Situation No. 61-3
German Railway Gun Assault on the Maginot Line - Hackenberg Fortress (What If?)

Scenario created by Peirce Eichelberger

AVAILABLE FORCES

**FRENCH**

- Off Board Artillery: 3 - 210mm heavy howitzer attack strength 80, "H" class weapon)
- 3 - Stuka dive bombers 3 (I) and 30(H) or 20(A) each
- 1 - 80 cm railway gun “Dora”, attack strength 160, “A” class weapon (see special rules below)

**GERMAN**

- Set up anywhere south of Board A
- Germans move first

VICTORY CONDITIONS

- German player wins by breaching the Maginot Line by moving any 5 units onto Board D. Trucks or wagons do not count for victory conditions.
- French player wins by simply preventing the Germans from reaching their objective.

Length of game 18 turns.

OPTIONAL RULE

- Allow H or M class units with at least 12 attack strength points to fire smoke shell concentrations.

SPECIAL RULES

- Same as scenario 61-1
- Dora special firing rules, see next page
**Dora Special Firing Rules**

1. German railway gun is the 80cm (31” diameter bore) “Dora”. Firing orders must be written three turns in advance. Dora can fire on Turn 1 because of photo reconnaissance, etc.
2. Die roll of 1, 2 or 3 results in a hit. Die roll of 4 or 5 hits is scattered per rules. Die roll of 6 is widely scattered with no hits. These rules apply with a unit spotting. Indirect fire scatter rules still apply if spotting unit moves away, is destroyed or disrupted.
3. Dora is off board artillery. Dora is considered an A class weapon with the anti-concrete round with an attack factor of 160. All attacks at normal attack strength.
4. Dora can only fire every third turn due to the time required to reload the cannon.

**COMMENTARY**

This is the classic What if? scenario concerning the major fortifications of the Maginot Line. Could the line have been breached by a concerted German effort with the proper mix of artillery, tanks and aircraft?

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


A further detailing of the Panzer Leader 1940 scenarios also appeared in the *General*, by Roland A. Bell.


Engelmann, J *German Railroad Guns in Action* Squadron/Signal Publications, Carrollton, TX, 1976, pp. 49. Translated from a German publication that covers all railway guns from 17 cm to 80 cm.

Gander, Terry and Chamberlain, Peter *Weapons of the Third Reich*, Doubleday and Co., New York, NY, 1979, pp. 371. An encyclopedic survey of German small arms and artillery during WW II. Source of good details on the German railway artillery that could have been used against the Maginot line.

Horne, Alistar *To Lose a Battle France 1940*, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, MA, 1969, pp. 647. A thorough treatment of the Fall of France, especially the political, social and economic conditions of France in the interwar years.


Michelin *France Alsace et Lorraine*, 1:200,000 map of northwest France, number 242 and 241, Paris, France, 1997. Current road map showing elevations, rivers and major roads. Historical sites, i.e. forts are also located.
