

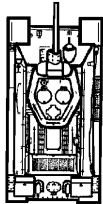
A black and white photograph showing soldiers operating a large, heavy machine gun mounted on a tripod. One soldier is in the foreground, aiming the weapon, while another is partially visible behind him. The scene is outdoors on a sandy or dusty ground.

KHARKOV, RUSSIA, 13 August, 1943: Kharkov was again becoming the focal point for a major battle for the fourth and last time as the rampaging Red armies of Vatutin and Konev converged on the city—the site of huge German supply dumps. The first Soviets to reach the city belonged to an armored formation of the 57th Army which had crushed the 848th Grenadier Regiment of the 282nd Infantry Division on August 10th and rolled into the eastern part of the city where they took over the tractor plant and other factories. German morale collapsed to the point where imposition of draconian courts-martial was considered. However, the troops rallied and plans to shoot every tenth man of the division were dismissed. The 6th Panzer Division was hurriedly dispatched to counterattack in an effort to throw the Russians out of the city.

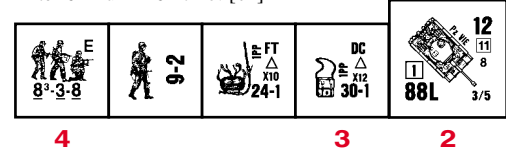
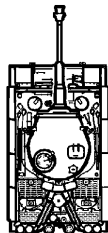
change (or fake)
ory Condition
ame Turn 4 or

✚ The German player may change (or fake a change) of his Victory Condition option at the start of Game Turn 4 or upon the arrival of the Russian reinforcements (whichever occurs first).

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| RUSSIAN Sets Up First [138] | | | | | | | | | | |
| GERMAN Moves First [88] | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | END |



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AFTERMATH: Colonel Crisolli's panzers saved the situation temporarily by storming the tractor plant, dislodging the Soviets from the city, and sealing the dangerous penetration. However, another 300 Soviet tanks of the 5th Guards Tank Army attempted to encircle the city a week later and, although rebuffed with heavy losses, convinced Manstein that eventual encirclement was certain. He ordered the evacuation of the city on the 22nd.