

FINN WARRIORS

OFFICIAL BRIEFING

FINNISH WARRIORS FOR THE FINLAND 1944 AND LAPIN SOTA
LATE WAR INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS



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FLAMES OF WAR
THE WORLD WAR II MINIATURES GAME



Corporal Toivo Ilomäki



Toivo Ilomäki was born in 1917 and worked as a storeman before the Winter War. He participated in the Winter War and the early Continuation war as a member of an anti-tank gun crew initially as an ammunition carrier. However, in the middle of a battle in 1941 when the gunner did not seem to be able to hit anything, he went to the platoon commander and said he would be a better shot. With the permission of the platoon commander he then demonstrated this by shooting into a tree that fell on Soviet infantry.

In 1944 he was the gunner of a PaK40 and destroyed a total of 21 tanks. At the Battle of Sammatus alone he destroyed 16 Soviet tanks over three days, many of them at close range in the middle of a Soviet artillery barrage. These included T-34 tanks and IS-2 heavy tanks. He was the only man in the Finnish army to get all four additional stripes to the tank killer badge and received the Mannerheim Cross for his valour.

After the war Ilomäki returned to his job as a storeman and died in 1965, aged just 48. His gun (with 21 kill marks) is preserved in the armour museum in Parola.



CHARACTERISTICS

Toivo Ilomäki is a Warrior who may be added to upgrade one anti-tank gun team of a Heavy Anti-Tank Platoon from the page 19 of the *Lapin Sota* PDF for +10 points. He is a Fearless Veteran team armed with the same anti-tank gun as the rest of the platoon.

NERVES OF STEEL

Ilomäki was a calm, phlegmatic character whose response to difficult situations was to simply keep doing his job.

Toivo Ilomäki's Gun team is never Pinned Down, regardless of the platoon's status.

ONE SHOT, ONE KILL

Ilomäki is a crack shot, who not only hits his targets, but knew the vulnerable spots to aim for on Soviet tanks.

Toivo Ilomäki's Gun team may re-roll any failed To Hit rolls.





Colonel Adolf Ehrnrooth



Adolf Ehrnrooth was a career soldier who came from a family with a long tradition of service in the Finnish and formerly Russian armies. His elder brothers were also officers in the Finnish army – Lars a Major and Gustaf also a Colonel. Born in 1905, he entered the army at the age of 17 and at the outbreak of the war in 1939 he was serving as a Staff Officer. By the end of the Winter War in 1940 he had become a Major in the Cavalry Brigade.

At the start of the Continuation War Major Ehrnrooth was on the staff of the 2nd Division, which broke through Soviet lines at Tyrjä. Although still a staff officer, Ehrnrooth led from the front and was seriously wounded in July 1941. After recovering he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, and later Colonel, in command of 2nd Divisions 7th “Tyrjä” regiment (JR7) which had led the breakthrough assault. JR7 served on the Karelian Isthmus for the rest of the war, undertaking a number of operations to silence Soviet bunkers.

In the 1944 Soviet summer offensive, Ehrnrooth and JR7 performed the deeds for which they both became famous. In the initial Soviet attack, JR7 was defending the Finnish line at Siiranmaki, when they were attacked by three Soviet Divisions. All three were held off with heavy losses. The collapse of other parts of the Finnish line meant JR7 had to withdraw, but they had bought time for other units to escape.

Next JR7 defended the Äyränpää bridgehead in front of the Vuoksi River, holding it open for troops to occupy the VKT line behind. JR7 was forced back and attacked by another four Soviet divisions that stormed across the Vuoksi River. With help from the Panssari Division, the Soviets were all repulsed with heavy losses in a bitter melee. In the month of fighting, JR7 lost 75% of its 4000 men, but held. Ehrnrooth



received the Mannerheim Cross, Finland's highest award for bravery, for his efforts.

After the war Ehrnrooth served on to become General of Infantry and retired in 1965. He remained a prominent speaker on veterans affairs and Finnish independence. He died in 2004 aged 99, and was given a state funeral.

CHARACTERISTICS

Adolf Ehrnrooth is a Warrior Higher Command Pistol team (Range 4"/10cm, ROF 1, Anti-tank 1, Firepower 6) who may be added to an Elite Jalkaväki Komppania (page 246 of Grey Wolf) or Lapin Sota Jalkaväki Komppania (page 6 of the Lapin Sota PDF) for +40 points. He is a Fearless Veteran armed with a pistol.

INSPIRING LEADER

Ehrnrooth's calm blunt manner and imposing military record inspire the troops who fight with him.

A Komppania including Ehrnrooth may re-roll failed Company Morale Checks.



MANNERHEIM'S MEN

Jalkaväkirykmentti 7 (JR7) was one of the most illustrious of all Finnish infantry units and Ehrnrooth was their undisputed leader. When he was wounded Marshall Mannerheim personally visited him in hospital. During the war a total of 13 men from JR7 were awarded the Mannerheim Cross, Finland's highest award for bravery. By comparison, a total of 191 Mannerheim Crosses were awarded among the armies 60 regiments during the period 1941-1945. For Ehrnrooth surrender is unthinkable.

Any platoon Ehrnrooth has joined passes Motivation on a 2+.



Kapteeni Lauri Törni



Lauri Allan Törni was born in Viipuri in 1919 where his family had a large home. He learned from an Olympic boxing champion and already had a reputation as a tough, disciplined fighter and a fine skier before he joined the Finnish Army in 1938. During the Winter War he proved a brilliantly effective soldier in Sissi ski-guerilla units. By the end of the Winter War he had earned the rank of Sergeant.

Despite this, his home in Viipuri was part of the Finnish territory lost to the Soviet Union. This only added to Törni's hatred of communism.

After the Winter War, Törni was determined to continue the fight against the Soviet Union, and travelled to Germany to train with the Waffen-SS. In Operation Barbarossa, Törni again proved an excellent soldier, and was decorated with the Iron Cross Second Class. After Finland declared war on the Soviet Union again in the Continuation War, he returned home and re-enlisted in the Finnish Army.

During the Continuation War (1941-1944) Törni proved an excellent combat leader, first with armour and then with light infantry, and was promoted to Captain. His long-range missions were so successful that the Red Army put a price of 3 million Finnish Marks on his head. In 1944 he was transferred to the Karelian Isthmus, scene of the final Soviet offensive. He led a Jääkäri unit which made a decisive counterattack and helped stabilise the line after the Soviet breakthrough. He was awarded the Mannerheim Cross, Finland's highest medal for bravery.

Törni's life in the military did not end there. After the war he journeyed to the United States, became a citizen and enlisted in the US army as Larry Thorn. He served with US Special Forces and led missions in places ranging from Iran



to Vietnam, being decorated several times. He served two tours in Vietnam before being killed in Laos in 1965.

He was the basis of the character played by John Wayne in the movie Green Berets.

CHARACTERISTICS

Captain Lauri Törni is a Warrior Command SMG team rated as Fearless Veteran. Törni replaces the Command team of a Jääkäri Platoon (page 13 of the Lapin Soat PDF) for a cost of +65 points. Lauri counts as a Recce team.

He is armed with a Suomi SMG and Satchel Charges. The Satchel Charges gives Captain Lauri Törni's Warrior Command SMG team Tank Assault 4 rating.

IMPLACABLE

Törni is brave and daring soldier and this inspires the men who fight alongside him.

Törni and the Jääkäri Platoon he has joined pass all Motivation Tests on a 2+.

SKILLED SOLDIER

Not only is Törni brave but he knows the skills of his trade well. He puts his soldering knowledge to good use leading his men.

Törni and the Jääkäri Platoon he has joined may re-roll any failed Skill Tests.