

Weather reports of HQ of 7th GA:

6.7 cloudiness 9/10, occasionally light rain, wind W 4 m/s, up to 20 C, visibility 10 km, road condition good;

7.7 cloudiness 3/10, wind NW 4 m/s, 22 C, visibility 10 km, road condition very good;

8.7 cloudiness 9/10, wind S up to 7 m/s, 28 C, visibility 10-12 km, road condition very good.

Forces:

Red Army:

Area of 7th Pz Div

First Belt forces fighting against 7th Pz Div:

78th GRD heavily damaged and fallen back to join:

73rd GRD holding hills to east of bridgehead

Northern Shock Group Batrotskia Dacha

31st AT AB deployed around Yastrebovo

167th TR

1438th SU R

Southern Shock Group Gremiochii

211th Guards Tank Regt

201st Tank Bde

225th Guards Tank Regt

1529th SU Regt

Area of 6th Pz Div

Third Belt forces move into position on 7th

35th GRC Mj Gen Goriechev

94th GRD extends line of 73rd GRD to the north Holds Mjasoedovo/SovKol Kalinin

first day engaged with only 288th Rifle Regiment, Men 9385 rifles 5889 MG 595

Guns 96 SMG 2394 ATR 201 mortars 149, Starts the fight with 9385 men on strength. Dropped to 7078 by July 13.

31st AT A Bde

161st GAR came into action on 8th veteran 152mm gun howitzer

148th TR, (in June 1943) 3 BA64, 1 T60, 13 T70, 33 T34. (July est 25 T34 6T70 KOSAVE)

The first Churchill tanks appeared in D.Igumenka at 100 8.7 and can't take part in battle of 7 July.

148th TR strength on 6.7 2000 11 T70, 32 T34. At 2000 7.7 – 9 T70 and 29 T34.

97th GMR 132mm Rockets

99th Guards Artillery Regt

Third Belt forces move into 2nd Belt on 7th July around Melikhovo

35th GRC Mj Gen Goriechev

92nd GRD Col Trunin

276th GRR deploys to North Donets River reaches Belgorod

280th GRR main force at Melikhovo

1st Bn

2nd Bn

3rd Bn

282nd GRR reserve regt at Shlahovoe?

114th Antitank Artillery Regiment attached 20 45mm AT?

Starts the fight with 9558 men on strength. manpower 9574; rifles 5312; MG(all types) 472;

Guns(all types) 37; SMG 1852; AT-rifles 225; mortars 94 Loses 5600 men through the 17th.

197th GAR Col Shapovalov (24 x 76mm guns and 12 x 122mm howitzers) battery 1 and 2 at Melikhovo

NB: Remaining Division of 35th GRC, the 93rd GRD sent north to join 5th GTA

228th Bn of the 96th Tank Bde north of Dal Igumenka

Stood to north of 375th RD and penetrated by 19th Pz Div on 8th

(6 T70 and 46 T34. Loses 8 T34 on 8th. By 10th 20 T34)

The 96th started the battle with a manpower strength of 1146 men. It had 6 T70s and 46 T34s. It reports loss of 8 T-34s on the 8th, when a single battalion attacked a collective farm. On the start of the 10th it was down to 20 T34s, 5 T70s, and had picked up 2 T60s. It reports being penetrated to its HQ along its left side on the 4th day it was engaged (that would be the seam between it and the 92nd GRD). It was down to 14 T34s and 3 T70s by the 12th, including a few returned to service.

6th

331st Tank Bn advances without resistance to the grove E of the Smelo k Trudu kolkhoz.

8th

The brigade advanced via Kiselevo (B375240)-Dal'niaia Igumenka (B295195). The 228th Tank Bn drove the enemy out of the eastern outskirts of the town and attacked the Postnikov sovkhov (385150). The brigade (-228th Tank Bn) took up positions along the line B410243-B455250.

9th

The 228th Tank Bn fell back to the northern slopes of Ht. 217.4 (B405220).

11th

The Germans broke through to the left of the brigade, threatened the brigade's HQ and took Kazach'e (B465385) and Rzhets (B510330). The brigade withdrew to the Aleksandrovka area (B530360).

Third Belt forces move into area behind 2nd Belt on 9th July around Shlahovoe

305th RD

1004th RR at Shlahovoe

331st Bn of the 96th Tank Bde

122 ATR Bn

Area of 19th Pz Div and 168th ID

Forces holding area behind Belgorod

81st GRD of 25th GRC 1st line of 7th GA

114th AT AR

Forces holding area north of Belgorod around Dal Igemenka (rear area of 375th RD 1st line position)

375th RD 1st line of 6th GA holds on first day but then falls back and holds both sides of

North Donetz river

1667th AT A R in Dalnaya Igumenka

1/93rd Artillery Regt at Dal Igumenka

2nd Guards Tank Corps elements sent to Dal Igumenka

47th SGTR (5 MkIV – Churchill IV) sent to DI on 8th around 10:00am

1500th AT AR (19 45mm) sent to DI on 8th

218th GMR sent to DI on 8th

1/290th Guards Mortar Regt?

Anti-tank Region NTP1 (SW of Dal Igumenka) 20 x 76mm div guns 23 ATR

Anti-tank Region NTP3 (NE of Dal Igumenka) 8 x 76mm div guns

Anti-tank Strong-point NTON7 (SW side of Dal Igumenka) 12x 76mm div guns 8 ATR

8th GRC:

83rd GRD

11th GRD

22nd GRD

German Army:

KG Von Oppeln

11th Pz Regt [Raus]

Regt Stab 4 PzBef

II Abt

Stab II 4 PzBef 7 PzIII 6 PzII

5th Kompanie m 4 PzIIIs 6 PzIV 10 PzIII

6th kompanie le 3 PzIIIs 7 PzIV 8 PzIIIs

7th kompanie le 4 PzIIIs 8 PzIV 7 PzIII

8th kompanie le 3 PzIIIs 8PzIV 9PzIII 12 Flammpanzer

4th 105 tanks 12 PzII, 33 PzIII long, 17 PzIII short, 27 PzIV long (G without skirt) 6 PzBef, 12 FlammPz [Jentz]

112 tanks 6 PzII, 33 PzIII long, 22 PzIIIs, 29 PzIV, 8 PzBef, 13 Flamm [Lodieu]

8th 72 [Jentz]

9th 70 [Jentz]

10th 22 [Jentz]

II/114th PzGr Bn motorised

6th Auf Abt

I/PzArtillery Regt 76

105mm battery

3rd kompanie Pioneer Abt 57 SPW

PzJg Abt 41

Flak Abt 298

KG Unrein

PzGr Regt 4

2 bn motorised

KG Bieberstein

I/114th PzGr Bn

1 bn SPW

1 IG company

503rd Schwere Panzer Abteilung

6th 45 Tigers

8th 33 Tigers 15 attached to KG VO 1st Kompanie [Jentz] 5 Tigers [Lodieu]

Chronology

- 5th 2.25am
Michailowka bridgehead. 24 tonne bridge destroyed by artillery fire so using a different bridge. Infantry held up, heavily mined and Russian air attacks. 20:00 moves south to 7th Pz Div crossing. [Jentz]
- 6th 1pm
cross 60 tonne bridge over Donetz
2.30pm accompanied by 1st kompanie 503rd Schwere Abt (10 Tiger)
attack in direction of Generalovka and reach point 216.1 and height 207.9 Attack State Farm at Sevryukovo and 6 and 8 Kompanie suffer losses. In hedgehog for night on hill. Losses 8 panzers by hits 3 from mines[Jentz]
(19th Pz Div KG Becker II/27th Pz Rgt and 73rd PzGr Rgt near Razumnoe NE of Generalovka)
- 7th 07.30am
further attacks on Yastrebovo and Sevryukovo. Stuka attack and then reached Yastrebovo. After this a large minefield and AT and artillery fire from Sevryukovo and right flank.
11.00am
reached village Sevryukovo but bridges destroyed so pioneer started to build 24 tonne bridge. II/114 crossed river and covered bridge building effort. [Jentz]
8pm
35th GRC leaves Kopoka for 2nd Belt [map]
(19th Pz hill 215.5, then NW of Jastrebovo, hill 212.1 and then south of Blish Yig [Lodieu])
- 8th (8 PzII, 24 PzIII long, 13 PzIII short 14 PzIV long, 3 PzBef, 10 Flamm = 72[Jentz])
Estimate:
Regt Stab 2 PzBef
II Abt
- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|---------|----------------|
| Stab II | 1 PzBef | 8 PzII | 3 PzIII | |
| 5 th Kompanie m | 2 PzIII | 3 PzIV | 7 PzIII | |
| 6 th kompanie le | 2 PzIII | 4 PzIV | 4 PzIII | |
| 7 th kompanie le | 3 PzIII | 4 PzIV | 7 PzIII | |
| 8 th kompanie le | 2 PzIII | 3 PzIV | 7 PzIII | 10 Flammpanzer |
- 2am
KH VO sets off across river (7,5,8,6 Artillery Abt, Sturmgeschutzen.) Flammpanzer and le zug remain behind to hold Sevryukovo. Assembly on hill 212.1 [lodieu]
- 3am**
47th SGTR and 1500th AT AR moves to DI [2GTC]
- 6am**
German attack by 60 tanks and Pz Gr on DI and Khokholovo (19th Pz Div?) beaten off [2GTC]
- 7.30am
attack starts, 7th leading, 5th 8th, 6th following, KG Unrein in centre artillery group Jahn, then StuG 228.[lodieu] fire from Postnikov and Kalinia by artillery and rockets. Meet AT

trench. [Jentz]

8.45am meets huge minefield [lodieu]

10am meets AT ditch [lodieu]

10am

Second German attack on DI and Khokholovo by 100 tanks and 2 Bn infantry [2GTC]
(19th Pz (15 tanks plus Tigers??) attack Dal Igumenka and then joins 6th Pz)

12am

92nd GRD moves into 2nd belt positions around Melikhovo [map]

1pm

Pionere blow hole in trench and panzers cross [lodieu] Then meet two minefields
Pioneers clear way but russians in trenches shoot them. KG Bieberstein arrive from
Kalinina and clear the way. Several panzers lost to mines. [lodieu]

1pm

KG VO crossed trench and find mines behind. PzGr dismount and clear heavy enemy
positions. At point 218.3 AT guns and tank fire from NW. Short assembly. 8 and 5 point.
Tigers shot up 6 T34 in Melikhovo. [Jentz]

1.00pm

DI outflanked and Melikhovo captured [2GTC]

2.20pm

280th GRR reaches Melikhovo. Enemy spotted at K marker so south of hill 216 1st Bn
occupies Melikhovo. Occupies slopes south of town. 3km south of Melikhovo Germans
deploy force 1/197 122mm battery deploys north of Shlahovo. 2 76mm batteries moved
to Melikhovo in AT role. 2nd Co 148 TR (10 T34?) moves into woods west of Melikhovo
[280th account]

- 161 guards army cannon regiment moves from Yastrebovo to Sheino

- 1/93 cannon Rg (6*152mm) with small infantry cover (~ 1 Co) in D. Igumenka.

Fortifications in Melikhovo included trench system for rifle battalion, 15 caponiers for
tanks, 10 ATGun positions and a couple of minefields. Meantime, units of 94 GRD
arrived to Mjasoedovo and helps to beat off attack of Kventin's AufAbt towards Mazikino
[Russian source]

3pm

10 minute artillery barrage, then 18 tanks plus 1 Co Pz Gr attack east of village 15 tanks
plus 2 Co attack west and KG B moves from Sheino to Mazikino [280th account]

Regt AT Reserve (6 45mm AT plus 9 ATR) deploy west of Mazikino 2/197 deploys 122mm
battery (4) north of Komitern and 2 batteries 76mm (8) south of Komitern in AT role. 27
ATR deploy near hill 222 Gremjache 2nd and 3rd Battalions deploy along DI- Melikhovo
road [280th account]

4.00pm

16 German tanks lost east of Melikhovo 30 tanks reinforce attack on west side [280th
account]

4.30pm

Germans break into Melikhovo supported by 20 tanks.

Attack by 30 tanks crosses road into minefield and advances to Shlahovo. minefield on
far side of DI-Shlahovo road [Lodieu]

(4pm) Melikhovo captured, a short halt and then attack onto Schlachwojoe. Tigers and 6th
sent in front. 5th 7th 8th come from NW of Melikhovo, cross road, onto height 220. 5th
screens left flank. Pulls back to woods west of Melikhovo for night. [Jentz]

5pm 19th Pz Div 27th Pz Regt 15 plus 15 Tigers from 1st Kompanie join and attack restarts. 5th and 8th attack western end, Tigers in centre with 4th PzGr. KG Decker (19th Pz operates on left flank.) Entered Melikhovo at 4pm??? Clearing up operations continued until 6pm on the 8th!!!!

KG Bieberstein pinned down in Kalinina by artillery fire. [Lodieu]

Two companies from 280th GRR attack HQ at Mjasoedovo at night [map]

Nightfall

Germans pull back

- 9th (7 PzII, 24 PzIII long, 12 PzIII short 14 PzIV long, 3 PzBef, 10 Flamm =70 [Jentz])
(5 PzII, 17 PzIII long, 5 PzIII short, 10 PzIV long, 2 PzBef, 4 Flamm, 4 T34 =43 + 4 captured [Lodieu]
In wood to west of Melikhovo. Supply units under artillery fire so KG moved to wood south of Melikhovo leaving Pz zug and 2 company Pz Gr there. Several panzers from 6th and 8th hit and on fire. [Jentz]
- 10th (0 PzII, 12 PzIII long, 1 PzIII short 7 PzIV long, 2 PzBef, 0 Flamm = 22 [Jentz])
KG VO in wood to south of Melikhovo, awaiting developments.
- 11th (0 PzII, 11 PzIII long, 2 PzIII short 6 PzIV long, 2 PzBef, 0 Flamm 2 T34 =23 [Jentz])
Tiger Abt (19) joins KG VO. KG VO reorganized into 2 kompanies Spiekermann (8th) and Reutemann (7th).
3am attack on Olchowatka, Tigers entire Abt (19) in lead cross Dal Ig road under AT fire from hills 220 and 230.3 and in minefield. Capture hill 230.3 and 8th kompanie move round wood and come into Schlachowoje from NW. Tigers and 7th move off towards Olchowatka. Captured this with no resistance and then onto hill 224.4, then Snamenka, point 223.3 then werchne olijohanen, then point 234.3 and anti-tank ditch south of Kasatschje at dusk occupied and night spent there. [Jentz]
- Strike towards Rsezah 7th, 7th kompanie 114th PzGr, 8th, rest PzGr and Tigers. 3Am Kurakowka 4am Rsezah, meet enemy inf and tanks. Bridge destroyed but II/114th PzGr cross over and establish bridgehead. 5Am I/114th arrive. [Jentz]
- 12th In Rsezah. Recce to point 214 and Alexandrovka. Enemy tanks there. Russian probe at 6pm loses 3 T34. [Jentz]
- 13th In Rsezah. Russian probe loses 3 T34 but 4 Panzers lost. Bombers knock out KG HQ. 6Pm move to Kurakowka. [Jentz]
- 14th (0 PzII, 9 PzIII long, 0 PzIII short 3 PzIV long, 2 PzBef, 0 Flamm 0 T34 = 14[Jentz])
7am attack Tigers, Stug and 11th Pz (now one kompanie) Alexandrovka taken after AT ditch crossed. Many Russian infantry and 6 T34 and 5 T60 lost. KG dug in. [Jentz]
- 15th (0 PzII, 6 PzIII long, 1 PzIII short 6 PzIV long, 2 PzBef, 0 Flamm 2 T34=17 [Jentz])
KG rests.
- 16th (0 PzII, 2 PzIII long, 0 PzIII short 2 PzIV long, 0 PzBef, 0 Flamm 0 T34 =4 [Jentz])
KG + II/114th goes to point 240 . 5Pm attacks point 222.1 to help KG Unrein advance. Lost 2 panzers.
- 17th Russian capture point 241.5. 3.10am counter attack by StuG, kompanie Schoener and II/

4th PzGr (KG Unrein) recaptures height. 5.45pm Russian attack 222.1 but replused.
[Jentz]

18th situation unchanged. [Jentz]

Events of the 8th.

The events as described by the several accounts seem to fit together reasonably neatly except for the events on the 8th which seem to invoke a lot of confusion and some omission on the German side. The story that seems to emerge is that after crossing the AT ditch and minefields, 6th Pz launched an attack by itself against Melikhovo without waiting for support from 1st Kompanie 503rd Sch Abt or 19th Pz.

At 3pm 5th and 8th Kompanie plus 2 Co PzGr attack wood to west of Melkhovo and 7th attacks to east with 1 Co PzGr, with the 6th (short gunned panzers) in reserve. Attack is beaten off with heavy losses for 7th Kompanie. General Hundertsdorf calls for reinforcements and 19th Pz and Tigers leave off attacking Dal Igumenka and join 6th Pz.

At 4.30pm new attack is made by Tigers, 6th and PzGr in centre and 5th 8th and 19th Pz on the west side which breaks into Melikhovo. PzGr left fighting in the village while the panzers roll on by, Tigers and 6th going down the road towards the next village, remaining companies crossing north of the road into a minefield. Attack meets a new Rifle Division the 305th and attack stalls in the face of heavy AT fire and fire from hills by 122mm guns. KG falls back to Melikhovo. Probable losses around 30 Panzers or around half the strength of 6th Pz Div. May have been more as the following day strength falls to 22 panzers with some lost to artillery fire. Unlikely 21 lost to artillery fire so previous days losses may have been up to 45 panzers.

Operations of 19th Pz Div

*** D4 7th

OBST

Soviet trench system W of the Kreida RR siding, and heavily fortified village around the siding. Well dug-in Soviets in the woods N of Kolch. den Uroshaja and W of the woods N of Belowskaja. AT guns, tanks, and heavy weapons dug in in the woods N of Hill 212.1.

Situation

By the evening of 6 July, KG Becker was about 1200m N of the Belowskaja church. 442d Gren Regt was on both sides of the Belowskaja church, while KG Kohler with part of the 73d PzGren Regt was in the Soviet trench system W of the Kreida siding.

Heavy Soviet air activity with bombing in the early evening of 6 July around Pushkarnoje and Krassnoje. In the very early morning of 7 July, the div took the W part of Belowskaja and Hill 215.5 to the N.

KG 73 attacked on both sides of the railway at 0745 on 7 July to seize the heavily fortified village around Kreida siding. Part of the 429th Gren Regt (168th ID) relieved the troops in the village. KG 73 then continued the attack toward the NE. Despite the support of the heavy weapons the attack could not get past the woods N of Kolch. den Uroshaja where they were held up by well dug-in Soviets who fiercely defended the defensive positions W of the woods N of Belowskaja. Repeated attacks were unsuccessful. KG Becker attacked at 0840 from the N of Belowskaja with II/27th Pz Regt over Hill 215.5, and took Blishnaja Igumenka. Then I/27th Pz Regt and 74th PzGren Regt continued the attack on Hill 212.1. The attack on the woods N of there was repelled by concentrated fire from PAK, dug-in tanks, and heavy weapons. In a continued attack the area of Kalinina was reached against stubborn Soviet resistance after lanes were cleared through the minefields.

R

442d Gren Regt attached from 168th ID. 1/19th Med Co at the Pawlowka Dept Store clearing station. 2/19th Med Co on the march, deployment planned E of the Donez.

*** D5 8th

OBST

Several lines of bunkers on the W edge of the woods N of Belowskaja. Trenches 3 km SE of Blishnaja Igumenka. AT ditch at Dalnaja Igumenka, and a minfield N of the town.

Situation

Lively Soviet bombing during the night of 7/8 July, as well as friendly fighter and recon activities.

The 74th PzGren Regt (+) attacked at 0230 to clear the woods N of Belowskaja. At 0330 it broke into the strongly-occupied first line of bunkers on the W edge of the woods. KG 73 and the 19th Pz Recon Bn attacked the Soviet trenches 3 km SE of Blishnaja Igumenka at 1030. They rolled up the Soviet defense system and, in an all-out attack, demolished bunkers and reportedly inflicted many casualties. The majority of the Soviets, however, held their positions, and the 19th Pz Recon Bn pulled back to the S edge of Blishnaja Igumenka and took up defensive positions facing S. At 1600 the 442d Gren Regt attacked Blishnaja Igumenka from the S in order to engage a Soviet battalion that had moved into position during the night, but a simultaneous Soviet counterattack (by some reports in regimental strength) threw them back into the S part of town.

The rest of the division attacked Melechowo together with the panzer group of the 6th PzD, and was still attacking the woods 2 km W of Melechowo at the end of the period. Many Soviet tanks were reported there and in Dalnaja Igumenka. KG Westhoven's [formerly Becker (wounded)] attack on Dalnaja Igumenka at 1425 succeeded against heavy PAK and arty fire. It breached an AT ditch and cleared a minefield to the N of town, and continued to advance to Kalinina.

R

1/19th Med Co at Pawlowka Dept Store clearing station. 2/19th Med Co at the reformatory clearing station.

During the attack on the rail yards at Kreida on 8 July, the division claims that 40 Soviets were captured along with the following equipment:

The 73d PzGren Regt had suffered heavy casualties in the intense actions of the last few days, and at this point reportedly consisted of only two combat-strength companies.

*** D6 9th

S

KG Westhoven, in cooperation with 6th PzD, launched an intensive 2.5-hour attack against Melechowo starting at 1800, 8 July. The KG secured the left flank of the 6th PzD in the area NW and W of Melechowo. The 27th Pz Regt claimed to have destroyed 21 Soviet AFVs (T-34s and half-tracks) in this battle.

Elements of Attack Group South moved out from Dalnaja Igumenka to about 1.5km E of Schischino. Three Soviet tanks in the NE part of the Glawplodoawoschtsch orchard were set afire. Div arty fired on four Soviet rocket launchers in Schischino.

The planned Soviet breakout from their pocket SE of Blishnaja Igumenka was prevented. A Soviet battalion was claimed destroyed in the bitter fighting. The Soviets were reportedly holding a position just NE of Kolchos den Uroshaja. Weak Soviet air activity during the day.

R

Location of med coys unchanged from previous day.

Attack Group South consists of 19th PzD minus KG Westhoven (nee Becker) and one It howitzer bn, plus 442d Gren Regt (168th ID), IV and V/248th Arty Regt, and five flamethrower tanks from 6th PzD.

*** D7 9th

S

During the night of 9/10 July, assault groups of the 73d PzGren Regt and 19th PzRecon Bn broke into the Soviet positions 3 km N of Blishnaja Igumenka and found the Soviets withdrawing N. POWs and equipment were captured. The 442d Gren Regt occupied all of the Blishnaja Igumenka area in the morning hours.

At noon, division elements began to assemble in Dalnaja Igumenka and the area to the N. Two flak and arty battalions ready to fire to support the new positions.

19th Pz Recon Bn reported that Kisselowo was strongly held by the Soviets and that Schachowo was also occupied. Ground recon reported heavy Soviet movements from W to E and at the S tip of the gully S of Hill 211.5, in Schpaki Schl., and in the woods N thereof. Div spent the rest of the day reorganizing in Dalnaja Igumenka. Div reported the appearance of English Churchill tanks with the Soviet forces opposite; claimed two destroyed.

R

Location of med coys unchanged. 442d Gren Regt returned to 168th ID control. 54th Rocket Regt

returned to 7th PzD control. IV and V/248th Arty Regt returned to 168th ID. 74th PzGren Regt and 27th PzRegt reported heavy losses since the beginning of the offensive; 74th PzGren Regt reported about 300 men fit for duty. 27th PzRegt reported 15 operable tanks, including new ones just brought forward.

*** D8

OBST

Deep minefield E of Kisselewo.

Minefield on both sides of the Schachowo--Kisselewo road.

M

Reorganize and move to the north into the III PzK spearhead area.

S

At 1830 on 10 July, an armored spearhead group with all available tanks and a panzergrenadier battalion moved out of Dalnaja Igumenka and took Kisselowo and the bridge at Ssabyino; both places had been reportedly strongly held by the Soviets. Soviet air was very active during the night of 10/11 July and the early morning of 11 July.

At 0930 the rest of the div moved out of its assembly area in Dalnaja Igumenka and advanced to the NW, taking Kisselowo and advancing to the edge of Ssabyino. 74th PzGren Regt(+) attacked NW along the ridge running SE; the 19th PzRecon Bn attacked toward the W; and the 73d PzGren Regt(+) attacked N over the N part of Schachowo --Kisselowka. The 74th PzGren Regt(+) breached a deep minefield at 1630 and broke into strongly held Soviet positions E of Kisselowo; mopping up there continued to the end of the period. The 73d PzGren Regt, supported by remnants of the 27th Pz Regt, broke into the N part of Schachowo, destroyed the Soviets on the S edge of Kisselowo, pushed through the town, cleared the town, and after resupplying the tanks with ammunition, at the end of the period stood ready to attack Ssabyino. The 19th PzRecon Bn pulled back from the N edge of Kisselowo and moved to create a bridgehead with the advancing 73d PzGren Regt.

During the day, 800 mines were cleared from a strip on both sides of the Schachowo--Kisselewo road. All three attacking groups received flank fire from the NE and heights to the W. The Soviet batteries could not be silenced by either Stuka attack or German arty fire. However, the Luftwaffe was reported to have given good support to the division's attack.

R

1/19th Med Co location unchanged. 2/19th Med Co in Dalnaja Igumenka clearing station.

*** D9

S

Some Soviet air activity during the night of 11/12 July.

At 0745 the two panzergrenadier regiments (73d and 74th) attacked N from the positions they had reached during the night. The 73d PzGren Regt advanced against weak Soviet resistance, with 19th Pz Recon Bn screening the right flank. After clearing many minefields it got through Ssabyino, Kriwzowo, and Strelnikoff before reaching Rshawez at 1415. There it made contact with units of the 6th PzD. 74th PzGren Regt cleared the woods SE of Ssabyino and then attacked past the E side of that place and took up positions behind the 73d. Late in the day the 73d PzGren Regt and one battalion from the 74th took over the Ryndinka bridgehead site and enlarged it. Soviet close air support was very active early in the day, then again around noon, bombing div arty positions. The Luftwaffe had only light recon and fighter activity.

R

1/19th Med Co at the Nowo Oskotschnoje clearing station. 2/19th Med Co at Blishnaja Igumenka.

*** D10

OBST

Ssewernyj Donez River.

FORT

Ssewernyj Donez River.

S

In the evening of 12 July and night of 12/13 July, heavy Soviet air attacks.

By early morning 13 July, 73d and 74th PzGren Regts had occupied enlarged bridgeheads. 19th Pz Recon Bn screened both flanks of the division, with contacts with 4th PzArmy at Kurakowka on the right and with 11th Pz Regt, 6th PzD at Rshawez on the left.

At 0230 the Soviets with 6 tanks moving S on both sides of the Ssewernij Donez attacked the Ryndinka bridgehead (from Schachowo?). They entered the town and penetrated to the bridge site. The Regimental HQ of the 74th PzGren Regt was cut off from the III/74th that was defending the town. The HQ was able to withdraw to the E bank after a firefight with Soviet infantry and the destruction of one Soviet tank. A counter-attack by the KG Richter (elms of 19th Pz Recon Bn, 27th Pz Regt, and I/114th PzGren Regt (6th PzD)) cleared the bridge site and forced the Soviets back to the center of town by the end of the period. The Germans claimed 4 Soviet tanks disabled during repeated Soviet counterattacks.

I and II/74th PzGren Regt were attached to the 73d PzGren Regt to protect the right wing of the division against strongly-held Soviet positions about 300m E of Schachowo toward the W, without contact on either side. A Soviet attack from that place had just jumped off at the end of the period.

The 19th Pz Recon Bn screened the 6th PzD sector. 2d Kp (Motorcycle) established and held a small bridgehead at Schelekowo. The 19th Pz Pi Bn was building the 24-ton bridge at Rshawez that kept getting shot up by continuous Soviet arty barrages.

There was heavy Soviet close air support all day, with bombing in the div sector. There was some friendly fighter and recon activity. About 0600, six He-111s dropped bombs on Rshawez E of the Donez, inflicting serious casualties on the engineers there.

R

1/19th Med Co at the Nowo Oskotschnoje clearing station. 2/19th Med Co at Blishnaja Igumenka.

Sources:

Kursk – Glantz

Kursk - Zetterling

Panzer Truppen - Jentz

III Pz Corps at Kursk - Lodieu

KOSAVE - Duprey Institute

RKKA website

Axis History Forum