

Strategic overview

Turn 24: Strategic Considerations

Situational analysis

SPECIAL						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	3717	205983	0
-	Port	74	1	0	0	0
-	Railyard	181	1	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2481	27	50993	3233482	0
-	Vehicle	114	0	215690	291100	0
-	Heavy Industry	195	1	0	1937000	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	1472000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	822480	0
-	Resource Production	160	0	0	3983000	0
-	Armaments Production	288	0	0	1506000	0

The weather has been Mud this turn in the North Soviet Zone and has forced a halt to most German offensive operations. The Germans have begun pulling back from their advanced positions south of Tula and as a result, three of my encircled divisions (total of 27.000 soldiers) are no longer encircled.

However, this turn has also been disappointing, at least in one way (see blow for details).

LEADERS
1st Shock Army commander, General-Maior Konstantin Rokossovsky, was KILLED in an accident

Why this has to happen to one of my best commanders, I do not know. I surely hope that Mainstein chokes on a piece of cabbage next turn.

Losses are dwindling slowly with 116 Axis AFV + SP/AC's and 55 Aircraft (including nine transports) for 94 Soviet AFV + SP/AC's and 134 Aircraft.

Axis VP advantage is now 3.2 to 1.

The North

In the north, I continue to prepare for the winter offensive. The divisions of the 22nd Army are being moved into position by using rail (saves a turn on redeploying them) and the 24th Army of the Northwestern Front has been given a new commander and some more Support units.

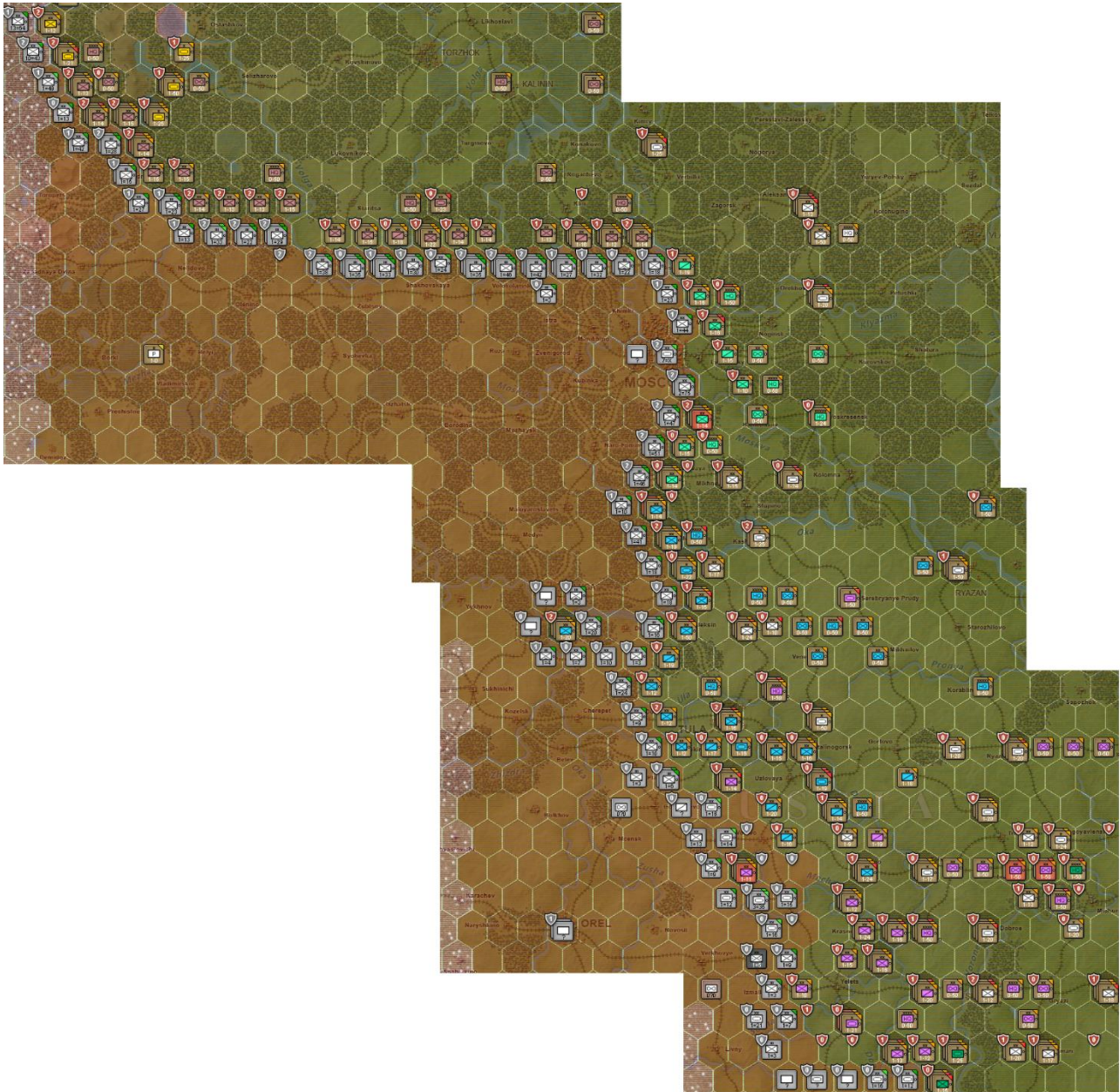
I have reassigned the I-15x Type airfields from the Kalinin Front to the Leningrad Front, hoping that these planes may do some good up here.

Below is a picture of the area, as I turn the turn over to Pelton.



The Center

Situation Assessment



In the Center, the Germans have mainly stopped all offensive maneuvers apart from destroying two encircled divisions, that I could not place into a proper defensive position. They have also attacked the Kaluga Pocket, but the attack failed. I now have two unready divisions in that pocket, and I doubt it will last for much longer.

Two German airdrops of supplies have been made in the area, but I am sure these are not meant as preparations for a winter offensive.

I notice however, that the Germans still have a lot of Panzer divisions holding the front. I count a total of at least eleven. I expect this is because the Germans do not want to suffer from broken down vehicles from moving around in the mud. Let them suffer from attrition instead then.

Planning

As the whole area is covered in mud, I believe the best cause of action I can do is to do little, instead resting my units for the December battles ahead. That also means this section of my report will be very brief.

Consequently, I will confine myself to Ground bombing attacks by my airforce, and bringing some order back to those armies that have become mixed up.

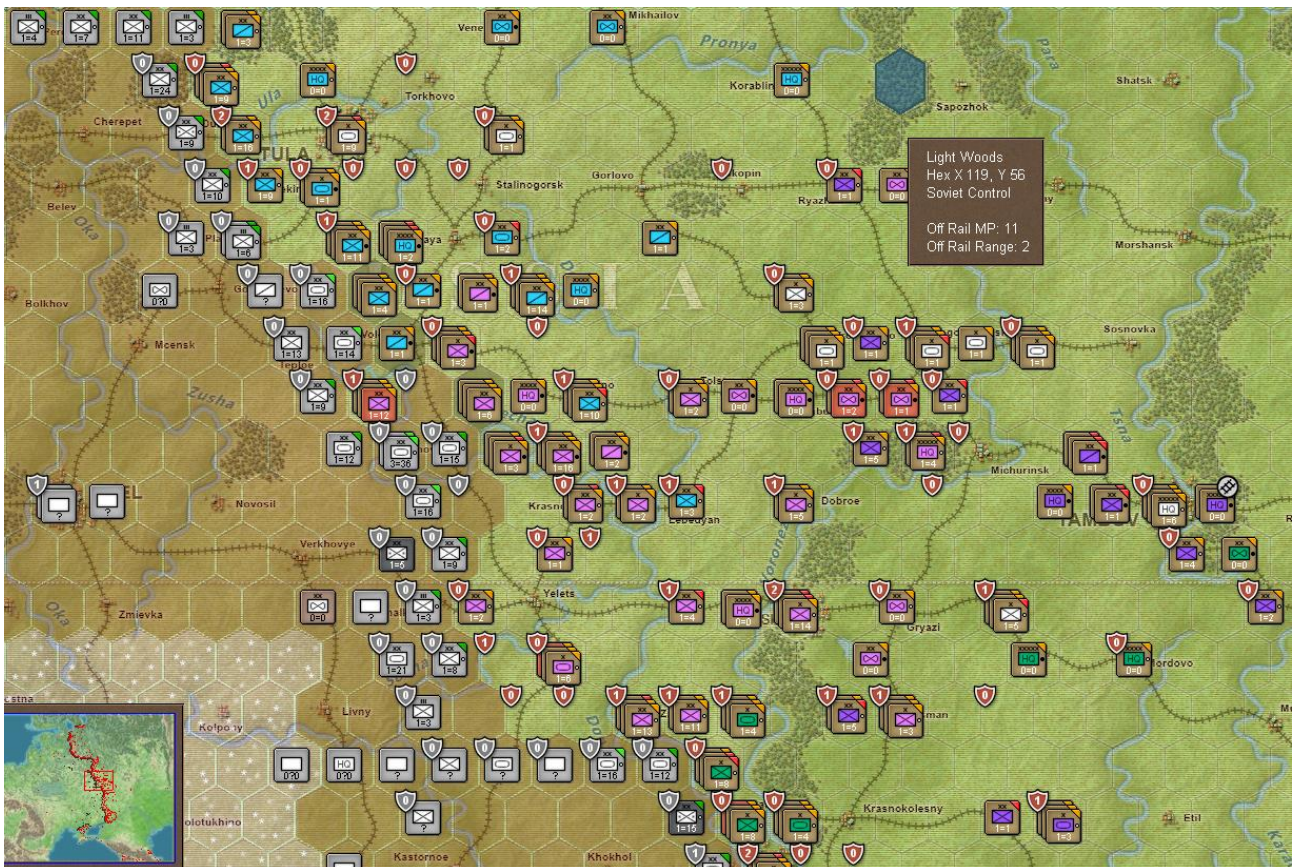
Execution

I have flown supplies in to my encircled divisions bringing their CV up to nine (it was ten last turn).

Other than that, I have assigned a lot of divisions from STAVKA to either the Bryansk or the Volkhov Fronts.

Little has happened, as I have not conducted any offensive moves either this turn.

Below an image of the situation at the sector between the Bryansk and the Western Front.



Situational Assessment

The Germans have placed a Panzer division straight in the attack path of the 6th Army. I can attack it now with six divisions, or I can wait for its CV to drop due to the coming blizzard.

Further south, the Germans have conducted only one attack against the Southern Front, instead trying to dig in for the coming winter, I assume.

Finally, I have lost track of the main German Transport Airbase. I think it has been pulled west as my recon attempts have all been futile and because the fuel drops to the north has been done by only the planes on the remaining airfield.

However, on the Caucasus Front, things are happening. The Germans have reinforced their eastern sector with no less than three Motorized and one Panzer division. I need to be wary of the German intentions.



Planning

At the 6th Army, I have decided to attack that German Panzer division. I will precede the attack by two ground bombing attacks (as always) but this time it will be conducted by the Su-2's and R-Z's I usually use to bomb the German Transports.

Further south, the southern Front will recommence attacks on the German Infantry divisions in the area. One of the main purposes is to inflict casualties and morale loss before the blizzard. These attacks will obviously also be preceded by ground bombing attacks, mainly by IL-2's.

The Caucasus Front meanwhile will need to consolidate it's positions. The chance of me breaking through northeastwards at the present time is limited, and for now I must then be content to tie down as many German divisions as possible.

Execution

In the south, I have conducted a series of attacks as I had set out to do.

The German Panzer opposite the 6th Army has been pushed back one hex and it has been bombed from the air four times this turn. Total losses for that was 585 men and 1 Soviet gun lost for 326 German soldiers and 13 guns. Not really important, but this attack does show that I can push the Germans once the blizzard begins.

The Southern Front has also done a series of attacks, the northernmost of which failed miserably, costing me 1087 dead. I can not figure out what caused this, as I would have expected a relatively easy battle against a German infantry division. The battle report can be seen below.

1 of 3 > 117,91 - Clear - Show Turn: 24 1941-11-27		
Axis Forces Defending (C):	Forces Engaged	Soviet Forces Attacking:
XVII Corps 62nd Infantry Division (95) 3/800th Gun Battalion (0) Luftflotte 4 2 Me 210A-1 2 Do 217E-2 20 He 111H-4	DEF: men 15330, art 157, afv 1 DAM: men 157, art 3, afv 0 LOST: men 115, art 3, afv 0 DEF: ftr 2, bmr 26, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 1, utl 0	37th Army 299th Rifle Division (11) 336th Rifle Division (21) 337th Rifle Division (13) 342nd Rifle Division (11) 343rd Rifle Division (22) 66th Cavalry Division (8) 64th Cavalry Division (3)
CV: 95->212.4 Fort: 0.24->0.20 Comm HQ: XVII Corps G Werner Kienitz	Defending Forces HELD Show Details Odds 1 : 1.09	CV: 97->193.8 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: 37th Army GM Mikhail Kazakov
	Exit	[v]

Further south, having brought some order to the armies of the Southern front, I have resumed attacks and begun pushing the Germans behind the Mius River.

I have also created one more army for the Caucasus Front as it has room for it within its command limits. I haven't exactly decided what to do with this army yet, but it will probably stay in the area, possibly going to work on fortifications or helping out with the attacks along the north shore of the Sea of Azov.

At the Caucasus Front north of Crimea, I have become somewhat more defensive in my setup. I need to wait and see what the German Panzers and Motorized divisions do, before pushing any further.



Conclusion

This turn has been uneventful, as both sides has used the mud to take a breather. Consequently losses are almost nonexistent and both sides should be stronger for it.

Next turn will be blizzard, and I expect some more initiative on my part because of it.