

Turn 15, Strategic Considerations

____ SPECIAL ____						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2122	114856	0
-	Port	118	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	270	6	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2911	3	71717	2234703	0
-	Vehicle	140	0	236074	281300	0
-	Heavy Industry	232	0	0	1455500	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	896000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	500640	0
-	Resource Production	182	0	0	2648000	0
-	Armaments Production	366	2	435511	1130750	0

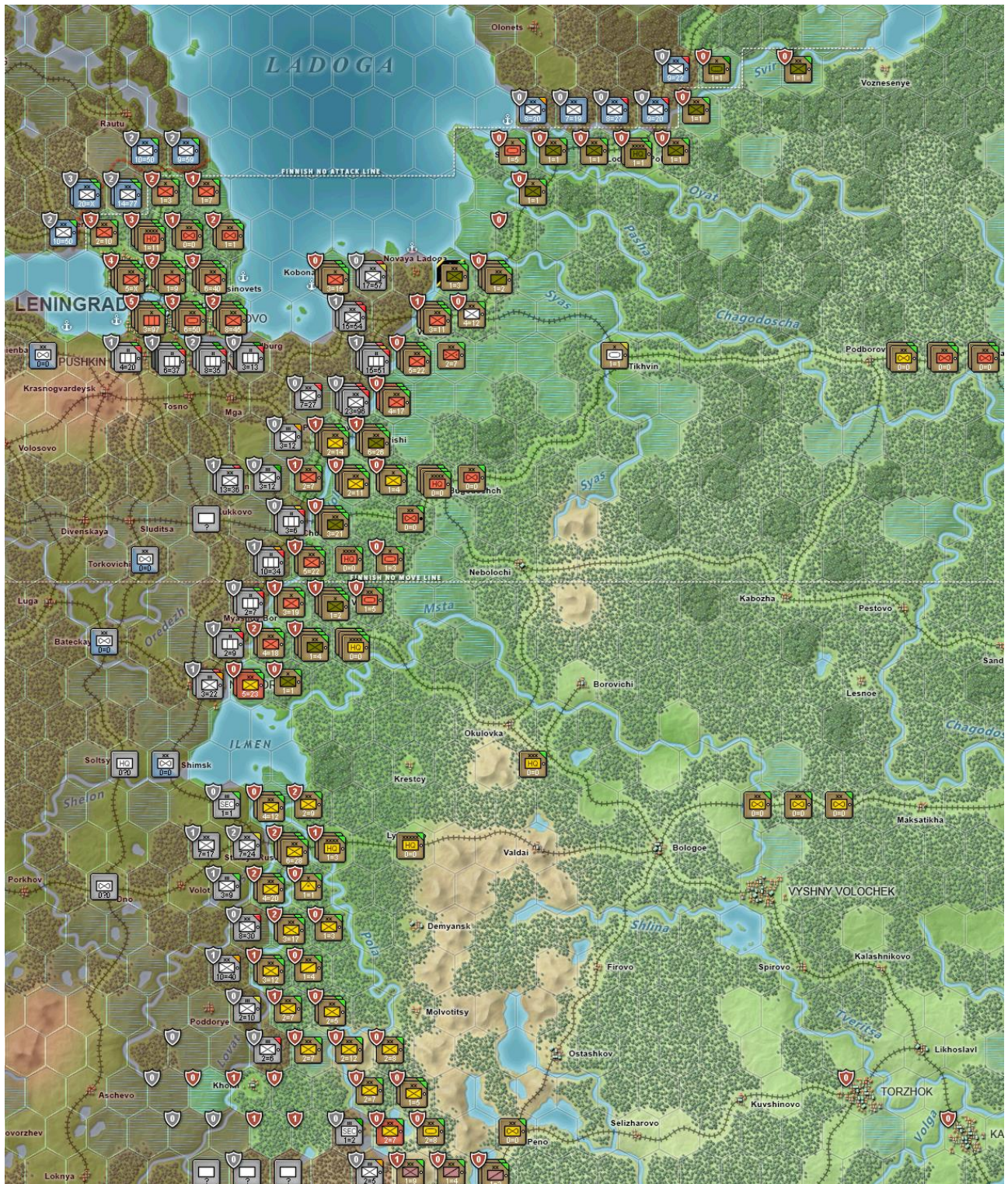
In the north, it seems that the Germans have now given up on taking Leningrad before the winter. In the center, the Slow German advance on Moscow continues, while in the south, the German armored spearheads are now at the Molochna river south of Zaporozhye

In the air, the Luftwaffe Bomber Command is still absent from the front, and I am wondering if they will be deployed again before winter.

Comments by EwaldvonKleist ad Stelteck on my AAR has led me to alter my calculations of estimated PanzerFuel. The formula is far from perfect, but it still gives me an idea of the German potential for movement on their next turn.

The Axis VP are now 187, which would be a minor Axis victory, should the game end here.

The North



Situational Assessment

The Germans have begun building Fortified Zones south of Leningrad and along the Volkhov. I take this as a sign that the Germans have no plans for major attacks on Leningrad this year, and that they are trying to

build a front for the winter. A few attacks have been made, but these seems mainly to have been aimed at establishing a better defensive line for the winter.

The situation is much the same south of Lake Ilmen, where the German infantry does not seem strong enough to seriously threaten the front.

Planning

As I am now producing 220 bombers pr turn as well as another 220 fighters pr turn, I will continue my bombing campaign by U-2VS and I-Type fighters against the local Luftwaffe airfields. Whatever the losses, I am certain to be able to bear them, while fighter losses alone for the Germans still far exceeds production (for Bf109F's the Germans will have produced around 240 while their losses now stand at 387). The more losses I inflict, the longer it will take for the Luftwaffe to rise again.

On the ground, I will attack a single target of opportunity, but I have no serious plans for the turn, other than reordering my troops slightly and building up my defense on the Volkhov.

Execution

The initial nighttime attacks on the Luftwaffe bases cost me some 59 U-2VS and 89 I-Types for the destruction of a mere four German fighters. This is an obvious defeat, and I then decided to halt further attacks along these lines.

Doing a few daytime attacks with the local IL-2's revealed that there were now Luftwaffe Bf-110's doing interception attacks during the day, and the subsequent daytime bombing attacks on the German infantry brought the total airplane casualty score to 175 Soviet aircraft for seven German ones. The lesson seems to be that the I-Types are in fact useless, while the U-2VS can be used if they are not left alone to fly against the German single seat fighters.

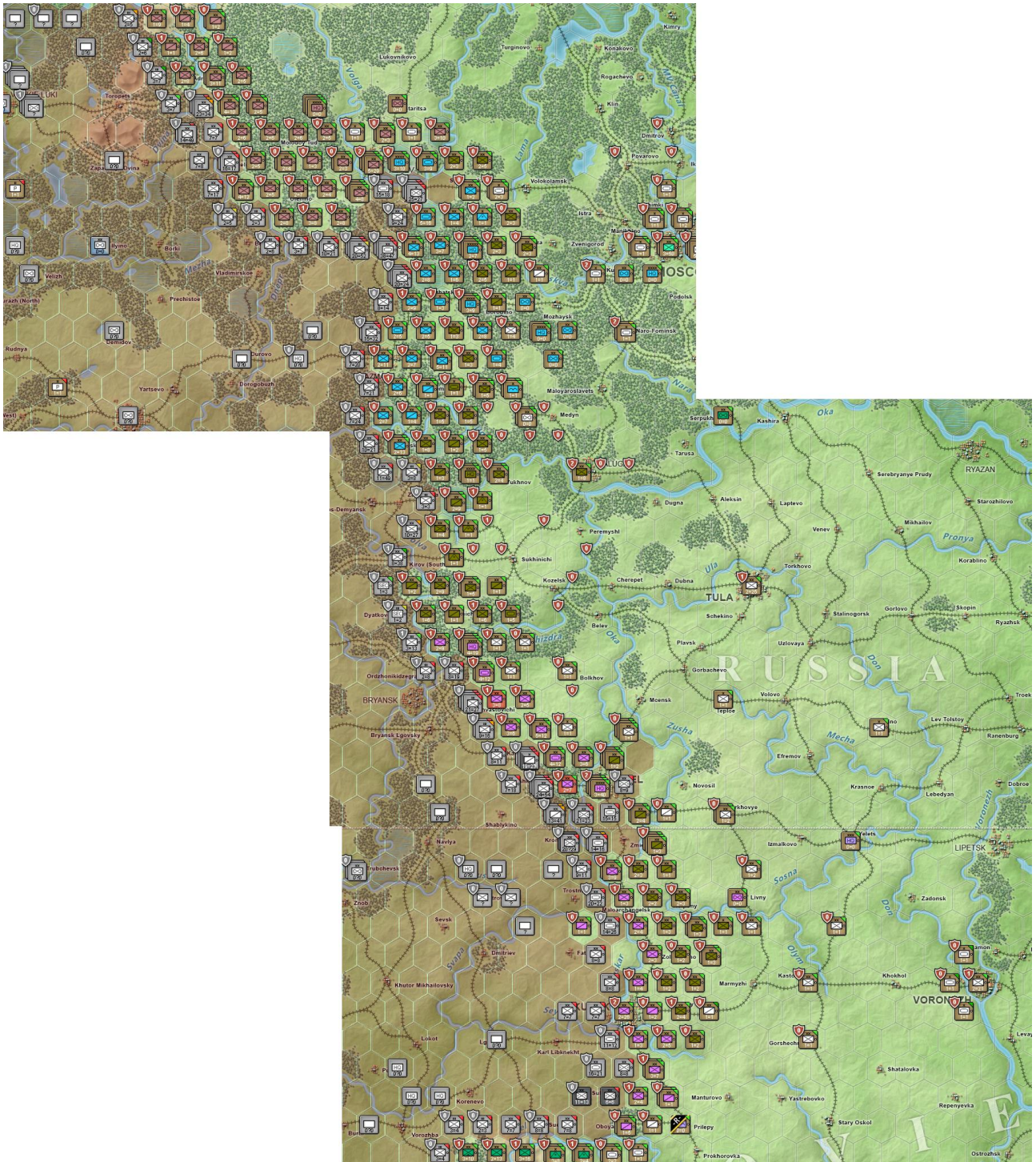
At the Svir, my frontline is now complete, with Soviet units in "No-Finnish-Attack" hexes spanning the length of the river. Thus, the Finns are effectively rendered irrelevant, unless the Germans take Leningrad.

South of Lake Ilmen, I have beaten off a couple of Security Regiments, but little else has been done in this area.

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



The Center



Situation Assessment

The German Panzers that have been moved south from Leningrad seems to have arrived at Velikie Luki. The Panzers are already dug in to level one which suggests they still had movement left when they ended their turn. I am uncertain as to whether they will join the attack on the Reserve Front or whether they will remain at Velikie Luki.

Further south, the main German attack has reached the Volga (while most people think that the Germans didn't reach that river until 1942, they did in fact cross it in 1941 for a short while). The wedge they have driven into the defenses is very narrow at only two hexes wide, and I may even narrow the base to only one hex. The forward Panzers can be expected to have 40+ MP next turn.

Still further south, at Orel, the Germans have penetrated my front and begun swinging their panzers north towards Tula. Those Panzers are expected to have around 40MP each come next turn.

In the air, the Luftwaffe have a few fighter bases placed well behind the front.

Planning

At the Reserve Front in the north, I will remain in position, while strengthening my defensive positions to a new three deep line of defensive positions.

At Rzhev, I will use the swamps scattered across the area to create some high CV defensive positions, while also filling out the area into a three deep line of defenses, if possible. I will also narrow the German wedge.

At Orel, I will fall back a few hexes, so that my lines are behind the Oka and Sosna rivers. I will also leave the city of Orel garrisoned, as that may cost the Germans a turn or so for several of their infantry units to take the city.

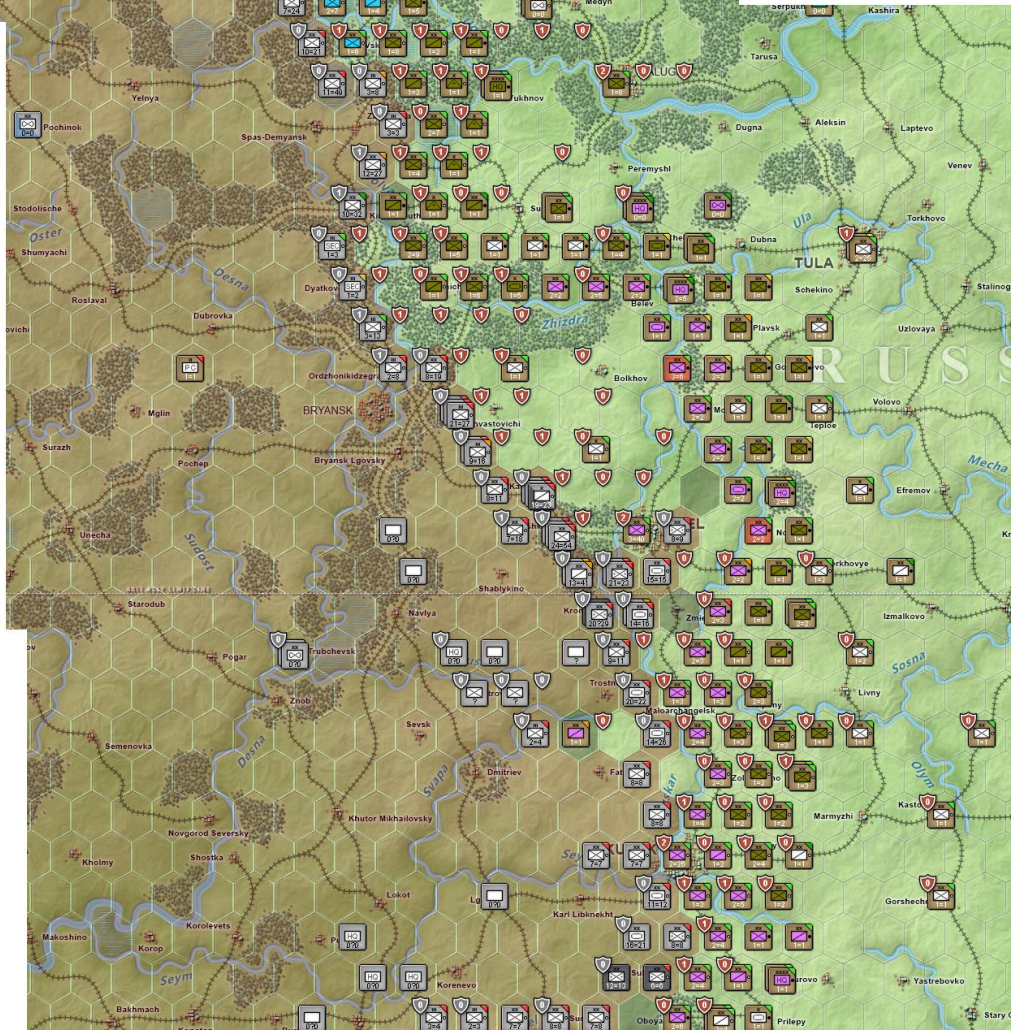
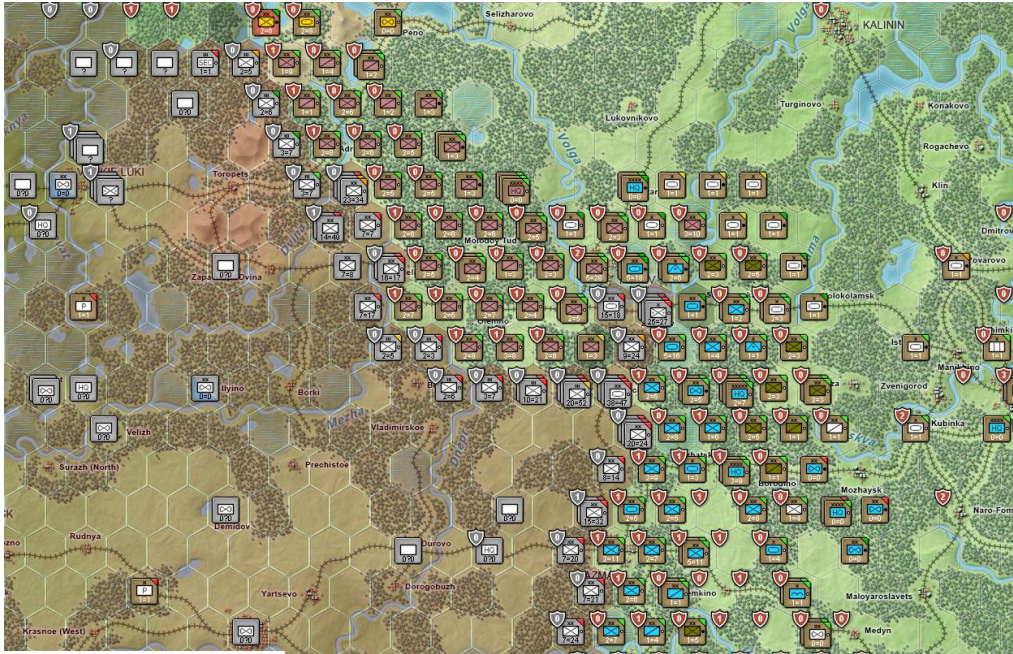
In the air, I will use the local U-2VS to see if the Germans fly at night, and if they do, I will try to draw them into a series of dog fights in order to cause casualties.

Execution

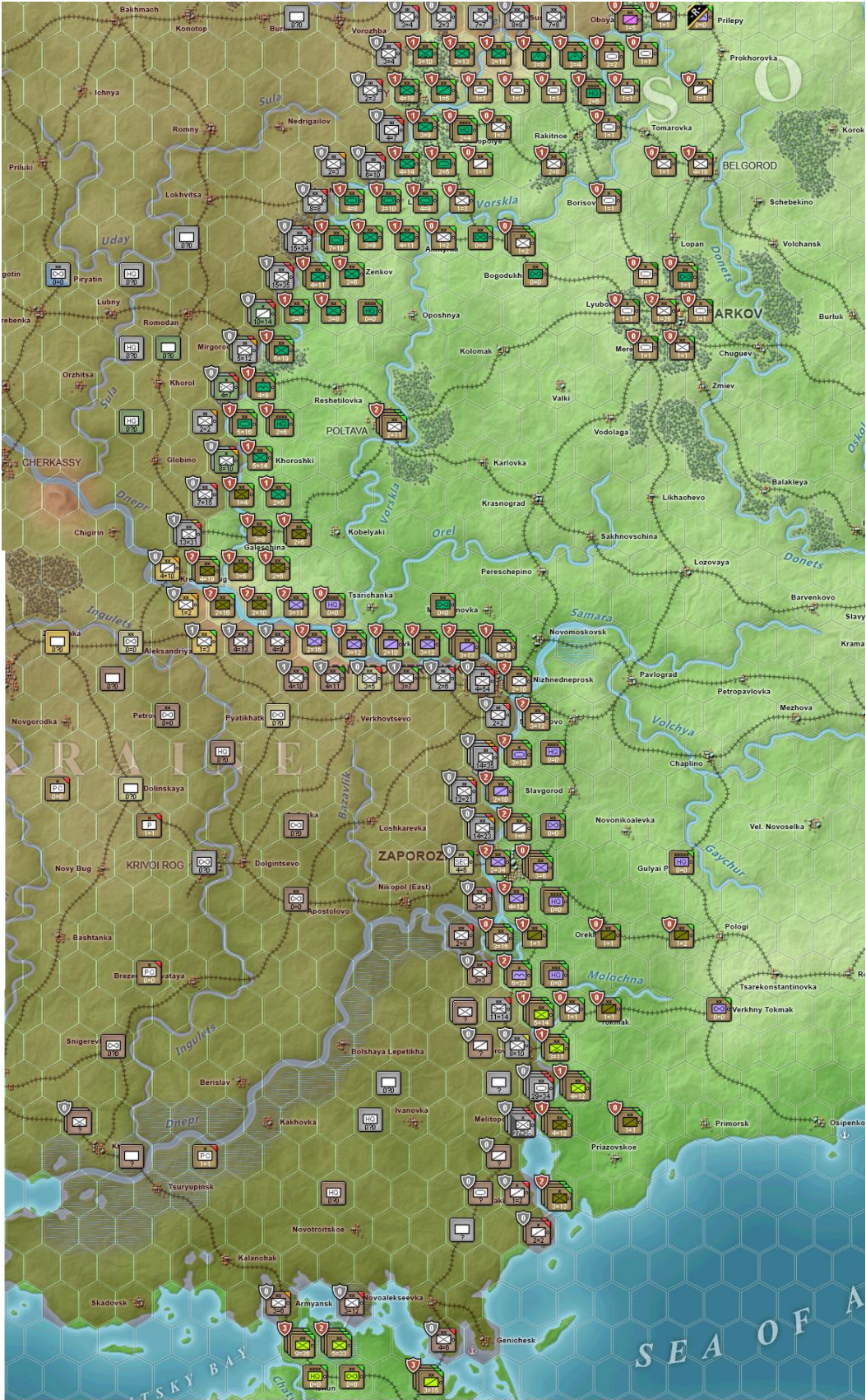
The Soviet bombing campaign against the Germans have risen the aircraft casualties to 215 Soviet aircraft for seven German ones. The Soviet losses include 73 U-2VS (about one turn of production) and 92 I-types. All other aircraft losses will easily be covered by the production next turn. The German ground losses stand at some 104 guns and 1500 casualties. If nothing else, this shows that I need to get my U-2VS to start bombing the German infantry.

Little else has happened, except the movement of several Soviet divisions to new defensive positions.

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



The South



Situational Assessment

In the south, the Axis have connected with my entire frontline while conducting a few minor attacks on the Soviet positions.

In the far south, the German Panzers are positioned to attack across the Molochna river, and encircling the divisions guarding the bay crossing to the south. Those Panzers are getting further away from their supply bases, and are now expected to have around 25 to 30 MP next turn.

At Odessa, my defenders now face three German infantry divisions, two German Panzer divisions and one German Motorized brigade along with three Rumanian divisions and two Rumanian infantry brigades.

Planning

In the far south, I will continue to pull back my defenders in front of the German Panzers. Other than that, the Soviets will hold on to their current positions all along this part of the Front.

In the air, I will use the U-2VS and the I-Type fighters of the Southwestern Front to do nighttime attacks on the unentrenched German infantry in the area. Further south, I have a few IL-2's ready to bomb the forward German Panzers.

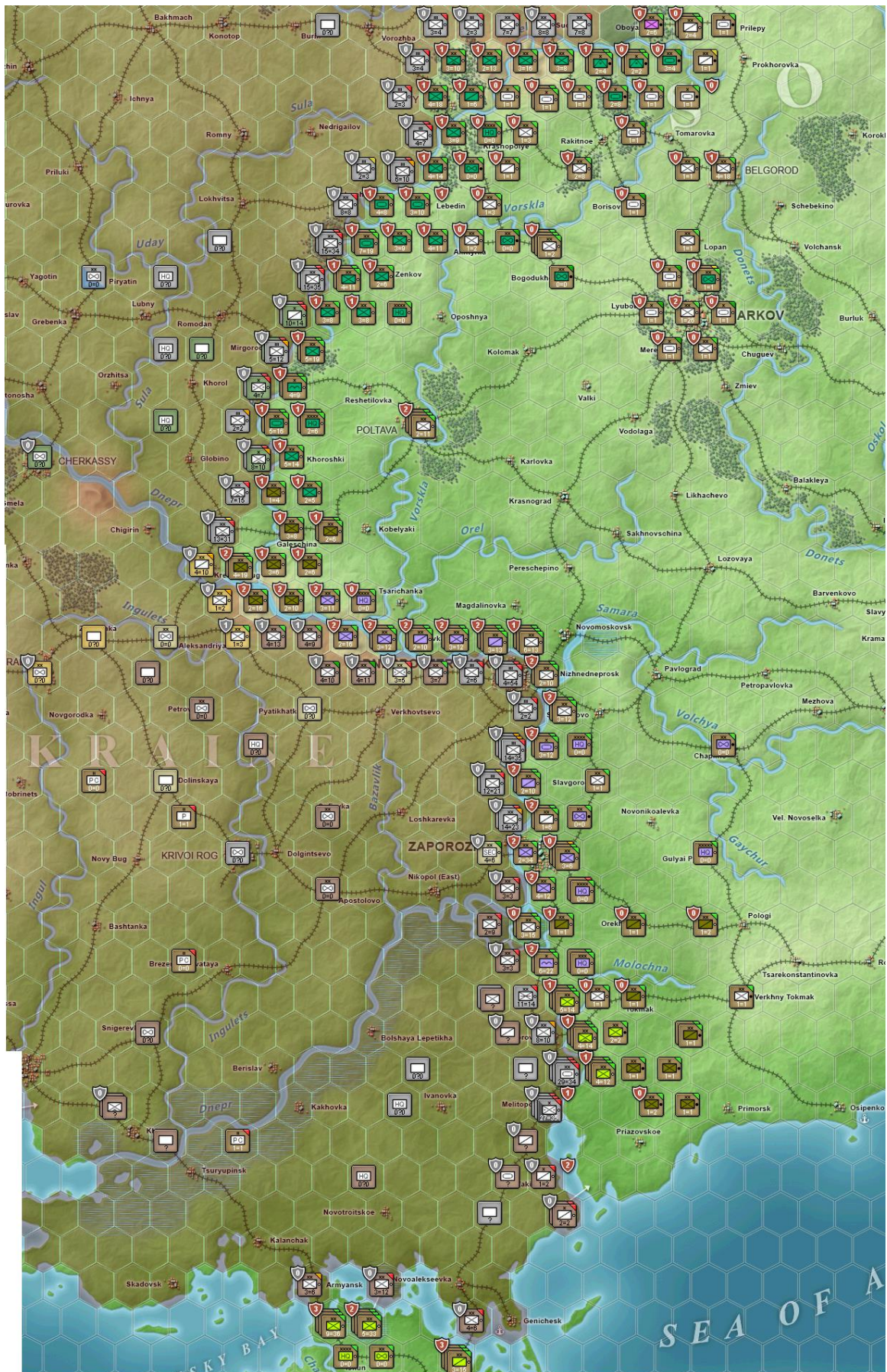
At Odessa, I am more than happy to keep my three infantry divisions holding up two German Panzer divisions.

Execution

The bombing of Axis units has continued, but this time has met with resistance from mainly Rumanian fighters, bringing the total air casualty count to 269 Soviet aircraft for 19 Axis ones.

Virtually no movement has been made, except in the far northern part of the sector where the front has been strengthened with a few stronger divisions and in the far south, where I have pulled slightly back.

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



Conclusion

While the air losses seems to suggest a massive Soviet defeat this turn, I do not see it this way. The Soviet losses are easily covered by production, and the Germans have in turn suffered some gun losses that their soon-to-be-stretched production will have to cover.

This turn, I have evacuated one of the IL-2 factories in Voronezh as well as the Li-2 factory in Khimki.

I have also ordered the construction of 30 new Support units at STAVKA HQ to be filled in to my new Corps units once I get to the point where I can create such units. Until then, those 30 support units can sit at STAVKA training to become better soldiers.

I am wondering when and if the Germans will call off their offensive, in order to start digging in for the winter. Until then, I shall be counting the turns before the mud arrives, trying my best to delay any further advances as well as I can.