

## Turn 23, Strategic Considerations

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-	Vehicle Repair	A	-	2722	182291	0
-	Port	101	0	0	0	0
-	Railyard	258	0	0	0	0
-	Manpower	2867	1	47508	3387743	0
-	Vehicle	140	0	222042	293250	0
-	Heavy Industry	232	0	0	2247500	0
-	Oil Production	128	0	0	1408000	0
-	Fuel Production	149	0	0	786720	0
-	Resource Production	182	0	0	4104000	0
-	Armaments Production	366	0	318474	1744750	0

The Germans are continuing their slow, one hex pr turn advance on Moscow, and south of Kursk. To me, this is good news, as that mean the German Panzers will be poorly placed to react to the coming Soviet offensive.

Axis VP stand at 196.

## The North

### Situational assessment

The Germans have begun constructing a second line of defenses behind the Volkhov in the northern sector.

The Luftwaffe is still flying in the area, but no attacks have occurred. The Germans have pushed several new bomber groups forward, but their bases are all in blizzard weather during the current turn.

### Planning

I need to find out, if the blizzard weather and the newly arrival of Luftwaffe bombers will signal a heavy increase to Luftwaffe losses (both due to bombing and operational), making a full scale offensive against the Luftwaffe bases plausible. If so, I can hit the Luftwaffe all along the northern and central sectors of the front, as the Luftwaffe bases here are mostly in blizzard weather.

I will continue to bomb the German infantry in the area, but will focus mainly on the forces in the north this turn. Both the first and second German lines have some good detection numbers (eight or above), and I will benefit from making the Luftwaffe actually fly a little distance before the dogfights commence.

I do not think that bombing north of Lake Ilmen where the Leningrad Front will attack shortly will have no significant effect on the German defence.

### Execution

Trying a probing attack against an empty Luftwaffe base revealed little information, so I decided to do a full scale night attack using U-2VS and Pe-2's against a Luftwaffe base housing some 180 aircraft. The result can be seen below

Axis Forces Defending:	1 of 1 81.22 - Light Woods(Torkovichi) - Blizzard Turn:23 1941-11-20 Forces Engaged	Soviet Forces Attacking:
I Fliegerkorps 20 Bf 109E-3 4 Bf 109F-4  36 : 39 Ju 88A 4 : 4 Ju 88A 33 : 35 Ju 88A	DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0  DEF: ftr 24, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 8, bmr 2, utl 0  ATK: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0  ATK: ftr 0, bmr 111, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 38, utl 0  airfield was BOMBED	Northwest Air Command 47 U-2VS 64 Pe-2
[v]	Show Details	Exit

In more detail, the Germans lost seven Bf109E-3's and one Bf109F-4 to 19 U-2VS and another 19 Pe-2's.

At this stage, the Luftwaffe base was down to 33 single seat fighters, so I decided to hit the base with a full scale daylight attack by my IL-2 forces in the area covered by eight groups of fighter aircraft. In case of defeat, I would have another turn to resupply my bases before the main push, and in case of success, the Luftwaffe would likely be pulled out of the area prior to the launch of my winter offensive. The result can be seen below:

<b>Axis Forces Defending:</b>  I Fliegerkorps 23 Bf 109E-3 3 Bf 109F-4  29 : 38 Ju 88A 4 : 4 Ju 88A 29 : 35 Ju 88A  [v]	< 2 of 2      81.22 - Light Woods(Torkovichi) - Blizzard Turn:23 1941-11-20  <b>Forces Engaged</b> DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DEF: ftr 26, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 3, bmr 1, utl 0  ATK: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0 ATK: ftr 61, bmr 99, utl 0 LOST: ftr 3, bmr 13, utl 0  airfield was BOMBED  Show Details      Exit	<b>Soviet Forces Attacking:</b>  Leningrad Air Command 10 Yak-1 51 LaGG-3 81 IL-2 18 Pe-2
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This result can best be described as undecided, so I reverted to simply bombing away at the German infantry in the north. At the end of the bombing this phase, the Germans had lost 19 Bf109E-3's and three Bf109F-4's in this area. Total Soviet aircraft losses at this stage of the phase was 91 aircraft, inclnsing 31 Pe-2's and 19 U-2VS.

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



## **The Center**

### *Situational assessment*

The Germans are still advancing slowly towards Moscow. It is a purely attritional advance, in the style of first world war attacks, and I feel little threatened by them.

Of more concern is the fact that the Germans are now disengaging several Panzers and Motorized divisions from front line duty.

At the southern end of the sector, the German attack seems to be moving southeast towards Belgorod, but there is little weight in the punch, and I am not very concerned by it.

Finally, it seems one of the Luftwaffe bases are base for a purely bomber force. This base is currently in blizzard weather, and well away from the front, so I can attack it solely with my long range bomber forces.

### *Planning*

The main effort in the center will be another turn of bombing, trying to hit the Luftwaffe as best I can, while my main objective will be to inflict damage to the German ground forces.

### *Execution*

An initial probing attack by SB-2 revealed that the Luftwaffe are flying single seat fighters out of an undiscovered airbase in Velikie Luki. Following up with a long range bomber attack against the Luftwaffe bomber airbase showed no clear result, so once again, I have reverted to bombing the local ground forces, trying to draw out the Luftwaffe this way.

Those attacks have brought the total Soviet aircraft losses to 146, while the Germans have lost some 154 guns.

Below is an image of the front at Moscow, as I give the turn to Hermann.



## The South

### Situational Assessment

In the far south, the German Panzers are still pushing forward. They are not advancing very far, as they are a long way still from their supply lines.

### Planning

There will be a few bombing attacks in this area, but nothing serious.

On the ground, I will attack a single hex where the Germans and Hungarians have weak forces across the Psel. The point being that I wish to keep a good staging point for the coming attack.

### Execution

The Ground attack gave the following result:

Axis Forces Defending:	1 of 3 > 96,81 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:23 1941-11-20	Soviet Forces Attacking:
Army Group South -38% 2nd Hun. Motorized Brigade (12) XXIX Corps -36% 3/111th Infantry Division (13) LV Corps 2/168th Infantry Division (23)	<b>Forges Engaged</b> DEF: men 18561, art 167, afv 23 DAM: men 274, art 6, afv 1 LOST: men 368, art 10, afv 3 DEF: ftr 10, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	26th Army -10% 23rd Rifle Division (10) 130th Rifle Division (42) 169th Rifle Division (28) 345th Rifle Division (21) 5th Army 146th Rifle Division (46) 197th Rifle Division (30)
VIII Fliegerkorps [v]	2/168th Infantry Division RETREATED 3/111th Infantry Division RETREATED 2nd Hun. Motorized Brigade RETREATED	[v]
CV: 48->39.0 Fort: 0.00->0.00 Comm HQ: LV Corps G Erwin Vierow	Show Details Odds 10.41 : 1	CV: 247->406.1 Eng Val: 10 Comm HQ: 5th Army GM Mikhail Potapov

I lost a few low quality tanks in that attack, but succeeded in throwing the Germans back.

Below is an image of the area northwest of Kharkov, from where I plan to launch my southern pincher of the Kursk offensive.



## **Conclusion**

This turn, I have evacuated the remaining production from Moscow. Should the Germans attack the city next year, all production has already been removed in full. I realize that I should have waited a while with some of the named industries, but I decided to move them now, so I do not risk forgetting it later.

In the air, losses are 40 German aircraft to 209 Soviet ones. The German Man2Gun index is now 118,6. The German Wehrmacht is slowly getting less and less mechanized.