

Strategic overview

Turn 40: Strategic Considerations

Situational analysis

____ SPECIAL ____						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2697	433557	0
-	Port	73	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	181	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2511	42	52097	4906170	0
-	Vehicle	114	0	182008	313076	0
-	Heavy Industry	195	0	0	3457700	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	2496000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	1394640	0
-	Resource Production	168	8	0	6586000	0
-	Armaments Production	288	0	47179	2862875	0

The main news this turn are as follows,

- North of Moscow, the Germans have destroyed the two encircled divisions and encircled two more, that I could not withdraw last turn due to a lack of movement points.
- At the Crimea crossings my defenses still hold. The fortification level of my units at the crossing is actually slowly increasing from 1.08 two turns ago to 1.28 last turn to 1.50 this turn.
- The losses report this turn shows no German losses, so something must have gone wrong. Adding up the attack reports show German losses of 101 Aircraft.
- The Germans have put reinforcements back on for his Panzer Divisions. This turn, the German OoB has climbed with no less than 530 AFV and is now 4769. The Luftwaffe can muster some 2945 machines.

Losses this turn are as follows,

Type	Axis	Soviet
Men	?	39142
Guns	?	489
AFV + SP/AC	?	39
Aircraft	?	25

Even with the influx of new tanks to my STAVKA reserves, I still have 1541 Medium tanks in my reserve pool. My Logistics Phase report shows that I am short on both light tanks and heavy tanks. I will hopefully be able to get those up to strength during the coming mud season. I also have a spare of armaments that is currently 47179. However, according to my logistics phase report, the Red Army is 1.410.252 men short of its ToE. I have just lost too much manpower during the 1941 calamities.

I now have no less than 8895 Rifle Squads (-) in my reserve pool. They keep getting returned by units upgrading to new and improved stuff, but they are not yet getting recycled into elements that can be used in my other divisions. In this turn, my forces hold some 31400 of these elements, they wanted 1501, they received 583 and returned 2189. In short, I return them a lot faster than I use them, but still they are not

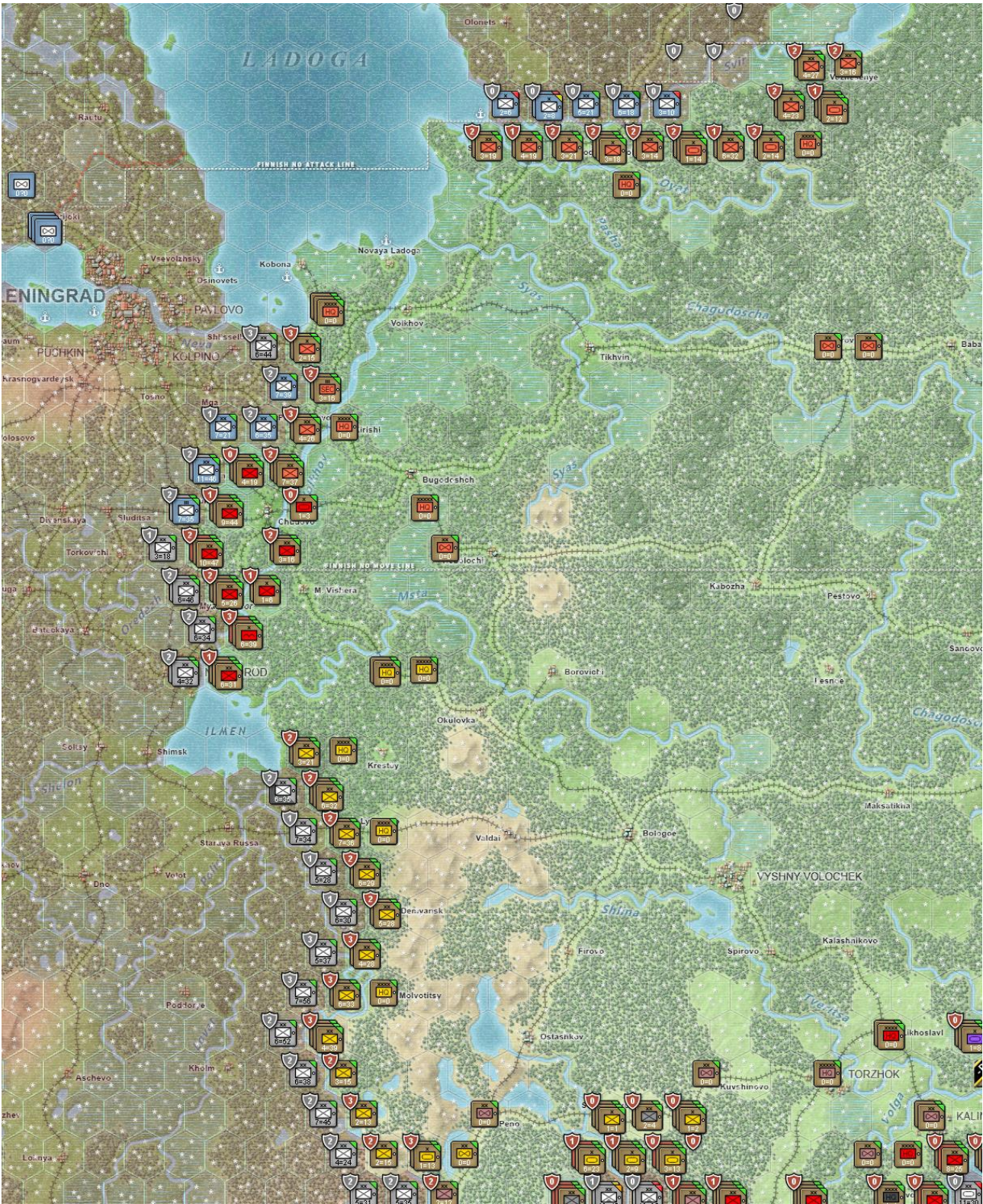
getting recycled. I have 543 units using those elements, and I have upgraded 61 units this turn to 42a Rifle divisions that do not have the Rifle Squad (-) in it's ToE.

Out of pure interest, I will keep an eye on those elements as we go through the mud period, to see if they start getting recycled. After all, I have nearly 25 full Rifle divisions doing nothing in my reserve pool. I need them very much for constructing fortifications all over Russia.

I will also set all Rifle Infantry units directly under STAVKA to 100% MaxToE, to see if these 8895 elements get cycled out to my reserves over the next few turns. If they do, it is great news, as I have my modern rifle elements in my front units and my obsolete ones constructing fortifications in the rear.

Axis VP advantage is still 4.0 to 1.

The North



Situational Assessment

The only Axis action in the north is some continued recon missions spread out over the front. No attacks have taken place and no considerable troop movements are visible either.

Planning

I am slightly concerned with the lack of available reserves in this area. For this reason, I have decided to rail in a massive three Airborne brigades to start construction on a secondary fortification line running northwest from what is the northernmost point of the western German attack wedge where they have attacked the Kalinin Front.

Such a line would allow me to shorten my front by some six hexes, freeing up at least one Soviet Rifle Army in the process.

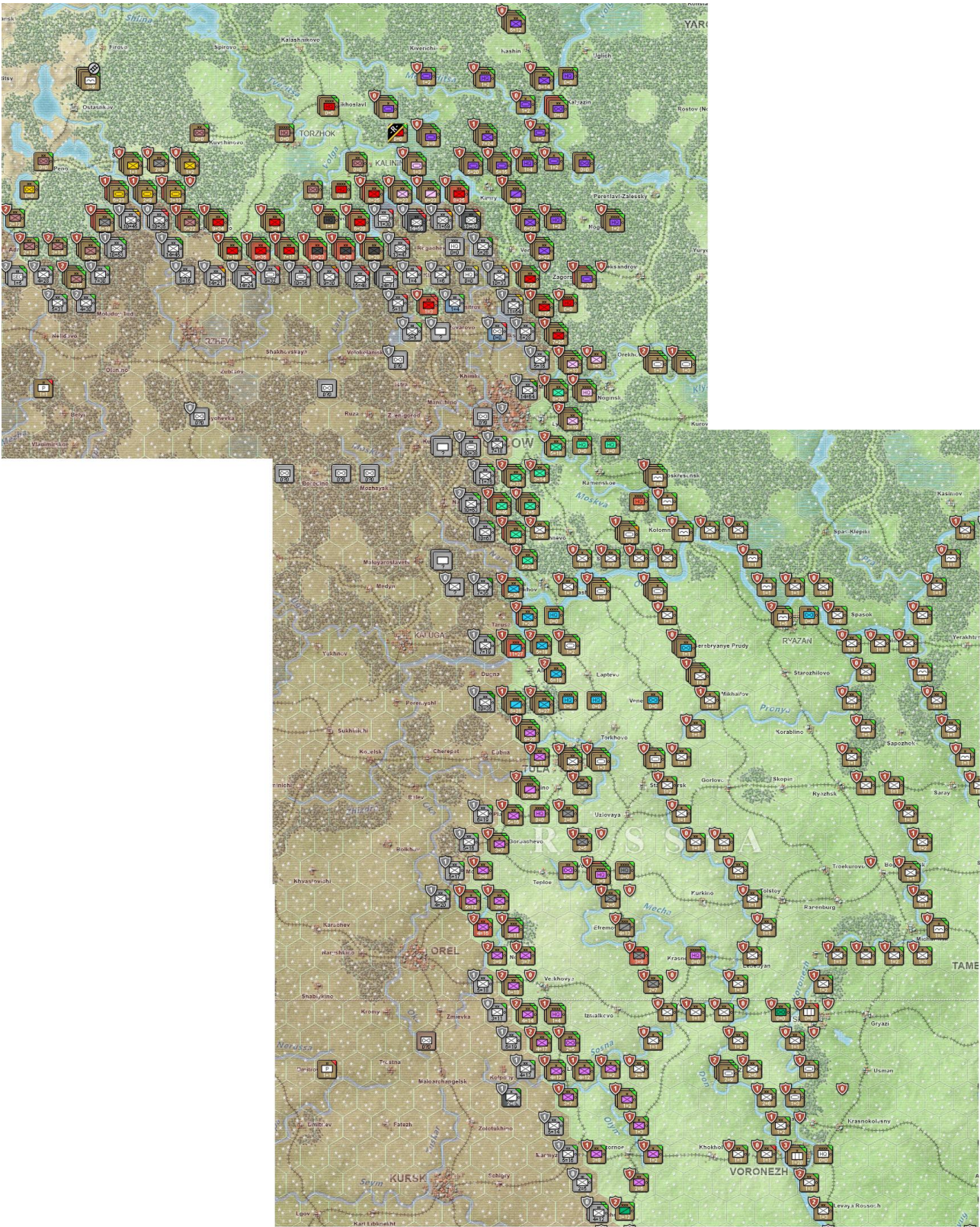
Apart from this, bombing will continue against the Finnish airbases north of Leningrad. As I will not move my own airfields this turn, I hope for better results than last turn. If my attacks fail, I will switch my bombing attacks over to night attacks on subsequent turns. I expect little from these attacks, but the lack of Finnish aircraft production mean that even a few losses will have an attritional effect on them.

Execution

The attack report from the bombing attack on the Finnish airports speak for itself. Further attacks on the airfields are cancelled for now.

Axis Forces Defending:		< 2 of 3 > 79,14 - Light Woods(Terijoki) - Snow Turn:40 1942-03-19		Soviet Forces Attacking:	
		Forces Engaged			
Finnish Air Command		DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0	ATK: men 0, art 0, afv 0	Leningrad Air Command	
21	Fokker D.XXI(F)	DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0	DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0	30	LaGG-3
10	G.50(F)	LOST: men 10, art 0, afv 0	LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0	52	Hurricane IIB
67	M.S.406(F)	DEF: ftr 98, bmr 0, utl 0	ATK: ftr 82, bmr 59, utl 0	59	SB-2
		LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	LOST: ftr 13, bmr 6, utl 0		
36	-> 88mm Anti-aircraft Gun	ground forces were BOMBED			
36	-> 40mm Anti-aircraft Gun				
		Show Details	Exit		

The Center



Situation Assessment

In the center, a few attacks have taken place, and the Germans have encircled another two of my divisions. The two divisions encircled last turn have been destroyed. The Germans have also conducted a lot of recon missions along the front.

It seems the Germans are no longer intent on further attacks before the muddy season. It looks as if they are consolidating their front. They still have eight Panzer divisions and six Motorized divisions in the area just north of Moscow. On top of this, they have deployed one Panzer division to each side of the Moscow urban area.

Planning

As the main number of German aircraft losses in this area last turn were actually losses they took when flying intercept missions against my ground bombing attacks, I will switch the main part of my attacks from the airfields to focus on the German Panzers and Motorized divisions.

I will use my long range level bombers to attack the German transport airfields, hoping to destroy as many of those aircraft as possible before the German summer offensive.

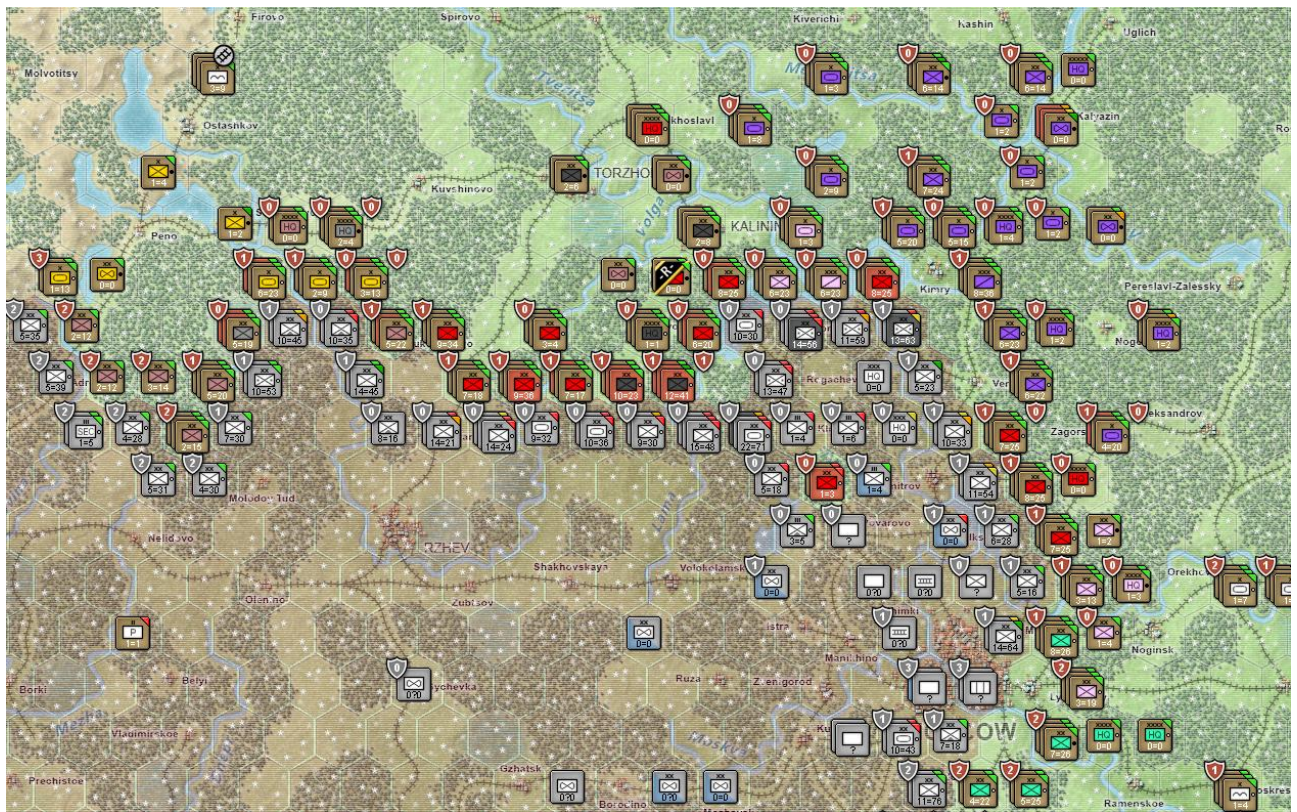
South of Moscow, I will do some minor front adjustments and attack with my local U-2VS, but nothing much will happen here.

Execution

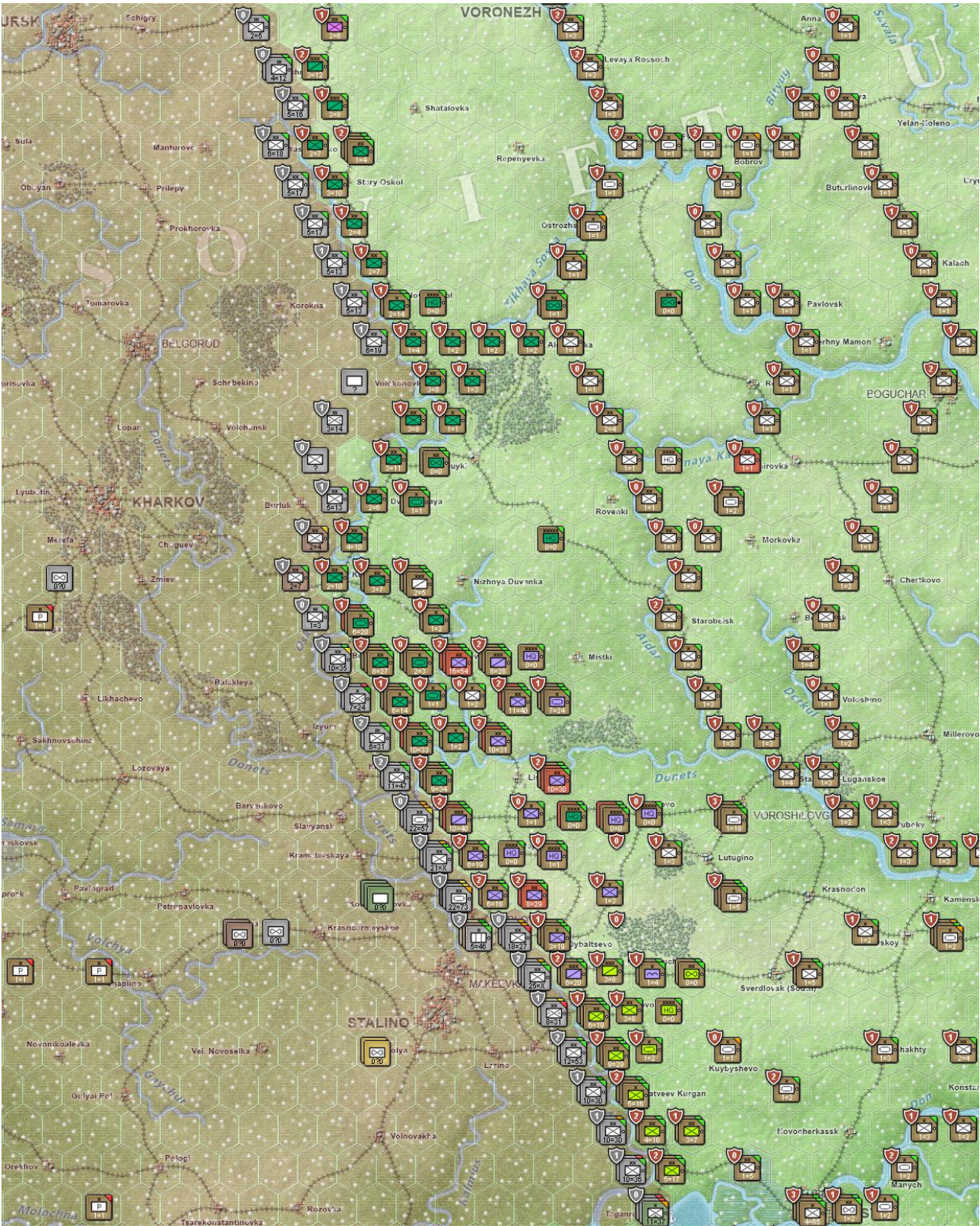
The fighting north of Moscow has been done by air this turn. Losses have been moderate, as the Germans are no longer intercepting my attacks on the German ground troops with their main fighter force. This has resulted in few German fighters lost (18).

On the ground, I have merely been digging in further.

Below is an image of the situation north and west of Moscow, as I give the turn to Pelton.



The South



Situational Assessment

In the south, the Germans have shifted their Panzers a little south again, and they are now poised to attack in the area immediately north of Gorlovka. I do not expect an attack with one turn left to mud. But as the Germans say "Sweat saves blood", so I will prepare for it nonetheless

North of Crimea, my defense is looking stronger and stronger, and it is now likely, that my defense of the crossing will last until the mud comes. German air losses are still looking good, as the German stukas are suffering from their attack losses.

Planning

Once again, I will do little attacking other than by air, focusing instead on digging in as much as possible.

In the air, I will again attack the Axis minor airfields and do some bombing of the German Panzers.

On the Crimea, I will begin preparing the 47th Army for withdrawal to the mainlain. The Army is currently doing fortification work around Sevastopol, but it seems there will be no immediate need of it. The Germans will not arrive in this area until after the muddy season, and I need the army to dig in on the Don river, in order to enhance my defense of the Caucasus.

Execution

Little has happened on this section of the front this turn.

The only attack I did do in the south was this one, where the Luftwaffe decided to support their Rumanian allies.

1 of 3 > 110,85 - Clear - Snow Turn:40 1942-03-19		
Axis Forces Defending: III Rum. Corps 1st Rum. Infantry Division (38) II/Guard RM Cav Bn (2) I/3rd RM Hvy Hwz Bn (0) Rum. Combat Air Command 9 Ju 88A 6 He 111H-6	Forces Engaged DEF: men 15538, art 151, afv 0 DAM: men 274, art 6, afv 0 LOST: men 100, art 4, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 15, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 13, utl 0 1st Rum. Infantry Division RETREATED Show Details Odds 12.11 : 1	Soviet Forces Attacking: 26th Army 21st Rifle Division (43) 114th Rifle Division (28) 411th Rifle Division (31) 11th Tank Brigade (6) 233rd Art Rgt RVGK (2) 236th Art Rgt RVGK (1) Southwestern Air Command [v] CV: 111->266.5 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: 26th Army GM Nikolai Pukhov
CV: 40->22.0 Fort: 0.36->0.00 Comm HQ: III Rum. Corps GdB Vasile Atanasiu	Exit	

The defense of Crimea is looking ever stronger. I now have three guards divisions guarding the crossings and another four in reserve just behind them. The army is led by Vatutin and has three sapper regiments along with plenty of gun batallions attached.



Conclusion

Losses this turn are as follows

	Axis Phase		Soviet Phase		Total	
	Axis	Soviet	Axis	Soviet	Axis	Soviet
Men	?	39142	3696	299	?	39441
Guns	?	489	254	2	?	491
AFV	?	39	2	2	?	41
Aircraft	?	25	81	128	?	153

I expect the next turn to be relatively quiet, as there is little point in big maneuvers just before the front drowns in mud. After six expected turns of mud, the front will clear, and the Germans will reveal their intentions for 1942.