

THE PROFESSIONALS

SL Scenario A5



PIROT, YUGOSLAVIA, April 9, 1941: On April 8th, the Wehrmacht erupted across the Yugoslavian borders. Von Kleist's armor, striking along the River Nisava out of Bulgaria, swiftly drove a wedge between the enemy "Tropica" and "Drina" divisions. The Yugoslavs repeatedly performed individual acts of heroism—attacking the panzers with grenades and Molotov cocktails—but collectively the Yugoslavian army was outclassed and scattered, its actions haphazard and disorganized. However, along the Nisava, the wooden bridges were invariably in flames that first day when German troops reached them. Desperate for bridges to link his divided command, von Kleist formed an armored advance detachment consisting of a battalion of the 15th Panzer Regiment and two battalions of the 23rd Infantry Regiment. He ordered this ad hoc battle group to fan out ahead of the main force and seize bridges along the river. Early the next morning, after driving through the darkness, an element under command of Major Teege reached Pirot to find the bridge there still standing. With infantry dismounted from the tanks, he swept forward to capture it.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The German player wins immediately by having one Good Order squad and one AFV with functioning MA on the east side of the river. The Yugoslav player wins by avoiding the German Victory Conditions.

Board Configuration



	6	7
11		

TURN RECORD CHART

Yugoslav Sets Up First	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	END
German Moves First									



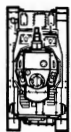
Cadets and Staff of the Vardar Tactical Training College set up on Board 6:



9-2	8-1	3-4-7	2-2-7	MMG 4-11 B11+	1	AT 47L
		10	2		6	2



Elements of Panzer Regiment 15 and Infantry Regiment 23 enter on Turn 1 on Road Hex IIII:



9-1	8-0	4-6-7	LMG 2-8 B12	14 75*H5 4/2	18 1S/5PP
		8	4	4	2

SPECIAL RULES

1. The River Nisava is deep, with a slow current to the north. A two-lane, wooden bridge extends from hex 7Q3 to 7Q10.
2. To represent the Italian-made 47mm AT guns, use the French 47mm counters shown.
3. All Yugoslavian units may utilize Hidden Initial Placement (42.).
4. The Yugoslavian MMG and AT guns may be Bore-Sighted (78.).
5. Neither side may intentionally set fires (102.2).

AFTERMATH: The bridge lay just beyond the grounds of the Vardar Tactical Training College, a military school of some repute. As the armor entered the grounds of the college, the lead tank was hit by shells from a pair of Italian-made AT guns manned by students. The tank blew up, blocking the gateway. Despite the courage of the infantry, who overran the enemy guns in the face of murderous fire, the Germans were unable to dislodge the cadets from the main building. A stalemate developed as the cadets—armed with a variety of weapons—defended the road to the bridge with surprising fanaticism. But they themselves were pinned down by the Germans, who had surrounded the school buildings. It was not until the early afternoon, when more armor and another German infantry battalion arrived to launch an assault from the north, that the surviving students surrendered. Teege's exhausted men could finally reach the water, and they had—throughout the contest—managed to keep the bridge intact. The professionals, though bloodied, had taught the students a lesson in tactics.