

Strategic overview

Turn 11: Strategic Considerations

Situational analysis

___ SPECIAL ___						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2225	91518	0
-	Port	126	3	0	0	0
-	Railyard	274	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2986	52	70195	1580408	0
-	Vehicle	135	12	234175	273910	0
-	Heavy Industry	213	10	0	991000	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	640000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	357600	0
-	Resource Production	175	0	0	1840000	0
-	Armaments Production	322	34	627621	798500	0

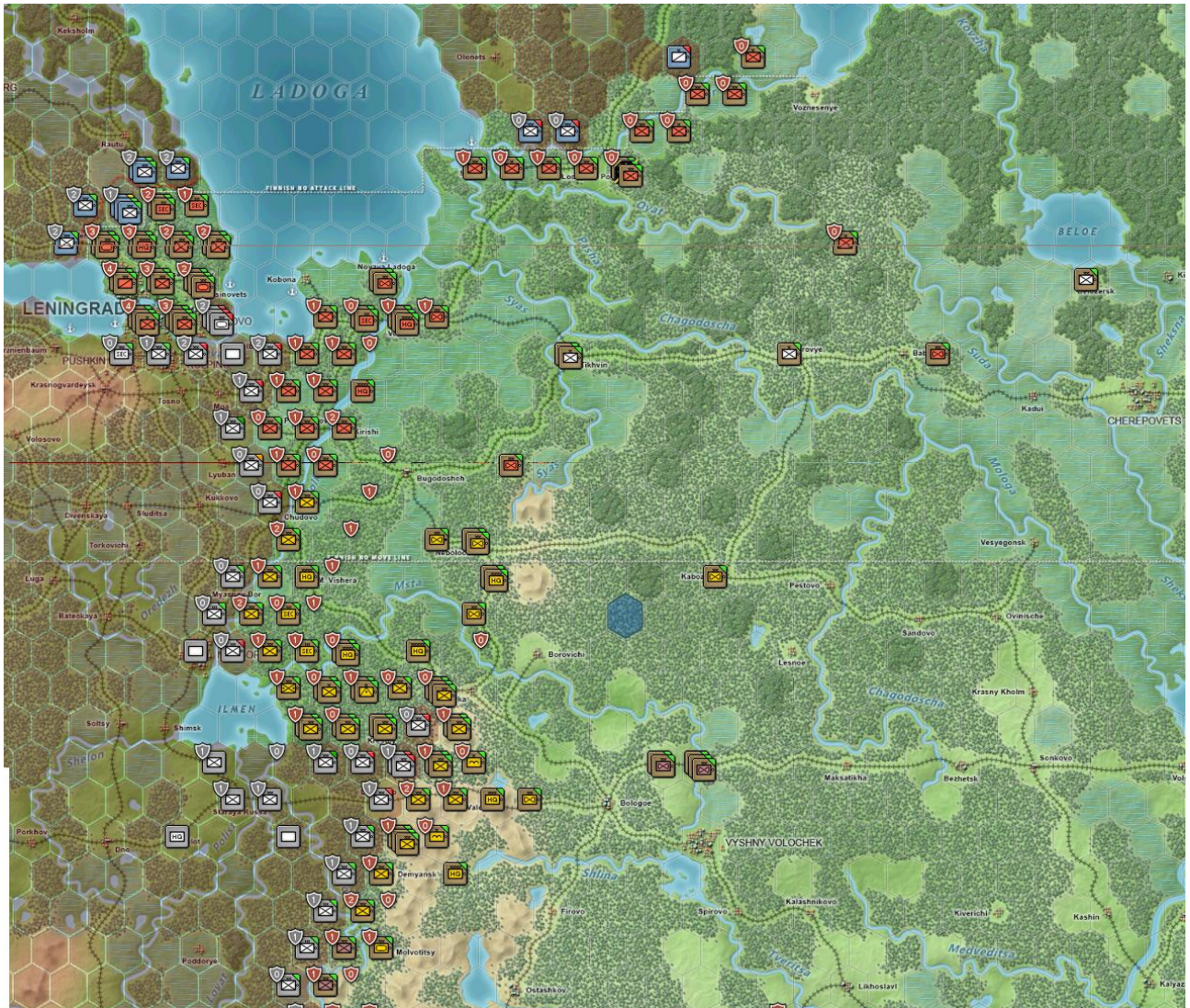
The Germans has done a few things this last turn, that deserves mention.

- In the north, they have kept attacking Osinovets and my defense is beginning to show signs of stress.
- In the center, they have all but surrounded Moscow, but there is yet one single tile free, so my divisions are not yet surrounded.
- In the south, they have resealed the pocket around the Southern Front, and I see no hope of extracting them.

German losses have been heavier than in any other turn of the camapign however, and they have lost some 268 AFV's and SP/AC's as well as 43 fighters and 148 bombers.

Axis VP advantage is 2.2 to 1.

The North



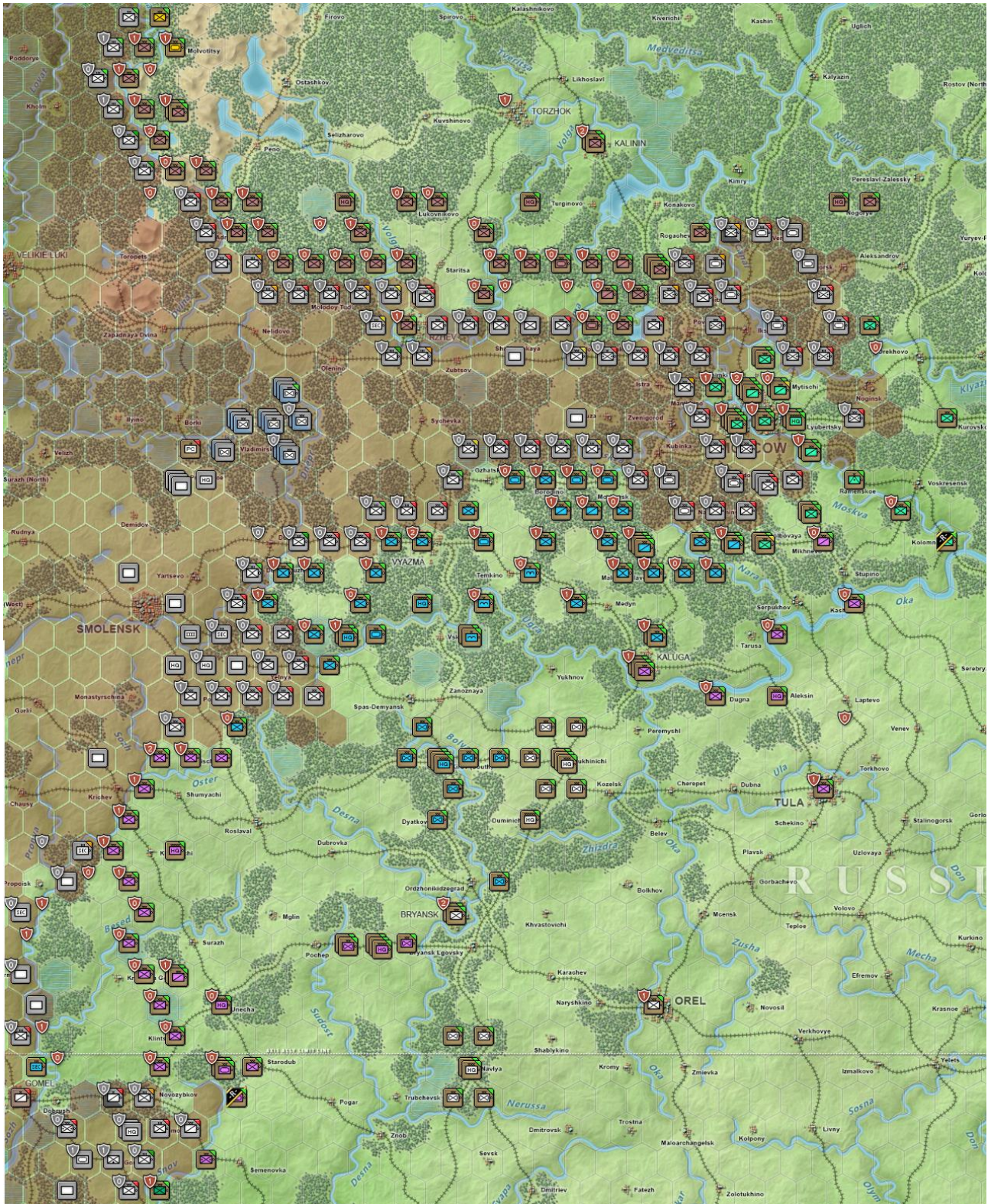
East of Lake Ladoga, the Finns are beginning to reach the Finnish No Attack Line. I have no plans for offensive moves on this section of the front, so I expect no serious events here for the next year or two.

At Leningrad, the Germans have continued to attack Osinovets, and they have even brought in two Panzer divisions in order to add some punch to their attacks. This turn, they have done two massive ground attacks, and infantry attack and an attack spearheaded by the two panzer divisions. All have failed and the Germans have lost 115 Bombers, 37 guns, 20 AFV's and 2000 KIA. On top of those numbers another 51 guns and 37 AFV's were damaged. However, the fortifications in Osinovets are slowly failing, and I expect them to collapse within the next two turns.

Along the Volkhov, the Germans have made no attacks and only two were made east of Lake Ilmen, one of which was successful.

I have spotted no German fighter presence in the area.

The Center



At the Reserve Front, little has happened, except the surrounding of the division I could not pull out of Rzhev last turn.

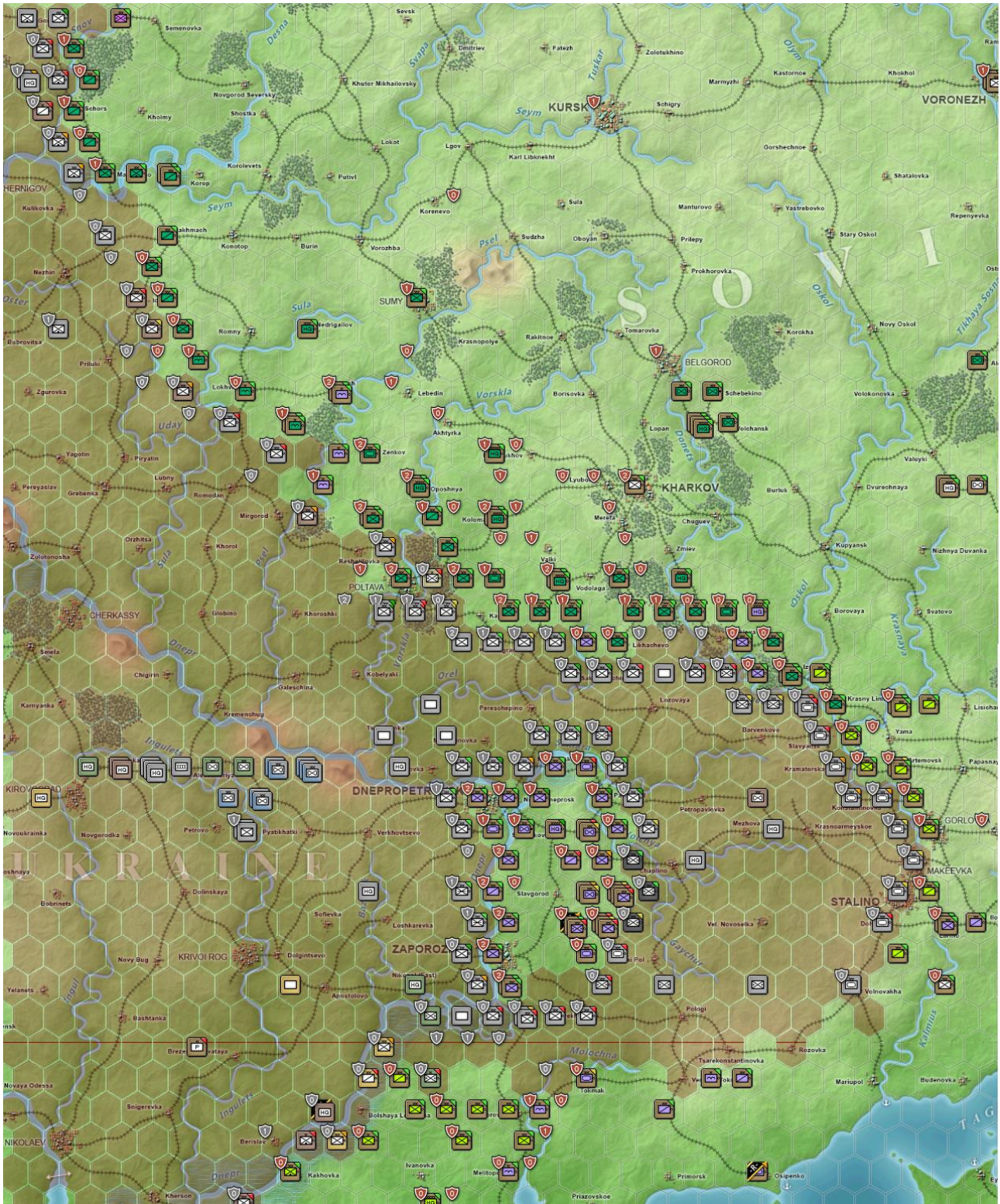
However, at Moscow, the Germans have pushed on almost surrounding the city and cutting of any rail connection to the city. This doesn't really concern me as much as it probably should, as I had already given up on evacuating anything more from the city. As it is, the failure of the Germans to surround Moscow is a victory of sorts for me, as it will cost the Germans one more turn to clean the city. German supplies and fuel reserves are generally low.

At the Western Front, the Germans at Moscow threaten the surrounding of the Western Front units furthest north and to the west a German infantry attack threatens to act as a pincer encircling either the westernmost units of the Western Front or the entire Bryansk Front.

The Bryansk Front itself has suffered little this turn, but the arrival of both a Panzer and a motorized division in their area probably signify this is about to change.

To the west of Velikie Luki, I now have three partisan units all ready to attack, but they are doing absolutely nothing. In any case, the Germans are closing the rail loop by now, and any attacks from this point on will probably be for nothing. Either I have grossly overestimated the value of partisans or else I have been REALLY unlucky with their activation rolls.

The South



My Southwestern Front still holds a long frontline, where they can do nothing but try to slow down the German advance. The Germans are not pushing very hard however, although they did manage to surround the division defending Poltava.

To the east, at Stalino the Germans has done nothing but solidify their line of Panzer and Motorized regiments, while they have also move to reseal the Southern Front pocket in such a way that I see no hope of relieving it.

However, the Germans do have quite a lot of fuel when considering they are well beyond their supply range (the Panzer Regiment in Makeevka is 30 hexes from its nearest railhead). This suggests an HQBU during the last German turn. It does strike me as a little odd that the commonly accepted house rules forbid the bombing of lone HQ's while allowing both fuel drops and HQBU's. But as I agreed to them myself before game start, I having nothing to complain about.

In the south, the Romanians and Italians have maneouvered in such a way that a continuation of my attack to the north will likely end up in my relief force being surrounded and destroyed.

Planning

This turn, I plan to assign two airfields (one with LaGG-3's and one with IL-2's) to the Northern Front. If the Leningrad defenses can hold out for another turn or two, these planes may come in very handy. If not, they will be reassigned to the Reserve or the Northwestern Front.

As the Germans at Moscow are all low on fuel, I will evacuate only Kolomna in that area this turn. Instead I will focus on Rostov, trying to get out what I can from this city.

The North

East of Lake Ladoga, I will fill the last gap in my "Finnish No Attack Line" Front and be content with the situation here for a considerable time.

In Leningrad I will do very little except continuing to do my usual bombings of the forces opposing Osinovets.

At the Volkhov, I will give the Northern Front another two hexes of the line, in order to free up divisions from the Northwestern Front bound for the Lake Ilmen area.

At Demyansk, I will just continue to build my line and hope for the best.

The Center

The Reserve Front will continue to hold the line they currently hold. I have to move a few divisions east to put a token screen in front of the Germans. I don't expect the Germans to push further east at the moment, so this should be enough.

The Moscow MD will leave one army within Moscow itself, while the other will try to restrict the German capability for movement next turn.

As the Western Front is risking an encirclement if they stay put, I will withdraw the foremost divisions a hex or two while pulling a few divisions east as well in order to guard against a German thrust to the southeast.

The Bryansk Front however, needs to be withdrawn five or six hexes in order to avoid encirclement next turn. I will do so, even if this mean losing some manpower. If I stay put, the manpower will be lost a couple of turns later and I will also lose quite a lot of infantry divisions.

In the air, I will keep up my constant air attacks on the forward Germans in order to inflict whatever casualties I can.

The South

The southwestern Front will be conducting business as usual with holding the line and conducting an attack or two at the eastern end of their frontline.

Meanwhile the North Caucasus MD forces outside Stalino will conduct a more or less static defense.

In the Southern Front pocket, I will space my divisions so as to force the Germans into conducting multiple attacks to clear the pocket. I will also withdraw the vast majority of airgroups in the pocket in order to avoid replacement losses next turn.

Finally, the forces north of the Crimean Peninsula will make a last attack on the exposed Axis Minors and then pull back slightly in order to improve their positions for the upcoming defense.

Execution

Northern Front

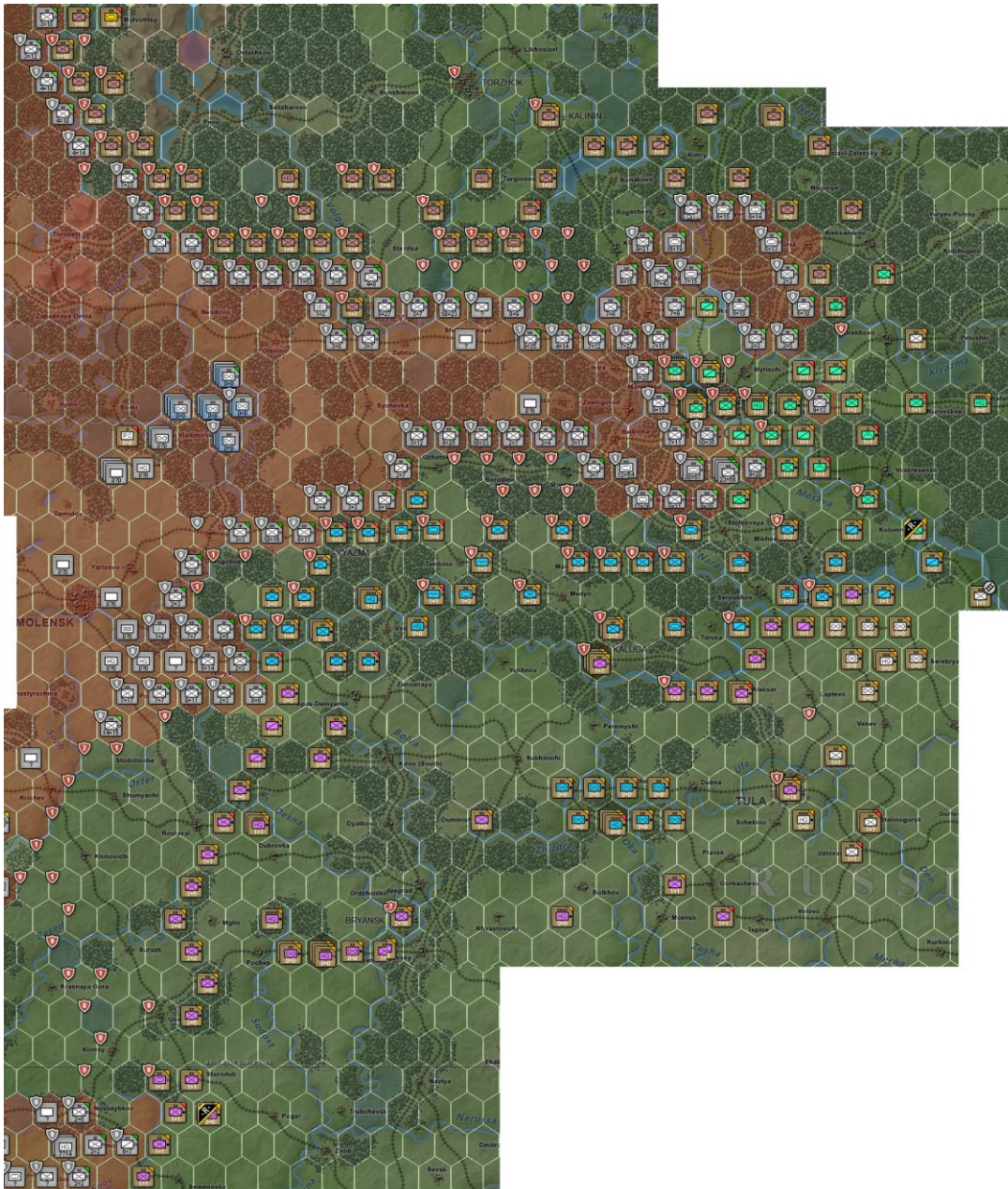


In Leningrad, bombing the forward German Panzers have proven all but useless. The fortifications combined with the natural cover means my 100kg GP bombs are not particularly lethal.

I have assigned five IL-2 airgroups and three LaGG-3 airgroups to the Northern Front, but they will not be usable until my next turn.

Other than that, I have tried to strengthen the Northwestern Front lines east of Lake Ilmen, hoping to be able to contain further German advances in this area within the next couple of turns.

The Center



The Reserve Front is straining to maintain a solid front against the Germans. I have pulled one army eastwards in order to present a delaying screen against any German thrusts to the Northeast or against Kalinin.

In Moscow, I have pulled some divisions out of the city and placed them so as to force the Germans to spend a few Movement Points to reestablish contact with the forward Motorized division. For some reason the Moscow MD HQ is still inactive.

The Western Front has been pulled back a few hexes and one army has been moved east to form a screen between the Germans and the Oka. The river line has then been filled out by units arriving from the east and assigned to the Bryansk Front. The movements of the Western Front has attracted a lot of attention by

the Luftwaffe, and I have suffered some blows to my fighters trying to meet the German interdiction attacks.

Outside Moscow, I have done my own bombing as usual, but I frankly don't know if this has any real affect on the Germans.

The Bryansk Front has been pulled back about five or six hexes and are now forming a new line that may be a little less vulnerable to a German thrust north by that Panzer lurking in the south.

Finally, more and more units are arriving from the east, and the Bryansk Front has received reinforcements both south of Moscow but also in the area behind it's main front lines.

The South



The southwestern Front continue to hold its long frontline, moving the encircled division out of Poltava. Units from this Front as well as the Southern Front conduct another attack in the east against one of the German motorized regiments.

The North Caucasus MD in the East forms a line against the German Panzers and place some reserve cavalry in the rear to force several attacks before a breakthrough can materialize. In front of Rostov, another army is forming.

In the Southern Front pocket, I spread out my divisions as much as possible, hoping to squeeze enough movement out of the inevitable German attack that they will pause a little before taking further action elsewhere.

North of the Crimean Peninsula I make a couple of attacks against the Hungarians but mainly I just attempt to create a line against the advancing Romanians and Germans.

In Odessa, fighting goes on.

Conclusion

In the air, I have suffered some losses to the Western and Bryansk Fronts when trying to halt the German interdiction attacks. Because of this, I have bought another eight fighter air groups (including two Yak-1 groups). I have also changed my air doctrine, so I have 200% in Ground Support, Ground Support Escort and Fighter Intercept. I realize this is a chance to take, but if I wish to inflict casualties on the Luftwaffe, I need to do this. I also hope this will come as a surprise in the upcoming Leningrad attacks.

Evacuationwise I have made a mistake. I moved all factories out of Kolemna and Voroshilovgrad which is as it should be. But I forgot to evacuate Kalinin and used the rest of my rail points on Rostov instead. This means that there are now three Heavy Industry and three Armament Factories still in Kalinin.

My expectations for the upcoming turn is that the Germans will continue to hit Osinovets outside Leningrad in order to reduce its fortification levels (they might even succeed). At Moscow I expect the city to be encircled and a thrust at Kalinin to trap the industry there. In the south, I think the Germans will focus on the pocket and reassembling their forward panzers to divisions rather than regiments.

Next turn will be the second mud turn in the far north, but none of that sweet brown stuff has appeared over the reset of the front.