

Turn 3, Strategic Considerations

SPECIAL						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	3127	21236	0
-	Port	150	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	297	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	3531	36	167820	351813	0
-	Vehicle	140	0	94913	122800	0
-	Heavy Industry	236	0	0	234000	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	128000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	71520	0
-	Resource Production	196	0	0	392000	0
-	Armaments Production	370	0	1144813	184250	0

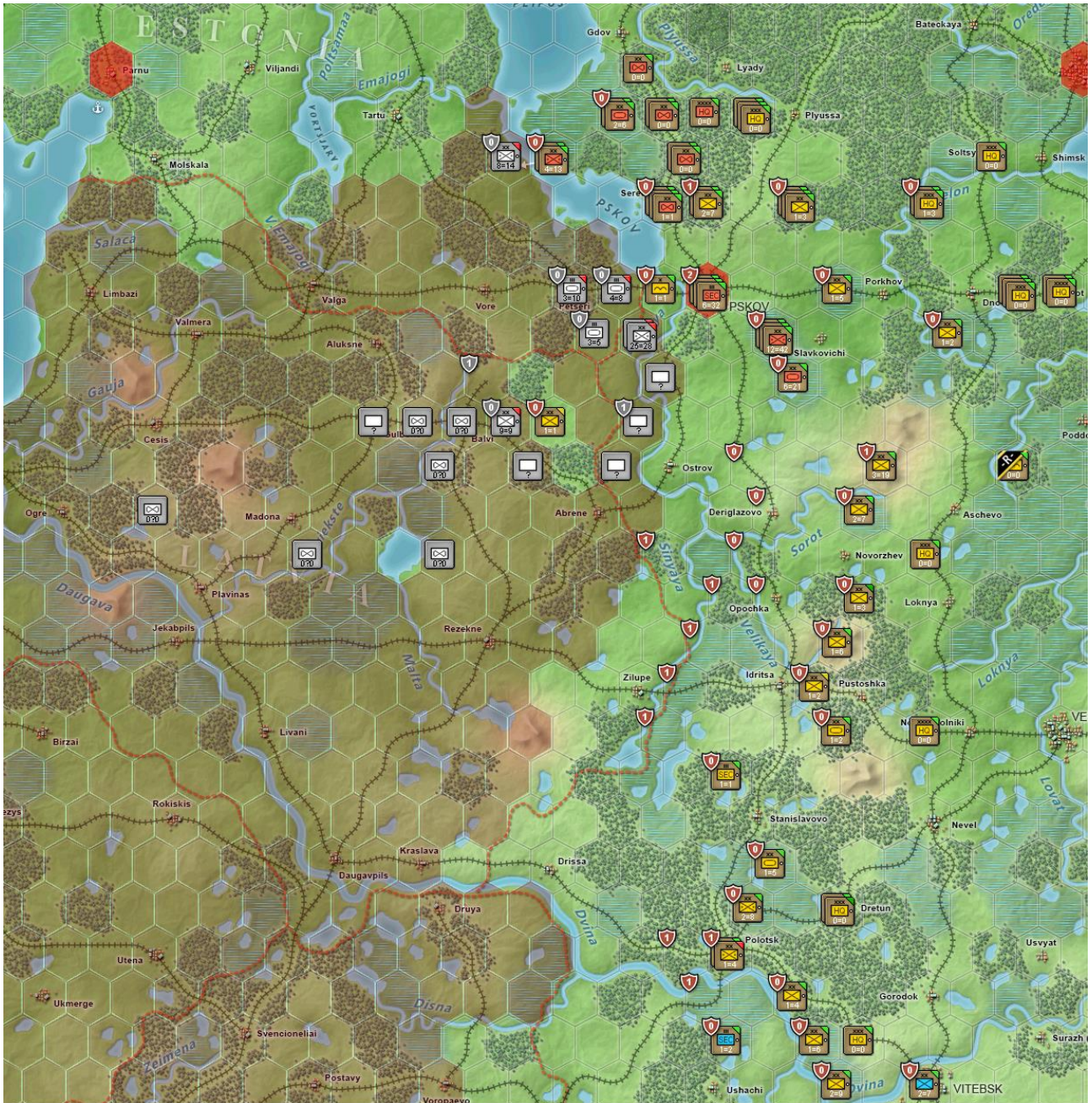
The German advances this turn has been limited due to their lack of supplies. In the north, the Germans are still stuck outside Pskov, in the center, they stand west of the Vitebsk/Dnepr line and in the south, they are slowly advancing towards Kiev.

In the air, the Germans continue to attack my airfields, costing me heavy losses – although mainly amongst the poor I-Type aircraft. My LaGG-3 and IL-2 production is still a lot larger than the losses taken, and my Yak-1 production is steadily increasing. Meanwhile, the Germans are losing more Ju87B's and Bf 109F-2's than they produce.

Meanwhile, the German advances are not yet threatening to disrupt any of my productions sites. I will naturally begin evacuations this turn, but for now it looks as if I may maintain my production figures for now.

Axis VP's are 155, which would mean a minor Axis win should the game end here.

The North



Situational Assessment

The Germans have not advanced their front at Pskov even one hex this turn. The parachute regiment sitting at the west of Pskov is still there, which amazes me somewhat.

The northernmost German Panzers are at 30 MP and 23 hexes to their nearest railhead, which should prevent any meaningful HQBU from happening next turn, if I remember the rules correctly. It also seems the northernmost German Panzers draw supplies around the northside of my pocketed division, while the unknown units draw from around the south. Finally, the Fuel soft factor tells me that the German Panzers outside Pskov are all below 40% fuel.

Some airfield attacks have been conducted against my Northern Front airfields to the north of Pskov, costing me some losses of second rate aircraft.

Planning

I intend to remain in position around Pskov for now. The relatively low fuel among the German Panzers mean they are not likely to conduct any far reaching attacks in the next turn. I expect that they may simply try to encircle Pskov city in order to take it come turn five. If that happens that would effectively delay the German advance on Leningrad even further, at the cost of the garrison units I leave in Pskov.

The pocketed division will move one hex north, in order to reduce the flow of supplies to the German Panzers as much as it can before it dies next turn.

The airfields north of Pskov will scatter, leaving as few targets to the Luftwaffe as possible. Meanwhile, I will conduct my own bombing raids on the Luftwaffe bases to the southwest, hoping to kill of a few Bf109 F-2's in the process.

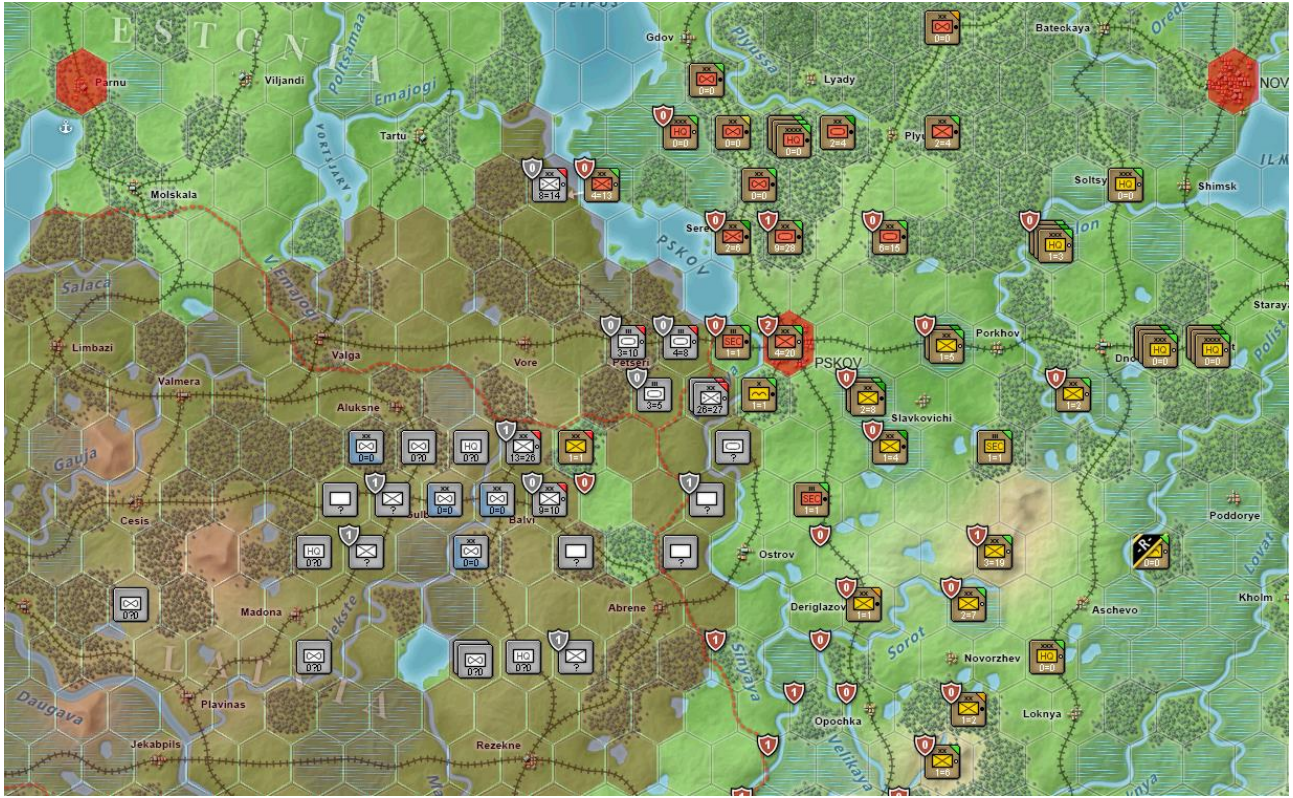
I will also move up another army HQ (the 28th) to take over command over the local Northern Front forces at Pskov.

Execution

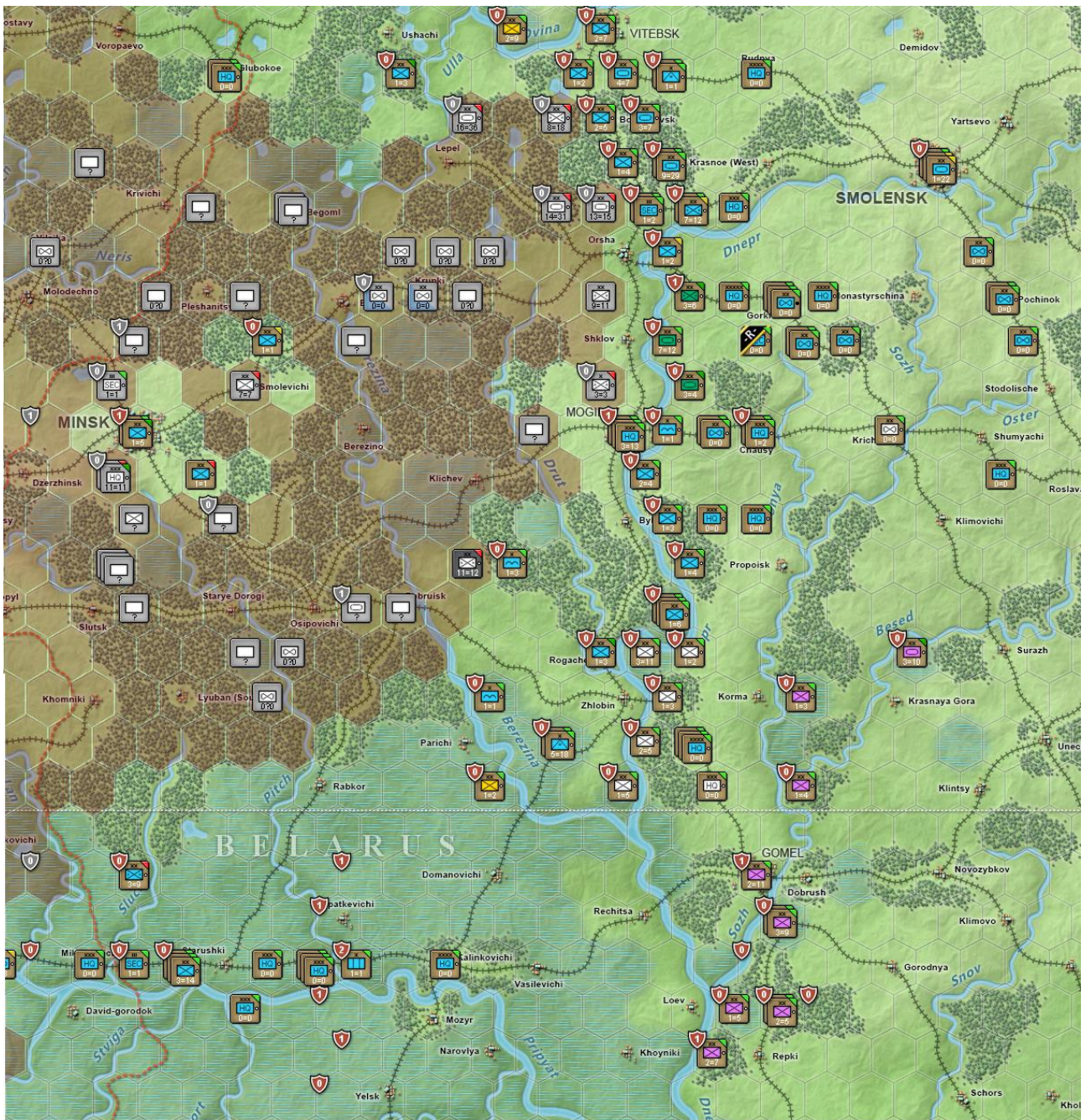
I have mainly stayed in position, but moved my Northern Front units northwards and the northwestern Front ones to the east and southeast of Pskov. I have kept only one good order infantry division in Pskov. Whether to keep one or two here was a tough choice, but if the Germans wish to push into the city held by 20 CV, they need to conduct a full Panzer attack by at least two divisions, costing those two units a massive 16MP each.

I have also spread out the airbases as I planned and moved the encircled division northwards (although with little effect on German supply distance).

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



The Center



Situation Assessment

In the center, the German armor has brushed away my picket line of NKVD placed in front of my main line stretching southeast from Vitebsk. The Panzers are all red in fuel and at 35+ MP and 25+ hex range to their nearest rail head. As most were already red in fuel last turn, I assume they are now well below 40% in fuel and their range to a rail head mean I should not fear an HQBU.

It seems that at least the Panzers near Vitebsk draw fuel from a line going straight west, passing around the north side of the Minsk pockets in a three wide hex band. This band can be narrowed to a band one hex

wide, by advancing north with one of the pocketed divisions and south with an NKVD units to the north of the band.

In the air, more attacks have been made on my airfields, this time against the ones belonging to the Western Front. Numerically, I have lost a lot more than the Germans, but their losses are qualitatively a lot more severe than mine.

Planning

I plan to narrow the "supply band" as described above and then remain in my positions southeast of Vitebsk. The reason for this is that I assume the German Panzers will have well less than 30 MP to use in their attacks next turn. I will set most of my second line of tank divisions to "Reserve", meaning that it will be hard for the Germans to calculate the odds before attacking. I expect the Germans to penetrate the line next turn, but I hope they will have too few MP's to exploit the penetration.

In the air, I will scatter the local airfields but continue to attack the German stuka and fighter airfields in the vicinity. I will not use the local Pe-2's for this however, as I want those aircraft to be ready to support the coming ground battles.

Obviously, I will remain in position along the Dnepr, and I will make no attempt to evacuate the industry in Mogilev.

At Bialystock, I still have a few surviving units, but I will take no action here.

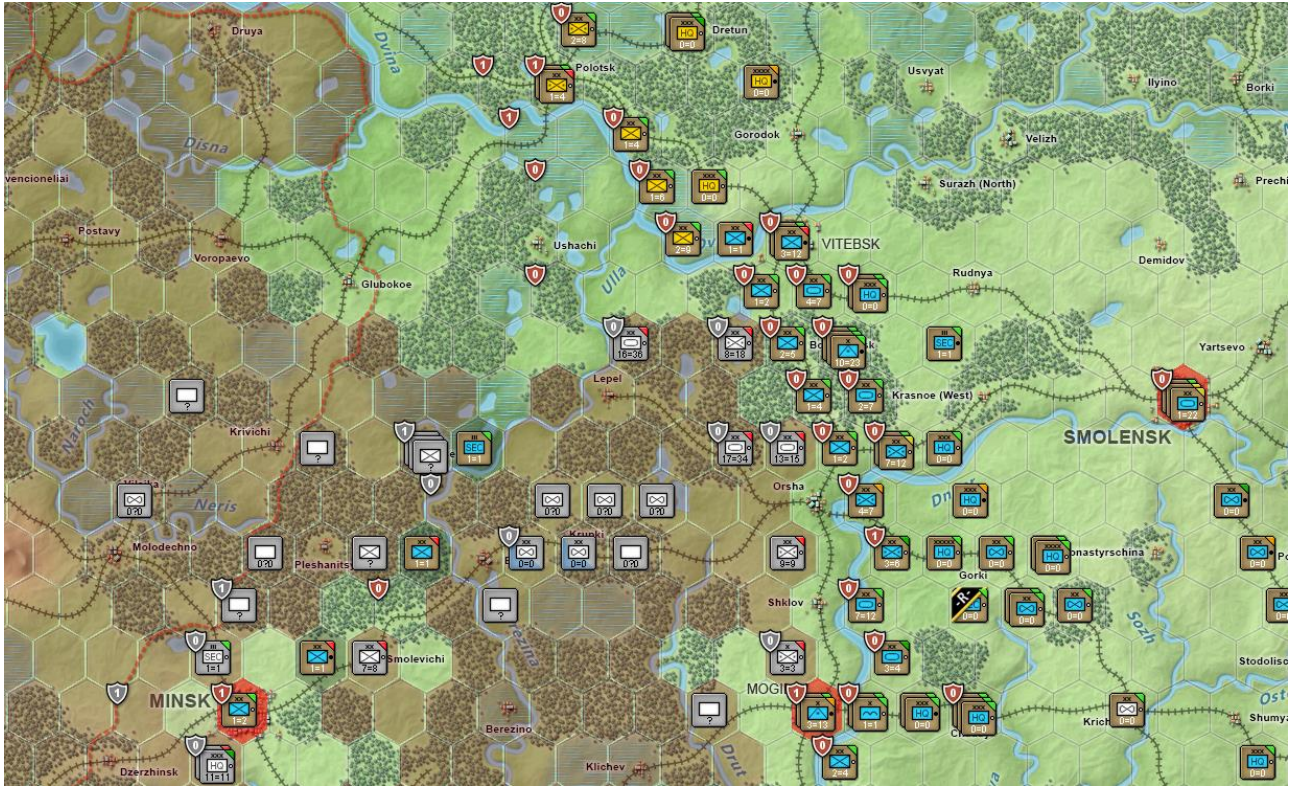
Execution

At Vitebsk, I have remained in position, strengthening my second line of Panzer forces as best I can. Setting up my Panzers as reserves, I had second thoughts and ended up setting most of them to normal "Ready" status. The reason for this is that they will not dig in "Reserve" mode, and if I set them to "Ready" instead, most of the line will increase to fortification level one, during the Logistics Phase of the next German turn. That should change the Tank line to CV values of 14, 34, 10 and 19 or so going from north to south. I have left one or two of the units in reserve mode, so as not to make it too easy for the Germans.

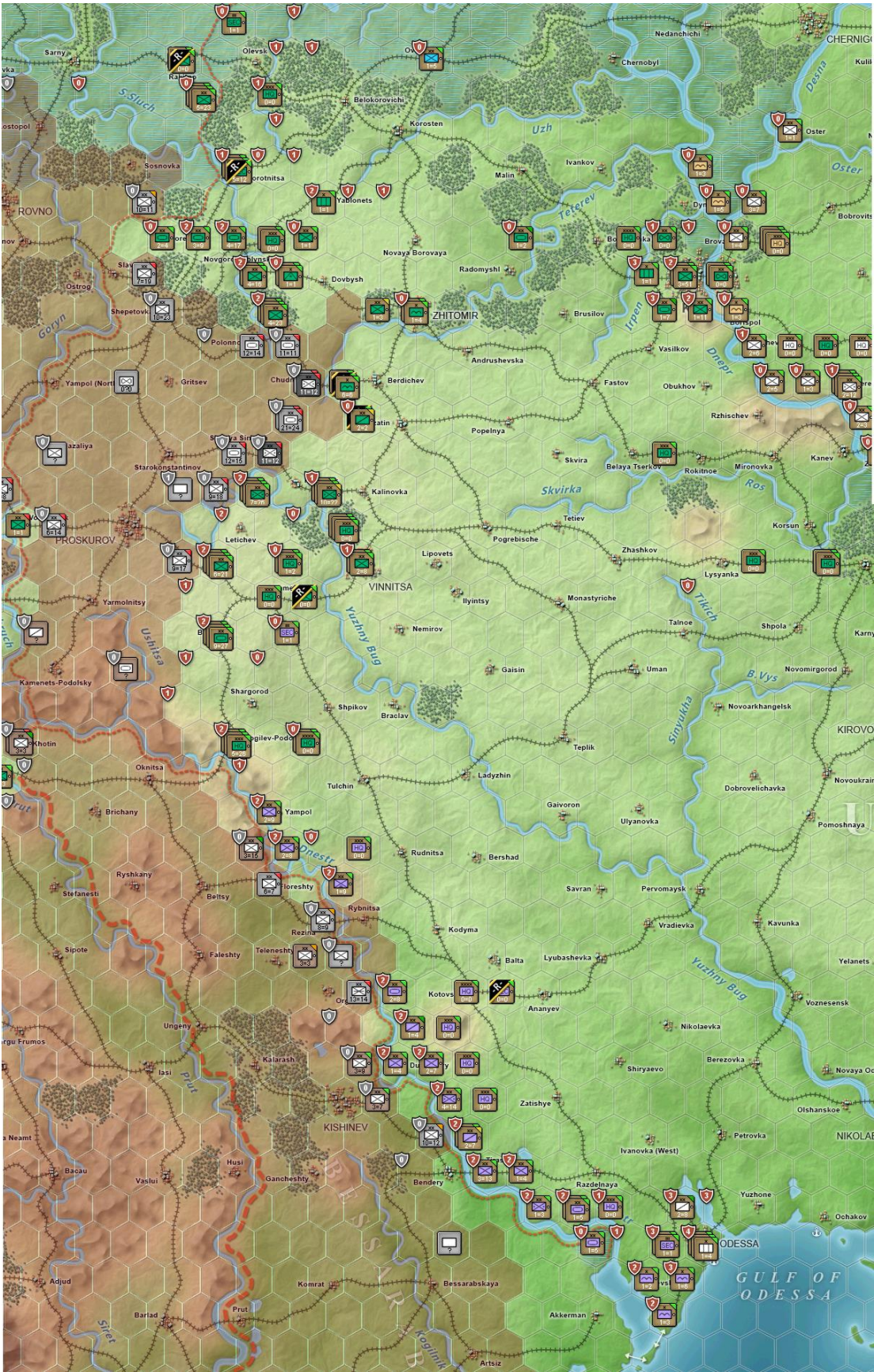
In the air, I have bombed the Bf109 and Ju-87B airfields killing of six BF-109E's and six Ju-97B's for the cost of one long range bomber. I also spread out the local airfields and have done a series of night bombardments on the forward German divisions.

Along the Dnepr, I have done little and in Bialystock I have simply made sure none of my divisions are stacked (even stacked, they only have a CV of one).

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



The South



Situational Assessment

The German Panzers in this area have been grouped together with a short distance to their rail head (23MP, 15 hex range) and with infantry covering their flanks. In short, I see little opportunity to restrict the flow of supplies to those units. The Panzers have also effectively broken through my defensive lines. They are poised to advance into the open plains of western Ukraine. An encirclement of all my units around Vinnitsa are a very real possibility should I choose to stay where I am.

Planning

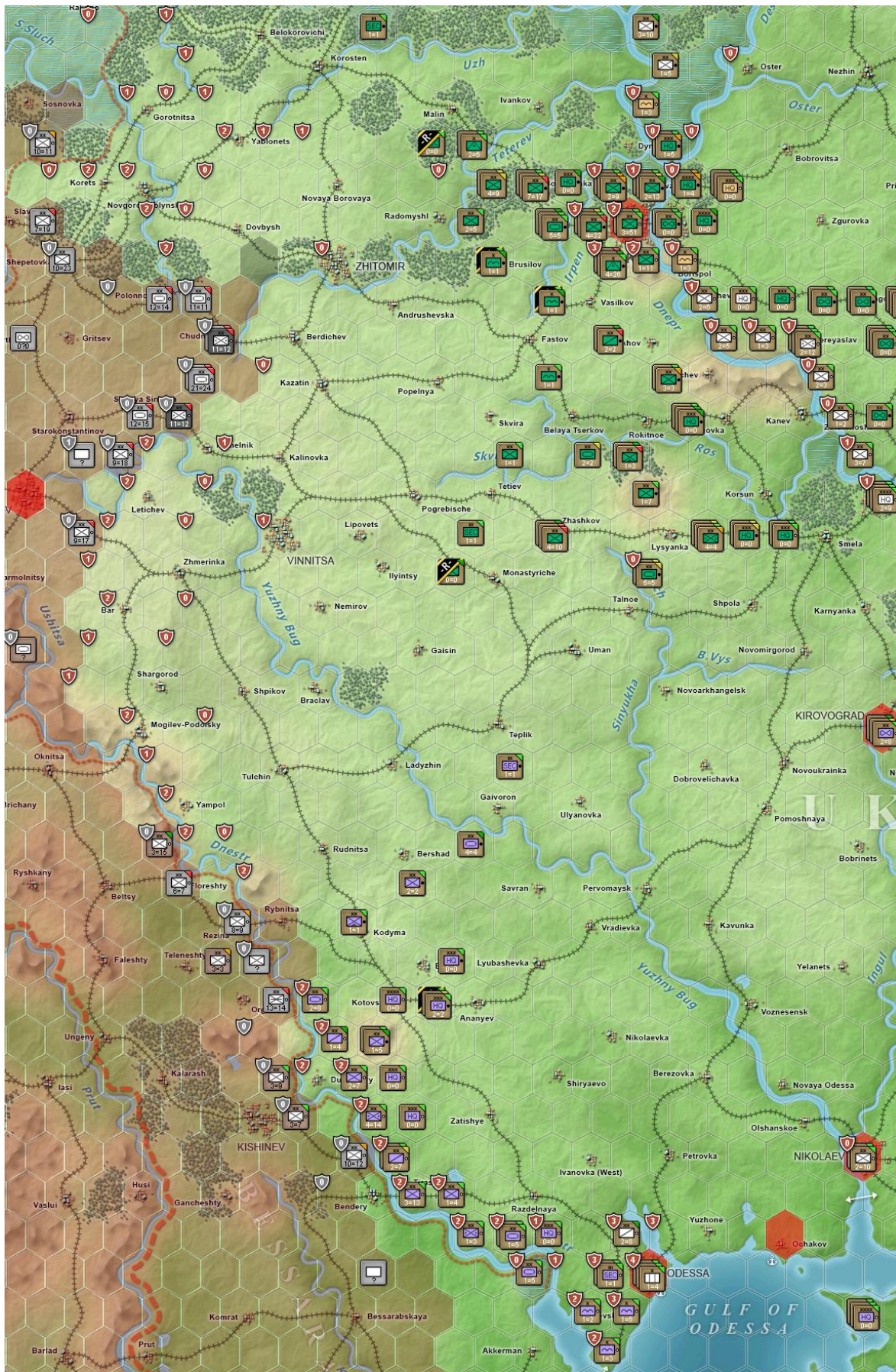
I will conduct a general withdrawal of all forces north of Kishinev this turn. I will move the Southwestern Front back towards Kiev and the Dnepr, while the Southern Front will place itself to cover the approaches to Odessa.

Execution

In the south, the units of the Southwestern Front have been pulled back towards Kiev, while the Southern Front divisions are pulling back to the southeast, still covering the approaches to Odessa. This has led to a gap in my lines around Uman, but I am not overly concerned about this. Should the German Panzers advance in this direction, they will be moving away from their supply sources and I will be able to pull Southwestern Front units southeast along the Dnepr, stemming their advance. Bear in mind that up until this point, there has been no real attempt by the Germans to repair the rail lines going out from Rumania.

In the air, I now have one airfield with 5 IL-2's and another with 5 SU-2's in this area. They are each covered by three Yak-1's.

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



Conclusion

I consider this turn to have been a successful one. The Germans have not really advanced anywhere and their frontline Panzers are starved of fuel.

In the south, I felt obliged to give up the Western Ukrainian plains, but I have considered holding those as completely unrealistic from the very start of the game.

Behind the lines, the Soviet mustering of the Red Army is beginning to kick into place, and I now have units digging and training in the vicinity of both Moscow and Leningrad.

Meanwhile, I have begun the evacuation of factories from Leningrad, and I expect to finish moving out the factories here in one of the next two turns.

I expect the German turn will see some action near both Pskov and Vitebsk, but I will admit to being surprised if this leads to any immediate disasters on my part.