

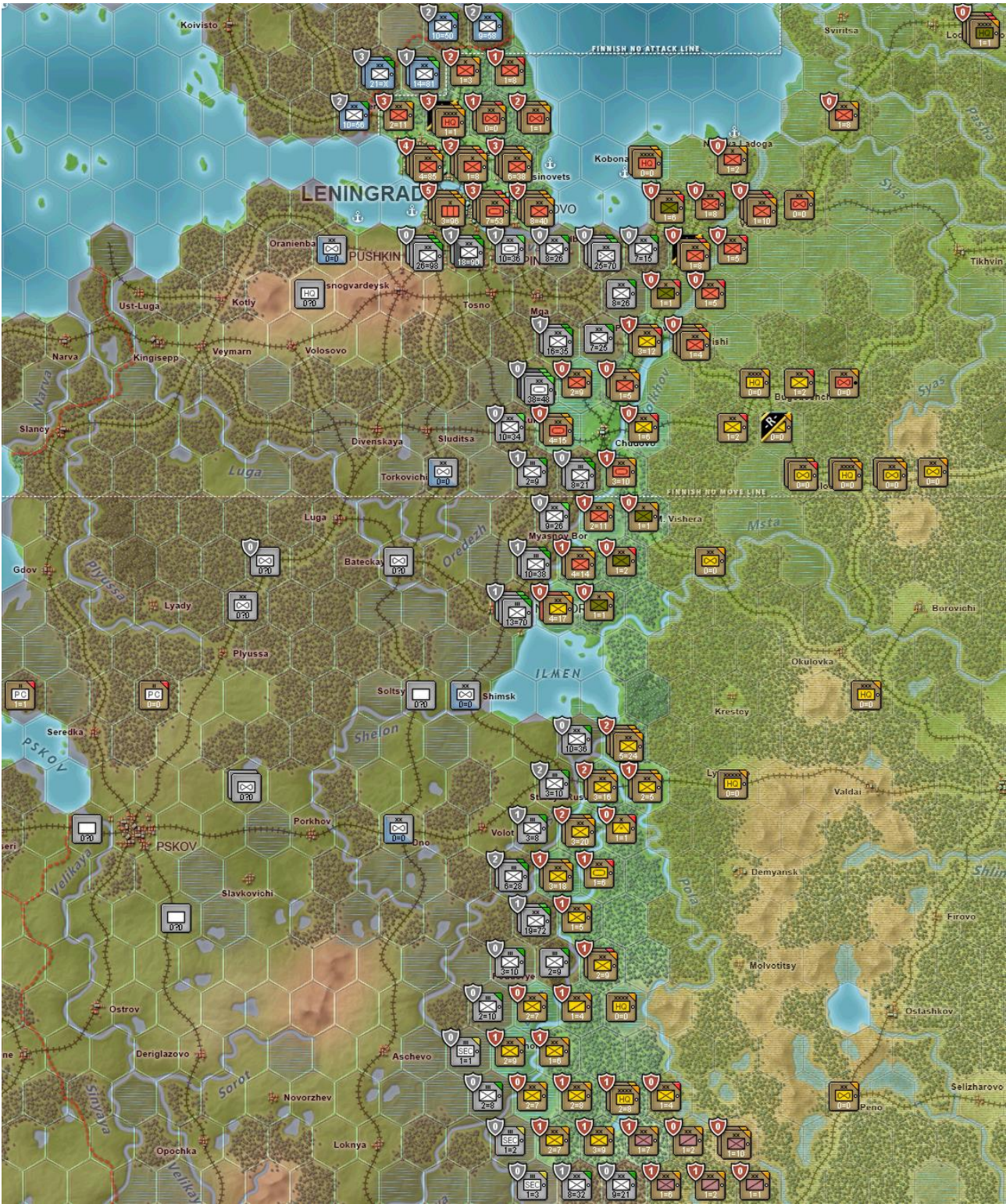
Turn 13, Strategic Considerations

____ SPECIAL ____						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2462	102230	0
-	Port	121	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	277	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2976	0	76223	1941868	0
-	Vehicle	140	0	235879	278300	0
-	Heavy Industry	232	0	0	1269000	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	768000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	429120	0
-	Resource Production	182	0	0	2284000	0
-	Armaments Production	366	2	499360	990000	0

The German offensive against Leningrad has stopped, and the Germans have swung eastwards towards the ports on the eastern side of Lake Ladoga. Outside Moscow, the mud has put a temporary stop to most major German offensive operations and further south, the Germans are picking up momentum in the direction of Kharkov.

In the air, I believe to have won another major victory this turn. I will detail that in the section of the AAR covering the northern sector of the front.

The North



Situational Assessment

The Germans have stopped their direct assault on Leningrad and turned east. It is now only five turns to the mud, but the last Ladoga port of Sviritsa is only six hexes distant. Between the Germans and the port stand the 7th Independent Army and the Volkhov river.

The Germans have launched their bombing campaign against the city of Leningrad this turn, and I believe the results must have come as quite a chock to the Luftwaffe. Below are the six highest bomber casualty combats of the German phase, all conducted near Leningrad.

Near	Loc	Attk	Result	Type	ATTACKER			DEFENDER			ATTACKER LOSSES			DEFENDER LOSSES		
					Ftr	Bmr	Utl	Ftr	Bmr	Utl	Ftr	Bmr	Utl	Ftr	Bmr	Utl
Osinovets	82,14	AK	AF Bombed	-	0	139	0	120	0	0	0	92	0	5	0	0
Osinovets	82,15	AK	City Bombed	-	2	114	0	114	0	0	1	57	0	5	0	0
Shlisselburg	84,17	AK	Retreated	Delib	24	23	0	118	24	0	0	16	0	10	1	0
Pavlovo	83,16	AK	Held	Delib	24	41	0	65	0	0	0	12	0	8	0	0
Sviritsa	90,12	AK	City Bombed	-	7	154	0	109	0	0	0	10	0	5	0	0
Shlisselburg	85,17	AK	Held	Hasty	24	25	0	129	32	0	0	6	0	4	0	0

Once again, I am more than content with the performance of my LaGG-3 fighters, when they act as interceptors against unescorted German bomber attacks. I am surprised that the Germans have not used their fighters in the area as escorts for the attacks. Should the Germans manage to repair their damaged aircraft in the area, they will have some 280 bombers plus replacements ready for flight come next turn.

South of Leningrad, the German advances has all but outmaneuvered some of my divisions left on the west bank of the Volkhov river. Two of those divisions do not have the necessary movement to withdraw behind the river this turn.

The German rail lines at Pskov are still not repaired for some reason, and I expect the German Panzers to have around 28-31 MP come next turn.

South of Lake Ilmen, the German Security Regiments are back on the line.

Planning

At the Volkhov, I am going to begin prepare defending the northern section of the river, while also using the local swamps to slow German movement as much as possible. I certainly wish to prevent the Germans and the Finns linking up at the Sviritsa.

From the south, I will be railing up units to fill out the 55th Army on the Svir river and the 52nd Army assisting on the Volkhov.

In the air, I will move the Pe-2 airfield at the Northwestern Front to the Northern Front and move it north. I wish to be as prepared as possible for the upcoming battles.

South of Lake Ilmen, I will continue to hit the German Security Regiments as best I can.

Execution

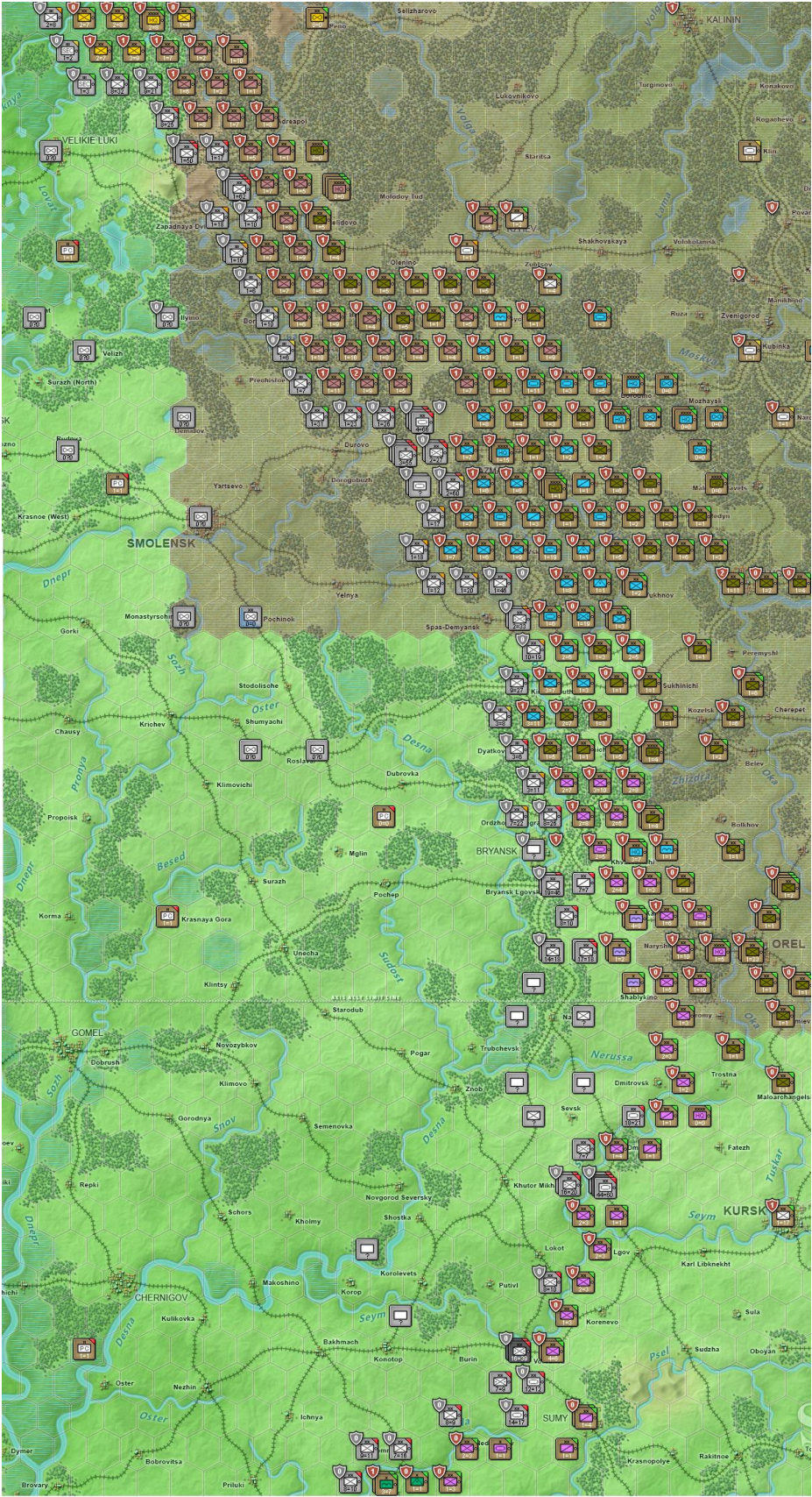
In the north, I have railed in quite a few new divisions this turn, to fill up the almost empty STAVKA armies in the area. The purpose is obviously to prevent the Germans from linking up with the Finns at the Svir river. Once the Volkhov Front forms, I will already have troops in place to fill it out.

South of Lake Ilmen, I have attacked the German Security Regiments twice, but without anything spectacular happening.

Below is an Image of the situation south of Leningrad, as I give the turn to Hermann.



The Center



Situation Assessment

In the northern part of the center, the mud has put a dampener on the action this turn. Most interesting is the withdrawal of the northernmost German Panzers, that have pulled back one hex during the mud. The short supply lines should ensure, that they have plenty of MP come next turn.

Further south, a massive German panzer force are plowing their way southeast towards Kharkov on a wide front of 10 hexes. I count six Panzer divisions and seven Motorized division in total in this area. I can expect the motorized units in this area to have around 30 MP or so next turn. I have little strength directly in front of this attack, but I can easily shorten the Southwestern Front's line, thus freeing up one or two armies worth of reinforcements.

Planning

In the north, I will do little but to maintain my positions, trying to build more fortifications and slowing any renewed German offensive on Moscow.

Further south, I will be a little more active. First, the 32nd Army of the Bryansk Front will do a massive attack on the German cavalry division directly opposite it. The purpose being to put an extra hex of EZoC in front of the German infantry before it reached the Bryansk Front's lines.

Then, I will move one Airborne Brigade to cut off supplies to the northernmost German Panzer division, and otherwise pull back the Bryansk Front units to a new line running along the Oka and Tuskar rivers and then southwards from Kursk to the Psel river. From here, the Southwestern Front will be taking over the line, which will be detailed below.

Behind those forces, I hope to be able to set up some STAVKA reinforcements by rail movement. If this is possible, will be decided by the amount of rail points I have left at this time. I intend to move all vehicle production out of Kharkov this turn.

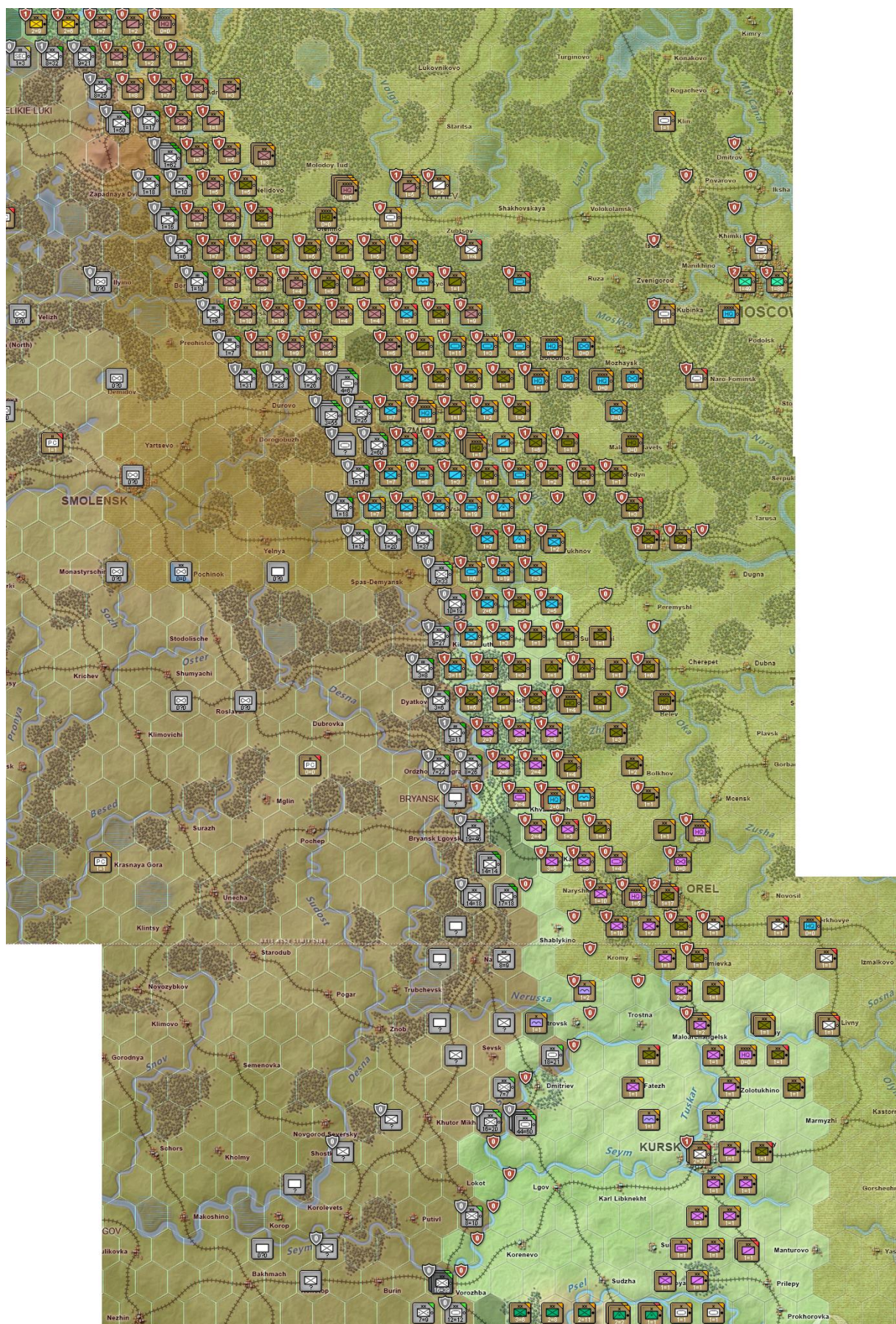
Execution

In the center, I have fallen back in front of Kursk, and brought together the Bryansk Front along a shorter stretch of frontline.

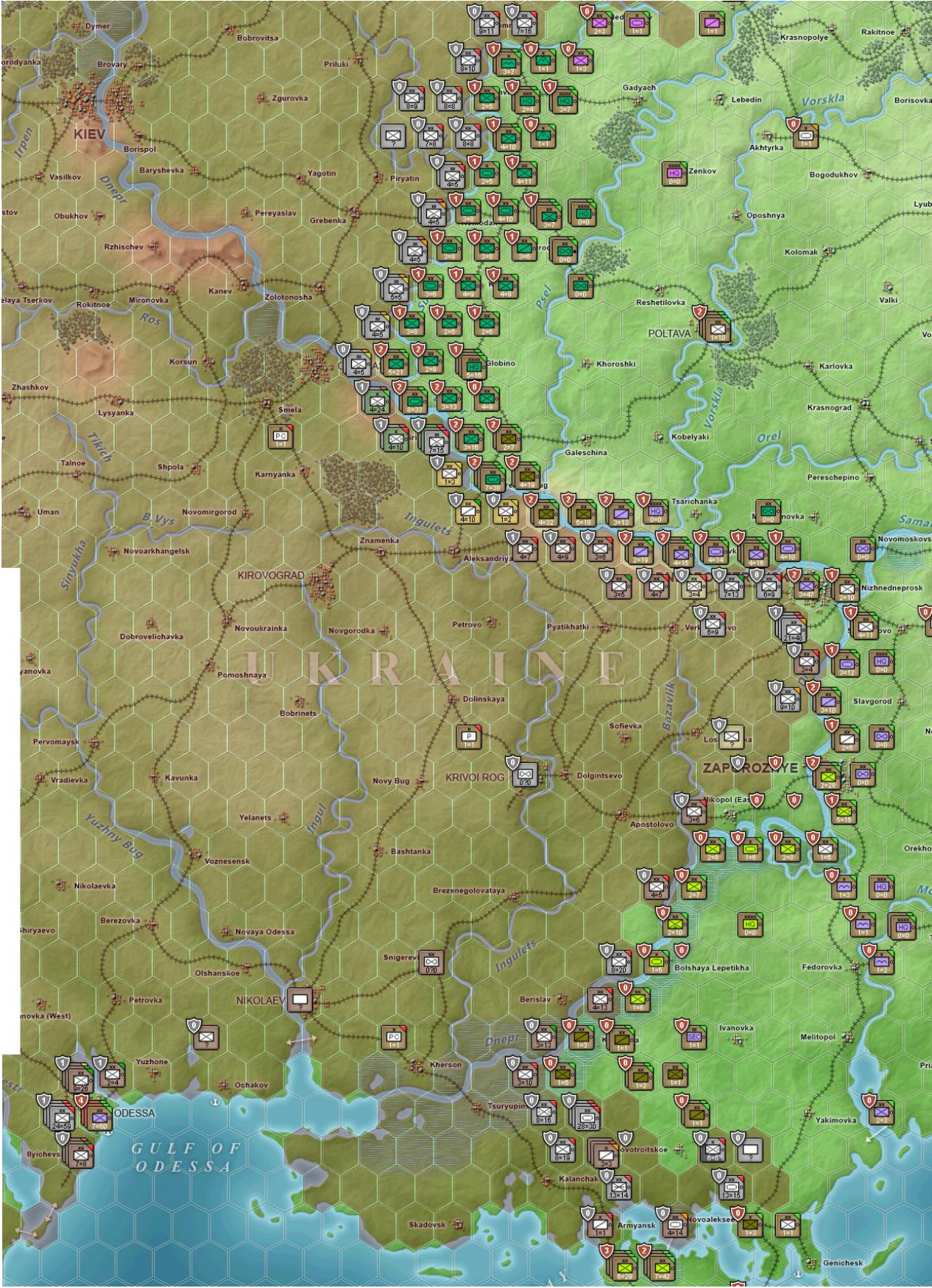
Behind that frontline, at Tambovsk, I have a lot of newly arrived divisions and brigades moving west by rail. Come next turn, I can put plenty of new, low value divisions behind the Bryansk Front.

The attack against the German cavalry division was a success, and my units has been moved back into their original positions after the attack

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



The South



Situational Assessment

In the south, the only interesting news is an Axis attack that has all but severed the land connection to the Crimean.

At Odessa, only the city itself is now in Soviet hands. Opposite the three Rifle divisions I have inside the city, the Axis siege forces consist of three German Infantry divisions and three Rumanian infantry divisions as well as four Rumanian infantry brigades.

In the air, recon reveal that the Germans have set up a force of 94 Bf 109's in Krivoi Rog, so my own air attacks needs to take this into account.

Planning

The southwestern Front will withdraw to a position on the Psel river, covering the front left open by the Bryansk Front to its north.

North of the Crimea, I do not have enough MP to sever the supply lines of the German and Rumanian thrust. However, the length of the German supply lines are beginning to tell, and the forward Panzers should have no more than

I will not attack the lone Rumanian cavalry unit north of the Crimea crossings. I wsh to see if I will begin the construction of further defenses in the hex due to an adjacent enemy unit. I should probably look it up in the patch notes, but I must admit to being to lazy right now.

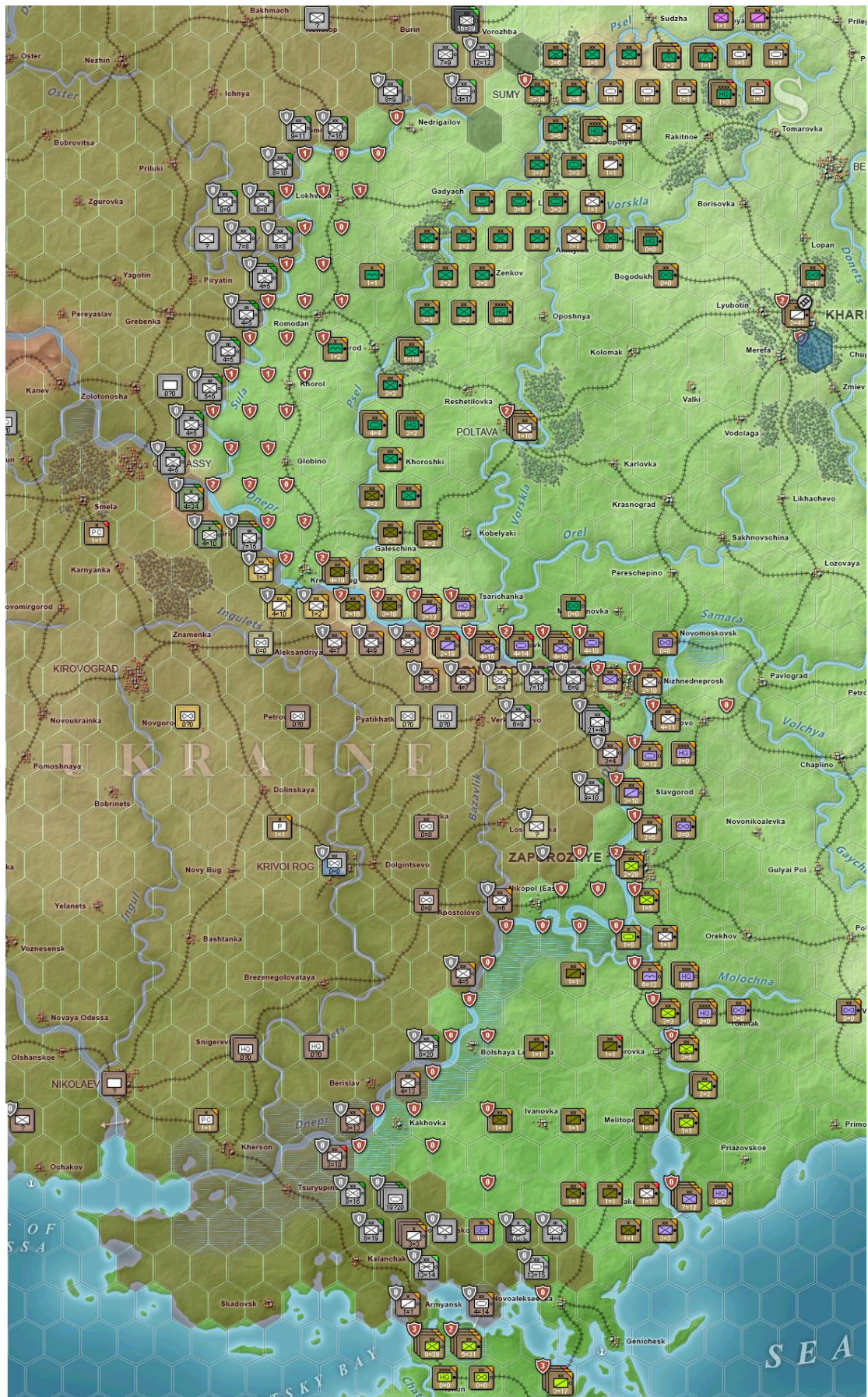
At Odessa, I will remain in place. If three of my divisions can keep a much stronger Axis force occupied, then that is just fine by me.

Execution

Once again, there are no drastic moves to report on. The Southwestern Front has been withdrawn behind the Psel, and is now in position to fight it out with the German Panzers advancing on Kharkov.

Further south, at the Crimea, I am trying my best to delay the Axis advance, while I set up a new defenisve position to the east. My main concern here is a breakthrough of the defenses covering the Crimea, as I have no reserves behind the first line. If this falls, I might have to evacuate Odessa in order to defend Sevastopol.

Below an image of the situation east of Kiev, as I give the turn to Hermann:



Conclusion

The Vehicle industry from Kharkov has been evacuated this turn, leaving behind the Armaments, the Heavy Industry and the SU-2 production. I do not think the Germans can break through to the city this next turn, so I should be in a good position to evacuate even more stuff come next turn.

The only thing to threaten this, in my opinion, is the growth of the divisions already on rails. If they start eating up a lot more rail capacity, I will not have enough to evacuate all armaments come next turn. However, if that happens, I will have significant reserve to set in near Kharkov anyway.