

Strategic overview

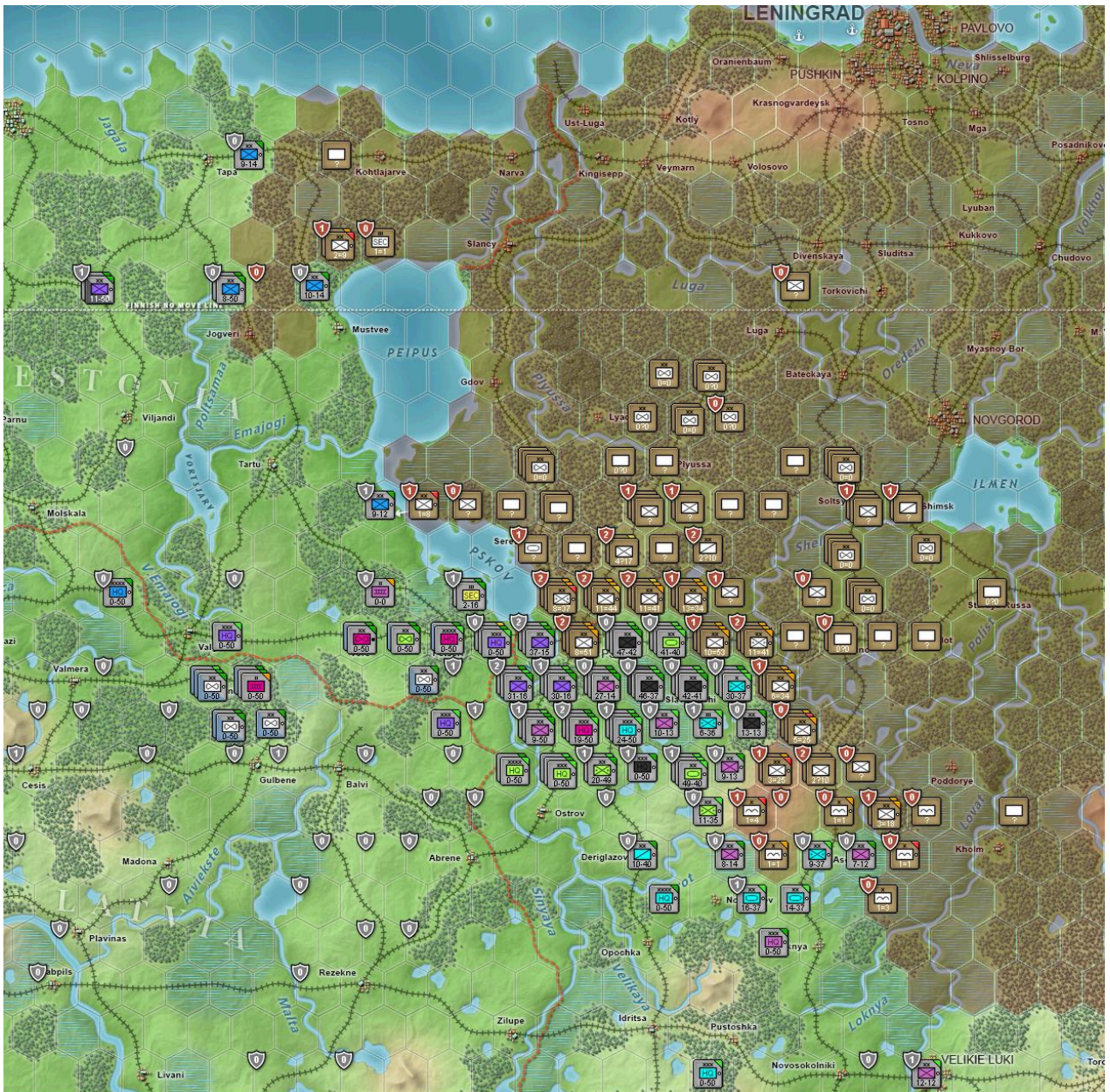
Turn 7: Strategic Considerations

This turn, the Red Army has grown with some 300.000 men, which is certainly bad news for me, as I have few units encircled and destined for destruction. Thus, I will not be able to reduce the “growth” of the Red Army in any meaningful way.

In the air, the situation is quite the opposite. The Red Army Aviation, going into the turn, only fields some 169 machines more than me (with an additional large number of machines on their way to the National Reserve, no doubt). However, it seems I might be gaining the upper hand in the numbers game for now, which is good news.

On the ground, the situation is much the same as in previous turns. In the north, the Soviets continue to stand firm, in the center, I am about to reach their main line of defense, and in the south the Soviets are running.

The North



Situational assessment

In the far north, the Soviets have pulled back into the Leningrad perimeter, leaving the front guarded by a number of Fortified Regions, while east of Lake Ladoga, there are now Soviets to be seen anywhere.

North of Lake Peipus, the Soviets have pushed two divisions forward, rather than just holding a line further back at Narva or positioning themselves in the swamps in front of the Narva river. Soviet recon missions have occurred in the area, so I assume they have a good understanding of my positions in the area.

Further south, the Soviets are still standing their ground at Pskov. The strong position in Pskov itself, combined with the heavy defenses in the two hexes north of the city means that there are few opportunities for immediate encirclements in the area, as I see it.

In the air, the Soviets have some 1363 active fighters this turn. They have also begun pushing forward their tactical bombers, with 288 of those now ready at the airfields behind Pskov. Finally, the Soviets also have some 228 Level bombers available. The Luftwaffe can field some 744 fighters, 169 tactical bombers and 327 level bombers in the area. However, several of the Luftwaffe fighter Air Groups will be withdrawn over the next few turns, which will hamper the German air strategy.

The German ground forces in the area are in decent shape with all the infantry divisions in the XXIII Corps now having a CV of 13. The German Panzers are also in good shape with movement ranging from 30 to 49.

Planning

North of Lake Peipus, I will try to push my infantry forward to see if I can catch the two forward Soviet infantry divisions. I think it unlikely, but the attempt will have to be made.

At Pskov, I will attack in the west along Lake Pskov. This may seem odd, but I will have to break less of the primary Soviet defensive hexes in order to secure an uninterdicted (by ground units) supply line going forward, as I can move supplies up along the shores of the lake.

This approach also have the benefit that the units in Pskov will have nowhere to retreat to, and will be forced to rout if I take the city. Finally, I am in a good position to attack in this location, and I hope to be able to break through and push my own lines several hexes north.

In the air, I will continue the success from last turn, with using my own fighters solely in a ground support role. I really need to limit the amount of missions flown, as fatigue is at a dangerous level for many of my fighter Air Groups. The exception to this are the Bf109E Air Groups scheduled for withdrawal. I intend to use these as best I can in a very offensive role.

Execution

North of Lake Peipus, the Soviets turned out to have significantly more forces than my recon had revealed, and as a consequence, I was unable to do much other than pushing a couple of Soviet divisions back a hex or two.

Once again, I will try to describe my attacks at Pskov in detail.

- 1) I start with changing the aircraft in the most fatigued Bf109F Air Group to Bf109F-4's. This should allow fatigue in that Air group to fall before next turn, and secure I have some fighters come then.
- 2) I then set the rear area infantry divisions belonging to the 18th Army to reserve and do a massive attack on Pskov, hoping to defeat the defenders by a massive overkill. This attack saw extremely heavy Soviet air cover which eventually cost me 286 dead and 17 guns lost before the first shot was fired on the ground. It also saw the destruction of yet another large number of Soviet aircraft. The attack forced a rout, although with some casualties for the Germans.

Axis Forces Attacking: XXXXIX Panzer Corps -36% 7th Panzer Division (87) 605th SP Lt Flk Bn (2) 705th SP Inf Gun Coy (0) X Corps -16% 126th Infantry Division (64) I/818th Gun Battalion (0) 846th Howitzer Battalion (0) [v]	1 of 174:30 - City(Pskov) - ClearTurn: 7 1941-07-31 Forces Engaged ATK: men 173380, art 2021, afv 263 DEF: men 53082, art 683, afv 53 DAM: men 279, art 38, afv 10 DAM: men 328, art 14, afv 1 LOST: men 970, art 35, afv 9 LOST: men 3014, art 57, afv 13 ATK: ftr 245, bmr 49, utl 0 DEF: ftr 412, bmr 93, utl 0 LOST: ftr 2, bmr 0, utl 0 108th Rifle Division ROUTED 100th Rifle Division ROUTED 193rd Rifle Division ROUTED Odds 2.69 : 1 Show DetailsExit		Soviet Forces Defending: 27th Army 193rd Rifle Division (202) 108th Rifle Division (152) 26th Motorcycle Regiment (10) 267th Crps Art Rgt (11) 138th Howitzer Regiment (7) 430th BM Howitzer Regiment (8) 613th Crps Art Rgt (8) [v]
	CV: 856->2036.7Eng Val: 22 Comm HQ: I Corps GL Karl Adolf Hollidt		CV: 565->756.7Fort: 2.06->0.00 Comm HQ: 27th Army GA Georgy Zhukov

- 3) Resetting my ground support escort to 300 and ground support to 100, I then moved up the reserve units of the 18th Army and set the units of that army no longer on the front to “reserve”. I then did another massive infantry attack on the Soviet positions on the shores of Lake Pskov. Once again, heavy Soviet ground support saw the destruction of German forces prior to the ground combat phase with 111 German Landser killed along with 16 guns. However, it was also clear that the abundance of German flak caused heavy casualties amongst the Soviet Tactical bombers, especially the I-153BS. The attack was a close win, but with massive numbers of Soviet aircraft destroyed.

Axis Forces Attacking: 18th Army -3% 123rd Infantry Division (77) 93rd Infantry Division (40) I/13th LW Mix Flk Bn (2) I/411th LW Mix Flk Bn (2) II/36th LW Mix Flk Bn (2) I/51st LW Mix Flk Bn (1) I/111th LW Mix Flk Bn (1) [v] CV: 518->918.6 Eng Val: 16 Comm HQ: I Corps GL Karl Adolf Hollidt	1 of 1 73:29 - Clear - Clear Turn: 7 1941-07-31 Forces Engaged ATK: men 134408, art 1751, afv 93 DEF: men 70802, art 907, afv 365 DAM: men 169, art 34, afv 5 DAM: men 234, art 18, afv 7 LOST: men 588, art 31, afv 1 LOST: men 2025, art 14, afv 157 ATK: ftr 178, bmr 18, utl 0 DEF: ftr 240, bmr 55, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 68, bmr 32, utl 0 163rd Motorized Division RETREATED 182nd Rifle Division RETREATED 235th Rifle Division RETREATED Odds 2.10 : 1 Show Details Exit		Soviet Forces Defending: 8th Army 163rd Motorized Division (134) 233rd Rifle Division (22) R 403rd BM Howitzer Regiment (2) 47th Crps Art Rgt (1) 73rd Crps Art Rgt (1) 5th Mortar Battalion (0) 11th Army -10% [v] CV: 354->435.4 Fort: 2.44->0.00 Comm HQ: 8th Army GM Evdodor Tolbukhin
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- 4) Moving the 18th Army infantry out of the way and setting them to refit, I then calculated that these units would take no further action in the battles this turn. Instead, I moved three divisions of the XXIII Corps into Pskov and proceeded to do an attack on the Soviet positions northeast of the city with four infantry divisions of the XXIII Corps and the two mobile divisions also in position to attack. While this attack also saw some heavy Soviet ground support, the bombers flying were level bombers and unable to penetrate the German Flak defenses and cause any casualties. The attack was another success as reported below.

		1 of 1		74:29 - Clear - Clear		Turn: 7 1941-07-31	
Axis Forces Attacking:		Forces Engaged				Soviet Forces Defending:	
XXXIX Panzer Corps -33%		ATK: men 114284, art 1258, afv 493		DEF: men 70103, art 849, afv 239		27th Army -10%	
7th Panzer Division (76)		DAM: men 130, art 7, afv 38		DAM: men 96, art 27, afv 6		18th Tank Division (113)	
12th Panzer Division (115)		LOST: men 576, art 10, afv 8		LOST: men 1783, art 25, afv 61		26th Motorcycle Regiment (0)	
51st Nebelwerfer Regiment (2)		ATK: ftr 348, bmr 52, utl 0		DEF: ftr 236, bmr 69, utl 0		390th Crps Art Rgt (1)	
II/70th Artillery Battalion (0)		LOST: ftr 1, bmr 0, utl 0		LOST: ftr 47, bmr 17, utl 0		267th Crps Art Rgt (1)	
733rd Howitzer Battalion (0)						430th BM Howitzer Regiment (1)	
280th Mot. Flk Bn (0)						376th Howitzer Regiment (0)	
605th SP Lt Flk Bn (4)						614th Crps Art Rgt (0)	
		195th Rifle Division RETREATED					
		18th Tank Division RETREATED					
		151st Rifle Division ROUTED					
		Odds 4.50 : 1					
CV: 685->1903.7		Eng Val: 24		Exit		CV: 375->422.6	
Comm HQ: XXIII Corps		Show Details				Comm HQ: 11th Army	
GL Walter Model						GM Georgy Zakharov	
						Fort: 2.14->0.00	

- 5) In order to get a clear image of the situation, I then moved up one Panzer division with enough MP to conduct two attacks after reaching the front. This led to the following situation.



- 6) As I would have to take Seredka by attacks from only one hex, I decided to do a couple of ground bombings first, in order to soften up the defenders. Before doing that however, I did a one Air Group bombing attack on the Soviets in the swamps at the Lake Pskov crossings in order to see if the Soviets would fly interception. They did, costing me six Ju88's.
- 7) Doing the first ground bombing attack did little damage, but did cost the Soviets a few more fighters. However, the Soviet losses were small in comparison to the Luftwaffe effort.

Axis Forces Attacking:		1 of 2 > 73:28 - Light Woods(Seredka) - Clear Turn: 7 1941-07-31	Soviet Forces Defending:	
I Fliegerkorps		Forces Engaged		Northwest Air Command
71	Bf 109E-3	ATK: men 0, art 0, afv 0	DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0	10 MiG-3
72	Bf 109E-7	DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0	DAM: men 5, art 3, afv 0	7 I-153
93	Bf 109F-2	LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0	LOST: men 29, art 4, afv 0	6 I-16 Type 18
3	Bf 109E-7/U1	ATK: ftr 236, bmr 69, utl 0	DEF: ftr 90, bmr 0, utl 0	57 I-16 Type 24
9	Hs 123A	LOST: ftr 2, bmr 0, utl 0	LOST: ftr 25, bmr 0, utl 0	10 Yak-1
57	Ju 87B	ground forces were BOMBED		
		Show Details	Exit	

Axis Forces Attacking: I Fliegerkorps 81 Bf 109E-3 85 Bf 109E-7 66 Bf 109F-2 22 Bf 109E-7/U1 9 Hs 123A 72 Ju 87B		< 2 of 2 73,28 - Light Woods(Seredka) - Clear Turn:7 1941-07-31 Forces Engaged ATK: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0 ATK: ftr 232, bmr 103, utl 0 LOST: ftr 3, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 0, art 1, afv 1 LOST: men 46, art 0, afv 2 DEF: ftr 55, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 11, bmr 0, utl 0 ground forces were BOMBED		Soviet Forces Defending: Northwest Air Command 21 MiG-3 24 I-153 4 I-16 Type 18 6 I-16 Type 24 23 -> 37 mm Anti-Aircraft Gun	
Show Details		Exit			

- 8) Reassigning a new leader for the LVII Panzer Corps, I moved new units into position and proceeded to attack. The result was another retreat coupled with some decent Soviet losses. Unfortunately, losses amongst my own fighters seemd to be climbing at this point.

Axis Forces Attacking: LVII Panzer Corps 20th Panzer Division (117) 19th Panzer Division (183) 1st Cavalry Division (97) 101st Flammpanzer Battalion (25) 427th Gun Battalion (0) II/55th Howitzer Battalion (1) 816th Howitzer Battalion (1) [v]	1 of 3 > 73,28 - Light Woods(Seredka) - Clear Turn:7 1941-07-31 Forces Engaged ATK: men 47660, art 547, afv 539 DEF: men 45161, art 509, afv 337 DAM: men 31, art 4, afv 25 DAM: men 159, art 8, afv 7 LOST: men 102, art 3, afv 10 LOST: men 1535, art 36, afv 116 ATK: ftr 516, bmr 107, utl 0 DEF: ftr 99, bmr 25, utl 0 LOST: ftr 7, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 29, bmr 23, utl 0 163rd Motorized Division RETREATED 182nd Rifle Division RETREATED 26th Tank Division RETREATED Odds 3.73 : 1 Show Details Exit			Soviet Forces Defending: 8th Army 26th Tank Division (93) 163rd Motorized Division (73) 11th Motorcycle Regiment (3) 524th Heavy Gun Regiment (2) 47th Crps Art Rgt (1) 40th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 27th Army -10% [v]
	CV: 429->1142.8 Eng Val: 10	CV: 244->306.1 Fort: 1.20->0.00		
	Comm HQ: LVII Panzer Corps	Comm HQ: 8th Army		
GL Otto von Knobelsdorff	GM Fyodor Tolbukhin			

- 9) Having enough movement to move three infantry divisions into position for an attack on the Soviets east of Seredka, I did so and also switched on unit of the “Panzer” stack that had to few MP’s left for an attack. As the Soviets had done less ground support, I also scaled my own level to 200 in both ground support and ground support escorts. I then proceeded to attack.

		1 of 1		74,28 - Light Woods - Clear		Turn: 7 1941-07-31	
Axis Forces Attacking:		Forces Engaged				Soviet Forces Defending:	
LVII Panzer Corps		ATK: men 94734, art 1217, afv 321		DEF: men 52100, art 562, afv 174		27th Army -10%	
19th Panzer Division (155)		DAM: men 41, art 20, afv 14		DAM: men 289, art 16, afv 5		18th Tank Division (108)	
1st Cavalry Division (84)		LOST: men 232, art 8, afv 12		LOST: men 2270, art 30, afv 63		430th BM Howitzer Regiment (1)	
427th Gun Battalion (0)		ATK: ftr 256, bmr 76, utl 0		DEF: ftr 37, bmr 35, utl 0		376th Howitzer Regiment (0)	
II/55th Howitzer Battalion (1)		LOST: ftr 1, bmr 0, utl 0		LOST: ftr 5, bmr 19, utl 0		11th Army	
273rd Mot. Flk Bn (1)						227th Rifle Division (20) R	
XXXIX Panzer Corps -6%						235th Rifle Division (88)	
20th Motorized Division (81)						180th Rifle Division (91)	
		180th Rifle Division RETREATED					
		235th Rifle Division ROUTED					
		18th Tank Division ROUTED					
CV: 517->1480.6 Eng Val: 14		Odds 3.06 : 1				CV: 311->483.0 Fort: 1.84->0.00	
Comm HQ: LVII Panzer Corps		Exit				Comm HQ: 11th Army	
GL Otto von Knobelsdorff						GM Georgy Zakharov	

- 10) Moving up another three mobile divisions, I attacked the three Soviet divisions in the swamps northwest of Seredka. Two of those divisions had already been defeated once this turn, and the third had acted as a reserve in at least one of the previous battles, so I expeted they would not perform perfectly well. Unfortunately, they did, as can be seen below.

Axis Forces Attacking: XXXIX Panzer Corps 12th Panzer Division (134) 3rd Motorized Division (158) 733rd Howitzer Battalion (1) 280th Mot. Flk Bn (1) 74th LW SP Lt Flk Bn (4) 643rd Jagdpanzer Battalion (5) 5/47th SP Flak Company (0) [v]	1 of 1 72/27 - Swamp - Clear Turn: 7 1941-07-31	Forces Engaged ATK: men 47217, art 566, afv 337 DEF: men 44463, art 502, afv 134 DAM: men 50, art 9, afv 12 DAM: men 28, art 12, afv 7 LOST: men 178, art 3, afv 7 LOST: men 592, art 5, afv 22 ATK: ftr 172, bmr 41, utl 0 DEF: ftr 10, bmr 27, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 2, bmr 27, utl 0	Soviet Forces Defending: 8th Army -10% 26th Tank Division (61) 524th Heavy Gun Regiment (1) 529th Howitzer Regiment (1) 40th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 11th Army -10% 227th Rifle Division (72) 420th Crps Art Rgt (1) [v]
	Defending Forces HELD		
	CV: 449->681.6 Eng Val: 6 Comm HQ: XXXIX Panzer Corps G Rudolf Schmidt	Show Details Odds 1 : 1.58 Exit	CV: 255->1083.4 Fort: 0.06->0.00 Comm HQ: 27th Army GA Georgy Zhukov

- 11) Realizing that the swamp positions would probably be the last really heavily defended position attacked this turn, I then moved up Mansteina Corps, placing two Panzers in the front and two Motorized divisions in reserve. I then proceeded to attack, only to fail once more. Incidentally, I believe there is something wrong with the leader selection in this attack, as all participating units belonged to Mansteins Corps.

Axis Forces Attacking: XXXIX Panzer Corps 12th Panzer Division (134) 3rd Motorized Division (158) 733rd Howitzer Battalion (1) 280th Mot. Flk Bn (1) 74th LW SP Lt Flk Bn (4) 643rd Jagdpanzer Battalion (5) 5/47th SP Flak Company (0) [v]	1 of 2 > 72/27 - Swamp - Clear Turn: 7 1941-07-31	Forces Engaged ATK: men 47217, art 566, afv 337 DEF: men 44463, art 502, afv 134 DAM: men 50, art 9, afv 12 DAM: men 28, art 12, afv 7 LOST: men 178, art 3, afv 7 LOST: men 592, art 5, afv 22 ATK: ftr 172, bmr 41, utl 0 DEF: ftr 10, bmr 27, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 2, bmr 27, utl 0	Soviet Forces Defending: 8th Army -10% 26th Tank Division (61) 524th Heavy Gun Regiment (1) 529th Howitzer Regiment (1) 40th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 11th Army -10% 227th Rifle Division (72) 420th Crps Art Rgt (1) [v]
	Defending Forces HELD		
	CV: 449->681.6 Eng Val: 6 Comm HQ: XXXIX Panzer Corps G Rudolf Schmidt	Show Details Odds 1 : 1.58 Exit	CV: 255->1083.4 Fort: 0.06->0.00 Comm HQ: 27th Army GA Georgy Zhukov

- 12) Not to be daunted, I reset my fighter support escort to 100 and tried once more with two new units from Mansteins Corps, hoping for a last success, this time finally succeeding.

Axis Forces Attacking: LVI Panzer Corps Totenkopf SS Mot. Div (204) 14th Motorized Division (160) 92nd LW SP Lt Flk Bn (4) 271st Mot. Flk Bn (1) 278th Mot. Flk Bn (1) 616th Jagdpanzer Battalion (4) 559th Jagdpanzer Battalion (5) [v]	< 3 of 3 72/27 - Swamp - Clear Turn: 7 1941-07-31	Forces Engaged ATK: men 35647, art 466, afv 138 DEF: men 44778, art 583, afv 102 DAM: men 30, art 1, afv 5 DAM: men 160, art 9, afv 1 LOST: men 51, art 2, afv 0 LOST: men 1711, art 35, afv 27 ATK: ftr 308, bmr 69, utl 0 DEF: ftr 5, bmr 14, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 14, utl 0	Soviet Forces Defending: 8th Army -10% 26th Tank Division (52) 47th Crps Art Rgt (0) 40th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 228th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 11th Army -10% 227th Rifle Division (69) 515th BM Howitzer Regiment (0) [v]
	182nd Rifle Division RETREATED 26th Tank Division ROUTED 227th Rifle Division RETREATED		
	CV: 374->1134.7 Eng Val: 8 Comm HQ: LVI Panzer Corps G Erich von Manstein	Show Details Odds 3.61 : 1 Exit	CV: 227->314.0 Fort: 0.00->0.00 Comm HQ: 27th Army GA Georgy Zhukov

- 13) This led to the following situation.



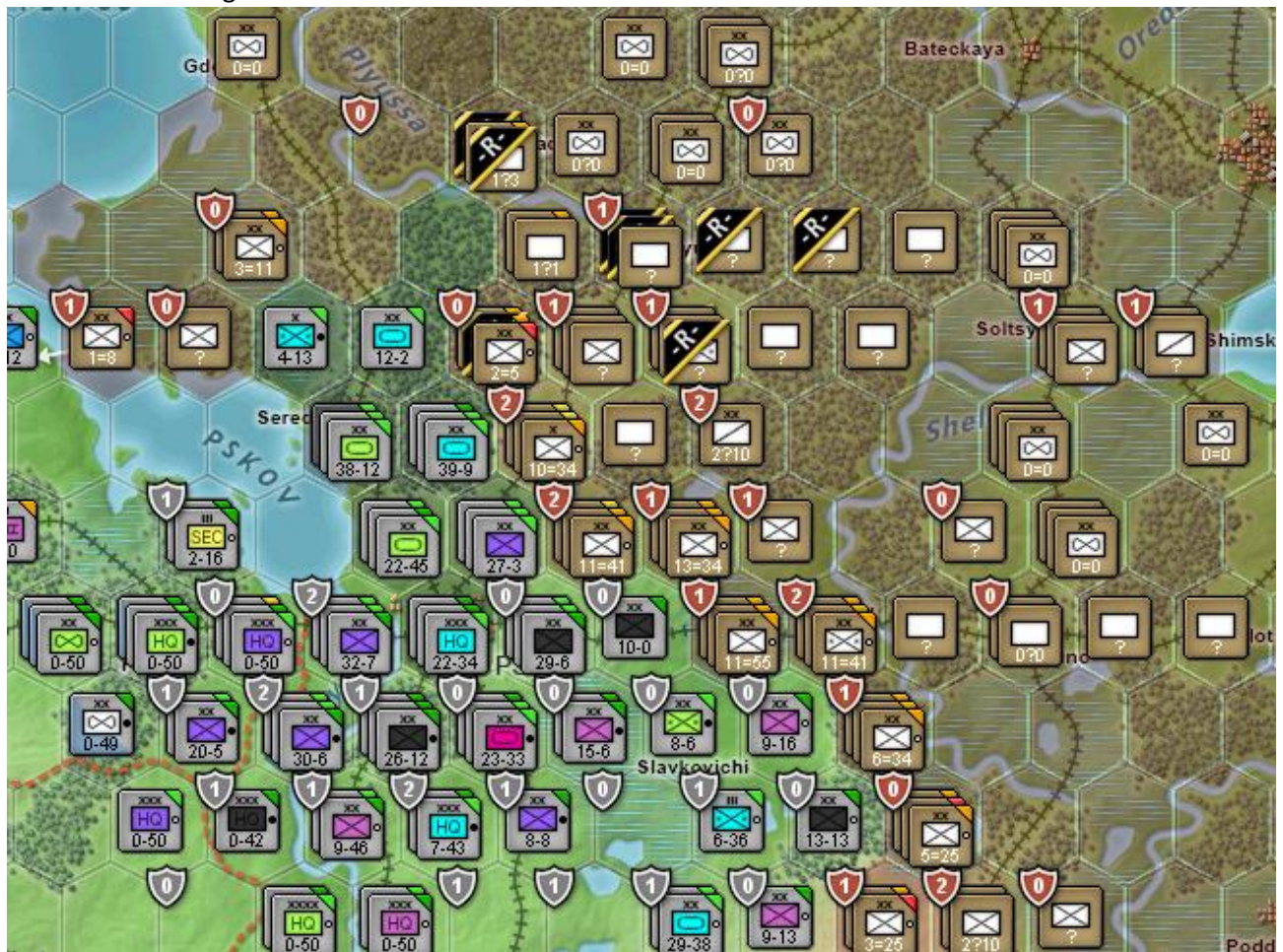
- 14) Moving up two units of the XXXXI panzer Corps, I then attacked the 2=10 stack west of the swamps with 24CV versus 2=10, and a series of units that have taken a beating already this turn. This proved to be to haughty on my part, however.

Axis Forces Attacking:			Forces Engaged		Soviet Forces Defending:	
XXXXI Panzer Corps 1st Panzer Division (129) 36th Motorized Division (93) 52nd Nebelwerfer Regiment (3) 601st SP Lt Flk Bn (4) 1/3rd LW Mix Flk Bn (2) 276th Mot. Flk Bn (1) 4/55th SP Flak Company (1)			ATK: men 33950, art 466, afv 181 DAM: men 13, art 2, afv 5 LOST: men 49, art 3, afv 0 ATK: ftr 199, bmr 50, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 2, utl 0		8th Army -30% 163rd Motorized Division (34) 529th Howitzer Regiment (1) 47th Crps Art Rgt (0) 40th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 5th Mortar Battalion (0) 7th Independent Army 222nd Rifle Division (43)	
CV: 237->563.3 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: XXXXI Panzer Corps G Georg-Hans Reinhardt			Defending Forces HELD Odds 1.98 : 1		CV: 89->284.3 Fort: 1.14->0.08 Comm HQ: 7th Independent Army GA Kirill Meretskoy	
[v]			Show Details		Exit	

- 15) At this point, I seriously considered a hasty attack by Mansteins divisions in Serebrenka, but decided against it as the Soviets tended to "up" their CV considerably and I would rather save the movement until next turn. Instead, I moved up a fresh Panzer division from the south and did a prepared attack, throwing the soviets back.

Axis Forces Attacking: XXXXI Panzer Corps 1st Panzer Division (129) 36th Motorized Division (93) 52nd Nebelwerfer Regiment (3) 601st SP Lt Flk Bn (4) 1/3rd LW Mix Flk Bn (2) 276th Mot. Flk Bn (1) 4/55th SP Flak Company (1) [v] CV: 237->563.3 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: XXXXI Panzer Corps G Georg-Hans Reinhardt	1 of 2 > 73/27 - Light Woods - Clear Turn: 1941-07-31 Forces Engaged ATK: men 33950, art 466, afv 181 DAM: men 13, art 2, afv 5 LOST: men 49, art 3, afv 0 ATK: flt 199, bmr 50, utl 0 LOST: flt 1, bmr 2, utl 0 DEF: men 32194, art 476, afv 99 DAM: men 56, art 13, afv 1 LOST: men 332, art 7, afv 18 DEF: flt 81, bmr 9, utl 0 LOST: flt 31, bmr 3, utl 0 Defending Forces HELD Odds 1.98 : 1 Show Details Exit	Soviet Forces Defending: 8th Army -30% 163rd Motorized Division (34) 529th Howitzer Regiment (1) 47th Crps Art Rgt (0) 40th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 5th Mortar Battalion (0) 7th Independent Army 222nd Rifle Division (43) [v] CV: 89->284.3 Fort: 1.14->0.08 Comm HQ: 7th Independent Army GA Kirill Meretskov
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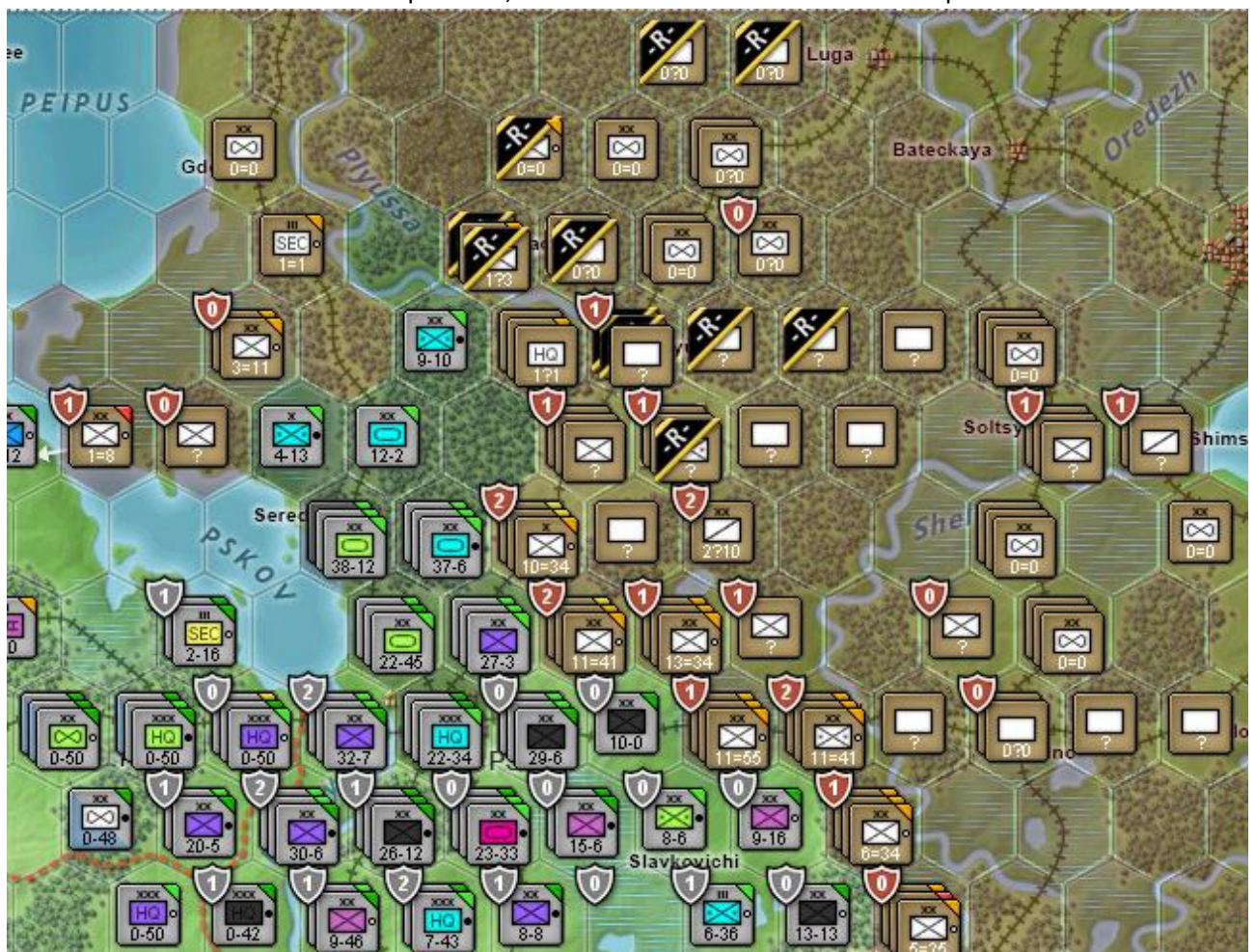
- 16) Before moving forward once again, and displacing the Soviet fighter airfields, I then decided to do some airfield bombing, after which I moved a Motorized brigade into the swamps northwest of Seredka.
- 17) Moving up another Panzer division, I did an attack on a weak stack of Soviet displaced units, which led to the following situation.



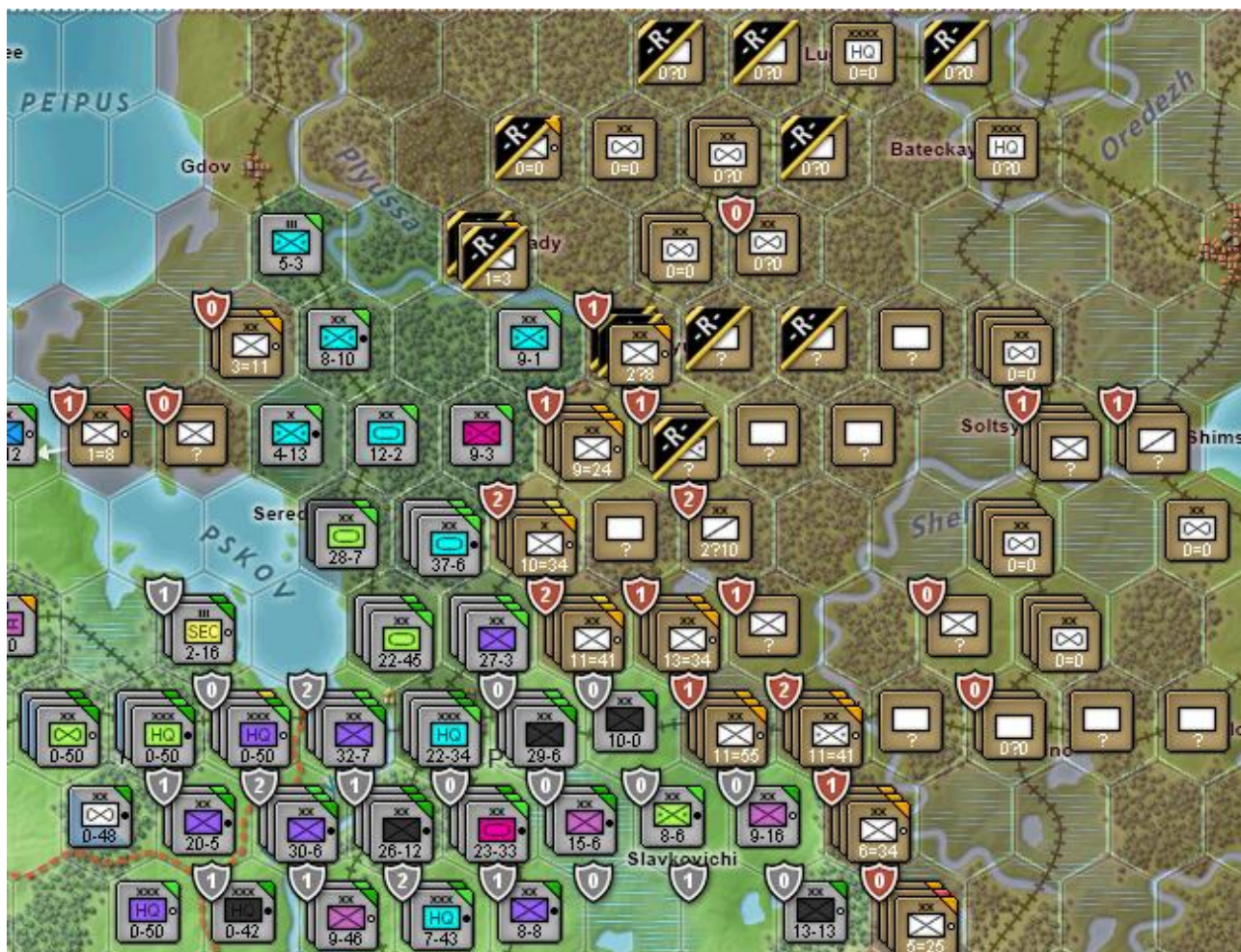
- 18) In order to reduce movement costs heading north, I then did a hasty attack on the 2=5 stack two hexes northwest of Seredka, causing a rout.

Axis Forces Attacking: XXIV Panzer Corps 3rd Panzer Division (139) 616th Howitzer Battalion (1) VIII Fliegerkorps 26 Bf 109E-3 20 Bf 109E-7 54 Bf 109F-2 CV: 140->432.8 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: XXIV Panzer Corps G Leo Geyr von Schweppenburg	1 of 1 74,26 - Light Woods - Clear Turn: 7 1941-07-31 Forces Engaged ATK: men 15844, art 148, afv 173 DEF: men 27508, art 378, afv 23 DAM: men 30, art 5, afv 12 DAM: men 102, art 8, afv 0 LOST: men 172, art 8, afv 3 LOST: men 1070, art 18, afv 5 ATK: ftr 100, bmr 25, utl 0 DEF: ftr 58, bmr 5, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 17, bmr 1, utl 0 10th AT Artillery Brigade RETREATED 228th Rifle Division RETREATED Show Details Odds 3.87 : 1 Exit	Soviet Forces Defending: 11th Army 228th Rifle Division (48) 179th Rifle Division (25) R 420th Crps Art Rgt (1) 7th Independent Army -30% 10th AT Artillery Brigade (5) Northwest Air Command [V] CV: 79->111.6 Fort: 0.52->0.00 Comm HQ: 11th Army GM Georgy Zakharov
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- 19) Moving up the next division revealed a hitherto unseen NKVD Regiment. As I by now only had four units left to move, I needed considered the final moves of the turn in this area and decided that the best option open was to go for the encirclement of the four Soviet Rifle divisions in the swamps at Lake Pskov. I then attacked and displaced it, but not in the direction I would have preferred.



- 20) Moving one of Mansteins divisions into the gap two hexes northeast of Seredka, it turned out that the 1?1 HQ stack consisted of one AT Regiment and two Army commands. I then hit them with a hasty attack by the Motorized division I had just moved, displacing those HQ's.
- 21) After this, I moved up a Motorized regiment to a position southeast of Gdov, knowing that I still had to move a division to the same spot, if I wanted to encircle the four divisions in the swamp. Thus, having two divisions left to move, the situation looked like this.



- 22) As my next move, I took up a Panzer division to the hex southwest of Lyady, and conducted a prepared attack on the stack on this location, forcing another retreat, this time in the right direction.

1 of 1 74.25 - Light Woods(Lyady) - Clear Turn:7 1941-07-31		
Axis Forces Attacking:	Forces Engaged	Soviet Forces Defending:
XXXXVII Panzer Corps 17th Panzer Division (89) 53rd Nebelwerfer Regiment (1) 42nd Pioneer Battalion (6) VIII Fliegerkorps 11 Bf 109E-3 25 Bf 109F-2 CV: 96->284.3 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: XXXXVII Panzer Corps G Joachim Lemelsen	ATK: men 17645, art 201, afv 197 DAM: men 26, art 3, afv 9 LOST: men 32, art 0, afv 2 ATK: ftr 36, bmr 44, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 228th Rifle Division RETREATED Show Details Odds 3.75 : 1 Exit	11th Army 228th Rifle Division (33) 420th Crps Art Rgt (1) 392nd Crps Art Rgt (1) 589th Howitzer Regiment (1) 25 -> 37mm Anti-Aircraft Gun 5 -> 76mm Anti-aircraft Gun CV: 36->75.8 Fort: 0.00->0.00 Comm HQ: 11th Army GM Georgy Zakharov

- 23) This gave me the possibility for moving another division forward from Seredka to the forest east of the swamp and in turn pushing the division here forward across the Plyussa river, thus sealing the encirclement of the four Rifle divisions in the swamp.
- 24) Then I pushed my last Panzer division north into Lyady, conducted a hasty attack pushing the Soviets back and the pushed the division forward one more hex displacing an airfield in the process.
- 25) Finally, I then reordered my units to ensure a decent defensive CV east and southeast of Pskov and moved my HQ's to secure optimal supplies and fuel for my units come next turn.

I believe my attacks have been a real success in the north this turn. I have encircled four Soviet Rifle divisions and punched a major hole in the Soviet front north of Pskov. I have also routed a significant number of Soviet divisions which mean that, even if they rally, they will not be receiving replacements come next turn.

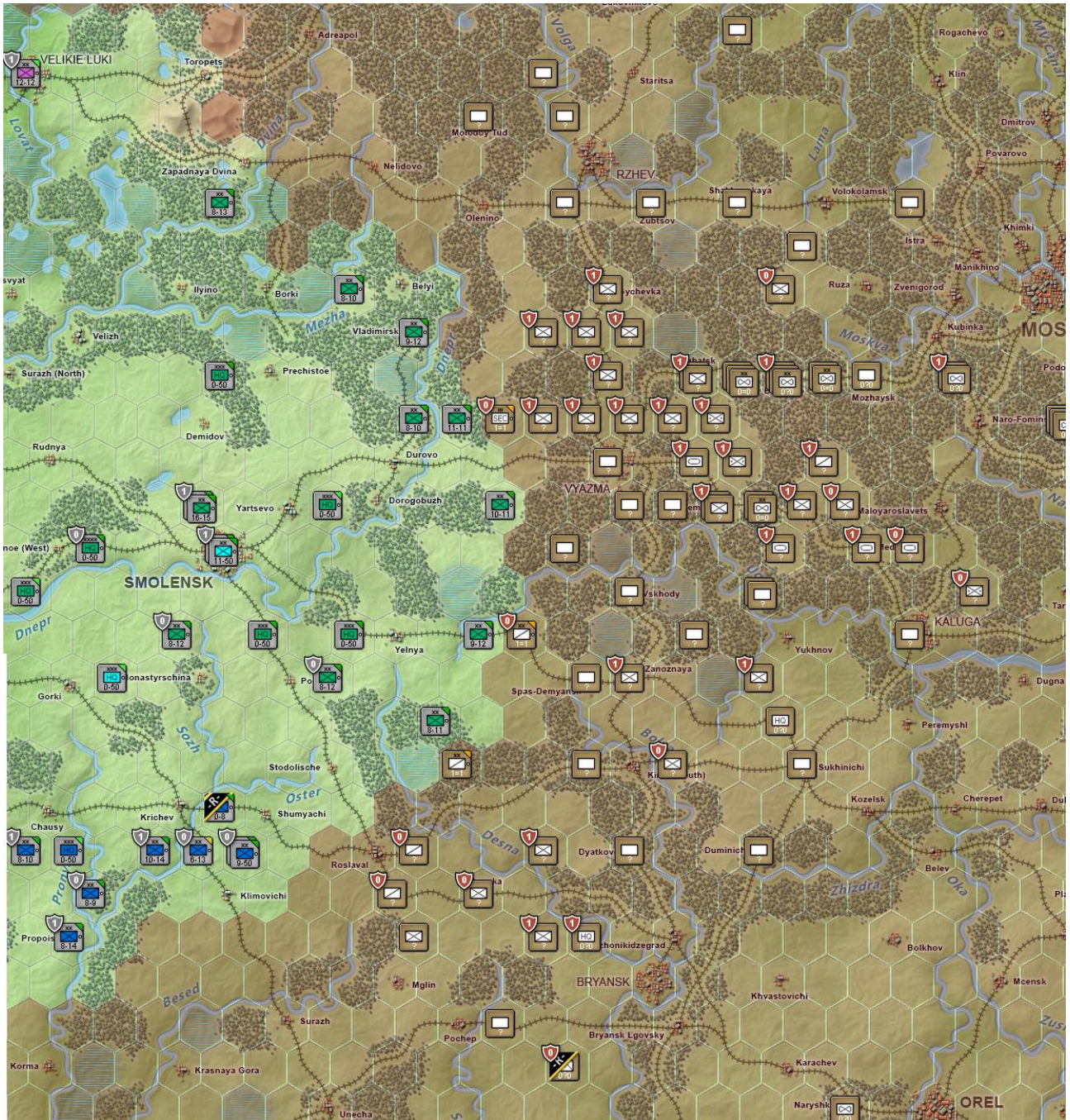
In the air, the Soviets have lost some 700 aircraft due to the German attacks, while the Luftwaffe has suffered only 41 losses (including 2 recon aircraft and 11 Bf109E's destined for withdrawal).

By my recon missions it seems that there are no real fortification works going on along the Luga river, and I believe that the Pskov area is no longer defendable for the Soviets. As a result, I expect a massive retreat in the direction of Leningrad come next turn. Should the Soviets decide to counterattack, I have the entire 18th Army standing ready at Pskov to thwart this, while my Panzers will move on towards Leningrad.

Below is an image of the situation at Pskov, as I give the turn to HardLuck.



The Center



Situational Assessment

In the center, there are now Soviet Air units deployed for the defense of Moscow. I see around 200 tactical bombers covered by around 120 Soviet fighters.

I am still not nearly concentrated enough in front to commence any sort of offensive operations, which the Soviets have taken advantage of to move around one of my infantry divisions and then rout it.

Axis Forces Defending: IX Corps 31st Infantry Division (107)	1 of 3 > 91.59 - Clear - Clear Turn: 6 1941-07-24		Soviet Forces Attacking: 43rd Army 172nd Rifle Division (23) 53rd Rifle Division (19) 217th Rifle Division (21) 89th Rifle Division (18) 145th Rifle Division (19) 197th Rifle Division (27) 284th Rifle Division (11)
	Forces Engaged DEF: men 16247, art 194, afv 2 DAM: men 32, art 5, afv 1 LOST: men 35, art 3, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 ATK: men 80910, art 972, afv 81 DAM: men 175, art 6, afv 10 LOST: men 1355, art 10, afv 12 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0		
	31st Infantry Division ROUTED		
CV: 107->190.0 Comm HQ: IX Corps GL Hermann Geyer	Show Details Odds 2.94 : 1 Exit		CV: 142->369.1 Comm HQ: 43rd Army GL Pavel Kurochkin
Fort: 0.10->0.00		Eng Val: 4	

Further south, the 4th Army is still advancing steadily east.

Planning

The main objectives for the 9th Army this turn are to concentrate in front of Moscow, and to ascertain the strength of the Rifle divisions in front of Moscow.

Further south, the 4th Army will continue eastwards, but will also send one corps to the southeast to take Gomel and make contact with Army Group South.

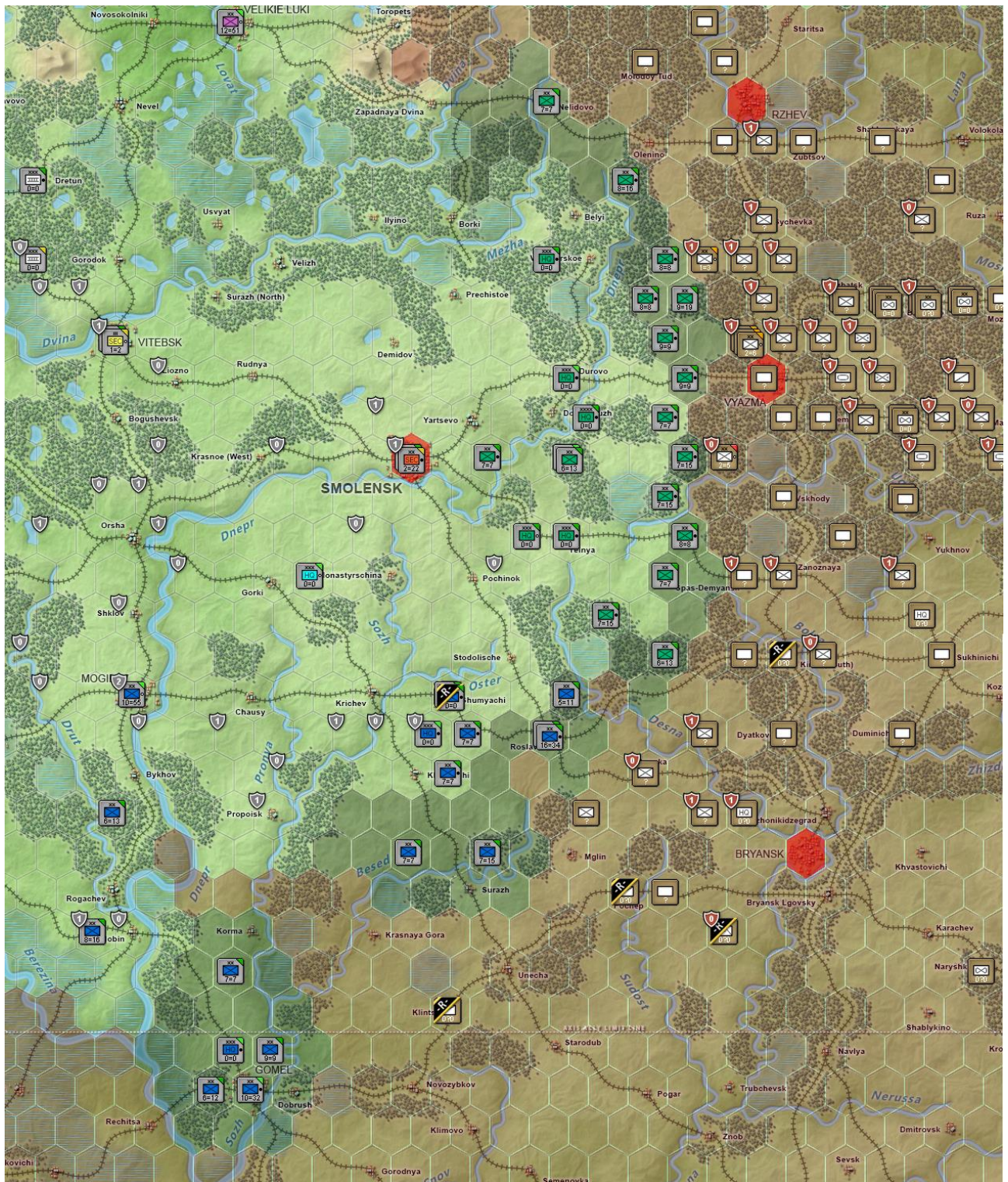
Execution

The 9th Army has moved up closer to the Soviet forces and conducted a few “safe” attacks with high odds against the foremost Soviet defenders. So far, the Soviet forces in this area are not particularly impressive. As the Red Army aviation flies in support of the ground combat, I have assigned several LW Flak units to the various corps in the area.

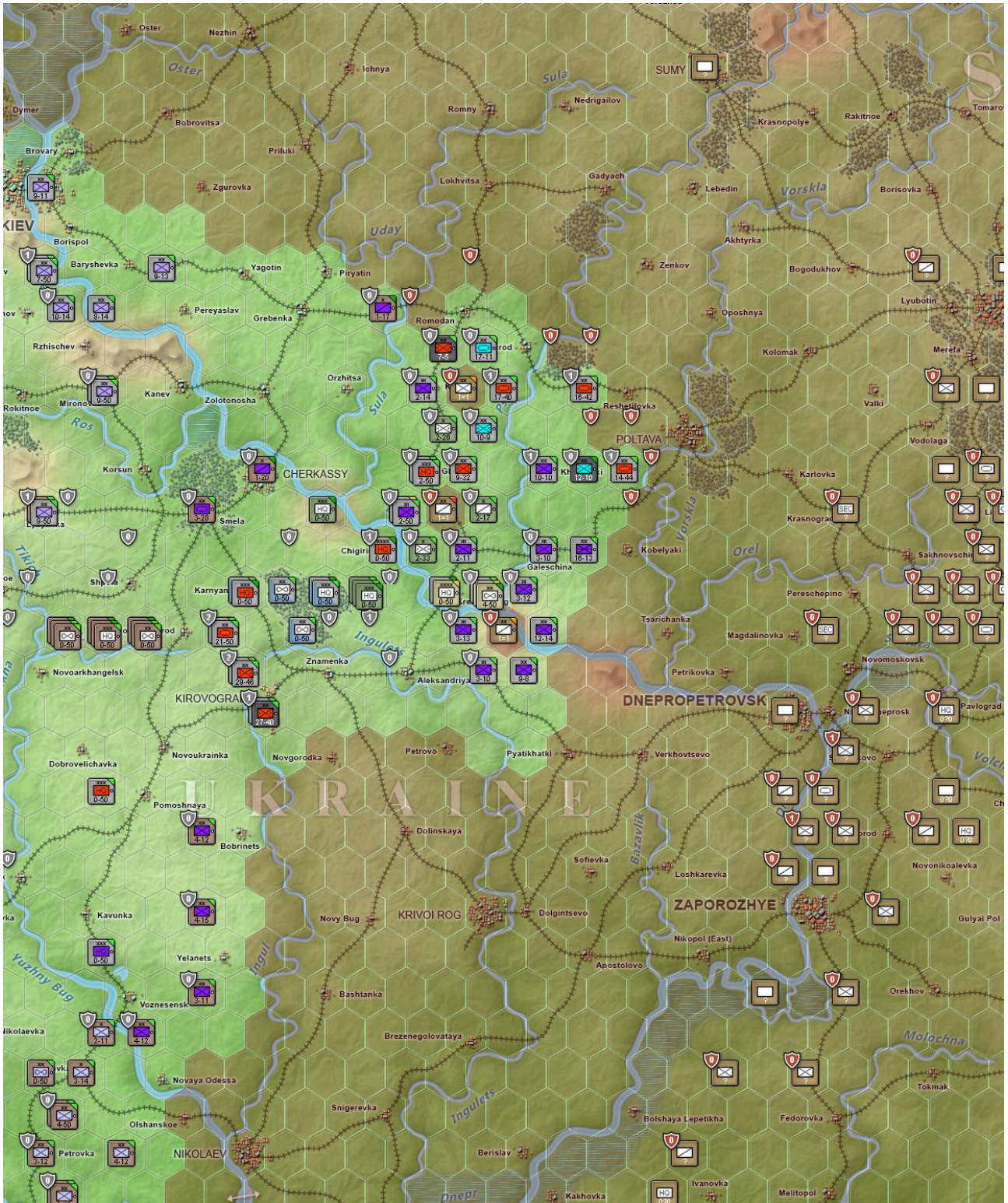
I have also attacked the various cavalry formations in front of the Soviet front in order to inflict some losses and to damage their morale before the coming battles. Surprisingly, these attacks have caused heavy losses upon the Soviets, and the Cavalry formations have either routed or shattered as a result of the attacks.

Further to the south, I have taken Gomel.

Below is an image of the situation west of Moscow, as I give the turn to HardLuck.



The South



Situational assessment

In the south, the Soviets have continued to withdraw, and are now holding a line running north-south around Kharkov. The city itself has been evacuated of all industries.

On the railline between Kharkov and Gorlovka, I spy a few Soviet airfields with a mixture of Fighters and recon aircraft.

Planning

This turn, I will launch my forces on an eastward advance. I have little doubt that I will be unable to encircle any Soviets or make any great gains. However, I will be advancing my front, and I might be able to conduct a single attack or two costing the Soviets a few troops.

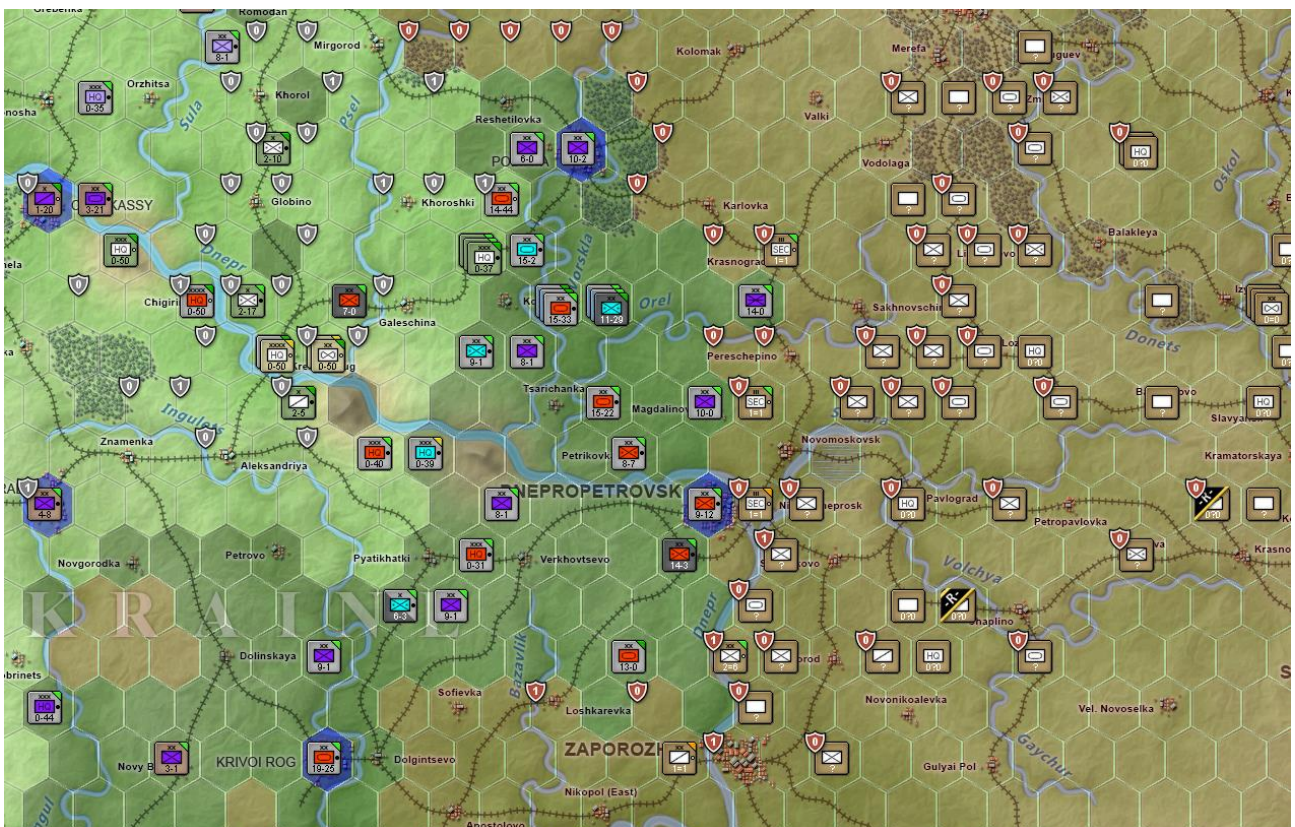
I will also be launching a corps in a northeasterly direction from Kiev in order to close off the Pripjat Marshes and swap all that terrain.

Execution

All that has happened this turn in the south is a land grab by my Panzers. I need to flip the terrain in front of the Soviet lines in order to be able to conduct any serious attacks. Unfortunately, my rail heads are far behind the front, so for now, I simply take what is offered to me freely, and no more.

This turn, Poltava, Dnepropetrovsk and Krivoi rog has fallen to the Germans.

Below is an image of the situation west of Poltava, as I give the turn to HardLuck.



Conclusion

All things considered, I am quite content with the outcome of this turn. I do believe I have made some good progress in the direction of Leningrad, the Moscow defenders are clearly not very strong yet and in the south, the Soviets continue to run.

In the air, the Soviets have lost 852 machines since my last turn, while I have lost 56. The Axis now have more machines flying than does the Soviets, although I have no doubt the Soviets have some 3000 machines or so hidden from the statistics due to being transferred to the National Reserve.