



Soviet forces attempt to stop the advance of the German army at the village of Spongi on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1941

The commander of the Soviet 21<sup>st</sup> mechanized corps General D. D. Lelyushenko orders the commander of the 46<sup>th</sup> tank division to advance and hold the village of Spongi which is 15km north of the German bridgehead at Daugavpils, the minor roads out of here north converge with the railway line at the village of Spongi before joining the main highway.

Soviet forces

Soviet 46<sup>th</sup> tank division

Divisional HQ

1 x BA-20M light armoured car, 1 x CP, 1 x jeep, 1 x Rifle platoon & 1x truck

46<sup>th</sup> recon battalion

5 x BA-20M light armoured car platoons, 5 x BA-FAI light armoured car platoons, 5 x BA-10 heavy armoured car platoons & 5 x BA-32 heavy armoured car platoons

91<sup>st</sup> tank regiment

11 x bt-7 tank companies

92<sup>nd</sup> tank regiment

11 x bt-7 tank companies

46<sup>th</sup> motor rifle regiment

Regimental HQ

1 x CP, 1 x jeep, 1 x radio truck, 1 x recon company, 1 x engineer company, 2 x trucks

Regimental support

1 x 76mm howitzer battery, 1 x 45mm anti tank battery, 1 x 82mm mortar battery, 1 x aamg battery & 6 x trucks

Infantry

5 x rifle companies & 5 x trucks

46<sup>th</sup> howitzer regiment

4 x CP's, 1 x FOO, 1 x radio truck, 5 x staff cars, 6 x 122mm howitzer batteries, 3 x 76mm howitzer batteries & 9 x trucks

German forces

8<sup>th</sup> panzer division

HQ

1 x CP, 1 x kubelwagon, 1 x rifle platoon, 1 x truck & 1 x radio half track

Recon company

1 x sdkfz 223, 2 x sdkfz 221's, 1 x sdkfz 222 & 1 x sdkfz 231

10<sup>th</sup> panzer regiment

Regimental HQ

1 x pzbefwg I, 1 x pzbefwg III & 1 heavy recovery tractor

1<sup>st</sup> panzer battalion

1 x pz I, 3 x pz II, 4 x pz 38t, 2 x pz III, 3 x pz IV & 1 x ammo truck

2<sup>nd</sup> panzer battalion

8 x pz 38t, 2 x pz III, 3 x pz IV & 1 x ammo truck

10<sup>th</sup> motorised infantry brigade

Brigade HQ

1 x CP, 1 X kubelwagon & 1 x radio truck

8<sup>th</sup> motorcycle battalion

4 x m/c Command, 6 x m/c platoons, 5 x m/c mg platoons, 1 x m/c 80mm mortar platoon & 3 x trucks

Heavy company

1 x Cp, 1 X kubelwagon, 1 x engineer platoon, 1 x 37mm anti tank battery, 2 x 75mm IG batteries, 2 x half tracks & 2 x trucks

8<sup>th</sup> schutzen battalion

5 X cp's, 5 x kubelwagon's, 9 x rifle platoons, 5 x mg platoons, 1 x engineer platoon, 1 x 80mm mortar battery, 1 x 37mm anti tank battery, 1 x 75mm IG battery, 2 x half tracks & 18 x trucks

## What happened historically

The 46<sup>th</sup> tank division under the command of Kuplov, who had distinguished himself in the far east attacked the German bridgehead and actually penetrated into the streets of Daugavpils late on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, however German air attacks prevented reinforcement and his tanks began to run out of fuel & ammo, by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July the 21<sup>st</sup> mechanised corps had been reduced from 2 tank divisions to 7 tanks, 74 guns & about 4,000 men but the corps had given Stavka time to build up strong forces in the Pskov area about 150 miles north of the German bridgehead & had unnerved Manstein the commander of the 58<sup>th</sup> Panzer Corps, the battle at Spongi had shown that the Soviets could give the Germans a bloody nose