

## Turn 41, Strategic Considerations

### POPULATION

8600K Soviet population has migrated

4050K Soviet population is missing

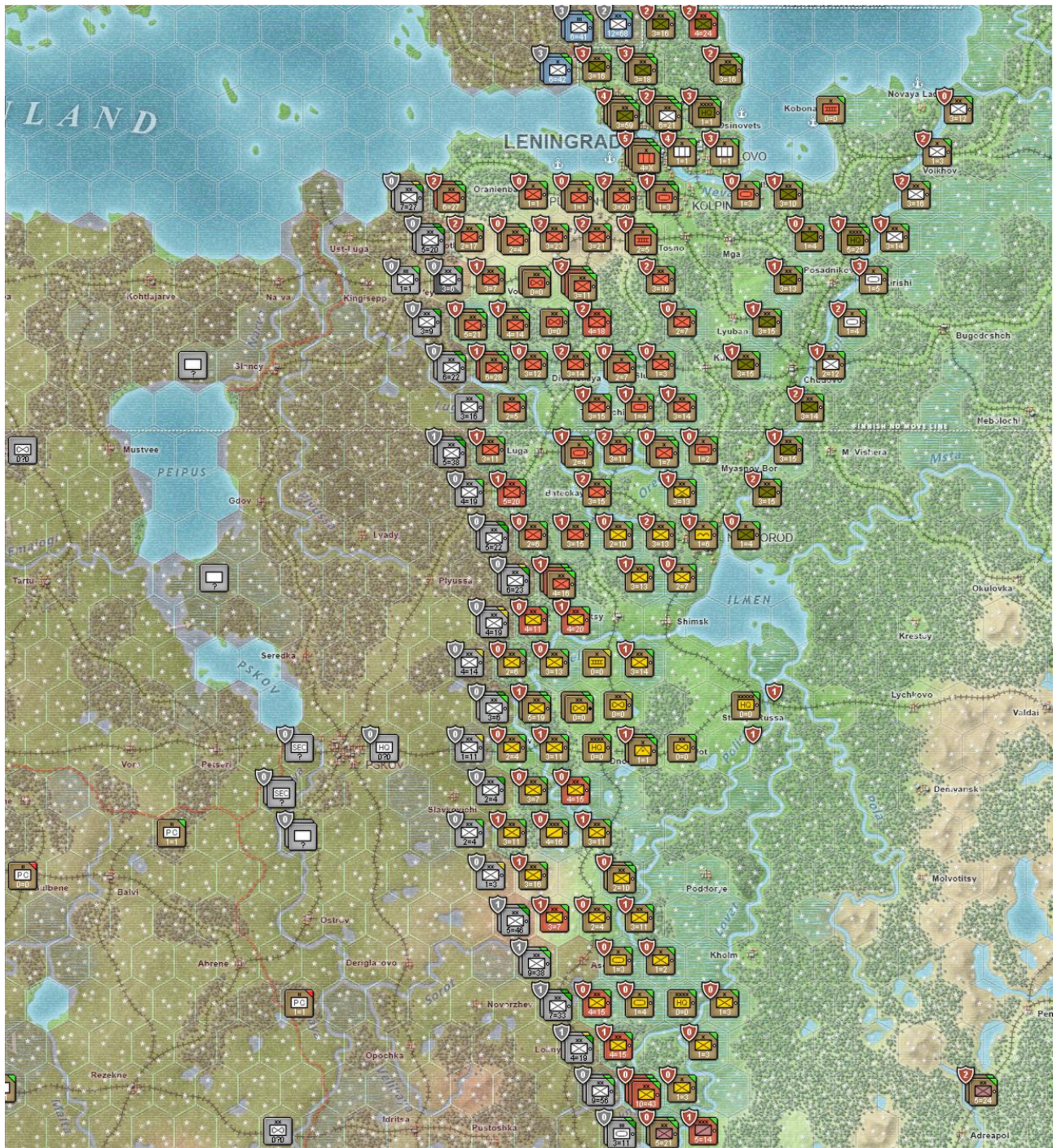
Apparently, the Soviet authorities have managed to misplace about four million Soviet citizens. I can not help but wonder where they might have put them.

It seems that putting my Tank brigades on "Refit" has not meant any significant increase in the need of light tanks. Judging by the logistics report and my pool sizes, I am just about full of them and about to begin producing for the reserve pools.

In the air, my reserve pool of Yak-1's is now down to 270 machines, and I need to start taking a little care of how I use them. I still produce 75 each turn, but with losses often being above that number, my reserves slowly dwindle. In order to bring up the reserve number, I will replace them with less able aircraft in some of the secondary theaters (Southern Air Command, Southwestern Air Command and Transcaucasus Air Command).

Weather predictions for next turn is "mud" except in the north, where it is "Snow".

## The North



### *Situational assessment*

The Germans have continued their scattered attacks along the northern sector, and conducted some five or six attacks on various Soviet positions. Most attacks have been supported by the Luftwaffe and intercepted by mainly LaGG-3's with some IL-2 ground support. Nothing much has come of it, and no really significant losses have been inflicted in any of the combats.

I notice that the Germans are repairing their rail lines on both sides of Lake Peipus, as they apparently want to stay in business in this area for some time to come.

In Leningrad, the morale of my Artillery Brigades have not increased this last turn. I am increasingly ready to conclude that such units are more or less a waste of time and space at this point in the war.

Finally, Leningrad is now connected to the rest of the Soviet Union by rail.

### *Planning*

In Leningrad, I will stubbornly continue shelling the Finns with my 122mm Artillery Brigades. There is no real point in doing this, but I will do so regardless.

South of the city, I will continue my ground bombing attacks on the German formations, and at the Northwestern Front, I will even conduct a single attack on the Germans. The historical soviet attacks on this sector at this time of the war will not be taking place (I believe that this was the time and place that General Vlasov was captured).

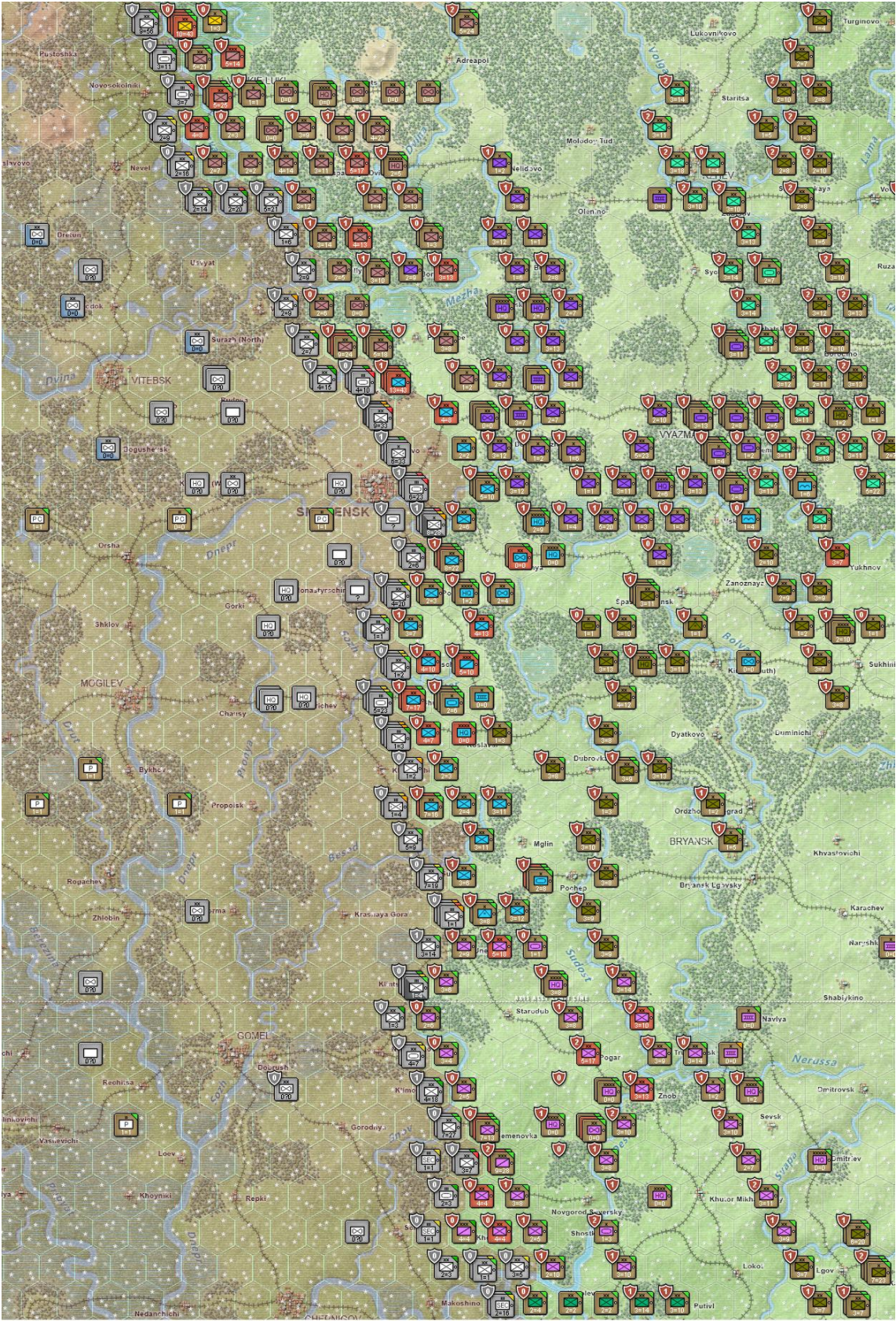
### *Execution*

There is little to report on events in the north this turn, as I have simply bombed away at the German positions. The Luftwaffe has not flown in response to my ground bombing attacks.

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 conducted mainly in the area around Smolensk. Once again, the Luftwaffe has flown in support of the attacks, and some losses have been inflicted on both sides, although no really havy losses have been suffered by either.

Behind the lines, the Luftwaffe is still acitive in the area, and I count some 137 ready Bf 109F-4's plus assorted other aircraft. Opposite this, I now have the Kalinin Front Air command with 20+ Air Groups of Pe-2's ready to fly night missions and the Volkhov Air command with 155 IL-2's and 168 Yak-1's ready to fly daylight attacks on the Luftwaffe airfields. On top of this comes the "normal" U-2VS, LaGG-3 and assorted other airfields in the area.

### Planning

My focus for this turn will once again be to inflict as many casualties on the Germans as possible. For that reason, I am going to start with a series of U-2VS night bombing attacks on the German front lines, and follow that up with some attacks on the Luftwaffe bases. Finally, I will conduct a series of attacks on the exposed German units as well as on the Panzer formations that are vulnerable to attack.

### Execution

After conducting a series of ground bombing attacks with the Kalinin Front Air Command, I switched to the night attacks against the Luftwaffe bases using Pe-2's. The first two attacks gave the following results:

|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                               |                    |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Axis Forces Defending:                                                                                             | 1 of 1                                                                                                                                      | 77,44 - Light Woods(Dretun) - Snow                                                                                                            | Turn:41 1942-03-26 | Soviet Forces Attacking:        |
|                                                                                                                    | Forces Engaged                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                               |                    |                                 |
|                                                                                                                    | DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>DEF: ftr 26, bmr 0, utl 0<br>LOST: ftr 8, bmr 1, utl 0 | ATK: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>ATK: ftr 0, bmr 113, utl 0<br>LOST: ftr 0, bmr 30, utl 0 |                    |                                 |
| Luftflotte 1<br>26 Bf 109F-4<br><br>1 : 1 Bf 109F-4<br>16 : 25 Bf 109F-4<br>15 : 27 Bf 109F-4<br>32 : 35 Bf 109F-4 | airfield was BOMBED                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                               |                    | Kalinin Air Command<br>113 Pe-2 |
| [v]                                                                                                                | Show Details                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                               | Exit               |                                 |

|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                               |                    |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Axis Forces Defending:                                                                                             | < 2 of 2                                                                                                                                    | 77,44 - Light Woods(Dretun) - Snow                                                                                                            | Turn:41 1942-03-26 | Soviet Forces Attacking:        |
|                                                                                                                    | Forces Engaged                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                               |                    |                                 |
|                                                                                                                    | DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>DEF: ftr 16, bmr 0, utl 0<br>LOST: ftr 6, bmr 0, utl 0 | ATK: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>ATK: ftr 0, bmr 121, utl 0<br>LOST: ftr 0, bmr 20, utl 0 |                    |                                 |
| Luftflotte 1<br>16 Bf 109F-4<br><br>1 : 1 Bf 109F-4<br>16 : 25 Bf 109F-4<br>15 : 27 Bf 109F-4<br>21 : 29 Bf 109F-4 | airfield was BOMBED                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                               |                    | Kalinin Air Command<br>121 Pe-2 |
| [v]                                                                                                                | Show Details                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                               | Exit               |                                 |

So the question is this: Is the destruction of 14 Bf 109F-4's worth the loss of 50 Pe-2's? To my mind it is, as I have plenty of Pe-2's still in my reserve pools and I also produce 60 of them each turn. The lossof 14 Bf 109F-4's almost equals the number produced, and if I can wear down the Luftwaffe fighter strength, I will effectively have removed the Luftwaffe as a fighting force for some time to come.

Following up with the Volkhov Front Air Command attacks on the Luftwaffe bases, I had the following results:

|                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Axis Forces Defending:</b><br><br>Luftflotte 1<br>4 Bf 109F-2<br>23 Bf 109F-4<br><br>0 : 3 Bf 109E-4B<br>6 : 17 Bf 109F-4<br>13 : 20 Bf 109F-4<br>[v] | 1 of 1 81,47 - Light Woods(Surazh (n)) - Snow Turn:41 1942-03-26 | <b>Forces Engaged</b><br><br>DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br><br>DEF: ftr 27, bmr 0, utl 0<br>LOST: ftr 9, bmr 5, utl 0 | <b>Soviet Forces Attacking:</b><br><br>Volkhov Air Command<br>109 Yak-1<br>92 IL-2 |
|                                                                                                                                                          | airfield was BOMBED                                              |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                          | Show Details                                                     | Exit                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                    |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Axis Forces Defending:</b><br><br>Luftflotte 1<br>8 Bf 109F-2<br>27 Bf 109F-4<br><br>3 : 3 Bf 109F-4<br>12 : 22 Bf 109F-4<br>12 : 28 Bf 109F-2<br>[v] | 1 of 1 79,50 - Light Woods(Bogushevsk) - Snow Turn:41 1942-03-26 | <b>Forces Engaged</b><br><br>DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br><br>DEF: ftr 35, bmr 0, utl 0<br>LOST: ftr 6, bmr 1, utl 0 | <b>Soviet Forces Attacking:</b><br><br>Volkhov Air Command<br>67 Yak-1<br>44 IL-2 |
|                                                                                                                                                          | airfield was BOMBED                                              |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                   |
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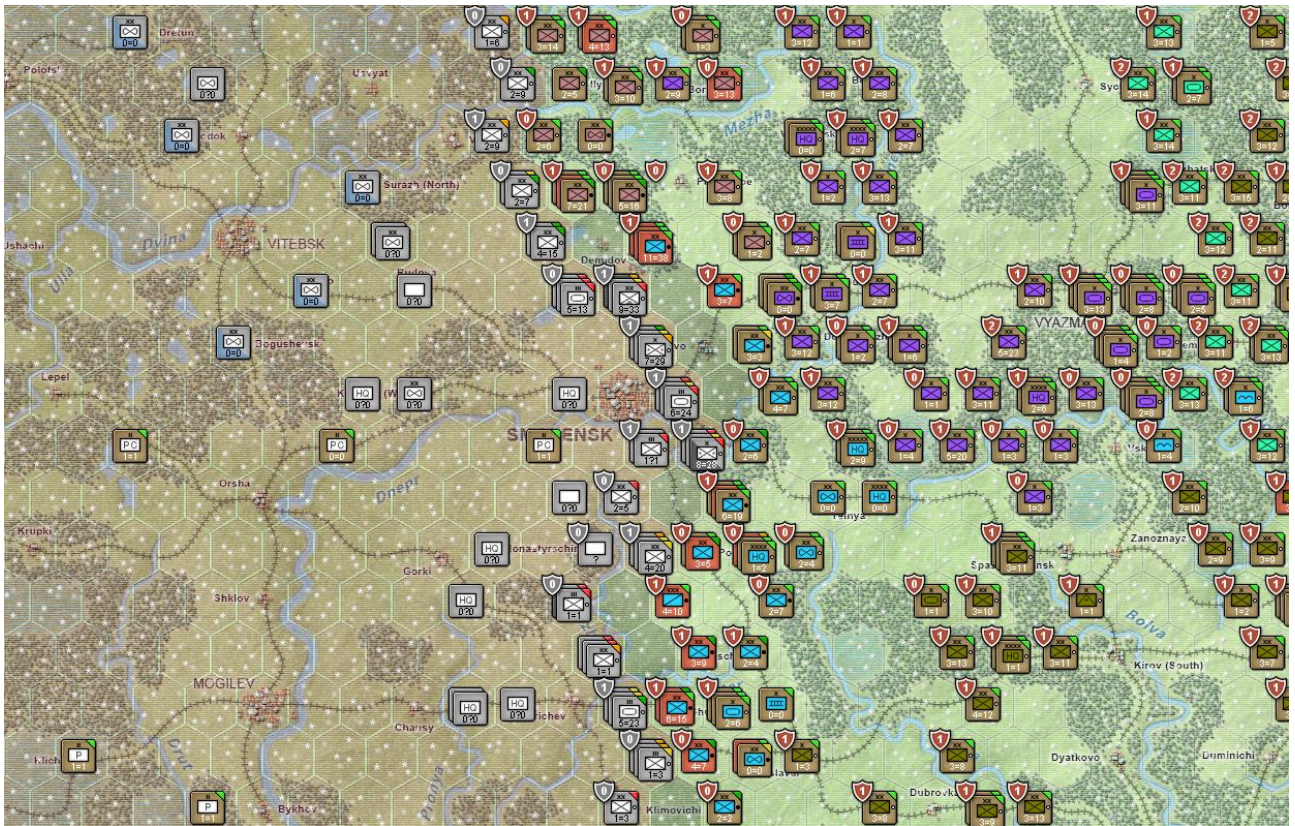
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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Axis Forces Defending:</b><br><br>Luftflotte 1<br>12 Bf 109F-4<br><br>0 : 3 Bf 109E-4B<br>6 : 17 Bf 109F-4<br>9 : 18 Bf 109F-4<br>9 : 20 Ju 86E-2 | < 2 of 2 81,47 - Light Woods(Surazh (n)) - Snow Turn:41 1942-03-26 | <b>Forces Engaged</b><br><br>DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br><br>DEF: ftr 12, bmr 0, utl 0<br>LOST: ftr 3, bmr 1, utl 0 | <b>Soviet Forces Attacking:</b><br><br>Volkhov Air Command<br>32 Yak-1<br>74 IL-2 |
|                                                                                                                                                      | airfield was BOMBED                                                |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                      | Show Details                                                       | Exit                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                   |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Axis Forces Defending:</b><br><br>Luftflotte 1<br>12 Bf 109F-2<br>9 Bf 109F-4<br><br>1 : 2 Bf 109F-4<br>10 : 21 Bf 109F-4<br>10 : 28 Bf 109F-2<br>[v] | < 2 of 2 79,50 - Light Woods(Bogushevsk) - Snow Turn:41 1942-03-26 | <b>Forces Engaged</b><br><br>DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br>LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0<br><br>DEF: ftr 21, bmr 0, utl 0<br>LOST: ftr 1, bmr 2, utl 0 | <b>Soviet Forces Attacking:</b><br><br>Volkhov Air Command<br>20 Yak-1<br>29 IL-2 |
|                                                                                                                                                          | airfield was BOMBED                                                |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                          | Show Details                                                       | Exit                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                   |

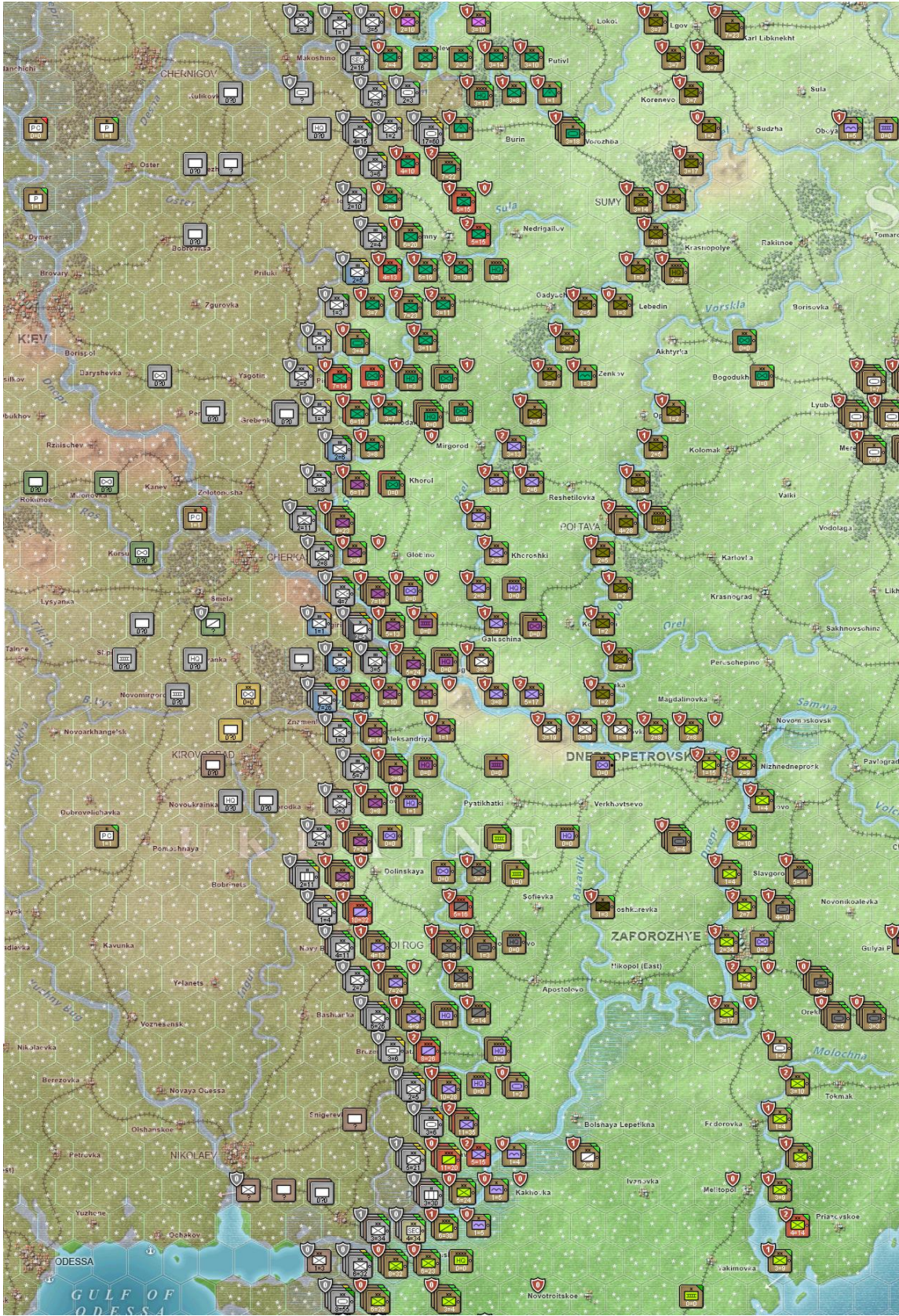
In total, the air battles over the centre has cost the Luftwaffe 41 Bf 109F-4's this turn, which is a lot above the production number of 18 (30\*0,6).

After finishing up with the action in the air, I have conducted a series of attacks against the German ground formations, inflicting some casualties on the Wehrmacht.

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



The South



### *Situational Assessment*

In the south, it seems the German may have made yet another serious mistake. On the very eve of the muddy season, they have pushed three Panzer divisions forward against the Southwestern Front without setting up any strong flank cover for those units.

Stretching south from this area, is a long line of weak Axis units that is in many places inferior to the opposing Soviets.

Around Nikolaev, the Germans have conducted a series of attacks on the Soviet positions without even a single success. The Germans have lost precious AFV in those battles but gained very little.

### *Planning*

In the north, I will obviously try to encircle the three forward Panzer divisions that appear to be some of the ones that have not been previously destroyed this winter. If successful, it is very likely that I will have several muddy turns, where I can simply attack those divisions over and over again to inflict losses. In that case, I will need to send in some of my LaGG-3 airbases to intercept any German supply attempts for the encircled Panzers.

Further south, I will continue bombing the Axis positions and attack where the Axis are weak in order to inflict losses.

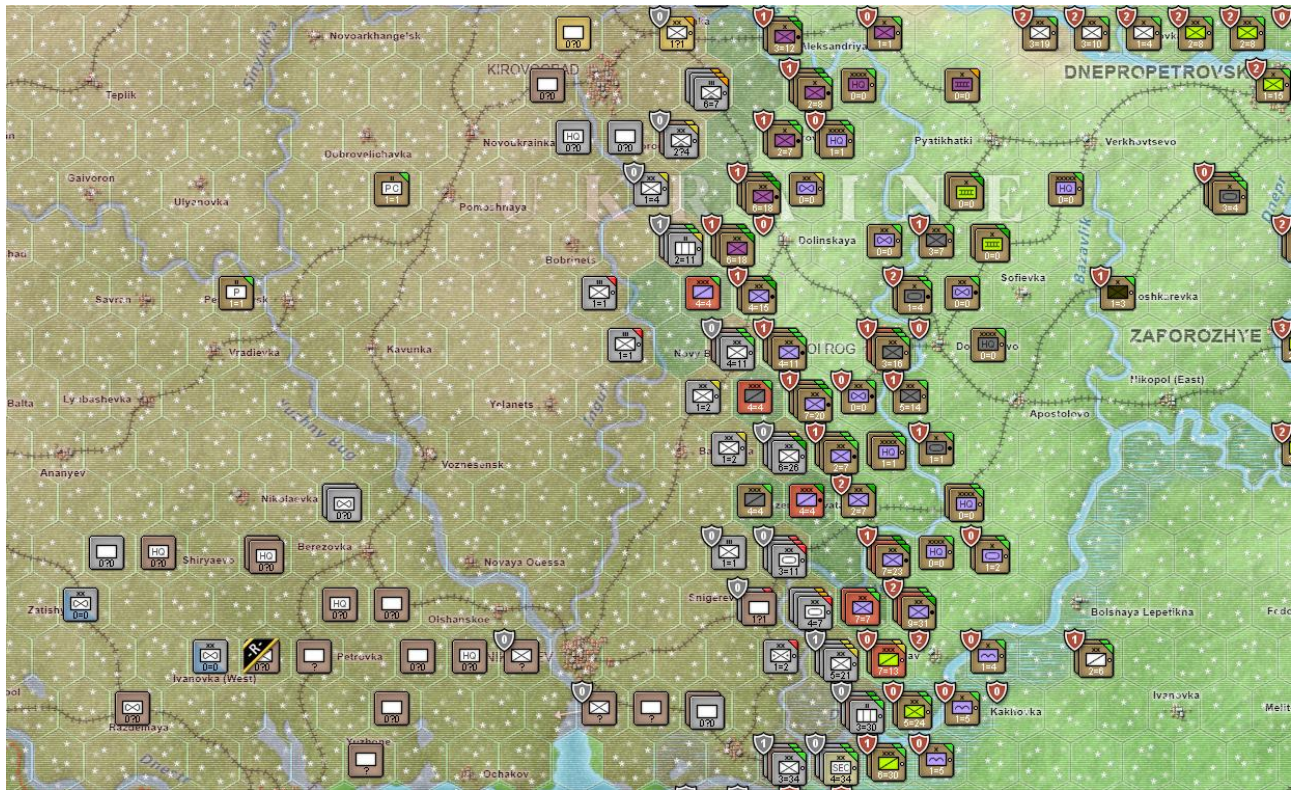
### *Execution*

At the northern end of the Southwestern Front, I have encircled the three German Panzer divisions that have been sent forward without proper flanking cover. I have also moved a couple of LaGG-3 interceptor airfields close by, and come the expected German supply attempts, I hope to inflict heavy losses on the German Transports.

Further south, I have conducted some attacks on the Axis minor airfields, using mainly Pe-2's assigned to the various Air Commands in the south. I also tried one very long range IL-2 attack on a Luftwaffe airbase in the far south, but this attack failed costing me some 17 IL-2's or so.

West of Krivoi Rog, I have conducted a series of ground attacks, tearing up the Axis front. With the coming mud, little will come of this attack, but it does show that there might well be some real potential for a Soviet spring offensive, depending on how much the Germans can strengthen their units over the muddy period.

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



## **Conclusion**

This turn, 46.000 Axis troops and 900 guns have been traded for 62.000 Soviets and 700 guns. The Axis has also lost 138 AFV and 29 SP/AC's which should be well above production. The Red Army is getting slowly stronger, while it seems to me that the Wehrmacht is failing to rebuild its strength.

In the air, the Luftwaffe has lost 63 BF 109F-4's this turn, as well as another 15 single seat fighters. Such losses should also be well above production figures, and it is unlikely that the Luftwaffe can sustain them for long. On the Soviet side, I have lost 82 Yak-1's and 105 IL-2's this turn. In total, air losses over the entire turn are 188 for the Axis and 408 for the Soviets.

Next turn will be mostly mud, and I expect a significant drop in casualties – in the air as well as on the ground.