

Turn 5, Strategic Considerations

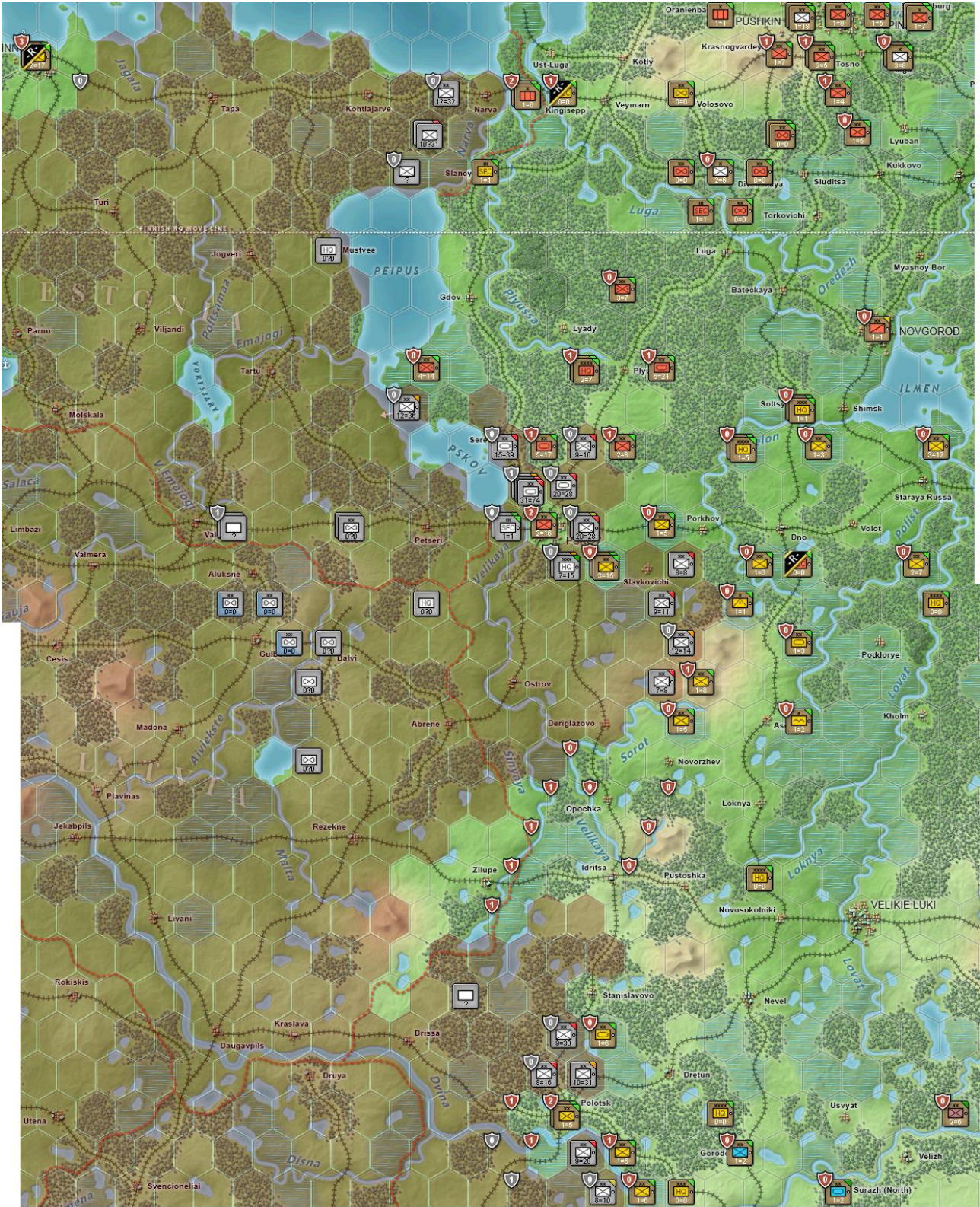
____ SPECIAL ____					
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2675	37326 0
-	Port	139	0	0	0 0
-	Railyard	294	0	0	0 0
-	Manpower	3363	0	228618	690107 0
-	Vehicle	140	0	133357	165480 0
-	Heavy Industry	232	0	0	462500 0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	256000 0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	143040 0
-	Resource Production	196	0	0	784000 0
-	Armaments Production	366	2	963105	361500 0

In the north, the Germans have encircled Pskov and further north the German infantry has reached Narva. The Germans are beginning to show a little more teeth in the center. Mogilev is taken, the Dnepr has been crossed and the Germans have cut into the line southeast of Vitebsk. In the south, the Germans are still stuck southwest of Kiev.

In the air, fighting has been heavy, and many of the German JagdGeschwaders are now below 20 operational planes. The flipside to that coin is that many of my own Air Groups are now below 40 in morale and needs recycling to the national reserve.

Axis VP's are 163, which would mean a minor Axis win should the game end here.

The North



Situational Assessment

Furthest to the north, the Germans have reached Narva with an infantry thrust. I have few forces in the area, and thus little hope of containing this attack. Further south, the Germans are advancing very slowly, and have encircled Pskov.

West of Pskov, across the river, the Germans are holding the line with one regiment from a security division. The German supply lines for the majority of their Panzers at Pskov run through this hex, and there is a possibility that I might push the Germans out of it.

Southeast of Pskov, I can cut off three German infantry divisions and one Motorized division by attacking south with one of the divisions in the swamps and then closing the gap by using a parachute brigade.

North of Leningrad I am conducting a fighting withdrawal towards Leningrad and expect to lose the Janisjarva line shortly. I have done little to defend it, and it matters little to my overall strategy.

Planning

At Narva, I intend to ship in a couple of recently arrived Naval infantry Brigades to slow the German advance.

At Pskov, I will conduct a full scale bombing attack on the Security unit west of Pskov, and probably follow up with an attack by the division inside Pskov. If successful, I will effectively cut off supplies to the main body of the northern German spearhead.

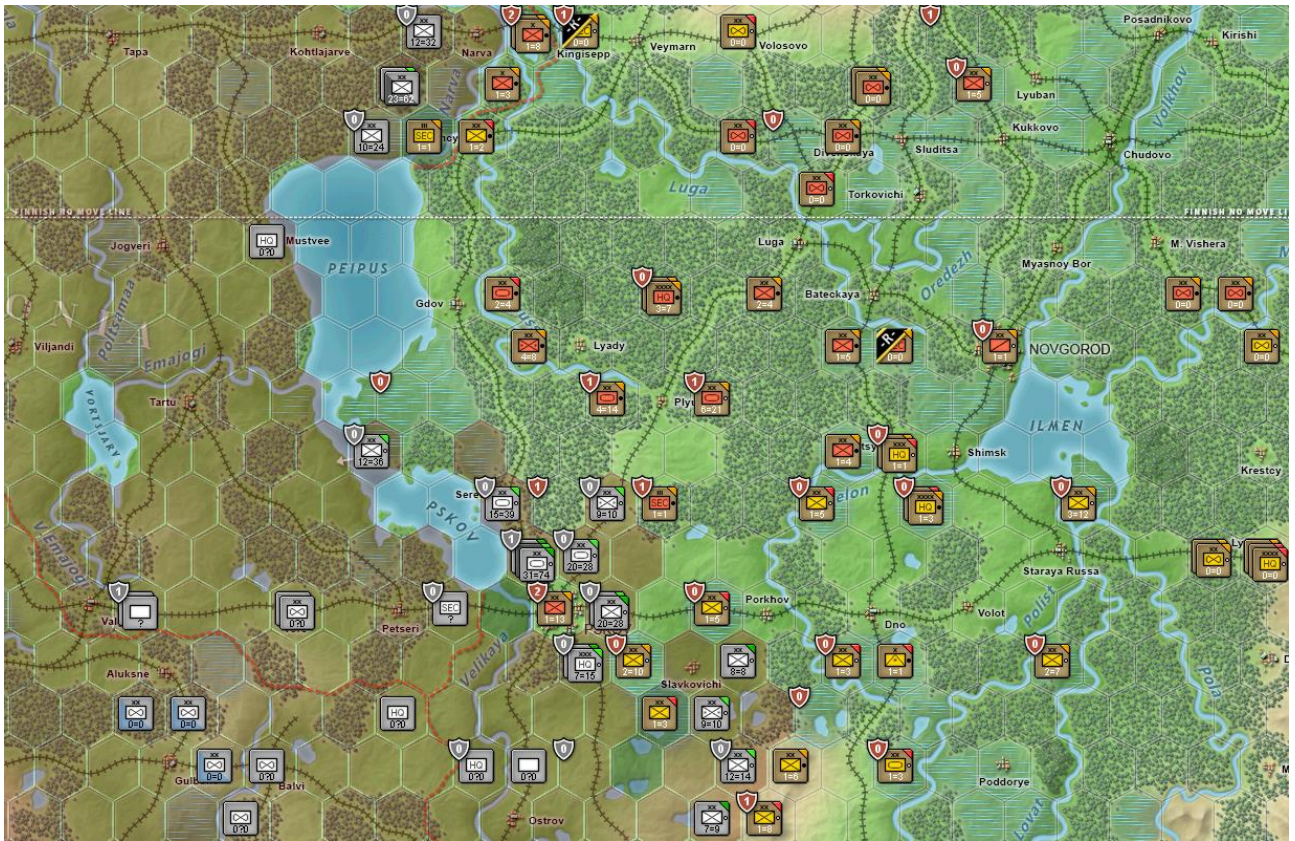
Finally, I will also cut off supplies to the Germans attacking southeast of Pskov. It costs me little, but I expect little result from it as well.

Execution

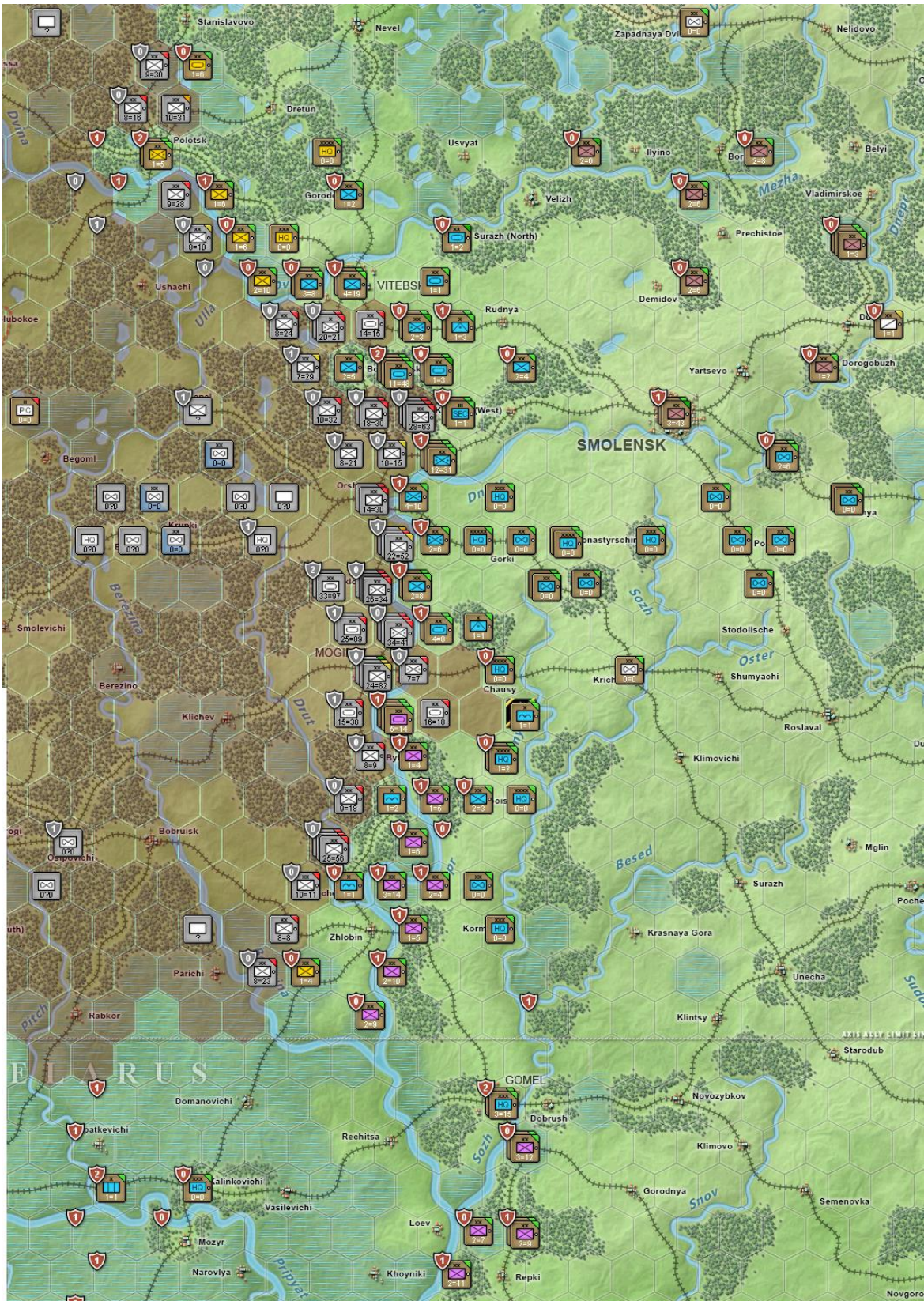
I decided to move several units north to Janisjarva by rail after all. I am not sure if this will be enough to hold the line, but I will try.

At Pskov, my attack on the Security Regiment succeeded, but my encirclement of the eastern German divisions failed. I have also pulled my defenses in the direction of Leningrad back a couple of hexes.

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



The Center



Situation Assessment

In the center, it looks as if the major part of the German army has reached the frontlines at about the same time.

To the north, southeast of Vitebsk, Germans thrusts have effectively penetrated my lines, but as I hoped, the Germans have not had enough spare movement to exploit the situation. Regardless, I really need to withdraw immediately, if I do not wish to suffer some encirclements.

Further south, the Germans have taken Mogilev and pushed across the Dnepr. Currently, they have one Panzer division and one Motorized division across the river. I expect the Germans Panzers in this area to have about 30-40MP next turn due to receiving supplies.

Planning

At Vitebsk, I will fall back a couple of hexes to the positions being prepared there. Those positions will certainly not be strong, but they are what I have at present, and they will have to do. I will also continue to draw troops forward from the rear.

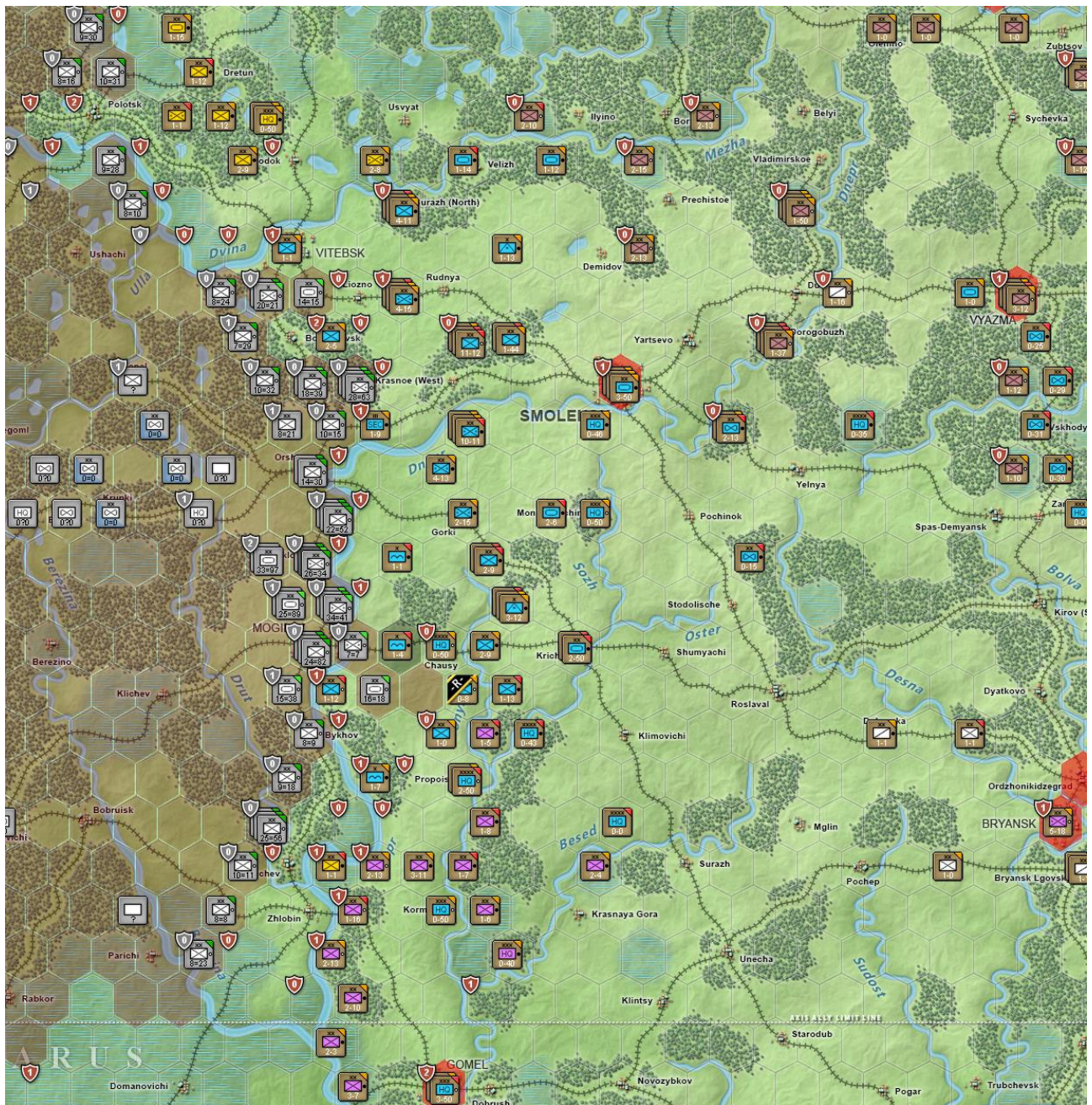
East of the Dnepr, I will pull my units back, so as to leave a few hexes between myself and the Germans. I need to buy myself as much time as I can, while my newly arrived units train to the east.

In the air, I will continue to probe for German night fliers, and attack the German Ju-87B airfield if no serious opposition is met.

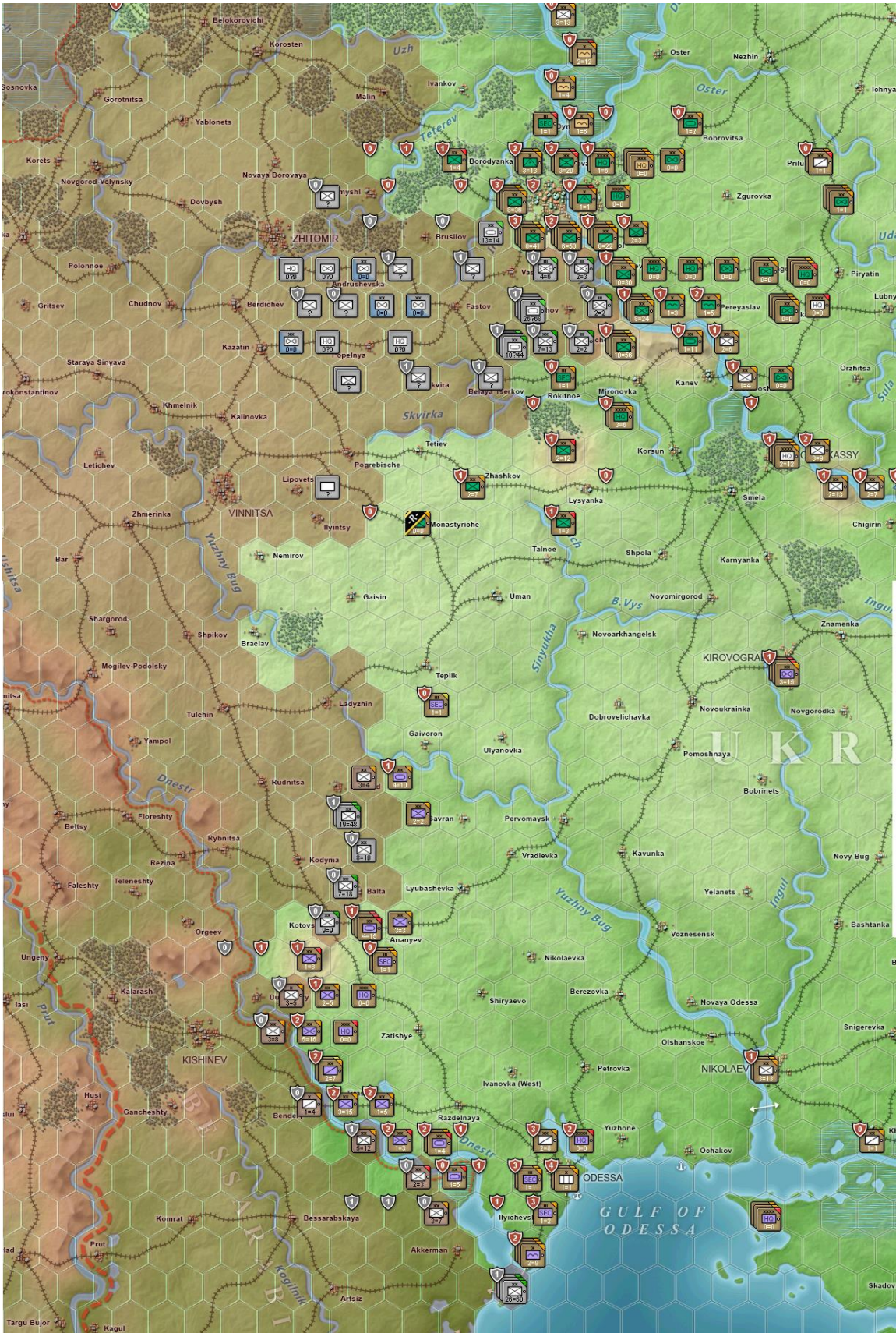
Execution

In the center, I have pulled back my line a couple of hexes all along the front, in order to trade space for time, as I train my newly arrived forces in the rear. Little fighting has occurred, but I have bombed the local Luftwaffe airbases for a few kills.

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



The South



Situational Assessment

In the south, things are looking good for the Soviets, I believe. The German Panzers are still stuck southeast of Kiev and the German/Rumanian attack on Odessa is only progressing slowly.

It seems likely, by the look of the German setup, that they wish to start pushing southeast into the Don bend. Doing that, they will be in position to cross the Dnepr at some point or other.

Planning

Recon seems to suggest that I may push an NKVD Regiment forward north of Kiev and dislodge a German airfield with some 23 damaged JU88's. I will try bombing the airfield at night in order to damage as much as I can, and then see if I can actually reach it with the NKVD unit.

As I will finish evacuating the industry from Kiev this turn, I would consider it a great benefit if the Germans would keep their Panzers in the area, using them to attack the city. Such a move would delay a German thrust into the Don Bend for yet another turn, giving me even more time to train my own troops and move my industry about as needed.

Because of this, I intend to weaken the defence of Kiev somewhat, drawing my units east of the Dnepr in order to defend against a German crossing. This will be a deliberate gambit, hoping the Germans will take the bait (Kiev) leaving me even more time to prepare further east.

At Odessa, I will simply continue my fighting withdrawal, hoping to delay the German arrival at the city for as long as possible.

Execution

In the south, I discovered that the Germans have made a serious blunder in setting up their air defence this turn. Probably hoping for a lot of kills against my night bombers, the local Luftwaffe fighters were all set to fly at night, while staying grounded during the day. As usual, it only took a couple of light probing attacks to establish this, after which I could hit the Luftwaffe bases at daylight with everything I had. That everything included six Air Groups of IL-2 and another six with SU-2's. After those attacks were done, the German fighter losses were 69 Bf109 F-2's. Another noticeable thing was the loss of 49 German Ju/52 Transports. The attacks left the Luftwaffe with basically no fighting capability outside Kiev, which should impact them somewhat come next turn.

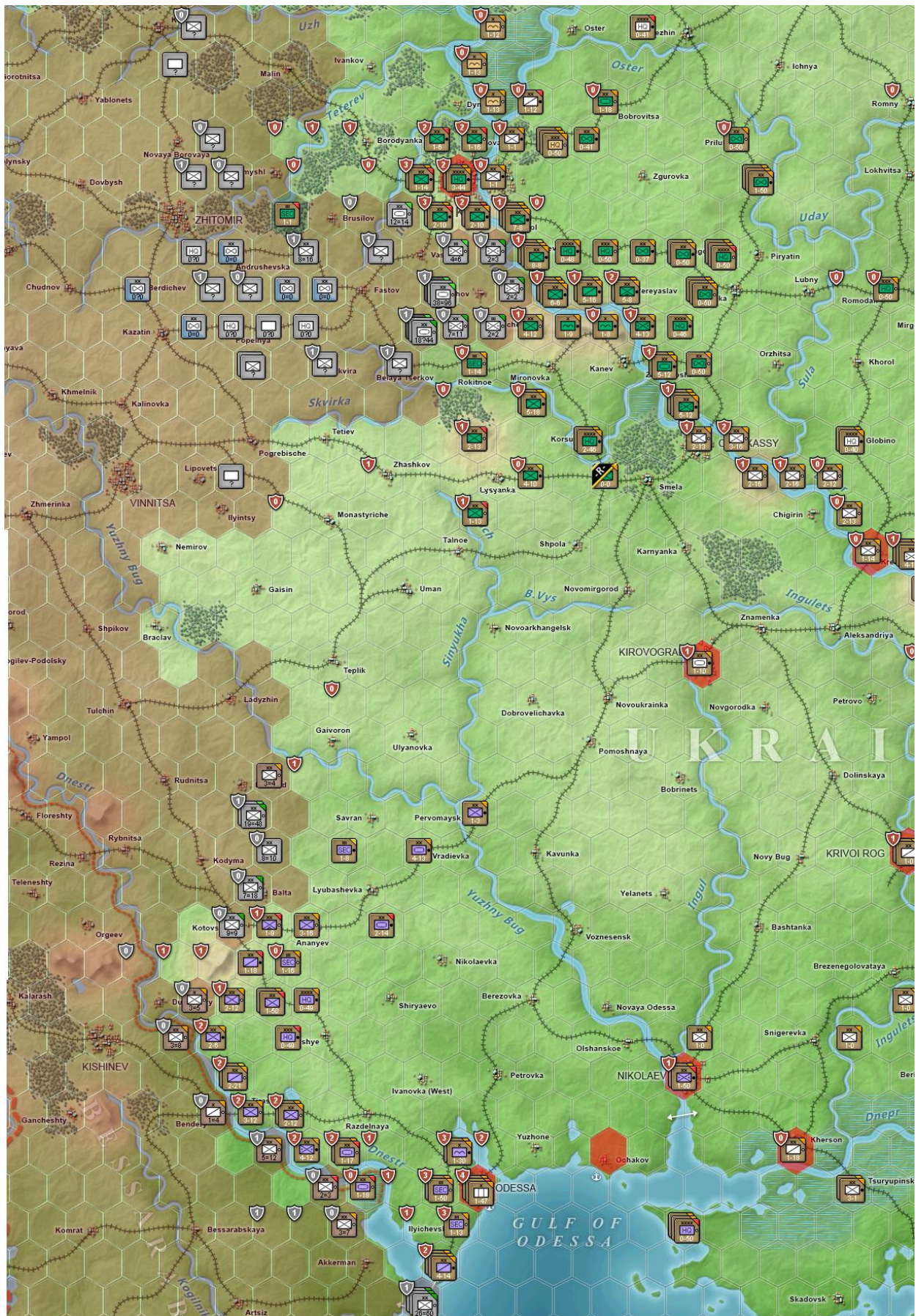
At this point it dawned on me that the error might not be limited to the southern part of the German front, and extra probings done in the north and center confirmed this. Consequently, I hit every Luftwaffe airfield in sight with a full scale daylight bombing attack. At the end of those attacks, the Soviets had lost 59 various aircraft (mainly Ivl Bombers). The German losses looked like this:

Air Losses	----- Permanent Losses -----		
	BATTLE	TURN	TOTAL
Bf 109E-7/U1	0	3	11
Bf 109E-7	0	7	53
Bf 109F-2	0	83	215
Bf 109F-4	0	0	3
Bf 110C-4B	0	0	9
Bf 110E-2	0	2	9
Do 17P-1	0	0	1
Do 17Z-2	0	21	74
Fi 156C	0	4	4
Fw 189A	0	0	4
He 111H-4	0	18	117
Hs 123A	0	0	1
Hs 126B-1	0	0	2
Ju 52/3m	0	53	67
Ju 87B	0	10	77
Ju 88A	6	99	261
Ju 88D-1	0	10	16

Reorganizing the defense of Kiev in accordance with my plan, I have placed one infantry division in each of the Kiev hexes, with an extra AT brigade in each of the three southernmost Kiev hexes facing the German Panzers. All those forces are under the command of the 6th Army under Eremenko (a good but not excellent army commander). The forces released from the defense of Kiev has been placed on the Dnepr, extending the defensive line I have on this river. In short, Kiev is still defended, but could be taken next turn if the Germans commit their Panzers to the task. It is my hope that they will, as the German infantry will otherwise arrive one turn later to take the city anyway.

At Odessa, I have simply reorganized my line slightly, placing better troops in front of the three German divisions trying to forage the Odessa Bay and pulled back a Motorized division that was in disarray, but still held more than 1200 Vehicles.

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



Conclusion

I am now finished with evacuating industries from Kiev and Odessa, and have also evacuated some of the remaining industry from both Leningrad and Gomel. In Leningrad there is now only eight Heavy Industry facilities left that are scheduled for evacuation. The threats on cities like Gomel and Bryansk are certainly not imminent, so I feel I am a couple of turns ahead of schedule on the evacuation.

In the air, I believe this phase has been disastrous for the Germans. The loss of 83 Bf109 F-2's are the equal of 4,5 turns of production at this time of the game. It would not require many turns such as this before the Luftwaffe's ability to support ground operations in 1941 are severely hampered.