

Turn 6, Strategic Considerations

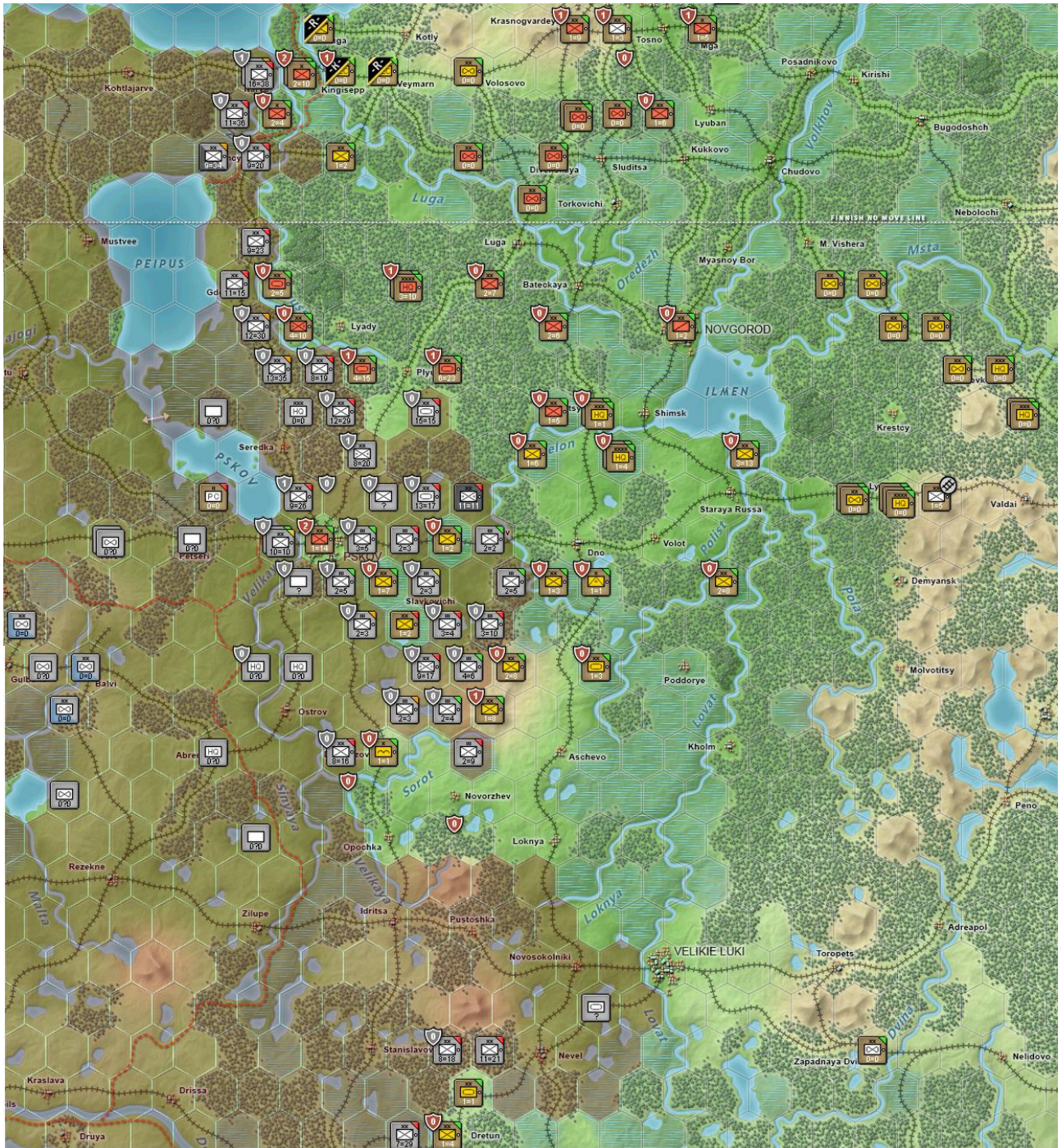
____ SPECIAL ____						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2942	46154	0
-	Port	134	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	293	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	3310	10	61431	854706	0
-	Vehicle	140	0	149701	186820	0
-	Heavy Industry	232	0	0	572500	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	320000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	178800	0
-	Resource Production	196	0	0	980000	0
-	Armaments Production	366	2	816134	446750	0

The Germans are certainly beginning to bite. In the north, four divisions are encircled around Pskov, in the center another nine are encircled southeast of Vitebsk and finally, in the south three divisions are encircled south of Kiev. In short, I have underestimated the German capacity for movement this turn, and will have to do what I can to rectify the situation.

In the air, the Luftwaffe has taken the consequence of last turns disastrous events and pulled almost every aircraft there is back to their National Reserve. For this week only, I am the master of the skies.

Axis VP's are 164, which would mean a minor Axis win should the game end here.

The North



Situational Assessment

At Narva and east of the Lake Peipus, the German infantry are pushing steadily onwards, making any further attempt to defend the lines north of Pskov futile. At Pskov itself, four divisions are encircled and waiting for the German cleanup operations.

I do have the option of extending the German supply lines for the infantry southeast of Pskov by moving one doomed infantry division south and an Airborne Brigade north. This will possibly buy me a little time in the German attack towards Demyansk and Lake Ilmen.

Further south, a German Panzzer division is advancing fast towards Velikie Luki. This area is currently not defended by the Soviets at all, but one Northwestern Front army is forming around Moscow, standing on the rail lines ready to be moved forward.

Planning

At Narva and north of Pskov, I will pull my forces back towards the Luga River, effectively giving up the terrain south of the river.

South of Lake Ilmen, I will also pull back, planning to establish a new line on the Polist and Polis rivers running south from Lake Ilmen.

At Pskov, I will sacrifice my Airborne Brigade in order to buy myself whatever time will come from such a sacrifice. It will probably not be much.

Finally, I will rail forward the Northwestern Front division at Moscow to the Velikie Luki area. I feel I have enough surplus rail capacity to do this, as my industry is under little threat.

In the air, I will use the local SB-2's to do air supply missions for my encircled divisions and the long range bombers to attack the forward German units.

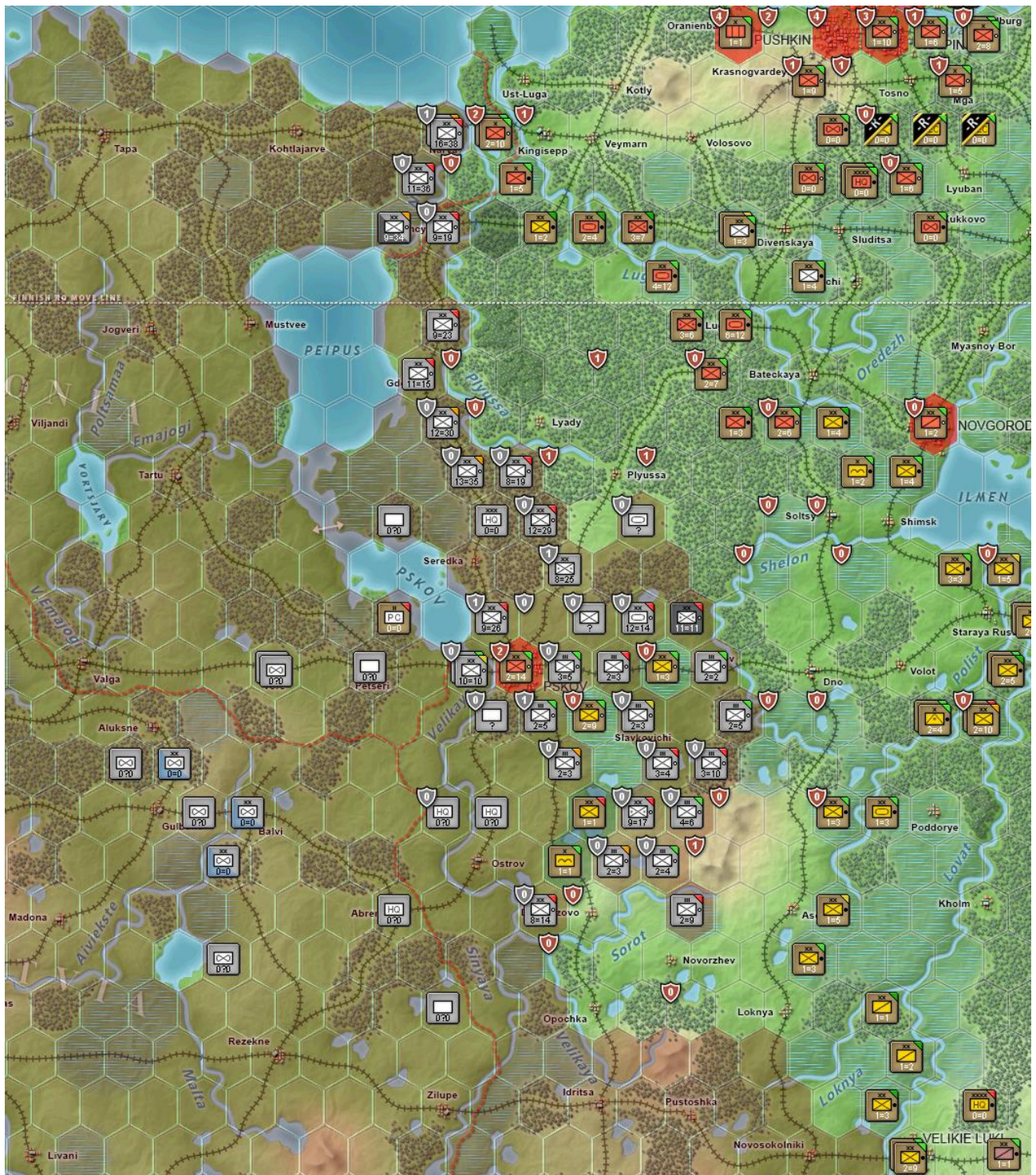
Execution

South of Leningrad, I have withdrawn my frontline a few hexes, hoping to cause further delay on the advancing Germans before they reach Leningrad. I estimate that it is only a matter of a few short turns before Leningrad is encircled, and I will have to make good use of those turns, if the city is to survive the coming siege.

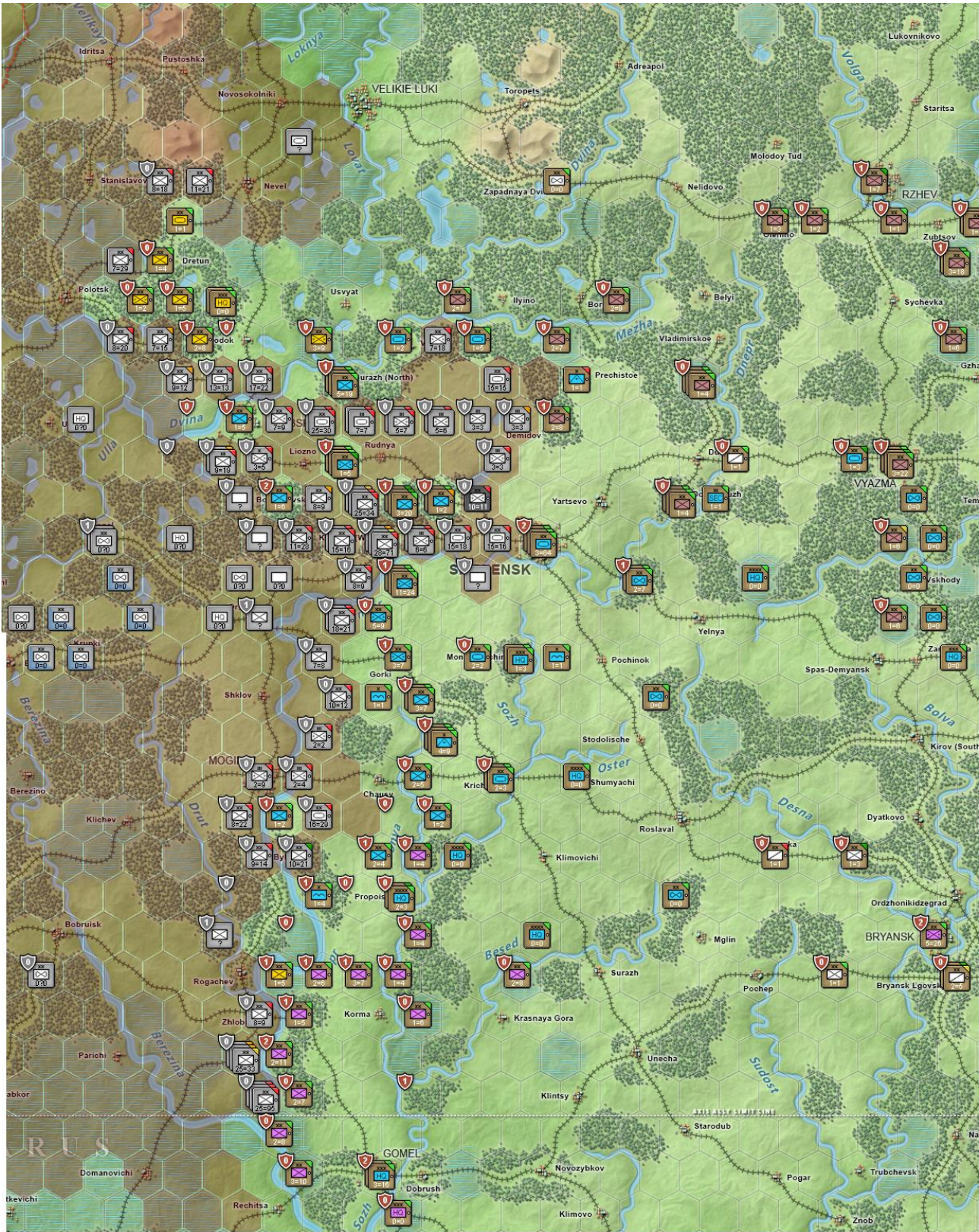
South of Lake Ilmen, at the Northwestern Front, I have railed in two armies (the 27th at Demyansk and the 11th at Velikie Luki) in order to present a more complete defence against the advancing Germans.

In the air, my bomber attacks were all but useless, costing very few casualties for a few level bombers.

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



The Center



Situation Assessment

In the center, things could certainly look better. The Germans have encircled the major part of the 20th Army in several smaller pockets and made good progress towards Smolensk. North of Mogilev, they are well over the Dnepr and south of the city, they are beginning to threaten to flank my defenses on that river.

The good news are that I have some available Rifle Armies forming to the east, and I should be able to construct new lines before too long.

Planning

At Vitebsk I think there is a possibility for breaking the German encirclement of the main part of the encircled 20th Army. This will happen if I can defeat the two Motorized Regiments standing three hexes west of Smolensk.

If I fail, the divisions I attack with from the south might be lost themselves. This will cost me another two or three Motorized and Tank divisions. If I succeed, I will not only have bought myself some time as the Germans will need to reclose the pocket, I have also created some very long supply lines for the forward German Panzers.

In order to achieve this attack, I will pull the two Tactical Bomber airfields up from the Southwestern Front to do some preliminary bombing. This makes good strategic sense as well, as the German threat on Moscow is certainly greater than the one they pose in the south.

I calculate I will be able to a hasty attack by the Motorized divisions to the south and follow up by another attack by close by infantry and motorized units. I might finally be able to attack with some of the units inside the pocket in another hasty attack. The reason for conducting a series of hasty attacks are that attacking across a minor river hexside is +3MP for motorized units, meaning that no soviet Motorized units can conduct a deliberate attack across a hexside at this time of the game.

South of Mogilev, I will pull my defenses back to the river Pronya.

Execution

Moving up my tactical bombers as I planned, the initial air attacks cost some 100 dead and 10 guns lost, so even when counting the damaged and disrupted material as well, the result was no spectacular.

The initial hasty attack by my Motorized units were a complete disaster, as can be seen below:

Axis Forces Defending (C):		Forces Engaged		Soviet Forces Attacking (H):	
XXXXVII Panzer Corps 1/10th Motorized Division (34) 2/10th Motorized Division (35) 604th Howitzer Battalion (1)		DEF: men 9732, art 118, afv 6 DAM: men 5, art 1, afv 0 LOST: men 4, art 1, afv 0 DEF: flt 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: flt 0, bmr 0, utl 0	ATK: men 31149, art 210, afv 817 DAM: men 210, art 2, afv 7 LOST: men 1889, art 25, afv 185 ATK: flt 44, bmr 17, utl 0 LOST: flt 1, bmr 0, utl 0	3rd Army 12th Tank Division (13) 20th Army -10% 1st Motorized Division (7) 13th Army -10% 210th Motorized Division (3) Western Air Command	
CV: 70->79.2 Fort: 0.16->0.16 Comm HQ: XXXXVII Panzer Corps G Joachim Lemelsen		Defending Forces HELD Odds 1 : 4.95		CV: 23->16.0 Eng Val: 0 Comm HQ: 3rd Army GL Vasily Kuznetsov	
		Show Details		Exit	

I then decided to proceed with another deliberate attack by infantry backed by reserve Motorized units. The reason for attempting this attack was that the German Motorized units were now low on supplies. In

case of failure, I would still have a little MP left to try to rectify my bad position. The results of this attack was as follows:

Axis Forces Defending (W): XXXXVII Panzer Corps 1/10th Motorized Division (33) 2/10th Motorized Division (35) 53rd Nebelwerfer Regiment (3) 631st Howitzer Battalion (1)	< 2 of 4 > 83,51 - Clear - Clear Turn: 6 1941-07-24		Soviet Forces Attacking: 3rd Army -10% 7th Motorized Division (20) R 110th Rifle Division (7) 144th Rifle Division (6) 6th Rifle Division (7) 20th Army 73rd Rifle Division (13) 75th Rifle Division (15)		
	Forces Engaged DEF: men 11000, art 180, afv 6 DAM: men 30, art 2, afv 0 LOST: men 39, art 4, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 ATK: men 64328, art 747, afv 240 DAM: men 196, art 1, afv 4 LOST: men 1312, art 13, afv 79 ATK: ftr 21, bmr 9, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0				
	2/10th Motorized Division RETREATED 1/10th Motorized Division RETREATED				
CV: 72->53.8 Fort: 0.16->0.00 Comm HQ: XXXXVII Panzer Corps G Joachim Lemelsen	Show Details	Odds 3.76 : 1	Exit	CV: 68->202.7 Comm HQ: 20th Army GM Fyodor Tolbukhin	Eng Val: 2

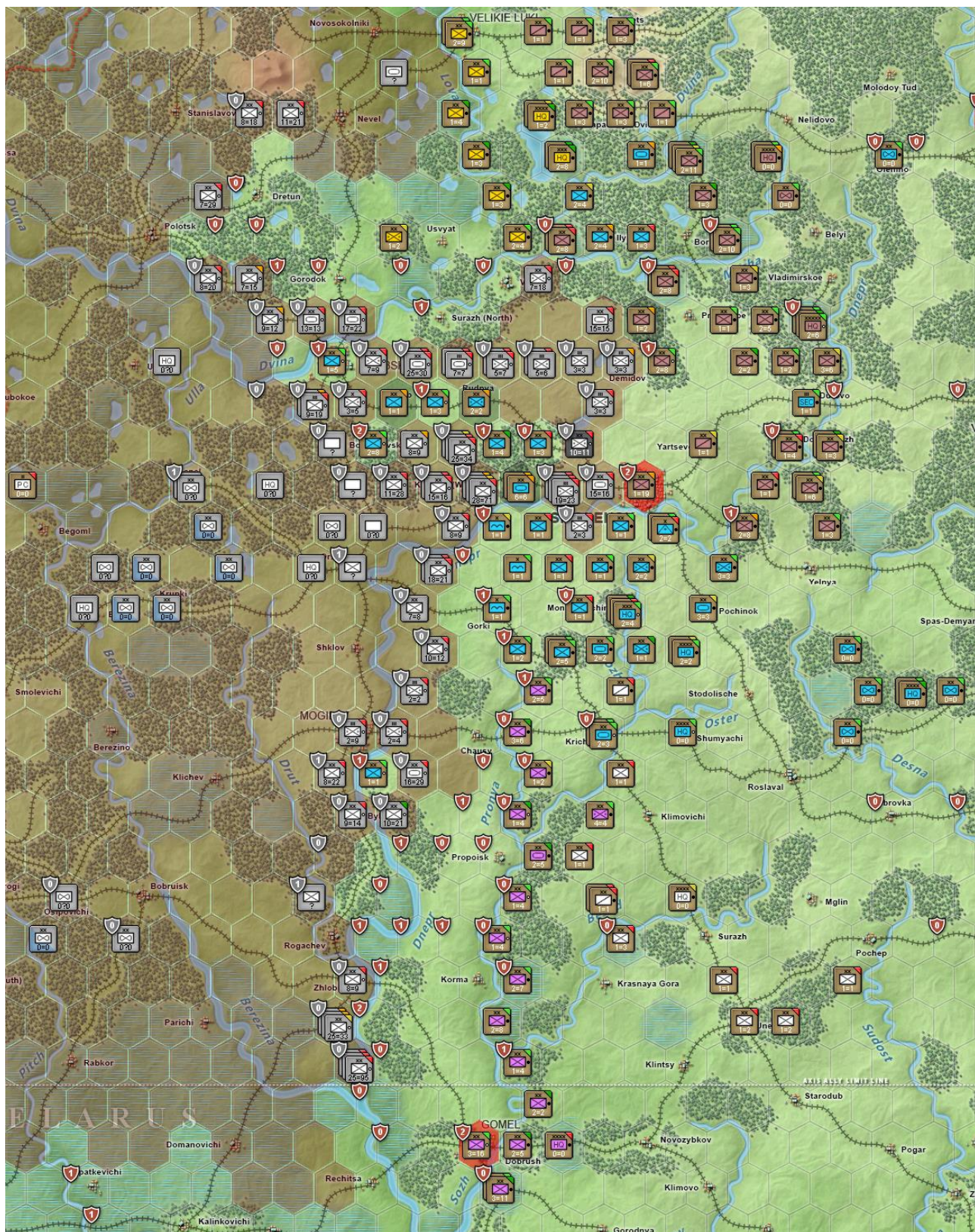
Even though this attack was another loss of manpower to the local forces, it was successfull in pushing the Germans back, which is all I could possibly ask.

Having broken the ring around the encircled divisions, I instantly began to withdraw my forces outside the former pocket and spread out the units inside it. The result was some rather long supply lines for the German Panzers. Just east of Vitebsk the Germans have 35 MP to their nearest railhead. That number quickly climbs to 56 four hexes east of Vitebsk and reaches a maximum of 81 at Smolensk. I have no doubt as to the coming fate of those formerly encircled divisions, but hopefully their sacrifice will slow down the German advance somewhat.

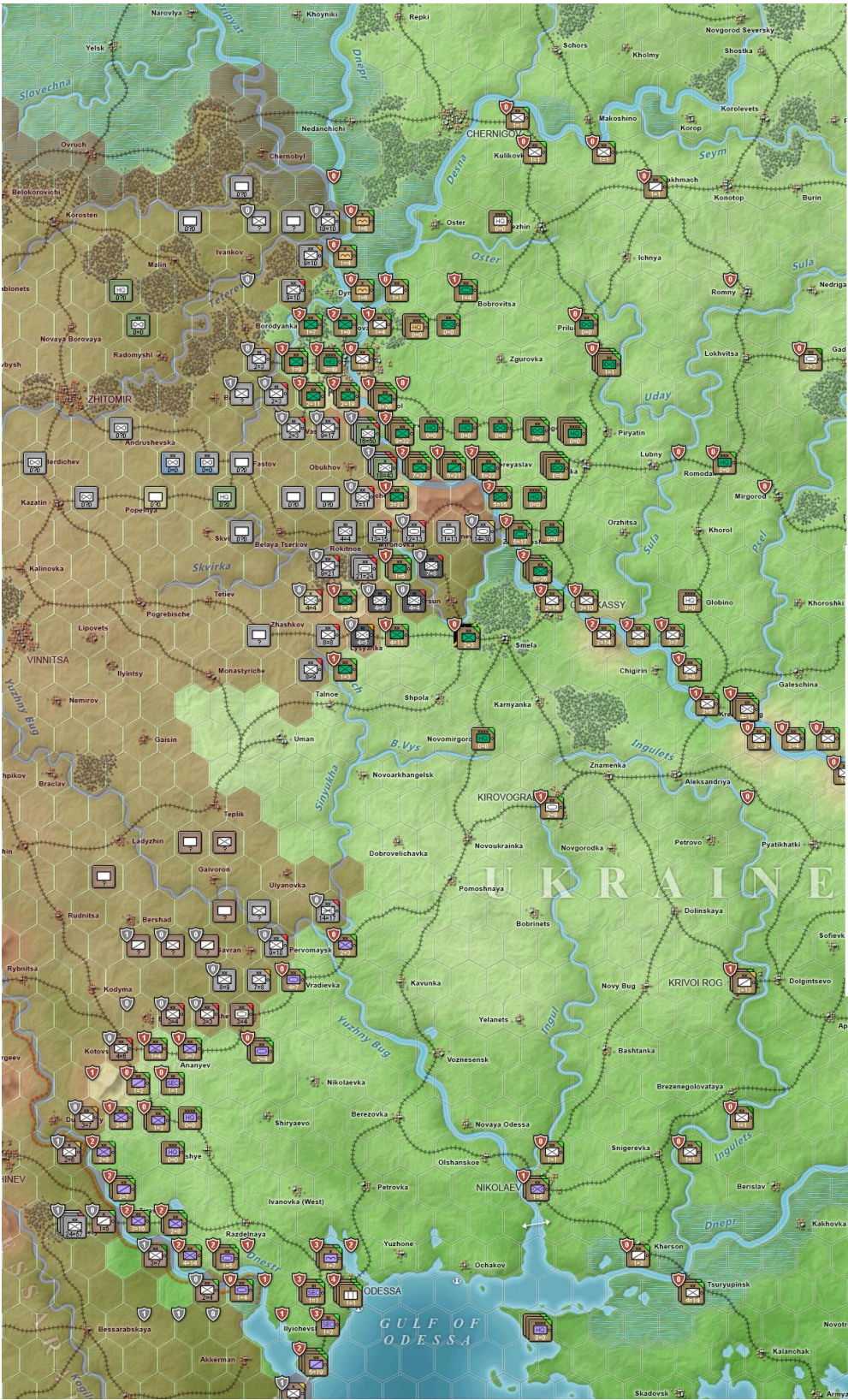
To the north of these events, the Reserve Front is arriving at the front in greater numbers, although the Front has little in it but unexperienced Rifle divisions.

To the south, the Orel MD has withdrawn a few hexes, and a new army is reaching the front coming up from Orel. This army has not been assigned to a front yet, as the Orel MD is already at full capacity.

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



The South



Situational Assessment

In the south, the German Panzers have advanced to the southeast, encircling a few Soviet divisions in the process. While I am not overly worried about the encircled divisions, I am slightly concerned with the threat of the Germans advancing southeast into the Don Bend.

At Kiev, the Germans did not attack the city, but instead moved their infantry up close and are now threatening to outflank the city from the north.

At Odessa, the German advance is limited and pose little immediate threat. The German infantry, the only forces capable of attacking successfully in this area, are moving to outflank the defenses on the north. To the east of Nikolaev, new divisions are forming up to participate in the defense of this area.

Planning

In the south, I will strengthen my lines on the Dnepr and pull back into the Don Bend, creating a new skirmish line if possible. From the east new divisions are moving up, which should make this undertaking somewhat easier.

North of Odessa, I will pull back two or three hexes to straighten my lines.

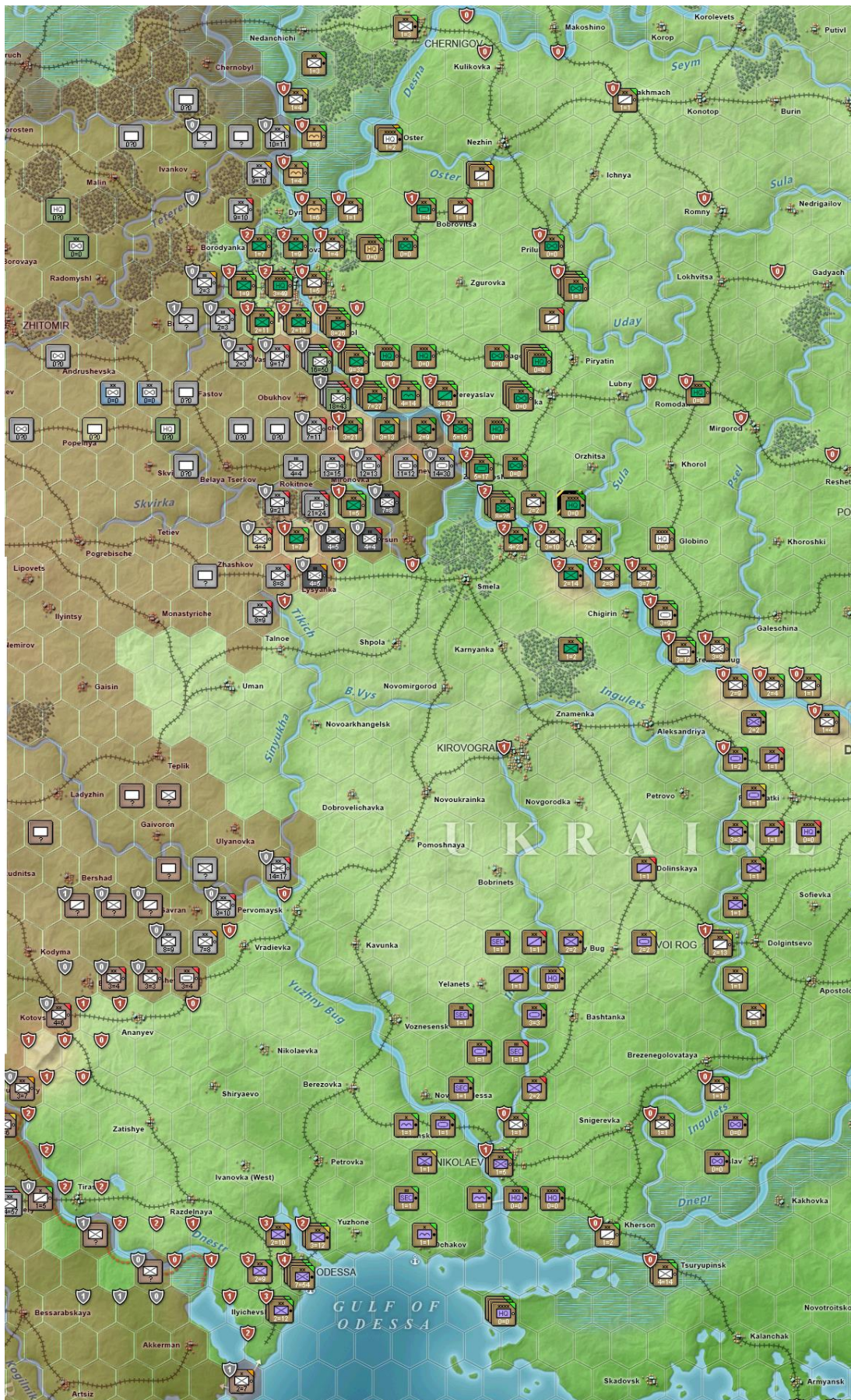
Execution

East of Kiev, I have done what I can to strengthen the defence north of the city along the Dnepr. Regardless, I expect to be forced to abandon the city next turn, partly because of a German Panzer attack into the Don Bend, and partly because of the German infantry flanking the city to the north.

In the Don Bend itself, I have pulled back my forces, abandoned Kirovograd (after evacuating its industries) and established a new line on the Ingulets river to the east.

At Odessa, I have split my defending forces, and pulled some infantry back to the city, while sending most of the mobile forces to the east along with the Security Regiments and Airborne Brigades.

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



Conclusion

This turn, all industries from Kirovograd and Krivoi Rog have been evacuated. This has been done even though I have railed several armies worth of divisions up towardsa the front. Next turn, I guess I have to evacuate the Nikolaev industries, and I will soon have to look at the remaining industry in Leningrad (eight Heavy Industry complexes and some Armored Cars I shall leave behind).

I expect the Germans to destroy about 10 of my divisions next turn, and also reencircle about 10 to 15 more. There is little to be done about that, other than to try and cause whatever delay I can on the advancing Germans.