

Strategic overview

Turn 54: Strategic Considerations

Situational analysis

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-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2555	587466 0
-	Port	67	0	0	0 0
-	Railyard	179	0	0	0 0
-	Manpower	2453	6	39435	6283582 0
-	Vehicle	114	0	145865	332177 0
-	Heavy Industry	195	0	0	4905300 0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	3392000 0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	1895280 0
-	Resource Production	157	0	0	8963000 0
-	Armaments Production	288	0	363145	4151825 0

Heavy fighting have occurred up and down the front, but I have lost no divisions due to surrendering this turn, which is good news.

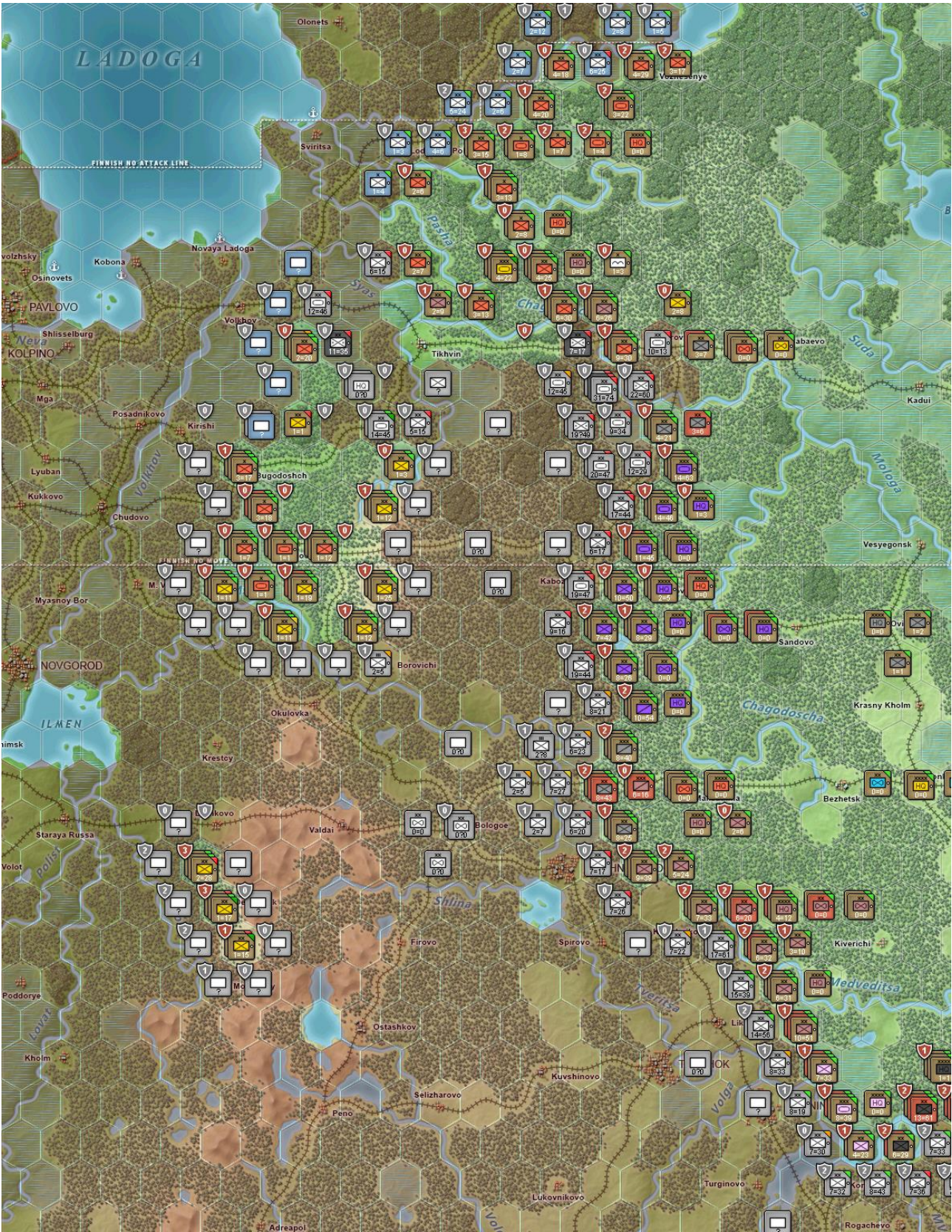
The main news are

- Yet again, the initial losses report has been borked and the Germans have lost no troops for an entire turn.
- In the north, the large encirclement has been reestablished and the Germans have pushed northeast, hoping for even greater encirclements in the future.
- At Voronezh, the Germans have halted their advance, and it looks as if a stalemate has come about.
- The Germans have encircled Rostov and taken a couple of hexes as a buffer on each side of the city. It looks as if we are in for a siege.

My fighter reserves are dwindling fast, and I now have only 237 Yak-1's and 390 LaGG-3's in my reserve pool. However, my production of T-34's has reached 200 pr turn and I have more than 3000 in my reserve pool. Next turn, my 20 Tank corps will start to upgrade, which will consume some 59 T-34's pr Corps, for a total of 1180.

Axis VP is 4.0 to 1.

The North



Situational Assessment

The Germans continued their push in a northeastern direction. I still count a massive Panzer presence, with a total of twelve Panzer and eight Motorized divisions revealed. I suspect there are a few more around, as several German units does not have a high detection level. The forward Panzers have broken through my defensive line and threatens to continue their move to the shores of Lake Onega.

Almost all Panzers and Motorized divisions are now in the red fuelwise, so I expect no more than one more round of pushing forward, before the Panzers need to halt their advance for a while. At the very front of the German advance sits the 6th Panzer division and it's presence mean that several of my units have a hard time withdrawing.

In the air, the Germans have used a truly massive air presence over the few battles fought, but for some reason, the Luftwaffe air bases have disappeared after that. I suspect there can be three reasons for the disappearance of the German fighter bases:

- They can have moved back towards Germany to refit. The fact that the Germans have used up to 300 fighters as ground support in one of their battles suggests that this might not have been necessary.
- They can still be in the area, but have been really lucky to avoid detection. I also deem this somewhat unlikely.
- They can have been moved south to deal with other parts of the front. I think that especially Rostov might be a good guess as to where the Luftwaffe main force will turn up next.

Just north of Moscow, I notice that the Germans have pulled back some of their infantry opposing my 20th Army of the Western Front. This army is in fact one of my strongest infantry armies with a lot of support units attached and a very good commander.

Planning

The main effort this turn will be focused on extracting the forward Soviet divisions in the north. In order to do this, I will withdraw the main lines another hex towards the Chagodoscha River. In the north, I will use the Tank Corps and some infantry forces to attack the 6th Panzer division in order to ease the withdrawal of several other divisions.

Inside the pockets, I will fly in new supplies for the units that show supplies in the red, but little else.

At Moscow, I will strike south with my 20th Army, hoping to shorten the front and to inflict casualties on the Germans. I will also try an attack to the east of the 20th Army, hoping for a lucky punch, but not really expecting one.

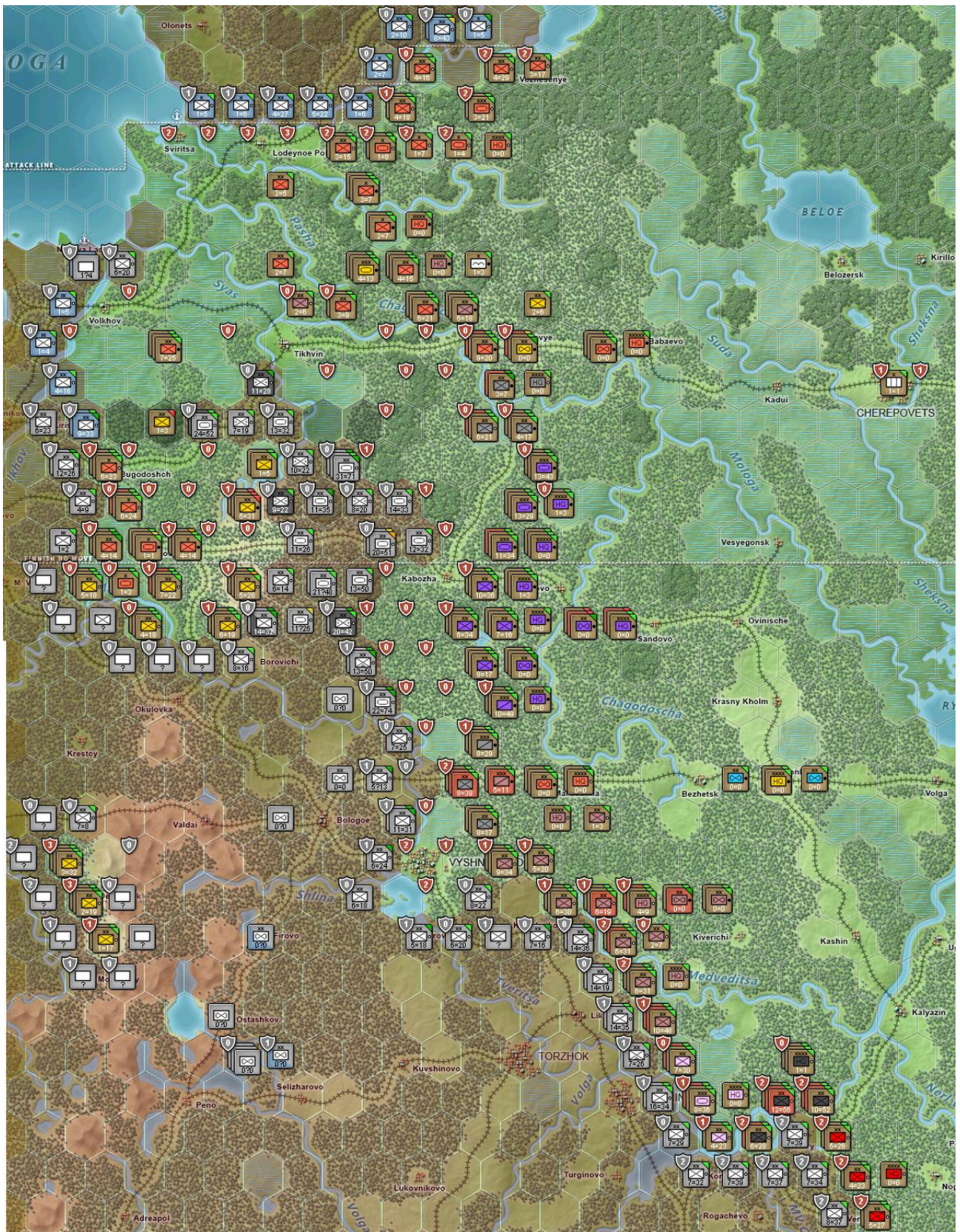
Execution

The initial attack on the 6th Panzer division was a success, with some Panzer losses for the Germans. Of the tanks lost, 13 were Pz III's.

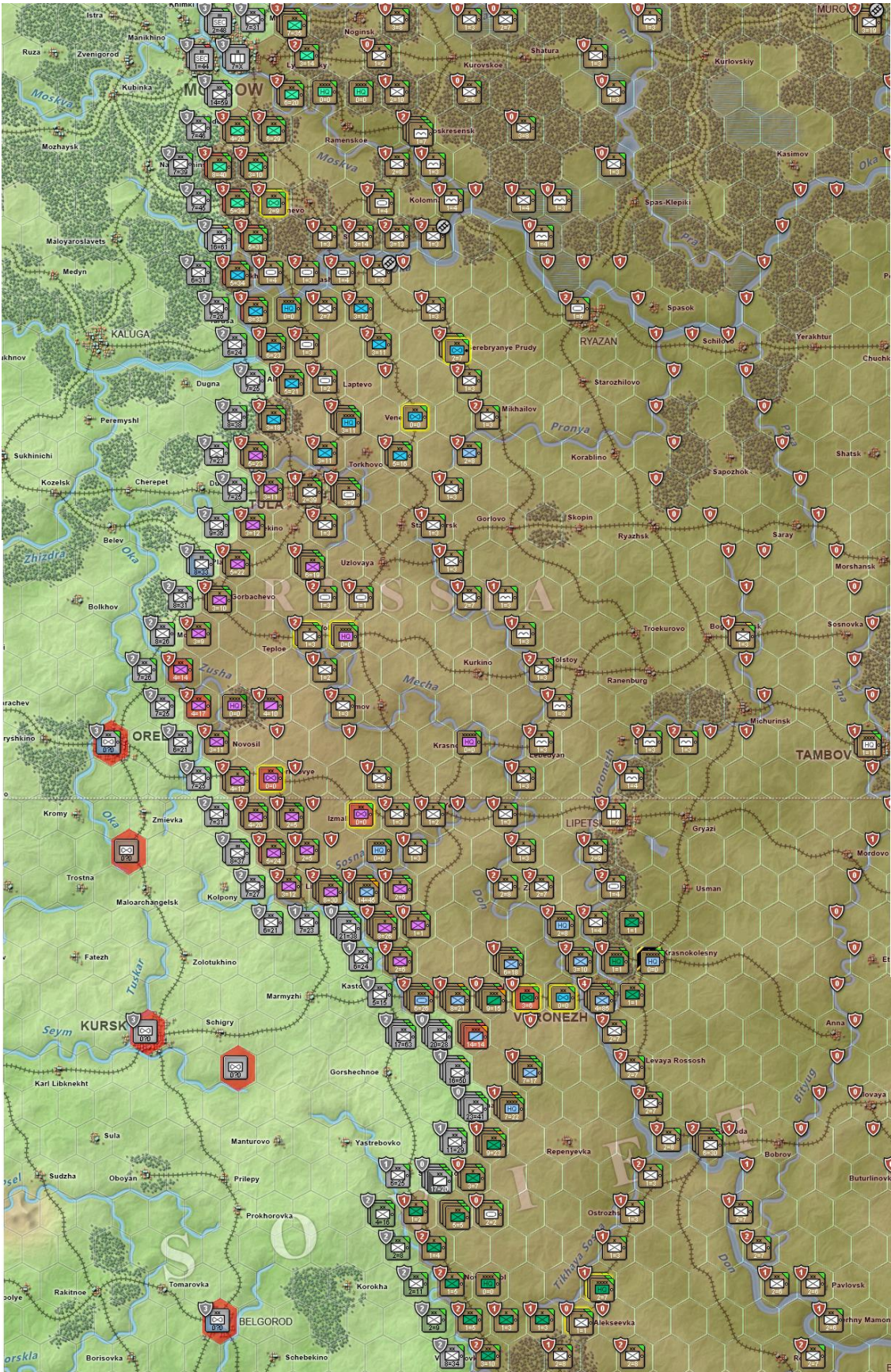
Axis Forces Defending (W): LVI Panzer Corps 6th Panzer Division (105) I/106th Artillery Battalion (0) IV/109th Artillery Battalion (0) 815th Hvy Hwz Bn (0) 244th Stug Battalion (2)		1 of 3 > 98,17 - Clear(Podborovye) - Clear Turn:54 1942-06-25		Soviet Forces Attacking: 2nd Shock Army 4th Tank Corps (26) 1st Tank Corps (26) 2nd Tank Corps (23) 122nd AT Artillery Regiment (0) 107th Sep. Tank Bn (4) 109th Sep. Tank Bn (4) 110th Sep. Tank Bn (4)	
34 -> 88mm Anti-aircraft Gun		Forces Engaged DEF: men 15873, art 136, afv 199 ATK: men 87439, art 1158, afv 1036 DAM: men 344, art 7, afv 3 DAM: men 625, art 6, afv 35 LOST: men 256, art 13, afv 29 LOST: men 635, art 4, afv 44 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 ATK: ftr 29, bmr 8, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 4, utl 0		6th Panzer Division RETREATED	
CV: 107->66.2 Fort: 0.00->0.00 Comm HQ: LVI Panzer Corps GL Erhard Raus		Show Details Odds 8.76 : 1 Exit		CV: 220->580.2 Eng Val: 8 Comm HQ: 2nd Shock Army GM Mikhail Katukov	

At Moscow, it took two attacks to dislodge the division opposing the 20th Army and because of that, I decided not to do any further attacks at this location.

Below is an image of the North, as I give the turn to Pelton (taken before the attack at Moscow).



The Center



Situation Assessment

In the center, the Germans have been sending ever more troops into the line west of Voronezh. I am somewhat surprised that Pelton has so many infantry divisions available for this attack. Personally, I might have shipped three or four of them south to deal with Rostov.

A few attacks have been launched by the Germans, but nothing with any devastating effects. However, it seems I have little opportunity for attacking, as the Germans have far more CV in the area than I. In fact, the Germans now threaten an attack against the northernmost divisions on the Southwestern Front, which will be an attack I can not withstand.

Planning

I will start pulling the Southwestern Front divisions back towards the rivers Don and Tikhaya Sosna, but will not withdraw all the way just yet. By creating a small buffer between the Soviet and the German divisions, I can force the Germans to spend extra movement advancing, which should mean they will be less able to attack and force breakthroughs.

In the air, I will obviously keep on pounding the Germans the best I can.

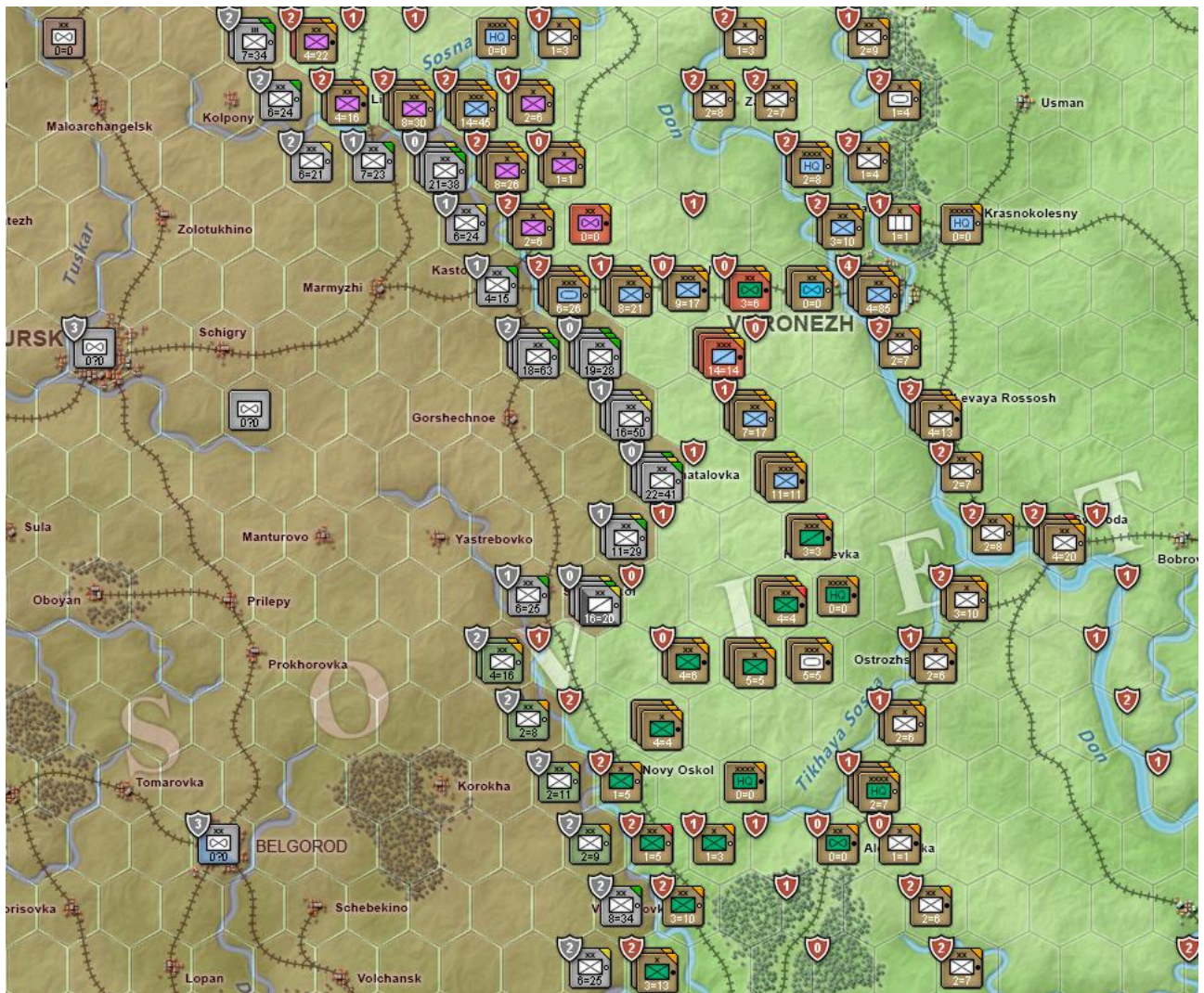
Execution

I decided to do a couple of attacks on the northern part of the line with the divisions of the Bryansk Front, mainly to dislodge some German divisions from their increasingly strong fortifications. The reasoning being that any dislodged units would suffer extra on subsequent turns from U-2VS bombing attacks. One of those attacks proved successful, the other failed.

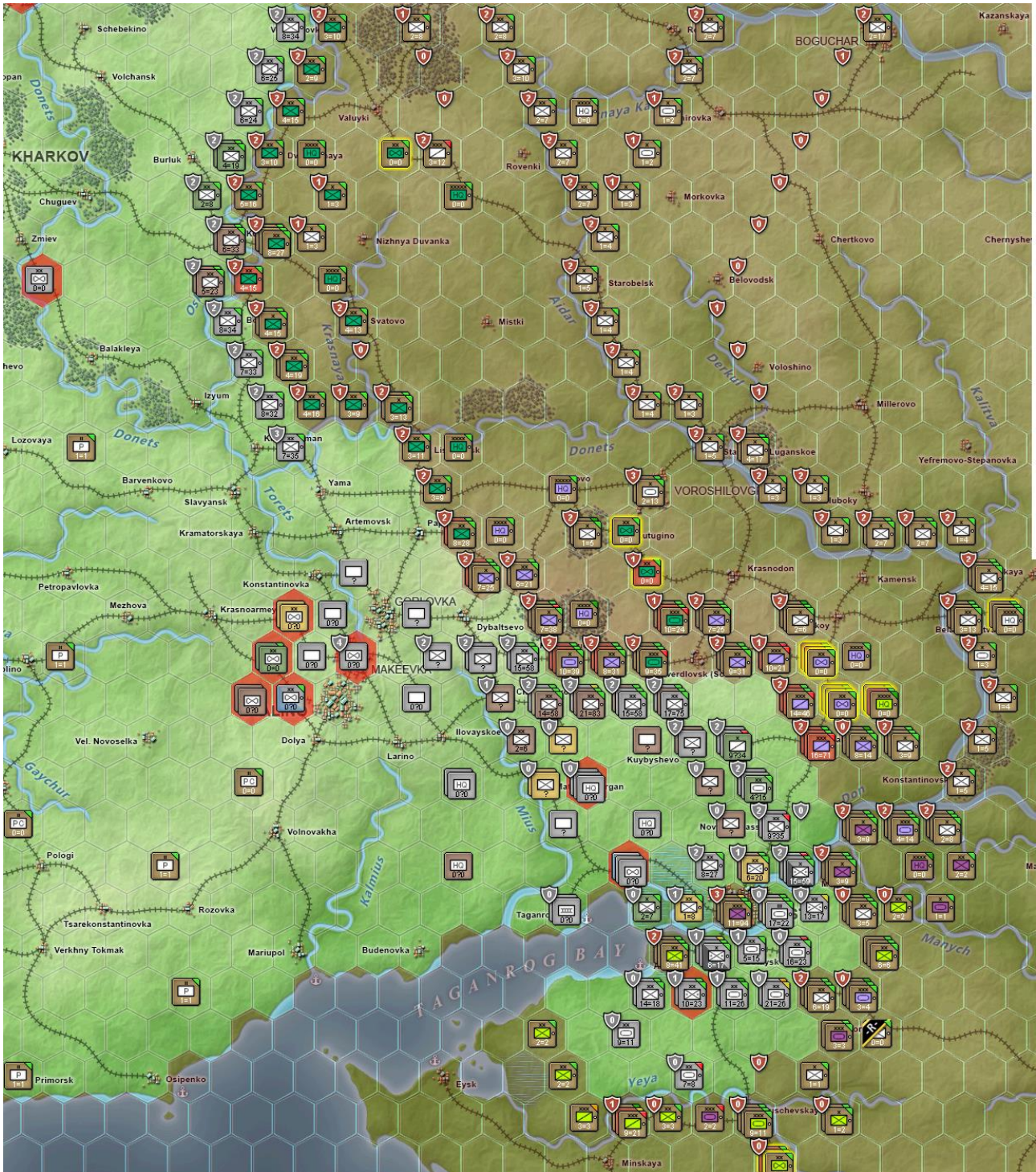
Those attacks did however reveal, that the German airbases from the north have been moved to the area around Bryansk. I guess they are on their way to Rostov.

Other than that, I have simply given way a little in the southern sector of the front.

Below is an image of the front west of Voronezh, as I give the turn to Pelton.



The South



Situational Assessment

On this sector, the Germans have established a strong Panzer line south of Rostov. They have not brought forward any divisions to actually attack the city yet. The Panzers are poorly placed for such an attack, being on the south side of the river Don.

The German Panzers have done quite a few attacks to get the positions they now hold, and their losses of AFV has been noticeable. However, the Panzers practically all still have green fuel indicators, so I should expect quite a lot of movement from the Germans come next turn.

Planning

I will try to dislodge both the German forward Panzers south of the river don this turn. I will start with the westernmost, and if successful, I will try to move as to “encircle” the other one before attacking it. This I hope could result in some more retreat attrition losses.

Execution

The first attack against the westernmost German Panzer was successful, but it withdrew to the very hex I needed to cut off the other Panzer. Looking at the situation a second time, this was in fact obvious, as a unit will not withdraw to come adjacent to an enemy unit. That was just bad planning on my part, and shows I am in need of improving my skill in tactical maneuvers.

Axis Forces Defending (W): III Panzer Corps 4th Panzer Division (92) 51st Nebelwerfer Regiment (2) 859th Howitzer Battalion (1) 101st Hvy Nbl.W. Bn (0) Luftflotte 4 1 Bf 109E-3 [v] CV: 95->104.6 Fort: 0.04->0.00 Comm HQ: III Panzer Corps GO Eberhard von Mackensen	1 of 8 > 120,105 - Clear - Clear Turn:54 1942-06-25 Forces Engaged DEF: men 15950, art 187, afv 157 DAM: men 133, art 7, afv 4 LOST: men 156, art 4, afv 8 DEF: ftr 4, bmr 77, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 39, utl 0 4th Panzer Division RETREATED Show Details Odds 3.28 : 1 Exit		Soviet Forces Attacking: 57th Army -25% 13th Tank Corps (15) Coastal Army -10% 1st Guards Cavalry Corps (43) 1st Guards Sapper Regiment (7) 41st Army -10% 14th Cavalry Corps (22) 102nd AT Artillery Regiment (0) [v] CV: 171->343.5 Eng Val: 10 Comm HQ: 56th Army GM Ivan Chernyakhovsky
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I then decided to attack this division a second time in order to force it back and allow for my “encirclement” of the first division, but I promptly made exactly the same mistake once again. Awful play on my part!

At this stage I decide to hit it a third time, this time with three Panzer Corps and nothing else. The reasoning being that by now this division had sustained no less than six Ground bombing attacks and two ground attacks in one turn. Even if I could not muster the same CV as the Germans, I figured that, win or lose, three Corps attacking a Panzer division might give some casualties.

It did. But not to the Germans...

Axis Forces Defending (C): III Panzer Corps 4th Panzer Division (66) 859th Howitzer Battalion (1) II/51st Artillery Battalion (0) Luftflotte 4 1 Bf 109E-3 2 Bf 110E-2 CV: 67->79.7 Fort: 0.00->0.00 Comm HQ: III Panzer Corps GO Eberhard von Mackensen	1 of 3 >	122,105 - Clear - Clear	Turn: 54 1942-06-25	Soviet Forces Attacking: Crimea Front -30% 17th Tank Corps (14) Southern Front -10% 18th Tank Corps (16) 16th Tank Corps (15) 4th Air Army 22 MiG-3 CV: 45->53.2 Eng Val: 2 Comm HQ: Southern Front GL Maksim Purkaev	
	Forces Engaged DEF: men 14156, art 118, afv 145 ATK: men 14927, art 219, afv 409 DAM: men 40, art 2, afv 4 DAM: men 406, art 3, afv 14 LOST: men 16, art 1, afv 0 LOST: men 355, art 2, afv 28 DEF: ftr 3, bmr 23, utl 0 ATK: ftr 43, bmr 5, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 4, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 4, utl 0				
	Defending Forces HELD Odds 1 : 1.49 Show Details Exit				

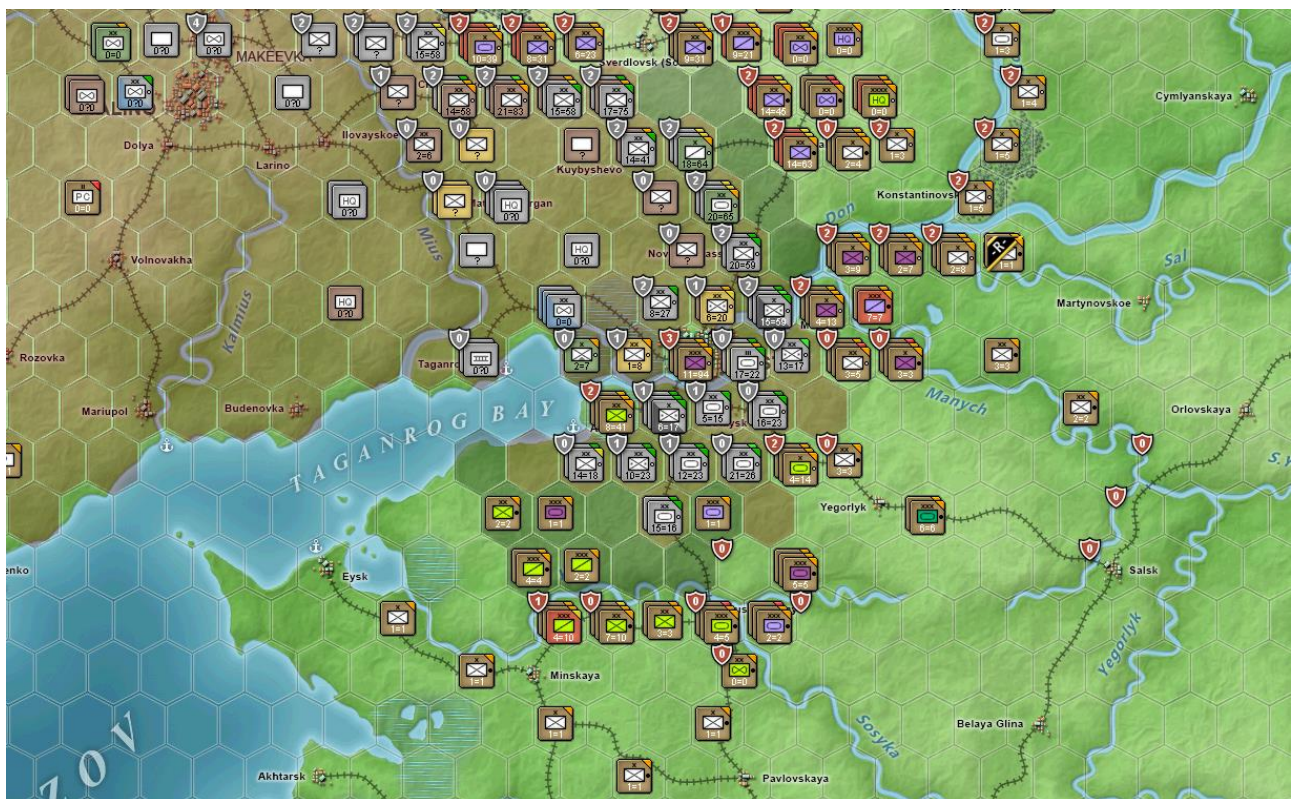
Finally, I then did my attack on the other German Panzer, and this gave another 10 dead Panzers

Axis Forces Defending (W): XIV Panzer Corps 16th Panzer Division (71) 282nd Mot. Flk Bn (0) 745th Pioneer Battalion (2) 743rd Pioneer Battalion (2) Luftflotte 4 3 Bf 109E-7/U1 CV: 75->94.1 Fort: 0.02->0.00 Comm HQ: XIV Panzer Corps GL Hans Hube	1 of 3 > 122,106 - Clear - Clear Turn:54 1942-06-25 Forces Engaged DEF: men 14885, art 112, afv 128 DAM: men 243, art 5, afv 1 LOST: men 186, art 8, afv 10 DEF: flt 0, bmr 27, utl 0 LOST: flt 0, bmr 23, utl 0 ATK: men 68196, art 977, afv 96 DAM: men 426, art 2, afv 3 LOST: men 419, art 5, afv 6 ATK: flt 52, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: flt 1, bmr 0, utl 0 16th Panzer Division RETREATED Odds 2.48 : 1 Show Details Exit	Soviet Forces Attacking: 58th Army -10% 8th Rifle Division (5) 41st Rifle Division (7) 430th BM Howitzer Regiment (0) 114th Gds Lt Rckt Rgt (1) 120th Sep. Tank Bn (0) 41st Army 65th Rifle Division (22) [v] CV: 77->234.0 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: 41st Army GM Pavel Korzun
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After these attacks, I have moved about my units to be placed in the best possible way to counter a German southward thrust. I do not think it will come, because if it does, it will mean that several German Panzers will be out of supply range until Rostov falls, and that is not likely to happen for a while to come.

The area south of Rostov is prime Panzer terrain, and both sides have some significant mobile forces in the area. If I get the chance, I will use that to drain the Germans of Panzers over the coming turns.

Below is an image of the situation at Rostov, as I give the turn to Pelton.



Conclusion

While I have lost no divisions this turn, that will most assuredly not last. Next turn I expect a significant drop in manpower. Both sides have some decent armor losses this phase, with 56 Axis going for 126 Soviet ones. The ratio is similar in the air, where the Soviets have lost 267 aircraft for 119 German ones.

Next turn, my Tank Corps will begin to upgrade, which should give me some real addition to their tank strength. I am hoping for a lot of tank attrition over the coming weeks. If I can bleed the German Panzers, the Wehrmacht is not really that intimidating.