

## Strategic overview

Turn 31: Strategic Considerations

### Situational analysis

SPECIAL						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	5683	317708	0
-	Port	76	3	0	0	0
-	Railyard	181	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2535	73	94719	4019430	0
-	Vehicle	114	0	192183	301039	0
-	Heavy Industry	195	0	0	2554600	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	1920000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	1072800	0
-	Resource Production	168	8	0	5124000	0
-	Armaments Production	288	0	0	2031850	0

Even though the Germans have conducted few attacks this turn, they have still lost some 102 AFV + SP/AC's. That is good news I think, as it implies that the Germans are not really building up their Panzer divisions for the summer battles of 1942. This is supported by the fact that since turn 29, the German oob has shown a steady decline in Armor. Pelton is now down to 4040 Armored elements.

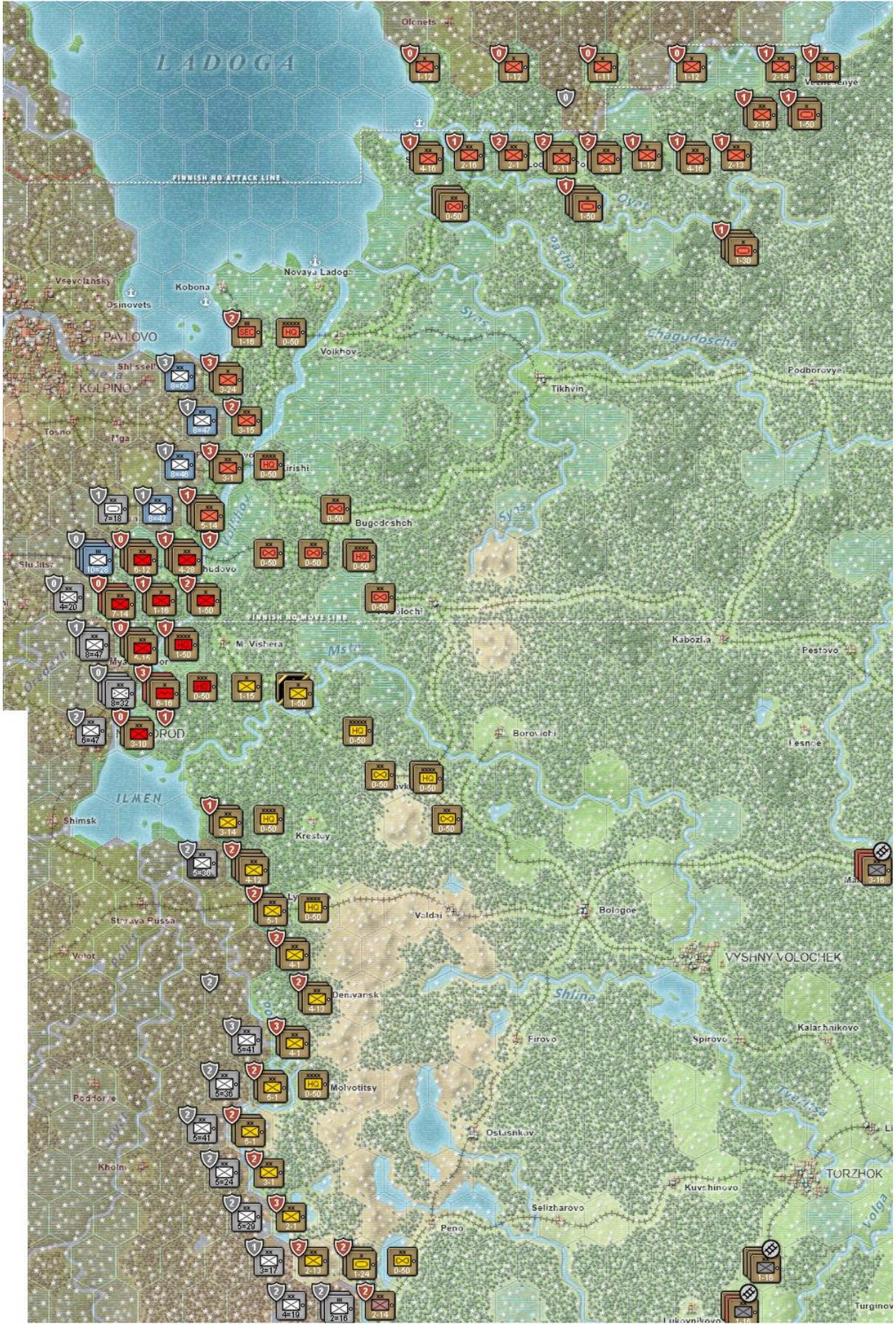
The Germans have also sent their entire strategic reserve to the front by now, I deem. I now count no less than 19 panzer divisions and 10 motorized divisions on the front. They are grouped as follows:

- The Northern Front: One Panzer and two Motorized divisions.
- The Kalinin Front: One Panzer and one Motorized division.
- The Moscow MD: One Panzer division.
- The Western Front: Four Panzer and two Motorized divisions.
- The Bryansk Front: Three Panzer divisions.
- The Southwestern Front: Three Panzer and one Motorized division.
- The Southern Front: Five Panzer divisions and three Motorized divisions.
- The Caucasus Front: One Panzer division and one Motorized division.

My own pool of Medium tanks continue to grow, while I still lack a lot of light and heavy tanks.

Axis VP advantage is 3.6 to 1.

**The North**



### *Situational Assessment*

East of Lake Ladoga the Finns have vanished completely.

North of Novgorod, my offensive seems to have worn itself out. While I can still win a few battles and clear a few hexes, I am no longer able to keep hold of the ground that I take. The only reason I have for continuing offensive action, is to inflict losses on the German Mobile divisions in the area.

### *Planning*

East of Lake Ladoga, I will slowly advance my line of infantry brigades moving north. The main part of my force will remain in position and keep digging.

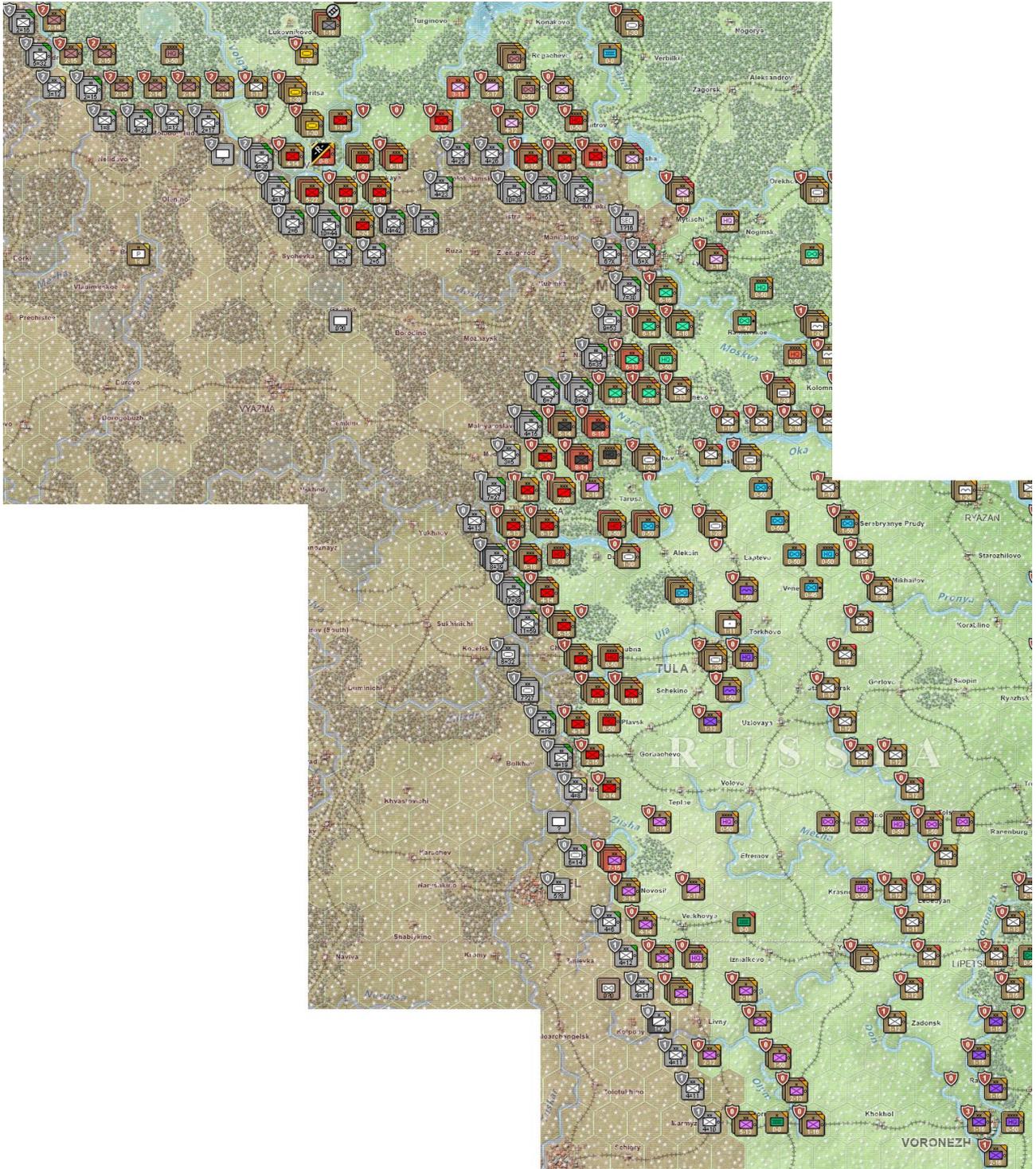
North of Novgorod, I will go on the defense for now, hoping to improve my CV's for future combat.

### *Execution*

East of Lake Ladoga, I have located the Finnish line of resistance.

## The Center

### Situation Assessment



In the Center, the Germans have strengthened their front against the two pincer attacks to the west of Moscow by pulling troops of the line in the immediate vicinity of Moscow itself. There is still three turns of January left and the all of February, so I will need to be careful not to waste my offensive capacity prematurely in failed attacks, but I also need to attack in time to get an effect of my attacks.

The fronts faced by both the Kalinin Front and the Moscow MD are very strong still, but the line opposite the western Front is showing signs of weakness.

Further south, the Germans still have a lot of Panzer divisions holding the line against the Bryansk Front. This puzzles me still, as I see little potential for my attacks on this front. The only explanation I can see is that Pelton intends to use this sector as a staging area for his 1942 offensive. This would allow his Panzer units to attack due east and path north of the Major River hexes forming the Don from Voronezh going south. It would also allow for him to threaten swinging those panzers both north into the rear areas behind Moscow, and south into the area west of Stalingrad.

### Planning

On the Kalinin Front and at Moscow MD I will be very careful in selecting my attacks. Actually, I will wait and see the outcome of the Western Front attacks to the south, before I do any attacks at all on those fronts. Any attacks I do decide on, will be aimed at the weaker spots on the German lines hoping to create further gaps, making the German defense of Moscow just a little more difficult.

The Western Front meanwhile will be continuing its attack to the northwest, aiming still at the Vyazma – Moscow railroad. I will continue my policy of “no attacks with one CV units policy” hoping that those units can instead build some strength for future attacks.

Behind the Bryansk Front, I will move some of my strategic reserve into position, allowing them time to dig deep creating a line of defense stretching southeast from Tula. Behind that line, another three lines are slowly forming, as they are being dug out by STAVKA units at 20%.

### Execution

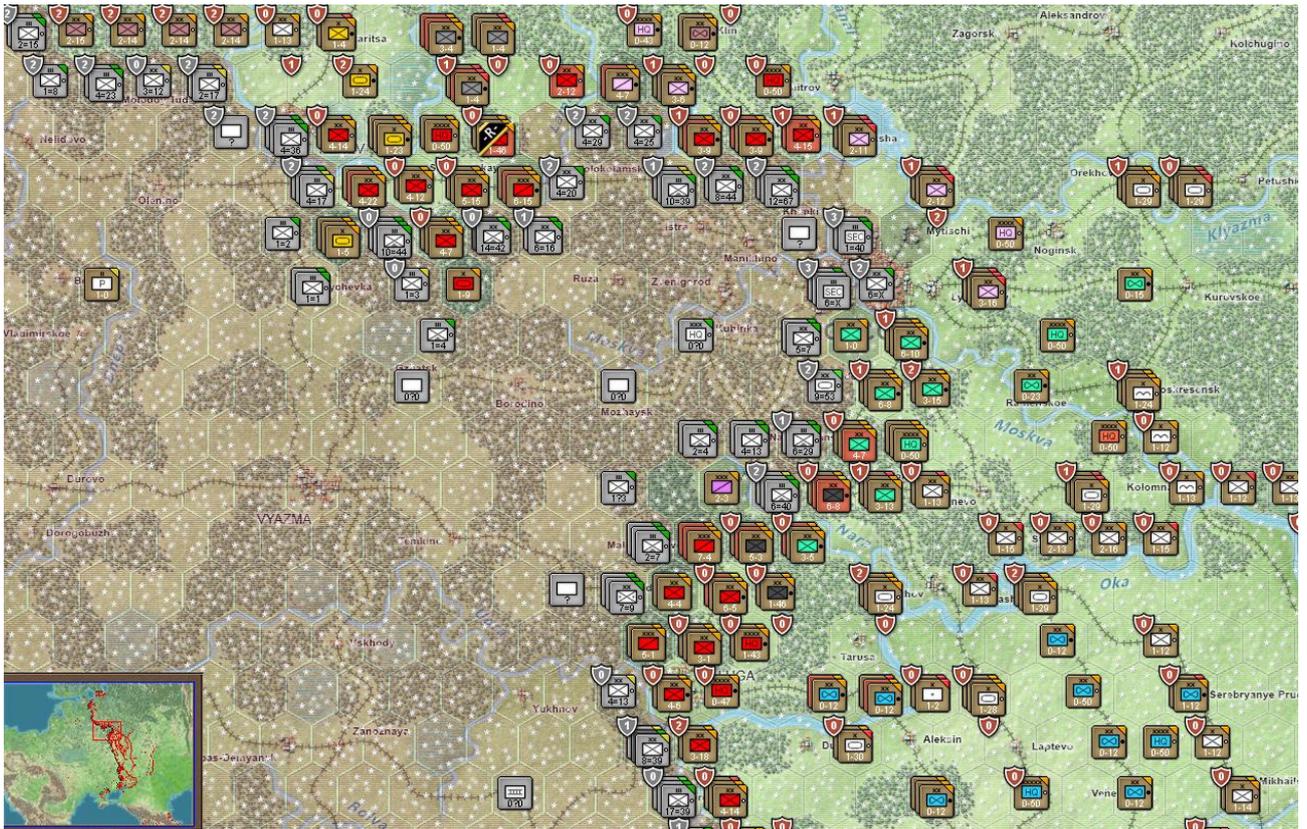
The attacks by the Western Front were mainly successful, so I decided to go for two attacks with the Moscow MD. One was a success, while the other failed with a 1:1.01 ratio on CV. The hex attacked this way was the same hex that gave me a 1:1.00 defeat last turn!

Axis Forces Defending:		1 of 3 > 105.48 - Light Woods - Blizzard Turn:31 1942-01-15		Soviet Forces Attacking:	
XXXV Corps 260th Infantry Division (219) XXXIV Corps -6% 2/101st Lt Inf Div (91)		<b>Forges Engaged</b> DEF: men 19615, art 204, afv 0 DAM: men 174, art 3, afv 0 LOST: men 44, art 0, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0		ATK: men 58530, art 683, afv 18 DAM: men 693, art 4, afv 0 LOST: men 987, art 4, afv 0 ATK: ftr 116, bmr 65, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	
CV: 310->528.7 Fort: 1.70->1.66 Comm HQ: XXXV Corps GM Rudolf Kaempfe		Defending Forces HELD Odds 1 : 1.01 <a href="#">Show Details</a>		48th Army 26th Guards Rifle Division (21) 281st Rifle Division (17) 283rd Rifle Division (19) 14th Guards Rifle Division (31) 303rd Rifle Division (21) 307th Rifle Division (24) 191st BM Howitzer Regiment (2) [v]	
				CV: 137->521.8 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: 48th Army GM Ivan Galarin	
				<a href="#">Exit</a>	

In the north, the Kalinin Front was mainly inactive this turn, with only a few attacks conducted against weaker German units. I still poured some tank brigades into the gaps created by my attacks. I know full well that these brigades will take heavy losses, but if they can delay the German movements only slightly it could be well worth it.

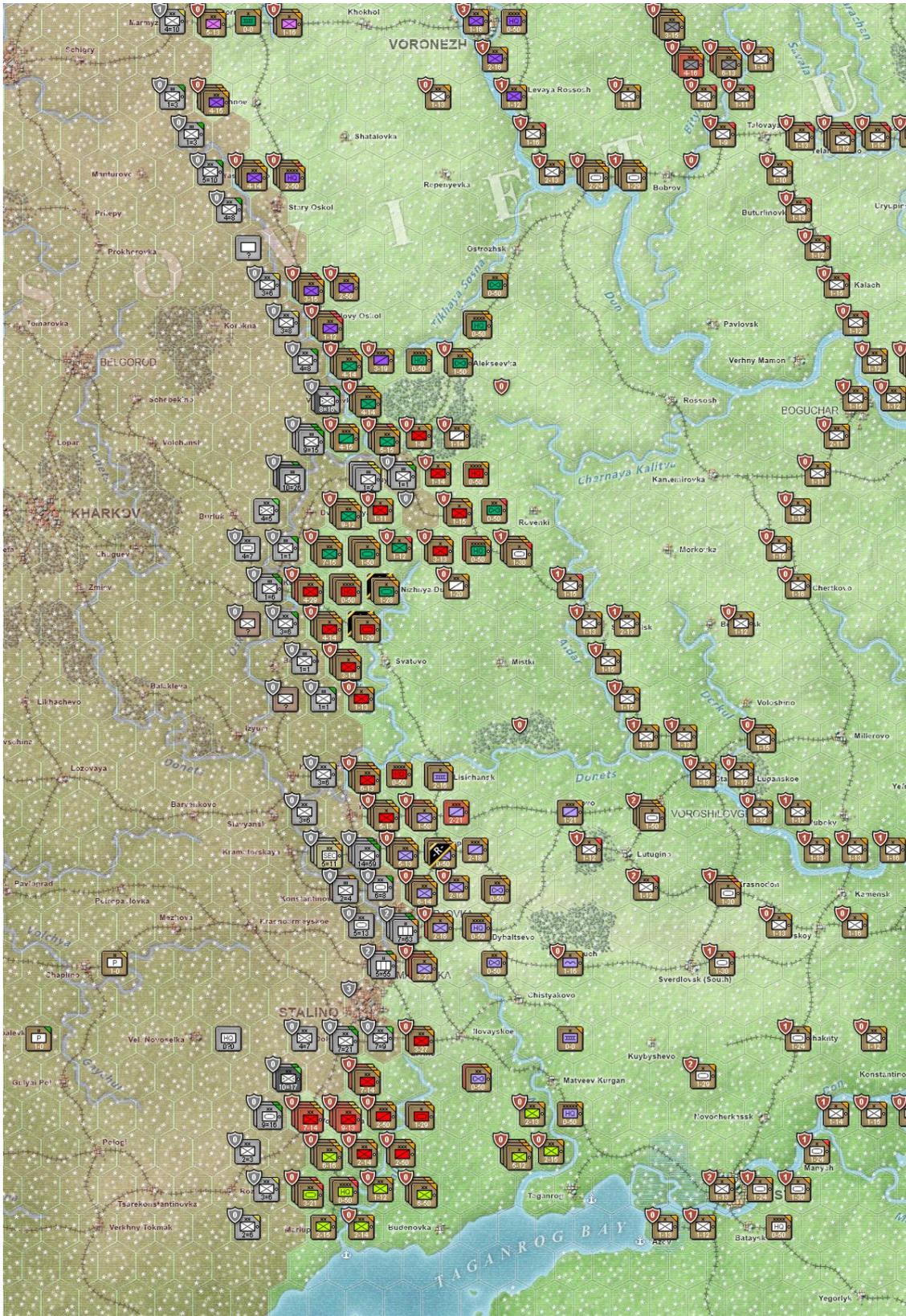
Further south, I have moved more reserves into a line stretching southeast from Tula.

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



# The South

## Situational Assessment



At the Kharkov Bend, the Germans have once more reestablished contact with their encircled divisions. They have also built up a considerable force ready for reestablishing contact and effective rescue come next turn. If I want to beat those divisions, I need to do it this turn.

North of Stalino, a couple of German counterattacks have reestablished their frontline, and it looks unlikely that I can win through to surround the city. South of the city, the situation is much the same, and the Germans are now threatening finishing up another level of fortifications immediately southwest of the city.

At the Caucasus Front north of the Crimean, I need to do a little more work on displacing the Axis fronts before I might be able to send a cavalry division speeding north.



### Planning

At the Kharkov Bend, my main efforts this turn will be to get the encircled German units back into an encirclement they can not escape from. To do this I will use the fact that the good morale German divisions tend to withdraw rather than rout. So if I start by taking the empty hex in front of the German main line and then attack the stack of German divisions from the west, they should withdraw east into the pocket. I can then set up heavy defenses in two hexes between the German front and the encircled divisions.

Further south, I must accept the fact the the northern pincer against Stalino seems to have been stopped. As a response to this, I will send the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> Armies due west, hoping to swing south at a later turn. The 37<sup>th</sup> Army of the Southern Front will continue hitting the German units north of Stalino.

The Southern pincer will focus on hitting the infantry divisions south of Stalino while the supporting units of the Caucasus Front will hit the southernmost and weakest German divisions.

North of the Crimean, I will spend the turn hitting the northeasternmost Axis units, hoping to weaken them enough that a cavalry breakthrough might be possible.

### Execution

At the Kharkov Bend, my plans worked as a charm, and the Germans were forced back eastwards with heavy losses

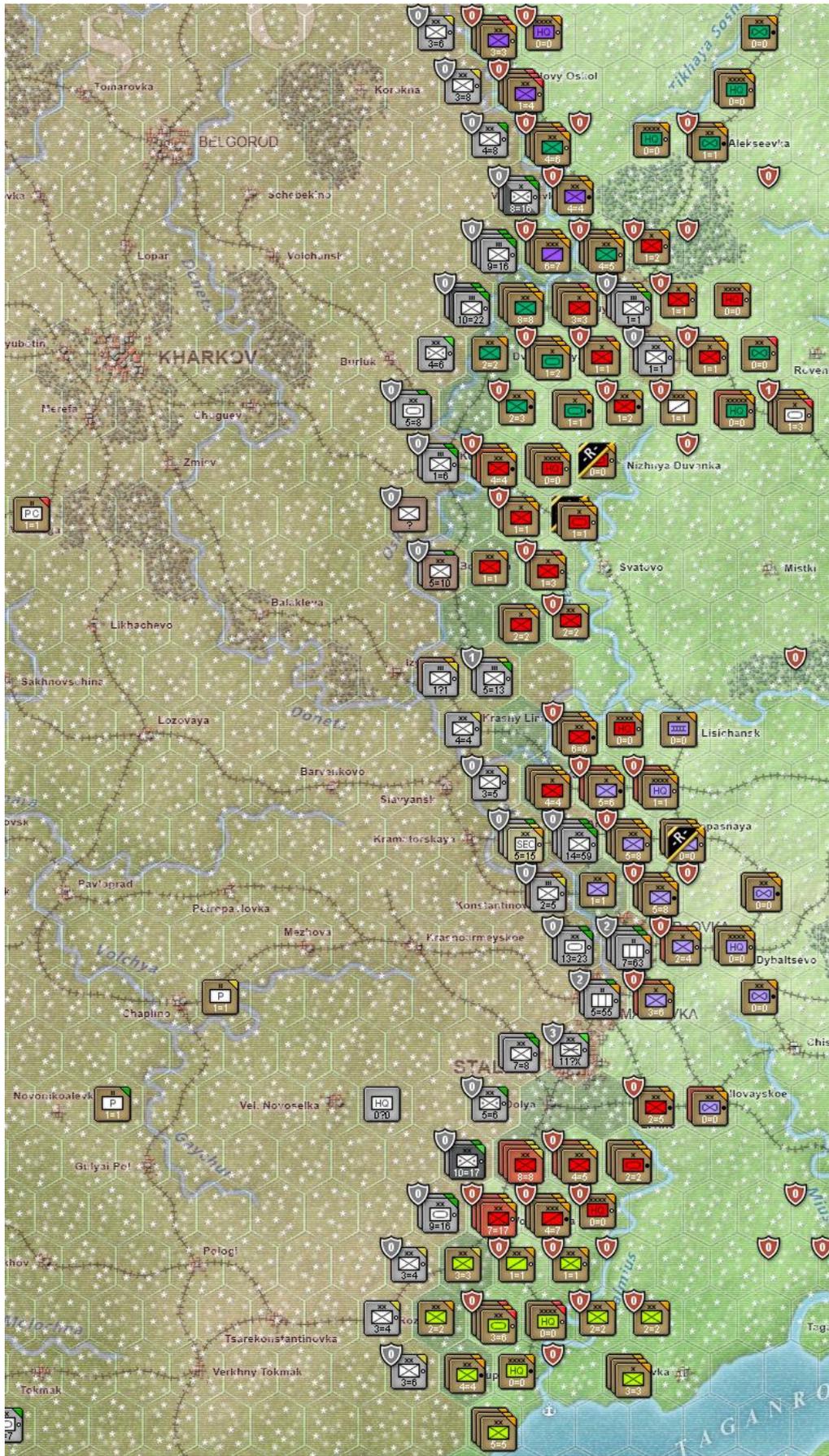
Axis Forces Defending:		Forces Engaged		Soviet Forces Attacking:	
LV Corps 75th Infantry Division (18) 1/168th Infantry Division (7) 3/168th Infantry Division (5)		DEF: men 17194, art 186, afv 2 DAM: men 393, art 3, afv 0 LOST: men 7988, art 93, afv 0 DEF: ftr 2, bmr 5, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 1, utl 0		ATK: men 19137, art 215, afv 74 DAM: men 486, art 5, afv 6 LOST: men 473, art 3, afv 8 ATK: ftr 59, bmr 12, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	
√ Fliegerkorps 2 Bf 110C-4B 5 Ju 88A		3/168th Infantry Division RETREATED 75th Infantry Division RETREATED 1/168th Infantry Division RETREATED		26th Army 350th Rifle Division (23) 78th Cavalry Division (5) 13th Tank Brigade (6) 233rd Art Rgt RVGK (1) 236th Art Rgt RVGK (1) 104th Sapper Regiment (3)	
CV: 30->19.5 Fort: 0.00->0.00 Comm HQ: LV Corps G Erwin Vierow		Show Details Odds 3.93 : 1		Southwestern Air Command [v] CV: 39->57.2 Eng Val: 0 Comm HQ: 26th Army GM Nikolai Pukhov	

Further south, the weak German units has allowed the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> armies to advance slightly.

South of Stalino, I have pushed the infantry back and ensured that I do not have wnother level one fortification to deal with next turn. The supporting units of the caucasus Front has also pushed forward a little. My hope is to be in position for moving a little more come next turn.

At the Caucasus Front, I have beaten the northeasternmmmost Axis units, but without moving my own front forward.

Below is an image of the front from the Kharkov Bend going south to the Sea of Azov, as I give the turn to Pelton.



## **Conclusion**

The situation at Moscow is tense. While the Germans seem to have my northern pincer under some control, the southern attack seems to be progressing well. If the Germans are out of reserves, I might even win the city within the next few turns.

At the Kharkov Bend, I am confident that I have encircled the Germans beyond their ability to break out. I will admit to being surprised if they should still manage to do so.