

Strategic overview

Turn 8: Strategic Considerations

Situational analysis

SPECIAL						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2497	68611	0
-	Port	126	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	284	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	3146	39	86038	1137021	0
-	Vehicle	140	12	188479	229580	0
-	Heavy Industry	227	5	0	732500	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	448000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	250320	0
-	Resource Production	182	0	0	1308000	0
-	Armaments Production	361	7	797309	600000	0

This turn is serious bad news for me. The Germans have advanced to within ten hexes from Moscow, and they have at least seven motorized divisions in the front with fuel in the green. At first glance, I fear Moscow will be surrounded next turn. However, the Germans are at around 25 hexes supply range and I do have a few partisan units behind them ready to strike, so it may not be as bad as it looks.

In the air, losses are increasing steadily. This turn, the Axis has lost some 40 fighters and 130 bombers for 280 Soviet fighters and 300 bombers. However, with the German advances I will have to move a lot of my plane production taking a hit in that department.

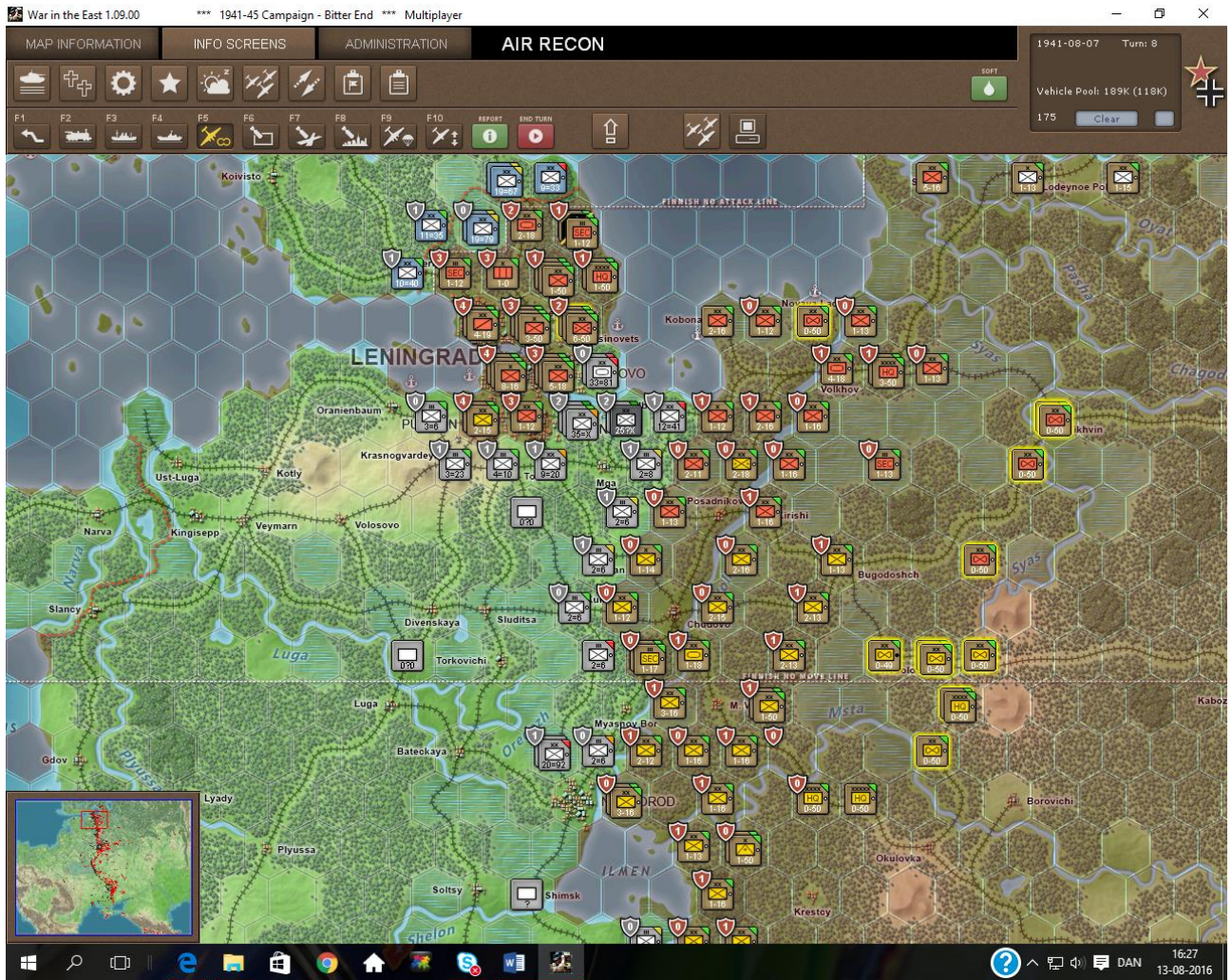
The Germans have lost some 110 AFV's this turn.

If the Germans take Dnepropetrovsk, Leningrad and Moscow, this will mean a heavy hit on my production as well as the loss of more than a fifth of my Rail production.

Only two fuel drops in the south this turn. I expect the Germans are moving their JU/52's north in order to sustain the push for Moscow.

Axis VP advantage is 2.8 to 1, but if both Leningrad and Moscow falls shortly, this number will begin to rise again.

North

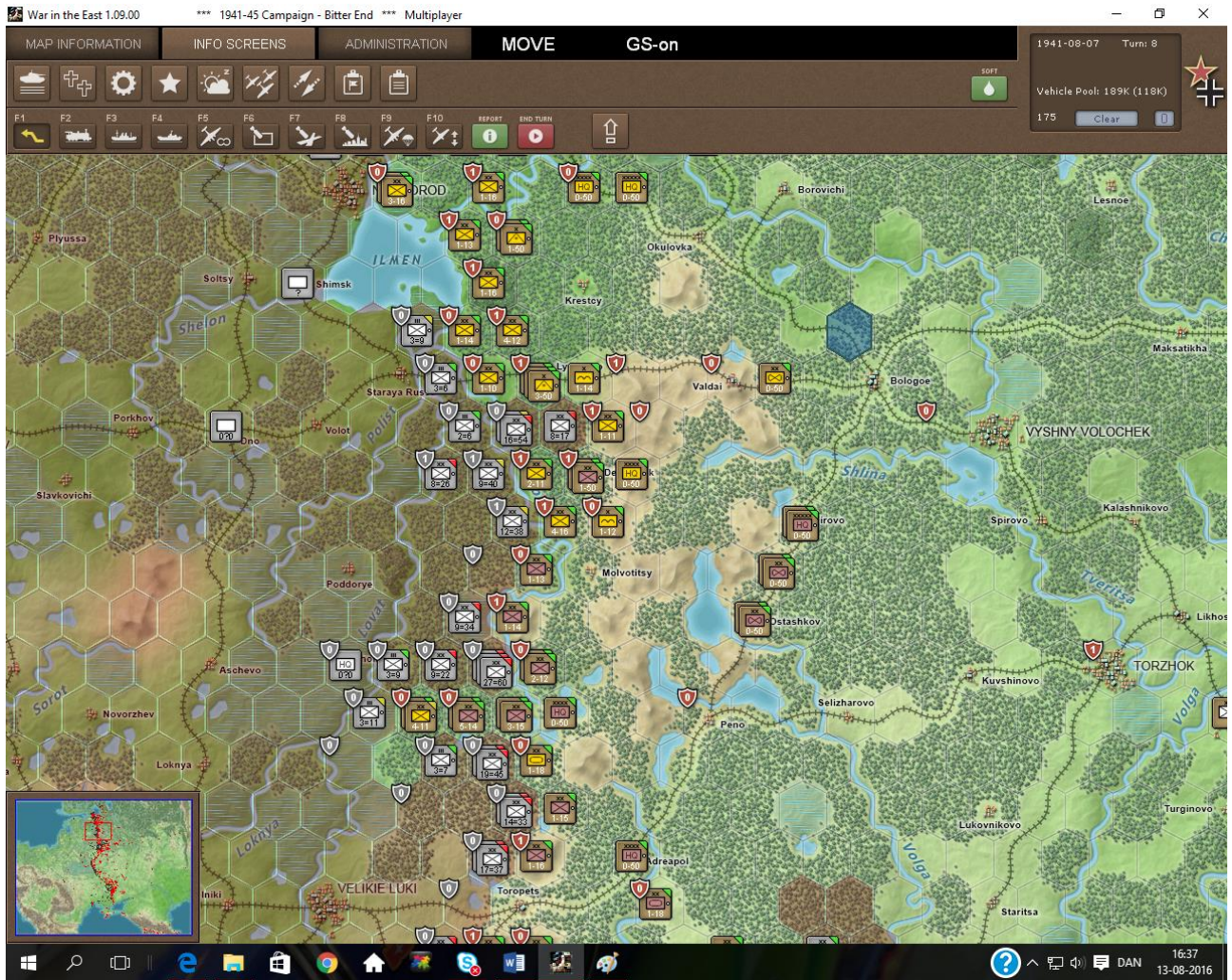


In the north, the Germans have crossed the river line south of Leningrad and pushed north. Several attempted attacks on Osinovets all failed, with some casualties for the Germans. While the fall of Leningrad seems certain, I might well hold on for two or three more turns.

After the attacks on Leningrad were done, it seems the Germans have pulled their Luftwaffe bases south, and there is apparently little airpower left in the north.

Finally, I notice that the Germans are now only holding the Volkhov line with a string of regiments. I will need to analyze if I can begin some local counterattacks in this region.

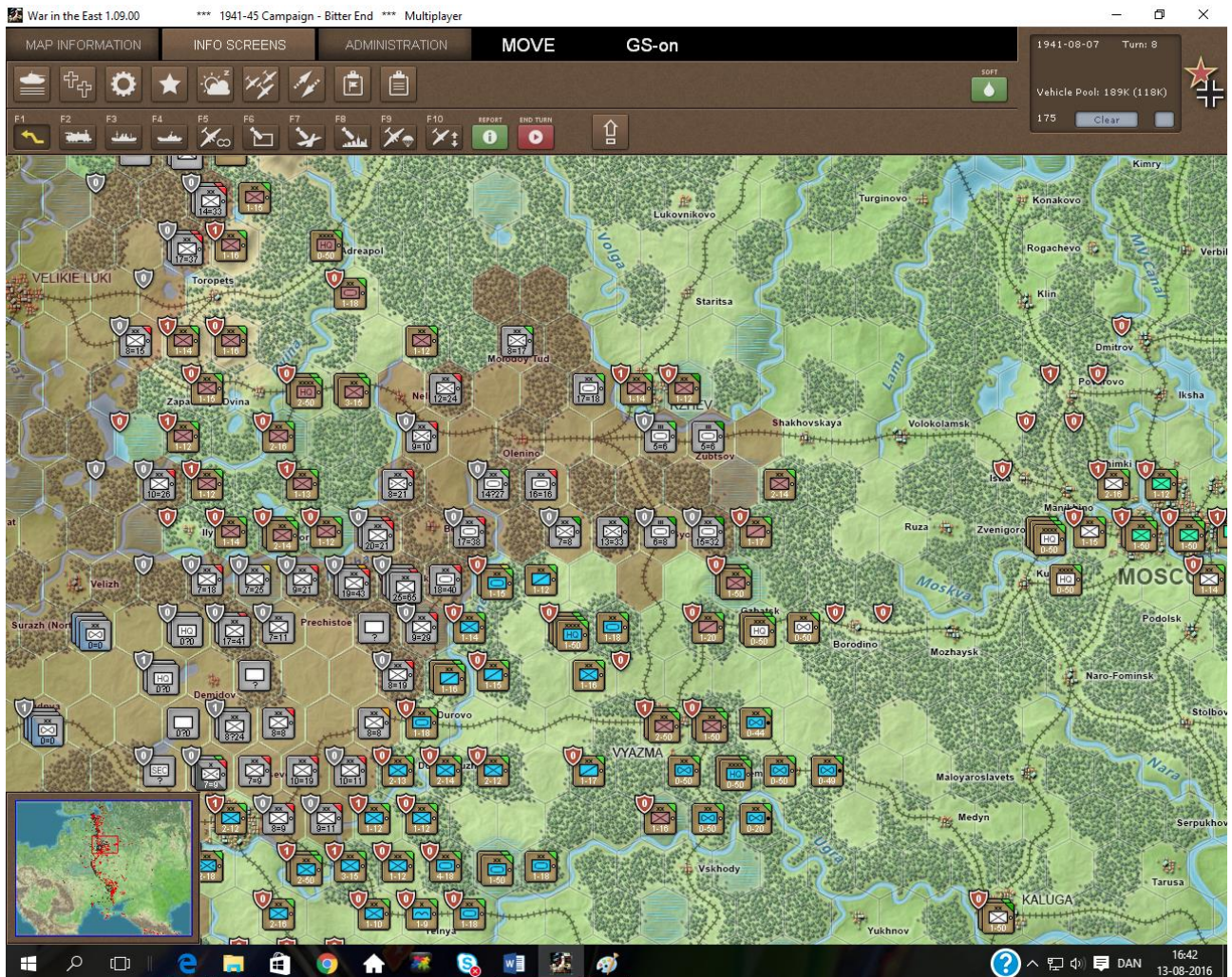
Demyansk Front



The Germans continue their infantry push south of Lake Ilmen. Most of the fighting has involved my Reserve Front, but no real developments in this region has happened. In the south, I still have some divisions threatened by encirclement, two of which will be unable to escape.

The northernmost German FBD is now in Porkhov and will probably turn south in order to establish a double rail connection to the forces heading for Moscow.

Center, North



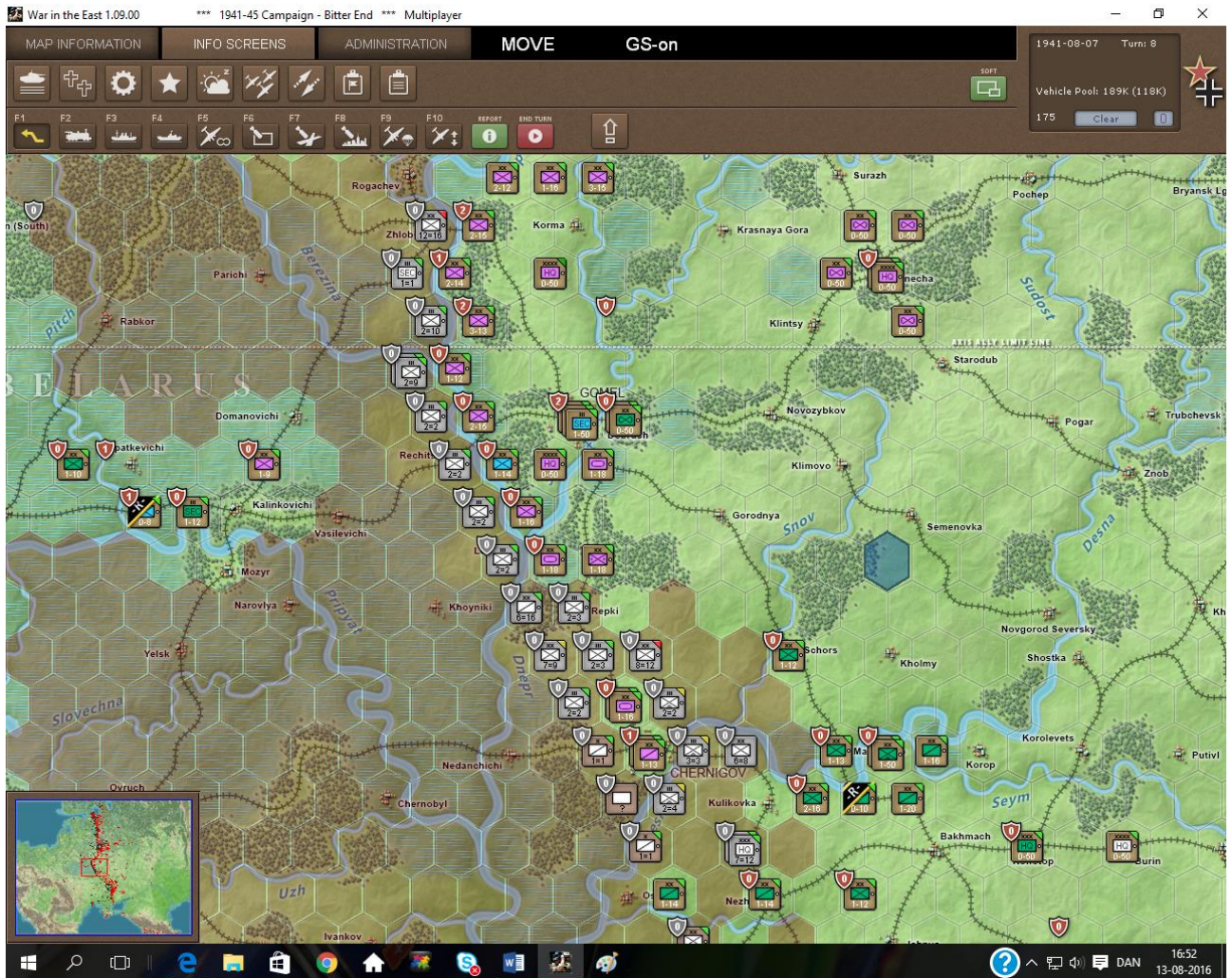
The Germans have cut through my lines and advances quite far towards Moscow. The situation is quite bad, as the German divisions in the front all have plenty of fuel and supplies, even if deliveries will be scarce.

I expect heavy fighting to continue in this area for some time. Even if Moscow should fall within a turn or two, there are plenty more targets for the Germans to attack, such as Tula with its 25 armament factories.

The Luftwaffe is arriving in the rear, although some of their air units have taken serious losses.

My first partisan attack has cut the German rail lines four hexes northwest of Vitebsk, but only a few hexes behind their FBD unit. However, I now have two partisans ready to strike in this area come next turn.

Center, South



In this part of the front, the Germans have managed to encircle five divisions, four of them around Chernigov. Chernigov holds 1355 supplies but no fuel, so I will have to consider airlifting in fuel.

The Germans are around 25 hexes and 50 movement points from their supply sources, so they should be getting few supplies delivered.

South



In the south, there has been some limited German advances toward the northeast. I suspect this is a feint in order to cause me to strengthen my defenses here. The German panzers seem to be firmly entrenched in their rearward positions.

Further south, the Germans have reached my line south of Zaporozhye.

The Lvov pocket has been reduced to the city of Lvov itself where my last two divisions have endured against two attacks by Slovakian forces.

Finally, bombing has intensified over the port of Odessa.

Planning

I will recycle low morale air units to National Reserve as I always do, and also begin mustering new air units for the battles around Moscow.

As new types of planes are now rolling out from my production lines, I will describe below how I intend to use them.

- *LaGG-3 '11 Series*. This fighter seems to be very similar to the standard LaGG-3, with a minor improvement in it's dogfighting abilities against fighters while it does slightly worse against enemy bombers. The differences are so small, however, that they are not to be trusted, and I intend to use these planes exactly the same as I do with my LaGG-3's.
- *U2-VS*. Reading the forums, it seems that many players believe these planes to be an actual liability and even evacuate their production facilities forwards towards the German lines. I notice however that you get ten U-2VS's for one Pe-2. Ten U-2VS's will deliver 20 100 Kg and 20 50 Kg GP Bombs in an attack, while the PE-2 will only deliver six 100 KG GP Bombs. While the U2-VS is a night flyer, it is also a tactical bomber, and I think those bombers have a higher hit probability (If I'm wrong, please inform me of this). I intend to use these for night time attacks against enemy infantry, always running them as the first attacks of the turn. If the Germans use night intercepts, these will be fatigued by intercepting U2-VS's leaving my follow up operations with fewer adversaries. If the Germans turn off night intercepts, my IL-4's will be ready to do some nighttime airfield attacks causing casualties this way.
- *R-Z*. Strictly speaking not a new plane type. I expect my pool of SU-2's to dry up next turn or so, and will start replacing some Su-2 Air units with R-Z's. They will be used in much the same way, and hopefully the 250kg bombs on these planes will mean some successes before they are annihilated.
- *Pe-3, Pe-8 and Pe-2R*. These are all produced in small numbers. I will not use them for now, instead letting their pools grow slowly for later use.

As Moscow itself is now very much in the front, I will evacuate all relevant "named" production (one point) and then focus on the armament factories and the heavy industry in the city when that is done.

North

I mean to continue the fight for Leningrad with everything I got in the city. I will move my best to Osinovets as the Germans will certainly try to cut this last connection out of the city. I will also attempt some counterattacks with the Northwestern Front in a last ditch attempt to draw heat of the Leningrad defenses (this will surely fail but I will attempt it nonetheless).

Demyansk Front

Business as usual here. I will withdraw endangered divisions, but otherwise hold the lines. My local airforces will be used against the Germans threatening Moscow.

Center, North

I will withdraw some of the divisions from the Reserve Front salient north of Smolensk, while leaving others. Doing this will hopefully keep some of the German infantry busy with mopping up the remaining divisions (I expect them to be encircled as of next turn).

The Reserve Front units in front of Moscow will be deployed so as to delay the German advance as much as possible. Helping with this will be forces of the Western Front, withdrawn from the area east of Smolensk. I

will also rail divisions north from the area around Kharkov in order to defend Moscow. These units will be formed into an army and assigned to the Moscow MD.

I will be assigning new commanders as needed as well as assigning new Support units to the armies standing between the Germans and Moscow.

I will move the 1 BAK north. While this will take a full turn, it will also place my best available airforces in the Moscow area for future turns.

I intend to try to do some bombing of the German airbases to the rear. If I can take out a few German fighters doing this, chances are I will be better placed to knock out some of the German transports that will be delivering fuel during the next few turns.

Center, South

Along the Dnepr I will hold the line for now. It seems there is little danger of major encirclements here as the German panzers have moved far to the east and they will have to swing back west in order to reach this area.

At Chernigov I will do what I can to break the encirclements. I will also move my Southwestern Front divisions up to the frontline.

In the Pripyat marshes I will gather my units in a line stretching east from Starushki. There is currently little these divisions can do.

South

As stated previously, the STAVKA divisions at Kharkov will be railed north for the defense of Moscow.

I have also decided to do some minor attacks with my Southwestern and Southern Front against the exposed German infantry in the area. However, the Southern Front also needs to send a few units south in order to contain the German infantry advancing north of the Sea of Azov.

In Odessa, I will stay put while assigning a few MiG-3's to my airforces on the Crimean.

Execution

North

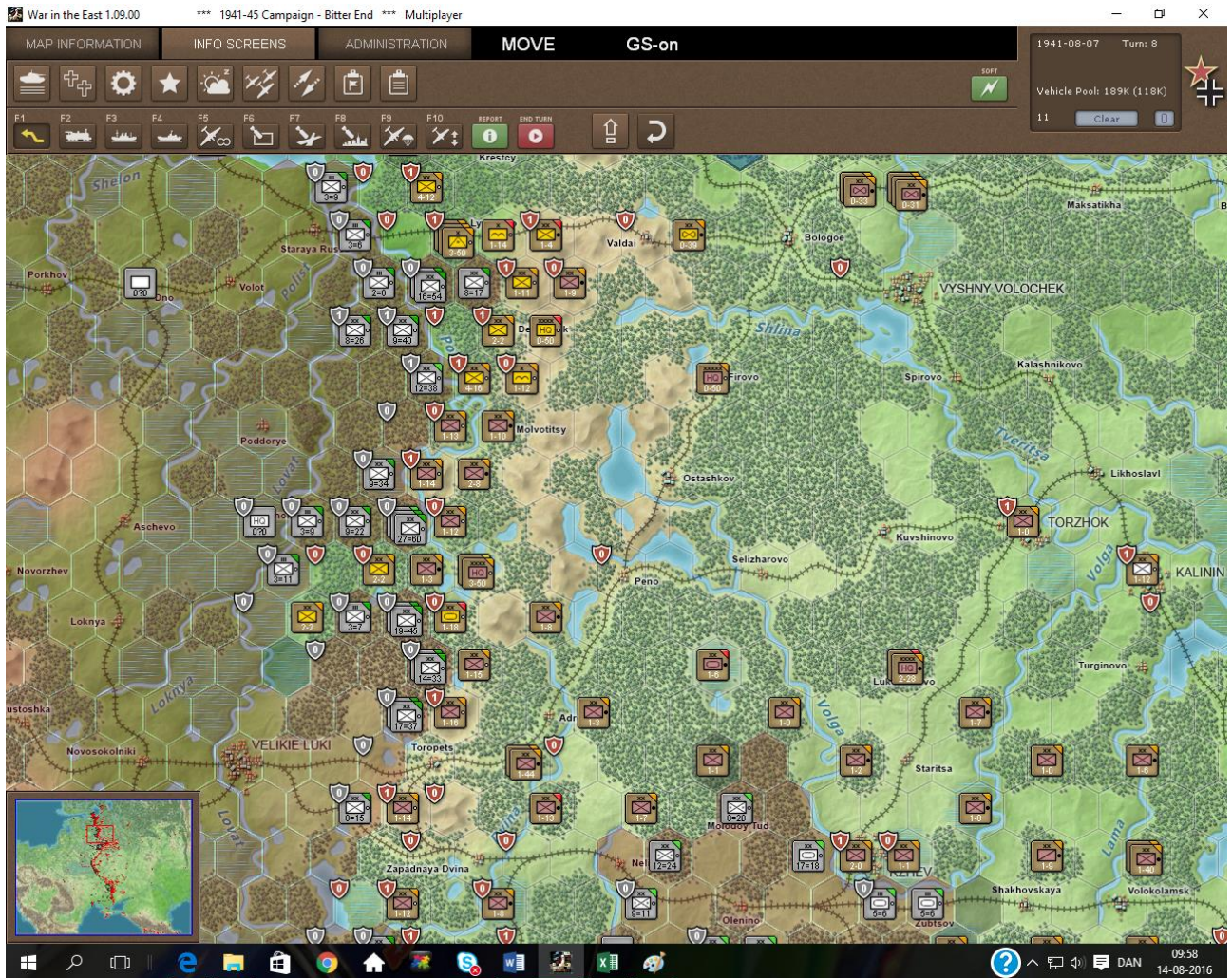


I have begun counterattacks with my divisions along the Volkhov river, defeated the Germans in four ground battles and moved a division back into Novgorod. The question is whether this will cause the Germans to either shift units back north from the Central Front or pull back a division or two from the battle of Leningrad. I doubt it, but I hope for the best.

In Leningrad, I have set up another strong line of defense. In Osinovets I have nine CV and a total fortification modifier of four, while in Pavlovo I have eight CV and a total fortification modifier of six. It is my hope that the Germans must spend at least one turn hammering away at this line in order to reduce fortification modifiers before they can advance.

East of Lake Ladoga I continue my fighting withdrawal. As no agreement has been made on the Finnish no move line, I will leave the line manned by weak units.

Demyansk



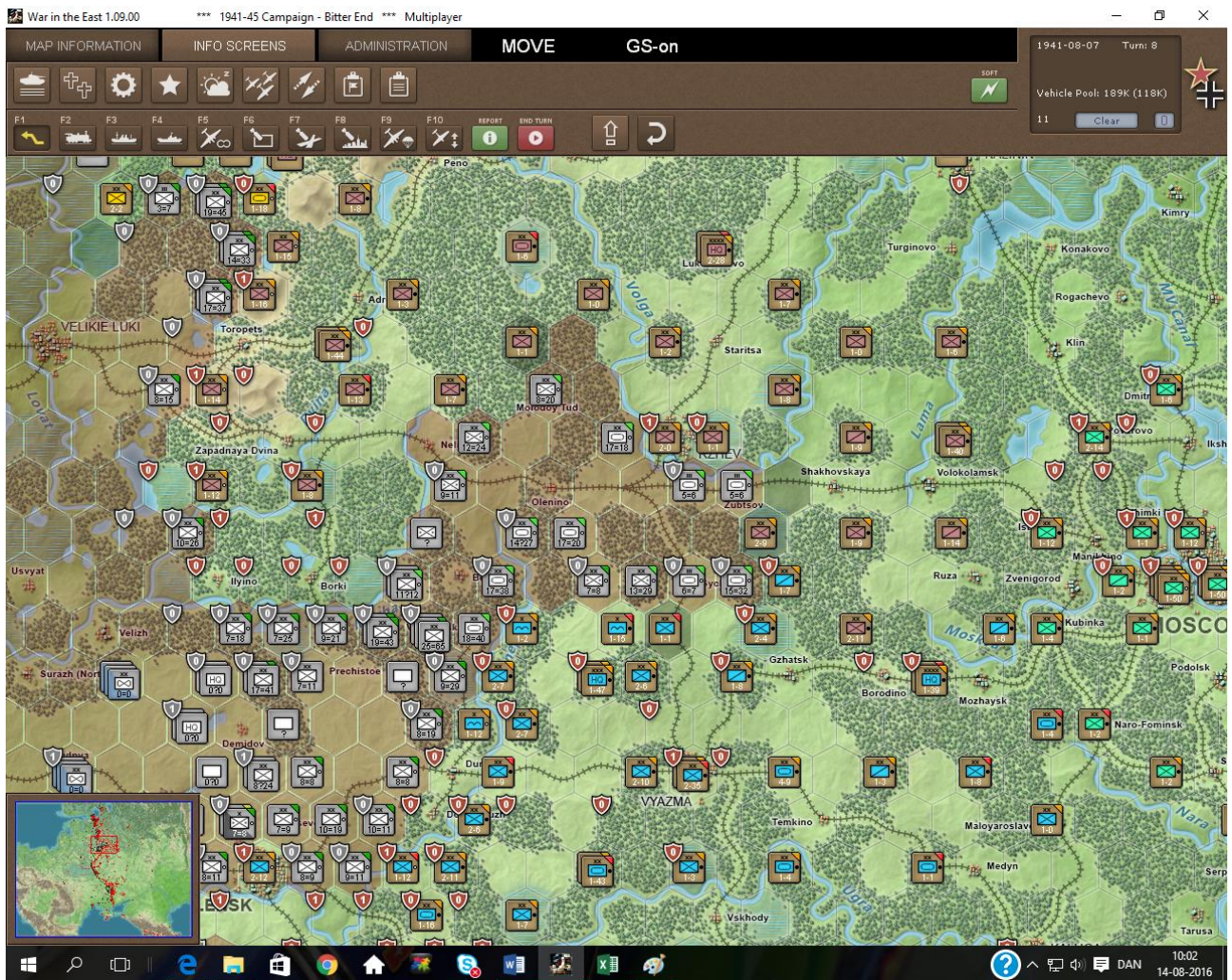
At Demyansk, I must accept that the divisions of the Northwestern Front will be encircled next turn. Making the best of it, I have thrown one of the two forward towards Velikie Luki.

The airforces of the Reserve Front has suffered quite a lot due to German interdiction attacks against moving units, and I expect them to be of very little use in the upcoming turns. For this reason I have pulled them back somewhat, as I don't want a German breakthrough to overrun them.

Notice the partisan unit to the west. As the German FBD will start moving south to complete a rail line loop, this unit will come within striking distance of that rail line.

I expect the Germans to continue their push to the southeast.

Center, Northern part



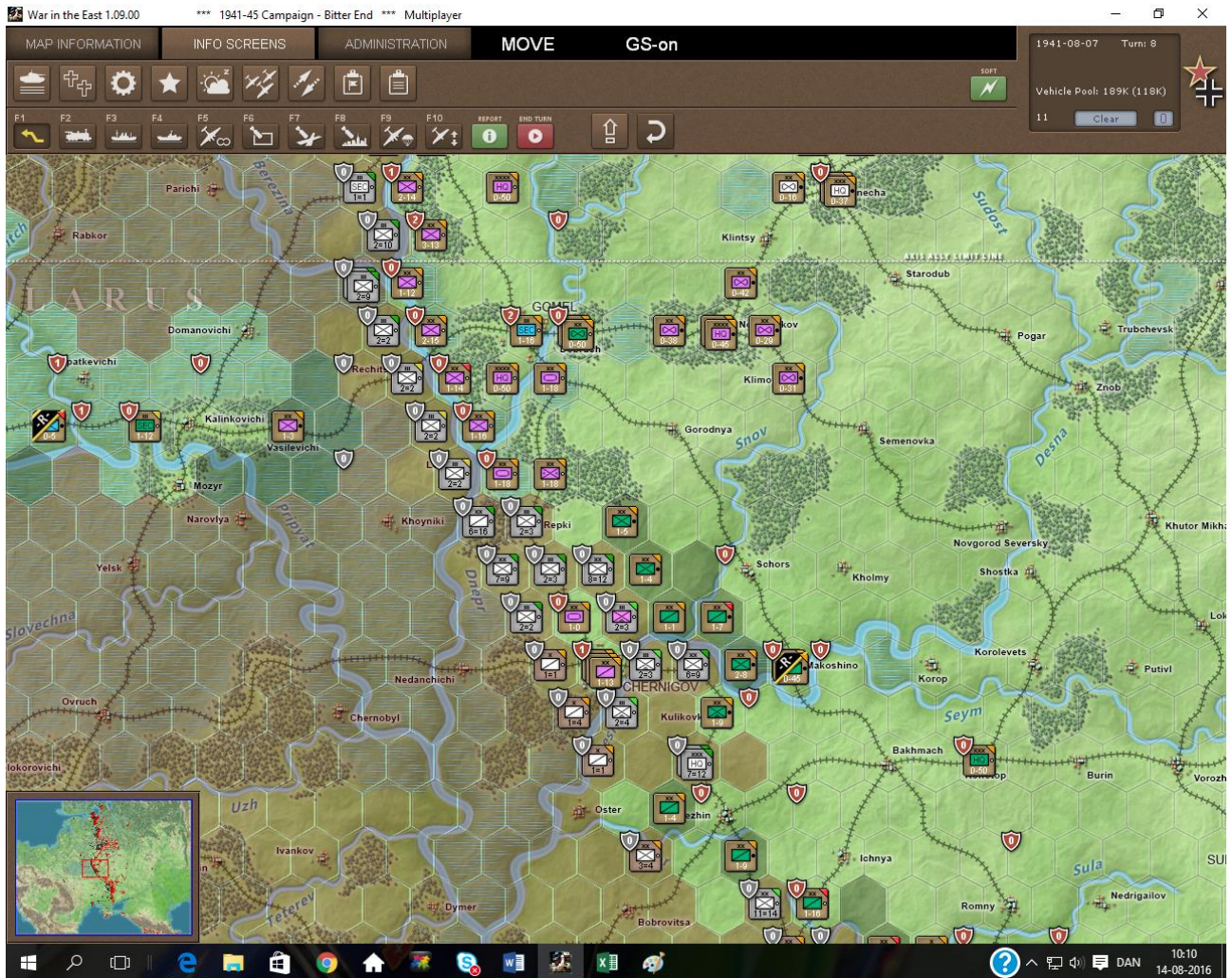
I have basically placed units on an alternate hex basis all over between the Germans and Moscow. I realize this will enable the Germans to conduct a series of encirclements, but I really need time to evacuate as much as I can from Moscow.

I expect the Germans will create pockets both north and south of the salient next turn, and I will lose quite a few divisions to this.

I have assigned Konev to command the Western Front and Timoshenko to the Reserve Front, as I believe this may give me a slight edge in some of the coming battles. I have also assigned new support units as needed, including four new AT Artillery Regiments for the armies standing directly between the Germans and Moscow.

In the air, I have done eight airfield attacks using my IL-4's. These attacks have caused some German airlosses, and I hope that the Luftwaffe will be slightly less effective in the area for a few turns. I have moved the 1 BAK north. Come next turn, it should start to conduct bombing raids on the German Panzers.

Center, Southern part

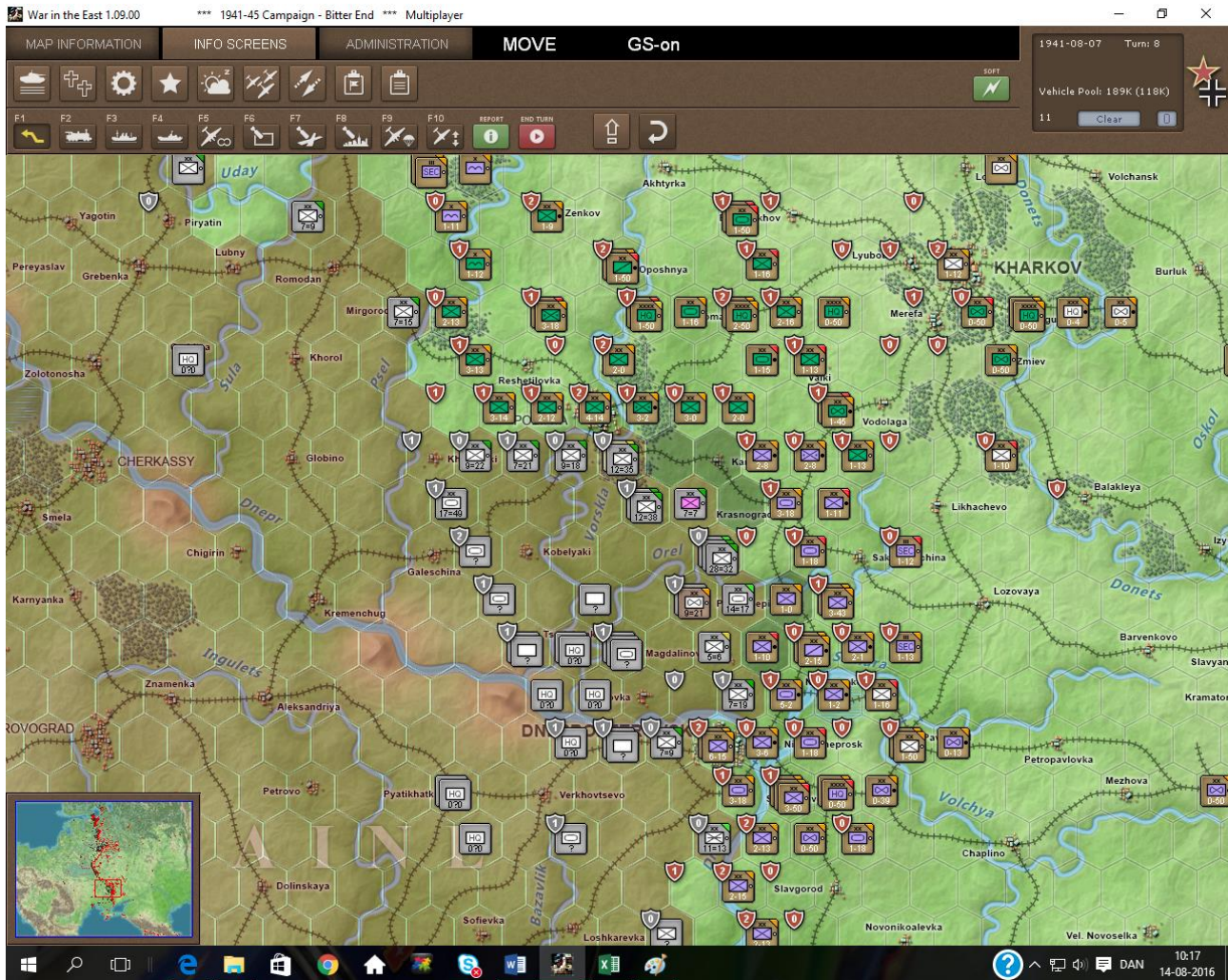


I have failed to break the Chernigov pocket and will lose the four divisions inside.

The Orel MD has changed designation and is now the Bryansk Front. This will enable me to assign more divisions to commands without overstepping command limitations. Now all I need are the divisions to assign.

I have moved the Bryansk Front airforces into a slightly better position.

South, Northern part



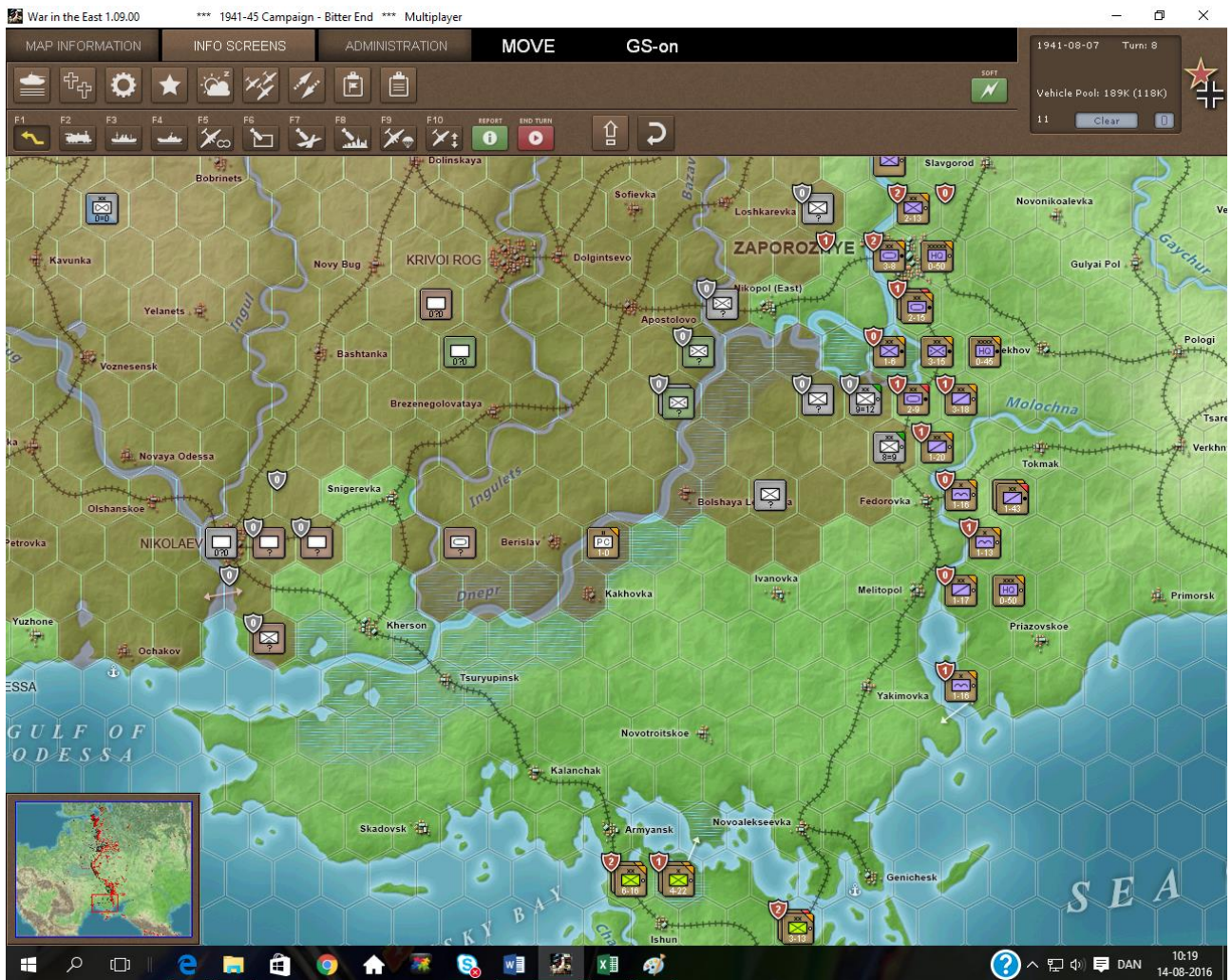
On the northern sector of the Southern Front I have spent approximately 10 Admin points reassigning divisions to new armies, so that my armies are now grouped together allowing for better modifiers when I commit several divisions to battle or when committing reserve divisions. I have also replaced one or two army commanders with better leaders.

I have conducted limited counterattacks, although with little impact. The 1:1 = 2:1 game rule has licked in though, allowing me some victories where I thought I would have lost, like this one:

100,88 - Clear(Karlova) - Clear Turn:8 1941-08-07		
Axis Forces Defending (W):	Forces Engaged	Soviet Forces Attacking:
XXIX Corps	DEF: men 17826, art 207, afv 2	19th Army -30%
299th Infantry Division (80)	DAM: men 149, art 4, afv 0	129th Rifle Division (15)
849th Gun Battalion (0)	LOST: men 167, art 6, afv 1	272nd Crps Art Rgt (0)
858th Howitzer Battalion (1)	DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	5th Army
213th Pioneer Battalion (5)	LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	200th Rifle Division (40)
		197th Rifle Division (38)
		130th Rifle Division (32)
		507th Crps Art Rgt (2)
	299th Infantry Division RETREATED	
CV: 87->137.7 Fort: 0.02->0.00	Odds 2.13 : 1	CV: 127->156.8 Eng Val: 6
Comm HQ: XXIX Corps	Pause	Comm HQ: 5th Army
GO Hans von Obstfelder		GL Andrei Eremenko
		Exit

In the air I did an airfield bombing attack against the Romanian airfield, only to find that the Germans had placed AA units en masse to guard it. This resulted in me losing three MiG-3's and 13 SB-2's. It will probably force me to recycle some SB-2 air units to the National Reserve next turn. Other than that arial combat has been inconclusive this turn.

South, Southern part



I have set up a few rear units behind this line in order to better contain any German infantry thrusts.

I put some MiG-3's on those airfields in the Crimean, in order to escort SB-2 bombing runs against the Romanian infantry outside Odessa. After doing this, I have begun questioning if I made the right decision here. With MiG-3 production moving out of Moscow, I will be unable to replace losses, once my Pool runs out. As MiG-3 production is ending shortly, I guess I will just have to use the ones I have got and then switch to other fighter types on these airfields.

Conclusion

I have evacuated all named production from Moscow and also much of the armament factories and heavy industry. If the Germans fail to cut off Moscow for another turn, I will be able to evacuate all remaining armaments and heavy industry, and if they fail for two turns (due to focusing on encirclements) I will be able to evacuate my vehicle production as well.

The Germans are now 500 AFV's weaker than when they started the invasion and the Luftwaffe has suffered enough losses last turn to come out of it some 250 planes weaker than they went into the turn with. My own AFV losses continue to be heavy, and I expect to be virtually without armored forces when the mud comes. In the air, evacuating from Moscow has inflicted a heavy hit on my production, and I now produce only 121 fighters per turn along with 93 non U-2VS bombers. The good news are that my Yak-1 production is slowly climbing and that I have more than 1100 Mig-3's, LaGG-3's and Yak-1's in my pools.

I have purchased four new IL-2 air units as well as four new U-2VS units.

I certainly still expect the fall of Moscow before the blizzard (even before the mud), but I might be able to postpone the fall of Leningrad for a turn longer than I had previously hoped. That is good news.