As the better half was away, I took the opportunity to take over the dining room table and do a solo play test of the Winter War scenario I had been planning, using BKC rules.

The Russian objective was to capture a village on the other side of a frozen lake. The Finns objective was to stop them. The protagonists were of a roughly equal point’s value.

**Russian Battlegroup 1** with a combined points value of 990
CO with CV8 command value
10 units of regular infantry
1 Maxin MG
BA10 armoured car
Four T26s tanks
One T28 Tank

**Russian Battlegroup 2** with a combined points value of 790
HQ CV7
10 units of Conscripted Infantry (in Trucks)
1 Maxim MG
BA10 armoured car
BT5 Medium Tank
BT7 Medium Tank
2 76mm Field Guns
6 Trucks

**Russian Battlegroup 3** with a combined points value of 535
HQ CV8
10 units of Conscripted Infantry
1 Maxim MG
BA10 armoured car
3 T26s 1933 pattern with twin turrets

The Finns were organised

**Finnish Battlegroup 1** With a combined points value of 1130
CO CV9
10 units of Regular Infantry
7 units of Assault Infantry
1 AT rifle
1 Maxim MG
1 mortar
1 37mm Bofers ATG

**Finnish Battlegroup 2** with a combined points value of 180
HQ CV8
1 BA10 Armoured Car
1 T26 Tank

**Finnish Battlegroup3** with a combined points value of 1100

HQ CV9
10 units of Regular Infantry
7 units of Assault Infantry
1 AT rifle
1 Maxim MG
1 mortar
1 37mm Bofers ATG

In addition the Finns had 150 x 50mm unmarked minefield

The table was approximately 1800 x 900mm although the cloth was wider. All miniatures are Pendraken with the exception of the BA10 armoured cars which were from Magister Militum. Buildings were Timecast. The cloth was white felt, the lake was white felt dusted with grey primer.

The Russian plan of attack was for Battlegroup 1 to undertake a frontal attack across the open frozen lake. Battlegroup 2 was to deploy the field guns on the lake edge to pin the Fins whilst the BT5/7 tanks and infantry crossed the river and to flank attack the village. Battlegroup 3 was to develop a wide flanking attack on further down stream.

The Finns positioned Battlegroups 1 & 2 in the village and in the shoreline trees, Battlegroup 3 was just beyond the river section.
Russian Battlegroup 1 start their advance across the frozen lake, there are small number of Finns on the island on the left, The Finnish ATG and mortar succeed in taking out a T26 early in the advance.
The Finns await the advance.

First blood to the Finns.
Battlegroup 2 – The column of trucks await in the background whilst the tanks and armour car locate the minefield the hard way!

Battlegroup 1 continue their advance across the ice – but things are about to go wrong.
The T28 starts to menace the Finnish Infantry when a loud cracking of the ice is heard.

Suddenly it is gone – the T26 narrowly misses the same fate.
Russian Battlegroup 3 start their flanking move – oblivious of the Finns in the trees.

The Leading T26s are taken out by the Finnish ATG between the houses and the Finnish BA10 & T26.
Russian Battlegroup 2 couldn’t deploy due to poor dice and the crap CV of the HQ

Finally they deploy – but they are destined not to move again!
Potentially the Russians can still take the village

But Russian Battlegroup 3 is also having problems
Overall views – The Russians wouldn’t get much farther.
Having disposed of the Finnish ATG the Russians foolishly advanced only to be close assaulted.

Exploding Tanks always cause Camera Shake!
More close assaults - Battlegroup 1 had reached its breakeven and started to retreat from the lake, elsewhere it was bad news too.

Victory to the Finns as it was historically correct at the start of the Winter War.
An enjoyable play-test, actually playing a set of rules rather than reading them always helps.

Kelvin white
Ashendon, Bucks
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