

"The Steeple"

Kelkolovo, Russia — August 28th, 1942

As the Siege of Leningrad dragged on into the summer of 1942, the Germans found themselves increasingly having to respond to Soviet counter-attacks trying to reach the river Neva. After another of these incursions, the Germans responded with a general effort to throw the Russians back and stabilize the line east of the River Neva. As the German attack began, elements of the 28th Jaeger Division found themselves moving on the road to Siniavino. In the vanguard of the 28th Jaeger Division was a company led by Hauptmann Johan Kruger. Kruger and his men were tasked with securing the church in Kelkolovo and establishing a forward observation point to direct artillery at any advancing Soviet Units. It was a routine assignment and Kelkolovo was unoccupied by Soviet forces according to German intelligence.



Special Rules/Notes:

- 1. EC are moderate, with no wind.
- 2. Orchards and Grain are in season.
- 3. Only Hex Rows W-TT are playable.
- 4. During the Soviet setup, any units placed in Building Hexes begin the scenario HIP. Units placed in other terrain are placed under concealment if in concealment terrain.
- 5. Kindling is N.A.
- 6. Polders are in play and as per the Decision at Elst rules Section 1.3.
- 7. The Soviet radio represents one module of 80mm OBA (smoke or HE).
- **8.** The church in NN8 has a level 3 Steeple.
- 9. All German units must enter the scenario as passengers.
- 10. The German player wins immediately upon controlling the Level 3 Steeple location in Hex NN8, regardless of other Soviet Units in the location.



Aftermath: Upon reaching the outskirts of Kelkolovo, Kruger, an experienced veteran, had his men dismount from their trucks and enter the town on foot. Suddenly a shot disturbed the hot, still afternoon. One of Kruger's veteran NCO's fell dead. A fusillade of German fire was directed at the location of the shot. Receiving no return fire, Kruger believed the lone Russian sniper had beat a hasty retreat. He motioned his men forward and to pick up the pace. The church was just a few meters away. The sudden hammering of Soviet machine guns concluded that this time...Hauptmann Kruger was wrong. Kruger and his men found themselves in a desperate close quarters battle with an advanced company of the Soviet 191st Infantry Division which like Kruger had orders to secure the church steeple for an artillery observation point. The crump of mortar rounds confirmed that indeed the Russians had been successful. Rallying his men, Kruger utilized his half-tracks and 75mm artillery pieces to flank the Soviet forces and successfully seize the objective...but not without the loss of many veteran Landsers.