

Strategic overview

Turn 57: Strategic Considerations

Situational analysis

____ SPECIAL ____						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2504	610089	0
-	Port	64	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	174	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2443	6	50807	6576006	0
-	Vehicle	114	0	135170	336406	0
-	Heavy Industry	195	0	0	5215500	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	3584000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	2002560	0
-	Resource Production	157	0	0	9494000	0
-	Armaments Production	288	0	374556	4419625	0

This has been another completely uneventful Axis phase.

The main news are

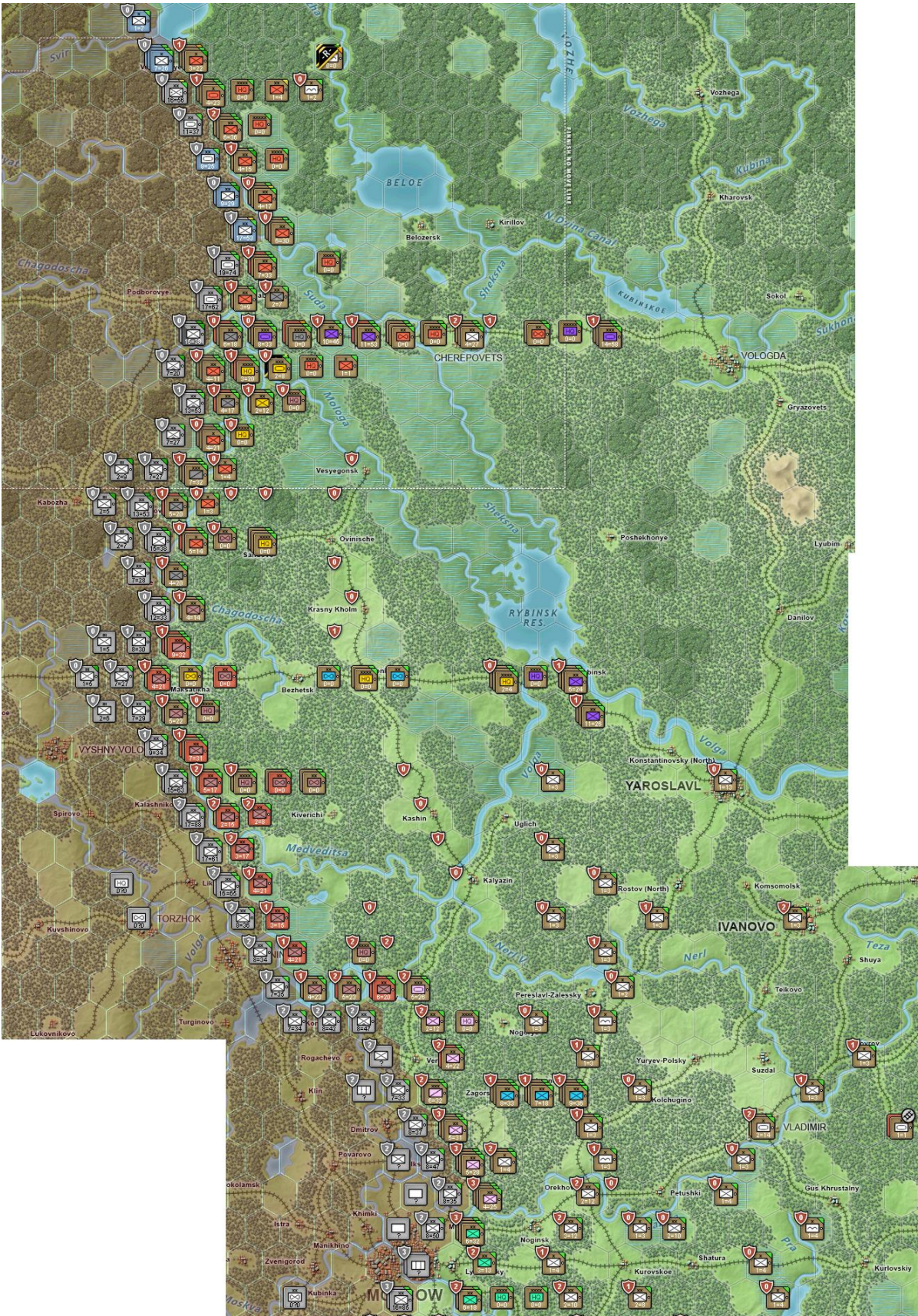
- Continued reduction of the pocket in the north.
- The German Panzers are still spread out along the length of the front.
- The Luftwaffe is building its strength and is now at 2430 aircraft.

I consider the current situation, where neither the Soviets nor the Germans do any significant attacks to be a great benefit for the Soviets. I do realize that the Germans are way ahead on victory points, but as this is the high summer of 1942, the Germans should be building their lead by destroying Soviet formations and generally making the rebuilding of the Red Army that much harder.

I will do my best to exploit this breather and build the Volkhov and Voronezh Fronts up for future offensive action.

Axis VP is back up to 4.0 to 1.

The North



Situational Assessment

In the far north, the Germans still have the same four Panzer's and three Motorized divisions as last turn. No attacks have been made other than to push my remaining few units southwest of Lake Onega back to the Soviet lines. The Panzers are still mainly in the red regarding fuel.

I notice that the northernmost Soviet units, standing at the shores of Lake Onega, are 44 MP from the nearest railhead. This puts an extra little pressure on my limited supply of trucks to move supplies.

To the south, I realize I made a mistake last turn by trying to stress the German lines with moving forward a couple of Tank Corps. In the future, I need to keep my front lines manned by infantry, and I can only hope the Germans did not capture many of the tanks I lost in the attack below.

Axis Forces Attacking (H):		1 of 1	100,18 - Light Woods - Clear	Turn: 57 1942-07-18	Soviet Forces Defending:	
LVI Panzer Corps 6th Panzer Division (56) 20th Motorized Division (41) 52nd Nebelwerfer Regiment (1) 53rd Nebelwerfer Regiment (1) 1st Hvy Nbl.W. Rgt (1) II/61st Artillery Battalion (0) IV/109th Artillery Battalion (0)		Forces Engaged				
		ATK: men 48009, art 550, afv 477	DEF: men 13586, art 148, afv 665		8th Army	
		DAM: men 134, art 5, afv 9	DAM: men 881, art 11, afv 30		7th Tank Corps (56)	
		LOST: men 90, art 1, afv 1	LOST: men 122, art 11, afv 116		14th Tank Corps (47)	
		ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	DEF: ftr 30, bmr 9, utl 0		128th Sep. Tank Bn (5)	
		LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	LOST: ftr 1, bmr 2, utl 0		129th Sep. Tank Bn (5)	
		14th Tank Corps ROUTED			130th Sep. Tank Bn (6)	
		7th Tank Corps ROUTED			144th Sep. Tank Bn (6)	
					145th Sep. Tank Bn (5)	
CV: 176->543.8 Eng Val: 2					CV: 135->258.9 Fort: 0.08->0.00	
Comm HQ: LVI Panzer Corps					Comm HQ: 8th Army	
GL Erhard Raus					GL Filipp Golikov	
		Odds 2.10 : 1				
		Show Details			Exit	

From here stretching all the way to Moscow, little has happened. I have a somewhat "tattered" defensive line with units heavily mixed up, but no real German attacks have occurred.

Planning

In the far north I will fall back, hinging my defense on Lake Baloe, keeping only the 30th Army north of that lake. It is my hope the Germans and the Finns will follow, as it will place them further away from their own supply lines. I doubt they will come after me.

Other than that, I will spend some time ordering my front. It is my plan to move the 3rd and 4th Shock Armies of STAVKA into a sort of reserve, placing them behind the front in positions where they can do some digging work. As I then move up fresh divisions of the Northwestern Front, I will eventually be able to remove them entirely from this sector, or else use them for offensive action.

Execution

After having moved my units furthest north back and ordered my frontline in this area, I began doing the usual U-2VS bombing attacks. This went on quietly for a few minutes, until I got this result showing heavy German interdiction.

Axis Forces Defending: I Fliegerkorps 26 Bf 109G-2 4 Fw 190A	1 of 1 99,30 - Light Woods - Clear Turn:57 1942-07-16	Forces Engaged DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 25, art 4, afv 0 LOST: men 46, art 3, afv 0 DEF: ftr 30, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	Soviet Forces Attacking: 3rd Air Army 120 U-2VS
	ground forces were BOMBED		
	Show Details	Exit	

I followed up with a series of Recon missions, and by watching the direction of the intercepting forces, I was able to establish the Luftwaffe base as being placed in Torzhok.

I followed up with a night bombing attack on Torzhok, which gave another surprise.

Axis Forces Defending: 20 : 20 Fw 190A 31 : 39 Bf 109G-2 37 : 40 Bf 109G-2 27 : 31 Ju 52/3m 40 : 40 Go 244 26 : 29 Ju 52/3m 27 : 32 Ju 52/3m	1 of 1 99,35 - City(Torzhok) - Clear Turn:57 1942-07-16	Forces Engaged DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 0, utl 2	Soviet Forces Attacking: 1st Air Army 122 IL-4
	airfield was BOMBED		
	Show Details	Exit	

The Germans are now redeploying several fighter Air Groups and their best Transport Air Groups to this area. This seems odd, unless they are planning future offensive actions in the area. An attack leading them up to the Volga and the Mologda marshes might be coming in a few turns.

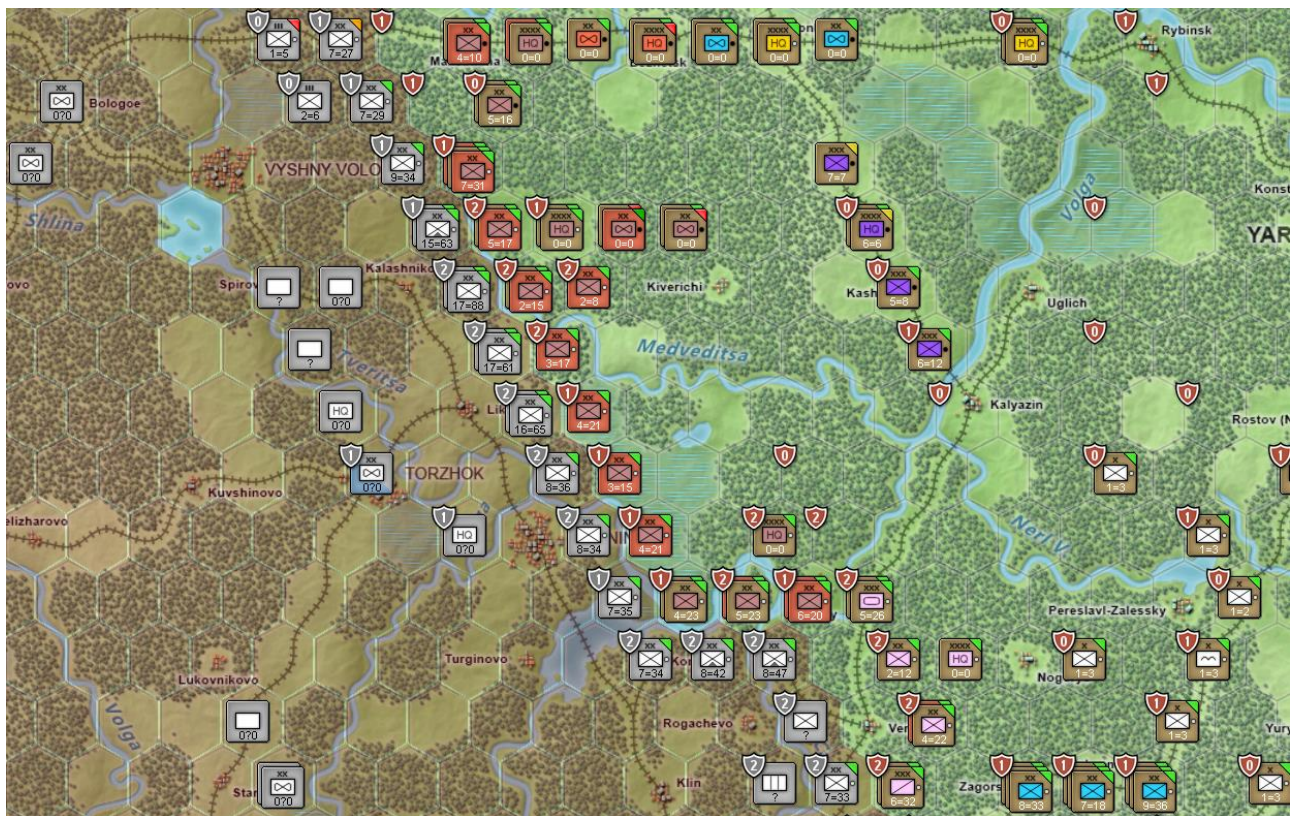
For now however, I needed to focus on giving casualties to the German fighters in Torzhok. For that reason I did another night bombing attack, moved the fighter airbases of the Leningrad Front nearby and started to escort the U-2VS as they bombed in this area. I then proceeded to do a series of daylight bombing attacks on the German infantry at the front and another series of daylight airfield attacks at the local German Recon airbases. All in order to draw out the Luftwaffe fighters. At the end of those attacks, the Axis had lost 50 aircraft for my own 65 this phase, including 29 Bf 109G-2's and 12 FW 190A's. The Luftwaffe base in Torzhok look like this, as I give the turn to Pelton.

552 - Torzhok (5)
 City
 Hex X 98, Y 35
 Minor River: E NE
 Rail: SW W NE
 Fort 1 (76%)
 Axis Rail
 6th LW Air Base (147/191) Det 5, SP 0
 I./JG 54 2 x Fw 190A
 II./JG 54 11 x Bf 109G-2
 III./JG 54 15 x Bf 109G-2
 I./KG zbV 172 27 x Ju 52/3m
 KGr zbV 5 39 x Go 244
 KGr zbV 500 26 x Ju 52/3m
 KGr zbV 900 27 x Ju 52/3m

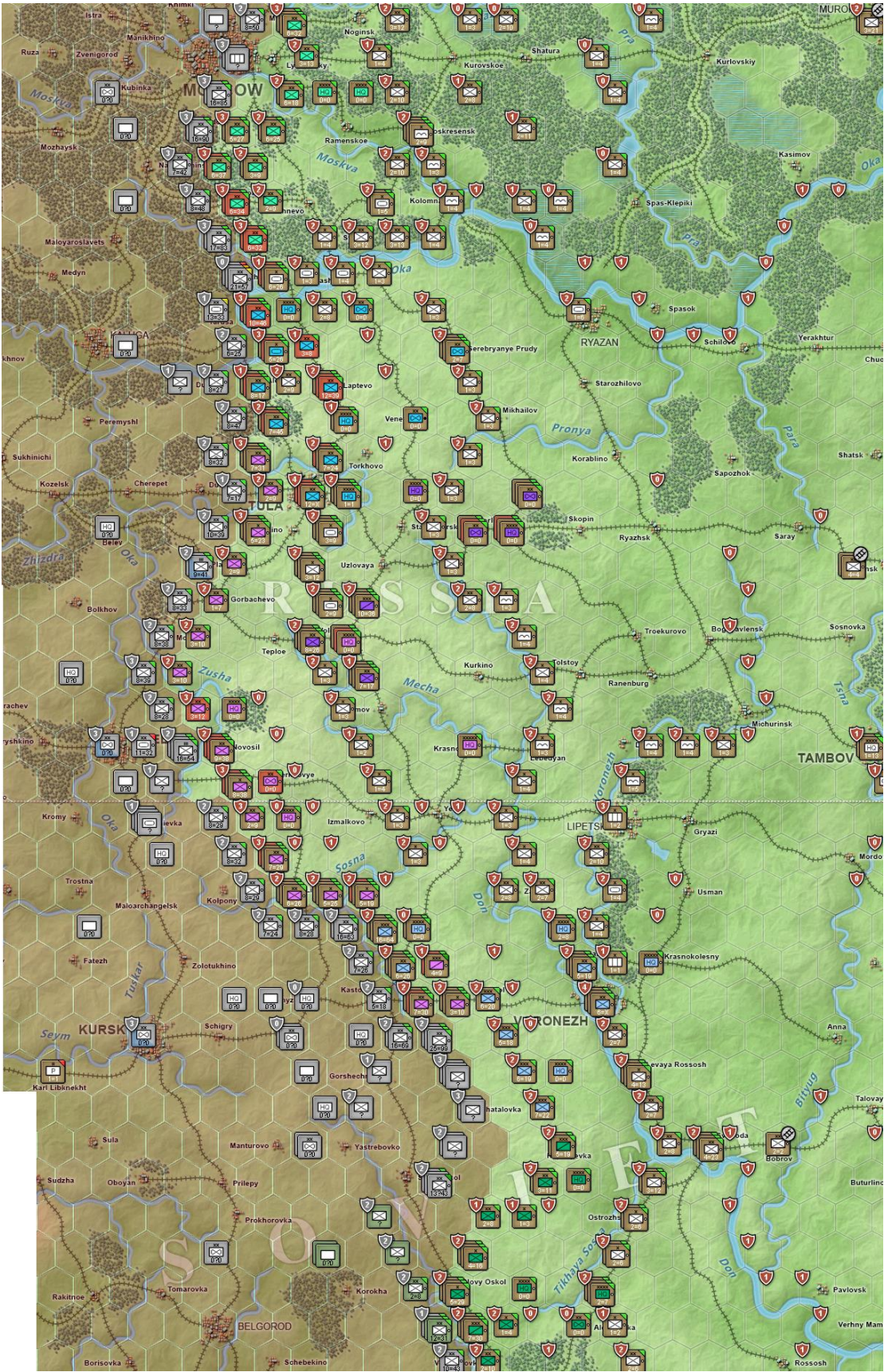
 Off Rail MP: 0
 Off Rail Range: 0

As a response to this deployment of Luftwaffe to the area, I have decided to postpone the redeployment of Volkhov Front forces in the area, as well as doing the Corps development on the 33rd Army, which is already in the immediate vicinity. If the Germans rail in a series of Panzers next turn and do their attack thing the turn after, I want to be ready.

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



The Center



Situation Assessment

In the center, the only development this turn, is that some of the German Panzers have been moved off the line.

Recon reveal that there are 12 Bf-109G-2's stationed in Kursk.

Planning

At this sector I will begin forming corps around the Volkhov Front army in the area. I will also be railig in another Volkhov army (the 33rd) from the north.

I will do a few attacks with my Bryansk Front hoping to draw out the Bf 109G-2's in Kursk and hoping to weaken the German lines by destroying some fortifications.

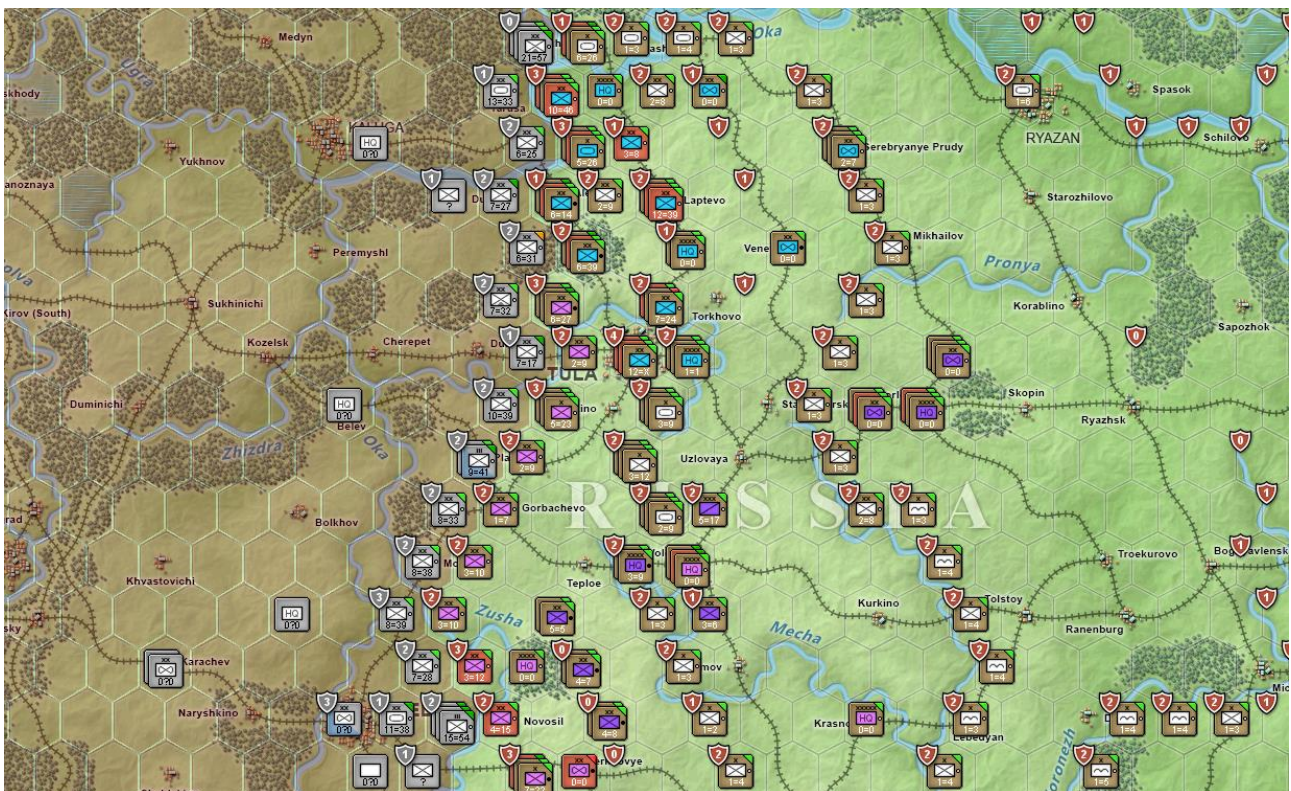
Other than that, it is up to my local U-2VS to do whatever damage they can (as usual).

Execution

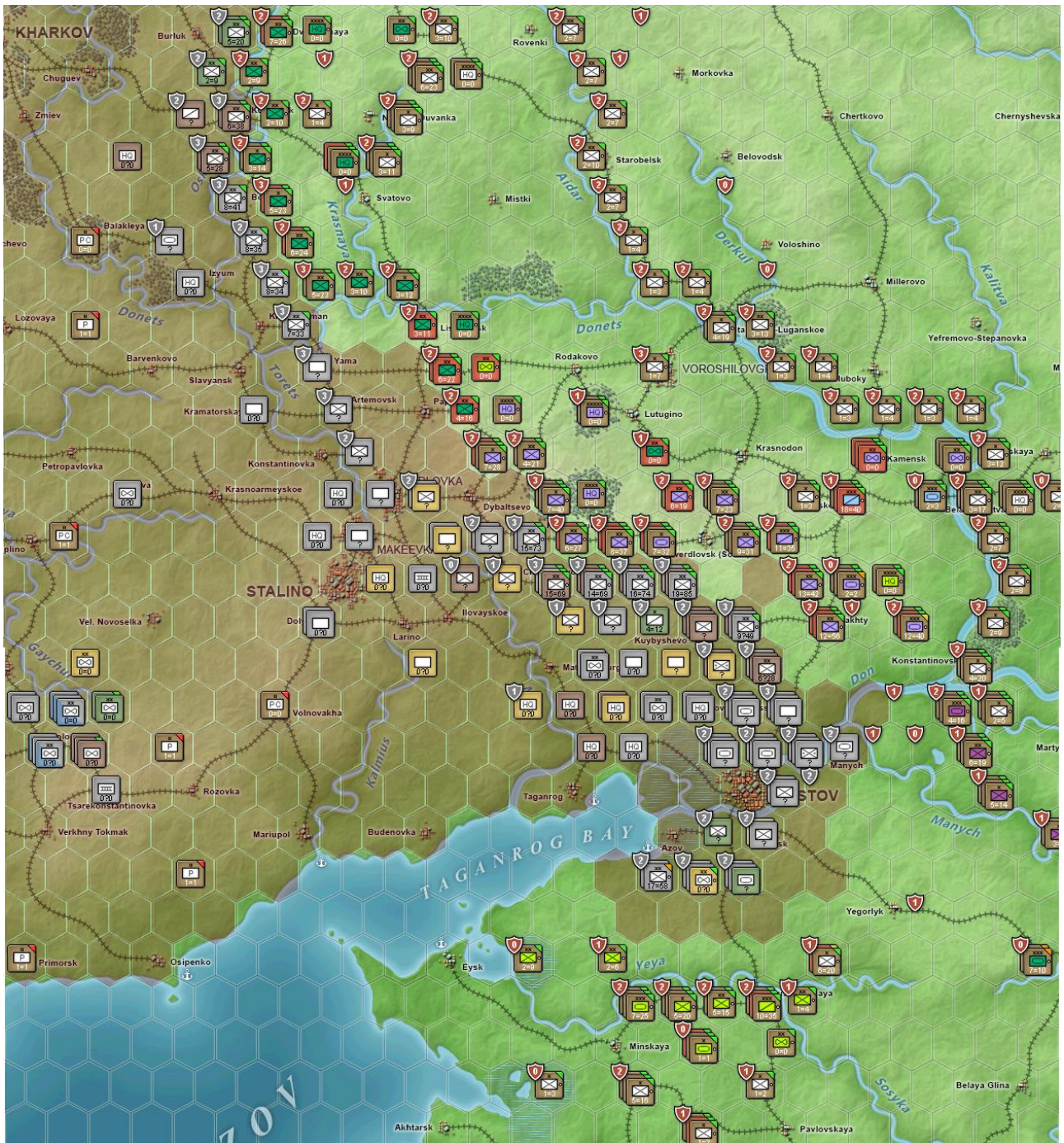
In the center, this has been another uneventful turn.

I have done a series of ground bombardments with my U-2VS and also a few attacks with my Bryansk Front, in order to draw out the Luftwaffe. While I have obviously lost a few men doing this, those losses are virtually non existent compared to the losses I have suffered from encircled units surrendering. On the plus side, I have used those attacks to inflict casualties on the Luftwaffe.

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



The South



Situational Assessment

In the south, once again, nothing has happened during the Axis turn, apart from a lot of recon flights.

The Luftwaffe is slowly building between Stalino and Zaporozhye.

Planning

On the ground, I will do next to nothing this turn, as I do not have the strength to attack the German fortified positions.

In the air, I will continue to attack the Luftwaffe bases in the west with a series of night attacks.

Execution

In the south, my first airfield bombing attack against the Luftwaffe bases was met with heavy interdiction on the part of the Germans. However, it seems that tactics has changed slightly, as the interdiction has been done solely by obsolete aircraft, mainly by two engine fighters.

Axis Forces Defending:	1 of 1		107,100 - Clear - Clear		Turn:57 1942-07-16		Soviet Forces Attacking:
	Forces Engaged						
	DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0			ATK: men 0, art 0, afv 0			
	DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0			DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0			
	LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0			LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0			
	DEF: ftr 57, bmr 0, utl 0			ATK: ftr 0, bmr 142, utl 0			
	LOST: ftr 25, bmr 1, utl 0			LOST: ftr 0, bmr 86, utl 0			
Luftflotte 1			5th Air Army				
49 Bf 110E-2			11 Yer-2				
8 Bf 110F-2			85 IL-4				
19 : 23 Ju 88A-4			34 TB-3				
12 : 12 Bf 109E-7/U1			12 Pe-8				
23 : 33 Hs 129B							
[v]			airfield was BOMBED				
Show Details			Exit				

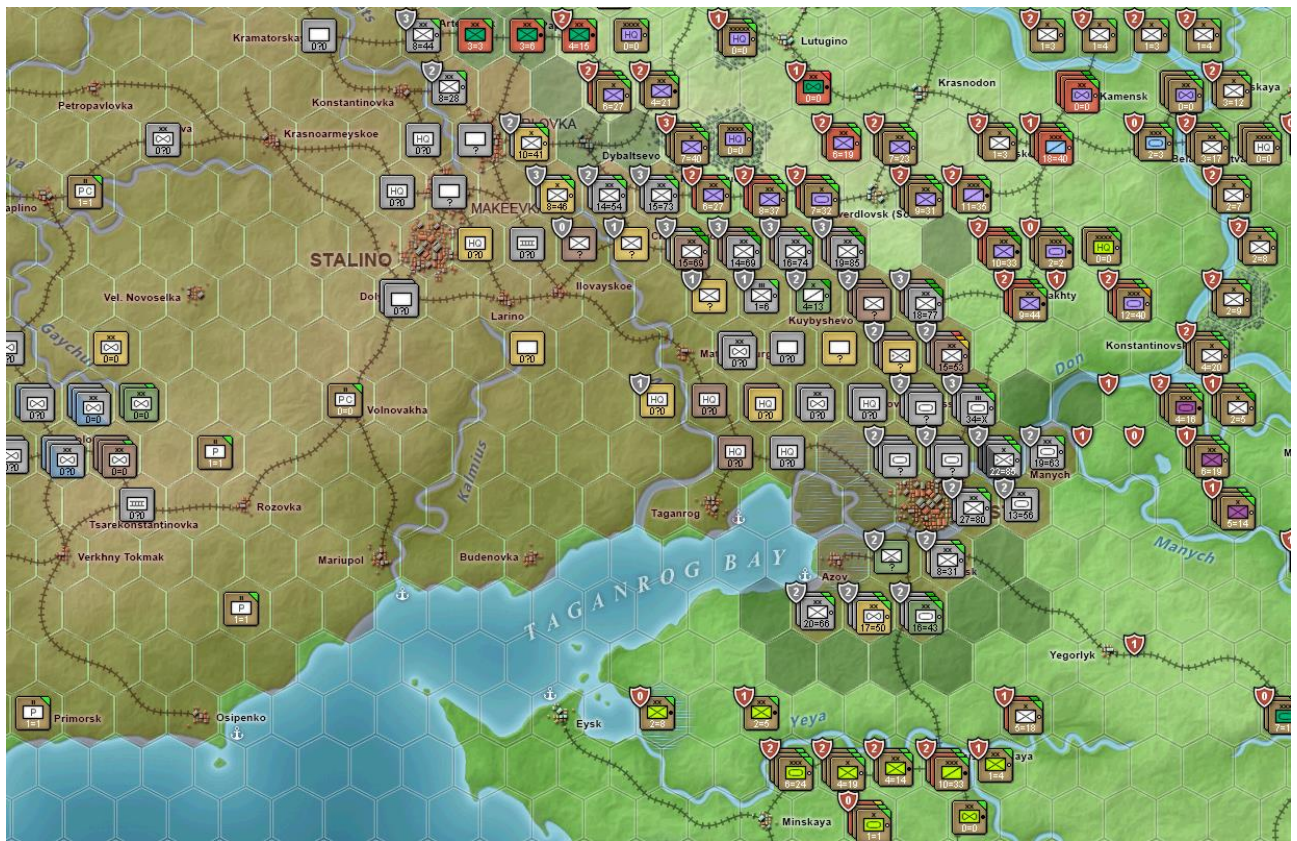
Obviously, this result has meant that some further analyzing needed to be done on my part. The good news are that the Germans lost about half their intercepting aircraft, which might imply a lot less interdiction on further attacks. The bad news are that my long range bomber fleet is now suffering greatly with IL-4 pool at 382 and DB-3B pool at 222. TB-3 pools however are almost dry, and I barely have enough aircraft to replace the ones lost here.

The losses incurred has also meant that I can not effectively send any large numbers of long range bombers to attack the Luftwaffe bases, so no further attacks on those were done this turn.

I then proceeded to do a single attack on the Germans north of the Don, in order to see if the Luftwaffe would fly. The reason for doing this was that I could support it with heavy airforces. The attack failed, Luftwaffe did not fly but losses were about equal.

Other than that, little has happened excet I made a mstake when reclaiming the no-mans-land northeast of Gorlovka.

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



Conclusion

As the Germans choose not to attack, and I still lack the strength to do so in any meaningful way, this has been yet another uneventful turn.

The main news are, once again, that the only real news regards the status of the Luftwaffe. This phase, the Axis has lost 199 aircraft for 291 of mine. My pools of long range bombers are dwindling fast, but so to must be the German pools of fighters.