

Turn 16, Strategic Considerations

SPECIAL						
-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	1870	120466	0
-	Port	101	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	263	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2891	0	84297	2379865	0
-	Vehicle	140	0	237872	283000	0
-	Heavy Industry	232	0	0	1548500	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	960000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	536400	0
-	Resource Production	182	0	0	2830000	0
-	Armaments Production	366	0	388968	1197250	0

The Germans have encircled some 100.000 Soviet soldiers in a pocket west of Rzhev. Other than that, it seems like the German offensive is coming to a halt.

In the air, the Luftwaffe is still keeping their bomber formations in the National Reserve, while their fighters are positioned at different airfields up and down the front. As we are now in October, I have begun receiving P-40B's and Hurricane IIB's from the Western Allies.

The long range of the P-40B suggest that it should be used as a long range escort fighter, but the need for Soviet long range daylight escorts may not be that large for a while to come. It does however, have a very low reliability number (which is good), so I will try using it to challenge the Luftwaffe fighters during the harsh winter weather.

The Hurricane IIB is also a rugged aircraft with a reliability of 10. It does not have the range of the P-40, but unlike the P-40, it can carry bombs into action. Those bombs are 500lb ones, which should be slightly less powerfull than a 250Kg GP Bomb. It is still the heaviest payload of any Soviet aircraft at this stage, and as I have plenty of other fighter aircraft (production of 238 non Hurricanes pr turn) I will use the 28 Hurricanes I get every turn in a bomber role for now.

I now have more men in the OoB than does the combined Axis powers I face. This is good news, as it shows that the build up of the Red Army is progressing according to plan.

The Germans seem to be more or less ignoring the partisan threat growing bigger and bigger in their rear. With my SB-2 bombers set up across the VVS, I am continuously dropping more and more men to the partisans, who grow in strength every turn. The event log for this turn, shows this as follows:

PARTISANS

26th Partisan Battalion formed at 99,66 from the people of Orel
27th Partisan Battalion formed at 59,50 from the people of Vilnius
28th Partisan Battalion formed at 66,58 from the people of Minsk
25 partisan squads recruited from cities (225 men)
29th Partisan Battalion formed at 75,44 from the men of 16th Partisan Battalion
43 partisan squads recruited from the countryside (387 men)
15 partisan units resupplied from VVS airbases
32 squads airdropped to partisan units from VVS airbases (247 men)

While this cost me about 10-15 SB-2 bombers each turn, I still have more than 1400 of them in my reserve pools, so that does not matter at all.

The Axis VP are now 191, which would be a minor Axis victory, should the game end here.

Very little has happened in the north. The Germans have pushed the Soviets back across the Volkhov river, but seems otherwise more or less content to stay where they are. By now it is certainly too late in the year for the Germans to get much benefit from an attack in this area.

Very little has happened in the north. The Germans have pushed the Soviets back across the Volkhov river, but seems otherwise more or less content to stay where they are. By now it is certainly too late in the year for the Germans to get much benefit from an attack in this area.

The Luftwaffe has not been strengthened in this area, and in total there is about 55 Bf109's and 110 Bf110's in the area.

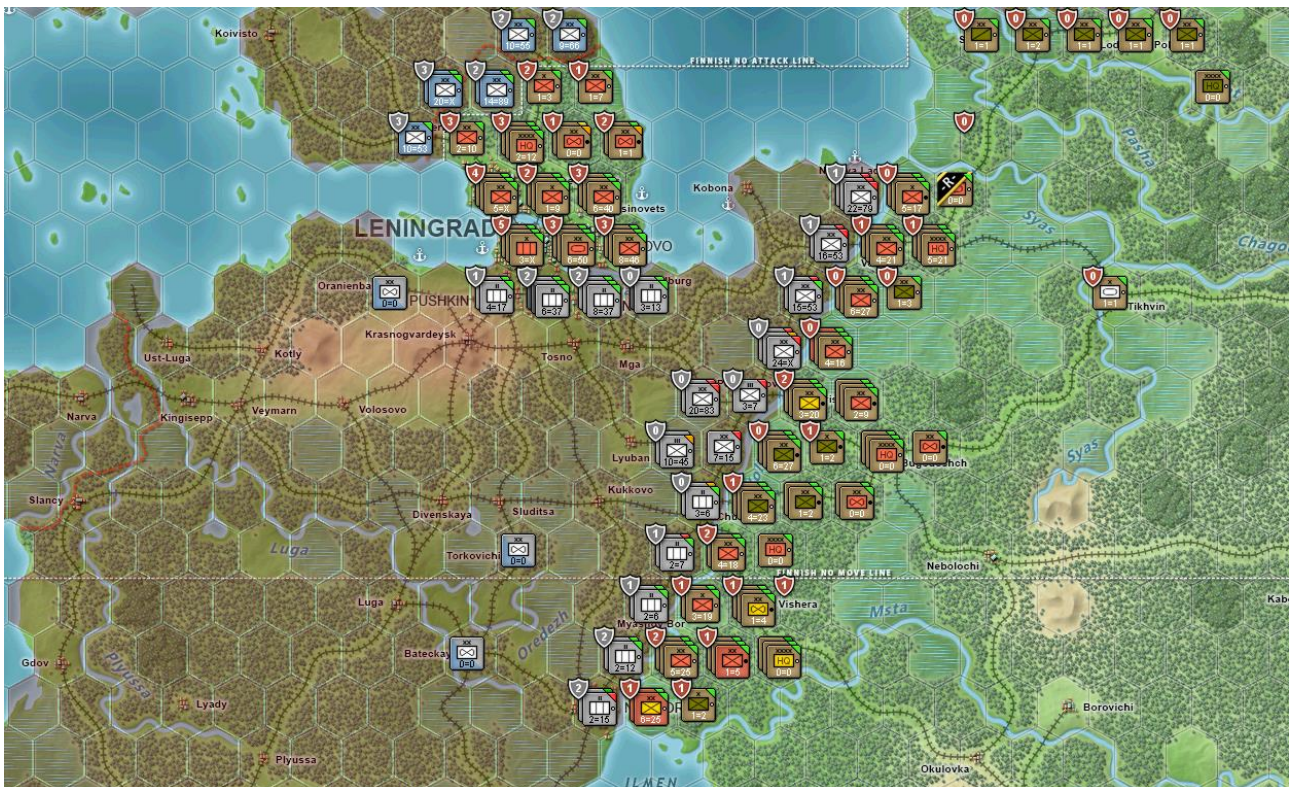
Planning

I intend to do little in this area, except a number of bombing attacks on the Germans along the Volkhov.

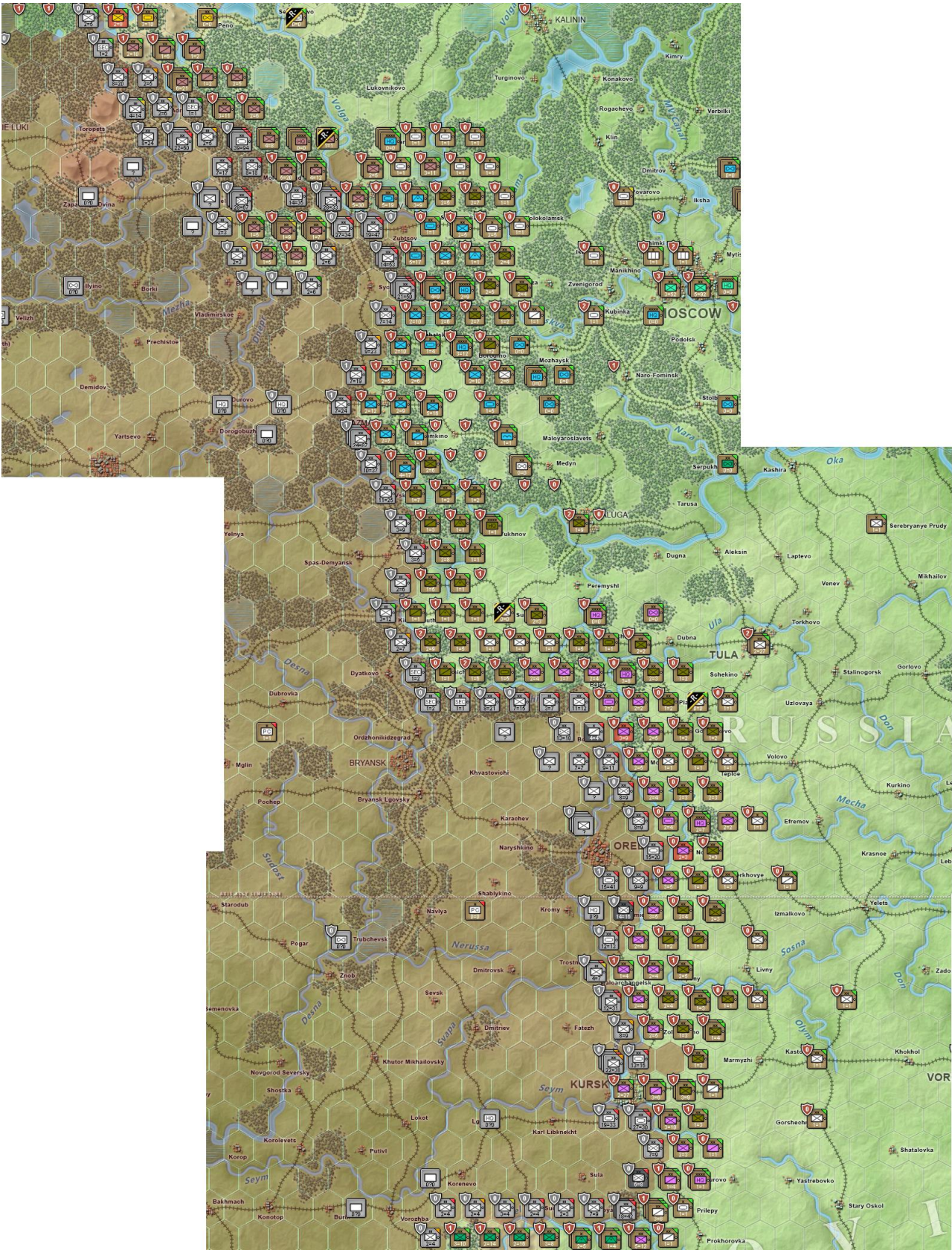
Execution

There is virtually nothing to say of events in this area during the Soviet phase. The bombing attacks on the Germans along the Volkhov destroyed 33 guns and one German fighter at the cost of six soviet aircraft. If the Germans are to be inflicted by attrition, I must hope for greater success on the other fronts.

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



The Center



Situation Assessment

The Germans have encircled around 100.000 Soviet soldiers of the Reserve Front in the area west of Rzhev.

The Panzers on the western side of the pocket can be expected to have 40-45 MP next turn, while those on the east side will have 30 to 35 MP. This is more than enough to reestablish the pocket that I will break up this turn.

The flanks of the German forces are also well protected, and I see no possibilities for a breakthrough in this area.

Along the rest of the front, little is happening. The Germans have taken Orel and are in the process of flanking Kursk.

Planning

Obviously, I will break the pocket in order to extend the life of those encircled divisions by one more turn.

Other than that, I will simply try to recreate a defensive line multiple hexes deep, in order to ensure that the Germans do not advance much.

In the air, I will use my local aircraft to continue bombing the Germans as well as I can, hoping to inflict some casualties.

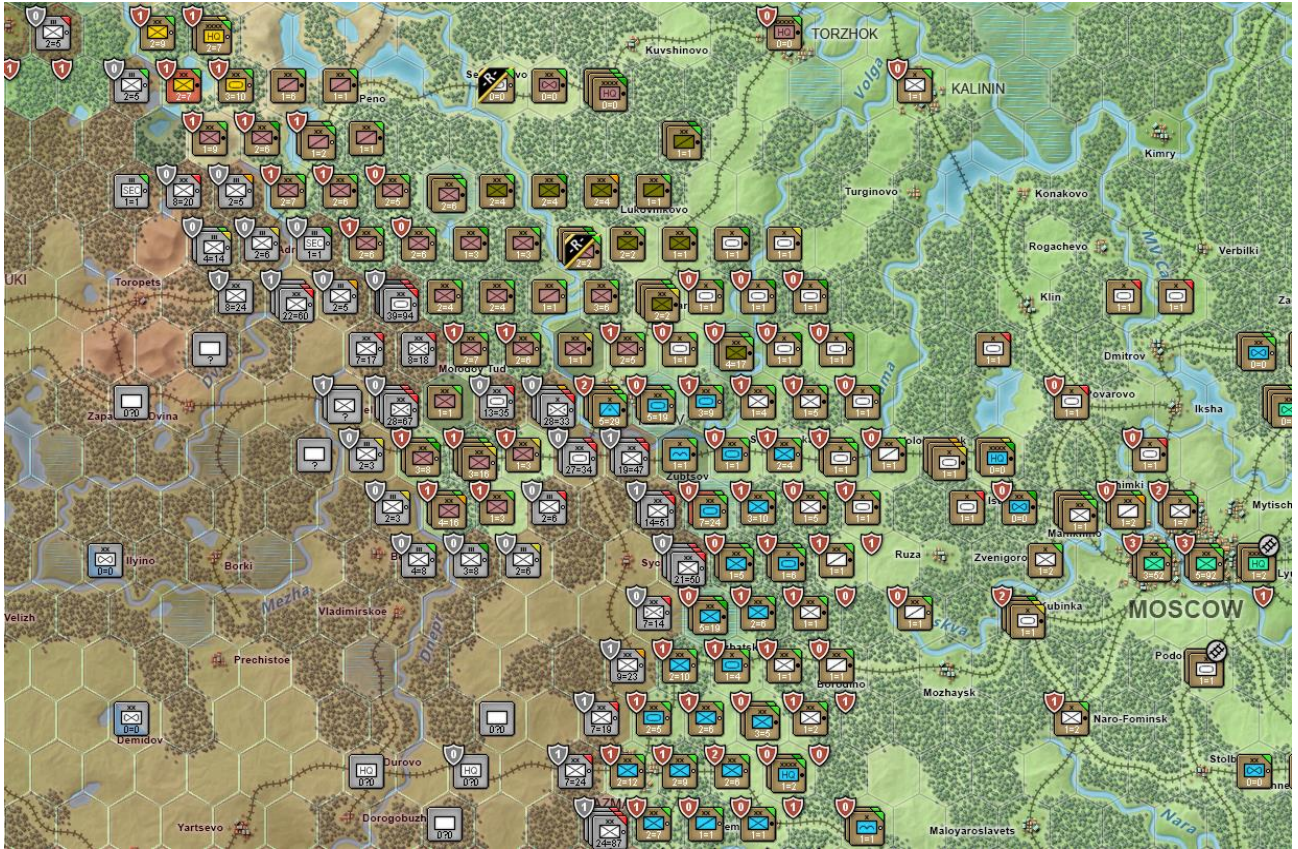
Execution

In the center, I have reconnected my pocketed troops to my main line, and otherwise done what I can to strengthen the front. I am getting increasingly certain that the Germans will not be threatening Moscow at any point this year.

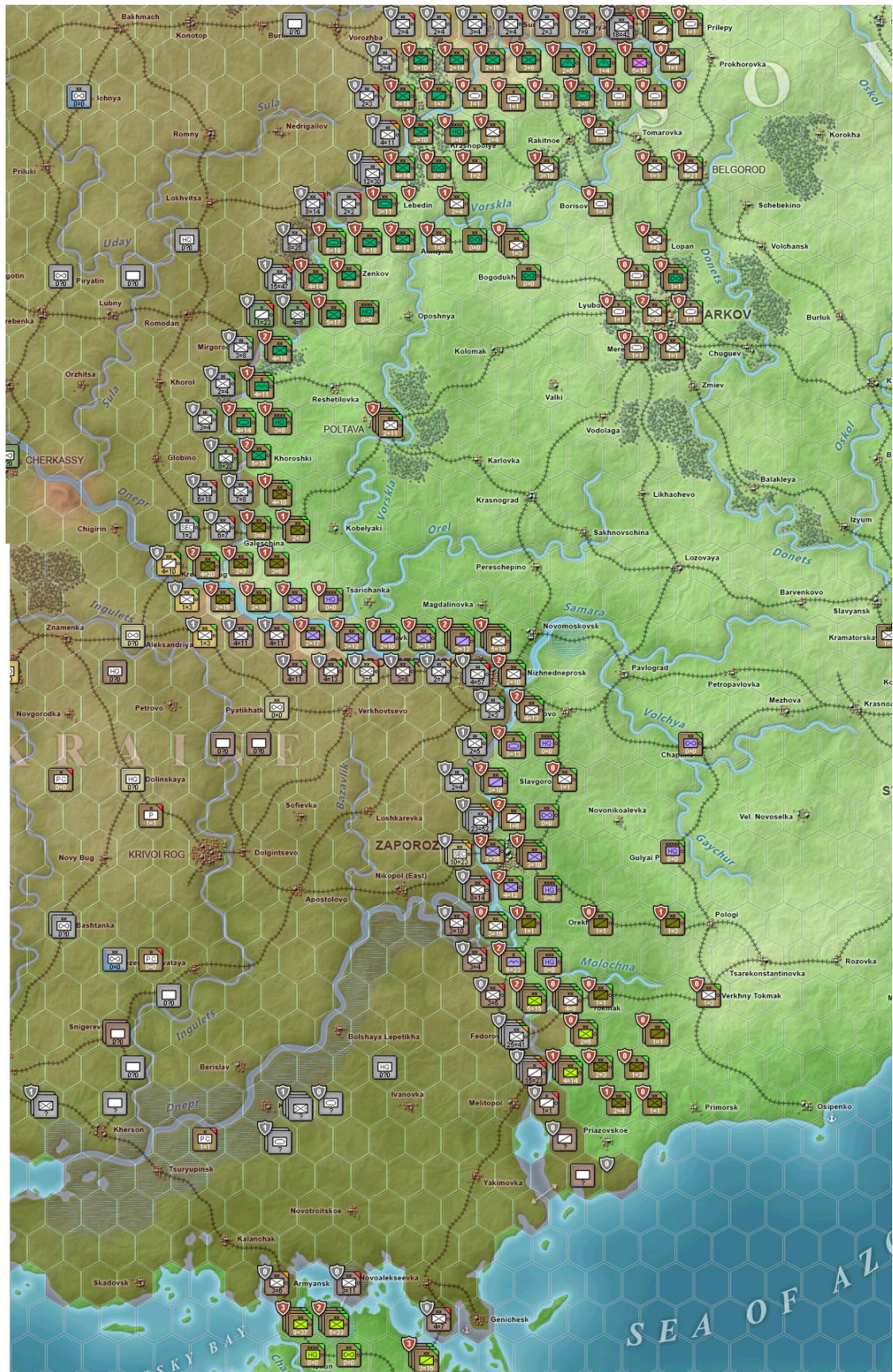
I have done my best to set up several "stronpoints" with a high defensive CV that will force any German Panzer attackers to do deliberate attacks, costing them large amounts of MP.

I expect the Germans to reclose the pocket next turn, and possibly to enlarge it. In order to supply the future pocket, I have moved a VVS and some long range bombers from the Northwestern Front to the Kalinin Front.

Below is an image of the area west of Moscow, as I give the turn to Hermann:



The South



Situational Assessment

In the south, this turn has been uneventful.

The Rumanian airfields in the Dnepr Bend have been pulled back, while the Luftwaffe still have approximately 100 fighters stationed southwest of Krivoi Rog.

On the ground, the most interesting piece of news is that Odessa has fallen. What surprises me most in that battle, is that a German Panzer division (the 2nd) has been assigned to a Rumanian Corps.

Axis Forces Attacking: III Rum. Corps -16% 2nd Panzer Division (132) 15th Rum. Infantry Division (49) 35th Res. RM Inf Div (11) 3rd Rum. Infantry Division (55) 2nd Rum. Mountain Brigade (49) 1/3rd RM Hvy Hwz Bn (0) 1/3rd RM Art Bn (0) <div>[v]</div>	1 of 181,108 - City(Odessa) - ClearTurn:16 1941-10-02		Soviet Forces Defending: 9th Army 2nd Guards Rifle Division (319) 4th Guards Rifle Division (293) 176th Rifle Division (358) STAVKA 638th PVO AA Regiment (1)
	Forces Engaged		
	ATK: men 177543, art 1626, afv 429 DAM: men 748, art 2, afv 14 LOST: men 1130, art 10, afv 1 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0		
CV: 1047->1070.9Eng Val: 10 Comm HQ: LIV Corps G Erik Hansen	176th Rifle Division ROUTED 4th Guards Rifle Division ROUTED 2nd Guards Rifle Division ROUTED Odds 2.13 : 1 <div>Show DetailsExit</div>		CV: 971->500.8Fort: 3.06->0.00 Comm HQ: 9th Army GM Kirill Moskalenko

Planning

Along the Psel, I will try to throw the Hungarians and Germans that have crossed the river back to the western side. This will be doen as I would like to hold on to this river line until the winter comes. The further west I start 1942, the less east the Germans will be able to go.

At the Molochna river, the Axis has sent three Rumanian cavalry brigades across the bay of Melitopol. At the same time, the German Panzers have been withdrawn from the front. With luck, I might be able to maneuver my local forces to push back the two northernmost cavalry brigades and encircle the southernmost. If this fails, I will still be able to beat off some weak Rumanian units not suited for frontline duty.

In the air, I will spend my time bombing the German formations in the area.

Execution

On the ground, I have thrown the Germans and the Hungarians pack across the Psel river. I am curious to find out, if the Germans have plans for further attacks in this area this year.

Further south, at Melitoppol, my reconnaissance has proven faulty. As it turned out, there was in fact two Rumanian Cavalry Brigades in the area I have cut off. I have little doubt the Germans can save them by moving their Panzers forward, but that is ok by me. If I can keep the Panzers busy suffering losses, they will be in worse shape come next year.

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



Conclusion

Air losses this turn has been 58:1 in favor of the Axis. As the Luftwaffe is all but inactive during my turn (except for some low level interceptors which I have trouble catching), most of my losses have been caused by flak during various bombing raids. I will have no trouble replacing what was lost.

I have changed my focus on evacuation so that I now focus on moving troops forward and use whatever is left to evacuate. Even doing this, I have evacuated the remaining industries in Kalinin, Tula and Khimki this turn and also moved some of the production from North Moscow. While this will not be threatened this year, the Germans may attack Moscow in 1942, and if they do, any industry has to be moved prior to that event.