold out until the Red Army launched Operation Uranus (despite Soviet propaganda that depicted the defense of the house as a accomplishment of a rifle platoon alone).

Once I decided to incorporate the operational level elements that are in the final version of the game, I wanted to make sure the 62nd Guards Army's Command Post played a critical role in the game. The command post decides which supplies to prepare for the house's defenders. Without the supplies - which require a great deal of planning and coordination with the Volga Military Flotilla - the defenders of Pavlov's House could not have been successful. Be careful during the game not to overlook the importance of maintaining appropriate amounts of food. A lack of food can lead to an immediate loss. Ammunition is critical in maintaining the ability to suppress. The ability of sappers to repair the building and provide a last line of defense can be pivotal. First aid, while not critical, can help avoid the loss of key defenders.

In addition to planning supplies, the 62nd Guards Army Command Post is responsible for assigning elements of the defenders of Pavlov's House to storm group assaults. In your initial plays of the game, it can be easy to overlook this part of the game. But the only way to achieve a high score in the game is through storm groups capturing key target buildings.



Vasily Chuikov



The 62nd Guards Army Command Post action uses the famous hammer and sickle Communist symbol that was conceived during the Russian Revolution. At the time of its creation, the hammer stood for industrial laborers and the sickle for the peasantry.

13th Guards Rifle Division

The 13th Guards Rifle Division was formed in January 1942 when the 87th Rifle Division was awarded Guards status for its actions in the Battle of Kiev and re-designated.

As Germany marched towards Stalingrad during Case Blue, the Stavka sent the 13th Guards (at the time in the middle of a refit) to Stalingrad as reinforcements. The division arrived piecemeal and exhausted after a grueling forced march. In addition, over 1,000 of the division's men were unarmed and most were short of ammunition due to having been in the middle of their resupply.



The German 6th Army launched a major offensive into Stalingrad on 13 September—the day before the 13th Guards arrived at the front. Elements of the division were sent across the Volga on 15 September, joining the fierce fighting. Inexperienced, and lacking maps and knowledge of Stalingrad's streets, the division was hit hard in its first hours of combat, losing more than 3,000 men in less than 24 hours. But within days the 13th Guards had helped recapture key strongpoints, secured the central river crossing, fought for the railroad station, and had battled back and forth with the Germans for the key hill—Mamayev Kurgan.

Some accounts claim that of the 10,000 men of the division who crossed the Volga into the Battle of Stalingrad, only between 280 and 320 of them survived.

“I am a Communist! I have no intention of abandoning the city.”
— Rodimtsev



Badge of the Soviet Guards



General Alexander Rodimtsev, commander of the 13th Guards

13th Guards Rifle Division

Design Note

The 13th Guards Command Post forms the most critical tie between the operational- and tactical-level elements of the game in that through the command post you are able to choose which defenders will be sent as reinforcements to Pavlov's House.

A key goal for the design of the defenders of Pavlov's House was making sure there were multiple viable paths to choose from. One route is to start by reinforcing with Afanasyen and Naumov as early as possible to gain more actions. However, having a machine gun team or mortar team in place early is also important. The forward observer, when combined with artillery, makes for a flexible and potent alternative to machine gunners and anti-tank gunners alike. Finally, for storm group assaults to be successful, the 13th Guards Command Post needs to make sure there are personnel in Pavlov's House who are ready to strike.



The 13th Guards Rifle Division Command Post uses a five-pointed star inspired by the famous Communist Red Star symbol. The star is often associated with communist ideology, especially when used in conjunction with the hammer and sickle.



General A Alexander Rodimtsev (in cap) along with men from the 13th Guards Rifle Division. To the far right is Anatoly Chekhov, a famous sniper who helped defend Pavlov's House.

Pavlov's House

In mid-September, the 13th Guards Rifle Division played a key role in helping the 62nd Army defend Stalingrad's city center but their work was just getting started. From 20 to 22 September, German aircraft, tanks, and infantry attacked central Stalingrad, trying to cut off the 13th Guards from the main body of the 62nd Army. The division fought back but eventually the Guardsmen were pushed back to a position just north of the central landing stage. By 23 September, the division had been virtually isolated from the rest of the 62nd Army in the city center, and the division's 1st Battalion was further isolated and completely encircled in Fallen Fighters Square. Fortunately, by 25 September the fighting in the city center had lost intensity. The 13th Guards held only a narrow strip of land that stretched along the Volga for approximately 1,500 meters and was only 100 to 300 meters deep.



It was during this period that Chuikov realized the 62nd Army's tactics would need to change if they were to be successful in defending the city. This change in tactics was embodied in Chuikov's Order No. 166 which instructed commanders not to use entire units at the company and battalion level to carry out operations. Instead, offensives were to be organized on the basis of small groups with sub-machine guns, hand grenades, and anti-tank rifles. This meant that only portions of a battalion or company were committed at any time—as a storm group—while the other troops remained on the defensive.



Aleksey Yefimovich Zhukov, commander of the 3rd Battalion of the 42nd Guards, receives a report from one of his scouts.

Pavlov's House

In late September, the 7th Rifle Company/3rd Rifle Battalion/42nd Guards Rifle Regiment established a storm group with the intent of taking the building that would come to be known as Pavlov's House.

Prior to the war, the four story building had served as a residential building for employees of the regional consumer union. It was considered one of the most prestigious apartment complexes of Stalingrad, as it overlooked 9 January Square. From a military perspective, the building offered a superb vantage point: you could observe the surrounding area and fire from all sides of the building.

Sergeant Yakov Pavlov led the storm group, which consisted of up to five other men. The German forces occupying the building were few in number, and they were preoccupied with the sounds of battle at the nearby Railway Workers' House. The storm group was lucky, as no guard was left on duty. Pavlov and his men sought out the Germans inside and killed them with grenades. Wehrmacht elements from the 71st Infantry Division's 194th Infantry Regiment, were positioned as close as 70 - 100 meters away, on the north side of 9 January Square, but did not launch an immediate counter-attack, most likely because they mistakenly believed Pavlov's House had been taken by a larger unit. Instead, they concentrated on shelling the building. At dawn, Pavlov and his men defended the building against at least two relatively small scale attacks. Additional attacks probably came over the next couple days, though the frequency and intensity of the attacks is unclear and historical accounts are inconsistent.

Design Note

Pavlov and his storm group team start the game in Pavlov's House. They must protect the house long enough to give the operational commanders a chance to determine the best strategy for defending the house. Depending on the strategy you choose, it's possible Pavlov and his men may not have reinforcements for a few turns. Pavlov and his men only have a limited ability to fight off German personnel and no anti-armor capability, so don't leave them on their own for too long.



Sergeant Yakov Pavlov and the ruins of Pavlov's House after the Battle of Stalingrad

Pavlov's House

About two days after Pavlov's storm group assault, Lieutenant Ivan Afanasyev, a platoon commander from the 3rd Machine Gun Company/3rd Rifle Battalion/42nd Guards Rifle Regiment led his platoon to reinforce the building. Additional reinforcements (most likely from the 7th Rifle Company and 3rd Machine Gun Company) arrived over the course of the next few months.

On 1 October, Chuikov issued Order No. 179, which focused on the construction of strongpoints.

“Every trench and every dug out should be reinforced and each building shall become a towering fortress. To fulfill this task, new engineering works and obstacles must be built, buildings and houses turned into firing points for heavy machine guns, communications trenches dug, and minefields and barbed wire emplacements set out. Our strongpoints must also be equipped with anti-tank guns and mortars.”

Sappers, almost certainly from the 13th Guards Rifle Division's 8th Guards Sapper Battalion, improved the defenses of the building. They mined the approaches with anti-armor and anti-personnel mines, built barbed wire fences, and dug trenches for gun positions and communication.

Telephone wire, probably laid by the 13th Guards Rifle Division's 139th Signal Battalion, connected Pavlov's House to the 13th Guards' command post via the nearby mill using a trench dug by the sappers. The trench was also used to transfer water and food, ammunition, medical supplies, weapons, and troops.

The building was given the call sign of маяк (or “mayak”—lighthouse). The Lighthouse was a fitting name for a stronghold that was positioned at the forward line of troops.

A neighboring apartment complex that mirrored the design of Pavlov's House was also taken by a storm group from the 42nd Guards Rifle Regiment. The defense of that building was led by platoon leader Lieutenant Nickolay Zabolotny, and the building came to be called Zabolotny's House. However, that building was destroyed in late September by German artillery strikes, underscoring the vulnerability of Pavlov's House to artillery strikes and aerial bombardment.

“All these measures are aimed
at making our defense
unbreakable - for all the
furious attacks of the Fascist
troops will shatter upon these
obstacles as sea waves are
broken by granite rock”
— Chuikov



Soviet soldier in Stalingrad 1942 aims his PPSH-41 from a destroyed apartment.

Pavlov's House

With reinforcements and improved physical defenses in place, Pavlov's House was ready for German assaults. But the infantrymen in the strongpoint could not hold out alone against the attacks. When the Wehrmacht launched attacks against Pavlov's House, forward observers in the building would call in artillery strikes from the Northern Subgroup of Frontline Artillery (the composite artillery unit tasked with supporting the 62nd Army). The strikes were likely supported by the 13th Guards Rifle Division's 32nd Guards Artillery Regiment, based on its position on the eastern bank of the Volga. However, there is very little detailed literature on the specific breakdown of how artillery units in the Northern Subgroup were tasked in support of infantry fighting in Stalingrad on a day-to-day basis. The defenders of Pavlov's House may have also been supported by artillery from the 384th Artillery Regiment and other elements of the artillery subgrouping.

“Some days we faced ten or a dozen German attacks. Without artillery strikes we would have lost the house.”

— Georgi Potanski

Pavlov's House was also frequently visited by snipers in the 62nd Army. The most famous of the visitors was Anatoly Chekhov, who was 19 years old during the Battle of Stalingrad. Chekhov was credited with 256 kills, and many of them likely came from Pavlov's House.



Soviet artillerymen firing a 76mm divisional gun M1942 (ZIS-3) during the Battle of Stalingrad.

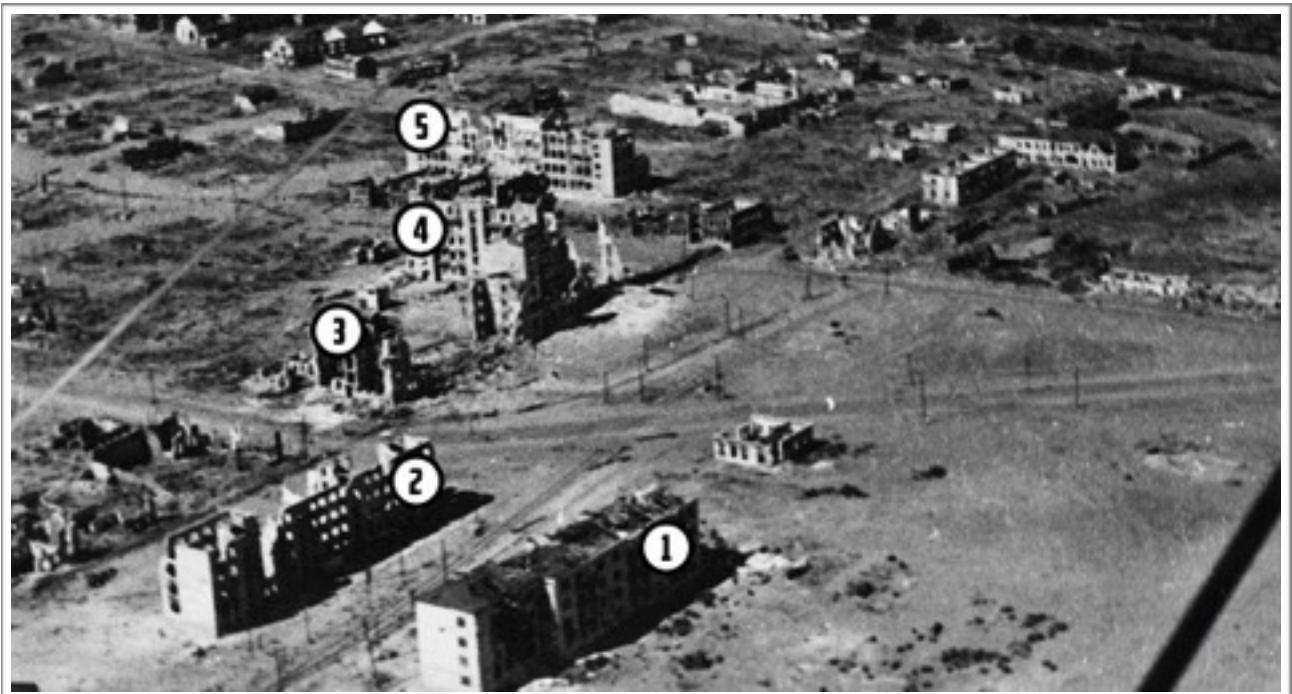
Pavlov's House

In addition to defending Pavlov's House, the building's defenders were often called on to participate in storm group assaults against German positions in nearby buildings. From late September until late November, elements of the 13th Guards tried multiple times to clear key Wehrmacht strongpoints in the so called L-shaped House, Railway Workers' House, Milk House, and many others. However, it was not until after the 62nd Army launched Operation Uranus on 19 November that the 13th Guards began to achieve some success in their storm group assaults.

In late November, the 39th Guards Rifle Regiment's 3rd Rifle Battalion led the effort to clear the Metal Workers' House, the Voentorg ("military supply store"), and School No. 6, which were on 9 January Square's left (southern) flank. In early December, the 34th Guards Rifle Regiment's 2nd Rifle Battalion led the effort to clear the L-shaped House and the 42nd Guards Rifle Regiment's 2nd Rifle Battalion cleared the Railway Workers' House, which were on 9 January Square's right (northern) flank.

Design Note

The storm group mechanism was one of the last additions to the design. I wanted the storming of the Milk House to mark the end of the game, without adding new rules to the game just to support one assault. By allowing the defenders of Pavlov's House to participate in storm group attacks against other Wehrmacht strongpoints, it allows the mechanism to be used throughout the game. And, as the key method of scoring points, preparing for and executing storm group assaults can present some coordination challenges. You'll need to have enough defenders in Pavlov's House to dedicate to the assault, but extra defenders means spending precious actions and stocking up on food. In the course of the game, it can be easy to overlook the importance of storm group assaults, as you will often feel more pressure to defend the house from Wehrmacht attacks. But if you don't remember this element of the game, you'll find it impossible to improve your score at the end of the game and gain a higher award.



9 January Square. 1: Pavlov's House. 2: Zabolotny's House. 3: Metal Workers' House. 4: Voentorg. 5: School No. 6.

Pavlov's House

Meanwhile, the defenders in Pavlov's House were tasked with clearing the Milk House, which was across 9 January Square. For two months the defenders of the two strongholds (Pavlov's House and the Milk House) had skirmished. This was the first major effort to clear the Milk House since mid-September.

The order to clear the Milk House came on 24 November. The assault carried over onto 25 November. The attack was led by the commander of the 7th Rifle Company, Senior Lieutenant Ivan Naumov, and included Lieutenant Afanasyev, Pavlov, and most of the other defenders. The storm group met with initial success, but the Wehrmacht counterattacked in force and most of the defenders from Pavlov's House were killed or seriously injured.

Naumov tried to rally his men during the battle, but was killed. Sergeant Ilya Voronov, the commander of a Maxim machine gun crew in Pavlov's House, was also part of the assault and served as one of its inspirational leaders. He was caught by an explosion during the attack and had to be evacuated. Twenty-five shell fragments were pulled from his body and he lost a leg. Afanasyev, Pavlov, and many others were also injured and had to be evacuated.

This failed storm group assault marked the propagandic end of the defense of Pavlov's House, due to a combination of Pavlov's departure from the building and near concurrent beginning of Operation Uranus. It was not until late December that the 13th Guards Rifle Division successfully cleared and retained control of the Milk House.



Each storm group card depicts the color of the Wehrmacht tracks that must be clear, the defense of the building being assaulted, and the point value of the assault.



A Soviet storm group assault.

Pavlov's House

Challenges of Historicity

By the end of the Battle of Stalingrad, Pavlov's House had taken on mythological propagandic significance by the Soviets. Exaggeration surrounding the strongpoint's story made it difficult to separate fact from fiction, a problem that has been exacerbated by circular reporting, especially by Western sources.

Date of the Storm Group Assault

For such an important story for Soviet propaganda, it is surprising that so many different dates are given for the storm group assault on Pavlov's House. The earliest date mentioned in the review of literature was 22 September. The latest date was 27 September. The most common dates given for the attack were 25 and 27 September. An examination of maps used by the 13th Guards Rifle Division at the time indicates that it is highly unlikely the storm group assault was before 25 September, as the building was depicted as being behind German lines. While it can't be ruled out that the depiction of the battlefield was incorrect due to the building being held by such a small force, that seems unlikely. The real confusion lies in the dates of 25 and 27 September. Tactical maps from the 13th Guards combine changes on the battlefield between these dates, so it is impossible to determine precisely on which date the attack occurred. Most texts state that Pavlov and his men were reinforced by Lieutenant Ivan Afanasyev and elements of his machine gun platoon (from the 3rd Machine Gun Company) two days after the house was seized. Some texts suggest the reinforcement occurred the next day, others put this at three days, but two is the most common. And, as covered below, most texts (incorrectly) refer to the defense of Pavlov's House as having occurred between 27 September and 24 November. Therefore, there are two likely scenarios. Either Pavlov and his men took the building on 25 September and were reinforced on 27 September, or Pavlov and his men took the building on 27 September and were reinforced on 29 September. While such a small detail might seem minor in the overall scheme of the story, it sets the stage for a long list of factual errors that are pervasive across accounts of Pavlov's House.

Taking Pavlov's House

There are significant differences in the number of men reportedly involved in the initial storm group assault on Pavlov's House. Most versions of the story suggest Pavlov and three other men were responsible for storming the building. Other versions indicate there were a total of six men, but two were left as guards when Pavlov entered the building, which may be where the idea of the four man team originates. The most significant difference is a version of the story that suggests a platoon-sized element with approximately 30 infantrymen composed the storm group but that some of the men—to include Lieutenant Afanasyev—were injured during the attack, and that ultimately only Pavlov and three others successfully completed the mission. It's worth noting that Afanasyev makes no mention of having been involved in the initial storm group assault on Pavlov's House in his book “Дом Солдатской Славы” (House of Soldier's Glory). Regardless, for a period of one to three days (and most likely two), it seems that Pavlov's House was defended by only four to six men, and that Pavlov was in command.



Design Note

Despite some accounts that claim two additional riflemen supported the assault on Pavlov's House, the game assumes only four men participated in the attack: Pavlov, Glushenko, Chernogolov, and Aleksandrov.

Pavlov's House

58 Days or 4 Months?

A core part of the myth of Pavlov's House is the claim that the defenders held out for "58 days." In truth—ironically—the defense lasted much longer. In order to reach the 58 days, there must be a presumptive start date, which is assumed to be 27 September. For those using this date, it is not clear whether they believe Pavlov took the house on 27 September or if the major defense of the house began on this date. Regardless, a start date of 27 September results in an end date of 24 November, which is logical because this is the date when the defenders of Pavlov's House were ordered to attack the Milk House and Pavlov was injured. After the failed assault on the Milk House, Lieutenant Anton Dragan took charge of the building. Dragan had already fought in key Stalingrad battles at the Railway Station and Nail Factory. Dragan was in charge until 10 January, was transferred briefly to the Red October Factory, and then had to retake the building on 30 January when it was found to have been retaken by the Wehrmacht.

24 Defenders

According to Soviet propaganda, Pavlov's House was defended by 24 infantrymen. This was an attempt to paint a picture of a small group of defenders holding out against a numerically superior enemy. The true number of defenders was much higher (up to as many as 100 at one point) and included machine gunners, anti-tank gunners, sappers and forward observers.

Pavlov's House or The Lighthouse?

Some accounts suggest the code name дом Павлова (or "Dom Pavlova": Pavlov's House) was used by the 62nd Army and especially forward observers and artillery units on their maps during the Battle of Stalingrad. This is not true. According to multiple historical sources and an interview given to Jones (p. 179), the code name Lighthouse was used throughout the battle.

Forward Observers and Artillery

Forward observers and artillery played a critical role in the defense of Pavlov's House. However, for propaganda purposes Soviet authorities chose to omit the forward observers from the list of the defenders and do not mention the critical role of artillery in helping to defend the building.



Soviet officers monitor the enemy from an artillery command post.

Who was in Charge?

Some perpetuate the myth that Pavlov was in command of the strongpoint throughout its defense. However, most indicate that Lieutenant Ivan Afanasyev brought a small force and took command within two or three days of Pavlov taking the building, and while this is true, it is not clear how long Afanasyev was in charge. In his book, Afanasyev depicts himself as having lead the defense of the building until the storm group assault on the Milk House on 24 November. According to Afanasyev, Senior Lieutenant Ivan Naumov (commander of the 7th Rifle Company) along with Senior Lieutenant Ivan Aleksey Zhukov (commander of the 3rd Rifle Battalion), arrived at Pavlov's House on 24 November in preparation for the attack. Naumov was killed during the storm group assault and thus, according to Afanasyev, Naumov never led the defense of the house. This account is in direct contrast to that given by Georgi Potanski, a forward observer who served in Pavlov's House, in an interview he gave to Jones (p. 152). Polanski stated, "We were commanded by Captain Naumov - he was the real hero of our defense." He went on to say, "Naumov fought side by side with the rest of us soldiers, repelling German attacks. He was an incredible hero." Interestingly, Jones' is the only text that indicates Naumov was in charge of the defense of Pavlov's House, and it seems possible that Potanski was somehow mistaken in his account. While it is very difficult to reconcile the two different versions from Afanasyev and Potanski, the definitive facts are:

- Pavlov lead the defense for one to three days,
- Afanasyev took over for an undetermined period between the end of September and the attack on the Milk House,
- Naumov may have also lead the defense, and he was certainly killed during the assault on the Milk House.

“Naumov would not just say the words ‘For the Motherland,’ he embodied them...his courage was inspirational”
— Ivan Schylaev (13th Guards historian)



Design Note

Regardless of whether Naumov was in command of Pavlov's House (as per Potanski's account) or if Afanasyev was in charge (the most common version of the story), you control how the command structure of the building's defense will unfold during the game.

Because of the cost of Naumov and Afanasyev, it can be tempting not to include them as reinforcements. However, the Command action is critical to the management of the defenders' actions throughout the game. The storm group attribute can also be impactful, especially during the final storm group assault on the Milk House.

However, the most significant impact the trio can have in the game is the Command Team special rule, which grants the defenders an extra action every turn. The investment for Command Team is heavy, but the reward is powerful. One point to keep in mind though: one lucky shot from a Wehrmacht sniper can drop a member of the command team. For that reason, having a First Aid token on hand is usually a good idea.

13th Guards Rifle Division

CAPTURED BY THE WEHRMACHT

All storm group assault locations depicted on this map were captured by the German 6th Army's 71st Infantry Division / 194th Infantry Regiment on 14 September.

Most were cleared by the Soviet 62nd Army's 13th Guards Rifle Division's 34th and 42nd Guards Rifle Regiments on 15 or 16 September.

They were then re-captured by the 71st Infantry Division between 21 and 23 September as part of the 6th Army's renewed offensive.

The 13th Guards attempted to clear most of these locations numerous times between late September and late November, with the only successes being Pavlov's House and Zabolotny's House.

1 PAVLOV'S HOUSE

Cleared by Pavlov and three riflemen from the 42nd Guards Rifle Regiment's 7th Rifle Company on 27 September. Reinforced on 29 September by elements of the 7th Rifle Company and 3rd Machine Gun Company.

2 ZABOLOTNY'S HOUSE

Cleared by Lieutenant Nickolay Zabolotny and elements of a platoon from the 42nd Guards Rifle Regiment's 3rd Rifle Battalion on 27 September. A few days later, the building was destroyed and the defenders killed by German artillery strikes.



on Storm Group Assaults



METAL WORKERS' HOUSE

3

Cleared by the 39th Guards Rifle Regiment's 3rd Rifle Battalion on 23 November.

THE VOENTORG

4

Cleared by the 39th Guards Rifle Regiment's 3rd Rifle Battalion on 25 November.

SCHOOL NO. 6

5

Cleared by the 39th Guards Rifle Regiment's 3rd Rifle Battalion on 25 November.

RAILWAY WORKERS' HOUSE

6

Cleared by the 42nd Guards Rifle Regiment's 2nd Rifle Battalion on 3 December.

L-SHAPED HOUSE

7

Cleared by the 34th Guards Rifle Regiment's 2nd Rifle Battalion on 3 December.

SCHOOL NO. 38

8

Cleared by the 34th Guards Rifle Regiment on 26 December.

MILK HOUSE

9

Failed storm group assault attempted on 24 November by the 42nd Guards Rifle Regiment's 3rd Rifle Battalion (primarily the defenders of Pavlov's House). Eventually cleared by elements of the 13th Guards Rifle Division in late December.

Air Defense

The Stalingrad Air Defense Regional Corps was formed in June 1942 in preparation for the defense of the city from the imminent aerial bombardment from Germany's Luftflotte 4. The corps combined anti-aircraft regiments; air defense armored trains; searchlight battalions; aerial observation, warning, and communications units; and a fighter air defense division.

On 23 August, the day Luftflotte 4 began the assault on Stalingrad, air defense coverage for Stalingrad was provided by 326 guns across the Air Defense Regional Corps. Approximately 63% of the corps' personnel were women who were mobilized for the war. When the German 6th Army launched the initial offensive into Stalingrad on 13 September, the women manning M1939 37mm automatic air defense guns of the 1077th Anti-Aircraft Regiment on the city's northern perimeter offered the only resistance against the 16th Panzer Division.

With Soviet aircraft heavily outnumbered and outclassed for most of the Battle of Stalingrad, the ground-based elements of the Air Defense Regional Corps offered the only real defense against constant aerial attack.



**“Right until afternoon we had to fight 'shot for shot' against anti-aircraft positions manned by tenacious fighting women, until all were destroyed.”
— 16th Panzer Division Officer**



A Junkers Ju 87 “Stuka” flies above Stalingrad.

Design Note

Just as in the actual Battle of the Stalingrad, the ground-based air defense forces in Pavlov's House play a critical role if you are to have any chance of victory. Early on there will be a seemingly endless wave of Junkers Ju 87s ("Stukas") wreaking havoc on the operational-level elements of the game. If the Stukas are allowed free reign, they will cripple your ability to provide the defenders of Pavlov's House the support they need to hold off the Wehrmacht.

The mechanism for Bombing Stalingrad was one of the first elements designed for Pavlov's House. In order to balance this portion of the game, it was necessary to develop a system that allowed for disrupting the Stuka attacks. Each time you are faced with a Junkers Ju 87 card, you must make a critical decision—what is the proper level of anti-aircraft investment? If you use too many readied anti-aircraft tokens against a single sortie, it may leave you defenseless to future strikes. But if you use too few anti-aircraft tokens, it could result in significant damage to the 62nd Army.

On the game board, anti-aircraft batteries from the 1083rd anti-aircraft regiment and the 267th Separate anti-aircraft battalion are featured. These batteries provided the best coverage for Pavlov's House against Stuka attacks from avenues of approach from the west, north, and south. However, batteries deployed throughout the Air Defense Regional Corps were instrumental in providing redundant, overlapping air defense coverage for Stalingrad.

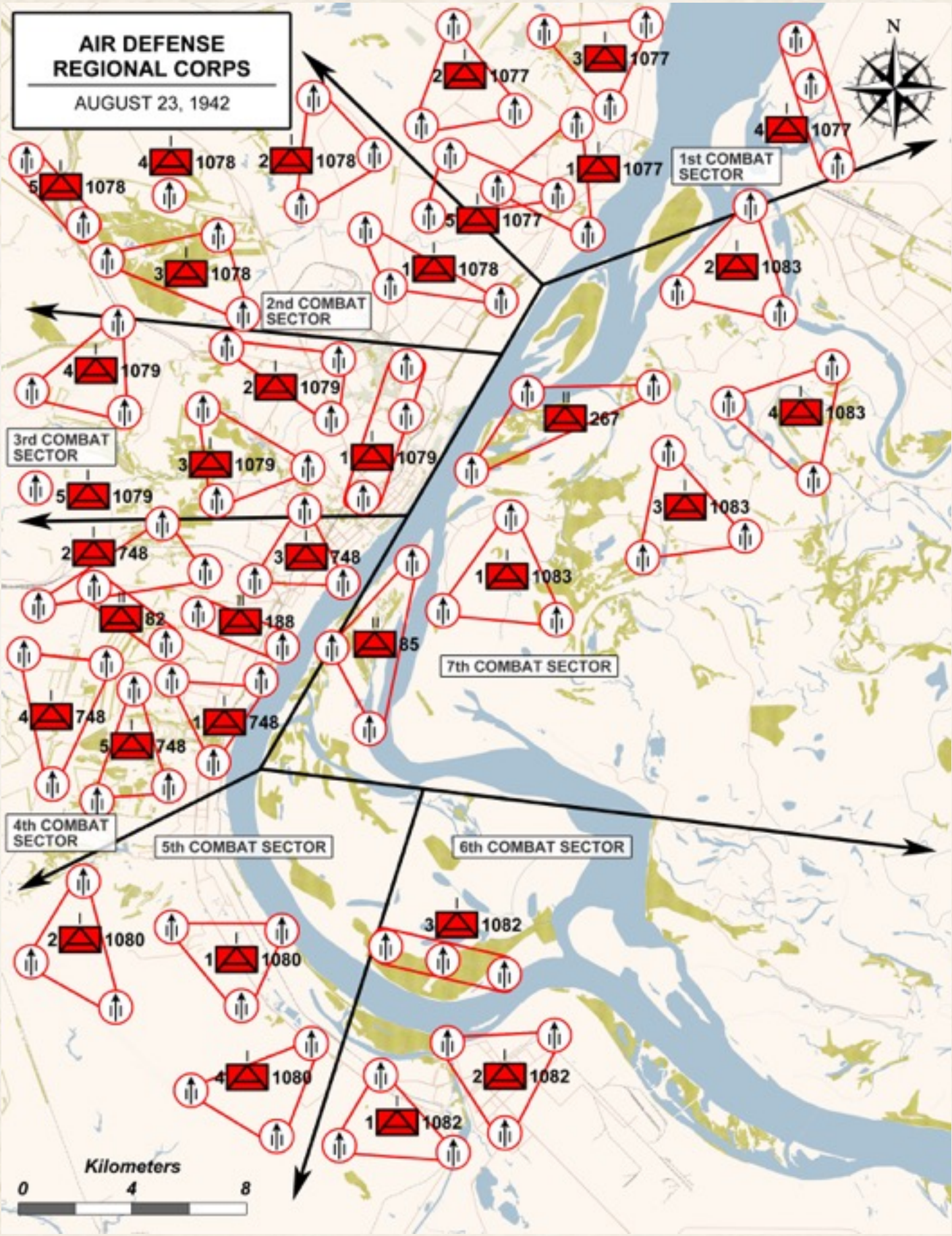


The 267th Separate Anti-aircraft Battalion and 1083rd Anti-aircraft Regiment feature the silhouette of a M1939 37mm automatic air defense gun. These guns formed the backbone of the ground-based air defenses for the Stalingrad Air Defense Regional Corps.



The remains of a Heinkel He 111 medium bomber.

**AIR DEFENSE
REGIONAL CORPS**
AUGUST 23, 1942



Artillery

As the Wehrmacht was launching its initial offensive on Stalingrad on 13 September, the Soviet military council charged with defending the city established a front artillery group. Artillery units were organized to provide support for the Soviet 62nd Army in the north and the neighboring 64th Army to the south. Each group consisted of artillery regiments and a mortar regiment.

The 32nd Guards Artillery Regiment was the regiment organic to the 13th Guards Rifle Division. Like the other artillery units that supported the Battle of Stalingrad, the 32nd was removed from its upper-echelon unit and organized within the Northern Subgroup of Front-Line Artillery.

There is a dearth of detailed English language accounts of the specific employment doctrine for the front artillery group, so it is not clear which other artillery units assisted in the defense of Pavlov's House, but the position of the 32nd based on maps from the time indicate it would have been in position to provide indirect fire support for the defenders of the house. The 384th Artillery Regiment, subordinate to the 193rd Rifle Division, most likely also provided support based on its location.

Design Note

Michael K. Jones' book "Stalingrad: How the Red Army Triumphed" was one of the first texts I read when researching Pavlov's House. In the chapter dedicated to Pavlov's House, he interviews Georgi Potanski, a forward observer who was in the strongpoint during its defense against Wehrmacht assaults. In the interview Potanski recounts the close coordination of the defense of the building with artillery units positioned on the east side of the Volga. This served as one of the key influences for the expansion of Pavlov's House from a purely tactical strongpoint defense game to the inclusion of the supporting operational elements.

The decision to integrate the placement of Artillery tokens on the operational side with forward observer Soviet counters on the tactical side serves as a thematic link between the two Soviet elements of the game and also requires timing and coordination to be effective.



“As soon as the Germans started an infantry attack we called in our artillery units on the far bank, and brought an immediate bombardment.”
— Georgi Potanski



The 32nd Guards Artillery Regiment uses the silhouette of a M-30 122mm howitzer. Each of the regiment's three battalions was equipped with a battery of 122mm howitzers and two batteries of 76mm guns.

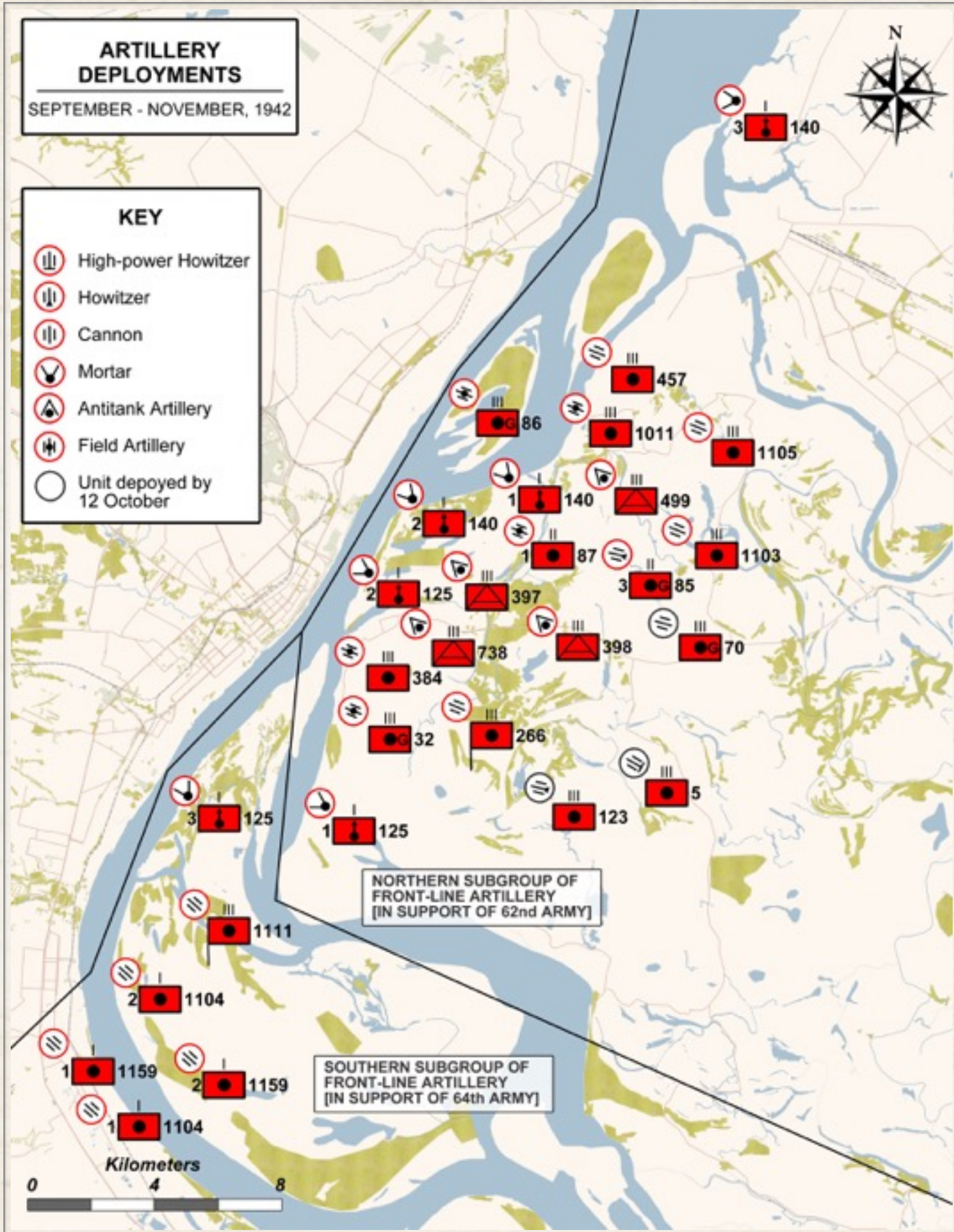
ARTILLERY DEPLOYMENTS

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER, 1942



KEY

- High-power Howitzer
- Howitzer
- Cannon
- Mortar
- Antitank Artillery
- Field Artillery
- Unit deployed by 12 October



Sappers

Sappers played a key role in the defense of Stalingrad. A central part of General Chuikov's plan for defending the city was to create "breakwaters"—a series of well-orchestrated defenses consisting of strongpoints and infantry armed with anti-tank rifles that would channel the Wehrmacht into Soviet tanks and anti-tank guns. These channeled approaches were mined by sappers.

During the Battle of Stalingrad, sappers would lay in wait, heavily camouflaged, and observe the battlefield. At night, they would navigate their own defenses, clear German minefields, and lay new mines of their own.

According to Beaver (p. 149), sappers suffered the highest casualty rate of any specialization. Women also served as combat engineers and were regarded as noncombatants. Lieutenant Stanislava Volkov, one of at least seventy-five women trained as sapper platoon commanders in 1942 alone, was told during her training that the average life expectancy of a sapper platoon commander was two months.

Sappers were instrumental in supporting the defenders of Pavlov's House. They placed mines along the western, northern, and southern approaches to the building, constructed barbed wire fences, and dug communications trenches to link Pavlov's House to the command post for the 13th Guards Rifle Division. This work was almost certainly performed by elements of the 8th Guards Sapper Battalion, the sapper unit attached to the 13th Guards.



**“In the course of the war
hundreds of tons of soil
were turned over by the
sapper's spade.”
— Stanislava Volkov**



Minesweeper Fedorov—Stalingrad January 1943.

Sappers

Design Note

Sappers perform two very important roles in Pavlov's House. First, by using a sapper token a player can repair damaged walls for the strongpoint, which is critical for protecting the defenders. Although construction of field defenses is not what sappers are typically known for, it nonetheless was critical for shielding the infantrymen who held out against aerial bombardment and artillery strikes for two months. Second, by placing a sapper token on one of the 8th Guards Sapper Battalion spaces a player can deploy critical anti-armor and anti-personnel countermeasures that can serve as a last line of the defense. However, getting the sappers into place can be challenging, as their equipment must be moved across the Volga using the Volga Military Flotilla. Early in the game, the values of sappers may not seem to outweigh that of food and ammunition tokens, but when you need sappers most, you may not have time to coordinate the delivery of the sapper tokens.



The 8th Guards Sapper Battalion features a soviet sapper searching for mines with a VIM-203 mine detector. The VIM-203 could operate for 30 hours continuously and could detect mines at a depth of up to 50cm.



Sapper with a VIM-203 mine detector.

Volga River Crossings

In October 1941, the Volga Military Flotilla was created from vessels of the Volga Steamship Line to ensure transportation on and the defense of the Volga. As the German 6th Army approached Stalingrad in 1942, the flotilla consisted of 7 gunboats, 14 armored cutters, 33 minesweepers, 2 floating anti-aircraft batteries, one rail-road battery, and two naval infantry battalions. The flotilla was charged with the following:

- Transporting supplies, reinforcements, and casualties across the Volga;
- Providing fire support to the 62nd Army;
- Protecting lines of communication;
- Escorting transport ships;
- Eliminating enemy air threat with anti-aircraft guns.

Under relentless attack from the Germans throughout the Battle of Stalingrad, the Volga Military Flotilla crossed the Volga more than 35,000 times, transporting more than 120,000 men and moving more than 13,000 tons of supplies. During the defense of the city, 5 armored cutters and 16 minesweepers were lost to a combination of mines, artillery fire, and aircraft bombardment.

The Volga Military Flotilla was also augmented by the 44th and 160th Motorized Pontoon Battalions, which were attached to the 62nd Army. The 44th Motorized Pontoon Battalion was equipped with N2P 60 ton pontoons and the 160th Heavy Motorized Pontoon Battalion was equipped with SP-19 120 ton pontoons.



“About the role of the sailors of the fleet...had it not been for them the 62nd Army might have perished without ammunition and rations.”
— Chuikov



Volga Military Flotilla being bombed by aircraft from Luftflotte 4.

Volga River Crossings

Design Note

While moving supplies across the Volga might not be as exciting as shooting at Stukas with anti-aircraft guns or firing on Panzers with artillery, managing the Volga Military Flotilla is nonetheless a critical—perhaps most critical—operational element for success in Pavlov's House. Without critical supplies like food, ammunition, and first aid, the defenders of Pavlov's House will fail. Keeping the flotilla at maximum efficiency is important, so disruption to the flotilla spaces should be kept to a minimum. And it's often a good tactic to load and deliver supplies in the same turn if possible so that you don't risk losing precious supplies to Stuka bombing.



The Volga Military Flotilla features a ZIS-5 N2P 60 ton Pontoon Carrier. This type of vehicle was used by the 44th Motorized Pontoon Battalion, which was attached to the 62nd Army and supported the Volga Military Flotilla.



Soviet soldiers crossing the Volga.

VOLGA RIVER CROSSINGS

AUGUST - NOVEMBER 1942

A. 2 ferryboats on barges and railroad crossing. Used until August.

B. 3 ferryboats (type N2P), 3 ferryboats (type SP-19), 3 BMK type cutters, 6 barges, 6 tugs, 3 steamboats, 3 footbridges on floats.

C. 2 ferryboats (type N2P), 1 ferryboat on barge, 1 floating bridge. Length of voyage is 12km.

D. Floating bridge, wooden combination bridge with a drawbridge section, 2 ferryboats.

E. Moorage. Length of voyage is 5km.

F. Crossing for 3 ferryboats (type SP-19).

G. Central crossing number one. 2 barges, 2 tugs, 1 steamer. Used from 22 August to 13 September.

H. Central crossing number two. 5 ferryboats (type SP-19) and 2 cutters. Used from 25 August to 21 September.

I. Special crossing for the wounded. Two river trams, 2 cutters. Used from 25 August to 20 September.

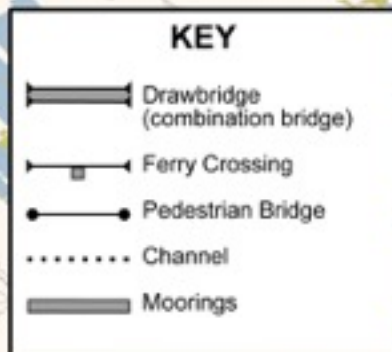
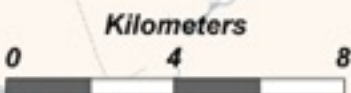
J. Moorage. Length of voyage is 23km.

K. Drawbridge. Used from 21 September to 7 October.

L. Drawbridge. Used from 21 September to 7 November.

M. Combination floating and trestle bridge. Used from 4 September to 8 September.

N. Combination floating and trestle bridge. Used from 10 September to 20 September.



Communications

It would have been impossible for the defenders of Pavlov's House to have held out against the constant Wehrmacht attacks had it not been for the support from the 62nd Army, and that support was enabled by the work of the 13th Guards Rifle Division's subordinate 139th Signal Battalion and the Red Army's other signal units that fought in the Battle of Stalingrad.

Soviet doctrine stressed reliable and redundant communications, which were prioritized for the operational control and coordination of combat units at the expense of administrative units. The 139th Signal Battalion was part of a *cooperation net*, which was established to ensure the synchronization of all participating elements during the battle. The 139th used wire and radio communications, supplemented by visual signals and liaison officers. The primary links within the 13th Guards Rifle Division and between the division and the 62nd Army was via telephone.

“On the famous Stalingrad battlefield, Soviet forces set up, in all, about 9,000 radio stations.”
— Maj. Gen. A. Novitskiy
Signal Communications Troops

Design Note

In Pavlov's House, the 139th Signal Battalion spaces represent the efforts of the battalion's subordinate telephone platoons (operating under signal companies) to maintain the wire communications links between the 13th Guards Rifle Division and 62nd Guards Army command posts. The greater the level of disruption to communications between the command posts, the more the defenders will have to deal with the fog of war. However, if telephone lines are maintained (represented by the presence of wire communications tokens in all four spaces), reliable communications have been established and the effectiveness of the command and control is improved considerably.

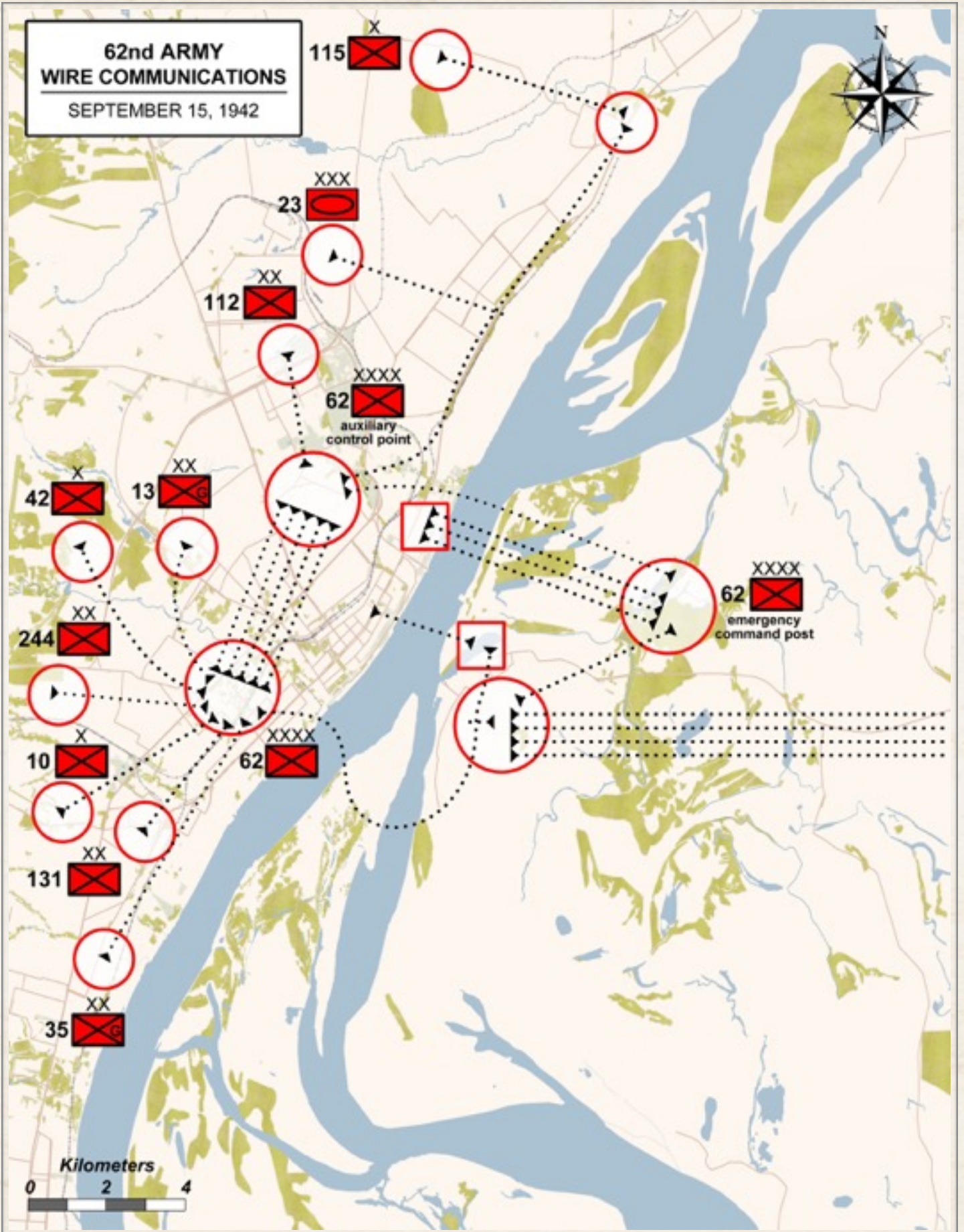


The 139th Signal Battalion features a soviet signal troop repairing a telephone line.



Soviet signalman establishing telephone links in Stalingrad.

**62nd ARMY
WIRE COMMUNICATIONS**
SEPTEMBER 15, 1942



Operation Uranus

On 19 November 1942, the Red Army launched Operation Uranus, a two-pronged attack targeting the weaker Romanian and Hungarian armies protecting the German 6th Army's flanks. The Axis forces on the flanks were overrun and the 6th Army was cut off and surrounded in the Stalingrad area. Hitler ordered that the army stay in Stalingrad and make no attempt to break out; instead, attempts were made to supply the army by air and to break the encirclement from the outside. Heavy fighting continued for another two months. By the beginning of February 1943, the Axis forces in Stalingrad had exhausted their ammunition and food. The remaining units of the 6th Army surrendered.

“The god of war has gone
over to the other side.”
— Hitler

Design Note

The beginning of Operation Uranus aligns with the approximate end of the period of time represented in Pavlov's House. Once Operation Uranus began, the Wehrmacht's ability to initiate offensives was limited, opening the opportunity for the defenders of Pavlov's House to launch storm group assaults. Pavlov's House was briefly abandoned by the Red Army, taken by the Wehrmacht, and then had to be retaken by the Soviets. However, these were minor skirmishes compared to the intense exchanges that were fought during the height of the Battle of Stalingrad.



Battle for Stalingrad—German POWs.

Appendix I: 62nd Army Units Defending Pavlov's House

Chain of Command

General Vasily Chuikov: 62nd Army Commander

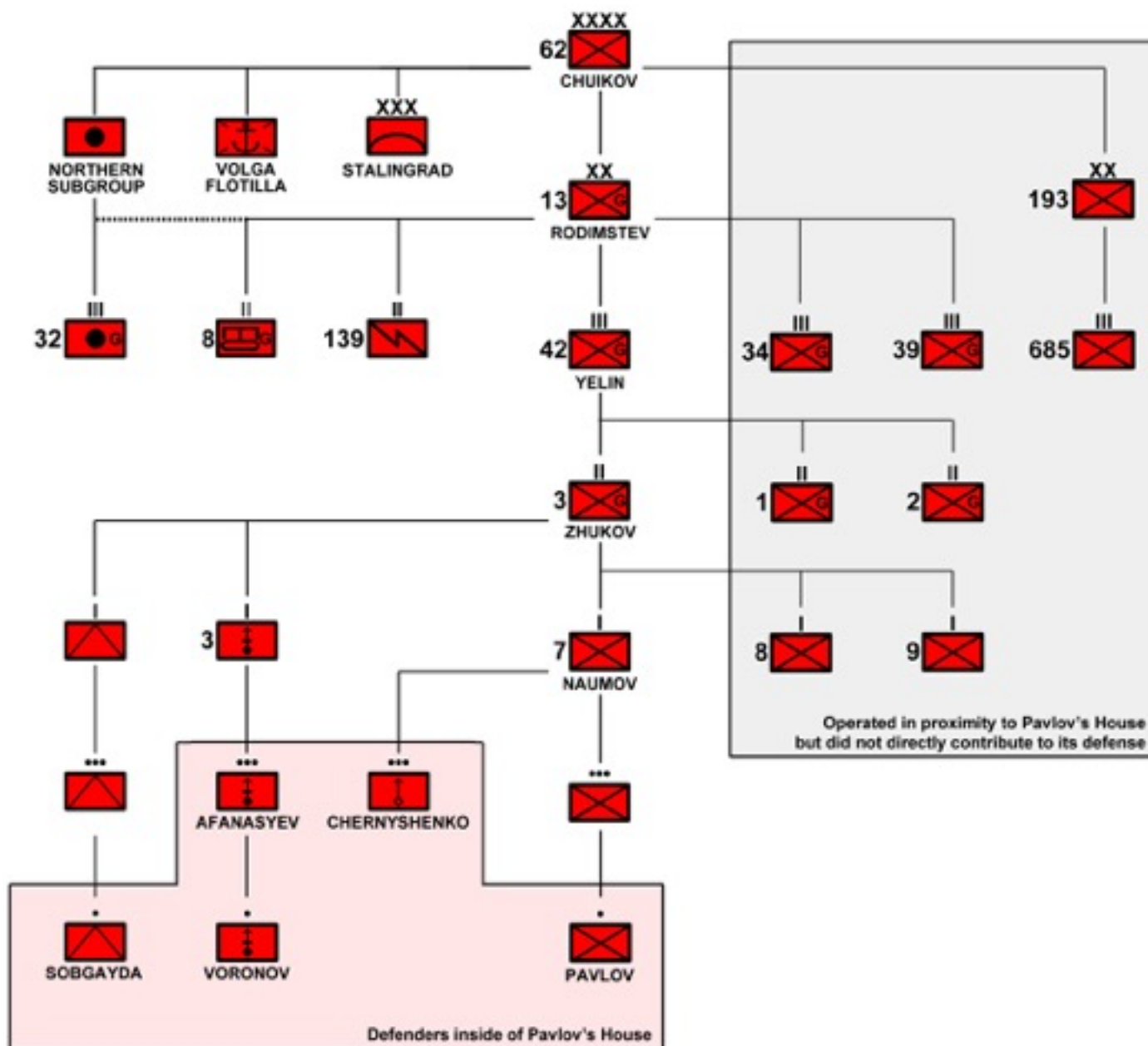
General Alexander Rodimtsev: 13th Guards Rifle Division Commander

Colonel Ivan Pavlovich Yelin: 42nd Guards Rifle Regiment Commander

Senior Lieutenant Aleksey Yefimovich Zhukov: 3rd Rifle Battalion Commander

Senior Lieutenant Ivan Naumov: 7th Rifle Company Commander

Lieutenant Ivan Afanasyev: Platoon Commander, 3rd Machine Gun Company




Appendix 2: Defenders of Pavlov's House

Name	Rank	Unit	Command	Weapon	Milk House Note
Ivan Naumov	Senior Lieutenant	7th Rifle Company	Company Commander	Mosin-Nagant	Killed
Ivan Afanasyev	Lieutenant	3rd Machine Gun Company	Platoon Leader	Mosin-Nagant	Injured
Aleksey Anikin	Lieutenant	3rd Machine Gun Company	Platoon Leader	M1910 HMG / DP 28 LMG	Injured (later died of wounds)
Aleksey Chernyshenko	Junior Lieutenant	Mortar Platoon	Platoon Leader	RM-41 50mm Mortar	Killed
Ilya Voronov	Senior Sergeant	3rd Machine Gun Company	Squad Leader	M1910 HMG / DP 28 LMG	Injured
Andrey Sobgayda	Senior Sergeant	3rd Antitank Rifle Company	Squad Leader	M1937 ATG / PTRD-41 ATR	Killed
Yakov Pavlov	Sergeant	7th Rifle Company	Squad Leader	PPSh-41	Injured
Terenty Gridin	Sergeant	Mortar Platoon		RM-41 50mm Mortar	
Idel Chait	Sergeant	3rd Machine Gun Company		M1910 HMG / DP 28 LMG	Killed
Alexey Ivashenko	Sergeant	3rd Machine Gun Company		M1910 HMG / DP 28 LMG	Killed
Vasily Glushenko	Corporal	7th Rifle Company		PPSh-41	
Faizrakhman Ramazanov	Corporal	3rd Antitank Rifle Company		M1937 ATG / PTRD-41 ATR	
Alexander Aleksandrov	Soldier	7th Rifle Company		PPSh-41	
Nikita Chernogolov	Soldier	7th Rifle Company		PPSh-41	
Ivan Svirin	Soldier	3rd Machine Gun Company		M1910 HMG / DP 28 LMG	Injured (later died of wounds)
Mikhail Bondarenko	Soldier	3rd Machine Gun Company		M1910 HMG / DP 28 LMG	
P. Dovzhenko	Soldier	3rd Machine Gun Company		M1910 HMG / DP 28 LMG	


	Machine Gun Crew		Antitank Crew		Forward Observer
	Mortar Crew		Pavlov's Storm Group		Sniper

Appendix 2: Defenders of Pavlov's House

Name	Rank	Unit	Role	Weapon	Milk House Note
Grigory Yakimenko	Soldier	3rd Antitank Rifle Company		M1937 ATG / PTRD-41 ATR	
Talibay Murzaev	Soldier	3rd Antitank Rifle Company		M1937 ATG / PTRD-41 ATR	
Mabulat Turdyev	Soldier	3rd Antitank Rifle Company		M1937 ATG / PTRD-41 ATR	
Kamoljon Turgunov	Soldier	3rd Antitank Rifle Company		M1937 ATG / PTRD-41 ATR	
Shkuratov	Soldier	3rd Antitank Rifle Company		M1937 ATG / PTRD-41 ATR	
Niko Masijashvili	Soldier	7th Rifle Company		PPSh-41	
Sukba	Soldier	7th Rifle Company		PPSh-41	
Andrey Shapovalov	Soldier	7th Rifle Company		Mosin-Nagant	
V. Kiselev	Soldier	7th Rifle Company		Mosin-Nagant	
V. Avagimov	Soldier	7th Rifle Company		Mosin-Nagant	
V. Sarayev	Soldier	7th Rifle Company		Mosin-Nagant	
Stepanoshvili	Soldier	7th Rifle Company		Mosin-Nagant	
Yefremov	Soldier	7th Rifle Company		Mosin-Nagant	
Garya Hoholov	Soldier	7th Rifle Company		Mosin-Nagant PU 3.5 (sniper variant)	
Anatoly Chekhov	Soldier	13th Guards		Mosin-Nagant PU 3.5 (sniper variant)	
Georgi Polanski	Unknown	Possibly 32nd Guards Artillery Regiment		Mosin-Nagant	
Nikolai Sarkisan	Unknown	Possibly 32nd Guards Artillery Regiment		Mosin-Nagant	


 Machine Gun Crew

 Antitank Crew

 Sniper

 Mortar Crew

 Pavlov's Storm Group

 Forward Observer

Appendix 3: Soviet Awards

In Pavlov's House, the level of victory is categorized by score and assigned a Soviet medal or award.

Award	Description
Hero of the Soviet Union	The highest honorary title that can be given to Soviet civilians and soldiers for heroic acts.
Order of Victory	The highest military decoration in the Soviet Armed Forces for World War II service.
Order of the Red Banner	Recognized military deeds. Before the establishment of the Order of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner functioned as the highest military order of the USSR.
Order of Suvorov	Awarded to army commanders for exceptional direction of combat operations.
Order of the Patriotic War	Awarded to all soldiers in the Soviet armed forces, security troops, and to partisans for heroic deeds during the Great Patriotic War.
Order of the Red Star	Given to Red Army and Navy personnel for exceptional service in the cause of the defense of the Soviet Union in both war and peace.



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- ASL scenario, The General, Volume 29, Issue 6.
- LnLP's Lock 'n Load Tactical: Heroes of the Motherland.
- LnLP's Lock 'n Load: Not One Step Back.
- 1A Games' Tide of Iron: Next Wave.
- L2 Design Group's Streets of Stalingrad (third edition).
- Critical Hit, Inc.'s Advanced Tobruk System Basic Game II: Streets of Stalingrad.