

Strategic overview

Turn 26: Strategic Considerations

Situational analysis

____ SPECIAL ____						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	5175	235113	0
-	Port	74	1	0	0	0
-	Railyard	181	1	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2483	29	150027	3478356	0
-	Vehicle	114	0	208164	293860	0
-	Heavy Industry	195	0	0	2100000	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	1600000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	894000	0
-	Resource Production	160	0	0	4310000	0
-	Armaments Production	288	0	0	1631000	0

The Germans have done nothing really surprising during their last turn, so things are pretty much where I would have expected them to be at the beginning of my turn.

Losses are still high, considering the inactivity all along the front (the Germans has done five attacks in total) with 113 German AFV + SP/AC's going for 221 Soviet ones, while air losses are 14 German fr 107 Soviet.

This cause me a little concern, as with this loss rate, I will not be building up my armored forces by much.

The Germans now have 500 more aircraft in the Luftwaffe, so it seems they are changing the aircraft type of multiple Air Groups at the same time.

Axis VP advantage is still climbing, and is now 3.4 to 1.

This is a detailed hexagonal grid map of the Eastern Front during World War II, showing the positions of German and Soviet military units. The map includes labels for various locations such as PAVLOVO, Novaya Ladoga, and others. Units are represented by icons with numerical values, indicating their strength and status.

The map shows a complex arrangement of units, with German units (indicated by red and yellow icons) and Soviet units (indicated by blue and green icons) positioned across the hexagonal grid. The units are often grouped together, suggesting formations or concentrations of forces. The numerical values on the icons likely represent the strength or status of the units, such as the number of troops or the type of unit.

The map also includes labels for various locations, such as PAVLOVO, Novaya Ladoga, and others, which provide context for the positions of the units. The hexagonal grid is a common representation of terrain in military simulations, allowing for a detailed view of the battlefield.

Situational Assessment

The Germans have moved their divisions back up to the Volkhov. They are no longer dug in however, and with CV's of 3=7, 3=10 and 6=7 I should have plenty of opportunity to push across the river this turn.

Planning

The main objective for the attack on Novgorod this turn will be to get a firm hold on the west side of the Volkhov river.

I will also move the 8th Army of the Northwestern Front back north. In case of a real breakthrough, those brigades here may well end up taking ground from the Germans.

Execution

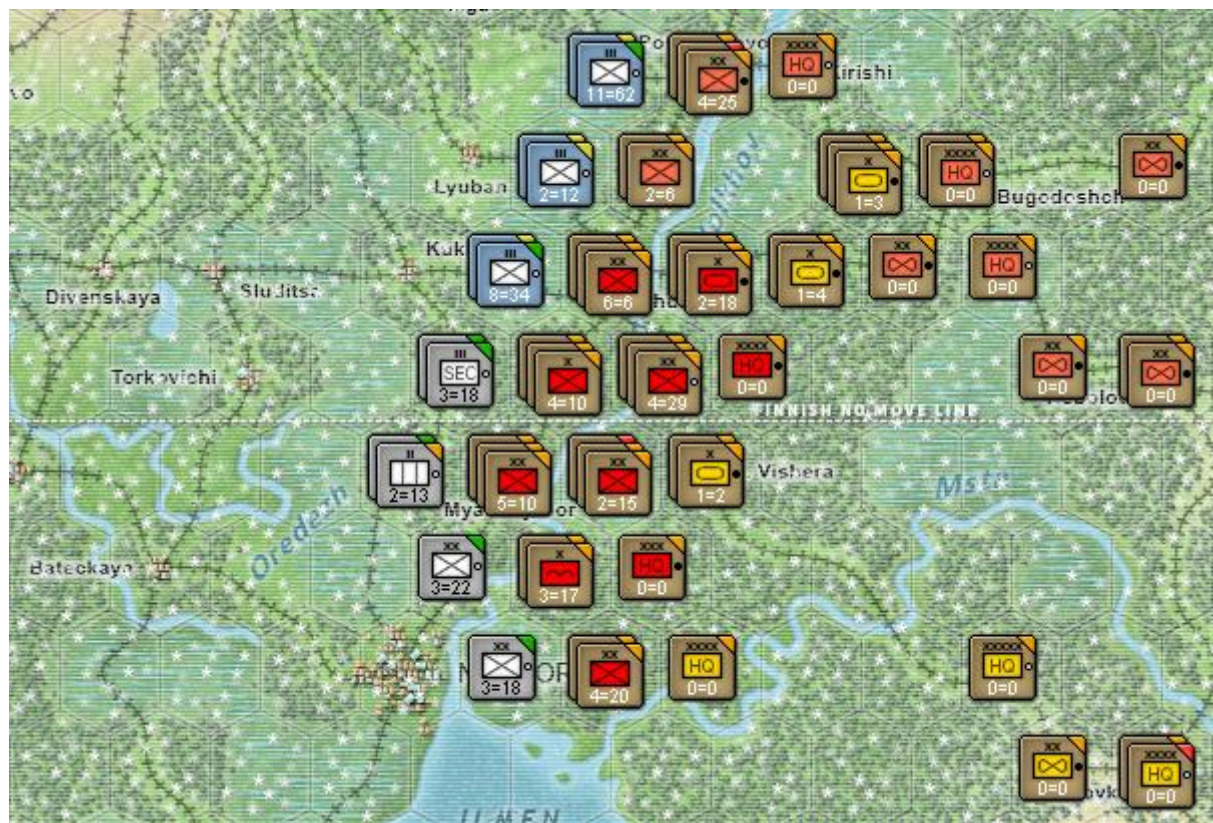
The attacks has gone as well as could be expected. I have pushed the Axis forces out of the four hexes I attacked, but unfortunately, I have not had enough movement points available to start attacking the second line of German defenses.

I notice, that there is a German fortified region two hexes north of Novgorod. I guess it was placed here to enable the Germans to build their fortifications on the Volkhov up to level three. Instead, it is now in the front line and likely to see an attack come next turn.

While the Finns look to be able to throw the Soviets back in the two northernmost exes I have taken, it seems unlikely that the Germans will be able to do much in the way of counterattacking when the turn goes to Pelton.

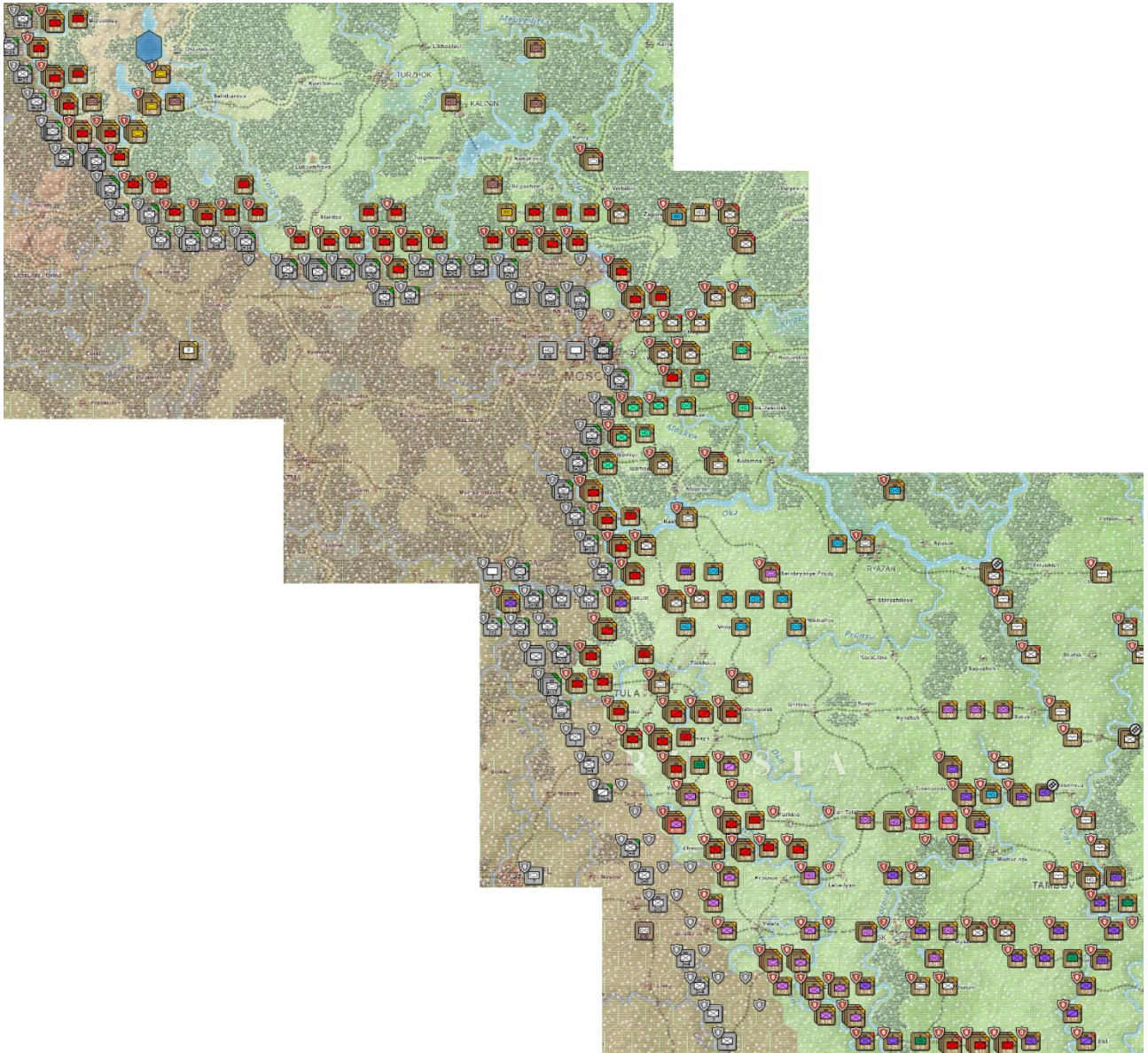
All in all, I consider the local objectives for this turn met: I am over the Volkhov River in force.

Below an image of the area north of Novgorod as I turn over the turn to Pelton.



The Center

Situation Assessment



In the Center, my attacks all along the Kalinin Front has gotten me nowhere really. I have to face up to the situation that unless I hold a significant reserve available for exploiting the gaps I can create in the German lines during the turn they are made, the Germans will simply move back up to the front of the line, and I will have lost another turn.

The situation is much the same at the Kaluga pocket, where I have the same amount of space to cover before the trapped forces are relieved.

Further south, the Germans have continued to pull back, and there is now up to four hexes between their lines and mine.

Planning

I intend to concentrate the attacks of the Kalinin Front in the eastern half of the sector they hold. To do this, I will first remove the "Penetration Army" status of the 11th Army of the Northwestern Front as well as from the 29th Army of the Kalinin Front. Doing this will also release eight artillery support units will be reassigned to the armies of the Kalinin Front and the Moscow MD.

Second, I will extend the portion of frontline held by both the 11th and the 29th Army, so that I will be able to concentrate stronger forces for the attacks of the Kalinin Front.

East of Moscow, the Moscow Defences Zone has been disbanded this turn. I have no idea why, and assume it is some sort of automatic thing done by the AI. I am not happy with it. As a consequence to this, I will reassign the armies that are forming in the area to the Moscow MD.

Meanwhile, I will continue to attack with the forces of both the Kalinin Front and the Moscow MD already in place in order to soften up the Germans as much as possible.

At the Western Front, I will continue my assault on the forces encircling the Kaluga Pocket while also moving the 1st Shock Army to the area to add pressure on the Germans come subsequent turns. It is still my plan to relieve the forces in the Kaluga Pocket and then to swing north.

Execution

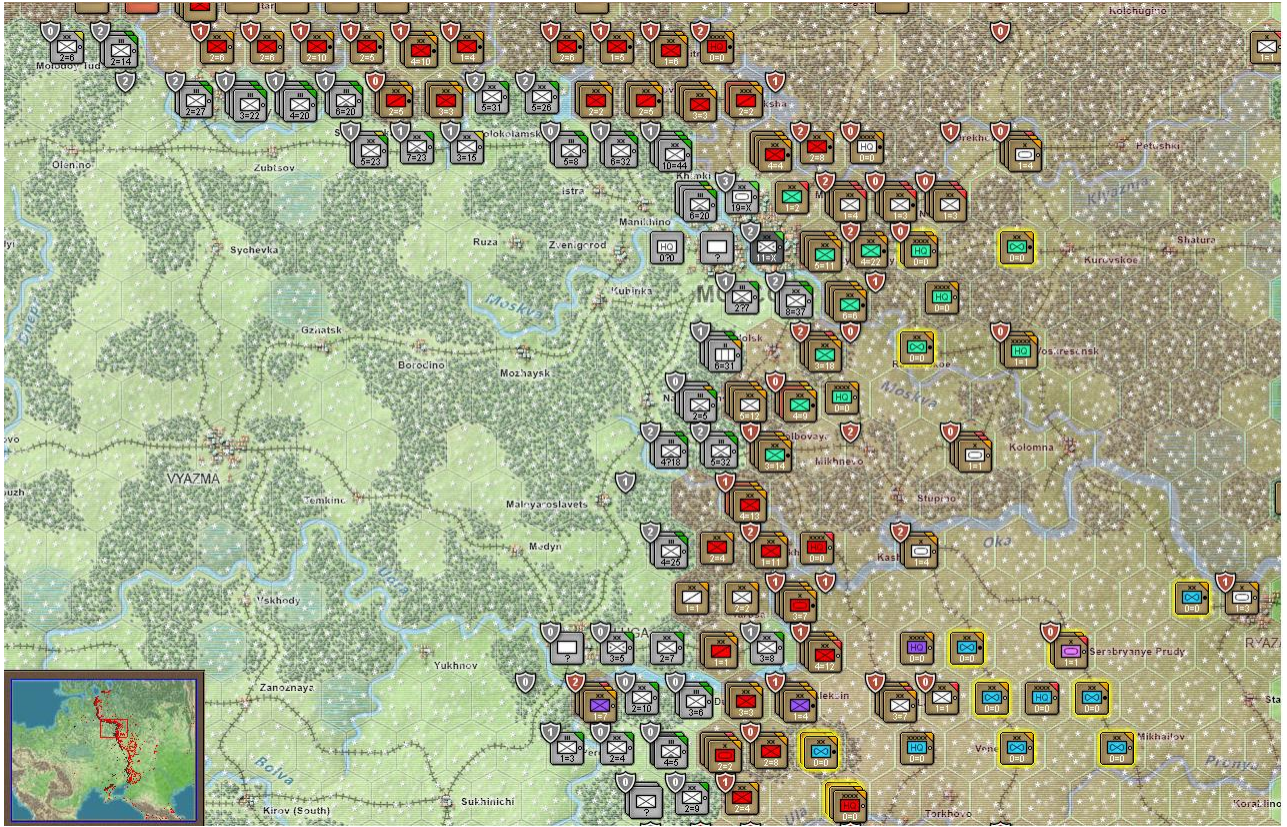
The Kalinin Front has begun moving its western units eastwards and this has resulted in some positional disorder this turn. I expect the Germans to take advantage of this and destroy the level two fortifications I have left unmanned. However, I do not expect the Germans to advance their final positions, so I do not feel particularly bothered by this.

Further east, the Kalinin Front has continued to push south and has gained some minor territorial gains in the process. However, by next turn, there should be more weight in the attacks, due to the heavier concentration of divisions in the area where I attack.

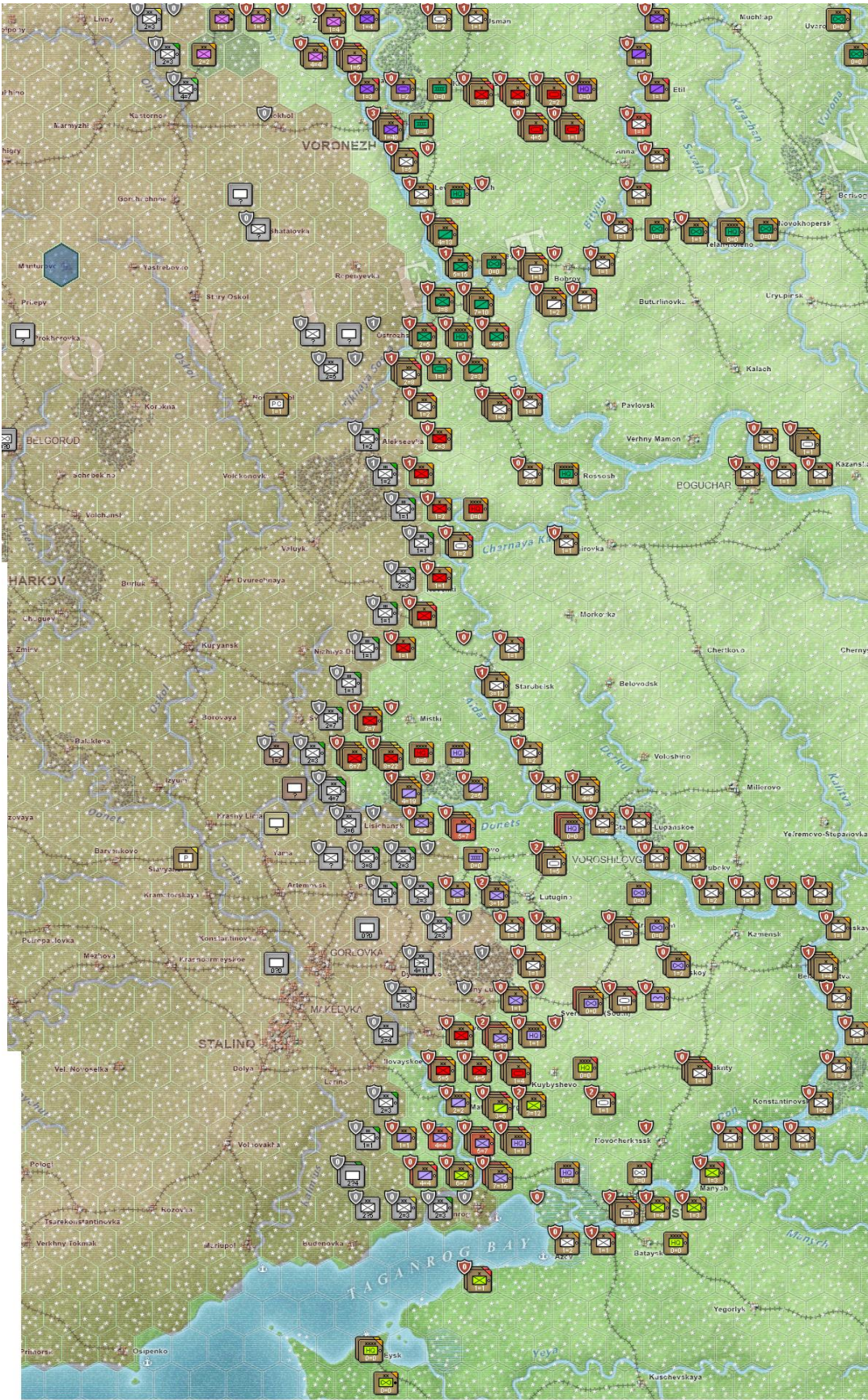
The Moscow MD has breached the massive German lines south of Moscow no less than two times this turn. This should mean that it will be easier going from now on, and by next turn the Moscow MD might even start moving northwest to meet up with the advancing units of the Kalinin Front. At least, that is the plan.

The Western Front has gotten some momentum in its attacks towards Kaluga and even encircled a single German infantry division. It will be able to break free surely, but it would require a somewhat risky placement of other German divisions to give the encircled division a chance of breaking free.

Below is an image of the Front around Moscow as I give the turn to Pelton.



The South



Situational Assessment

The Germans have continued to pull back in front of Voronezh and are now up to four hexes from the city. On my side, both the 12th and the 26th Armies are getting ready to be railed south, and there is nothing but plains to be taken west of Voronezh. I still see little reason in occupying this area in strength.

Further south, it seems like both Rumanian and Slovakian units are getting ready to defend against any breakthroughs by the 6th Army.

Still further south, just north of the Sea of Azov, it seems the German lines are getting increasingly thin. Several infantry divisions on the German side are now no stronger than the Soviet divisions they are facing, and as I have about three times the number of divisions I certainly look a lot stronger.

It also seems very likely, that I will be able to cut off the 72nd Infantry division just west of Taganrog. If I am lucky one more division may be forced into the pocket before it is sealed.

Recon flights does not reveal any significant German forces arriving at the scene.



At the Caucasus Front, it is business as usual. I would have expected the Germans to ship divisions east from here, but this has not happened.

Planning

In the north, the Volkhov Front will continue to take control of parts of the front held by the Southwestern Front currently.

The 12th and the 26th Armies of the Southwestern Front will continue on their way to join the 6th Army attacking towards Gorlovka.

At the junction between the Southwestern and the Southern Fronts, the 6th and the 37th Armies will continue to push southwest. I will keep an eye out for opportunities to outmaneuver the Germans, but I expect I will not be able to do so. I will expect no more than another hex or two gained on the way southwest.

At the Sea of Azov, I will encircle that German division. I will also try to punch through the German line of fortified zones I spotted a few turns back. I will try to move in such a way that it will be the army from the Caucasus Front that is on the encirclement itself, while the Southern Front armies push on westwards.

At the Caucasus Front, I will continue to beat up the Axis minors and whatever Germans are within reach, but I will not be moving my front forward in any way this turn, as the German mobile divisions are still in place at the eastern end of the frontline.

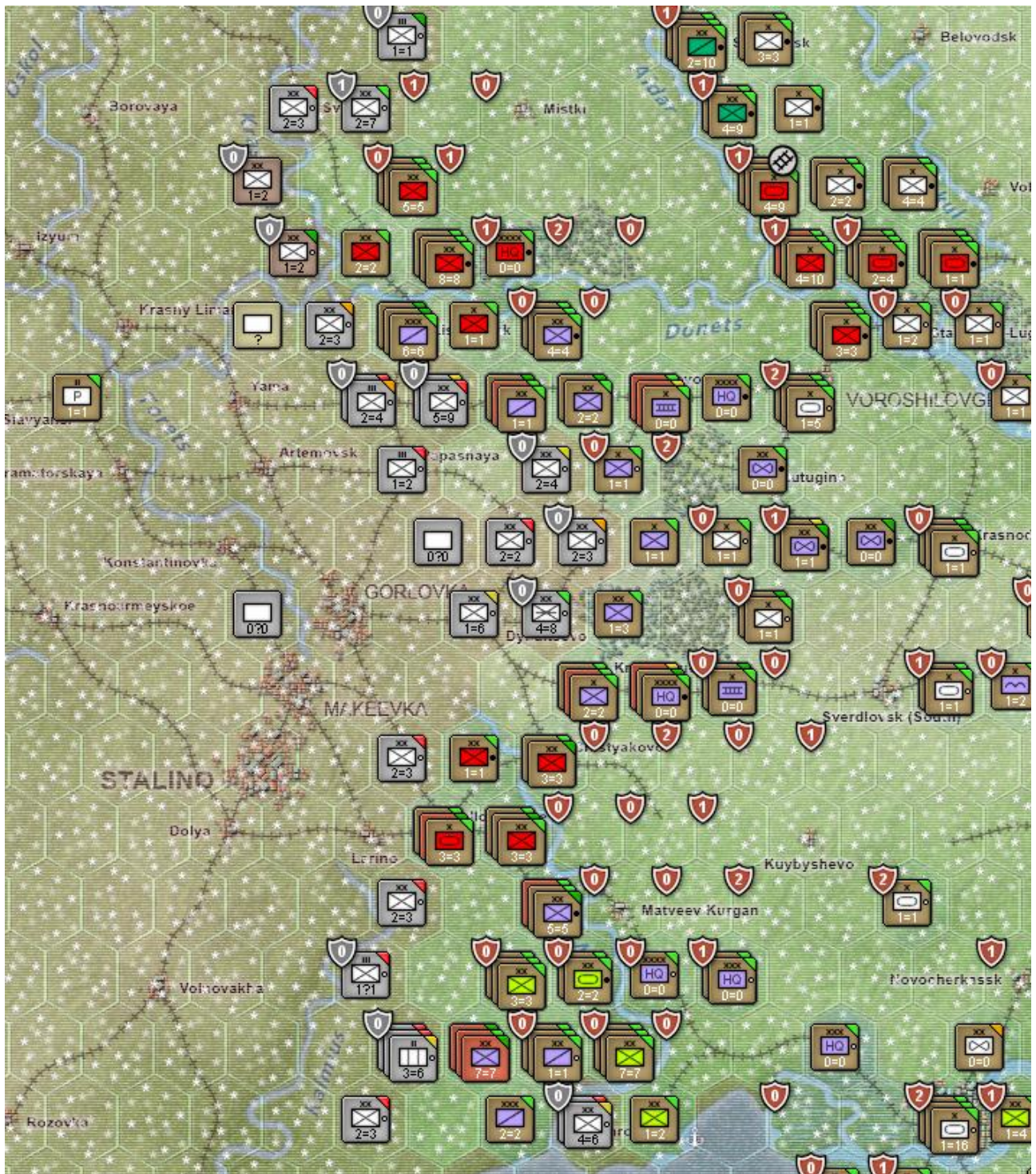
Execution

Both the 12th and the 26th Armies have been redeployed southwards using rail movement. They both need another turn to get close to the front however, so I expect little immediate value from them. The Volkhov Front is slowly manning the line at Voronezh, but it is currently very much understrength, so it has no real fighting value.

Because of the many German infantry divisions opposing it, the attack by the 6th and 37th Armies has advanced little. The attack along the shores of the Sea of Azov has achieved little territorial gain as well, but it has encircled two German infantry divisions with their backs to the Sea of Azov and no way to escape that I can see. Between the two attacks, a concentration of weak German infantry divisions are in need of immediate withdrawal by my estimates. If they linger, they die.

Perhaps best of all, the German divisions in the entire area are beginning to look rather ragged, with few of them having defensive CV's over three while my own are still looking strong and have good stocks of supplies left (and a bunch of transport aircraft to carry stuff to them, should they need it in the future).

Below is an image of the situation north of the Sea of Azov (color coded with the supply situation), as I give the turn to Pelton.



At the Caucasus Front, I have continued my campaign of attacking what I can to inflict casualties, but without moving my own front forward.

Conclusion

If I felt I had underachieved during my last turn, I am pretty happy with the results of this turn.

Both my Moscow attack and my Stalino attack seems to be gaining momentum, and I hope to see some good results before too long. The remainder of my front is gaining strength as well, and I am beginning to spot an opening for another offensive due east of Kharkov as only German infantry regiments are holding the front. Is it possible to break through and encircle several of their regiments?

While the losses of this turn have not been devastating (8,000 Axis for 20,000 Soviets), I have encircled at least two German divisions looking forward to their destruction (I hope). This should net me something like 20,000 German soldiers lost next turn by my calculations. The German OoB is also about 500 guns smaller than last turn. Their armored forces are building though with an increase of more than 150 in one turn.

Interestingly, I have destroyed several Axis support units during my phase:

- One Bicycle Recon Battalion
- One LW Mixed Flak Battalion
- One StuG Battalion
- One Fortified Zone
- One Italian Medium Howitzer Battalion

I will give the turn to Pelton now, anxiously awaiting his response to the situation.