

Strategic overview

Turn 35: Strategic Considerations

Situational analysis

____ SPECIAL ____						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	4825	379307	0
-	Port	75	1	0	0	0
-	Railyard	181	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2532	61	54058	4413293	0
-	Vehicle	114	18	187502	306562	0
-	Heavy Industry	195	0	0	2951150	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	2176000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	1215840	0
-	Resource Production	168	8	0	5764000	0
-	Armaments Production	288	0	1128	2395850	0

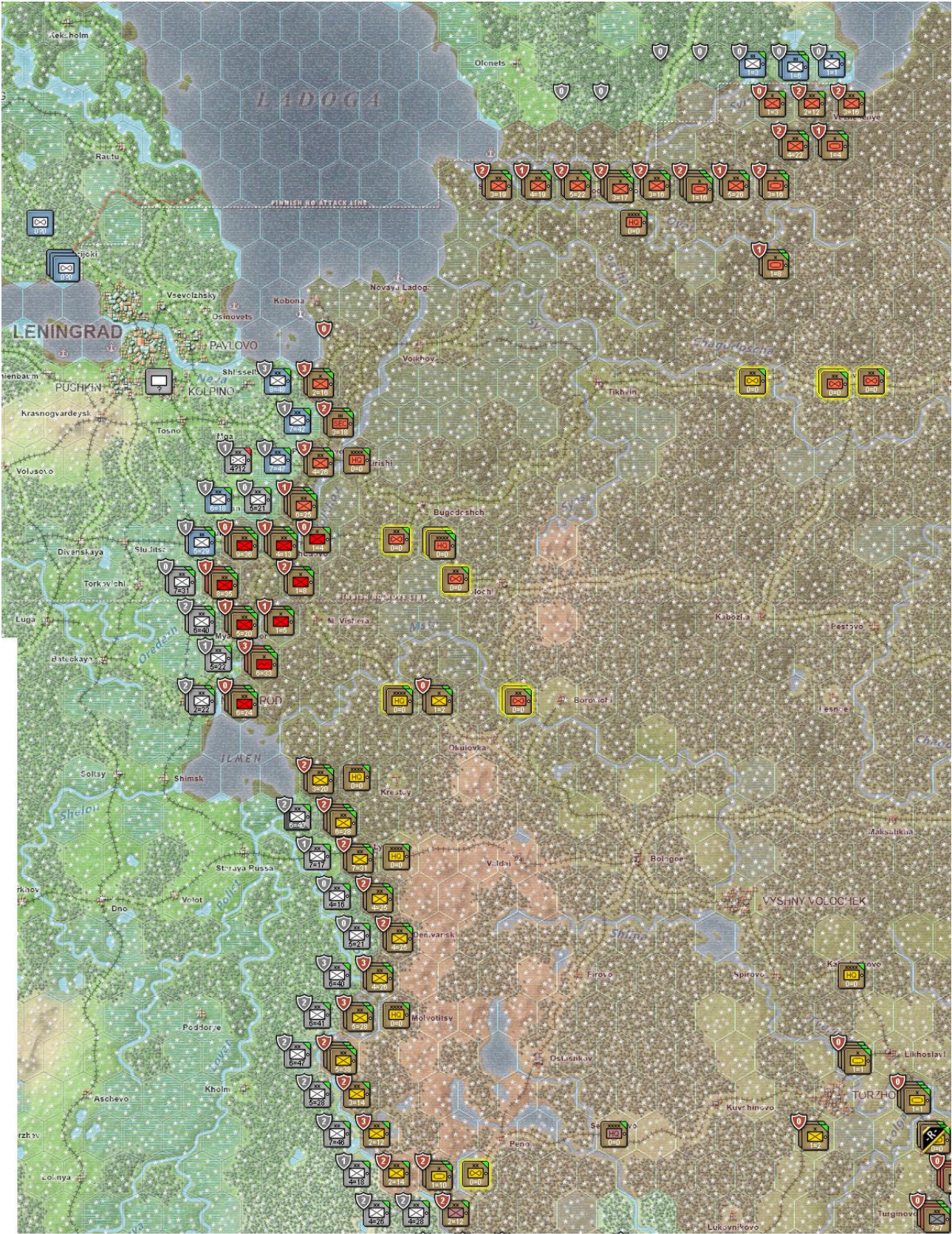
Nothing much has happened during the German phase of this turn.

- A minor German breakthrough of the Kalinin Front has occurred northwest of Rhzev.
- The Germans did not follow the Soviets withdrawing south of stalino.

Losses are light, with only 63 German AFV + SP/AC's lost for 45 soviet ones. However, another 60.000 men and 800 guns has made it into the German OoB. The Germans have not increased their numbers of AFV's or aircraft in any significant way.

Axis VP advantage is 3.8 to 1.

The North



Situational Assessment

East of Lake Ladoga, the Finns have reconnected with the Soviet defenses in the far eastern part of the frontline.

North of Novgorod, the Germans still have a strong presence, with seven Infantry divisions and one Motorized division.

Planning

My plans for this area are quite simple. I will attack a lone Finnish infantry regiment at the far eastern end of the frontline, but otherwise focus on digging holes in the ground.

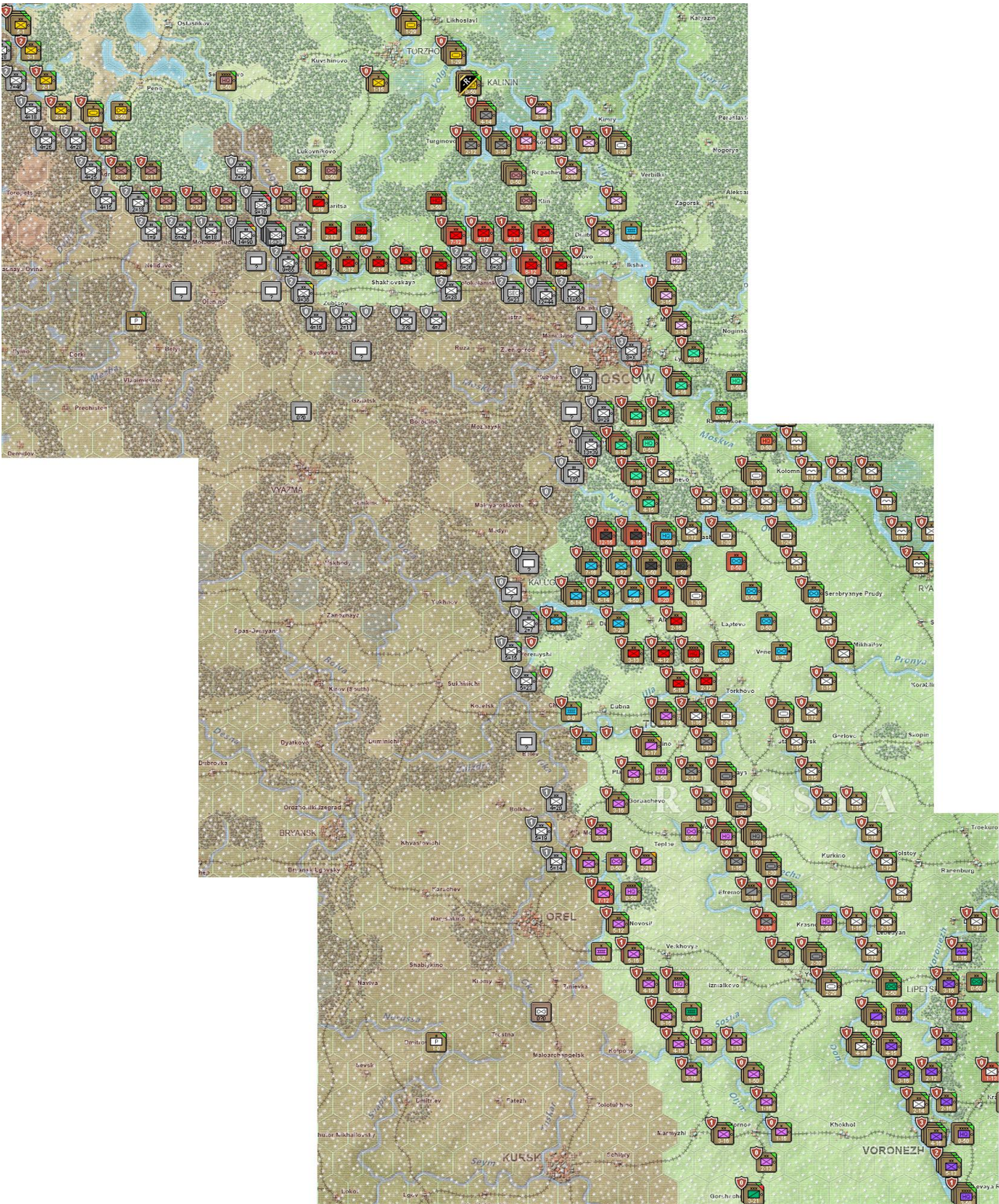
In the air, I have assigned a dogfighter airfield (with Yak 7A's) to the area, as well as an airfield attack airfield. For now both are building strength, so I will only attack the Finnish airfields by night. Later on, I will move the two airfields north and try a daytime attack on the Finnish airfields with heavy fighter cover.

Execution

I think the most interesting thing that can be said of developments on the northern front is the attack report against the lone Finnish regiment.

Axis Forces Defending (W): V Fin. Corps 4th Fin. Coastal Brigade (28)	1 of 198,9 - Swamp - BlizzardTurn:35 1942-02-12		Soviet Forces Attacking: 55th Army 344th Rifle Division (56) 359th Rifle Division (42) Leningrad Air Command 28 LaGG-3 10 IL-4
	Forces Engaged		
	DEF: men 2584, art 119, afv 0 DAM: men 67, art 4, afv 0 LOST: men 52, art 2, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	ATK: men 20877, art 242, afv 0 DAM: men 185, art 3, afv 0 LOST: men 166, art 3, afv 0 ATK: ftr 28, bmr 10, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	
	4th Fin. Coastal Brigade RETREATED		
CV: 28->36.0Fort: 0.02->0.00 Comm HQ: V Fin. Corps KM Ruben Lagus	Show Details	Odds 8.59 : 1	Exit
		CV: 98->273.3Eng Val: 2 Comm HQ: 55th Army GM Vladimir Kolpakchi	

The Center



Situation Assessment

The Germans have made a minor breakthrough against the westernmost of the Kalinin Front armies (the 29th Army). Only one weak Panzer division has moved through the gap in my lines, and the gap itself is held by two Motorized divisions with a total defensive CV of 9=10. I spy no Axis armor behind the German lines ready to exploit the situation.

Other than that, the majority of my forces are spending their time digging in for the future.

Planning

I will be a little more active here, as I will attempt to push the two German Motorized divisions back, thus encircling the German Panzer division. I have no doubt that the Panzer will break through the encirclement come next turn, but at least for one turn it will be encircled.

I will also move significant reserves into the area behind the German breakthrough, so that any exploitation of it come next turn will be difficult. In order to help with the battle, I will also be moving two Tactical Bombing airfields north from the Western Front. That should provide some 200 extra IL-2's come next turn.

I will also be resetting "Refit" status on STAVKA and then setting the reserves moved forward this way to "Refit".

Otherwise, I will simply continue to build my defenses as best I can.

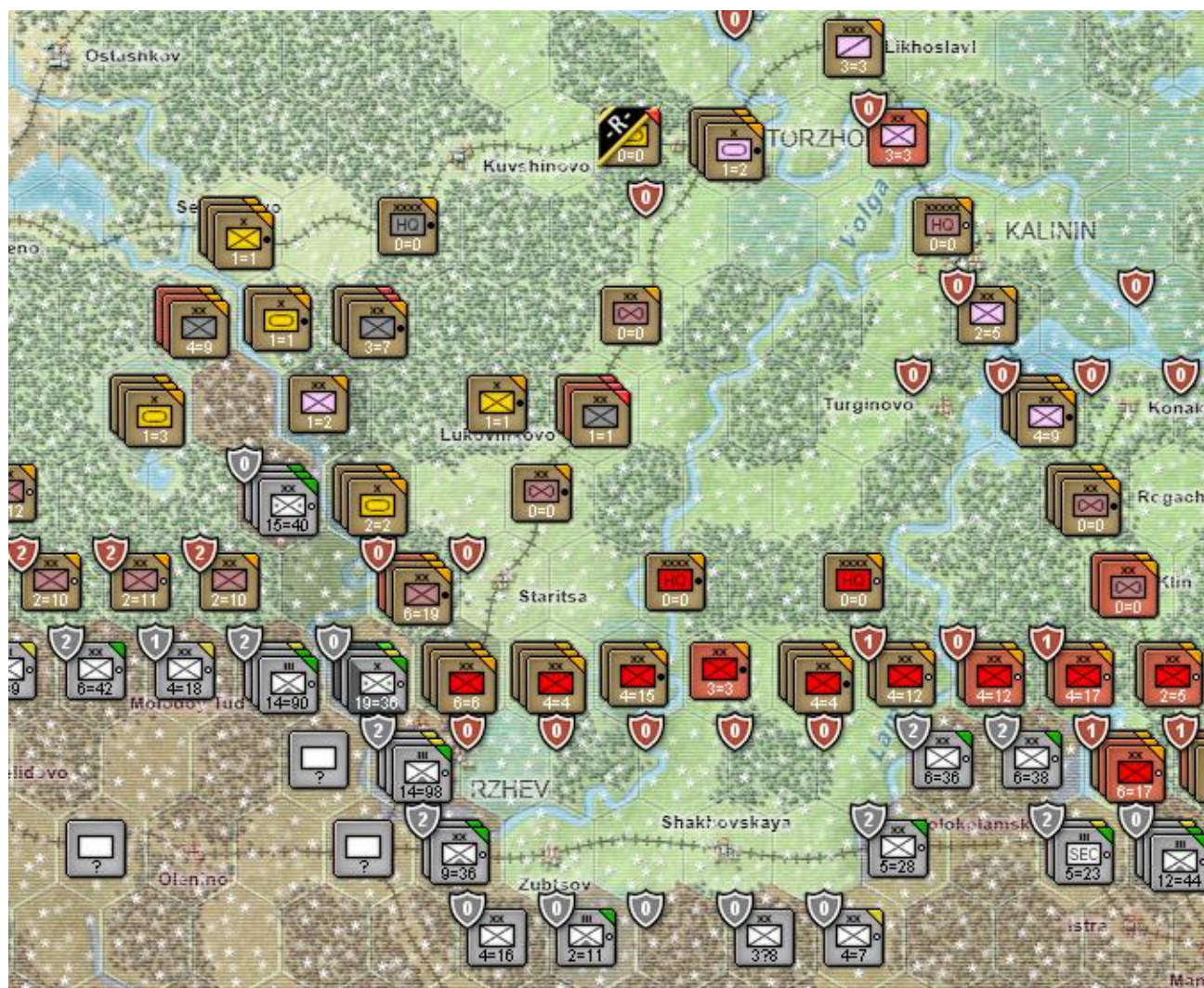
Execution

The attack on the German Motorized divisions were a success of sorts in that I did beat them and forced them to retreat. What I had not counted on was that they retreated northwards into what then became a pocket. However, the Germans to the south of the pocket holds some 33 offensive CV and will be able to push through easily come next turn. As a result, I have not placed anything in the hex I just took. The final battle against the Motorized units was a little interesting because of the high presence of both German AA and AT units.

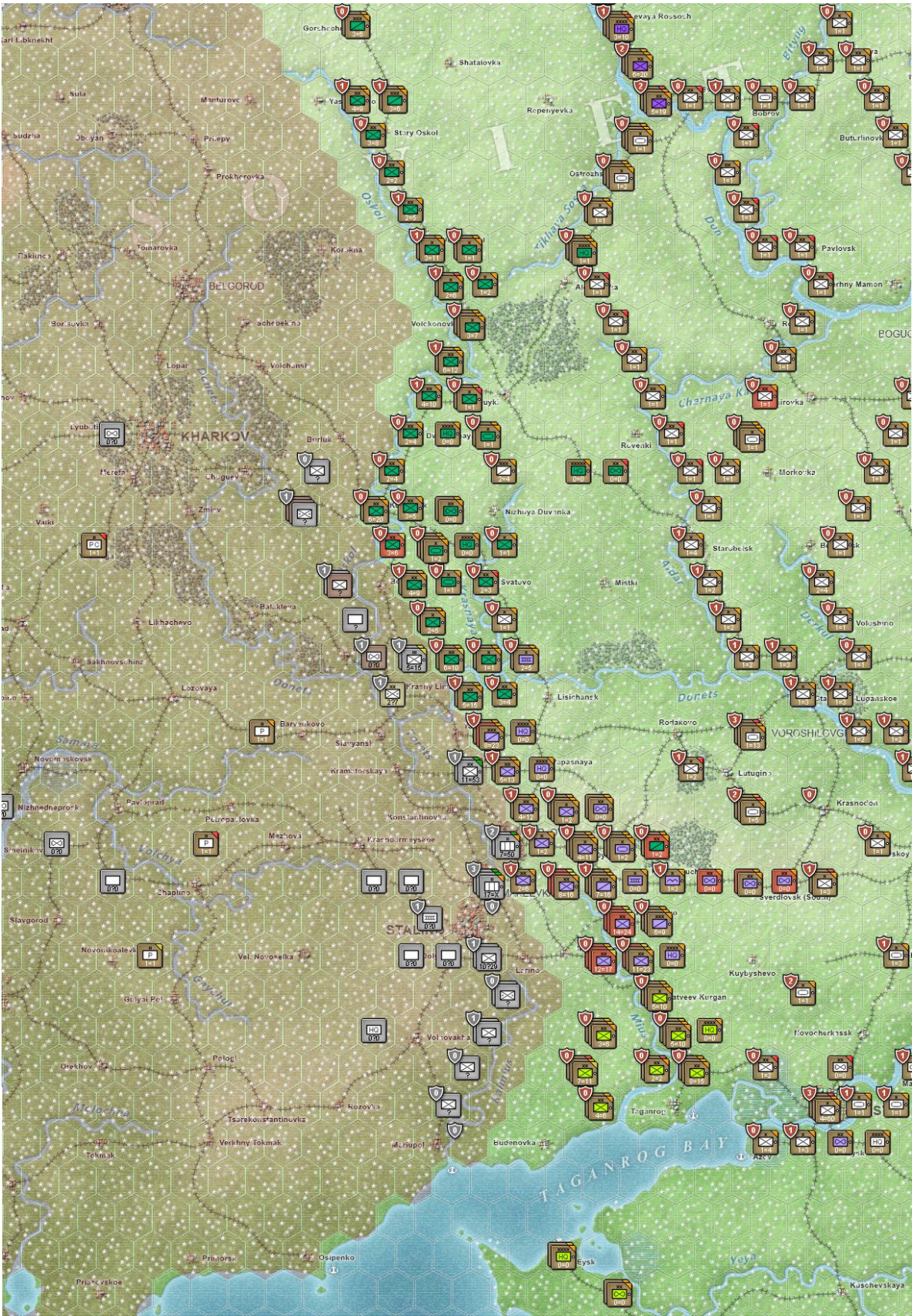
1 of 6 > 94.40 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:35 1942-02-12		
Axis Forces Defending: LVI Panzer Corps 10th Motorized Division (44) 14th Motorized Division (41) II/52nd Artillery Battalion (0) II/4th LW Mix Flk Bn (2) 616th Jagdpanzer Battalion (0) 559th Jagdpanzer Battalion (0) 529th Jagdpanzer Battalion (0) [v]	Forces Engaged DEF: men 26688, art 369, afv 79 DAM: men 1030, art 21, afv 10 LOST: men 962, art 14, afv 7 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 14th Motorized Division RETREATED 10th Motorized Division RETREATED [v]	Soviet Forces Attacking: 34th Army -10% 13th Cavalry Corps (23) 247th Rifle Division (21) 104th Howitzer Regiment (0) 529th Howitzer Regiment (1) 445th Art Rgt RVGK (1) 110th Sapper Regiment (2) 112th Sapper Regiment (2) [v]
CV: 87->79.2 Fort: 0.04->0.00 Comm HQ: LVI Panzer Corps G Erich von Manstein	Show Details Odds 6.58 : 1 Exit	CV: 132->442.7 Eng Val: 6 Comm HQ: 29th Army GL Ivan Maslennikov

South of Moscow, both the 20th Army and the 1st Shock Army has been placed into local reserve, in case of a German Panzer attack in this area.

Below is an image of the front at Rzhev, as I give the turn to Pelton.



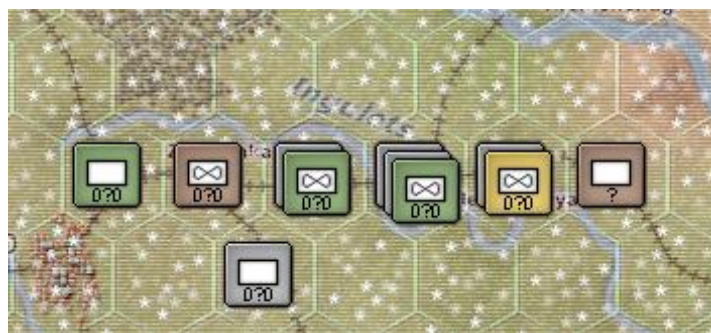
The South



Situational Assessment

In the South, the only interesting development is the disappearance of the German Panzers.

Recon has revealed, that two of them are in Stalino/Gorlovka but that still leave some four or five that has simply vanished. However, far to the west, on the railline from Dnepropetrovsk to Kirovograd there are German units stacked with what I have dubbed “Peltons Worm”, the string of airfields and HQ he places on the southern rail lines. At the beginning of my turn, one of these units showed the Panzer tactical symbol, but after extensive reconnaissance, I have no further information.



Planning

Assuming these “Mystery” German units are the German Panzers going west by rail, I have decided to attack them by air one last time. This quite intrigues me, as I have never done any real air attacks on units loaded onto rail before, and I have no idea of what kind of result I can expect.

Other than this attack, I will spend my time digging in all over the front.

Execution

The attacks on the German units at Kirovograd proved that they are in fact the missing Panzers (by reading the reports), but no result came of the attacks at all.

Instead, I have spent the turn digging in. As part of my fortification efforts, both the 9th and the 19th Armies of the Southern Front has been pulled off the line and placed in reserve.

Below is an image of the situation at Crimea as I end my turn.



Conclusion

Nothing much has happened this turn, as the Germans have withdrawn their prime divisions for R&R back in Germany. I realize that I just have to wait and prepare for whatever the Germans decide to do next.