HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
LOCATION: The outskirts of Sporonyy, on the Manych River
DATE: 15 January 1943
COMMENTARY: One of Stalin’s attempts to cut off Army Group A involved a
massive drive by the 2nd Guards Army between the Don and Manych rivers. The
Russian attack reached its peak as General Rotmistrov’s troops pushed into the outskirts
of Bakaysk, a suburb of Rostov. Under General Manstein’s direction, Count Schwerin
disengaged the “Greyhound” Division from the fighting south of Stalingrad to redirect a
spearhead into the deep right flank of Rotmistrov’s penetration.

Captain Tebbe, commanding the new Tigers, drove his troops through the
Russian lines to the high ground near Sporony, then turned and assaulted the village. After a short fight, in which the Russians lost several T-34s and AT guns, the village and the
nearby bridge on the Manych were secured for further actions against the Russian
flank.

The German successes at Sporony and later at Samodurovka seriously
hampere the Russian attack on Rostov and led to the successful withdrawal of Army
Group A from rapidly closing encirclement.

TURN RECORD CHART

THE BATTLEFIELD AND CONDITIONS

Only hexrows GG-Q are playable on mapboards 12 and 5. Mapboard 8 is placed under mapboard 7
so that hexrow Q abuts hexrow A on mapboard 7 (treat hexes 7A3 and 7A4 as part of the river).
All buildings are wooden [EXC: buildings 12U5 and 10Z6 are stone].
All woods are brush.
There is a two way vehicular stone bridge in 7AA6-7AA8.
The river is deep but not frozen. All ponds and streams are frozen.
EC are Moderate with No Wind at start.
Ground snow is in effect.

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