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**“World of Tanks”**

***It’s just a game… or not?***

**Wednesday, 28th December 2016**We finally managed to defeat Germans who attacked our strategic points in Brześć on the Prypeć river. Fortunately, we had some time to prepare for their attack. We set our anti-tank cannons and SPGs. We lost many soldiers, but we stopped Germans from moving further.

**Thursday, 29th December 2016**At 5:49 AM we got a message from our Major General.  
- “Germans lost a lot of armored vehicles and aircrafts thanks to our defensive. This is our moment to strike back! All T-34 and KV tank crew members should be ready to leave at 7:30 AM.” – he said.  
At 7:30 AM all crews were standing in front of their vehicles waiting to leave.  
I was the KV-1E gunner. As for heavy tanks we had eight KV-1s, two KV-1Ss, three modified KV-2s, a T-150 and twenty-eight T-34 medium tanks. So we climbed in our tanks and left the unit at 7:42 AM. We were driving peacefully through Poland not feeling threatened by Germans, as we didn’t expect them to be here. Suddenly we heard our commander shouting on the radio: “Fall back, fall back!”. At the same time, an artillery shelling started. Fortunately, being armed with a 76 millimeter F-30 gun I was easily able to get rid of the attacking SPGs. After a moment of precise aiming, our commander shouted “Fire!” and I fired.  
Our company also managed to destroy the artillery. Unfortunately though, we lost 5 of our tanks.

Then I heard a voice calling me. It was like a spirit talking to me, distant and hollow – I didn’t know where it came from, I also couldn’t see anybody, but I was able to hear him. He said “Dinner! Stop and come to eat!”. I thought “Dinner? What dinner? I’m in the middle of a battle…”   
Then I felt somebody’s hands on my shoulders, starting to shake me. What’s going on?  
- “Wojtek, stop playing that game and come to eat dinner!” – said my dad.

**Thursday, 29th December 2016, after dinner**After I ate my dinner I was about to sit down to the computer and continue playing my favourite game – The World of Tanks. I was just logging in when my mum said:  
- “We’re going to grandparents in 10 minutes. Prepare yourself.” “Oh yeah, mum added, and today evening – no computer. I need to write something for my company so you’ll have to take care of your younger brother.”  
I couldn’t express the anger I felt but I knew, that I couldn’t do anything about that.  
Fortunately, tomorrow is Friday. And it’s gonna be a loooong Friday night …

**Thursday, 29th December 2016, late evening**As soon as we came back home and my mum was done with her project   
I rushed to my room and launched my PC.   
I quickly logged into the game, called my friend and started playing. I felt some memories coming to my mind…

… We reached the German border together with two KV-1 and three T-34 tanks. To our surprise, Germans created a lot of military defense camps in Poland. We barely made our way here but we succeeded. As we were approaching the border a T-34 was shot in the engine. The commander quickly looked through the periscope and shouted: “Anti-tank guns!”. I managed to shoot down two of them but the third one shot our KV-1 right in the ammo rack and it exploded. So we were left with a KV-1 and two T-34s. We had nothing to lose so we just pushed forward. Last anti-tank rifle shot T-34’s track and Germans raided the tank. Our last medium tank was destroyed by an artillery shell. I tried to take down as many vehicles and soldiers as I could but then I saw him. A German soldier holding a M1918 Tankgewehr anti-tank rifle aiming straight onto our ammo rack. He shot … and BOOM! We were done. Game over.

Luckily, it’s just that, a game. Me and my friend came back to the garage and played one more battle. I can say that when I play this game I get pretty immersed in it. That’s why it’s my favorite one.  
- “Wojtek, finish playing and go to sleep! It’s 2 AM!” – shouted my mum.  
Yeah, I guess I’d better do what she says! Or there will be no computer for the next week.

**Friday, 30th December 2016**I woke up in great mood, I’ll play some World of Tanks today, so I ate my breakfast and booted up PC when my mum came in and said:  
- “Yesterday you played far too long. No computer today. You’ll have time   
to tidy your room before New Year’s Day.” – said mum.  
What a pity time passes so quickly only while playing games … Otherwise it drags on.

**Friday, 30th December 2016, evening**

I didn’t play The World of Tanks today at all because my mum didn’t change her mind about the computer even though I cleaned my room. Hopefully, I’ll be able to play tomorrow!

**Saturday, 31st December 2016, New Year’s Eve**Today evening I’m going to play with my friend. I’m pretty excited about that because I’m going to earn experience points to unlock a new tank.

**2:00 PM**The Internet connection is not working well. I’m quite worried about that. Hopefully it’ll work as good as always in the evening – it always dies in the most unexpected moments.

**1.27 AM, New Year’s Day**We played all evening and celebrated New Year on the battle field! We had the time of our lives! It was my best New Year’s Eve – I finally bought that T-10!

**Sunday, 1st January, 2017  
“бой начинается”** – it was a pleasure to hear these words again. Unfortunately, my friend was offline so I decided to play solo.  
I picked my O-I Experimental Japanese heavy tank and clicked “Battle!” button.  
Finally, I found a match. Map: Himmelsdorf. I decided to go on the hill with other heavies. We hid behind the church and were shooting enemies from there. I saw the enemy. Moment of aiming… BOOM! Yeah, got a kill. Quickly covered to reload. Ten seconds passed, armor-piercing shell is loaded and I’m ready to fire. I carefully slid out and saw another enemy and fired but at the same moment my ally drove right in front of my gun and I shot him. My God! Why people don’t see that you’re aiming? Should have waited for my friend …  
A while after that my dad came in and said:  
- ”You’re still playing? You’ve got 5 minutes to finish. You know you’ve got a biology test tomorrow. You’d better learn for it”.  
I didn’t want to learn at all, it’s so boring… especially biology and I had to do some missions in WoT! Another evening lost ...  
I finished playing, packed my backpack and went to sleep. School starts tomorrow – again …  
I won’t have much time to play WoT now. Fortunately, winter holidays are coming so I’m really excited about that! I’ll try not to get into my mum’s black books!

**Monday, 2nd January 2017**I came back earlier from school so I decided to play The World of Tanks. But when I was logging in an error message appeared on the screen saying: “No Internet connection. Try again later.”   
I didn’t know what’s going on – it was strange because it always worked perfectly. I decided to do my homework and try again after I’m done with it. It took me longer than I thought, though. So I finished my homework and booted up my PC. I launched the game and clicked “Log in” but after a few seconds of loading the same message appeared again. What’s going on? Why there’s suddenly no Internet connection? I was really angry. Yet another evening lost …

**Tuesday, 3rd January 2017**I had a really awful day at school. I got a bad mark in my biology test. I came back home feeling depressed. My mum, unfortunately, knew about it and shouted at me why am I not studying harder. I didn’t want to do anything connected with school so I decided to play The World of Tanks. First game – tragedy … Second one – even worse … I wanted to finish then but I thought “one more battle won’t change much” and clicked “Battle!” once more. And oh my God that was the best decision I’ve ever made! Map: Charkov. I went on the left side. Seconds later I noticed that the only tank there is mine. At that moment I was hundred per cent sure all was lost so I just wanted to cause the highest damage to the enemy I possibly could. I hid behind a rock and loaded a high-explosive shell. The enemy heavy tank appeared in front of me and I quickly shot straight into his ammo rack. Moments later another enemy tanks spotted me and started to fire. Fortunately, they weren’t able to penetrate my armor.   
After a reload I carefully slid out and destroyed the weakened tank. 2500 damage for now, good battle actually – and it wasn’t over yet. I was so confident that as soon as I loaded an armor-piercing shell I drove out straight into my enemies and BOOM! – another kill for me. I saw another not too strong enemy so I gained speed and rammed him. But then I was hit badly in the engine. I managed to fix it swiftly and keep going but I was only able to drive really slow. After a moment of thinking I got an idea. I drove quietly behind the rest of the enemies. Luckily, they didn’t spot me so I started shelling.  
A few kills later last enemy tank was standing. I slid out of my cover and destroyed him – that was the end of the best battle in my entire life. 12 kills, 8275 damage dealt, 11955 damage blocked and 2195 experience points gained. I also manage to earn 124996 money. That one battle made me forget about all bad things that happened to me today. That was the best battle in my life. I’ll never forget that day.  
I love that game! But I perfectly know I’ll hate it after another bad battle ;)