

Turn 4, Strategic Considerations

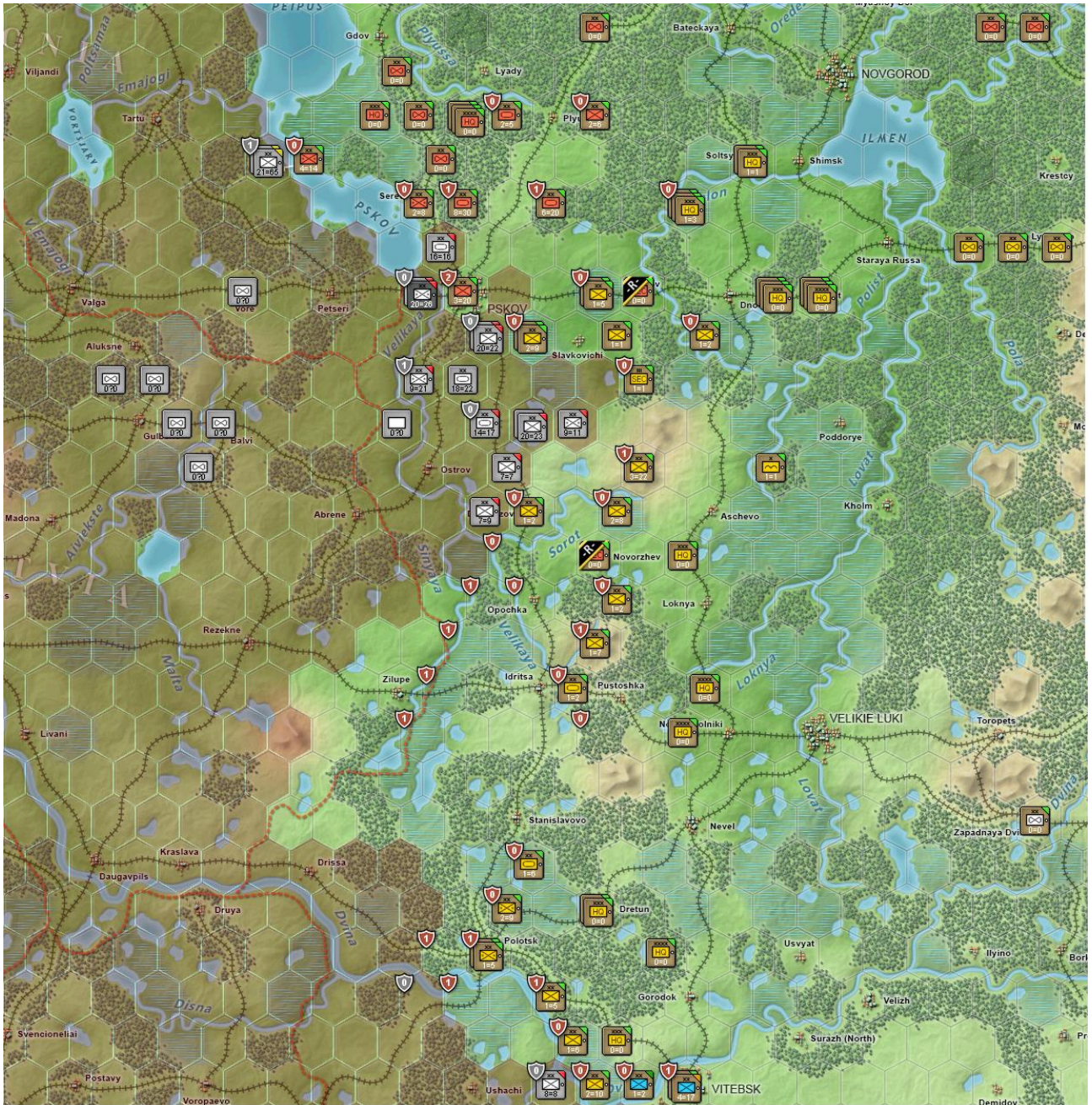
____ SPECIAL ____						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2687	29300	0
-	Port	145	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	294	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	3411	0	23997	522435	0
-	Vehicle	140	0	108439	144140	0
-	Heavy Industry	232	0	0	350000	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	192000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	107280	0
-	Resource Production	196	0	0	588000	0
-	Armaments Production	366	2	1017194	273250	0

The Germans have made little progress this turn, I think. In the north, they are in the process of encircling Pskov and in the center, they are battering their way into my defensive line south of Vitebsk. In the south, where I did a full scale withdrawal last turn, the Germans Panzers have advanced in the direction of Kiev, and are now standing a few hexes south of the city.

In the air, things have quieted down a lot as well, with no new airfield bombings this turn.

Axis VP's are 162, which would mean a minor Axis win should the game end here.

The North



Situational Assessment

The Germans are making slow progress in the vicinity of Pskov. I still hold the city, but if I do not evacuate it, it will be encircled come next turn. The good news are that the Germans will need the city in order to push onwards to the north. If they do not hold it, it will cost them dearly in supplies. As I have 1100 supplies and 100 fuel in the city still, I need not worry about resupplying any forces left behind.

In the air, nothing whatsoever has happened this turn. The Germans have not even flown a single recon mission in this part of the theater.

Planning

I will remain in Pskov. If the sacrifice of one division can buy me two turns in the defense of Leningrad, that is certainly worth it in my opinion. I will also do what I can to strengthen my lines north of the city. I have no real hope of holding here once Pskov falls, but if I can delay

In the air, I will do little offensive attacking but instead begin to focus on moving my SB-2's to the VVS airfields and withdraw my airfields a few hexes.

Execution

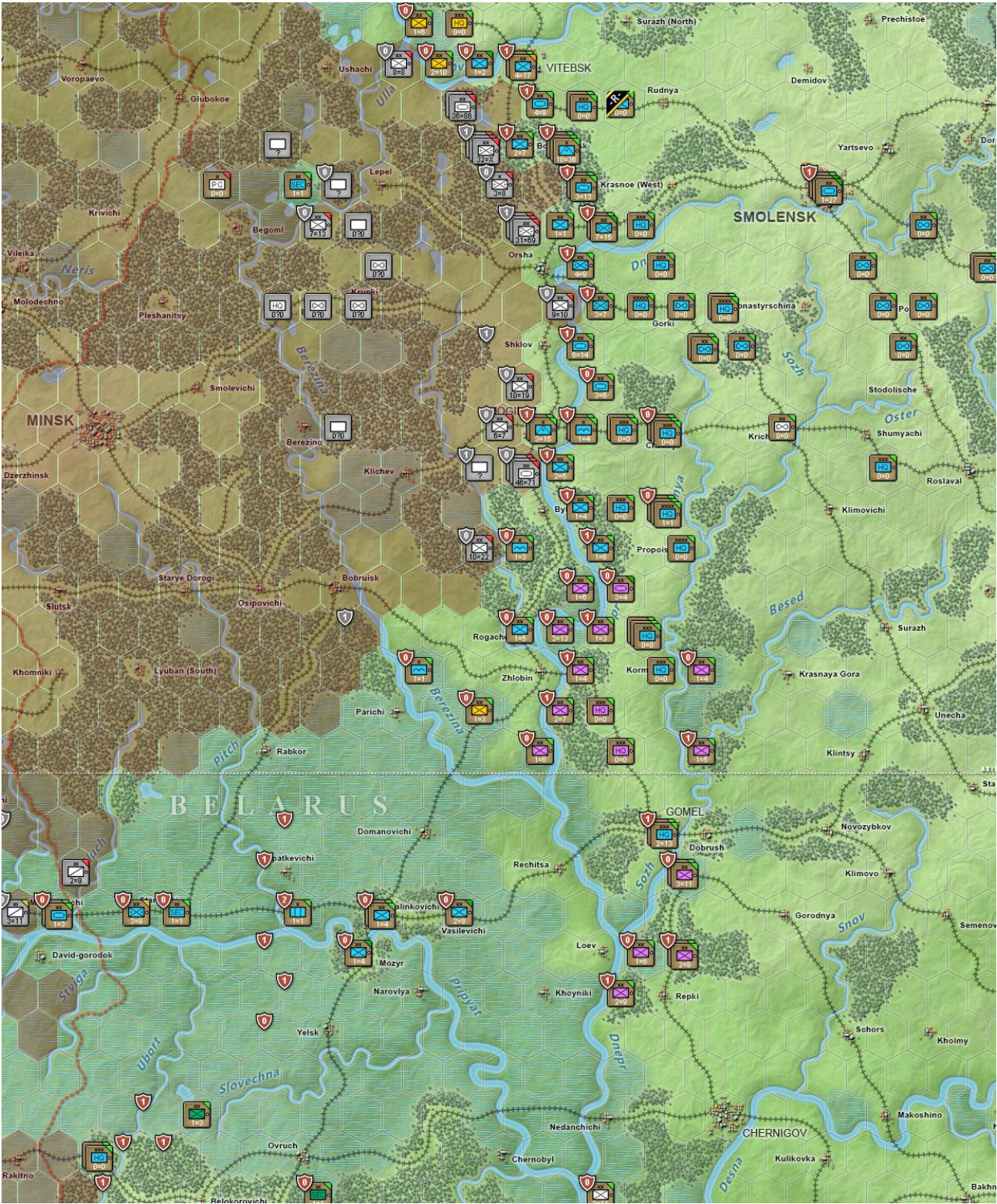
At Pskov, this has been an uneventful turn. I have simply strengthened my positions ever so slightly, waiting for the continued German attack to hit.

I am expecting a German thrust towards the area south of Lake Ilmen, but I have prioritized other sectors for the units available.

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 Panzers have begun digging in to my defensive line stretching southeast from Vitebsk. Those attacks have been somewhat costly for the Germans, in that they have lost a total of 17 AFV to clear two hexes of infantry.

The Germans have not moved troops into the hexes they claimed. This gives me an interesting option for my further defense: If I reclaim the hexes, my Panzer line will not be adjacent to the Germans, and thus gain the full benefit of any construction points in the units here. If I choose to move an infantry division into the hex with two hexes southeast of Vitebsk, I can bring that fortification up to level 2, giving me a defensive CV value in that hex of around 60 or so.

Regardless, I expect the Germans to penetrate the line next turn, and I will then have no option but to withdraw. When I do, I would need to have the next line of defensive positions in place, so that the defense will not turn into a rout.

Further south, at Mogilev, the Germans threaten an attack on the city as well as a potential attack across the Dnepr. I deem that the only location they will have the strength to attack cross river is in the hex south of Mogilev, so I need to strengthen that hex as best I can.

In the air, the Stuka and fighter airfields are still near the front, and I am able to attack it with a massive bomber fleet.

Planning

At Vitebsk, I will reclaim the two lost front hexes and move my units to best create strong defensive positions in alternate locations. In order to cover the retreat that will come, I will move troops up from the area around Vyazma to hopefully establish a new line. Those units generally have high construction values, so they should be able to construct new defensive positions in the time before the Germans will be able to exploit the expected breakthrough.

At Mogilev, I will remain in the city. If the Germans wish to use massive MP's from their Panzers in order to take the city, that will be just fine. I will also strengthen the position across river, so that I will hopefully not face a German forced crossing.

In the air, I will conduct a night bomber raid from SB-2's on one of the German Recon airfields to discover the amount of German interceptions. If that is low, I will pound the high value airfields with everything I got.

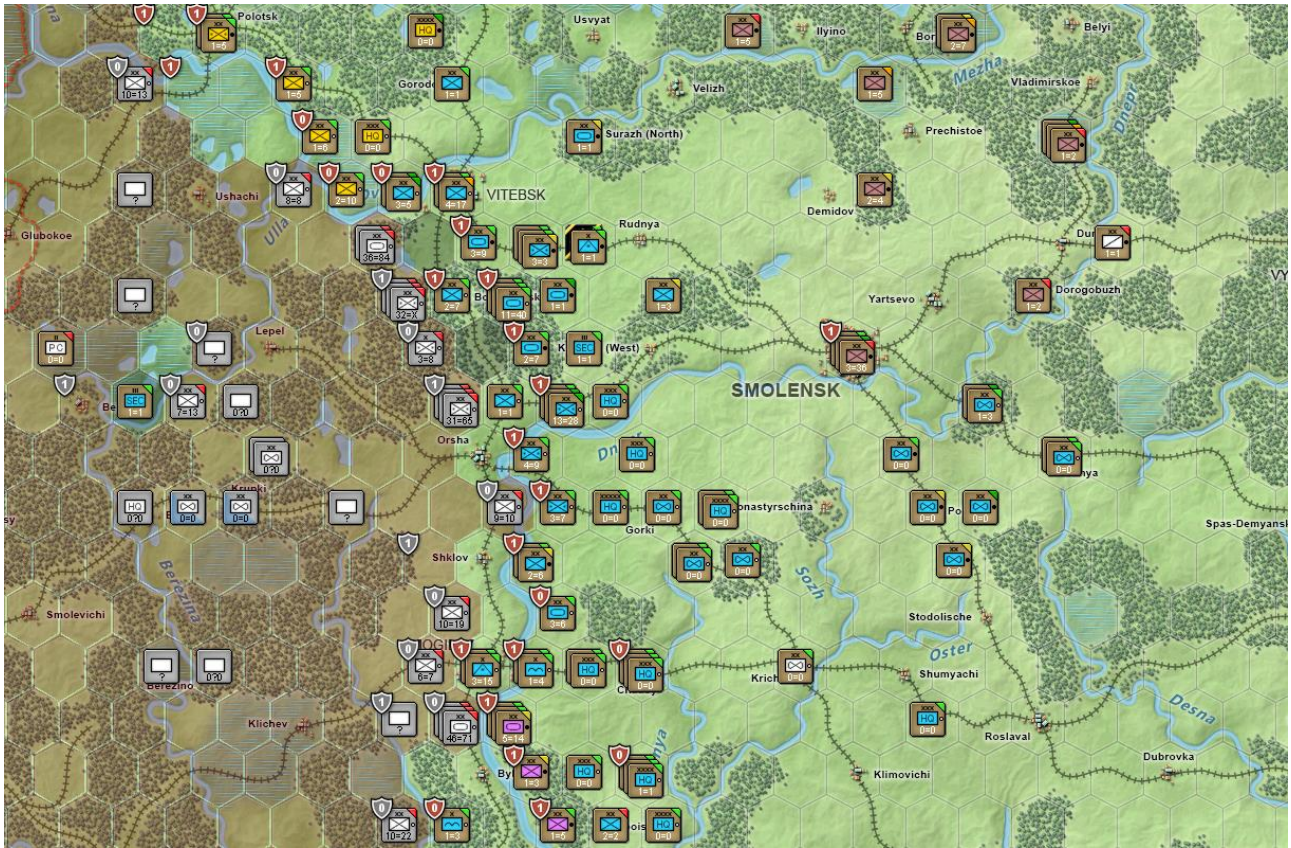
Execution

On the ground, I have worked to strengthen the defense near the areas where I feel most threatened. I expect the Germans to push through my lines south of Vitebsk, but I hope they will not have enough movement to exploit a breakthrough. In expectation of future combat, I have begun moving my best order infantry reserve units forward.

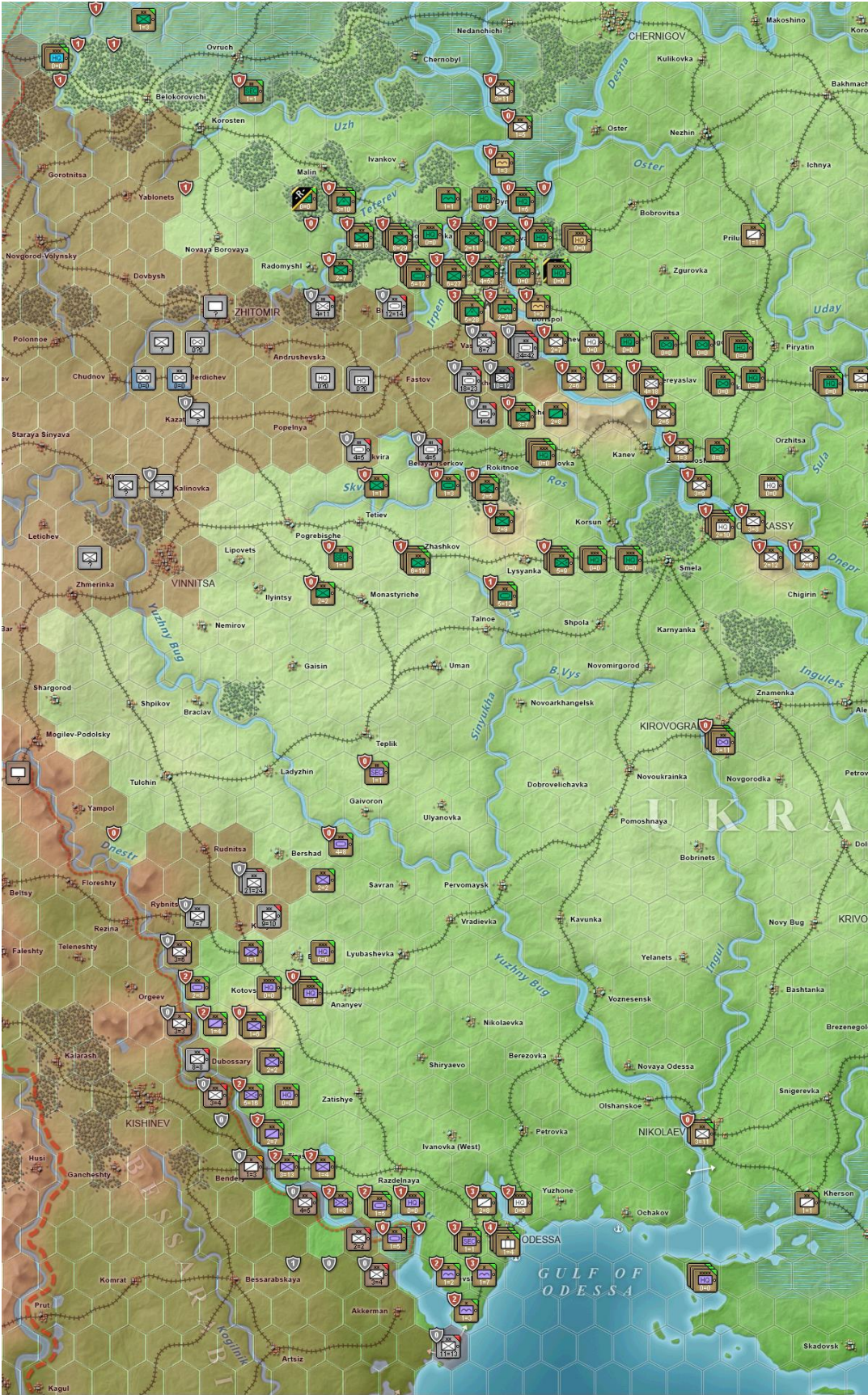
I have also appointed Tolbukhin as the commander of the 20th Army, facing the Germans southeast of Vitebsk.

In the air, nothing flew against my first bomber probe, so I unleashed the full force of long range bombers against the stukas and the fighters. That cost the Germans 10 Ju 87B's and 9 Bf 109E's for the price of 9 Soviet long range bombers. I am happy with that exchange rate.

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



The South



Situational Assessment

The Panzers have pushed on, and are now sitting at the southern edge of Kiev. They are low on fuel (with supply ranges up to 40MP and 27 hexes), but do threaten to attack across the Dnepr or else attacking the city of Kiev. However, recon seems to suggest that I have the chance to cut off supplies to the Panzers once more, by attacking east of Zhitomir from both the north and the south at the same time.

Further south, the Germans and Rumanians are slowly advancing towards Odessa. As of yet, I think there is no real threat of an imminent attack into the Don bend, which is good news for me, as it gives me plenty of time to evacuate my industries.

Planning

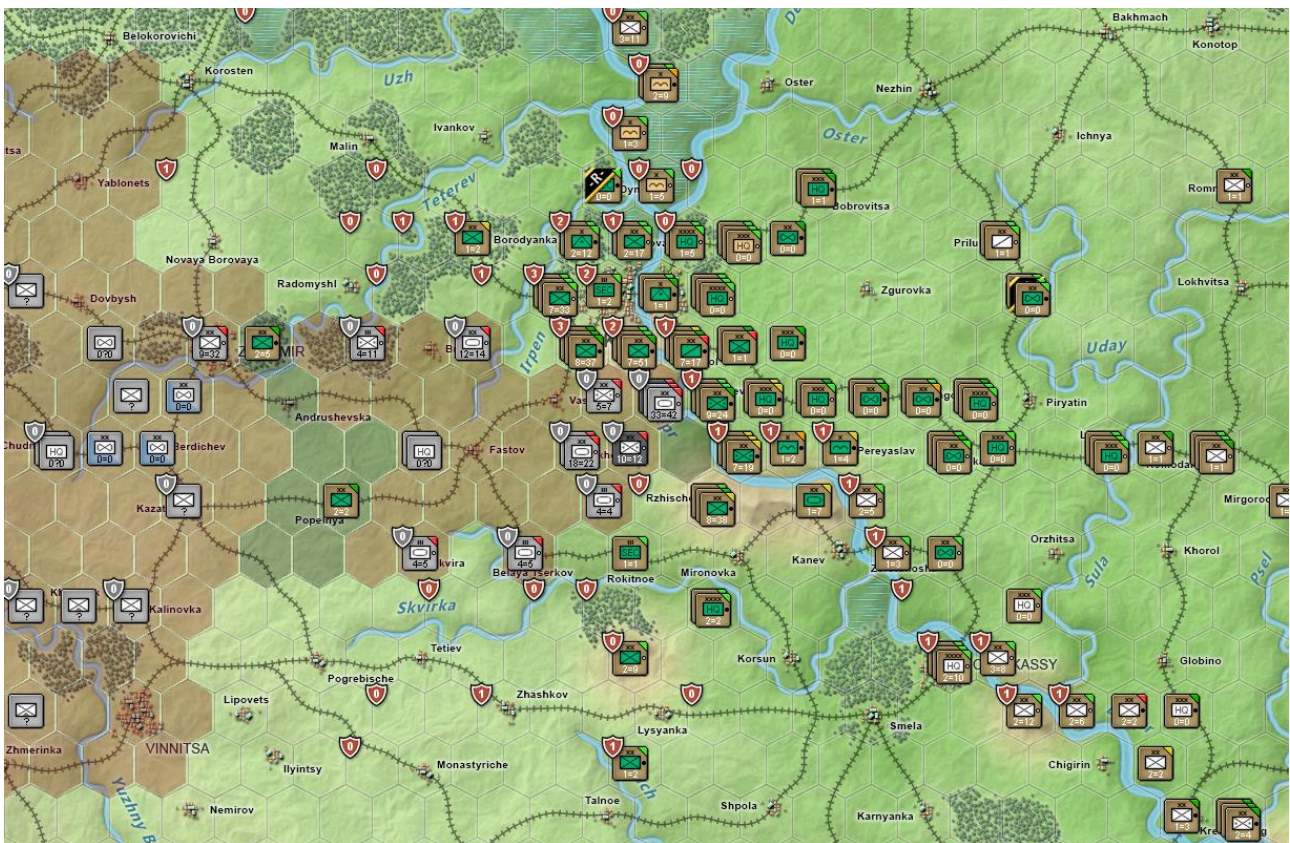
I will strengthen my defenses of both Kiev and the Dnepr, while at the same time moving to cut off the German supplies. I think that losing two infantry divisions to stop supplies from reaching the German Panzers is a sacrifice well worth it.

Execution

At Kiev, I have cut off supplies for the Panzer wedge and put up what I believe is a strong defense in both Kiev and across the Dnepr. I expect the Germans to either stand still or turn south, so I have also put up a decent delaying force in this area.

In the air, I have bombed both the forward Panzers and the high priority airfields in the area, with some positive results.

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



Conclusion

I consider this turn to have been another successful one. Little has happened, which must certainly be to my advantage at this point in the game.

As I feel that there is no imminent threats to my production, I decided to evacuate Mogilev and begin evacuating Kiev. If the Germans do not pick up the pace, I will end up evacuating almost all of my production.