

Turn 37, Strategic Considerations

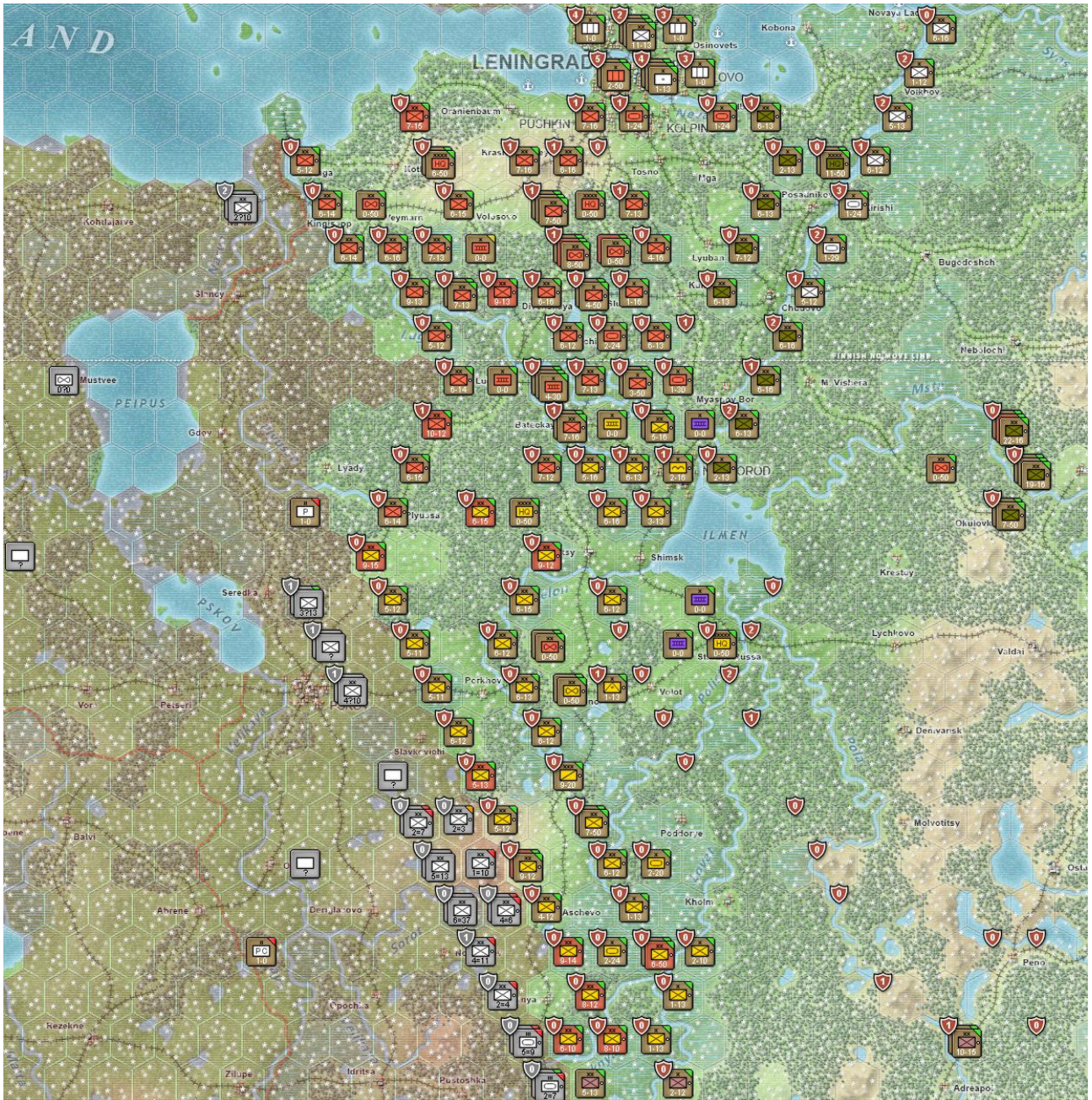
IL-2		
	CAPACITY	DAMAGE
Chkalov	44	0
Orsk	44	0
Ufa	1	0
Ufa	1	5

This has been a somewhat uneventful turn. The Germans have made a series of attacks up and down the front, and pushed forward a hex in some locations. Losses are meagre, with 6.000 Axis losses going for 9.000 Soviet ones.

I will return to a more strict management of my airforces this turn, and so I start the turn by setting all LaGG-3 to fly nights, planning to end it by setting them to fly both day and night. This should let my interceptors be fresh for fighting the Germans in their own turn.

Axis VP are 179.

The North



Situational assessment

The Germans appear to have conducted a series of nighttime airfield attacks on my northern airfields. Losses have been negligible, but I notice that the Germans are now flying their Ju 87D-1's unescorted in this area.

In my rear, the RR Repair brigades I have invested in over the last few turns are beginning to speed up the repair process, while I have a STAVKA army en route to Leningrad. I have also built some four light howitzer brigades in the city last turn, and plan to use them for distance attacks against either the Finns or the Germans at Narva. I want to see if such units can be effective in bringing down a fortified line if given enough time.

Planning

I will do a little more reordering this turn, and get the STAVKA army closer to Leningrad (the city is not yet connected by rail, unfortunately).

In the air, I will move forward my local IL-2 airfields and do a full scale attack on the JU-87D-1 airfield at Tapa. I have 550 IL-2's in my pools and production is going to rise to 160+ over the spring, so I care little for any losses.

In order to drive up the casualty rate, I will search for some local attack opportunities where I have some good odds (something like 3:1 or more).

Execution

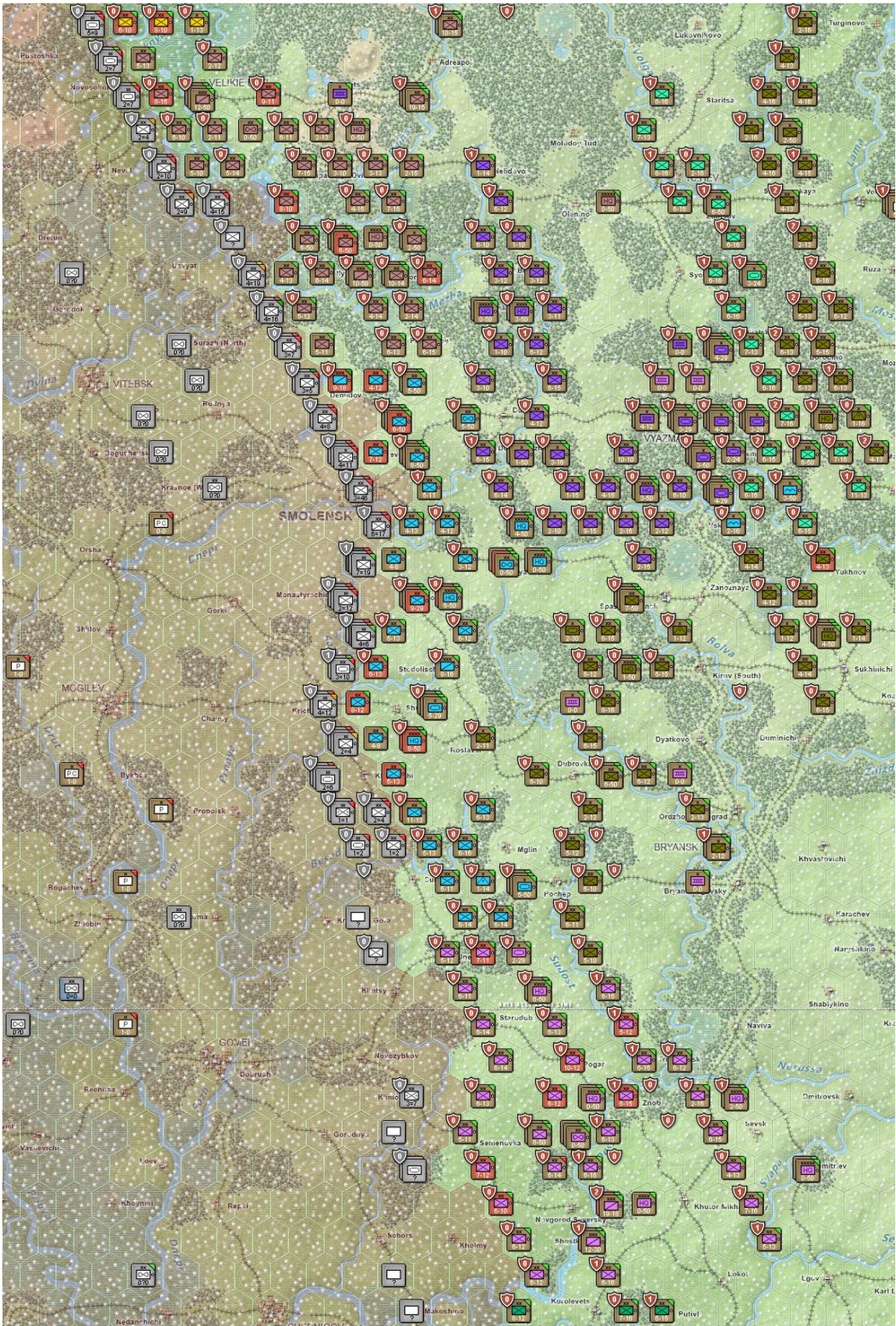
In the air, I have made the traditional error of not selecting the participating Air Groups in one of the Airfield attacks, and the results have been disappointing.

On the ground, a few attacks have been made, but no real effect has come of them.

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



The Center



Situational assessment

In the center, the Germans have launched a series of attacks against my foremost units, winning some battles while losing others. The result on the frontline is almost nonexistent. However, the Luftwaffe has been flying in many of the attacks here, often with heavy fighter support.

Recon missions flown after the image above was taken has revealed several Luftwaffe airbases in the area, including two with a heavy presence of Ju 52/3m transport aircraft.

Planning

In the air, I will start by the usual ground bombing attacks against the German infantry on the front, hoping to draw out the German fighters. If this fail, I will follow by some Yak-1 attacks on a series of recon airbases close to the front, hoping for the same result, and end up with some massive nighttime level bomber attacks against the Luftwaffe bases.

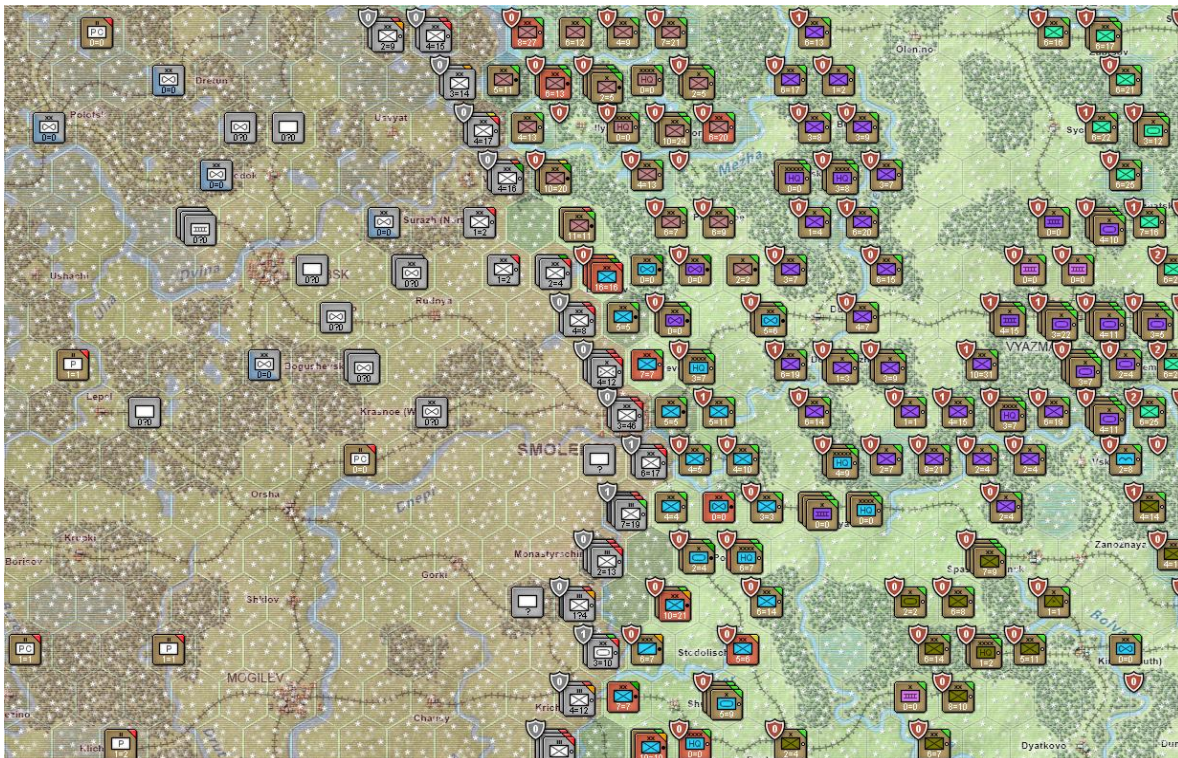
Much like in the north, I will look for local attack possibilities, hoping to drive up the casualty rate.

Execution

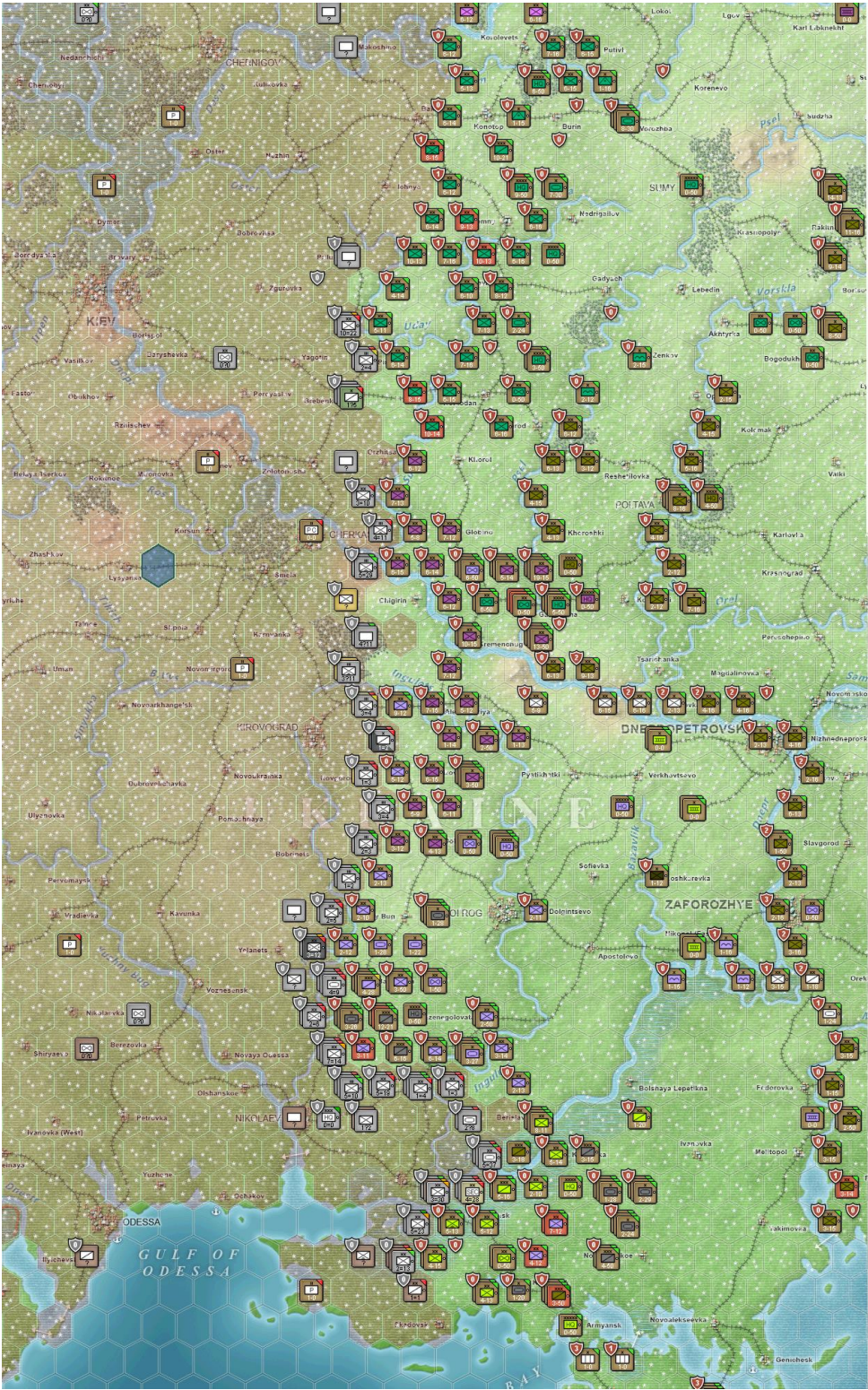
The initial series of bombing attacks have seen some German interceptors flying, and some combat has occurred in the air as a result. There has been no real serious developments, however.

On the ground, I have done a few attacks, specially seeking out the weakened German Panzers and Motorized units, as I find it realtively easy to give them AFV losses at this point in time. TI wuld require a real stretch of the imagination however, to claim that the losses this turn has had any real impact on the Germans.

Below is an image of the situaton at Smolensk, as I give the turn to Hermann.



The South



Situational Assessment

In the south, the Germans are throwing forces back into the Nikolaev Bulge. I now see Panzer divisions at the far eastern edge of the Bulge.

The Germans have conducted some local attacks up and down the line, but there has yet been no real threat emerging.

Planning

Along the Southwestern and Transcaucasus Fronts I will look for some local attack opportunities, hoping to inflict casualties on the Germans before the official end of the blizzard.

Further south, I will continue to disengage Rokossovsky's and Batov's STAVKA armies, whiel establishing a frontline using the Southern and the Crimean Fronts to do so.

Execution

In the south, I have pulled my units southwest of Kriboi Rog back, hoping to establish a new defensive line well west of the Dnepr.

I have done a few attacks, including one that shattered a Rumanian Cavalry division.

The situation north of Nikolaev as I give the turn to Hermann can be seen below.



Conclusion

Losses have been fairly limited this turn, with the image below showing losses since my last turn. The good news are that the Germans are still struggling the rebuild from the losses they have suffered over the winter. Since turn 28, where the German Man2Gun index was 114,6 the Germans have only reduced that index by 0,3 to 114,3 – while they have lost some 50.000 men in their OoB.

Over the same period, my own Man2Gun number has dropped from 114,5 to 93,2 – while my OoB has risen by 600.000 troops.

This turn, I have sent several new airfields to the front, and I will be able to step up action in the air over the coming turns.

AXIS LOSSES			
Men	101	36242	1671921
Guns	2	604	26092
AFV	0	76	3932
SP & AC	0	27	1190
Men Killed	45	13347	450681
Men Captured	0	1263	453527
Men Disabled	56	21632	767713
Men Returned			76914
SOVIET LOSSES			
Men	304	42448	3361622
Guns	0	470	33895
AFV	0	67	16056
SP & AC	0	32	4271
Men Killed	268	20604	817927
Men Captured	0	4116	1107306
Men Disabled	36	17728	1436389
Men Returned			132308