

Turn 32, Strategic Considerations

Nevel	81,42	Sov	Supplies	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cherkassy	88,89	Sov	Supplies	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Novomirgorod	85,92	Sov	Supplies	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oster	83,76	Sov	Supplies	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dymer	81,78	Sov	Supplies	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rechitsa	80,66	Sov	Supplies	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Klichev	76,58	Sov	Supplies	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Novosokolniki	80,41	Sov	Partisan	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nevel	80,42	Sov	Partisan	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Velikie Luki	81,41	Sov	Partisan	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nevel	79,43	Sov	Partisan	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Novosokolniki	80,41	Sov	Partisan	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nevel	80,42	Sov	Partisan	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Velikie Luki	83,40	Sov	Partisan	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smolevichi	71,55	Sov	Partisan	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riga	57,33	Sov	Partisan	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Borki	87,45	AX	Retreated	-	12960	138	0	438	0	0	30	0	0	57	0	0	0	0
Dorogobuzh	91,50	AX	Held	Delib	45746	379	6	12931	207	10	529	16	1	285	11	3	0	0
Snigerevka	88,104	AX	Retreated	-	5675	75	0	621	0	0	281	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Krivoi Rog	92,98	AX	Retreated	Delib	39550	292	383	1025	11	62	49	1	64	179	5	20	0	0
Molodechno	67,55	AX	Retreated	-	1897	16	0	917	0	0	45	1	0	38	0	0	0	0
Valmera	63,30	AX	Retreated	-	1872	20	0	426	0	0	132	3	0	9	0	0	0	0

As can be seen above, the threat from the Soviet partisans is ever climbing. I am really happy with this, as all I have done is to set up my SB-2 bombers to night flying across my VVS Airbases. I notice that there seems to be no need of the transports I have assigned to the VVS airbases, although I do think that dropping squads from a bomber is strictly not realistic.

On the ground, the Germans are pulling back across more or less the entire front. It seems my strategy for attack is no longer keeping the Germans mesmerized and unresponsive. If I manage or threaten a breakthrough, the Germans will pull back. Because of this, I will no longer make as many encirclements as I have done earlier on. A spinoff from this is that the Germans sometimes withdraw in areas where I had not expected them to do so, and where I had few plans for upcoming attacks.

Axis VP are 187.

The North



Situational assessment

In the north, the Germans have withdrawn their units both south of Leningrad and south of Lake Ilmen. This means that they are now out of their fortifications and suffering the full effect of the blizzard.

On my side, I have quite a few rail hexes that are not yet repaired.

Planning

This turn will be light on action in this area. I will bomb away at the retreating Germans and move my own units forward, but will still maintain digging units in the hexes I am building my main front in.

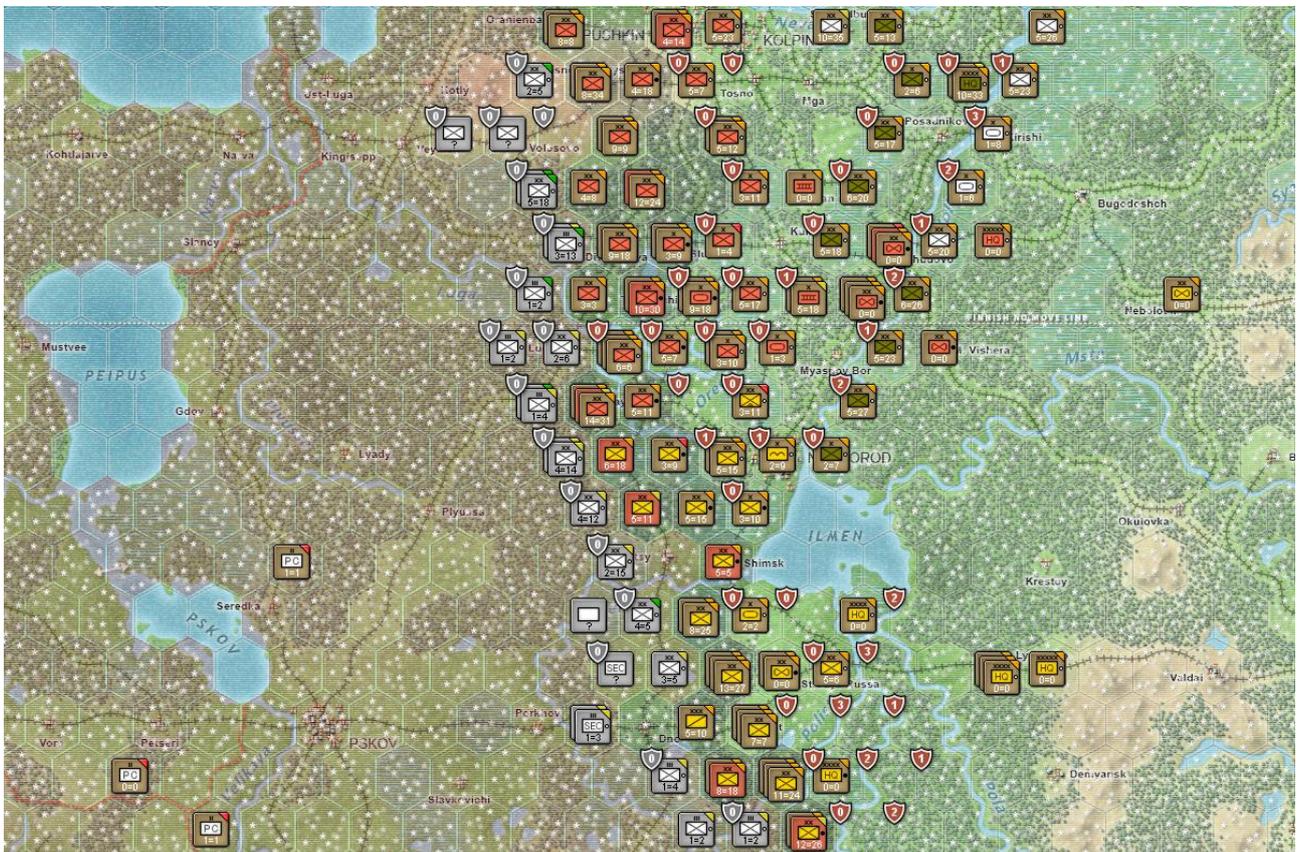
South of Lake Ilmen, I will move up to the Germans and maybe conduct an attack or two.

Execution

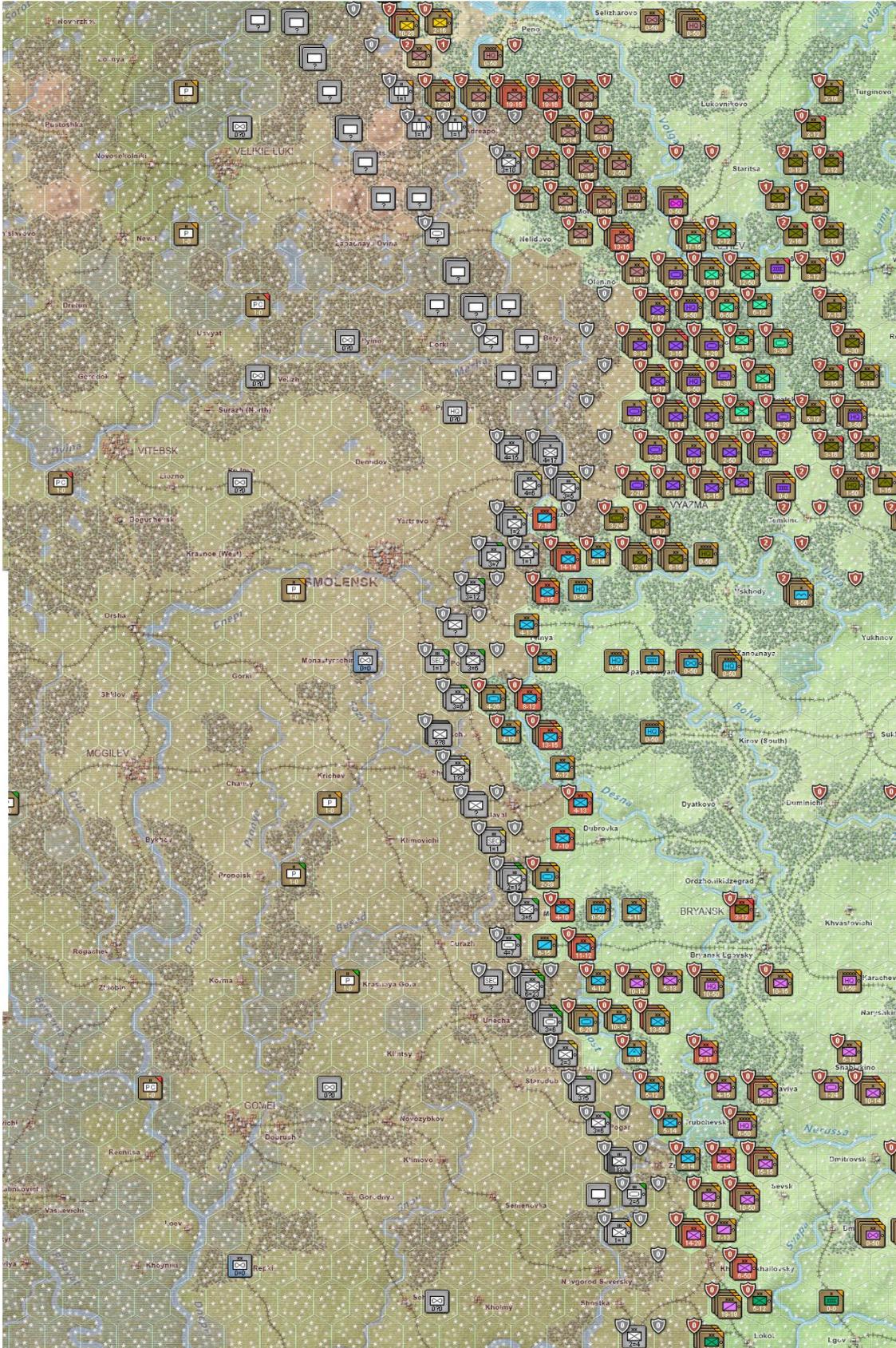
South of Leningrad, I have moved up to the German lines, but otherwise focused on placing units in the future defensive positions.

South of Lake Ilmen, my attacks have failed to make any real progress, and I expect to have to call off this attacks ocme next turn or so.

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



The Center



Situational assessment

In the center, the Germans are still pulling back in front of Moscow. There is now some 16 hexes between the city and the nearest Germans. The withdrawals have left behind three Fortified zones and one infantry division unable to pull back with the rest of the wehrmacht.

East of Smolensk, the Germans have conducted a single counterattack on my forward cavalry corps, the result being the transformation of the corps to a Guards Cavalry Corps. I am surprised that the Germans are not ordering their command structure before such attacks, preferring to suffer multiple CV reductions as a result of this. For an attack report see below.

1 of 1 91,50 - Light Woods - Blizzard Turn:32 1942-01-22		
Axis Forces Attacking: VII Corps 7th Infantry Division (21) 6/55th SP Flak Company (0) XXXIII Corps -6% 112th Infantry Division (14) IX Corps -6% 294th Infantry Division (6) V Corps -16% [v]	Forces Engaged ATK: men 45746, art 379, afv 6 DEF: men 12931, art 207, afv 10 DAM: men 168, art 6, afv 1 DAM: men 54, art 7, afv 1 LOST: men 361, art 10, afv 0 LOST: men 231, art 4, afv 2 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: ftr 98, bmr 33, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 1, utl 0	Soviet Forces Defending: 10th Army 7th Cavalry Corps (113) 104th AT Artillery Regiment (0) 107th Sapper Regiment (12) 104th MG-Artillery Battalion (2) Western Air Command 85 Yak-1
Defending Forces HELD		
CV: 48->73.9 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: VII Corps G Wilhelm Fahrmbacher	Show Details Odds 1 : 2.63	CV: 127->194.5 Fort: 0.00->0.00 Comm HQ: 10th Army GL Konstantin Golubev
		Exit

West of Bryansk, the Germans have sent in two Panzer divisions and three Motorized divisions to stem the Soviet attacks by the Western Front. My units here are by now some six or seven hexes from their railheads, so resupplying my attack becomes ever harder.

At Orel, the Germans have not flown in new supplies this turn, and the German CV is suffering accordingly. With a total CV in the city of 1=19 and Soviet forces around the city mustering some 54 attack CV, it seems the resistance in the city is coming to an end. This would mean the loss of one Panzer, one Motorized and one infantry division for the Germans.

To the west of Orel, the Bryansk Front is arriving at the front.

Planning

At Moscow, I will pursue the withdrawing Germans, destroy the abandoned fortified zones and encircle the left behind infantry division.

At Smolensk, I will continue to push west as best I can, hoping to force the Germans to keep pulling back.

West of Bryansk, I will attack the local German Panzers as best I can, hoping to force even more destruction on the German Panzerwaffe. In order to assist with this, I will deploy most of the local airforces of the Western Front to this task.

At Orel, I will do my best to end the agony of the besieged Germans. I wish to free up the local STAVKA armies to be moved to other fronts and/or assignments (mainly, I wish to start strengthening the long thin line of Southwestern Front units holding the front from the Dnepr to Sumy).

Execution

West of Moscow, little fighting has occurred, except for the destruction of the German Fortified Zones. The German infantry is securely encircled and the Soviet units have closed in on the retreating Germans.

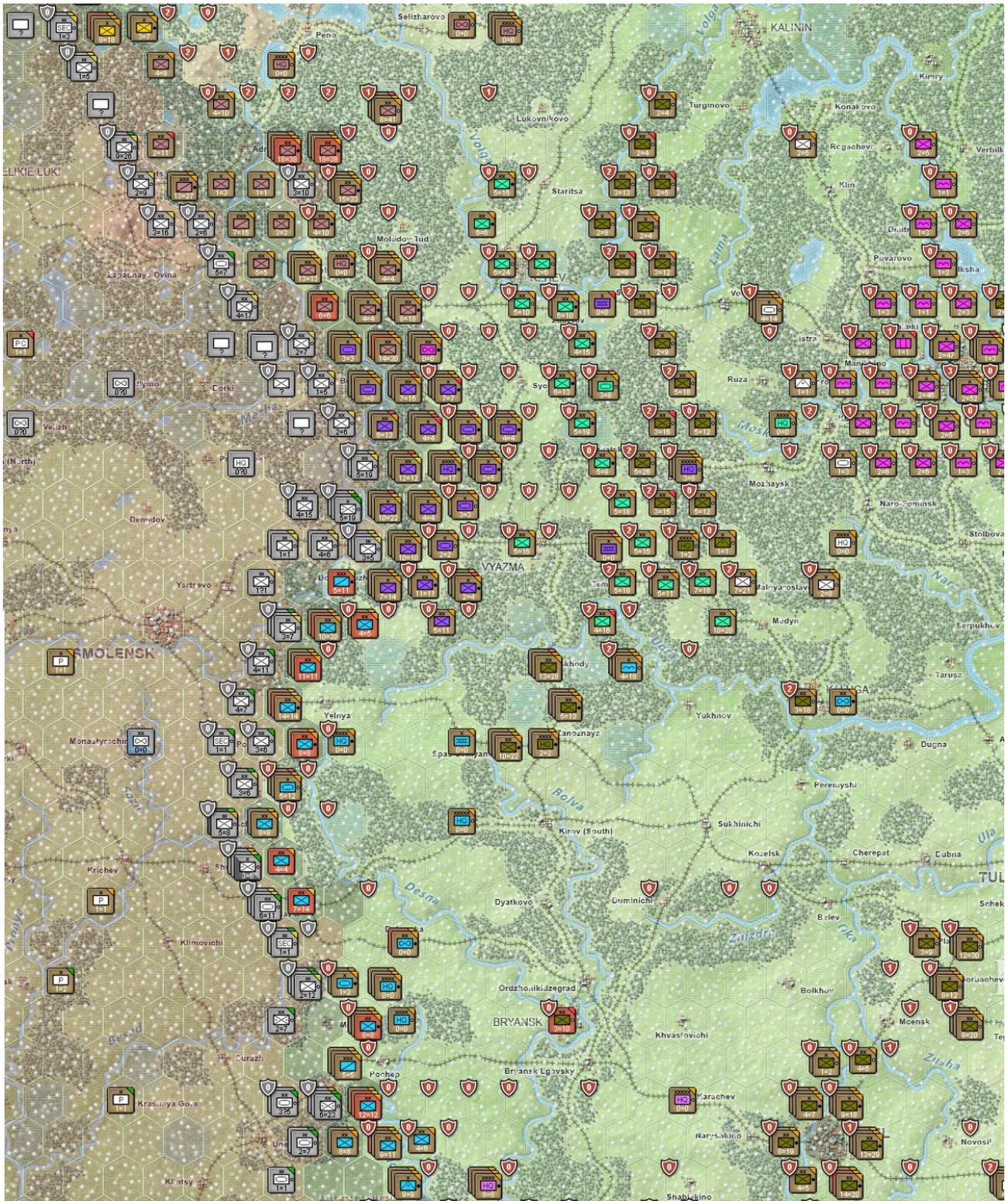
West of Bryansk, a few interesting tank battles have taken place, where the Soviets have taken on the German Panzers straight on and won. See Below for a battle report.

Axis Forces Defending:	1 of 3 > 90,62 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:32 1942-01-22	Soviet Forces Attacking:
III Panzer Corps 14th Panzer Division (61) II/63rd Howitzer Battalion (0) 260th Pioneer Battalion (4) I/54th Nebelwerfer Battalion (0) II/54th Nbl.W. Bn (0)	Forces Engaged DEF: men 13312, art 127, afv 78 ATK: men 26285, art 375, afv 128 DAM: men 22, art 4, afv 25 DAM: men 147, art 11, afv 9 LOST: men 53, art 4, afv 5 LOST: men 566, art 2, afv 19 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 ATK: ftr 71, bmr 20, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 1, utl 0	3rd Army 9th Cavalry Corps (49) 5th BM Howitzer Regiment (4) 318th BM Howitzer Regiment (4) 611th Art Rgt RVGK (3) 587th Art Rgt RVGK (3) 106th AT Artillery Regiment (0) 109th Sapper Regiment (7)
CV: 65->67.7 Fort: 0.04->0.00 Comm HQ: III Panzer Corps GO Eberhard von Mackensen	14th Panzer Division RETREATED Show Details Odds 2.73 : 1 Exit	CV: 119->185.0 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: 3rd Army GP Vasily Kuznetsov

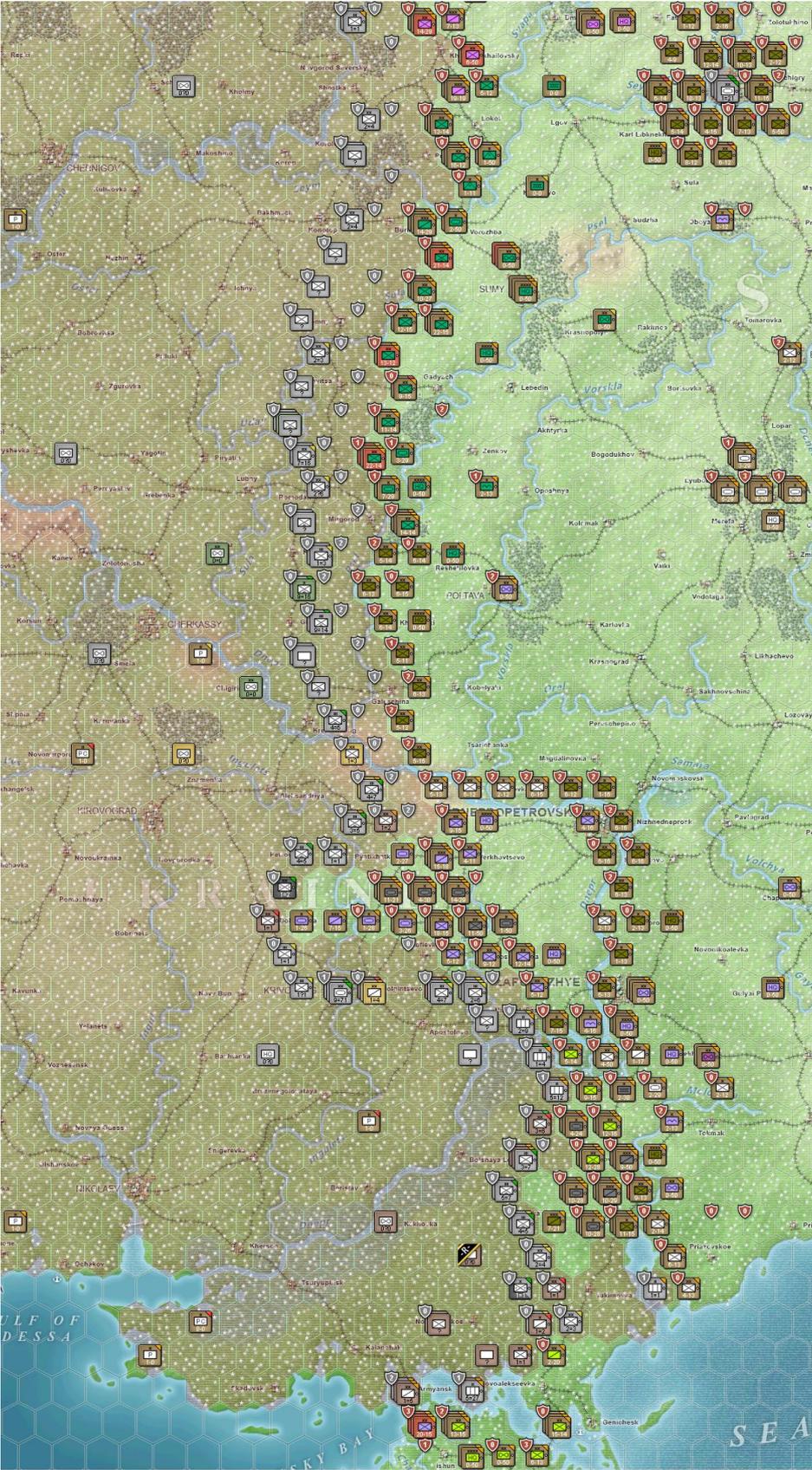
At Orel, the Germans surrendered to a massive soviet attack from all sides, and no German defenders escaped (would have been somewhat surprising if they did, as they would have to escape across some 150 miles of blizzard terrain filled with Soviet troops).

Axis Forces Defending:	1 of 1 103,64 - Urban(Orel) - Blizzard Turn:32 1942-01-22	Soviet Forces Attacking:
XXXXVI Panzer Corps 20th Panzer Division (112) 60th Motorized Division (103) 1st Lehr Pioneer Battalion (3)	Forces Engaged DEF: men 20940, art 143, afv 98 ATK: men 133388, art 1665, afv 35 DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 290, art 5, afv 0 LOST: men 20940, art 143, afv 98 LOST: men 282, art 2, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	42nd Army 33rd Rifle Division (54) 343rd Rifle Division (77) 359th Rifle Division (94) 362nd Rifle Division (72) 366th Rifle Division (91) 370th Rifle Division (75) 17th Rifle Brigade (33)
CV: 218->165.2 Fort: 1.20->0.00 Comm HQ: XXXXVI Panzer Corps GO Heinrich von Vietinghoff	60th Motorized Division SURRENDERED 20th Panzer Division SURRENDERED Show Details Odds 5.49 : 1 Exit	CV: 953->907.7 Eng Val: 10 Comm HQ: 42nd Army GM Semyon Krivoshein

Below is an image of the center, as I give the turn to Hermann.



The South



Situational Assessment

At Kursk, the situation is similar to that in Orel. The Germans have not flown in supplies this turn, and it looks as if another two Panzer divisions and one infantry division is headed for the PoW camps.

Along the entire front stretching north from Dnepr, the Germans have pulled back a hex or two.

In the Dnepr bend, the Germans have created a thin line of units trying to hold back the Soviet attacks. This line is hinged on the city of Krivoi Rog, manned by three entire Panzer divisions, but northwest of the city is a stretch of three hexes with no more than 1=1 CV units holding them.

At the Bay of Melitopol, the Axis forces are reushing back, in order to avoid encirclement and destruction. However, a new possible attack direction has opened to me, as the westernmost Crimea crossings are now guarded by no more than 1=5 CV units.

Planning

First, I will attack the Kursk pocket full strength. As with the Orel pocket, I want those STAVKA Armies freed up for other assignments to the south.

Along the Southwestern Front, I will focus on shifting the forces southwards, as I have a section of front north of the Dnepr where a single STAVKA army is charged with holding seven hexes.

In the Dnepr bend, I will continue attacking, hoping to circle round Krivoi Rog and turn southwest. This attack could possibly link up with the attacks south of the Dnepr in the vicinity of Nikolaev in a few turns time.

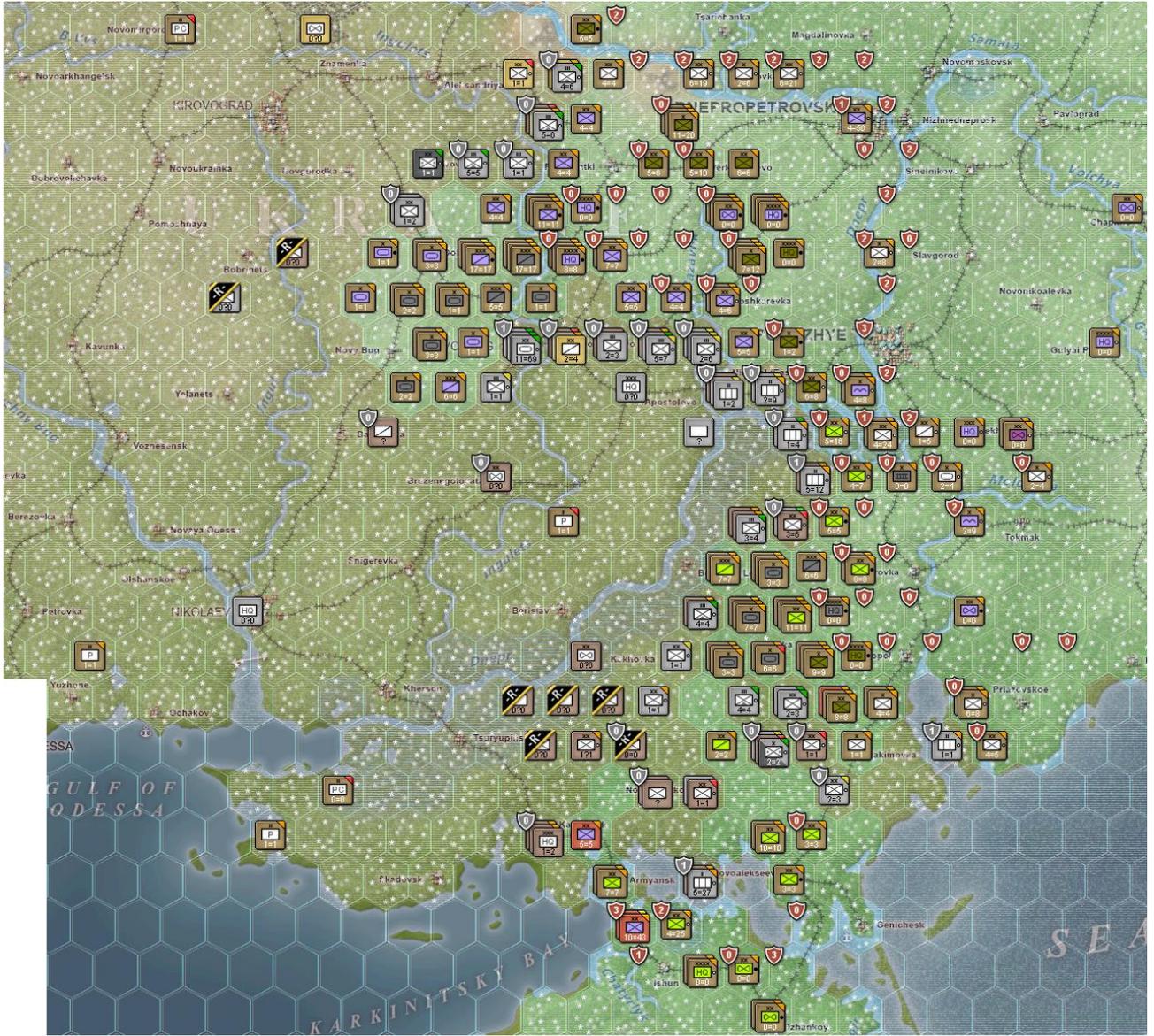
South of the Dnepr, I will continue attacking westwards from the Bay of Melitopol while attacking out of the Crimea to the west as well.

Execution

In the Dnepr bend, my attacks have broken through the Axis lines, and are now threatening to roll forwards in the direction of Nikolaev. Further south, I have temporarily encircled some four German infantry divisions and assorted other units, but those will easily break free for next turn. I have also broken out of Crimea to the west, and a few of my units are now moving north into the Axis rear. Finally, I have placed one naval Rifle Brigade on naval transports in Sevastopol. Come next turn, I might conduct my first ever amphibious assault, and land it somewhere in the vicinity of Nikolaev.

Strategically, the situation is not looking good for the Axis. The Rumanians are just not up for the task of fighting the Soviets during the blizzard, and the Germans are being stretched thin as well. The good news for the Germans are that February is now only one turn away, and if they can hang on until then, they may see some relief.

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



Conclusion

The Germans have suffered again this turn. German losses are in excess of 60.000 men and worse, several more German divisions have been put in a tight spot. The Germans have also lost some 170 tanks, which will take some time to replace.

Ground Losses		----- Permanent Losses -----		
		BATTLE	TURN	TOTAL
Ger	Panzer Ib	0	10	164
Ger	Panzer IIc	0	15	550
Ger	Panzer IIg	0	5	62
Ger	T-26 M1937	0	0	86
Ger	Panzer IIIe	0	1	184
Ger	Panzer IIIg	0	15	311
Ger	Panzer IIIh	0	12	158
Ger	Panzer 35(t)	0	0	137
Ger	Panzer 38(t)	0	21	194
Ger	Panzer 38(t)E	0	51	206
Ger	Panzer IIIj	0	31	300
Ger	T-34 M1941	0	0	59
Ger	Panzer B-2 74D(f)	0	0	3
Ger	Panzer IVc	0	0	62
Ger	Panzer IVe	0	2	227
Ger	Panzer IVf	0	8	127