

Turn 28, Strategic Considerations

____ AIR ____						
SU	P-40B	15	0	131	195	3
SU	MiG-3	72	0	90	1584	58
SU	Yak-1	75	0	208	1353	46
SU	Yak-7A	18	0	54	54	0
SU	LaGG-3 '11 Series'	22	0	21	371	13
SU	LaGG-3	66	0	216	1779	66
SU	Pe-3	5	0	38	80	2
SU	Hurricane IIB	28	0	192	364	8
SU	Su-2	12	0	133	324	11
SU	IL-2	88	0	288	1328	38
SU	U-2VS	84	0	394	1491	52
SU	Pe-2	60	0	385	1398	34
SU	Yer-2	0	0	39	0	1
SU	IL-4	15	0	667	377	20
SU	Pe-8	1	0	36	27	0
SU	SB-2 Rcn	0	0	308	0	6
SU	U-2 Rcn	6	0	162	162	0
SU	Pe-2R	6	0	100	100	0
SU	U-2 (transp)	12	0	738	315	8
SU	Li-2	9	0	65	183	9
____ GROUND ____						
SU	T-60 M1941	89	0	11	913	48
SU	Matilda II	10	0	38	130	4
SU	T-34 M1941	173	0	553	2913	97
SU	Valentine III	26	0	94	206	5
SU	KV-1 M1941	56	0	134	881	107
SU	BT-7M M1939	-	-	16	0	23
SU	GAZ-AAMG	30	0	410	810	160
SU	BM-13-16 Rocket Launcher	28	0	9	377	10
SU	BA-20 Armored Car	10	0	20	270	104

The Germans have failed to relieve the divisions encircled at Kursk. Time has come to kill off some German Panzer divisions.

In the north, the Germans are continuing to move the infantry out of the endangered area, but there are still six infantry divisions left in the area north of "the corridor".

Productionwise, I have begun producing Medium and Heavy tanks for the pools.

Axis VP's are 191.

The North



Situational assessment

The withdrawal of the German infantry divisions from their exposed positions along the Volkhov continues. For some reason, the Germans have pulled back two divisions and a regiment rather than three divisions this turn. The German units holding “the corridor” are now down to a CV of 2=6 which should be fairly easy to beat and thus seal the encirclement.

To the south of “the corridor”, the Germans are scrambling to create a new line, but with only 1=8 or 2=8 for much of the sector, this area should be easy to breach. However, I still need to remember my overall plan of establishing a new front and then stopping the advance in this area.

The Luftwaffe is still present in the area, with a mixed force of single seat fighters and Ju-87's.

Planning

Once again, I will do what I can to close “the corridor” on the Germans. This time, I will be very disappointed if I fail (it would require some major bad play on my part, I think).

I will also push forward to reach the line of swamps heading north from Novgorod. It is in these swamps I intend to build my new front.

South of Lake Ilmen, I will do nothing.

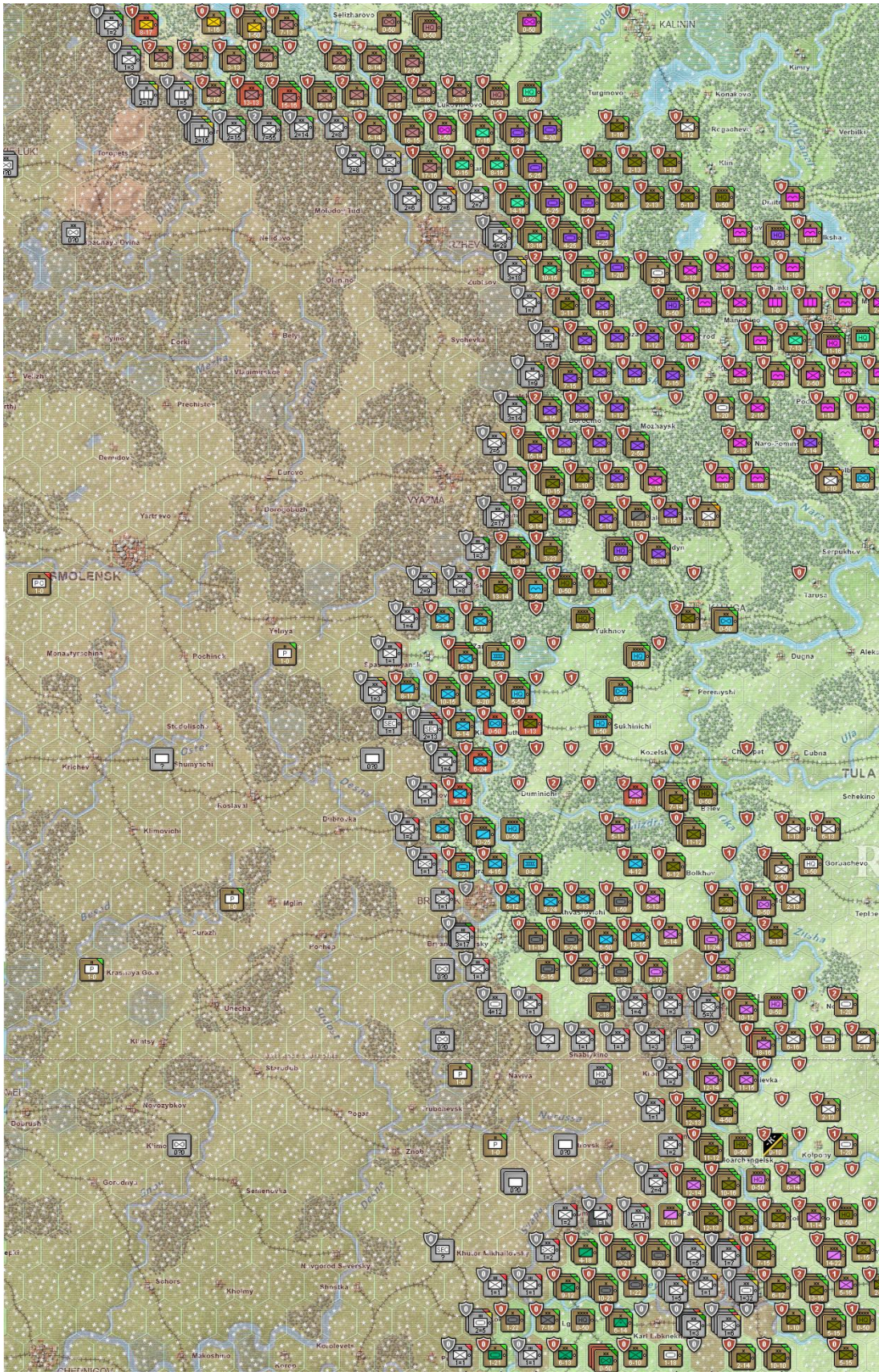
Execution

South of Leningrad, the ring has been closed around another eight German infantry divisions and one infantry regiment. The weakest link in the chain surrounding the Germans are a 3=6 Rifle division supported by two reserve units two hexes back. I believe it is unlikely that the Germans will be able to break this ring, even with the reduced blizzard effects due to January.

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



The Center



Situational assessment

In the center, little has happened north of the Bryansk area. The line is held by German units ranging in CV from 1=3 to 7=55.

North of Bryansk, large parts of the German line is held by 1=1 CV units, which should make breakthrough on my part very easy.

East of Bryansk, the German divisions have not made any relief attempt at the encircled divisions in the Kursk pocket, but rather just remained in their forward positions. As the distance between my northern and southern pincer is now only six hexes, a well aimed thrust may well end up effectively sealing the fate of even more German divisions.

Planning

At Moscow, I commence attacking this turn, in order to utilize the last turn of December to smash the German lines, preventing them from gaining the full benefit of the January reduction to the blizzard effects. I will keep my eye open for encirclement opportunities, but mainly I will focus on smashing the German lines, enabling advances over the coming turns.

North of Bryansk, I think it likely that I can encircle another Panzer division and infantry division, that have been left far forward with nothing but 1=1 units to cover their flanks.

East of Bryansk, I hope to push the two pincers together, establishing a new major encirclement of about 10 or so German infantry divisions, three Panzer divisions and two Motorized divisions.

Meanwhile, in the Kursk pocket, I will begin the task of eliminating the encircled Germans.

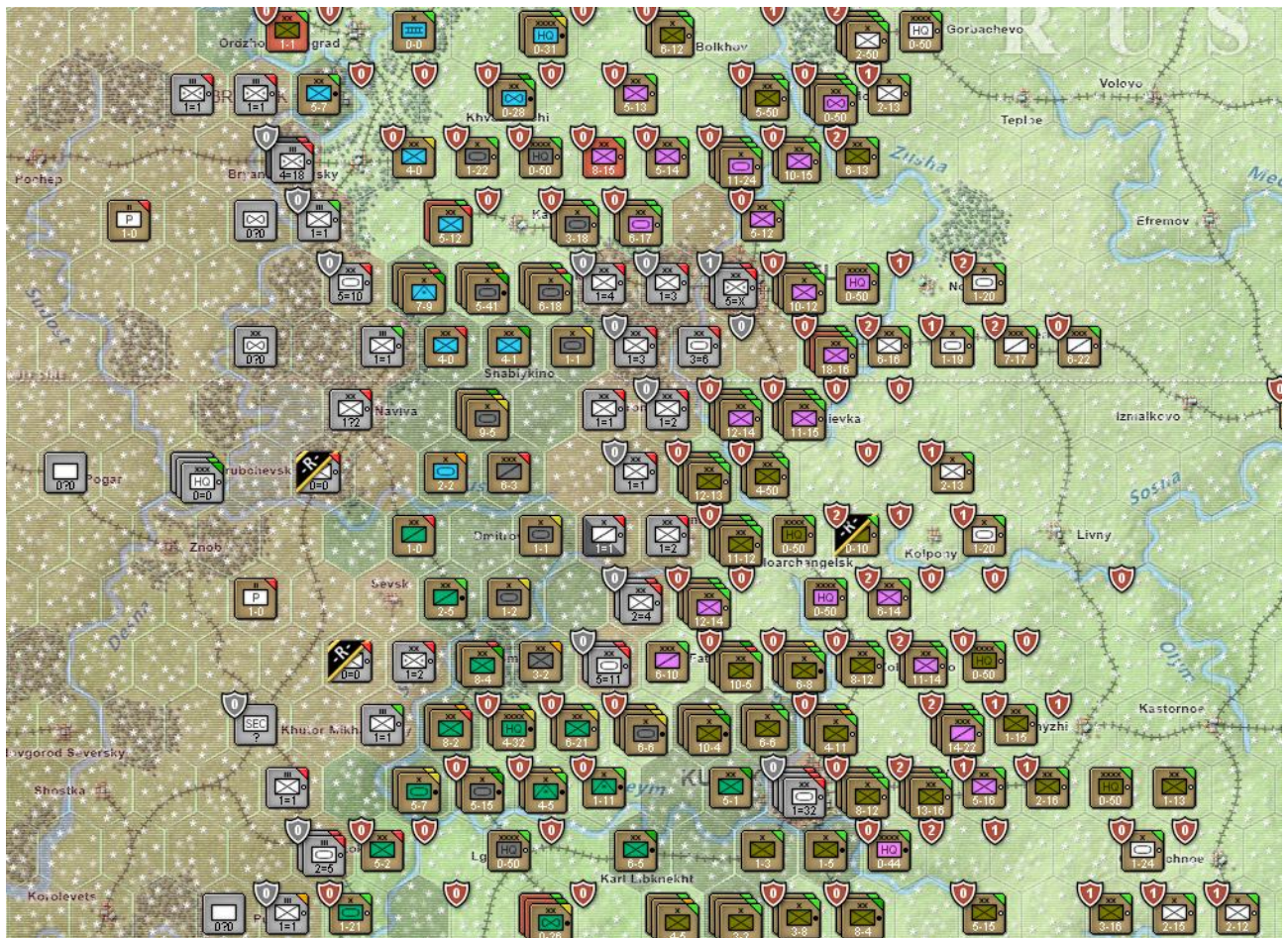
Execution

At Moscow, the initial attacks on the Germans have proven more difficult than expected. While I did succeed in pushing the Germans back in most places, it is obvious that the units here have not been given the same amount of beating that has been given to the units at Kursk, Bryansk and Orel.

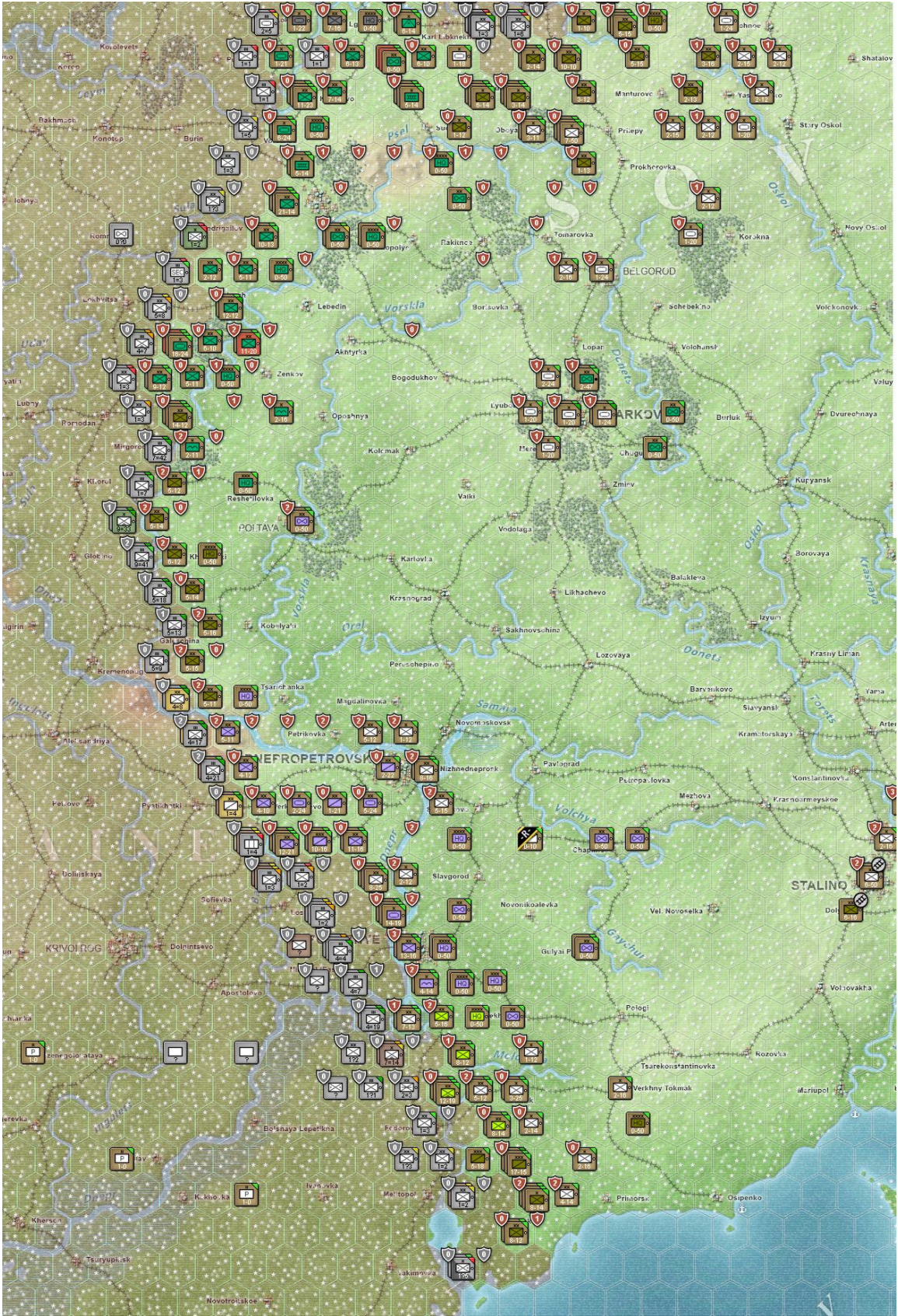
North of Bryansk, I have encircled another Panzer division, an infantry division and some regiments in a way that I cannot see how they can hope to escape.

East of Kursk, I have encircled another nine German infantry divisions, two Motorized divisions and three Panzer divisions, while I have also eliminated most of the divisions in the Kursk pocket itself.

Below a snapshot of the situation at Kursk, as I give the turn to Hermann.



The South



Situational Assessment

West of Sumy, the Germans have withdrawn their most forward infantry units to a new defensive line. This line is very weak, but as I have no plans for a strategic offensive in the area, I pay it little heed.

A similar withdrawal has taken place west and south of Zaporozhye, but here as well, the German lines look thin.

All signs of German Panzers have vanished from the area, and I assume they are being railed north towards the Kursk area.

Planning

I have few plans for the south this turn:

- I will eliminate the encircled German regiment
- I will try to encircle another couple of regiments west of Zaporozhye
- I will continue to push forward to the Bay of Melitopol. If lucky, I might even encircle a German and a Rumanian infantry division with their backs against the sea.

Execution

In the south, little has happened.

While I have eliminated the encircled German infantry regiment, I have not succeeded in encircling other units.

Conclusion

German losses this turn has been horrific. Counted in divisions, the Germans have lost six Panzer divisions, six motorized divisions and eight infantry divisions.

As bad as the losses themselves are the fact that I have encircled another 30 or so German divisions, and I doubt any of them can be saved.

In my honest opinion, it is now "game over" for the Axis. I will be VERY surprised, if the Germans can rise from this defeat and turn the game around to their advantage.

AXIS LOSSES			
Men	1725	167249	985387
Guns	31	1915	17812
AFV	0	233	2756
SP & AC	0	143	889
Men Killed	126	4916	322843
Men Captured	94	130342	174828
Men Disabled	1505	31991	487716
Men Returned			34027
SOVIET LOSSES			
Men	1016	42657	2861559
Guns	5	182	29466
AFV	0	171	14942
SP & AC	0	30	3805
Men Killed	777	31397	610843
Men Captured	0	0	1100643
Men Disabled	239	11260	1150073
Men Returned			73165