

Turn 2, Strategic Considerations

____ SPECIAL ____						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2629	11855	0
-	Port	150	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	298	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	3610	16	403453	178095	0
-	Vehicle	140	0	91062	91400	0
-	Heavy Industry	236	0	0	118000	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	64000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	35760	0
-	Resource Production	196	0	0	196000	0
-	Armaments Production	370	0	1258369	92500	0

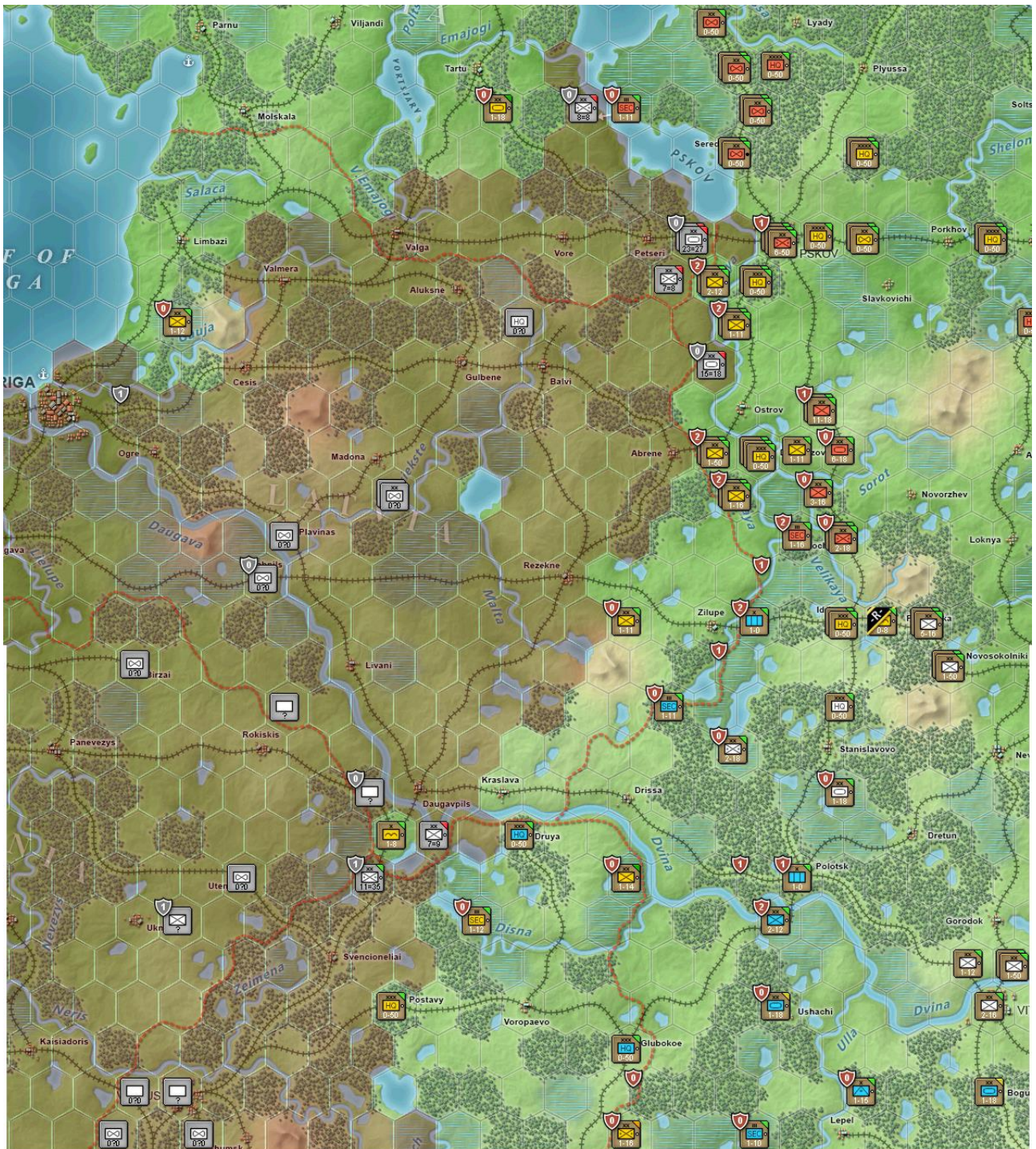
The German attack has moved on towards Pskov in the north, Vitebsk and Smolensk in the Center and Kiev in the south.

In the air, combat has caused a few more of my Air Groups to drop below 40 in morale, causing me to send those groups to the national Reserve.

On the plus side, I have a lot of Air Groups that was withdrawn last turn, that are now available for frontline duty again. I will set out with swapping the best morale Fighter AirGroups to LaGG-3's and Yak-1's in order to create some well protected Tactical Bomber Airfields come next turn. What will hit the front this turn is a lot of I-Type fighters.

Axis VP's are 154, which would mean a minor Axis win should the game end here.

The North



Situational Assessment

Surprisingly, it seems I can cut off the German armored spearheads with an attack by a Tank division and a Rifle division, both belonging to the Northwestern Front. Recon missions have shown no enemy units hiding in the area. If successful, I can prevent the flow of supplies to the northern attack for a full turn, which I certainly see as a great gain.

It seems the Germans are threatening to move a division across the Pskov lake into the swamps currently held by only one security brigade. I will need to strengthen this area.

Planning

Naturally, I will try the encircling attempt against the German spearhead. The two units involved totally hold less than 20.000 men, 250 guns and 120 tanks. This price is certainly worth paying for effectively delaying the German advance on Leningrad for a full turn.

I will also shift the Northern Front units in the area to the north, moving the units in Pskov city into the marshes to cover the crossing and the southern units north to create a new line stretching from Pskov over the swamps to the southeast and onwards towards Aschevo. My hope is that the unsupplied Germans will not have the strength to break this line come next turn.

Execution

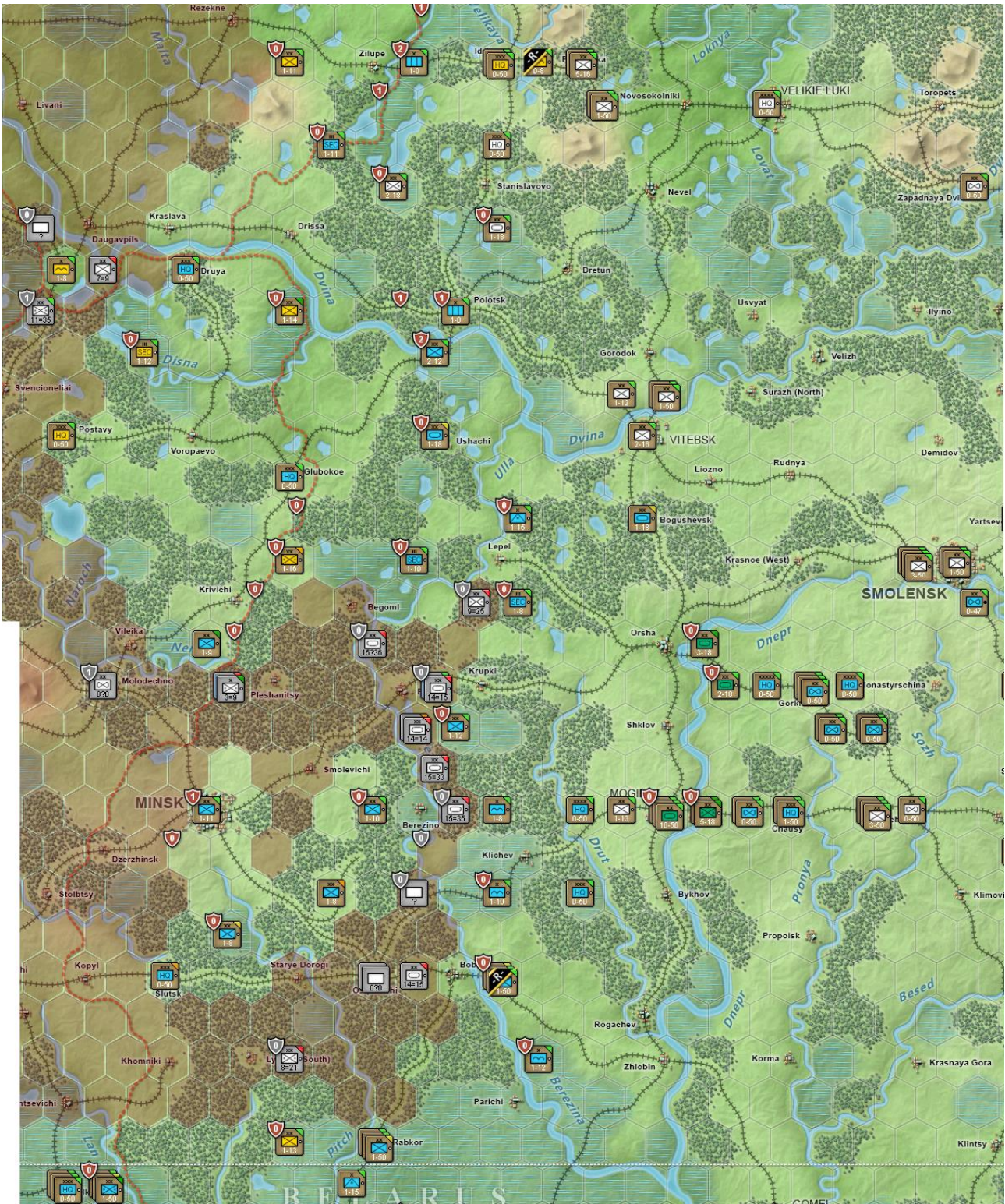
I succeeded in cutting off the German spearhead in the north. As their MP range to a railhead averaged 30 MP prior to the attack, I think I must have weakened their advance somewhat.

I have also managed to construct something vaguely resembling a defensive line, even if there are plenty of gaps in it still. I think that I may well be successful in stalling the German advance at this line next turn, as the Panzers will lack the movement to seriously endanger the line. However, I think I might be forced to conduct another withdrawal next turn, as I will otherwise be overrun by turn four.

Below is an Image of the situation at Pskov, as I give the turn to Hermann.



The Center



Situation Assessment

In the center, I spy another chance of encircling the German spearhead. This time by moving already encircled units, breaking my own encirclement in the process. The German units have MP's ranges to their railheads in the range from 30 to 50, so I will be cutting off some supplies in the process.

I also notice that the Germans have pushed an Airfield with three Stuka Gruppen straight up to the front line. As those planes are my second highest target priority (after the transports), I need to give them an attack or two.

In Bialystock, the pocket is crumbling already, which is much as expected. I do think that the Germans have assigned to many units to containing and reducing the pocket, so I have no complaints in that regard.



Planning

Again, I will try to cut off the German spearhead, this time by attacking with my own encircled units. The units to the east of the encirclement will continue moving east, in order to establish a line running from Vitebsk to the Dnepr and then following that south.

I will also conduct some massive (400+ long range bombers) attacks on the Stuka airfield, hoping to kill off a few of those planes.

Finally, in Bialystock, I will do nothing and instead just wait for the inevitable.

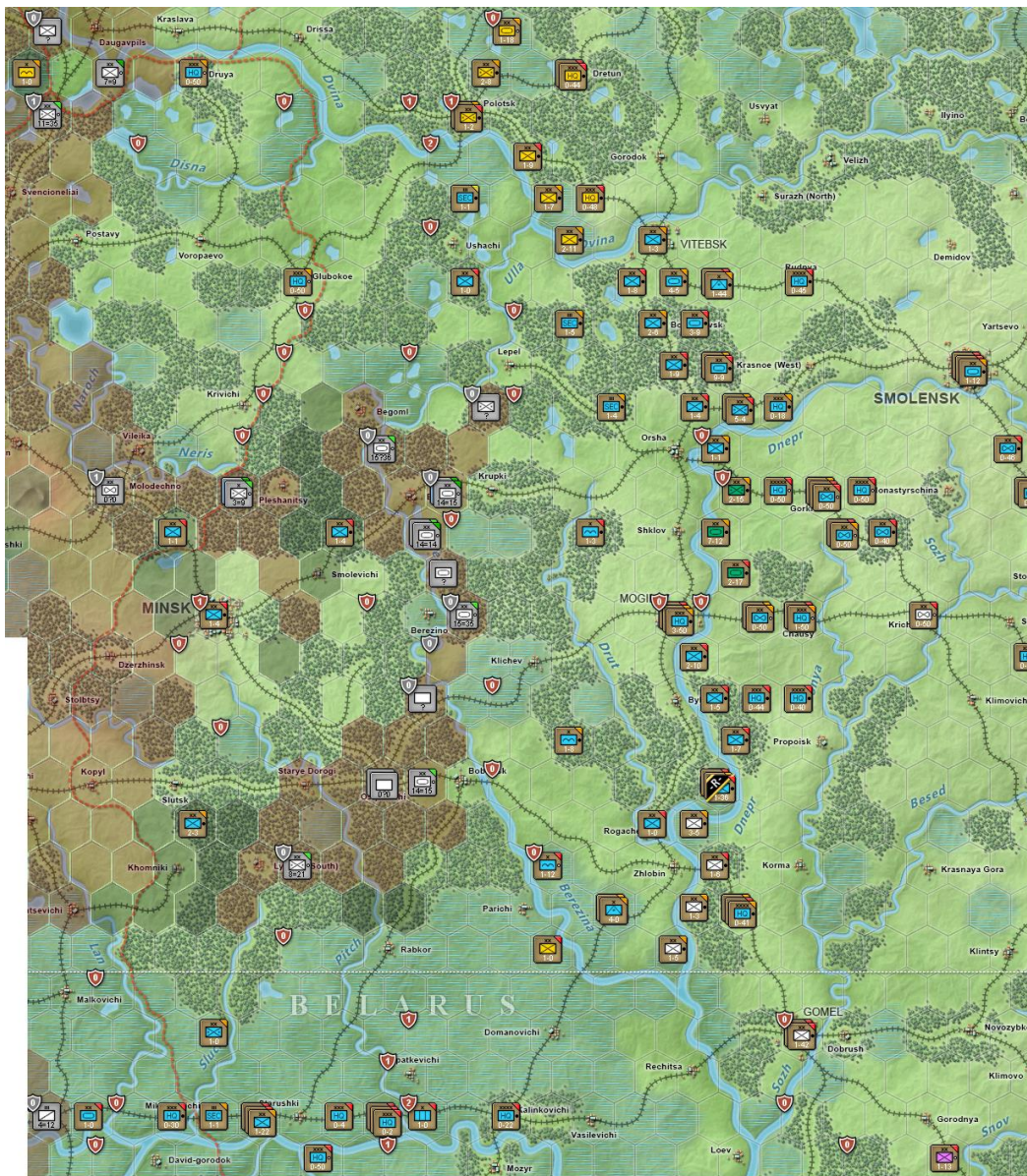
Execution

The air attacks on the Stuka airfield were somewhat successful, killing 13 stukas for the price of two long range bombers. While not a shattering number in itself, I have at least ensured, that the German losses of Stukas supersedes their production numbers somewhat. That is good news.

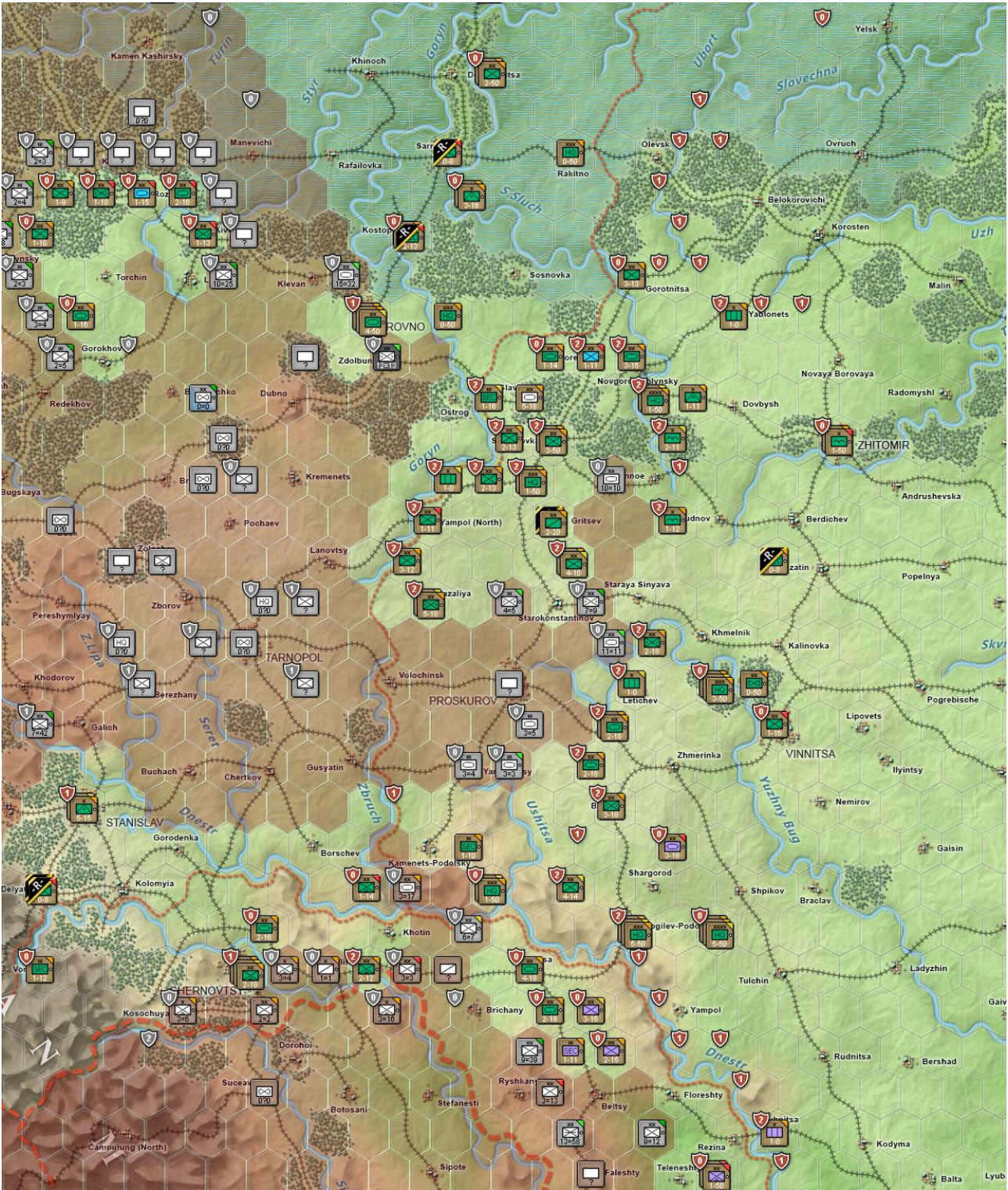
I have also cut off the German spearheads by attacking with the units in the Minsk pocket and maneuvering with those outside. Notice that there must be some undiscovered German units in the new pocket, as fortifications are being built in a location where I spy no enemy unit. Supplies will not be reaching at least six German Panzers and two Motorized divisions and very likely a few more. That should delay the German advance on Moscow somewhat.

I have also done what I can to establish a strong a Vitebsk/Dnepr line as possible. I think the Germans will lack the movement next turn to seriously threaten it, but I can say little about the turns to follow after that.

Below is an image of the central front, as I give the turn to Hermann:



The South



Situational Assessment

Once again, I spy the opportunity of cutting off the German spearhead, ensuring that no supplies will reach the forward Panzers next turn. Unfortunately, I have no Recon available in this area this turn, so I am unable to tell if some hidden German units will prevent the encircling. However, the divisions I use for such an attempt would be doomed anyway, if I simply tried to pull them back.

The southern attack continues to look very weak, with only four Panzers and three motorized divisions committed. Those divisions are spread over two wedges.

The units I have placed around the river Goryn and at Rovno are in threat of being encircled on their own. These forces are quite large, consisting of some of my best infantry and armored formations in this area.

Planning

I will obviously try to encircle the Germans once again, hoping that there are no undetected units preventing me from doing so.

At Goryn and Rovno, I will pull back my forces using whatever rail capacity I need to ensure the troops escape. I plan to establish a new front west of Zhitomir and Vinnitsa.

To the south, I will leave my lines where they are, should I succeed in cutting off the German Panzers. If that happens, I will be facing only a few Panzer divisions with relatively little fuel and some CV values that are not that impressive. That may well cost me a few divisions, but if I stall the Germans for just one turn, that is one turn I can use for evacuating industry come next turn.

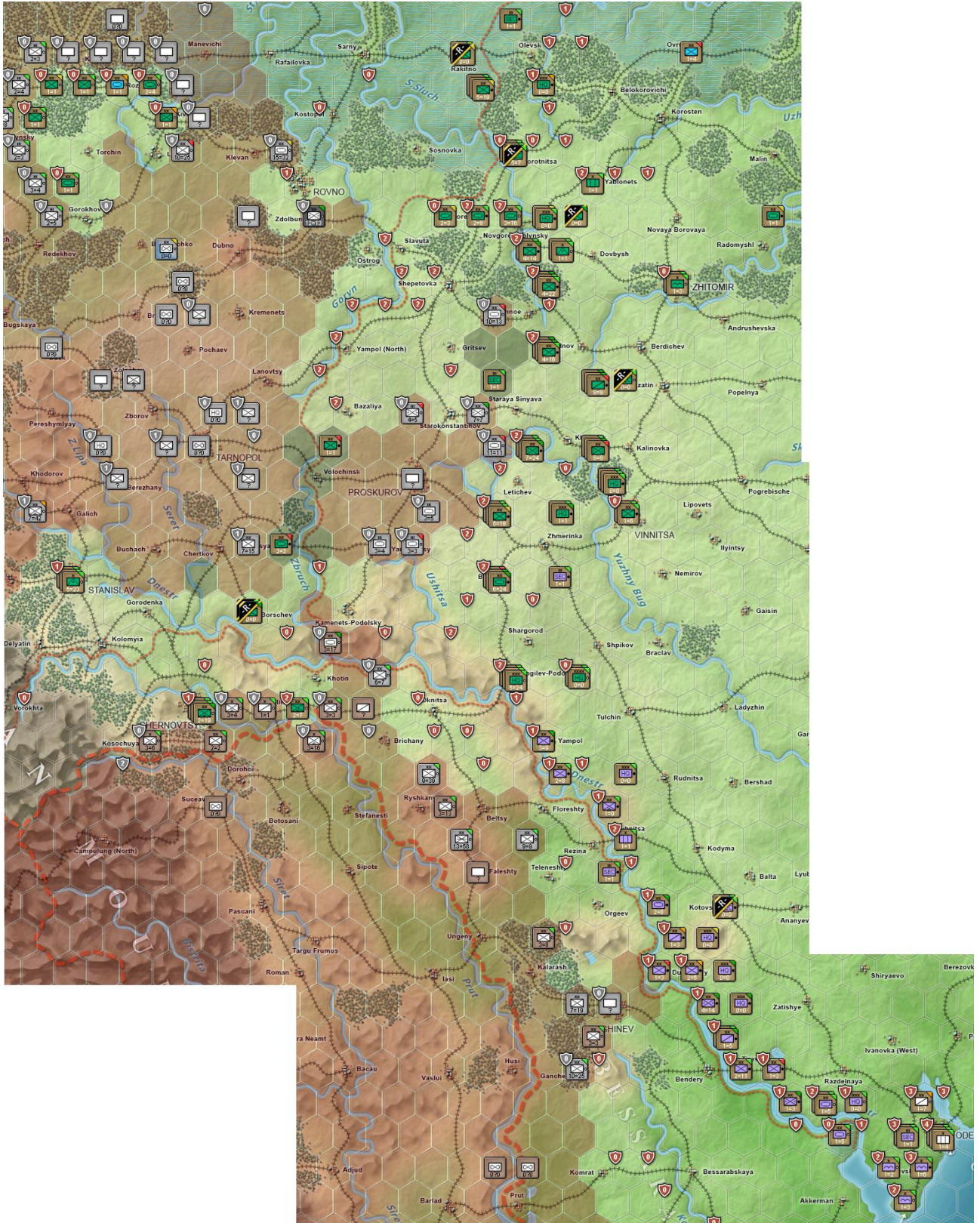
Execution

Once again, I have severed the German supply lines, meaning no fuel will be forwarded to the German spearheads next turn.

I have also pulled my units back from the Goryn River to a new line, while maintaining my southern positions. As the Germans will be pressed for Movement points next turn, I have set up my defenses in stacks with heavy CV's. They can not be easily outmaneuvered due to the cost of entering EZOC, nor can they be toppled without costing a lot of the remaining German movement points come next turn.

Further south, the Soviet Southern Front is forming up some sort of defensive line along the Dnestr.

Below an image of the south, as I give the turn to Hermann:



Conclusion

I have begun pushing aair Groups back out towards the frontline airfields, and the Red Army aviation will begin to form some sort of resistance to the Luftwaffe over the next few turns. However, the difference in pilot and equipment quality will undoubtedly mean I will take heavy losses over the remaining parts of 1941.

As of next turn, I can start evacuating my production. The good news are that it does not seem as if the Germans are just about to overrun any major production facilities. I will most likely fail to evacuate the production facilities from Mogilev, but that is much as expected.

We shall have to see what comes next.