

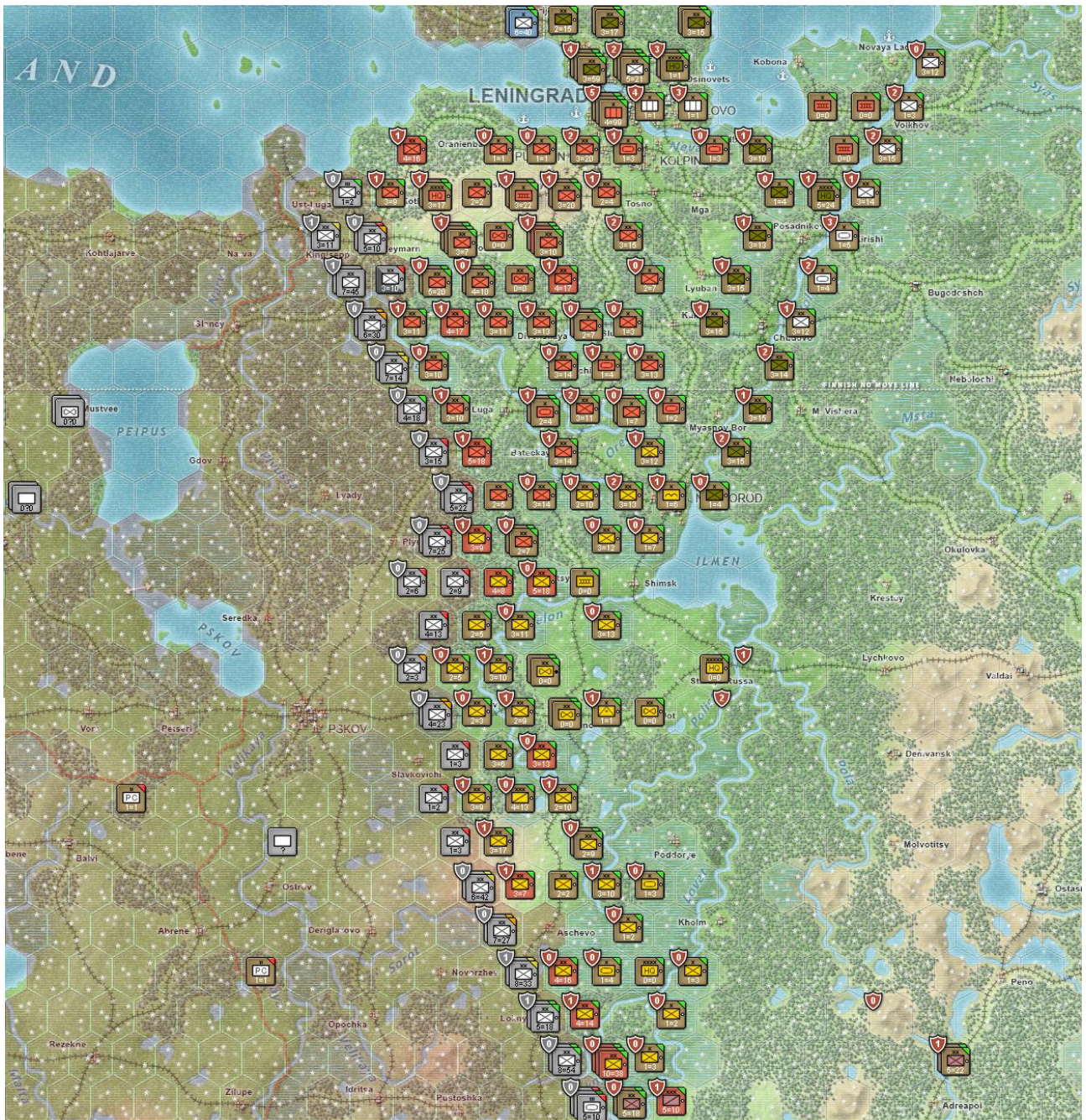
Turn 40, Strategic Considerations

____ GROUND ____						
SU	T-60 M1941	101	0	31	1947	76
SU	T-70 M1942	85	0	9	231	17
SU	M3 Stuart	24	0	18	288	28
SU	Matilda II	10	0	154	250	4
SU	T-34 M1941	217	0	2392	5241	139
SU	M3 Lee	20	0	60	60	0
SU	Valentine III	26	0	410	518	5
SU	KV-1 M1941	56	0	272	1553	147
SU	GAZ-AA-37	15	0	76	471	86
SU	BM-13-16 Rocket Launcher	44	0	410	757	10
SU	BA-20 Armored Car	10	0	326	390	44

On the ground, the Germans are continuing with their attacks across the entire frontline. The result has been that during the axis turn, the Axis have suffered more casualties than the Soviets, which is obviously not sustainable for a longer period of time.

Productionwise, I am now producing more than 200 light tanks pr turn, and the Red Army still wants about 2-300 of those tanks. I have a large surplus of both medium and heavy tanks, as can be seen above. As a result of this, and to prepare for the spring battles, I will set all my Cavalry Corps and all of my Tank Brigades to "Refit" mode this turn. In a few short turns, I will then be able to transform my Tank Brigades into Tank Corps with three independant Tank batallions (or two tank batallions and one Motorcycle batallion) each. That should provide me with some more "stosskraft" (to quote a term used by Heniz Guderian) come the spring.

The North



Situational assessment

In the north, the absence of any German Panzers mean that the German attacks are slow going without any real threat to the Soviet positions. Those positions are getting steadily stronger as well, as my divisions along the front begin to construct fortification levels of one in the light forests around the area.

The Luftwaffe have been flying some fighter support for the ground combat in the area, but the vast majority of bomber support has been conducted by obsolete Ju 86's

Planning

In Leningrad, the Artillery brigades are going to continue shelling the Finns. I expect to lose more than I kill, but I care little, as the main effect I am searching for is a better understanding of how to use my artillery units.

South of the city, I am going in to a static defense mode, making no attacks, as I wish to improve on my fortifications for now. Obviously, the Red Army aviation is going to continue attacking the Germans wherever possible.

Execution

Little has happened in the north during my phase.

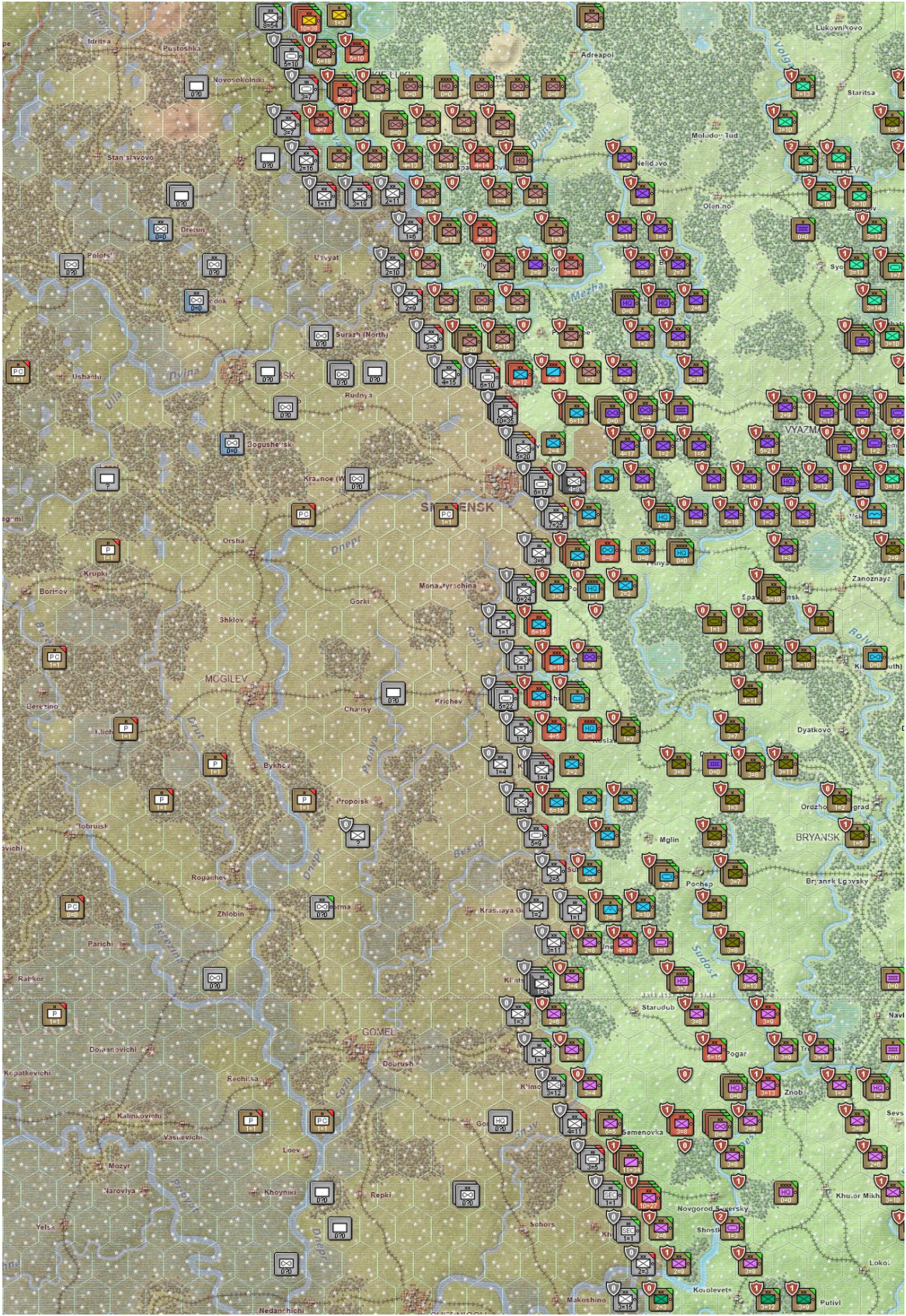
The Leningrad artillery attacks were failures (as expected), but I hope to have the unit morale go up, until they become able to actually inflict losses on the Finns.

The ground bombing attacks has caused some 1300 German casualties and 100 guns lost.

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



The Center



Situational assessment

In the center, the German attacks have been supported by fighters and level bombers (often obsolete models). Once again, the attacks have been spread out across the entire front, meaning that there has been little strategic threat to the Soviets. In total, some 15 hexes have been attacked this way.

In the air, the Luftwaffe is still heavily present behind the Smolensk area, with some 105 visible BF 109F-4's plus assorted other aircraft present.

Planning

In the centre, I am going to continue attacking weak German formations as well as the German Panzer units along the front. I have no strategic aim about taking terrain, but intend merely to inflict losses on the Germans as well as hitting their morale, if possible.

In the air, I will continue to attack the German frontline units along more or less the entire front. I will also begin conducting night time Pe-2 attacks on the Luftwaffe air bases, as the test I did last turn seemed to prove the validity of such attacks.

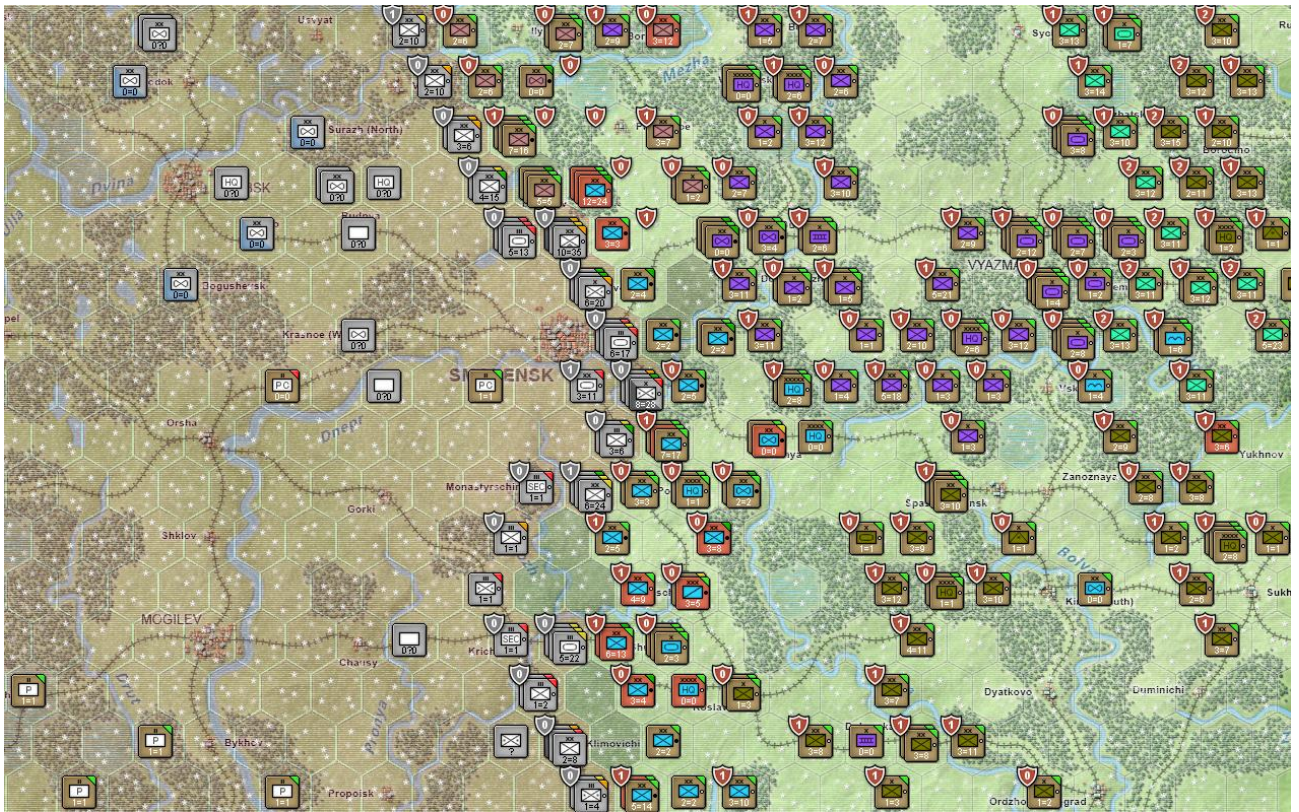
I will also set up the Volkhov Front to contain the majority of IL-2's and Yak-1's in the area, so that my continued attacks on the Luftwaffe airfields can carry as much payload as possible.

Execution

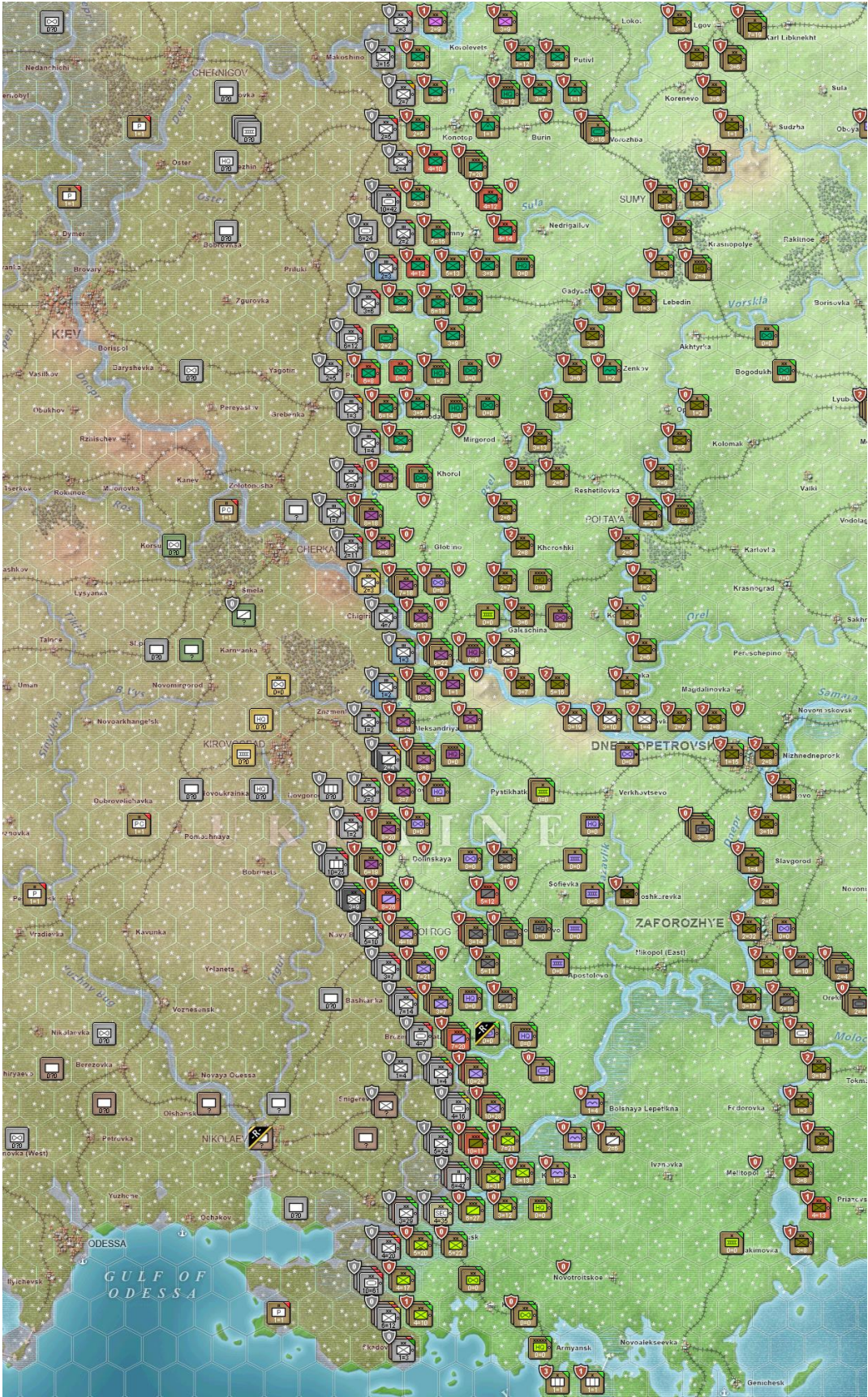
This sector continues to be the primary sector with regards to areal combat. I have done a few attacks on the Luftwaffe bases and also strengthened the local Kalinin Front airbases with a series of Pe-2, that I intend to use for nighttime attacks on the Luftwaffe bases on future turns.

On the ground, I continue to do more attacks than the Germans, and in some sectors my troops are simply stronger than the opposing Germans. Unless the Germans find some way to rectify this, I will be able to launch several attacks come summer.

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



The South



Situational Assessment

In the south, the situation is much like in the centre and the north. Local German attacks along the entire front has presented no real threat to the Soviet defenders.

However, the Germans have also moved three Panzer divisions south of the Dnepr estuary and they are now threatening to attack into the plains north of Crimea. In front of such a German attack stands some decent Soviet defensive CV's, and I doubt there will be any real threat emerging this side of the muddy season.

Planning

Apart from strengthening the far south very slightly this turn, I intend to do little other than attacking the weak German formations as well as the German Panzer units along the front.

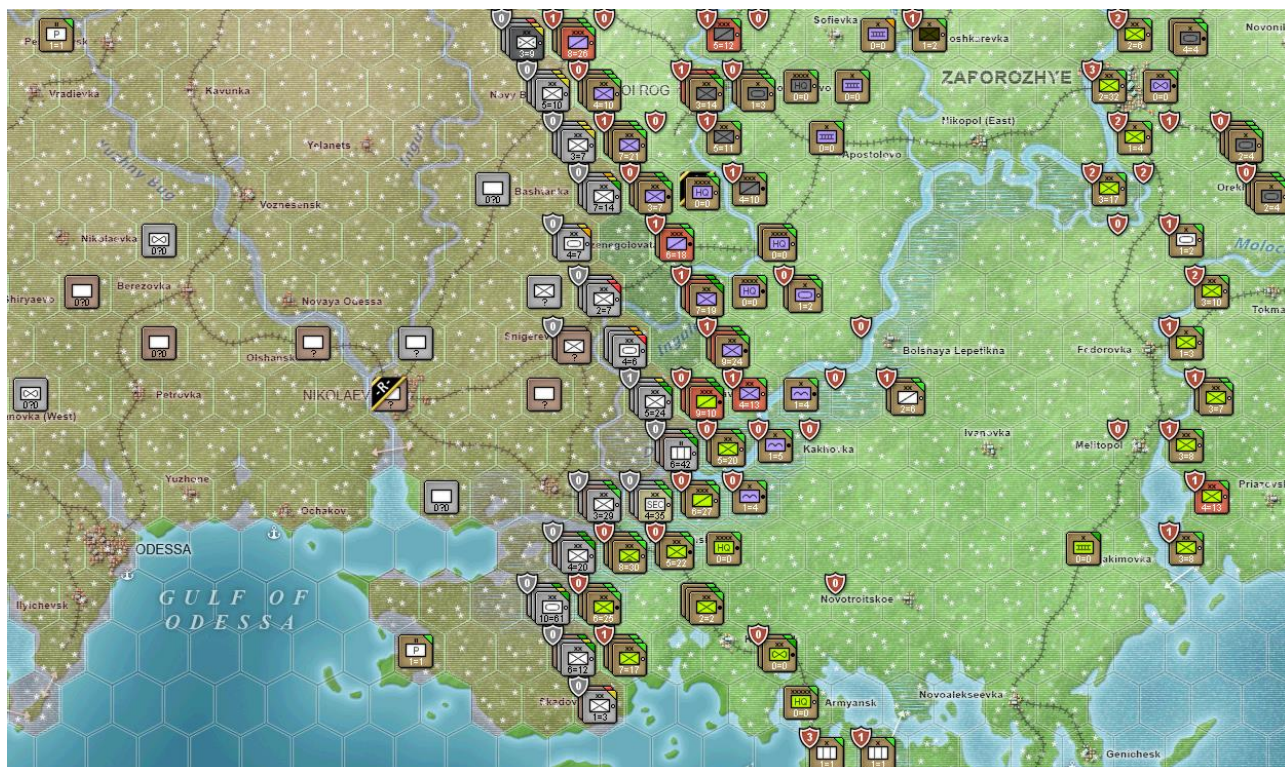
Execution

The tale in the south is much like the story in both the center and the north. A series of Soviet attacks and a lot of ground bombing attacks has moved the front very little but still managed to inflict some casualties on the opposing Axis forces.

The only difference has been the involvement of the Axis Minor air forces in the battles, causing several losses of Hungarian and Italian machines.

South of the Dnepr estuary, I have strengthened my front line and I doubt the Germans will be able to break through in any meaningful way.

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



Conclusion

This turn, 44.000 Axis troops and 950 guns have been traded for 65.000 Soviets and 800 guns. The German Man2Gun index is dropping again, and is now 116,2. The German production system is simply unable to replace the guns lost due to the repeated attacks and ground bombings.

In the air, notable losses this turn are 39 BF 109F-4's and 17 Re.2000 Heja's on the Axis side and 93 Yak-1's and 35 Su-2's on the soviet side. In total, the Axis have lost 123 aircraft this last turn, while the Soviets have lost 372.

Next turn should be the last of the snow turns.