

WOODS

Stalingrad 3 at Outdoor Adventures

BY CHRIS REMUZZI



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IN THEIR 35TH SCENARIO GAME, Outdoor Adventures of Bowie, MD, has showed that their investment in the local scenario paintball community has been rewarded. In sub freezing truly Russian temperatures, more than 350 hardcore paintballers made it out for the fifth winter Scenario; "Stalingrad 3." While two of the last five winter scenarios had snow on the ground, for this game the combination of the biting wind, with some serious ice gave an authentic feel. In a show of solidarity for the industry, many local competitors brought their teams down to participate in this event. Rick Hartmann of Paintball Wholesalers and Mike Lashbrook and Misdirected Hostilities of ECX came in full force. Also in attendance were many of the local Maryland/Virginia scenario teams. Teams such

as MD Templars, Satsumas Revenge, Knight Stalkers, Capital Offense, and the Old Man Militia were in attendance and flying their colors. Field owner Lee Draper commented, "Building the castle and making a commitment to the scenario scene in the Mid Atlantic area has really been pleasurable. All the teams are super nice guys and we have a great time setting up the scenarios and the field."

Outdoor Adventures certainly didn't disappoint. With over 80 acres of field to roam around on there was plenty of all types of action. There were 32 different waypoints all over the field, along with a comprehensive map and signage, helping people to find their way to all the diverse objectives. Central to all of it was the

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10,000 square foot two story base "Stalingrad." Well known as the last line of defense for the beleaguered Russian Army in World War Two, that story line was adapted for this scenario.

True to real life the Russian Red team started off strong and controlled Stalingrad off the break. Perhaps because of this initial aggression, confusion reigns throughout the first hour as Red defenders shoot down on anyone coming close to the base Red and Blue alike. A constant stream of people are coming in and out of both HQ's, completing missions and getting directed towards the hot spots. Whittling away the defenders and supported by an artillery barrage, the German Blue team makes a big push around midday and take the city. The Russians, possibly distracted by the delicious barbecue

in the parking lot, have allowed their line to be pushed back close to their HQ. A feint on the western side of Stalingrad followed by a concerted push through the far eastern town of Bobrov gets the Russians almost to the Fuel Dump. Cries of "Medic" ring over the battlefield as the Red team makes a hard left turn fueled by the rejuvenated attackers, and the Russians assault the city trying desperately to regain control over their beloved homeland.

Alas it is not to be. Leaving their left flank undefended the Blue team cut into the side of the attacking Red Army and took the steam out of the assault. The Russians trudge back through the ice towards their rejuvenation station to lick their wounds and prepare for the final battle.



OA Scenario Productions have a nice touch for the "final battle," to insure maximum mayhem. They setup portable rejuvenation stations for each team in a section of the field that has been chosen as the site of the final showdown. For Stalingrad 3 this was the northeast corner of the field by the downed chopper. With orange smoke swirling through the fuel dump both sides threw themselves at each other with many players getting eliminated, sprinting back to the rejuvenation stations, then turning and get back into the action. Back and forth across the field both teams exhausting their paint. With the shadows getting long the final horn sounds...

The exhausted players from both teams slog through the woods and down the trails back to the staging area. Outdoor Adventures refs did a great job all day keeping the game moving and making sure everyone was safe. Interviewing several first time players, all said they had a blast and most had no idea of the depth of the story line; simply the fact of having 200 vs 200 in the woods was enough to make these guys want to play again. It's been another successful day and everyone starts packing up and getting out of the cold.

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