

0610: In the north, 200m north of the first landing point, the Soviet assault company is moving south to cover the two landing points in the north. They have received casualties, but there are still at least two platoons, with shoulder launched SAMs and RPGs.

0620: Two salvos

0640: PTSs, K-61s and GSP ferries start to cross, carrying a mixture of BRDM-2s, BMPs, motor rifle troops and T-80s, including one with a mine plough attachment. Two PMP battalions are parked up thirty minutes driving time from the river, waiting to be called forward. Once at the riverbank, supported by Divisional engineers, pontoons would be deployed and crossed in less than one hour.

Amongst the Soviet forces, and behind them, ZSU-23/4 anti-aircraft guns and SA-9, SA-6 and SA-8 SAMs provide air defence, whilst overhead Soviet fighters would provide a CAP. Long range Soviet artillery, SSMs and ground attack aircraft pound NATO reserves.

0655: Bombardment from six 2S1s straddles CTA

0700: A Soviet Air Assault Regiment starts to descend between five and ten kilometres behind 1st Armoured Division's lines. One Soviet battalion is ferried in by helicopters and placed in a position to attack the rear of the defending Battle Groups. Two battalions are parachuted in to block reinforcement and supply routes, plus secure routes for

the OMG that, once across the river, will exploit any breakthrough, and isolate the British defenders.

0700: The first wave of Soviet troops will hit the riverbank. Site 1 and 2, 100m apart, will receive three K-61s, each with twenty MR troops.

0705: Three PTS cross, with one BRDM-2 in each.

0710: Helarm and airmobile reinforcements arrive.

0710: Three GSP ferries, two carrying a BMP-2 each and one with a T-80, with mine rollers, arrive.

0720: Three K-61s arrive, each with twenty MR troops

0725: Three PTS arrive, one with a BRDM-2 and two with a BRDM-Sagger each.

0730: Ten Spetsnaz teams, 10-15 men in each team, inserted west of the river the previous night, come out of hiding, attacking the Brigade HQ, disrupting a Harrier forward operating base, destroying a Royal Signals comms site and disrupting the movement of men and supplies.

0730: Three GSP ferries, one carrying one BMP-2 and two with a T-80 each, arrive.

0730: PMP units move up to the eastern riverbank.

0730: Combat Team Bravo moves into position.

JARGON BUSTER

IRRF - 1st Rapid Reaction Force (Army Corps level force designed to be sent to reinforce frontline units).

BG - Battle Group.

CTA - Combat Team Alpha.

TA - Territorial Army, the British Army's Reserve Forces.

TOW - Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided anti-tank missile.

FP - Firing Post.

NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

2S7 - Or 2S7 'Pion', Soviet Era self-propelled artillery piece with a 203mm gun.

SSM - Surface-to-surface missile.

SCUD B - Tactical ballistic missile.

SS-21 - Tactical ballistic missile designed for battlefield usage.

BM-21 - Multiple rocket launcher on a truck body.

MT-LB - Amphibious, fully tracked armoured personnel carrier.

SAM - Surface-to-Air missiles.

RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade launcher.

PTS - Amphibious tracked transport vehicle.

K-61 - Amphibious tracked vehicle.

GSP - Tracked self-propelled amphibious ferry, which carries pontoon bridge sections.

BRDM-2 - A wheeled amphibious recon vehicle employed by the Soviets.

BMP - Tracked infantry fighting vehicle.

Below: A British NORTHAG unit observe a Soviet river crossing, somewhere in Germany. Photo taken during our 'Leicester Flat Cats' shoot, see page 10 for more.

