

Strategic overview

Turn 48: Strategic Considerations

Situational analysis

SPECIAL						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	3985	525563	0
-	Port	73	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	181	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2501	5	39747	5695137	0
-	Vehicle	114	0	157804	323908	0
-	Heavy Industry	195	0	0	4294250	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	3008000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	1680720	0
-	Resource Production	168	8	0	7951000	0
-	Armaments Production	288	0	237345	3607775	0

I have realized yet another lesson on game mechanics that make several of my previous AAR's erroneous. When opening the losses report at the beginning of the turn when playing the Soviets, the error report shows the losses of BOTH the previous Axis AND the previous Soviet turn. Thus, the 100+ Bf 109F-4 losses that the Germans took during my last turn shows up on this turn's initial loss report.

As a consequence, the losses I have reported earlier were erroneous, and I will have to correct the way I report losses in the future. During the previous two phases, the total losses were as follows:

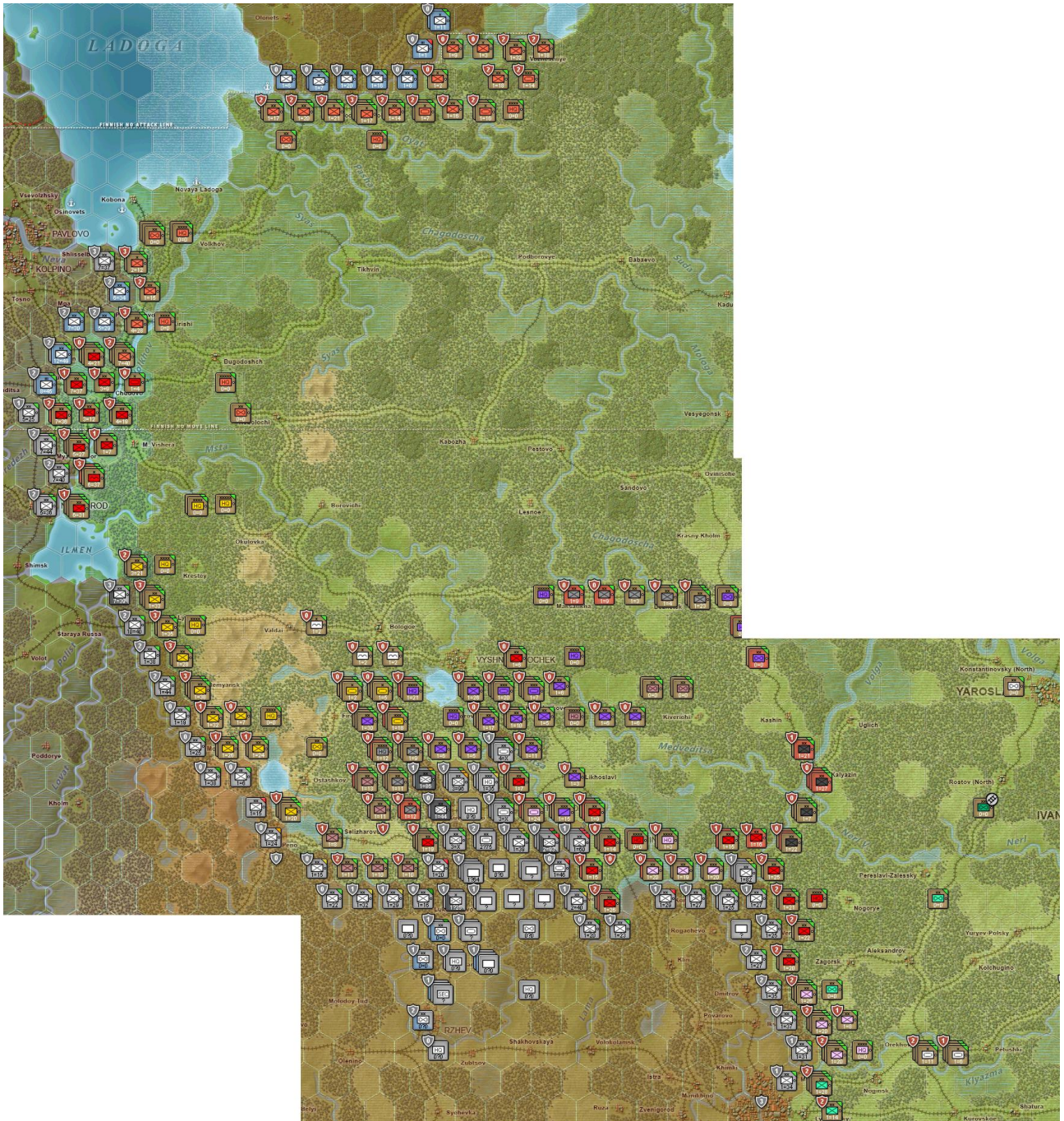
	Prev. two Phases	
	Axis	Soviet
Men	29456	44606
Guns	1011	605
AFV	60	50
Aircraft	366	513

The main news from the German turn are as follows:

- At Tolzhok in the north, the German Panzers are still in positions on the front, hoping to renew the attack northwards.
- North of Stalino, the Germans have conducted two infantry attacks in the area where the weather is clear. The German Panzers south of the city remain in their positions.
- The Germans have suffered a lot of bomber losses in unescorted bomber attacks in the south. While the loss of 513 Soviet aircraft seems excessive, I now produce 512 new aircraft each turn.
- The weather forecast predicts mud north of the Kharkov Bend and clear weather south of it.

Axis VP advantage is 4.2 to 1.

The North



Situational Assessment

The Germans have advanced their rail repair all the way up next to Torzhok, hoping to take the city quickly and push further north. They have also done massive supply drops on their northernmost divisions in the attack wedge.

However, as the weather prediction for next turn in this area is still mud, I expect little aggression from the Germans yet.

Planning

I will continue to pull back the divisions threatened by immediate encirclement once the mud is over. However, I will also be placing three infantry divisions in Torzhok and several more in Vysny Volochek and the swamp to its northeast. The reason for this is that those areas are essential for the German FBD's to keep moving north, and thus help define the depth to which the Germans can penetrate.

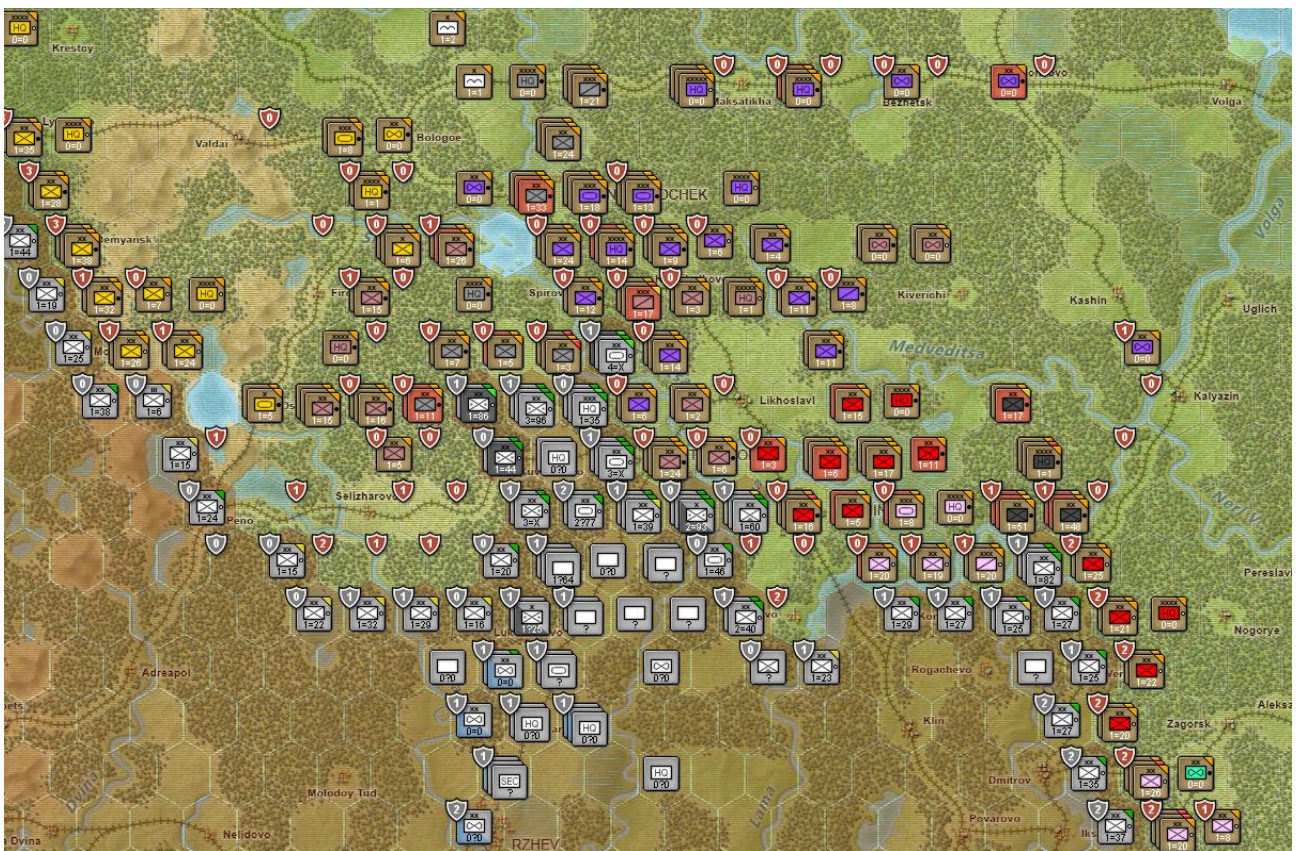
In the air, I intend to continue my bombing campaign against the Germans units in the wedge, primarily to see if the Luftwaffe will respond and suffer further casualties. However, I will not be using one of the newly arrived dog fighter airfields for those attacks, instead placing it so that it may intercept the expected German supply runs to their divisions come the next German phase.

Execution

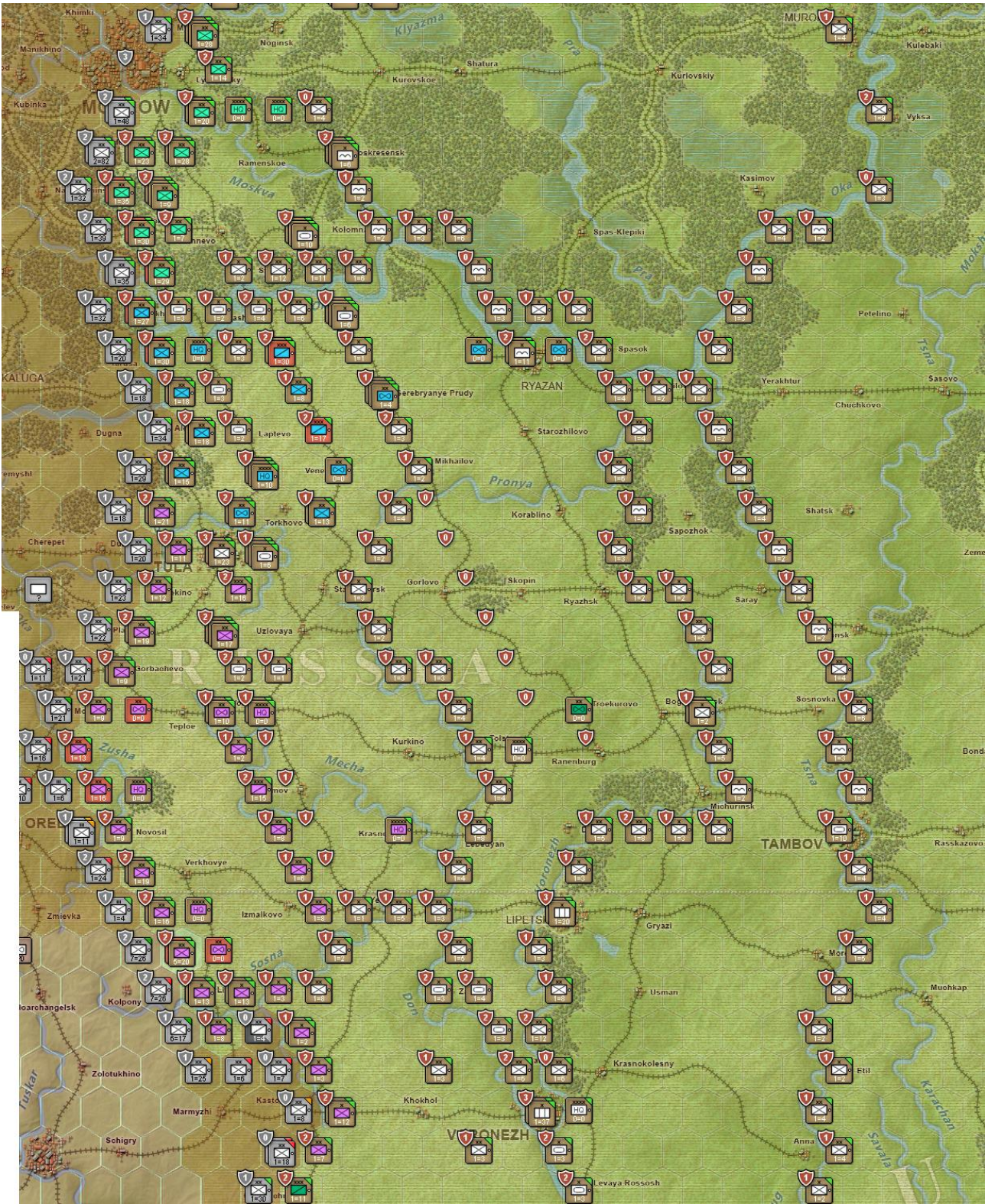
As the Germans have not been flying offensive missions with their fighters this turn, they are well rested resulting in heavy Soviet losses in the dog fights over this part of the front. Consequently, I have not carried the ground bombing attacks all the way through, instead deciding to wait for the renewal of the German ground offensive and with it, the use of the local Luftwaffe fighters.

The Germans have conducted a lot of interdiction in this area this turn, but as it was flown without fighter cover, the German bombers have suffered as a result.

Below is an image of the Torzhok area, as I give the turn to Pelton.



The Center



Situation Assessment

The only interesting development on this stretch of front is that the Germans have advanced and made contact with my lines in the area east of Kursk. My divisions in this area are not strong enough to hold the line, even against a limited German infantry thrust.

Planning

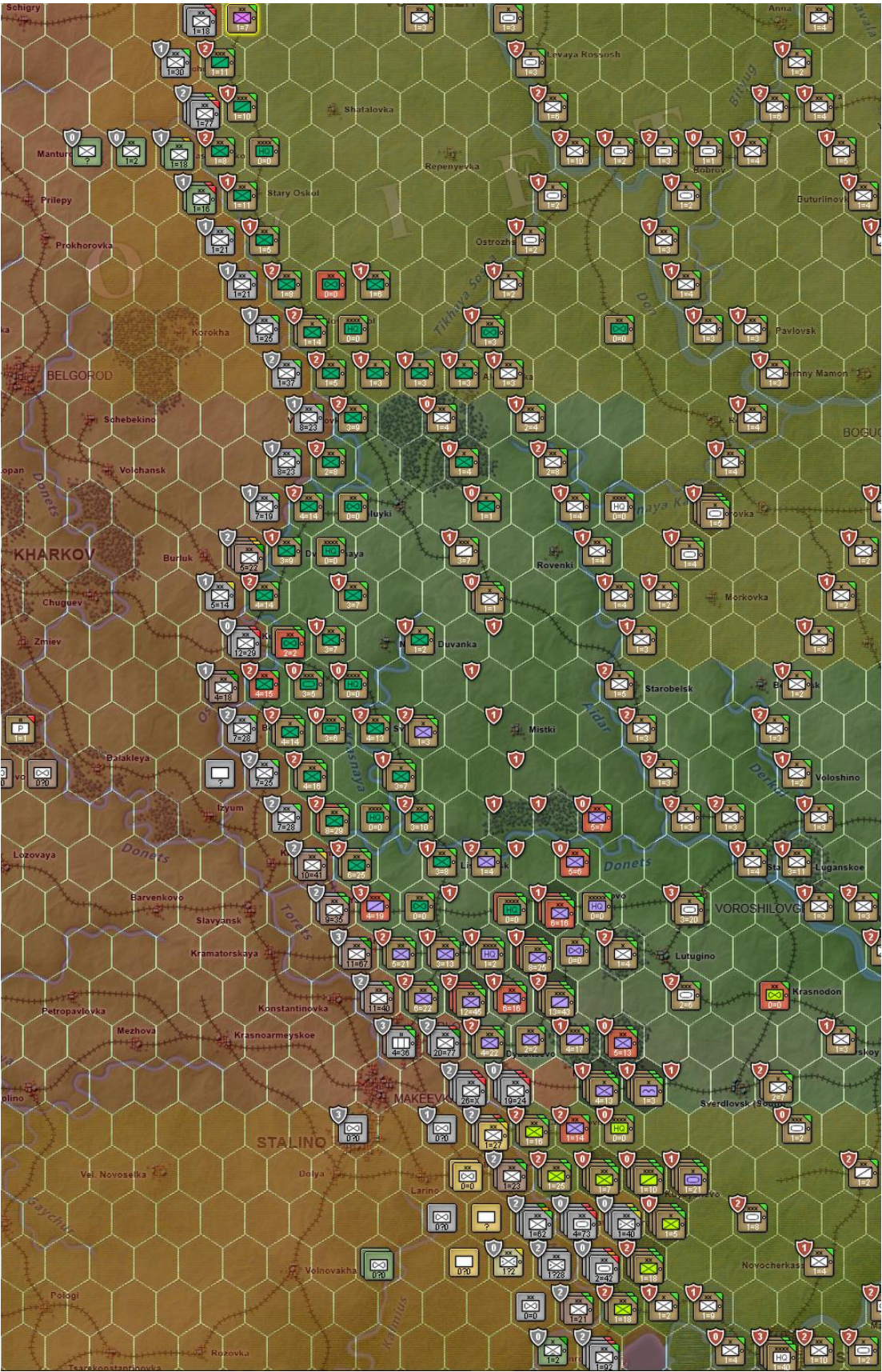
I will regroup slightly in order to strengthen the endangered sector of front.

Other than that, I will simply continue to conduct the usual ground bombing attacks on the Germans.

Execution

There is nothing worthy of reporting happening on this sector of the front.

The South



Situational Assessment

In the south, the Germans have attacked twice with infantry in the area straight east of Gorlovka. Those attacks have been done with the usual unescorted bomber support, and the Germans have suffered heavy bomber losses as a result.

The Crimea is so uneventful, that I do not bother to print an image of this area.

Planning

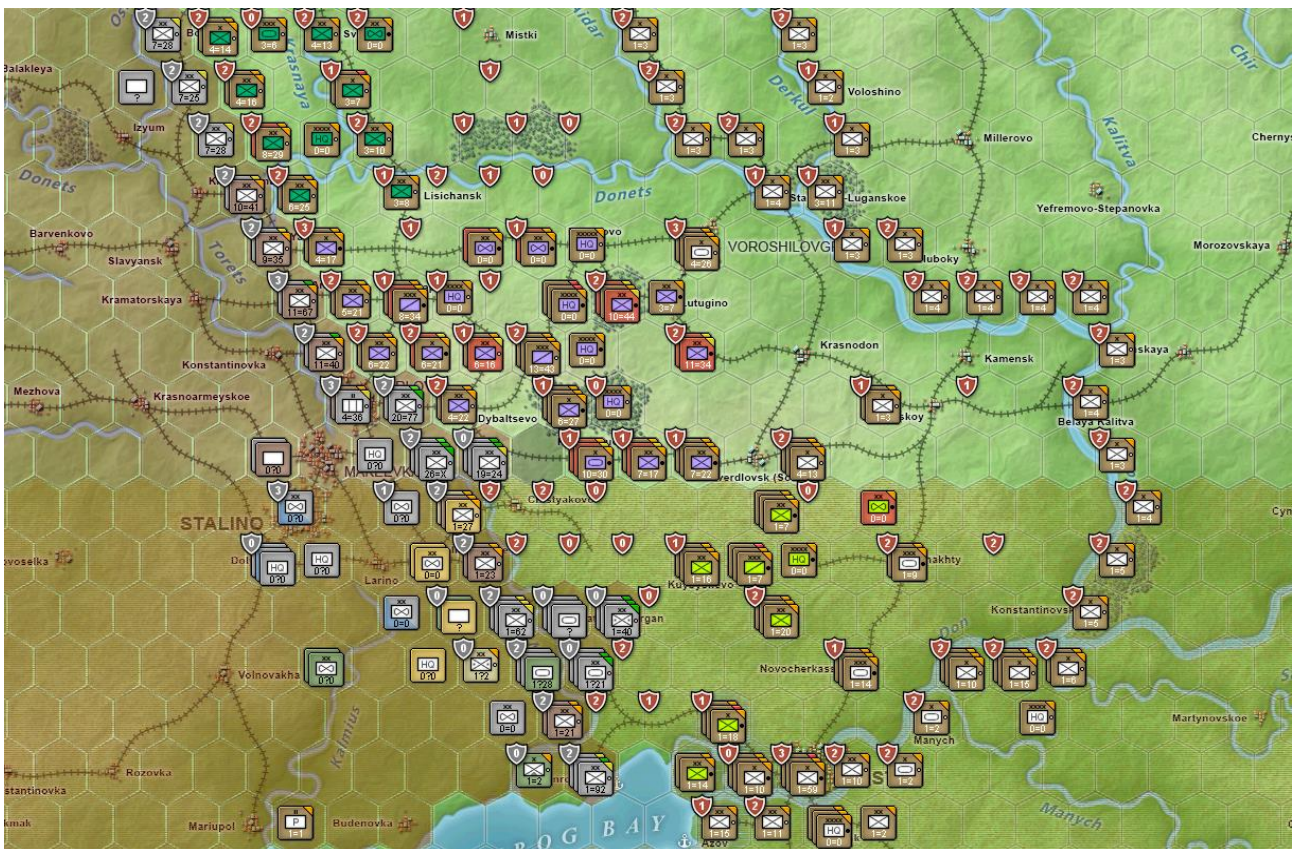
In the south, my main objective is to delay the German Panzers while not losing too many divisions myself due to encirclement. In order to do this, I will withdraw ever so slightly and then place strong defenses based on my fortifications in the area. Even though next turn is clear, I do not think the Germans will have a full fuel tank for far reaching moves come next turn.

I will also continue bombing the Germans wherever I can.

Execution

As I regrouped my divisions for future fighting, the Germans have also conducted interdiction missions in this area, but once again without fighter support.

Below is an image of the frontline at Stalino, as I give the turn to Pelton.



Conclusion

This turn has been “a waiting turn” where both sides has spent their time preparing for future combat once the weather improves. In the south, that should happen next turn, while the Torzhok area will probably have to wait for one more turn.