

Strategic overview

Turn 10: Strategic Considerations

Situational analysis

SPECIAL						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2776	84841	0
-	Port	126	3	0	0	0
-	Railyard	275	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	3022	53	55237	1434593	0
-	Vehicle	135	12	230960	272430	0
-	Heavy Industry	213	10	0	907000	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	576000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	321840	0
-	Resource Production	175	0	0	1665000	0
-	Armaments Production	322	11	672261	736750	0

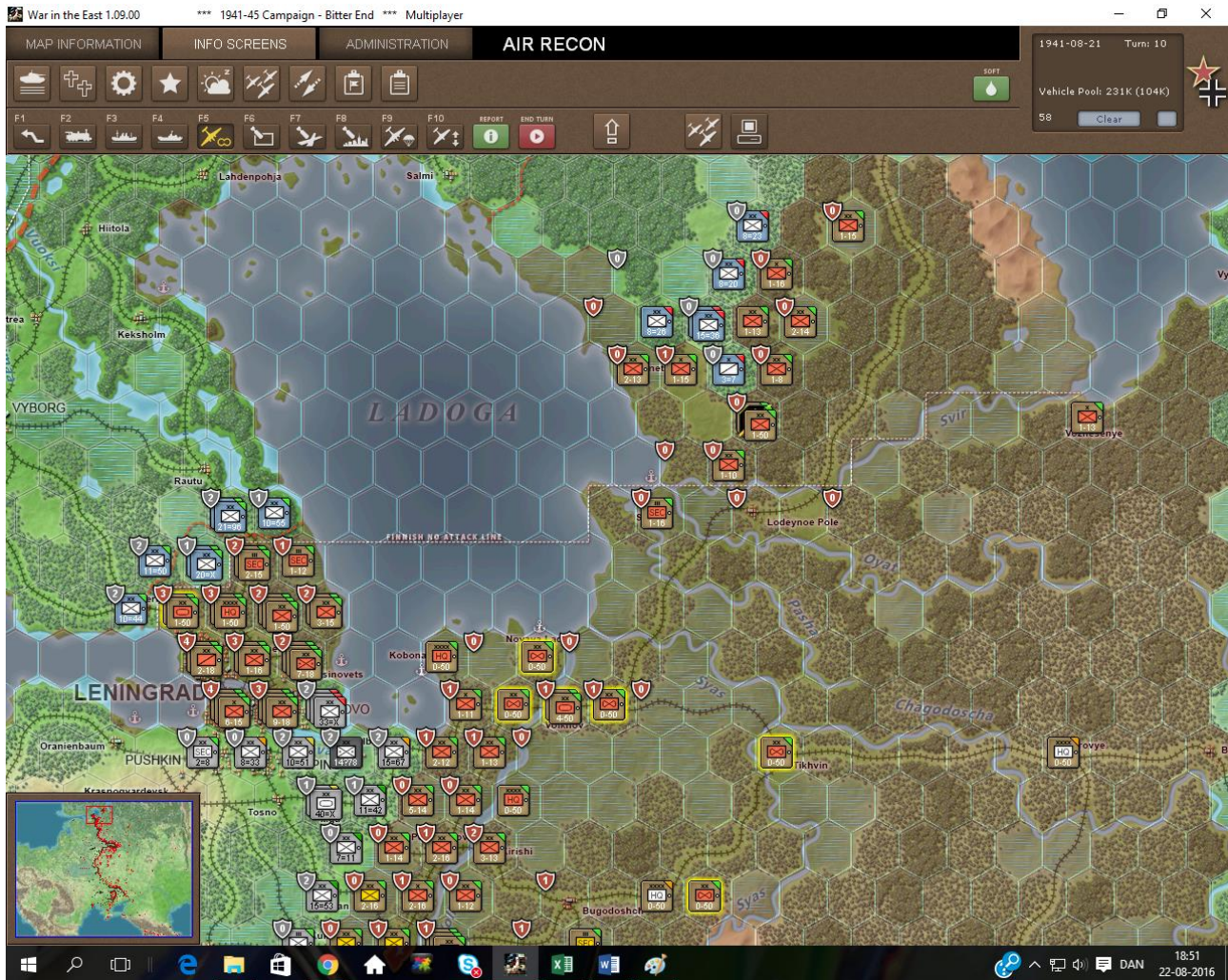
I just lost Stalino! This has cause a significant drop in my Armaments Production. Even if I had counted on losing that production anyway, I hadn't counted on losing it this early. Looking at the final Odds calculation in the second combat report from Stalino, I can't help feeling just a little frustrated:

< 2 of 2		113,97 - Urban(Stalino) - Clear	Turn: 10 1941-08-21
Axis Forces Attacking:	Forces Engaged		Soviet Forces Defending:
III Panzer Corps 9th Panzer Division (117) 13th Panzer Division (103) II/63rd Howitzer Battalion (0) 607th Howitzer Battalion (1) 735th Howitzer Battalion (0) I/814th Howitzer Battalion (0) 731st Gun Battalion (0)	ATK: men 50677, art 562, afv 378 DAM: men 306, art 9, afv 23 LOST: men 208, art 3, afv 5 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	DEF: men 18656, art 161, afv 90 DAM: men 401, art 2, afv 2 LOST: men 1888, art 26, afv 37 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	43rd Army 45th Tank Division (352) 383rd Rifle Division (297) STAVKA 317th PVO AA Regiment (3)
[v]	383rd Rifle Division RETREATED 45th Tank Division ROUTED		
CV: 359->772.1 Eng Val: 8 Comm HQ: III Panzer Corps G Eberhard von Mackensen	Show Details	Odds 2.00 : 1	Exit
			CV: 652->385.4 Fort: 1.84->0.00 Comm HQ: 43rd Army GL Pavel Kurochkin

Losses in the air has been light, as the Germans have not conducted any massive port bombings this turn. AFV losses has been heavy though, and the Germans are now 154 AFV's lighter than when I received the last turn.

Axis VP advantage is 2.4 to 1.

The Northern Front

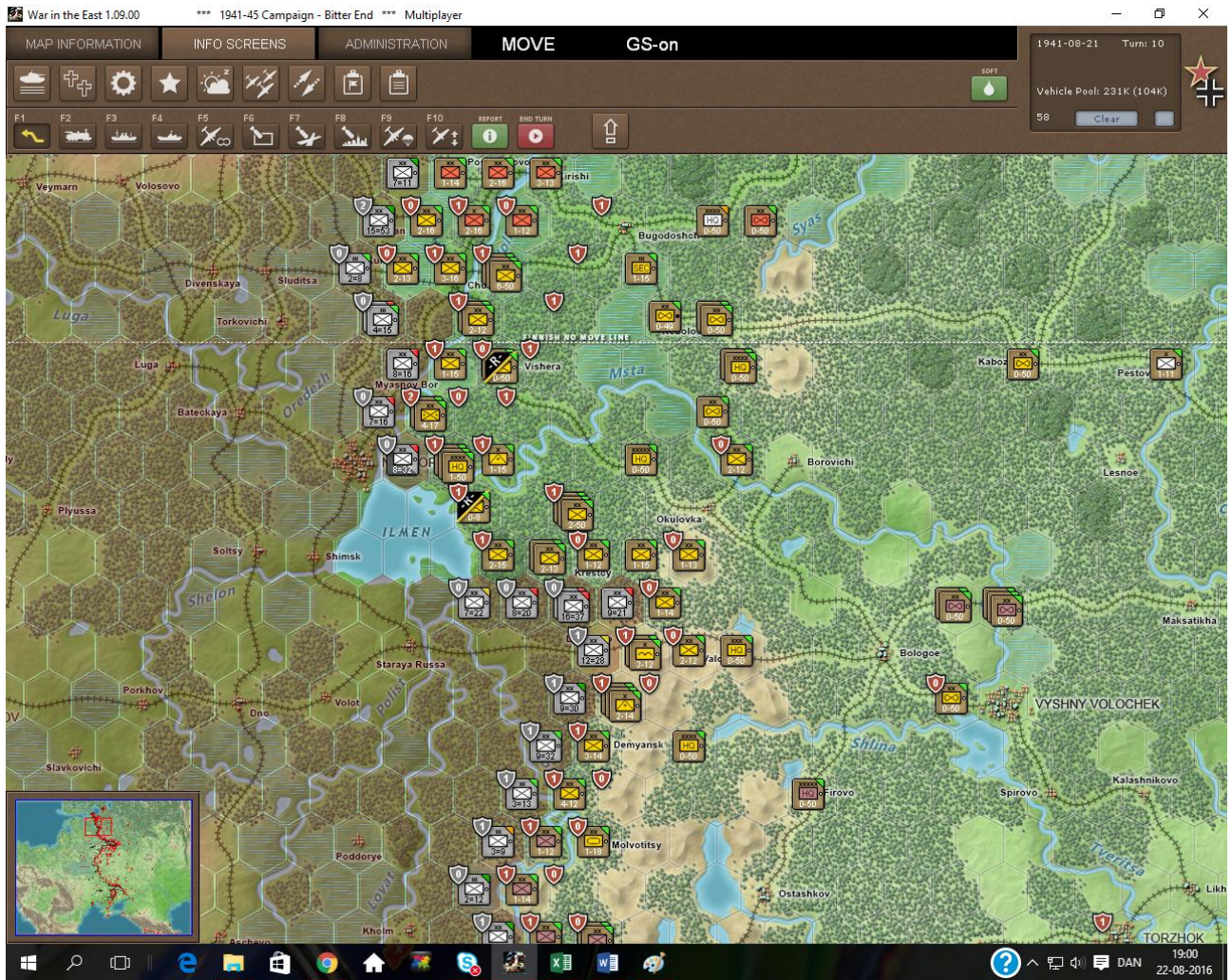


The Germans have conducted two infantry attacks on Osinovets this turn, without doing any significant damage to my fortifications in the hex. I have lost two CV in the hex, while the Germans have lost 1400 KIA and 2000 damaged.

South of the city, the Germans still have two panzer divisions and a motorized division standing by, and their defenses along the Volkhov looks impregnable.

East of Lake Ladoga, I am losing ever more terrain, and is close to the Finnish No Attack line.

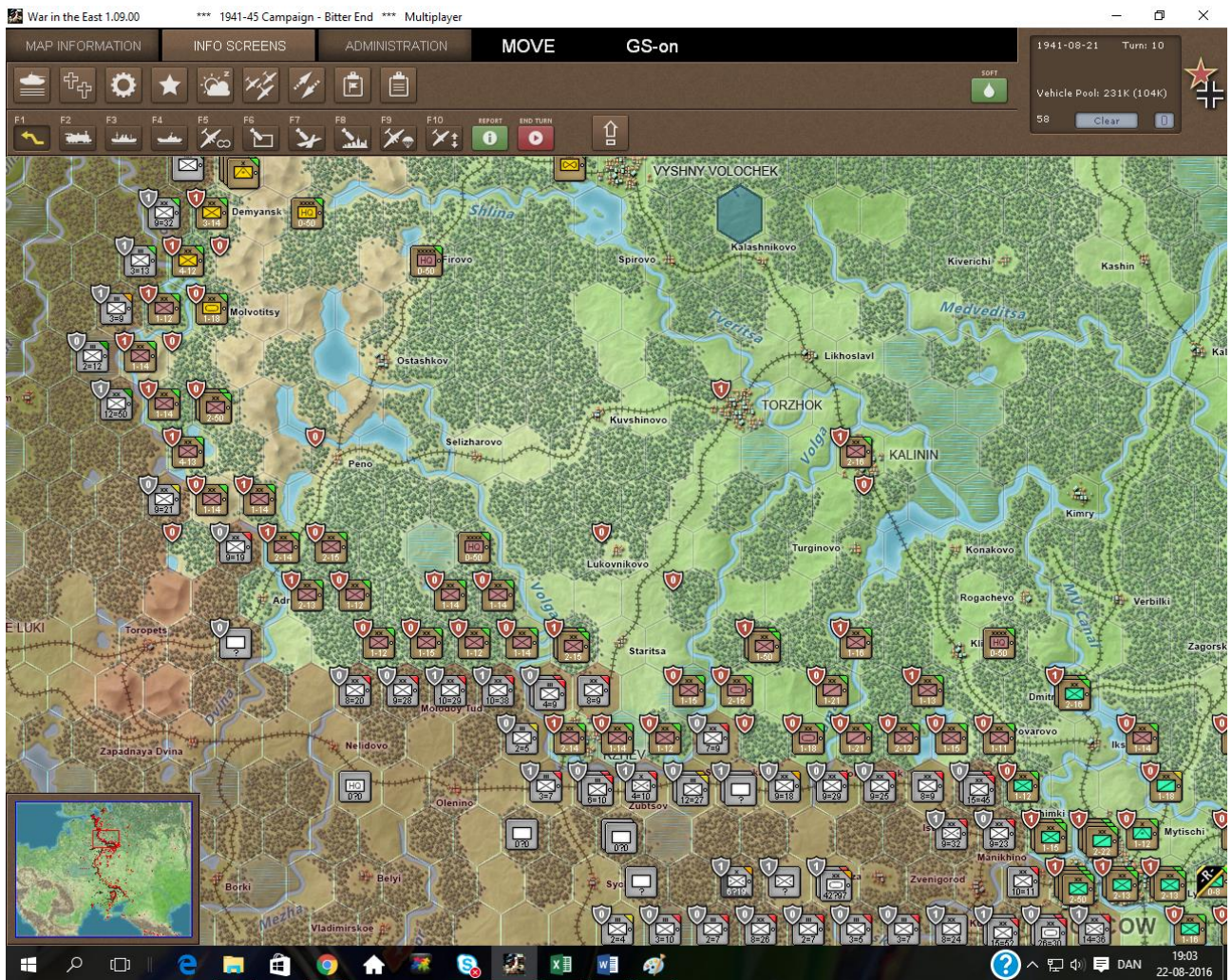
The Northwestern Front



The northwestern Front is pushed ever back at Demyansk southeast of Lake Ilmen.

Fighting has not been particularly heavy, with the most notable event being the Germans crossing the Volkhov at Novgorod.

The Reserve Front



At the Reserve Front, little has changed. The Germans are threatening to cut off the defenders of Rzhhev, but other than that little has happened.

There are a few German motorized units standing by with some fuel reserves, but I suspect their target is not Kalinin to the northeast, but rather Tula to the southeast.

German supply lines are still stretched, but my partisans have yet again failed to do anything constructive. Looking at the advances of the German FBD's, the Germans will have completed a rail loop in two turns.

My Reserve Front airforces are still an absolute mess.

War in the East 1.09.00 *** 1941-45 Campaign - Bitter End *** Multiplayer

MAP INFORMATION INFO SCREENS ADMINISTRATION MOVE GS-on

1941-08-21 Turn: 10

Vehicle Pool: 231K (104K)

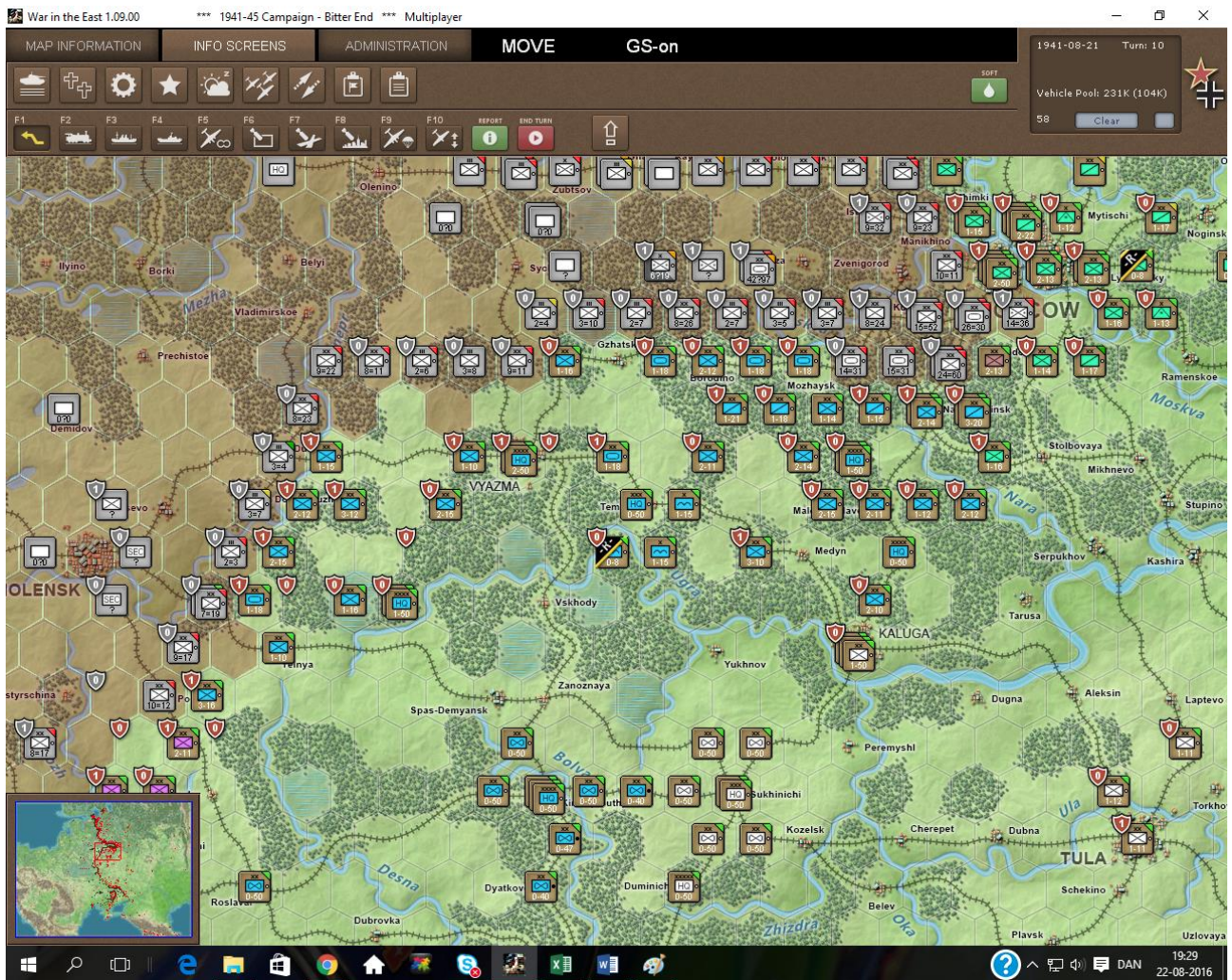
58 Clear 0

Map locations: Lukovnikovo, Staritsa, Zubtsov, Sych, Gzhatsk, Borovino, Mozhaysk, Mal, Medyn, Kaluga, Turginovo, Konakovo, Rogachevo, Kimry, Verbilki, Zagorsk, Aleksandrov, Nogorje, Yuryev-Polsky, Kolchugino, Suzdal, VLADIMIR, Petushki, Gus Khrustalnyi, Vrekhovo, Shatura, Kurovskoe, Voskresensk, Ramenskoe, Stolbovaya, Mikhnevo, Stupino, Kashira, Serpukhov, Tarusa, Spasok, Spas-Klepiki, Oka, Nara, Moskva, Klyazma, Volga.

Windows taskbar: 19:19 22-08-2016

Far to the West, at Vitebsk, the Luftwaffe is still present in huge strength.

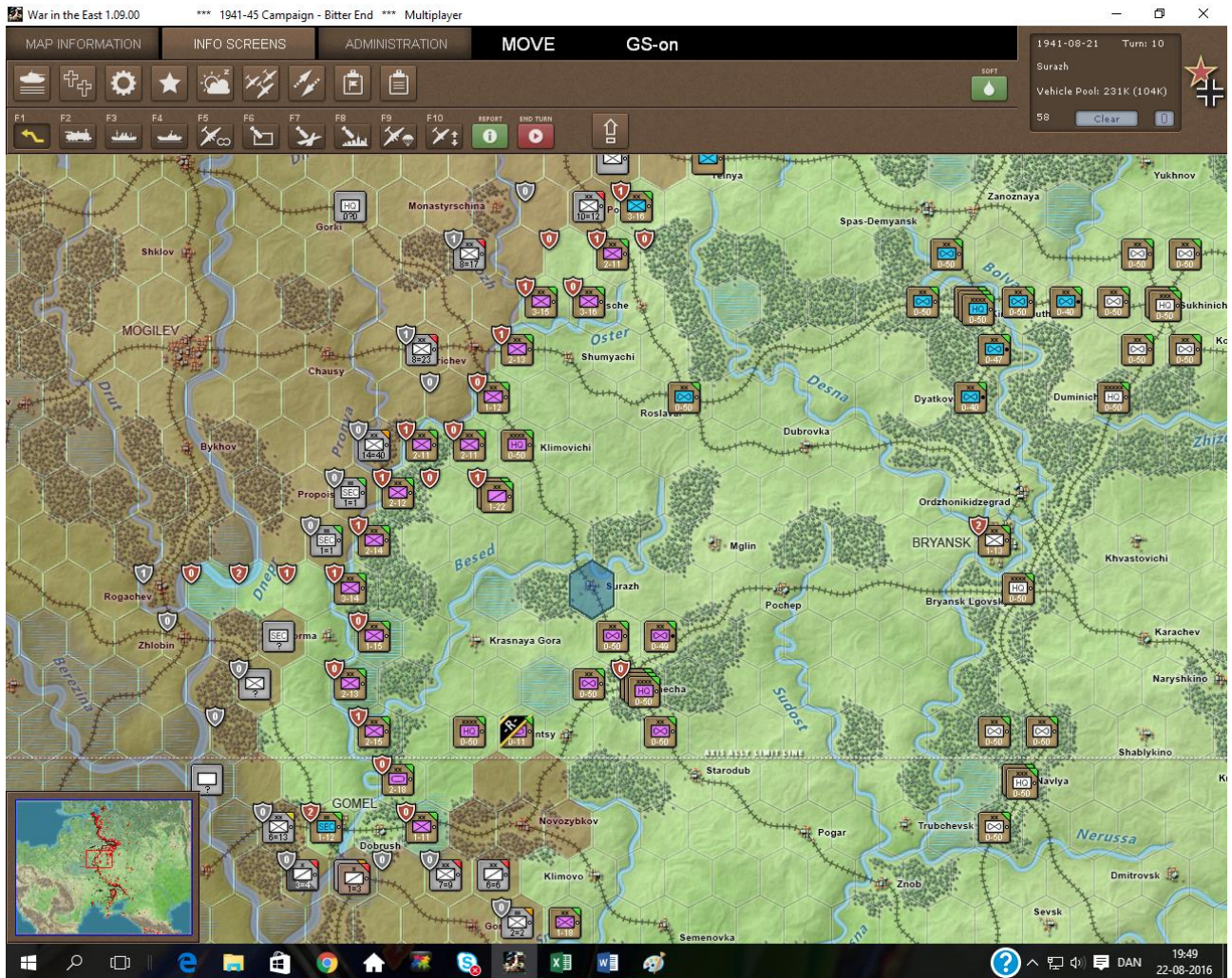
The Western Front



The Western Front has taken a few hits at both ends of the front they hold. Nothing serious has occurred during this turn.

However, the Germans appear to be massing their Panzers for an attack southeast towards Tula. I spot no HQ giving opportunities for HQBU's, but all the Germans need to do is punch a hole in my front and advance a single panzer to Tula, which is only ten hexes away. On the way, they may also take on Kaluga with its four remaining Armament Factories.

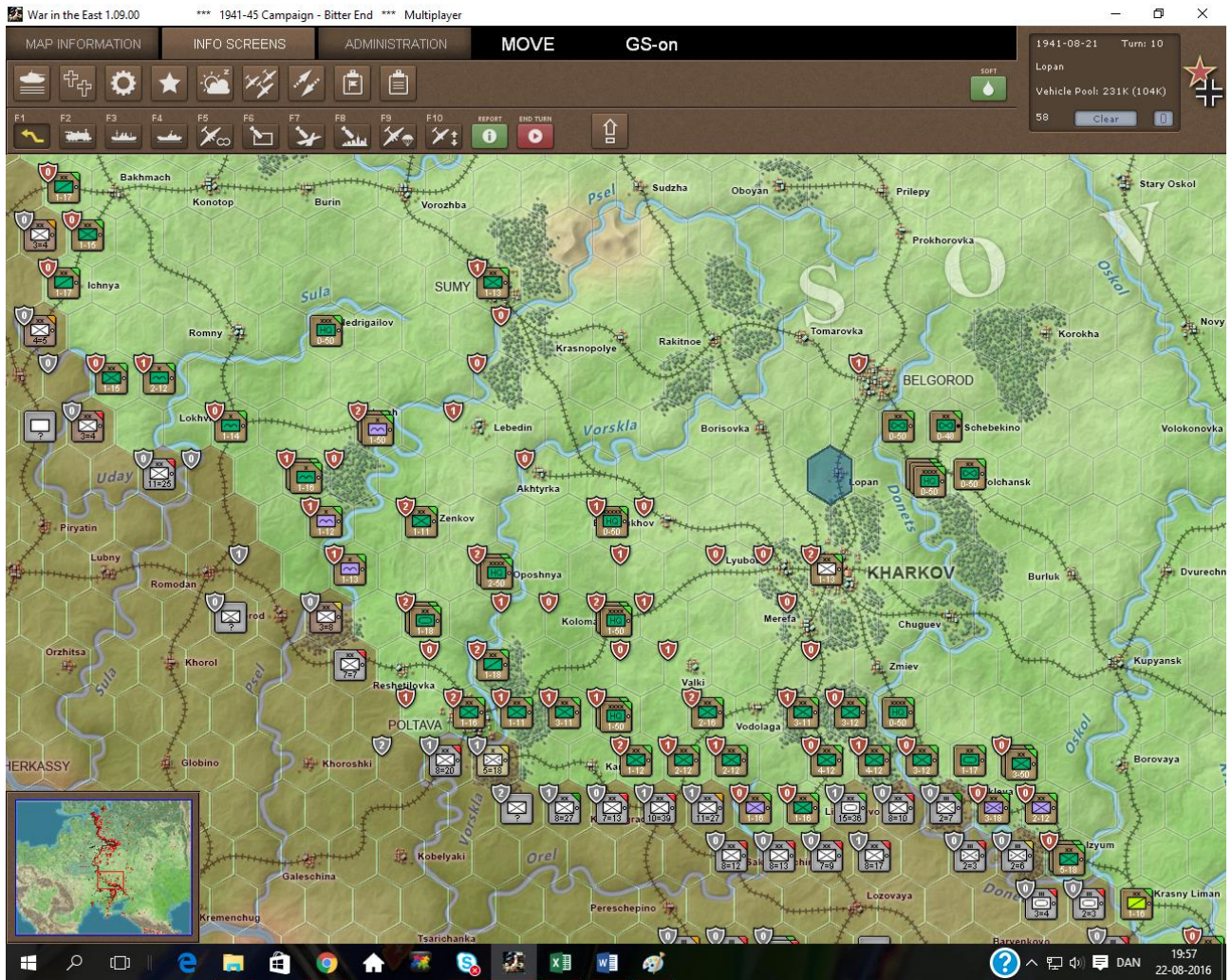
The Bryansk Front



At the Bryansk Front, the Germans are continuing their advance in the southern part of the front. Little fighting of importance has taken place here, but I do notice that the Germans are even using one CV Security brigades to hold part of their line.

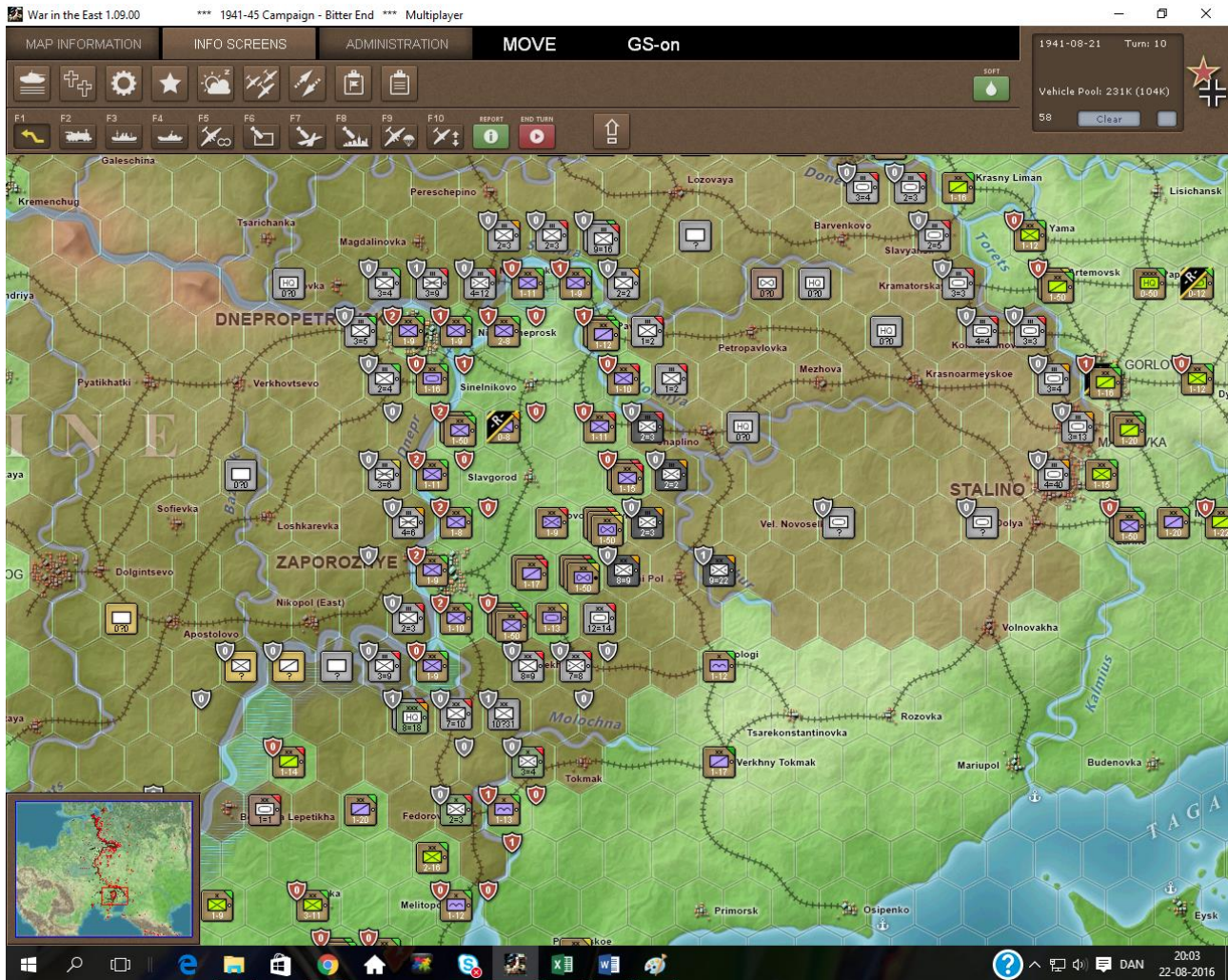
Nothing has happened in the Pripjat Marshes. I wish I could convert the divisions there to partisans.

SouthWestern Front



The Germans have left my Southwestern Front alone. In the eastern part of the frontline, I might be able to conduct some limited attacks on German motorized regiments.

Southern Front



The Germans have reclosed the Southern Front pocket, and at first glance, I can see no way of reopening it. However, the Germans have also split a large portion of their forces into regiments in order to prevent the Soviets from escaping.

Fuel has been dropped, including on HQ's not stacked with combat units. It is a bit weird, that the Germans are allowed to drop fuel to unsupported HQ's but I'm not allowed to attack those fuel dumps. I would think of changing the "No bombing of unsupported HQ's" to "No bombing or fuel dropping to unsupported HQ's". It is of little importance in this game however, and what has been done is clearly within the agreed upon house rules, so no ill will on my part.

In Odessa, the Germans continue to bomb the port, and the Romanians have conducted a few attacks on the outer defenses, but have failed to penetrate them.

Planning

As my IL-2 losses are very low compared to my production, I will create another five IL-2 units.

Evacuation wise, I will focus on Kaluga and Tula, still leaving behind the production facilities costing "double".

The Northern Front

In Leningrad, I will shuffle a few divisions around, in order to maximize my CV in Osinovets. I guess the fall of the city is determined by when I fail my leadership rolls in combat and suffer my CV total to be halved. For that reason, I also need to take another look at both the 22nd Army command and the Northern Front Command to see if my combat modifier can be improved.

East of Lake Ladoga, I will pull back to the Finnish No Attack line and reset my TOE to 20%. No house rules were made regarding this, and I will do it, even though I consider it "gamey". My first obligation however, is to play the game to the best of my ability.

Along the Volkhov, my Northern Front divisions will remain in position, digging whatever fortifications they can.

The Northwestern Front

The Northwestern Front units west of the Volkhov will be pulled back in order to free up units to defend the area east of Lake Ilmen. This will leave the 24th army of the Northwestern Front in charge of all but one hex of the Volkhov Front.

East of Lake Ilmen, I will use the 27th and the 28th Armies to delay the German advances. As German casualties in these battles are actually higher than Soviet ones, I assume the Germans will stop their attacks once they reach whatever objectives they are aiming for.

In the roughs to the southeast of Lake Ilmen the 11th Army will be formed into a shock army, with three heavy artillery regiments attached on top of their regular support units. If the Germans wish to advance into the roughs, I want them to pay for it.

As the motorcycle regiments I attached to the Front command last turn has done nothing whatsoever, I will assign them back to STAVKA.

The Reserve Front

The armies of the Reserve Front will be charged with maintaining their lines as best they can. From west to east those armies are the 29th, the 34th, the 31st and the 38th armies. I will try to base my defensive lines of forest and swamp areas, and will try to extract what I can from Rzhev.

The Moscow MD

In Moscow, the 48th army will continue to be charged with the defense of the city itself. The 49th army will be gathering east of the city, while also doing what it can to prevent the encirclement of Moscow.

Finally, I will assign a few airunits to the Moscow MD Air command, so that air support may be given to future battles involving units of this MD.

The Western Front

At the eastern section of the Western Front frontline (and facing the German Panzers) I have the 3rd army and the 20th army, both well equipped with support units. Those armies will continue to try to prevent a German thrust at Tula and/or surrounding Moscow.

Further west, I have the 4th and the 13th army guarding against the German infantry at the base of the German salient. The 13th army has an opening for an attack against a German infantry regiment. I intend to do such attacks whenever I can, mainly in order to cause a few casualties as well as hopefully getting my first few guards divisions before winter.

Meanwhile, the tactical bombers of the 1 BAK will continue to bomb the German Panzers and motorized divisions at this part of the front.

The Bryansk Front

The Bryansk Front will be pulling back a few hexes, but not before doing some attacks against the German security regiments holding the front against them.

Southwestern Front

On the southwestern Front, the 18th, the 6th and the 33rd armies will continue their defensive stance against the opposing Germans. The 5th army at the far eastern part of the front will start some limited offensive operations in the areas where local superiority can be massed.

Southern Front

This description in this section will, for now, include the cations of the North Caucasus MD, as those units are closely involved in the operations of the Southern Front.

Northwest of Gulyai Pole I can attack a German motorized regiment (with three CV) with 6 of my own divisions (each with one CV). Prior to that attack, I can launch my entire IL-4 bomber fleet on the Germans (274 bombers, each with ten 100kg GP bombs). The hex itself is 17 hexes from the closest German fighters, so German air cover should be light. IF I force the Germans back, I can reopen the pocket using my cavalry division at Verkhny Tokmak. I need to move the cavalry unit first though, as I really don't want to see the Germans retreating to the hex I need to get in order to reopen the pocket.

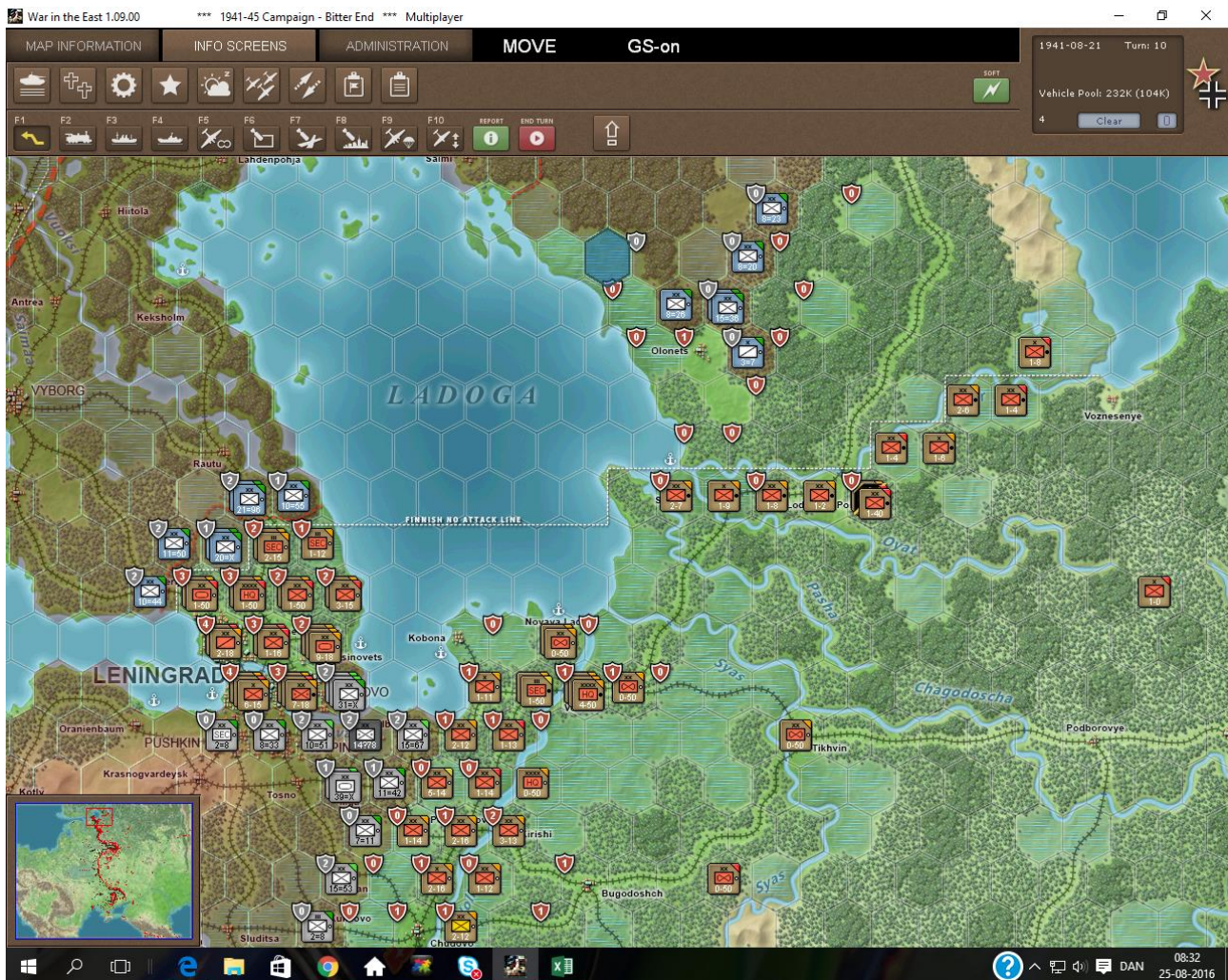
Depending on the success of this relief attempt, I will either pull back the units north of the Crimean (in case of failure) or push them forward (in case of success).

I would have liked to do some bombing of the Axis HQ's east of Dnepropetrovsk as the Germans has dropped fuel to them, but I am prevented from doing this due to house rules.

Finally, as the Odessa port is at 25% damage, I will leave the city garrisoned.

Execution

Northern Front



To the east, I have withdrawn my front to the Finnish No Attack line. There seems to be little point in continuing the fight over terrain that gives me no manpower, no resources or anything else of value. It will simply cost me some losses to defend.

In Leningrad itself, I have shifted a couple of divisions around and also placed Vatutin in charge of the 22nd army, that is defending against the Germans. It is basically a matter of time before I get some poor leadership modifiers on one of the Osinovets attacks and I lose the battle. When that happens, the fall of Leningrad is imminent.

The Northwestern Front

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On the northern sector of the front, I have pulled back the forces west of the Volkhov in order to free up divisions moving south.

The freed up divisions has allowed me to strengthen my front east of Lake Ilmen. The Germans can certainly still advance, but hopefully, advancing will start costing them more and more manpower.

Doing my usual bombing raids with my airforces of the Northwestern Front Air Command, I noticed that one of the I-153BS units has apparently been promoted to Guards status (it's name is now '1 GShAP'). I will start to slowly replace my I-153BS's in the best Air Groups with IL-2's in order to get a better benefit from this.

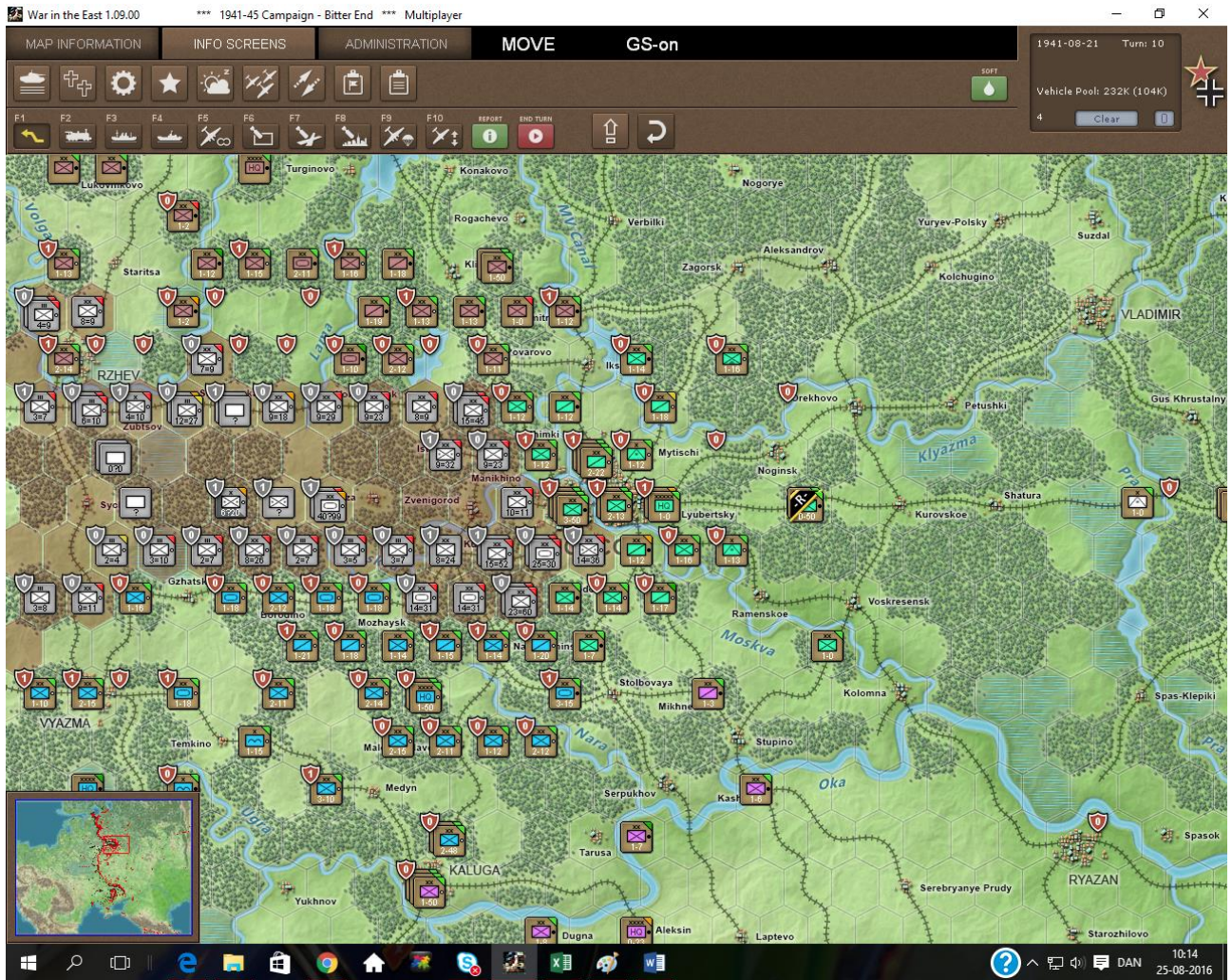
The Reserve Front

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At the Reserve Front, the situation has changed little. I have withdrawn my exposed divisions at Rzhev, leaving one division in the city, mainly due to its inability to escape.

In the air, I have assigned five LaGG-3 units to this Front, in order to improve my chances of presenting some opposition to the Luftwaffe in the area.

The Moscow Military District



In Moscow, I have strengthened the city defense ever so slightly. No offensive moves has been undertaken and I expect the Germans to take the city more or less at their leisure.

The Western Front

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The Western Front is left mainly in its positions, so that the units here have a chance to dig in a little more. To the rear of the eastern part of the front, a new army of army, the 40th, has been formed. This army is part of the Bryansk Front, as there is no more room for command in the Western Front.

At the western end of the Front, I have done a single attack against a German infantry regiment, forcing it back. I still intend to do such attacks whenever I have local superiority.

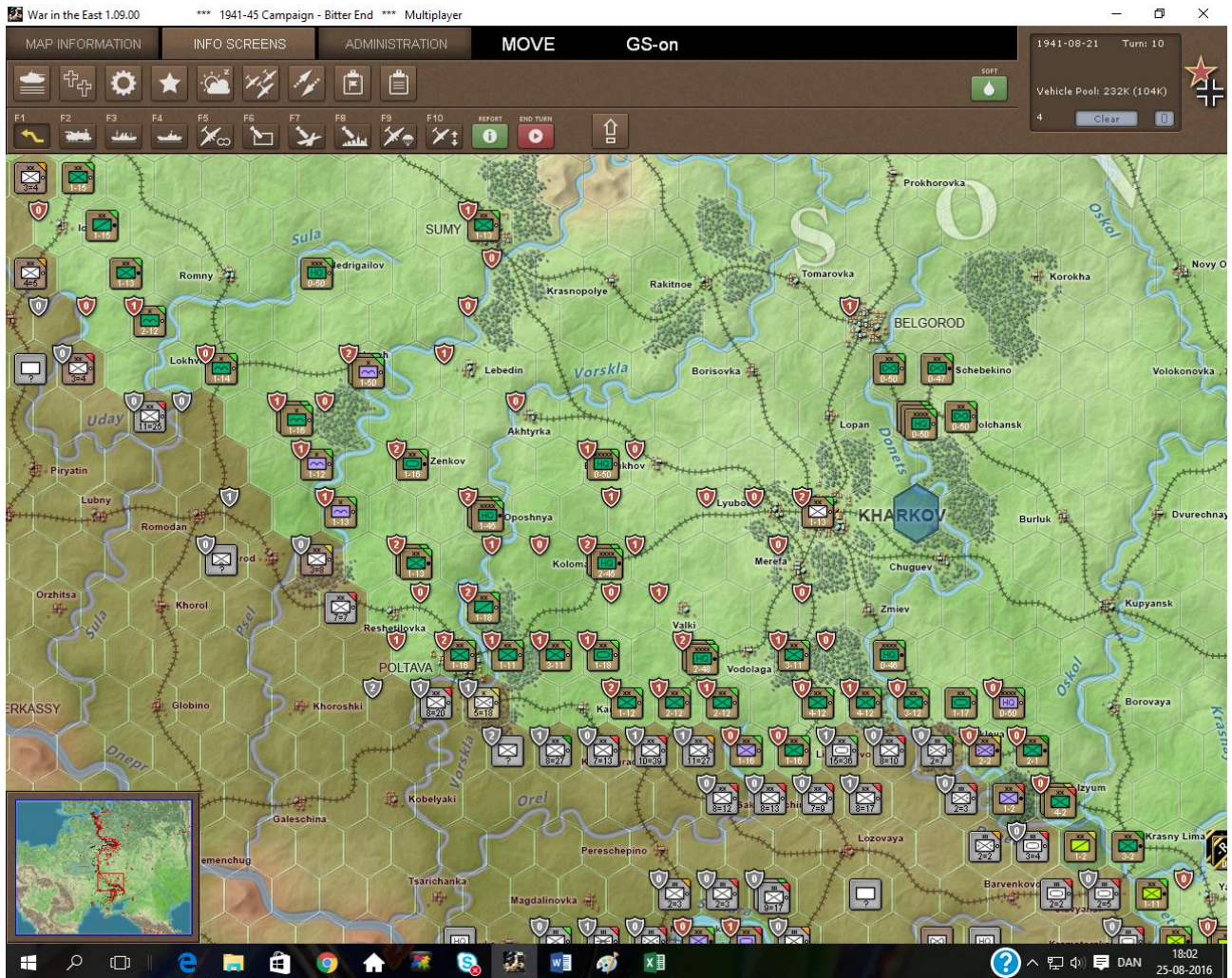
In the air, continued bombing raids by the 1 BAK is proving less efficient, as the Germans have not moved much this turn and are thus better able to resist the bombing.

The Bryansk Front

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At the Bryansk Front, I have continued to pull back my divisions after two attacks at German security regiments. Both succeeded, but with a lot heavier casualties for the Soviets than for the Germans.

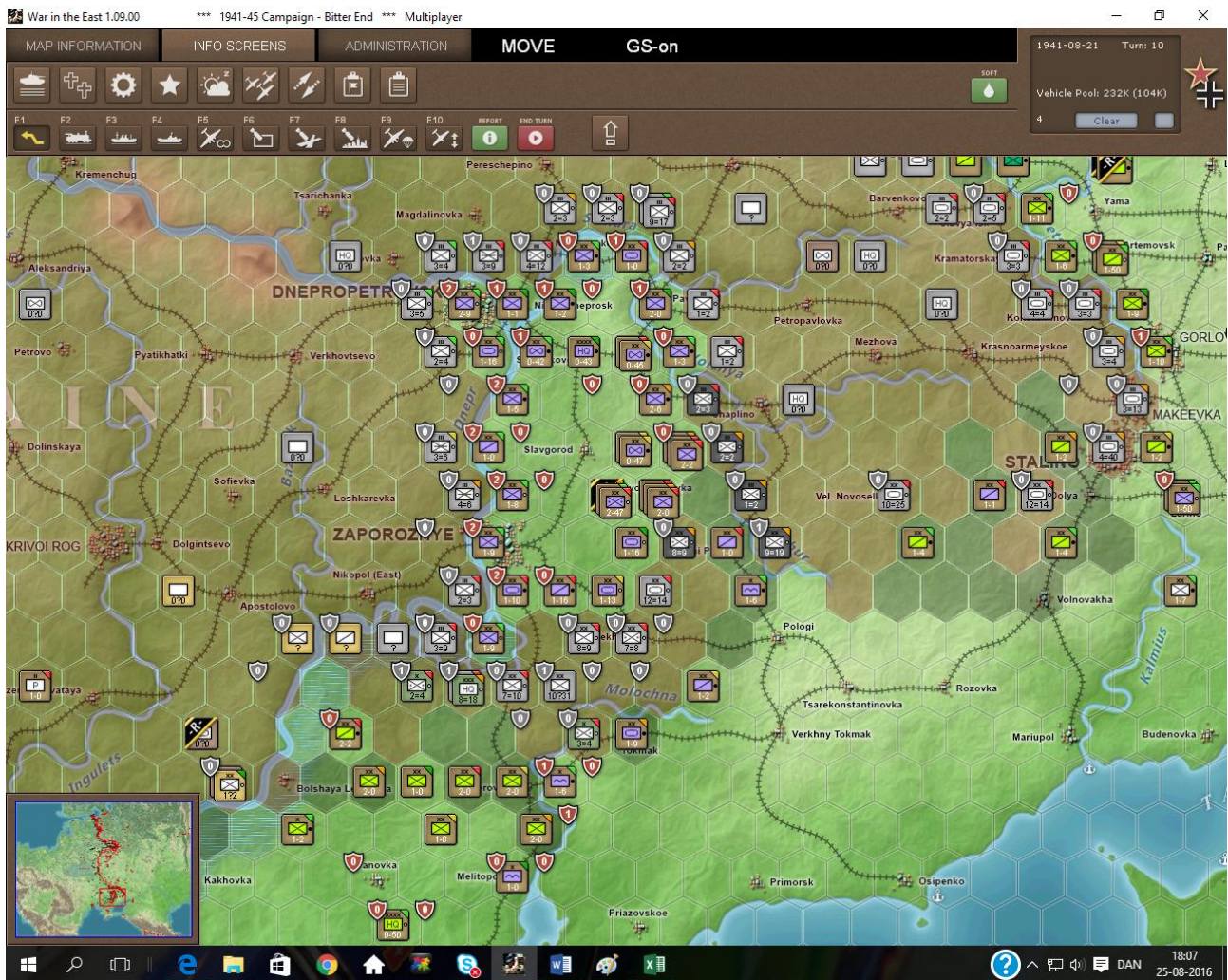
The Southwestern Front



On the Southwestern Front I have been mainly digging in although two attacks has been launched against German motorized and panzer regiments at the eastern end of the line (one by units of the Southern Front).

The IL-2 of the 4 BAK has begun bombing of the panzers at the eastern end of the Southwestern Fronts line, and assisted in the two regimental attacks here. However, the Germans have a lot of flak deployed, and casualties amongs the IL-2's and escorting Yak-1's have been relatively heavy (I'm down to 76 IL-2's and 65 Yak-1's).

Southern Front



Starting my attempt to break the Southern Front pocket with two full attacks by all available IL-4's I inflict a little damage and some 116 disruption results. As an infantry regiment probably hold around 500 elements at this point, I have just managed to take out 20% of the German strength (at least by my calculations).

After moving my cavalry into position (to prevent withdrawing in the wrong direction), I started gathering the forces I need for the attack. However, already at this point I lose one cavalry division going "unready" due to an interdiction attack by one Romanian Potez bomber.

The main attack and a few desperate follow up attacks are all failures:

Axis Forces Defending (C):	Forces Engaged	Soviet Forces Attacking:
XIV Panzer Corps 1/L.A.H. SS Mot. Div (-) (22) Rum. Combat Air Command 36 Bf 109F-2 5 Bf 109F-4 1 Do 217E-2 1 He 111H-4	DEF: men 3082, art 47, afv 14 DAM: men 22, art 2, afv 2 LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DEF: ftr 41, bmr 15, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	16th Army 56th Tank Division (0) R 116th Rifle Division (6) 273rd Rifle Division (1) 19th Army -10% 158th Rifle Division (1) 295th Rifle Division (1)
CV: 22->22.7 Fort: 0.08->0.08 Comm HQ: XIV Panzer Corps G Gustav von Wietersheim	DEFENDING FORCES HELD Odds 1 : 1.47 Show Details	Southern Air Command CV: 9->15.4 Eng Val: 0 Comm HQ: 16th Army GL Mikhail Lukin

		105,98 - Clear - Clear		Turn:10 1941-08-21	
Axis Forces Defending (C):		Forces Engaged		Soviet Forces Attacking (H):	
XIV Panzer Corps 1/L.A.H. SS Mot. Div (-) (23) Rum. Combat Air Command 12 Bf 109F-2 2 Bf 109F-4 6 He 111H-4		DEF: men 3082, art 47, afv 14 DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 9, art 1, afv 0 DEF: ftr 14, bmr 6, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0		16th Army 132nd Rifle Division (8) 19th Army -10% 295th Rifle Division (0) Southern Air Command 11 I-16 Type 24 1 MiG-3 10 LaGG-3	
		Defending Forces HELD		[v]	
CV: 23->29.5 Fort: 0.08->0.06 Comm HQ: XIV Panzer Corps G Gustav von Wietersheim		Pause Odds 1 : 2.97		CV: 8->9.9 Eng Val: 2 Comm HQ: 16th Army GL Mikhail Lukin	
		Exit			

105,98 - Clear - Clear		Turn:10 1941-08-21	
Axis Forces Defending (C):		Soviet Forces Attacking (H):	
XIV Panzer Corps 1/L.A.H. SS Mot. Div (-) (22) 86th LW SP Lt Flk Bn (2)		19th Army 158th Rifle Division (0)	
DEF: men 3808, art 46, afv 19 DAM: men 12, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0		ATK: men 8147, art 71, afv 4 DAM: men 4, art 1, afv 0 LOST: men 465, art 7, afv 1 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	
Defending Forces HELD			
CV: 24->29.0 Fort: 0.06->0.06 Comm HQ: XIV Panzer Corps G. Gustav von Wietersheim		CV: 0->2.5 Eng Val: 0 Comm HQ: 19th Army GP Ivan Boldin	
Pause		Exit	
Odds 1 : 11.60			

However, the final attack of them all, manages to break the pocket (from outside):

Axis Forces Defending:	105,98 - Clear - Clear		Turn:10 1941-08-21	Soviet Forces Attacking (H):
	Forces Engaged			
	DEF: men 3808, art 46, afv 19 DAM: men 24, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 70, art 1, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0		ATK: men 6910, art 85, afv 3 DAM: men 26, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 23, art 0, afv 0 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	
		1/L.A.H. SS Motorized Division (-) RETREATED		
CV: 24->10.8 Comm HQ: XIV Panzer Corps G Gustav von Wietersheim	Fort: 0.06->0.00			CV: 7->19.0 Comm HQ: 2nd Cavalry Corps GM Pavel Belov
Pause		Odds 2.75 : 1	Exit	Eng Val: 0

If nothing else, it proves that dumb luck beats tactical ability anytime.

As I have relieved the pocket, I then push north with my forces from the Crimean. This results in a few battles against the Romanians and the Hungarians culminating with another heavy loss for the Romanian armor:

		98,104 - Clear - Clear	Turn:10 1941-08-21		
Axis Forces Defending:		Forces Engaged		Soviet Forces Attacking:	
Cavalry Rum. Corps		DEF: men 6867 , art 84 , afv 104		Coastal Army	
1st Rum. Armored Division (14)		DAM: men 423 , art 4 , afv 5		175th Rifle Division (17)	
59th Rum. Pioneer Battalion (1)		LOST: men 1115 , art 19 , afv 26		276th Rifle Division (17)	
		DEF: ftr 0 , bmr 0 , utl 0		32nd Cavalry Division (22)	
		LOST: ftr 0 , bmr 0 , utl 0		138th Howitzer Regiment (1)	
				302nd Howitzer Regiment (1)	
				64th Sapper Battalion (1)	
		1st Rum. Armored Division ROUTED		2nd Cavalry Corps -33%	
CV: 15->31.6		Odds 4.65 : 1		CV: 62->115.4	
Fort: 0.00->0.00				Eng Val: 4	
Comm HQ: Cavalry Rum. Corps		Pause		Comm HQ: Coastal Army	
GdB Mihail Racovita		Exit		GL Nikandr Chibisov	

To the east, at Stalino, I place my cavalry on this sector so as to make the most nuisance it can.

Conclusion

In the air, I have bought another four IL-2's and also assigned another airfield to the 3 BAK (two Yer-2, two IL-4 and one DB-3B). Finally, the VVS airfields behind the Western Front and on the Crimean has been issued with one Li-2 transport unit each. I hope this will put a little more 'fire' into my partisan units.

I have evacuated the Armament Factories from Kaluga and most of the Armament Factories from Tula, making this city less of an obvious target.