

Strategic overview

Turn 12: 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

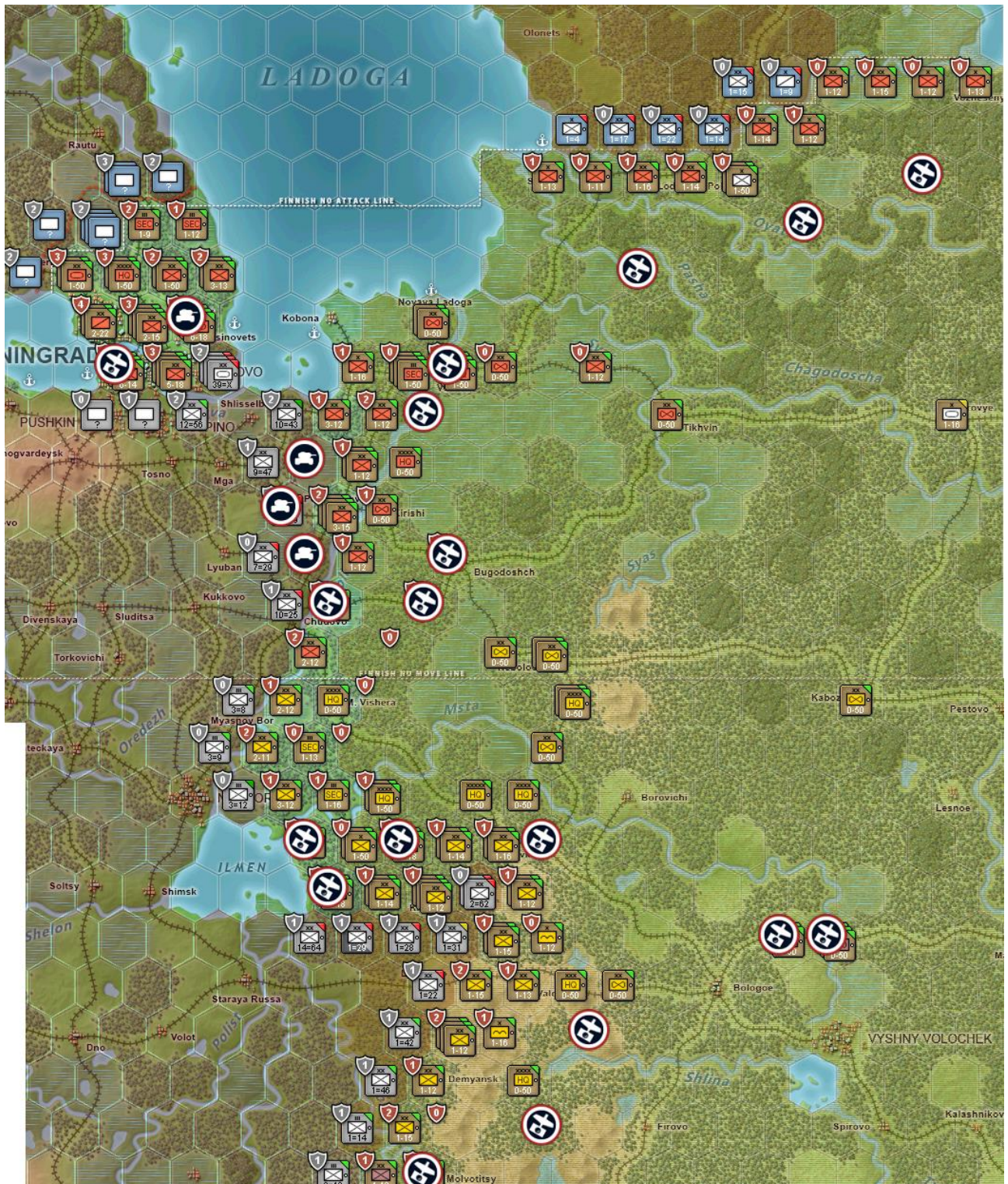
I really need to get to know my weather zones. Mud in the North Soviet zone means that the entire front from Moscow to Leningrad is bogged down in mud. The Western Front, The Reserve Front, The Moscow MD, the Northwestern Front and most of the Leningrad Front are all affected by the mud this turn. Thank you to the Soviet God of mud.

Other than that the main news this turn are the continued grinding down of the defenses in Osinovets and the destruction of the Southern Front pocket.

German losses this turn are 123 AFV's and AC/SP's as well as 36 fighters and 131 bombers.

Axis VP advantage is 2.2 to 1.

The North

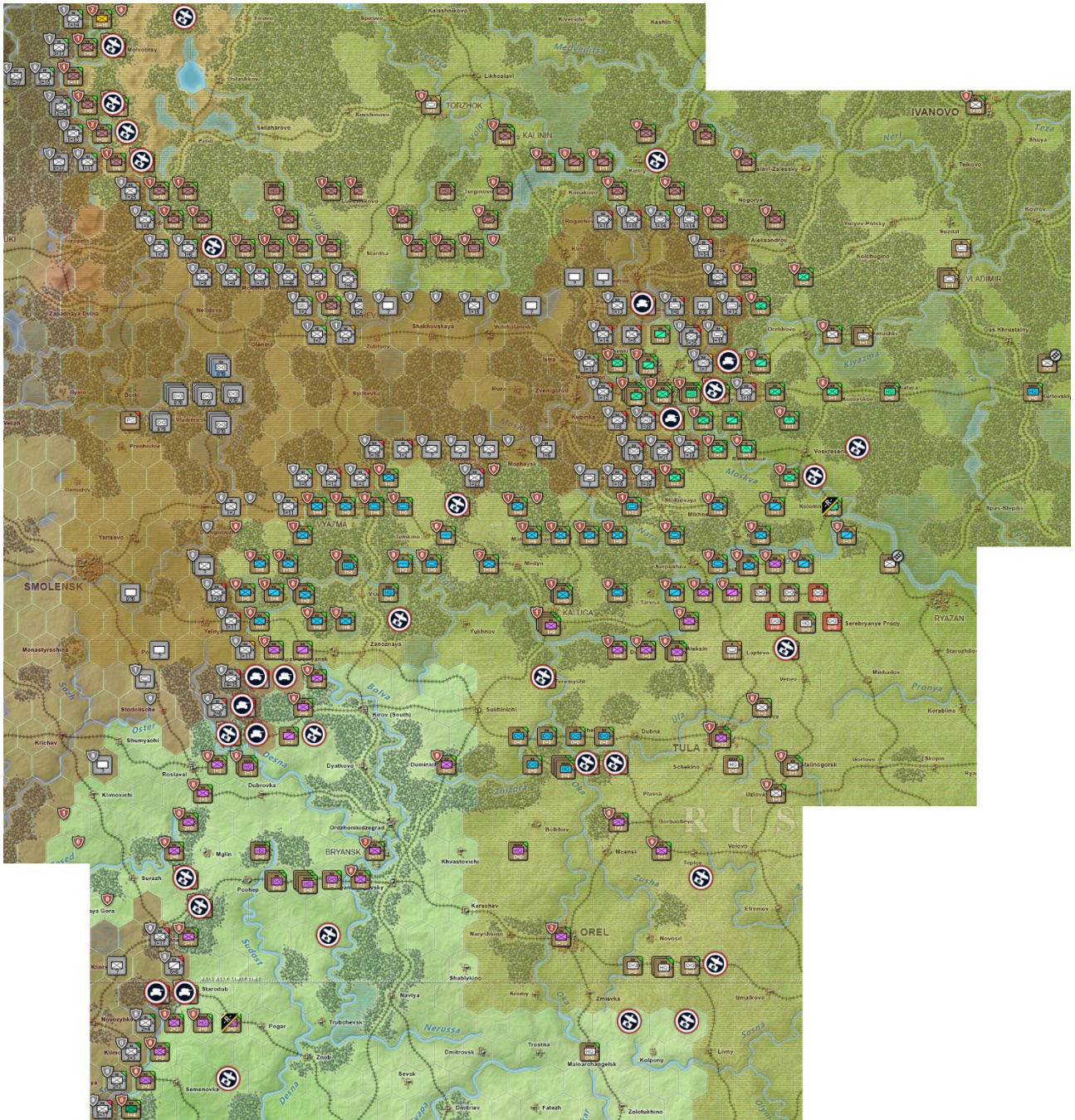


In Leningrad, the Germans conducted two ground bombings followed by two Panzer division attacks on Osinovets. This has cost the Germans another 102 bombers, 22 guns and 29 AFV's KIA as well as various elements damaged. The CV value of the German stack opposing Osinovets has dropped by five since last turn. One of the divisions defending Osinovets has been promoted to Guards status. However, the

fortification modifier in Osinovets has dropped from 2.58 to 1.34 and it is unlikely that the defenders can last for another turn. I also notice that the defenders are not high on ammunition, so dropping a few supplies on Osinovets this turn might be a good idea.

South of Leningrad, the Germans have attacked a few times along the Volkhov, forcing my defenders back at three separate locations. East of Lake Ilmen, the Germans decided to conduct no attacks due to the mud.

The Center



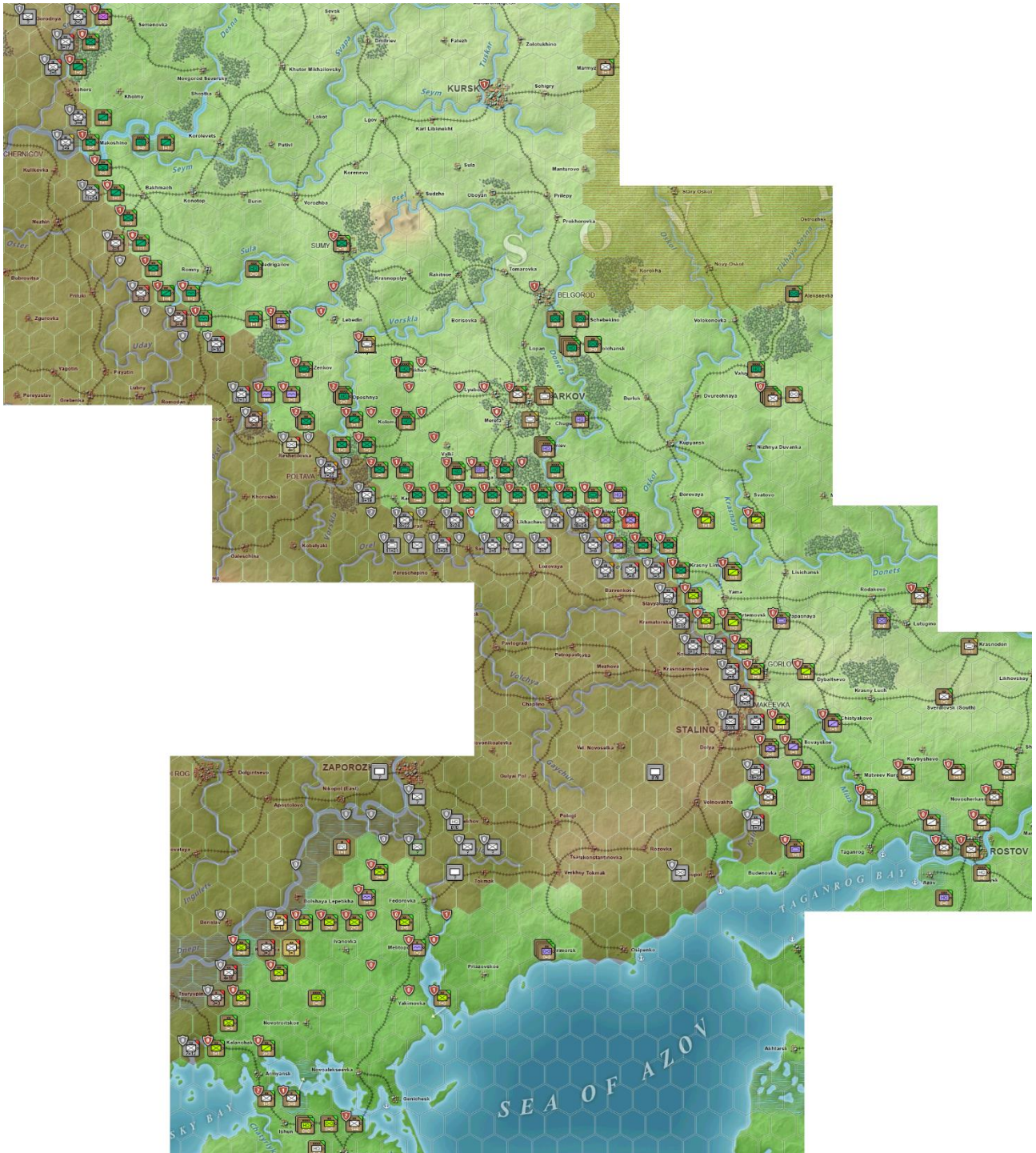
In the center, events have been dictated by the mud, with few attacks occurring. At Moscow, the forward German motorized division is still surrounded.

To the west of Velikie Luki, the first of my Partisan units have finally joined the fight. Unfortunately, as the German rail loops are now complete, the two attacks it has performed will have no impact on the German supply situation unless follow-up attacks occur before the Germans manage to repair the rail line.

I notice that the Germans are conducting reconnaissance east of Orel and that the Panzers are setting up for a push straight south from Moscow (and straight north from Kharkov). An attempt to squeeze the Western, the Bryansk and most of the Southwestern Fronts may well be under way.

Finally, three of my 1 BAK airfields have attained Guards status this turn.

The South



In the south, the Southern Front pocket has been all but destroyed. The Germans have also replaced a lot of the units holding their eastern line with infantry, assembling their Panzers into divisions again. Recon and battle reports show that the Germans have used their Motorized and Panzer divisions to clear the pocket, so by now most German divisions on this sector has Red fuel displays.

The southwestern Front is facing a potential German thrust between Poltava and Kharkov. I do not think such a thrust will materialize just yet, as the Panzer divisions in the area are low on fuel. However, the Germans have dropped some fuel on the HQ's directly behind the Panzers and I might be wrong.

North of the Crimean, the Axis Minors continue to move in from the west, presenting me with a number of attack options. However, I need to be careful that a German thrust does not cut off my corridors to the south, encircling the forward divisions.

Planning

This turn, I plan to go “light” in the mustering of air units, building nothing more than eight U-2VS units destined to be placed with the North Caucasus MD on the Crimean Peninsula. The Fighter Air Groups I built last turn, will be assigned to the Northern and Western Fronts as these are the areas where I expect the most use of fighters over the upcoming turns.

The mud has probably saved my factories in Kalinin, and I will certainly be moving those out now. After that, I will focus on the factories in Rybinsk, Yaroslavl and Ivanovo. The German fuel reserves in the south are all but spent, and I do not think a push for Rostov is coming next turn.

As I now have both rocket launchers and tank destroyers in production, I will also produce a few support units at STAVKA containing these elements (two Light Rocket Regiments and three TD Batteries). Come next turn, these will be deployed to armies facing the German Panzers.

The North

As mentioned above, I plan to allocate another two fighter air groups to this area. These will most likely be LAGG-3's or possibly Yak-1's, depending on the presence of German fighters in the area.

In Leningrad, I will strengthen the Osinovets defense, hoping it will outlast the first of the upcoming two panzer attacks and maybe even preventing the Germans from moving divisions into Osinovets next turn. Regardless, the defense of Osinovets is coming to an end.

On the Volkhov, I will do some slight redeployments, but all in all, I will maintain the current line plus that swamp hex I was pushed out of this turn.

East of Lake Ilmen, I will conduct almost no action whatsoever.

The Center

As the mud has all but stopped the fighting this turn, my redeployments along the Reserve Front, the Moscow MD and the Western Front will be very light. I will continue to move up reinforcements from the east, but otherwise I will do little along most of the front.

However, the westernmost portion of the Western Front is under threat of encirclement from a pincer move by German Panzers from outside Moscow and more Panzers behind that infantry wedge southwest of Vyasma. Because of this, I will need to pull back the western half of the Western Front, as I have few reserves to fill the threatened area if I do not.

The Bryansk Front will make some minor adjustments to its frontline, but nothing serious.

The South

Behind the Southwestern Front, I will do what I can to place the newly arrived Tank Battalions in such a way as to delay any German thrust in the Poltava/Kharkov area. Other than that, I will conduct a few attacks against the German infantry regiments to the east, hoping to inflict a little more losses on the Germans.

Depending on the fighter setup on the airfields west of Dnepropetrovsk, I might also be able to conduct a bombing run on those airfields. If the Germans have made the mistake of restricting flight on airfields with more than 50% losses, there are few fighters available to fly. I will do some test bombing runs with the

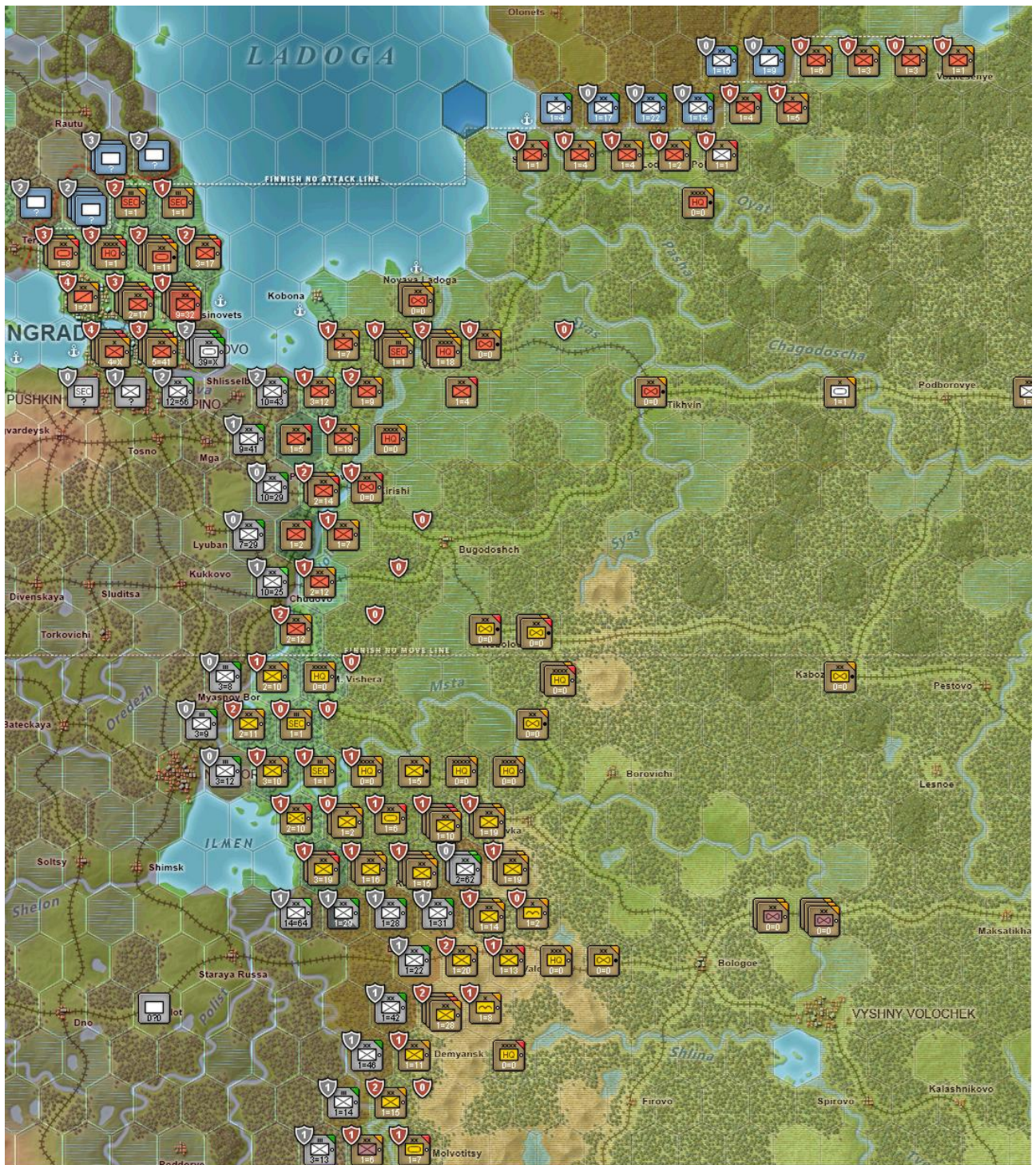
bombers of the Southwestern Front and possibly follow up by massed bombings of my long range BAK bombers.

I will also reassign the divisions north of the Sea of Azov to the Southern Front in order to gather a more coherent command under Zhukov (the Front commander).

The North Caucasus MD divisions north of the Crimean Peninsula will conduct a few attacks on the advancing Axis minors, but will mainly be content to create a more solid line. I will not pull back to the narrows however.

Execution

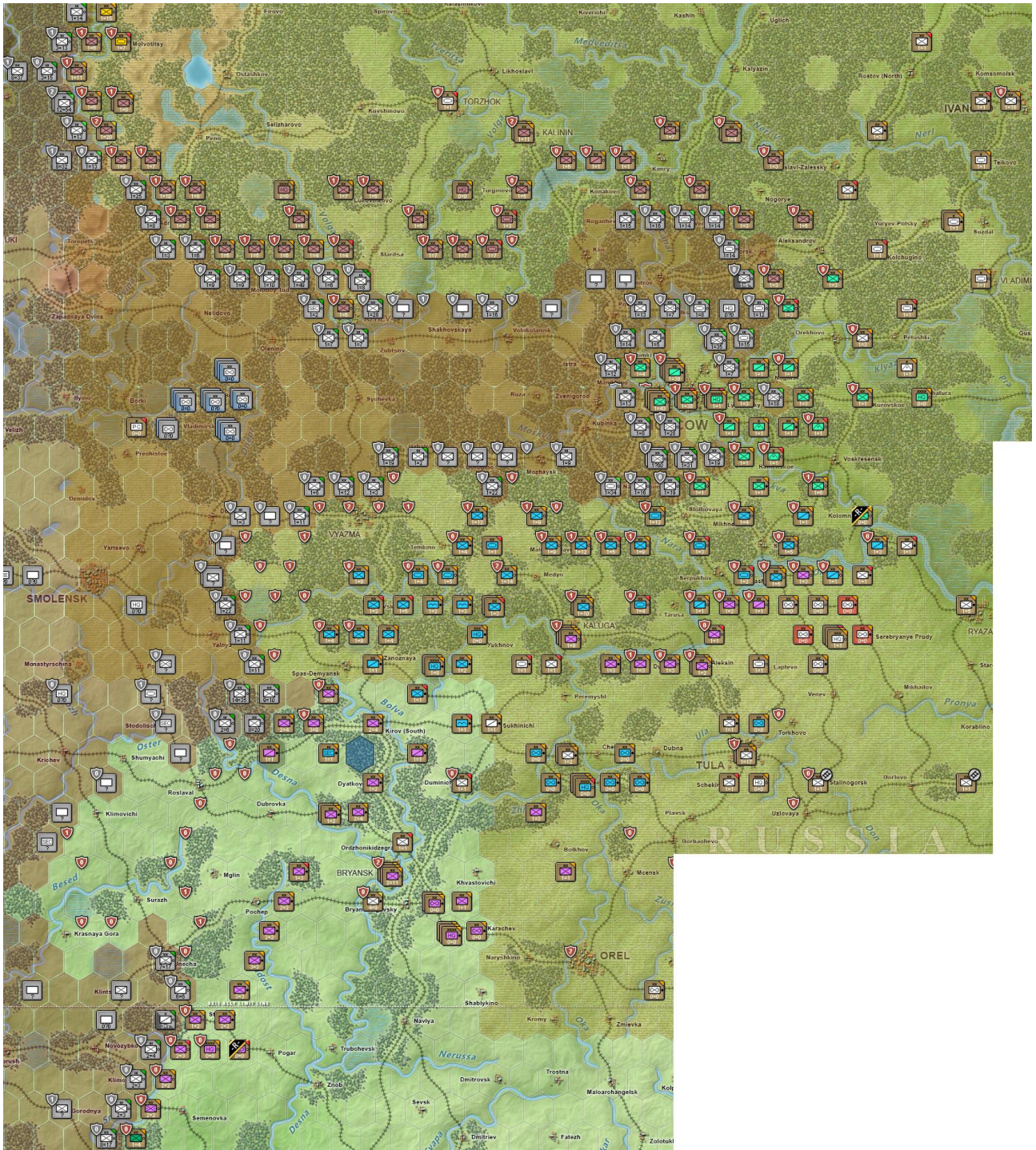
Northern Front



In Leningrad, I have done a few air supply missions to the divisions in Osinovets. I have also changed one of the divisions here, so that I have three divisions with three CV each defending the hex. I anxiously await the outcome of next turns attacks.

Nothing of note has occurred along the Volkhov or east of Lake Ilmen, so I will say no more of that area.

The Center



I have mainly spent the turn strengthening my lines, although the Western Front and the Bryansk Front has been pulled back a few hexes in the area where it was most exposed. The amount of divisions I can lead up to the front from now on should mean there is less and less need of withdrawals as I can build multiple lines of defense in most places.

Worthy of note is the fact that three of my airfields belonging to 1 BAK has received Guards status on the same turn. The manual states this gives the airfield units a +10 bonus to National Morale, but I am at a loss as to what morale does for an airfield unit.

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.

In the air, I have assigned two Yak-1 and four LaGG-3 Air Groups to the fighter bases assigned to the Western Front.

The South



In the south, I have conducted a few attacks in order to inflict casualties and further my Guards creation.

I also decided, against my better judgement, to encircle those forward southernmost German Panzers. As of next turn, my three cavalry regiments will themselves be surrounded and destroyed one turn later. The plus side is that the Germans will probably not attack towards Rostov for another turn or two this way.

I have begun reestablishing the Southern Front by assigning new armies and assigning airgroups to the Southern Front airfields.

North of the Crimean, I have conducted another two attacks and done what I can to reestablish a fighting line. I fear I will lose a mountain division in this area, due to a mistake I made this turn when calculating moves.

Conclusion

In the air, I have managed to inflict some losses on the Luftwaffe that exceeds its build capacity. At the same time, I have built eight U-2VS bomber air groups. All in all, I take this to signify that my airforces are slowly getting stronger, while the Luftwaffe is getting weaker. There is a long way to parity though, so I am not particularly thrilled with this.

I have evacuated Kalinin, Rybinsk and most of the production in Yaroslavl. I still need to evacuate the Yaroslavl vehicle production though, but I will admit to being surprised if the Germans can prevent me from doing this.

Next turn, I expect to see continued German focus on the huge bulge in the front stretching from Moscow to Stalino. In fact, I guess this area will be the focus for the German efforts until the blizzard. Of course, the fighting over both Odessa and Leningrad will continue, and I expect to lose both cities before the blizzard, although I will do what I can to prevent this from happening.