

Turn 38, Strategic Considerations

___ AIR ___						
SU	Yak-1	75	0	343	2103	63
SU	Yak-7A	18	0	216	216	0
SU	LaGG-3 '11 Series'	22	0	3	415	13
SU	LaGG-3	66	0	247	2439	84
SU	Pe-3	5	0	24	100	3
SU	Hurricane IIB	28	0	428	644	9
SU	P-39D	4	0	4	4	0
SU	P-40E	9	0	81	81	0
SU	Su-2	12	0	194	444	11
SU	IL-2	93	0	623	2133	53
SU	U-2VS	84	0	565	2289	61
SU	Pe-2	60	0	681	1848	37
SU	IL-4	15	0	525	522	33
SU	Pe-8	1	0	46	37	0
SU	Li-2VV	3	0	27	27	0
SU	A-20B	16	0	16	16	0
SU	B-25D	6	0	6	6	0
SU	SB-2 Rcn	0	0	286	0	6
SU	U-2 Rcn	6	0	222	222	0
SU	Pe-2R	6	0	115	151	2
SU	U-2 (transp)	12	0	820	435	8
SU	Li-2	9	0	62	264	10

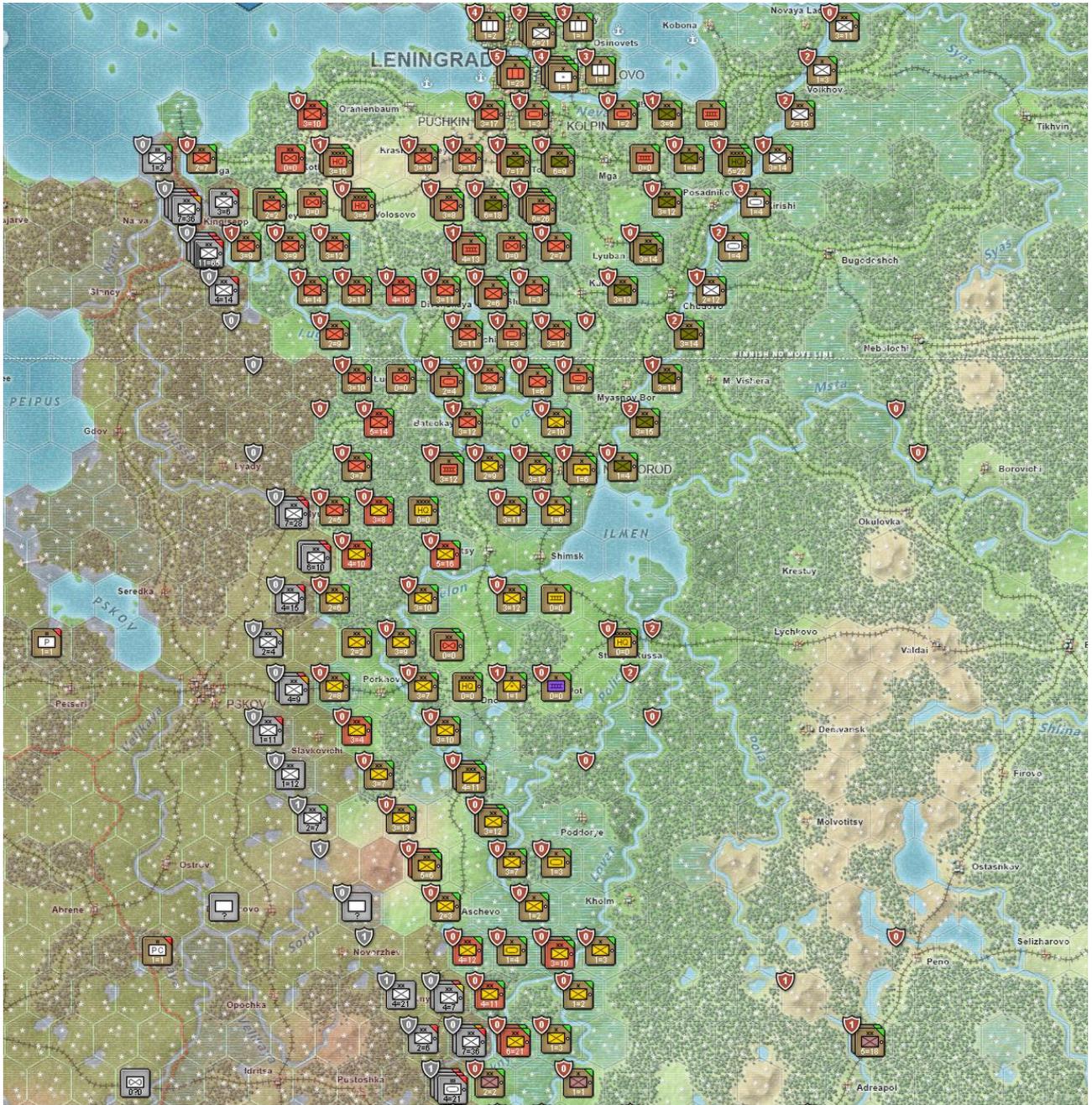
On the ground, the Germans have continued their attacks all along the frontline, leading to some losses on both sides (more Axis than Soviet) while not really moving the frontline at all. In the air however, the Axis has lost quite a few machines this turn, with losses standing at 268 Axis Aircraft lost to 238 Soviet ones. Such losses are certainly above the number that the Axis powers can continuously sustain.

With the coming of march, I have several new aircraft in production, some of which are actually very good:

- The P-39D is actually the best available dog fighter until the arrival of the Yak-7B in May 1942. Unfortunately, its production numbers are quite small, so I will not be able to use it widely. Because of this, I will simply use it in a role similar to that of the Yak-1.
- The A-20B is by far the fastest level bomber I have got, and to boot it carries the heaviest bombs I have available, compared to other decent production aircraft. It is a level bomber, meaning it will not be able to compete with the ground killing potential of the IL-2. I will try using it for either daytime attacks versus Luftwaffe airfields or else for interdiction attacks on moving German units.
- The B-25D has got low production numbers (only six per turn), good bombs (like the A-20B) and a very good range for a medium bomber (47 hexes). It is less durable in a dogfight than the A-20B. I guess the best way of using this aircraft is to conduct night time airfield attacks against the Luftwaffe bases furthest to the rear.

On the ground, the T-70 has entered production. The result is that I now produce 200 light tanks every turn. This should fill up the need for light tanks in one or two turns (as planned) making the 30 or so independent tank battalions I have at STAVKA ready for the creation of new tank corps.

The North



Situational assessment

In the north, the Germans are using the improved weather conditions to push forward from the Narva positions. No less than eight infantry divisions have begun pushing east once again.

The Germans are also advancing at Pskov. Having moved all my fighter airfields from this front to other locations, the Germans have virtual air supremacy over the front in this area.

In the air, my decision to rest all LaGG-3 aircrews last turn has given this little beauty of an airfield attack conducted by the Germans.

Axis Forces Attacking:		75,19 - Clear(Veymann) - Snow		Turn:38 1942-03-05	
I Fliegerkorps		Forces Engaged		Soviet Forces Defending:	
2	Hs 129B	ATK: men 0, art 0, afv 0	DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0	Leningrad Air Command	
36	Ju 87B	DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0	DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0	112	LaGG-3
45	Ju 87D-1	LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0	LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0	11 : 16	LaGG-3
		ATK: ftr 0, bmr 83, utl 0	DEF: ftr 112, bmr 0, utl 0	10 : 18	LaGG-3
		LOST: ftr 0, bmr 83, utl 0	LOST: ftr 10, bmr 0, utl 0	16 : 19	LaGG-3
		airfield was BOMBED		16 : 18	LaGG-3
		Show Details		Exit	

Planning

In the air, I will be moving one LaGG-3 airfield to the Northwestern Front, to give some defense against the German Luftwaffe. Other than that, I will be bombing the advancing Germans with everything I have got, hoping to inflict as much attrition as possible.

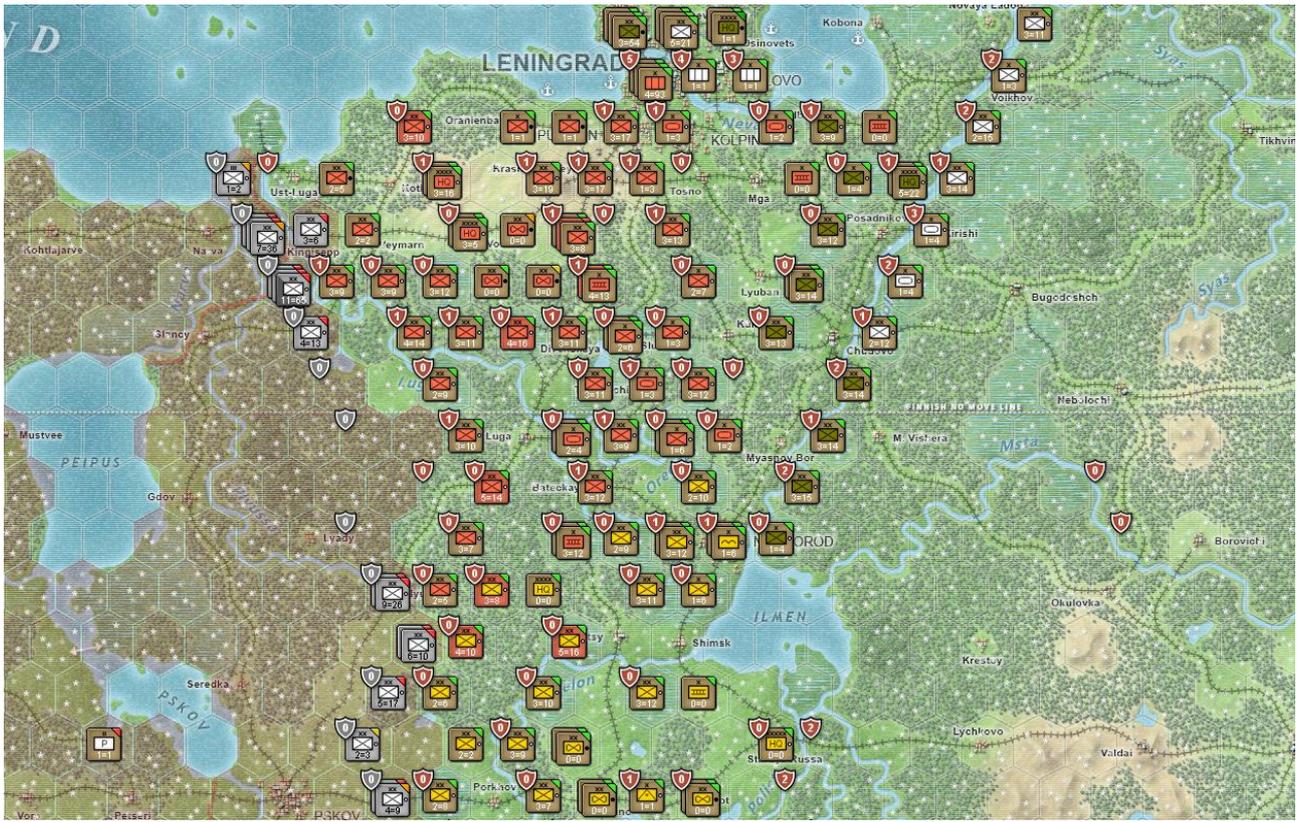
On the ground, I will withdraw my exposed northern division one hex and establish a new line. I do not have the punch to conduct any offensive maneuvers in the area this turn.

Execution

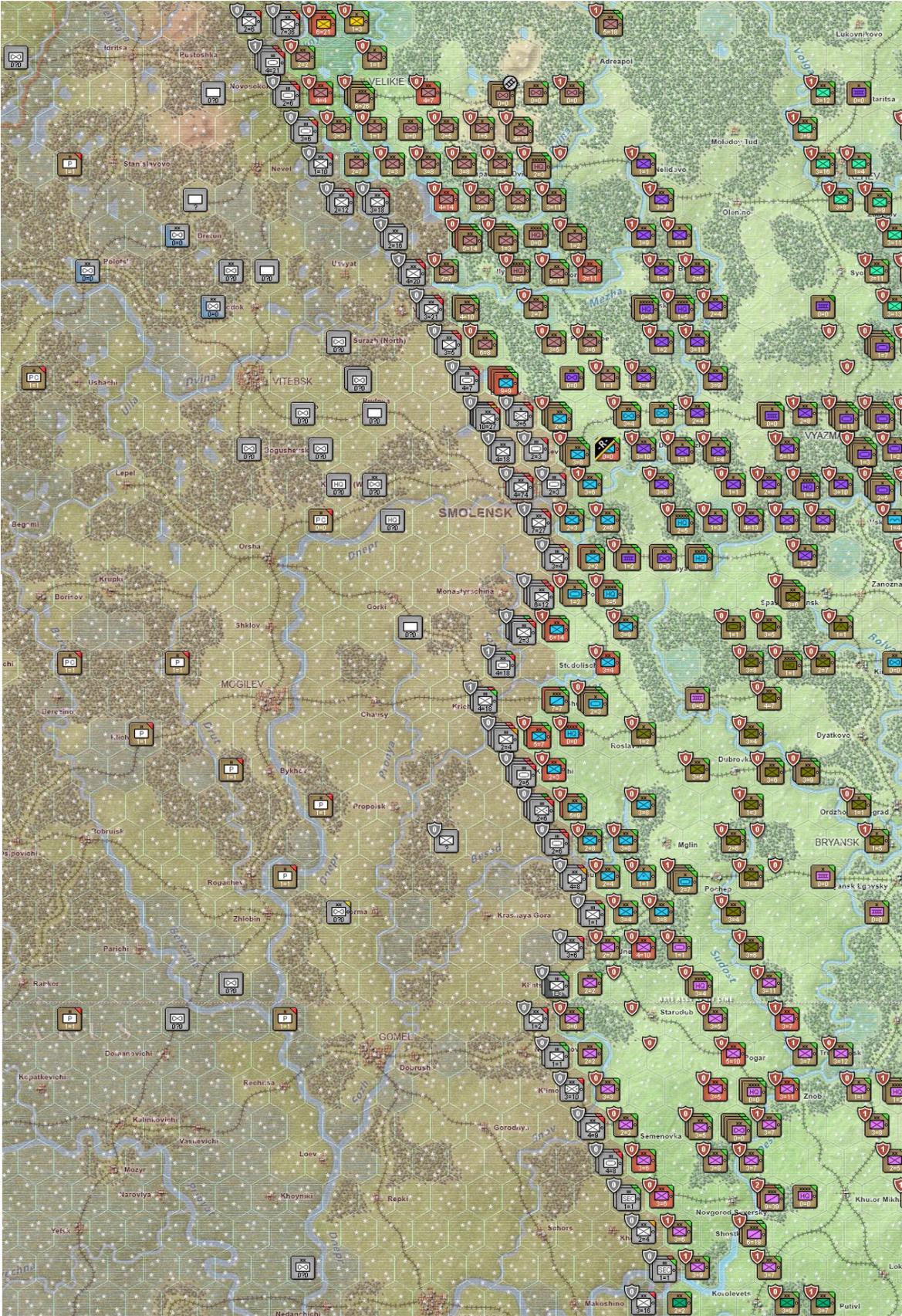
Little has happened in the north, except for a series of bombing attacks on the Germans in the front lines.

I have moved a STAVKA army into Leningrad itself to free up units of the Northern Front for the battles south of Leningrad. I have also assigned four new Artillery Brigades to this STAVKA Army, and I plan to use them for distance attacks on the Finns from well fortified areas (should give a to hit bonus). For now, the experience of those artillery Brigades is so lacking, that they are completely unable to give any casualties.

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 continued attacking over a wide front. They have advanced no more than one hex in any location, and should their attacks continue like this, I will consider myself fortunate.

In several locations, the Germans now have weak infantry units or Motorized or Panzer regiments in the very frontline. I consider such targets important, as I can both inflict losses on the German Panzers and also damage the morale of the best German formations at a small cost.

In the air, the Luftwaffe is flying in the area, and I have located at least one airfield with some 77 functioning Bf109 F-4's on it. I have also spotted two other airfields with JU 52/3m transports on them.

Planning

On the ground, I will counterattack the weak German Motorized and Panzer regiments in the front, simply in order to inflict losses. I will obviously precede every attack by ground bombing attacks by my local airforces.

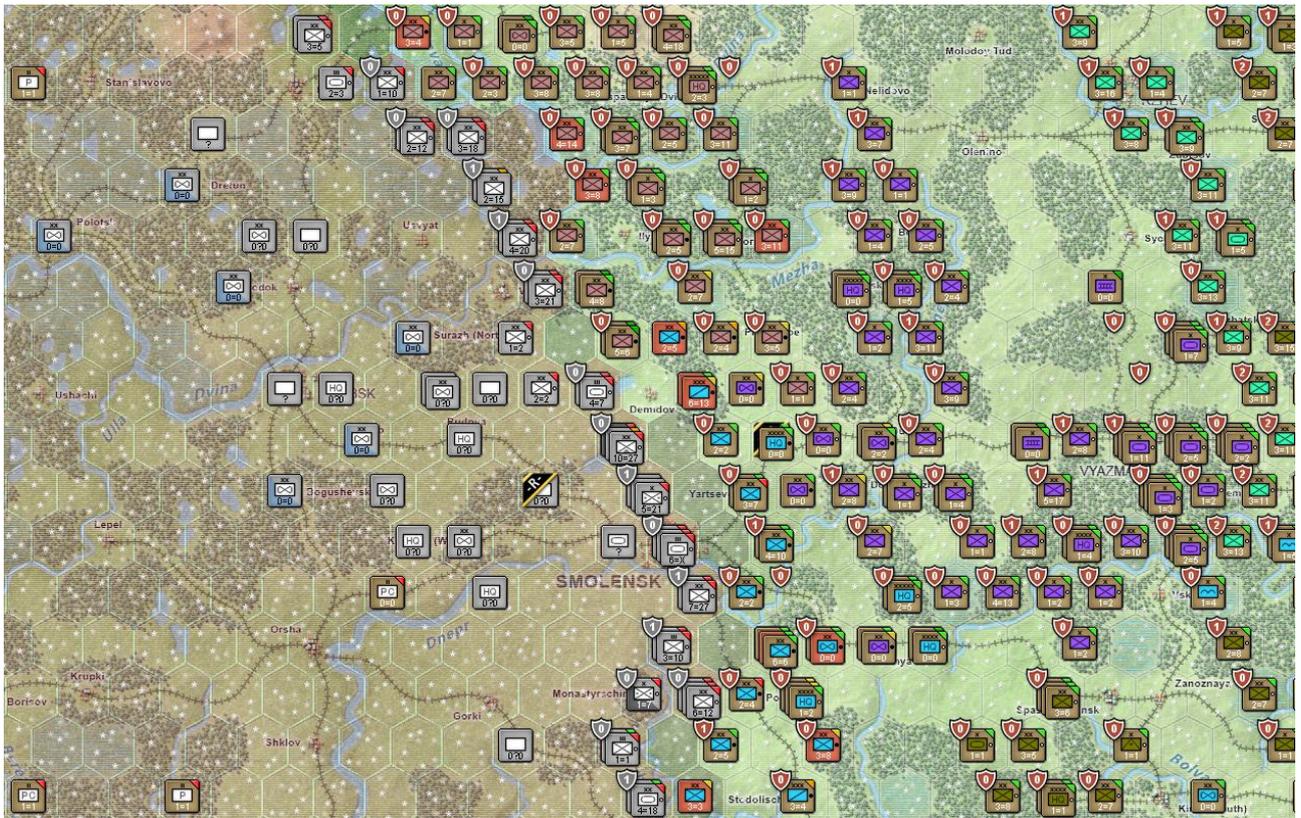
I will also use every available ground attack aircraft to hammer the German frontline.

Execution

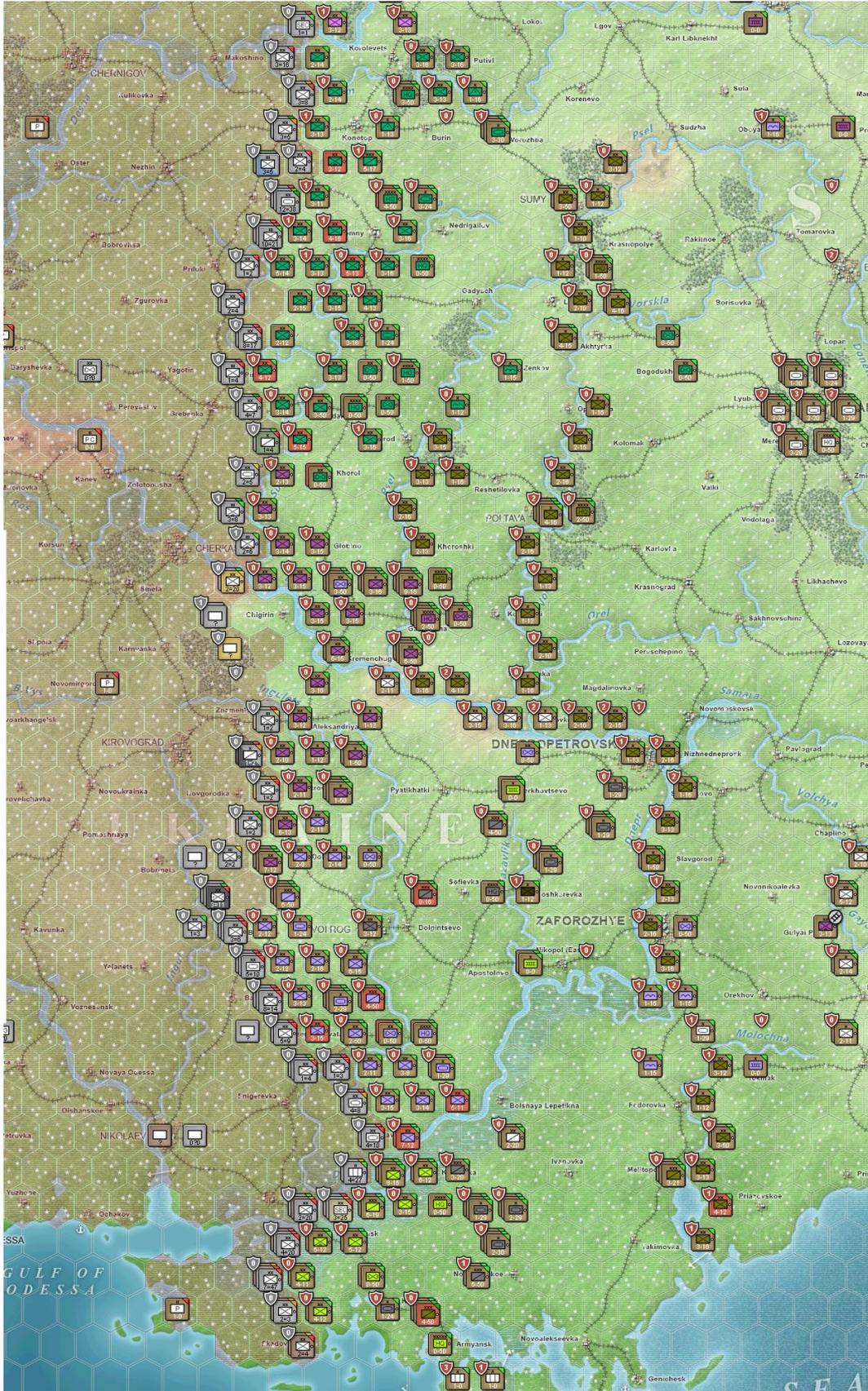
In the center, I have conducted quite a few attacks on the ground, mostly preceded by well sized ground bombing attacks by my airforces. I have also done several airfield bombing attacks on the Luftwaffe bases, inflicting some casualties in the process.

While the front has basically not really moved at all, I have moved some airfields north to the Kalinin and Volkhov Fronts, as these are the best placed fronts for attacking the Luftwaffe bases.

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



The South



Situational Assessment

As in the center, the Germans have conducted a series of attacks up and down the front, in some places advancing one hex while in others failing to advance at all. As in the center, there are plenty of locations where the German units facing me look very weak and ripe for attacks.

In the air, the Luftwaffe has continued to conduct unescorted bomber attacks against the Soviet airfields, amongst the result being the one below. I fail to understand why the Axis forces so often seem so keen on simply sacrificing their level bombers for no apparent gain.

Axis Forces Attacking:	1 of 1	94,110 - Clear - Snow	Turn:38 1942-03-05	Soviet Forces Defending:
VIII Fliegerkorps 13 He 111H-3 52 He 111H-4 24 He 111H-6 4 Do 217E-4	Forges Engaged 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 93, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 72, utl 0		DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DEF: ftr 125, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 2, bmr 1, utl 0	Crimea Air Command 125 Yak-1 16 : 18 IL-2 15 : 18 IL-2 13 : 18 IL-2 13 : 16 IL-2
	airfield was BOMBED			[v]
	Show Details		Exit	

Planning

My plans for the south this turn are an exact copy of my plans for the center: Attack the Germans where they are weak and hammer away at the German front with my bombers.

Execution

Much like the center, I have done a series of attacks to inflict casualties on the Germans. Most were successful to some degree, but one stands out. I have managed to shatter a German infantry division in a frontal attack, without it being encircled or otherwise handicapped. It certainly must be one of the recently formed divisions destroyed earlier in the winter, but still it marks the vulnerability of the German Wehrmacht.

Axis Forces Defending:	1 of 3	91,103 - Clear - Snow	Turn:38 1942-03-05	Soviet Forces Attacking:
XXXXVIII Panzer Corps 75th Infantry Division (12) 244th Stug Battalion (0) 1/47th SP Flak Company (1) XXX Corps -16% 1st Lehr Nbl W. Rgt (20) 1/77th Howitzer Battalion (2) 1/47th SP Flak Company (1)	Forges Engaged DEF: men 19269, art 239, afv 27 DAM: men 464, art 16, afv 4 LOST: men 2103, art 29, afv 1 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0		ATK: men 69975, art 1033, afv 19 DAM: men 110, art 9, afv 2 LOST: men 148, art 2, afv 1 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	Coastal Army -10% 3rd Guards Cavalry Corps (35) 2nd Guards Mountain Division (34) 268th Art Rgt RVGK (1) 377th Art Rgt RVGK (1) 2nd Gds BM Hwz Rgt (2) 3rd Gds AT Art Rgt (0) 105th Sapper Regiment (4)
	1st Lehr Nebelwerfer Regiment RETREATED 75th Infantry Division SHATTERED			[v]
CV: 36->37.2 Fort: 0.02->0.00 Comm HQ: XXXXVIII Panzer Corps GO Werner Kempf	Show Details	Odds 17.87 : 1	Exit	CV: 167->665.1 Eng Val: 8 Comm HQ: 9th Army GL Kirill Moskalenko

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



Conclusion

Losses have been substantial on both sides this turn, with a total of 42,000 Axis troops, 800 guns and 70 AFV + SP/AC's going for 51,000 Soviet troops, 600 guns and 90 AFV + AP/AC's since my last turn.

Losses in the air are even more significant with a total of 325 Axis aircraft going for 464 Soviet ones during the entire turn. Worthy of note is the loss of 88 JU 87's and 49 BF109 F's on the German side and 166 Yak-1's on the Soviet side. However, by my reckoning, the Germans should now be down to about 420 BF109 F-4's while I still have some 343 Yak-1's and 216 Yak 7A's in my pools and 1080 Yak-1's flying in various Air Groups.