

Strategic overview

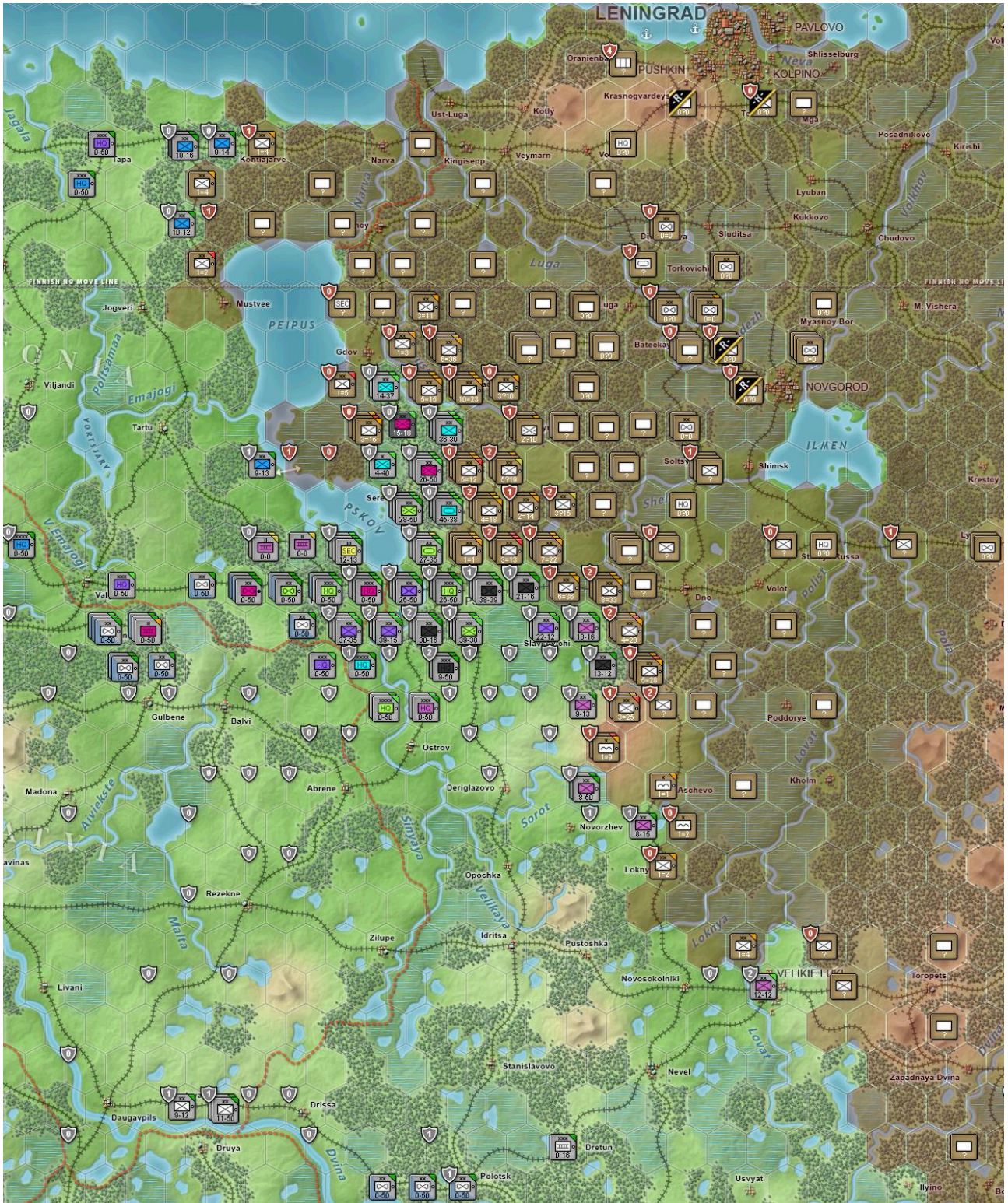
Turn 8: Strategic Considerations

This turn, the Red Army has changed its stance to “extremely aggressive”. This turn no less than nine ground attacks and 34 ground bombings have occurred. This has led to a few routed German units, including one Panzer division that, at the beginning of my turn, is both routed and far out of position (having routed across Lake Peipus).

Interestingly, the Soviet dispositions in the north has meant that the Leningrad industries have not begun evacuating yet, signaling a Soviet decision to stand firm in the forests northeast of Pskov.

In the air, the soviets are now down to 4685 machines, which is exclusive of the ones currently being transferred to the National Reserve.

The North



Situational assessment

In the far north, the Finns have now reached the Leningrad “No Attack line”. All positions to the south are held by Soviet Fortified zones. No further ground attacks will be possible in these areas.

North of Lake Peipus, the Soviets are advancing which seems strange to me, as I can easily push my own forces around the Soviets in order to encircle two of their foremost divisions.

North of Pskov, the Soviets have conducted five ground attacks, pushing the Germans back in a series of locations, even routing a Panzer division. The units on the marshes have reestablished contact with the main Soviet lines, but are still in a precarious position.

The Soviet positions can generally be described as follows:

- East of Lake Peipus, the Soviets have based their positions on the Plyussa. Positions here are based on the heavy forests, where there are some decent defensive CV's present. The Germans have little infantry capable of reaching those positions, and I expect the Panzers to be at a serious disadvantage in such terrain.
- Northeast of Pskov are some Soviet units that have conducted a series of attacks during their turn. These units are relatively weak, with defensive CV's of between 12 and 22. I have plenty of infantry in the area, and the Soviets are stacked so dense that attacks will often force routs rather than withdrawals.
- East/Southeast of Pskov are the Soviet positions that have not been touched by last turn's German attacks. These positions are strong, with defensive CV's well into the 20's.
- Behind the Soviet front are a large number of units I can not get a good impression of. I expect these units to be newly arrived weak units, mainly there to dig or act as reserves. I also expect some of these units to be newly rallied units that have suffered during last turn's attacks.
- As of yet, I can spy no real fortification works going on in the vicinity of the Neva river at Leningrad itself.

In the air, the Red Army Aviation is now down to 976 fighters, 67 tactical bombers and 340 level bombers by my count. Opposite this, the Luftwaffe has had some fighter Air Groups withdrawn, and can now muster 617 fighters, 172 tactical bombers and 232 level bombers. It seems, for now, that the Luftwaffe is gaining the upper hand in the air over this area.

My own Panzers are decently well fueled, mostly with MP's in the 35-40 range.

Planning

On the ground, I have decided to conduct a very ambitious attack this turn. By pushing straight northeast from Pskov towards the Luga river and on to Mga and/or Kotly, I might be able to gain a decisive victory, ensuring the fall of Leningrad.

By reaching Mga, the evacuation of industries in Leningrad will be impossible. Should the city fall, the future production of Iosif Stalin tanks will be halved and the production of Soviet Vehicles will also take a hit. If I can push through to Kotly, I will effectively have made supplying the Soviets east of Lake Peipus an impossibility and placed them in an almost hopeless position.

Even should my attacks fall short of their designated targets, I will have made a lunge forwards towards Leningrad, that the Soviets will find it hard to counter. This will, in turn, force a hurried evacuation of the most important industries in the city, but still leave some 16 Armament Factories behind for the Germans.

Execution

As per new tradition, I will try to describe my attacks in the north in detail.

- 1) As the Soviet airfields have been pulled back towards Leningrad, I wanted to see if I could draw the Soviet fighters into some dogfights against the Finns over the Fortified Zones guarding Leningrad from the north. Because of this, I moved the Finnish airfields into location and started flying fighter sweeps. This proved futile, as the Soviets refused to fly.
- 2) In order to deny the Soviets the clear forest hex at the front as a retreat hex, I then moved the Motorized Brigade in the swamp at Lake Pskov into that hex.
- 3) I then turned ground support off and attacked the 1=1 stack (cavalry and two HQ's) northeast of Pskov in a hasty attack. This routed the cavalry (no retreat possible).
- 4) I then turned ground support on and set it to 160 and ground support escort to 240 and attacked the 3=13 stack with two divisions of the XXIII Corps backed by a division of the 16th Army. This attack failed, but did reveal that the Soviets still flew ground support in limited numbers.

Axis Forces Attacking: X Corps -13% 126th Infantry Division (66) 1/818th Gun Battalion (0) 846th Howitzer Battalion (1) 850th Howitzer Battalion (0) XXIII Corps 206th Infantry Division (102) 96th Infantry Division (103) [v]	1 of 1 75,29 - Clear - Clear Turn:8 1941-08-07 Forces Engaged ATK: men 57187, art 670, afv 4 DEF: men 48104, art 596, afv 29 DAM: men 123, art 16, afv 1 DAM: men 76, art 4, afv 0 LOST: men 464, art 11, afv 0 LOST: men 463, art 3, afv 5 ATK: ftr 139, bmr 73, utl 0 DEF: ftr 71, bmr 21, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 17, bmr 8, utl 0	Soviet Forces Defending: 22nd Army -30% 167th Rifle Division (33) 387th Howitzer Regiment (1) 545th Crps Art Rgt (1) 207th Crps Art Rgt (1) 233rd Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 3rd Army 272nd Rifle Division (49) [v]
	Defending Forces HELD Show Details Odds 1.55 : 1 Exit	
CV: 319->558.1 Eng Val: 12 Comm HQ: XXIII Corps GL Walter Model		CV: 141->359.0 Fort: 2.12->0.90 Comm HQ: 3rd Army GL Vasily Kuznetsov

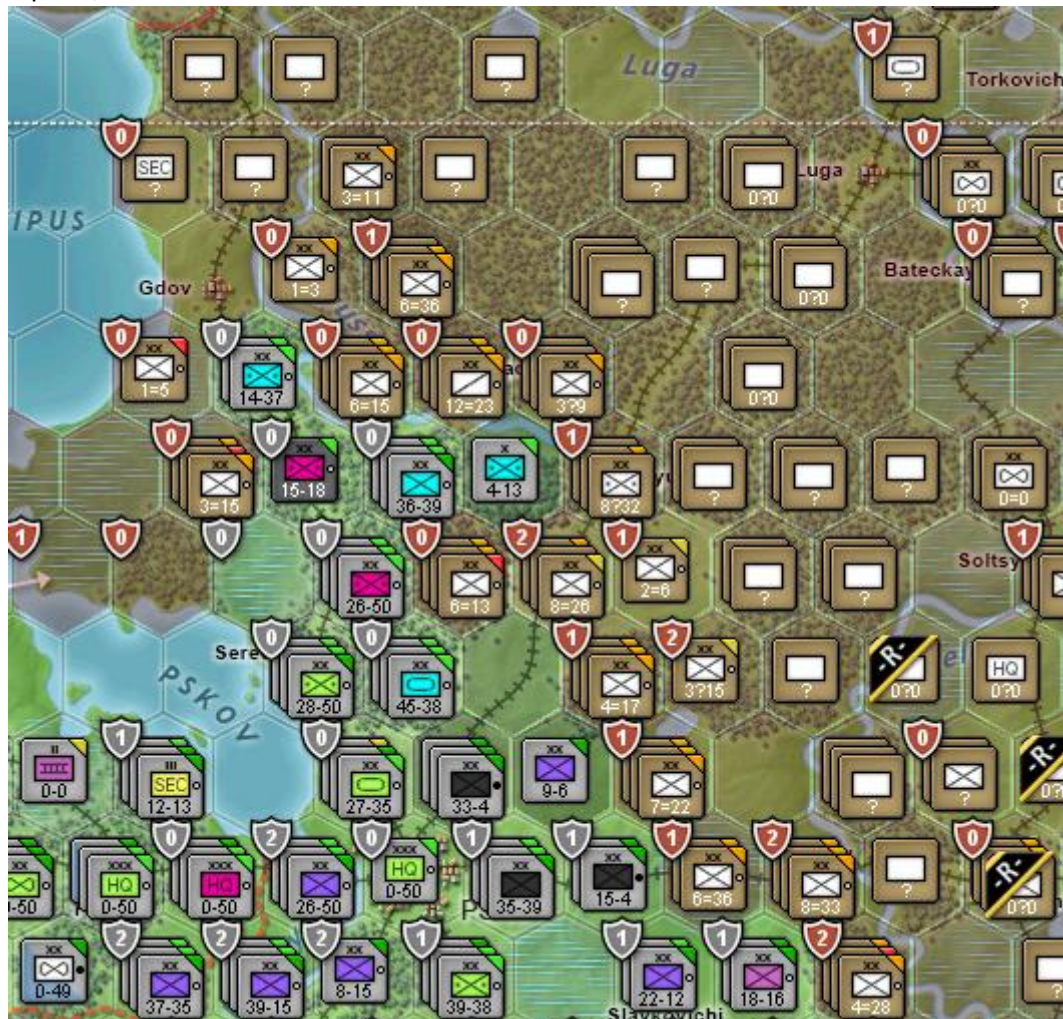
- 5) As the attack had reduced the defensive modifier of the Soviet positions to zero, I then set my ground support escort to 140 and attacked once more with the same three divisions, this time with a 4:1 CV ratio, expecting some better results on this second attack. This time, the attack succeeded.

Axis Forces Attacking: X Corps -13% 126th Infantry Division (57) 1/818th Gun Battalion (0) 846th Howitzer Battalion (0) 850th Howitzer Battalion (0) XXIII Corps 206th Infantry Division (82) 96th Infantry Division (88) [v]	< 2 of 2 75,29 - Clear - Clear Turn:8 1941-08-07 Forces Engaged ATK: men 56363, art 639, afv 4 DEF: men 42145, art 496, afv 24 DAM: men 36, art 13, afv 0 DAM: men 221, art 12, afv 0 LOST: men 259, art 8, afv 0 LOST: men 2094, art 24, afv 3 ATK: ftr 108, bmr 53, utl 0 DEF: ftr 136, bmr 41, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 1, utl 0 LOST: ftr 19, bmr 7, utl 0	Soviet Forces Defending: 22nd Army -30% 167th Rifle Division (17) 336th Crps Art Rgt (1) 457th Crps Art Rgt (1) 120th Heavy Gun Regiment (0) 3rd Army 272nd Rifle Division (29) 1st Len. PM Rifle Div (23) [v]
	1st Leningrad PM Rifle Division RETREATED 272nd Rifle Division ROUTED 167th Rifle Division ROUTED Show Details Odds 5.31 : 1 Exit	
CV: 268->632.7 Eng Val: 12 Comm HQ: XXIII Corps GL Walter Model		CV: 74->119.1 Fort: 0.90->0.00 Comm HQ: 3rd Army GL Vasily Kuznetsov

- 6) I then moved three infantry divisions of the XXIII Corps northeast of Pskov and followed with one infantry division to the hex to the east, as that could be done with 12MP remaining and thus two attacks. With that force, I proceeded to attack the 4=19 stack. This attack proved interesting, as two of the defending divisions were under STAVKA Command, and thus no Soviet air forces flew in the defence. The result was the shattering of one division and gaining another hex.

Axis Forces Attacking: XXVI Corps -13% 61st Infantry Division (83) XXIII Corps 251st Infantry Division (97) 254th Infantry Division (86) 94th Infantry Division (95) 815th Hvy Hwz Bn (1) 660th Pioneer Battalion (7) [v]	1 of 1 75,28 - Clear - Clear Turn:8 1941-08-07 Forces Engaged ATK: men 74406, art 814, afv 8 DEF: men 26012, art 312, afv 31 DAM: men 36, art 12, afv 0 DAM: men 195, art 6, afv 1 LOST: men 149, art 4, afv 0 LOST: men 3980, art 39, afv 12 ATK: ftr 80, bmr 46, utl 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	Soviet Forces Defending: 20th Army -10% 73rd Rifle Division (51) STAVKA -20% 195th Rifle Division (69) 4th Naval Infantry Brigade (33) 11 -> 37mm Anti-Aircraft Gun 6 -> 76mm Anti-aircraft Gun
	4th Naval Infantry Brigade ROUTED 195th Rifle Division RETREATED 73rd Rifle Division SHATTERED Show Details Odds 8.48 : 1 Exit	
CV: 435->817.4 Eng Val: 20 Comm HQ: XXIII Corps GL Walter Model		CV: 153->96.3 Fort: 2.12->0.00 Comm HQ: STAVKA MAR Semyon Timoshenko

7) At that point, the situation was as follows.



8) I then attacked the 6=13 stack with three of the divisions already next to it, giving the following result.

Axis Forces Attacking:		Forces Engaged		Soviet Forces Defending:	
XXIV Panzer Corps 10th Motorized Division (93) 132nd Infantry Division (82) II/69th Gun Battalion (0) II/42nd Howitzer Battalion (1) 616th Howitzer Battalion (1) 521st Jagdpanzer Battalion (11) 45th Pioneer Battalion (9)		ATK: men 52125, art 689, afv 71 DAM: men 46, art 10, afv 1 LOST: men 222, art 11, afv 1 ATK: ftr 134, bmr 44, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 1, utl 0		7th Independent Army 158th Rifle Division (49) 117th Rifle Division (54) 47th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) STAVKA -35% 4th Len. PM Rifle Div (15)	
CV: 279->724.7 Eng Val: 12 Comm HQ: XXIV Panzer Corps G Leo Geyr von Schweppenburg		4th Leningrad PM Rifle Division ROUTED 117th Rifle Division ROUTED 158th Rifle Division ROUTED Odds 4.53 : 1		Northern Air Command	
CV: 118->159.8 Fort: 0.02->0.00 Comm HQ: 7th Independent Army GA Kirill Meretskoy		Show Details Exit			

9) Moving up six infantry divisions, four belonging to the I Corps, I then attacked the 8=26 stack with all those divisions.

<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>18th Army -3% 123rd Infantry Division (70) 93rd Infantry Division (85) I/291st LW Mix Flk Bn (3) I/411th LW Mix Flk Bn (3) II/36th LW Mix Flk Bn (3) 1/55th SP Flak Company (1) I Corps</div> <div>[v]</div>		<div>1 of 1 75,27 - Clear - Clear Turn:8 1941-08-07</div> <div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 110937, art 1389, afv 88 DEF: men 46669, art 616, afv 48 DAM: men 177, art 19, afv 0 DAM: men 209, art 9, afv 0 LOST: men 366, art 11, afv 0 LOST: men 1435, art 19, afv 14 ATK: ftr 104, bmr 9, utl 0 DEF: ftr 157, bmr 35, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>200th Rifle Division RETREATED 157th Rifle Division ROUTED 152nd Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div> Odds 4.88 : 1</div> <div>Show Details Exit</div>		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>8th Army -10% 152nd Rifle Division (75) 11th Motorcycle Regiment (2) 524th Heavy Gun Regiment (2) 51st Crps Art Rgt (0) 228th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 5th Mortar Battalion (0) STAVKA -35%</div> <div>[v]</div>	
<div>CV: 610->1336.4 Eng Val: 16 Comm HQ: I Corps GL Karl Adolf Hollidt</div>				<div>CV: 233->273.3 Fort: 2.04->0.00 Comm HQ: 27th Army GA Georgy Zhukov</div>	

- 10) Next, I attacked the 4=17 stack in the forest with three divisions, as I needed to remove that stack in order to clear a passage northeast. Before doing the attack, I set one more infantry division belonging to the 18th Army to reserve, and it was subsequently activated during the battle.

<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>I Corps 30th Infantry Division (95) 11th Infantry Division (116) II/58th Howitzer Battalion (1) 245th Stug Battalion (10) XXVI Corps -6% 61st Infantry Division (81) 217th Infantry Division (89) R</div>		<div>1 of 1</div> <div>76,28 - Light Woods - Clear</div> <div>Turn:8 1941-08-07</div> <div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 65573, art 787, afv 26 DAM: men 23, art 9, afv 0 LOST: men 291, art 16, afv 0 ATK: ftr 50, bmr 37, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 2, utl 0</div> <div>DEF: men 51693, art 677, afv 32 DAM: men 241, art 6, afv 0 LOST: men 3242, art 44, afv 6 DEF: ftr 108, bmr 23, utl 0 LOST: ftr 10, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>1st Leningrad PM Rifle Division ROUTED 179th Rifle Division ROUTED 235th Rifle Division ROUTED</div> <div>Odds 3.71 : 1</div> <div>Show Details</div> <div>Exit</div>		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>22nd Army -30% 232nd Rifle Division (13) R 11th Army 235th Rifle Division (61) 179th Rifle Division (74) 392nd Crps Art Rgt (1) 305th Crps Art Rgt (1) 3rd Army -30%</div>	
<div>CV: 398->876.6 Eng Val: 8 Comm HQ: I Corps GL Karl Adolf Hollidt</div>		<div>CV: 181->235.8 Fort: 1.84->0.00 Comm HQ: 11th Army GM Georgy Zakharov</div>			

- 11) This led to the following situation.

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|-------------------------------|--------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Axis Forces Attacking: | | <div>< 2 of 2</div> <div>76,26 - Light Woods(Plyussa) - Clear</div> <div>Turn:8 1941-08-07</div> | | Soviet Forces Defending: | |
| I Fliegerkorps | | Forces Engaged | | Northern Air Command | |
| 14 | Bf 109E-3 | ATK: men 0, art 0, afv 0 | DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0 | 27 | MiG-3 |
| 55 | Bf 109E-7 | DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 | DAM: men 8, art 7, afv 3 | 37 | I-153 |
| 89 | Bf 109F-2 | LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0 | LOST: men 23, art 3, afv 2 | 5 | I-15bis |
| 11 | Bf 109E-7/U1 | ATK: ftr 158, bmr 117, utl 0 | DEF: ftr 120, bmr 0, utl 0 | 26 | I-16 Type 18 |
| 10 | Hs 123A | LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 | LOST: ftr 19, bmr 0, utl 0 | 22 | I-16 Type 24 |
| 96 | Ju 87B | ground forces were BOMBED | | 3 | LaGG-3 |
| <div>Show Details</div> | | <div>Exit</div> | | | |

<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>LVII Panzer Corps</div> <div>19th Panzer Division (161)</div> <div>II/55th Howitzer Battalion (1)</div> <div>273rd Mot. Flk Bn (1)</div> <div>I/29th LW Mix Flk Bn (3)</div> <div>I Fliegerkorps</div> <div>28 Bf 109E-3</div> <div>[v]</div>		<div>1 of 2 > 76,26 - Light Woods(Plyussa) - Clear Turn:8 1941-08-07</div> <div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 17883, art 228, afv 231</div> <div>DAM: men 42, art 4, afv 13</div> <div>LOST: men 68, art 5, afv 9</div> <div>ATK: ftr 379, bmr 90, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>DEF: men 50702, art 542, afv 503</div> <div>DAM: men 36, art 1, afv 5</div> <div>LOST: men 400, art 5, afv 39</div> <div>DEF: ftr 138, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 22, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>Defending Forces HELD</div> <div>Show Details</div> <div>Odds 1 : 2.67</div> <div>Exit</div>		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>27th Army</div> <div>1st Motorized Division (179)</div> <div>111th Rifle Division (103)</div> <div>390th Crps Art Rgt (1)</div> <div>267th Crps Art Rgt (1)</div> <div>430th BM Howitzer Regiment (1)</div> <div>293rd Crps Art Rgt (1)</div> <div>29th Sapper Regiment (3)</div> <div>[v]</div> <div>CV: 473->810.9</div> <div>Fort: 1.70->1.68</div> <div>Comm HQ: 27th Army</div> <div>GA Georgy Zhukov</div>	
<div>CV: 166->303.0</div> <div>Eng Val: 2</div> <div>Comm HQ: LVII Panzer Corps</div> <div>GL Otto von Knobelsdorff</div>					

- 14) Trying to rectify the disaster, I moved the Panzer division back one hex, as it no longer had enough MP to do a full attack. I then set three divisions to reserve and moved up the remainder of the mobile divisions of the 3rd Panzer Group, and then did an attack which I was quite frankly very unsure of.

76,26 - Light Woods(Plyussa) - Clear		Turn:8 1941-08-07	
Axis Forces Attacking:		Forces Engaged	
LVII Panzer Corps		ATK: men 79284, art 1009, afv 589	
20th Panzer Division (132)		DAM: men 102, art 10, afv 19	
18th Motorized Division (90)		LOST: men 268, art 6, afv 21	
1st Cavalry Division (90)		ATK: ftr 30, bmr 0, utl 0	
101st Flammpanzer Battalion (29)		LOST: ftr 1, bmr 0, utl 0	
427th Gun Battalion (0)		DEF: men 39543, art 409, afv 461	
II/55th Howitzer Battalion (1)		DAM: men 136, art 9, afv 2	
614th SP Lt Flk Bn (6)		LOST: men 2019, art 20, afv 180	
[v]		DEF: ftr 63, bmr 23, utl 0	
		LOST: ftr 5, bmr 7, utl 0	
		215th Motorized Division RETREATED	
		111th Rifle Division RETREATED	
		1st Motorized Division ROUTED	
CV: 591->1157.7		Odds 3.04 : 1	
Eng Val: 12		Exit	
Comm HQ: LVII Panzer Corps			
GL Otto von Knobelsdorff			
		CV: 418->380.0	
		Fort: 1.68->0.00	
		Comm HQ: 27th Army	
		GA Georgy Zhukov	

- 15) This led to the following situation.



- 16) Doing a count of the number of divisions I had left to use, gave me a total of 11 divisions with varying strength. As it was now impossible to achieve any big breakthroughs this turn, I decided to settle for some smaller gains and moved a Panzer division to the clear forest hex next to the 3?15 hex in the image above (hoping to be able to encircle the Soviets to its southwest. This revealed two new divisions, and the 3?15 hex suddenly became a 12=55 hex.
- 17) I then attacked the lone Rifle division southwest of Gdov, hoping to reclose the pocket around the Soviet Rifle divisions in the swamps, forcing it to retreat back into the swamps. I then moved one Motorized Brigade into the swamp in order to close the ring more tightly.
- 18) Next I moved a Panzer and a Motorized division to attack the 7=23 hex, as it consisted of Rifle divisions in open ground, thus very vulnerable to a Panzer attack. The following attack looked as follows.

Axis Forces Attacking:		1 of 1	76,27 - Clear - Clear	Turn:8 1941-08-07	Soviet Forces Defending:	
XXXXVII Panzer Corps 17th Panzer Division (138) 18th Panzer Division (143) 53rd Nebelwerfer Regiment (3) 100th Flammpanzer Battalion (34) II/71st Artillery Battalion (0) 604th Howitzer Battalion (1) 561st Jagdpanzer Battalion (10)		Forces Engaged ATK: men 49254, art 560, afv 471 DAM: men 50, art 11, afv 27 LOST: men 233, art 8, afv 5 ATK: ftr 236, bmr 52, utl 0 LOST: ftr 2, bmr 1, utl 0		 DEF: men 41392, art 551, afv 28 DAM: men 185, art 11, afv 0 LOST: men 1726, art 30, afv 1 DEF: ftr 76, bmr 19, utl 0 LOST: ftr 14, bmr 5, utl 0	8th Army -10% 152nd Rifle Division (58) 524th Heavy Gun Regiment (2) 529th Howitzer Regiment (2) 40th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 5th Mortar Battalion (0) STAVKA -35% 195th Rifle Division (41)	
[v]		200th Rifle Division RETREATED 195th Rifle Division RETREATED 152nd Rifle Division ROUTED			[v]	
CV: 414->851.9 Eng Val: 8 Comm HQ: XXXXVII Panzer Corps G Joachim Lemelsen		Odds 4.67 : 1		Exit	CV: 193->182.2 Fort: 1.64->0.00 Comm HQ: 27th Army GA Georgy Zhukov	
		Show Details				

- 19) Doing another attack east of Plyussa, I spent most of my remaining mobile units for the following result.

Axis Forces Attacking:	1 of 2 > 77.26 - Light Woods - Clear Turn:8 1941-08-07	Soviet Forces Defending:
XXXXI Panzer Corps -6% 1st Panzer Division (130) 36th Motorized Division (78) 52nd Nebelwerfer Regiment (3) 615th Howitzer Battalion (1) 601st SP Lt Flk Bn (4) 276th Mot. Flk Bn (1) 4/55th SP Flak Company (1)	Forces Engaged ATK: men 69579, art 878, afv 634 DAM: men 99, art 19, afv 33 LOST: men 231, art 6, afv 13 ATK: flr 412, bmr 108, utl 0 LOST: flr 2, bmr 3, utl 0 DEF: men 44580, art 675, afv 266 DAM: men 216, art 17, afv 2 LOST: men 1904, art 45, afv 97 DEF: flr 235, bmr 25, utl 0 LOST: flr 24, bmr 7, utl 0 Cadet Naval Infantry Brigade RETREATED 198th Motorized Division RETREATED 130th Rifle Division ROUTED Odds 3.46 : 1	8th Army -33% 198th Motorized Division (65) 1st AT Artillery Brigade (3) R 51st Crps Art Rgt (0) 73rd Crps Art Rgt (0) 40th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 5th Mortar Battalion (0) 55th Rifle Corps Fort: 1.26->0.00
CV: 560->1569.6 Eng Val: 8 Comm HQ: LVI Panzer Corps G Erich von Manstein	Show Details Exit	CV: 211->453.0 Comm HQ: 55th Rifle Corps GM Konstantin Koroteev

- 20) Deciding there was little more I could do this turn, I then proceeded to do a few fighter sweeps over the Soviet front line units in order to inflict a few casualties on the Soviet fighters.
- 21) In order to utilize the last remaining MP's given my Panzers to inflict damage on the Soviets, I moved up a Panzer and a Motorized division to attack a stack with a Motorized division, a Rifle division and a routed Rifle division. The attack went as follows.

Axis Forces Attacking:	1 of 3 > 76.25 - Light Woods - Clear Turn:8 1941-08-07	Soviet Forces Defending:
XXXIX Panzer Corps 7th Panzer Division (121) 3rd Motorized Division (93) 605th SP Lt Flk Bn (5) 1/36th LW Mix Flk Bn (2) 5/47th SP Flak Company (0) 705th SP Inf Gun Coy (0)	Forces Engaged ATK: men 31784, art 362, afv 197 DAM: men 17, art 9, afv 10 LOST: men 166, art 8, afv 6 ATK: flr 104, bmr 23, utl 0 LOST: flr 1, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 29081, art 366, afv 168 DAM: men 52, art 1, afv 0 LOST: men 1172, art 18, afv 57 DEF: flr 41, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: flr 4, bmr 0, utl 0 215th Motorized Division RETREATED 111th Rifle Division RETREATED Odds 2.56 : 1	8th Army 215th Motorized Division (65) 47th Crps Art Rgt (1) 73rd Crps Art Rgt (1) 40th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 27th Army -10% 111th Rifle Division (44) 293rd Crps Art Rgt (1) Fort: 0.00->0.00
VIII Fliegerkorps	Show Details Exit	CV: 112->176.4 Comm HQ: 8th Army GM Fyodor Tolbukhin

- 22) A final attack was then done on a 7=22 stack in the open by two Panzer divisions backed by an Infantry division. This attack failed, rather costly.

Axis Forces Attacking:	1 of 3 > 76.29 - Clear - Clear Turn:8 1941-08-07	Soviet Forces Defending:
XXXXVII Panzer Corps 3rd Panzer Division (139) 18th Panzer Division (123) 53rd Nebelwerfer Regiment (2) 100th Flammpanzer Battalion (32) 631st Howitzer Battalion (1) 561st Jagdpanzer Battalion (9) 6/47th SP Flak Company (1)	Forces Engaged ATK: men 49460, art 524, afv 414 DAM: men 147, art 10, afv 17 LOST: men 390, art 14, afv 24 ATK: flr 108, bmr 24, utl 0 LOST: flr 1, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 51525, art 654, afv 29 DAM: men 116, art 5, afv 1 LOST: men 535, art 10, afv 5 DEF: flr 76, bmr 20, utl 0 LOST: flr 10, bmr 1, utl 0 Defending Forces HELD Odds 1.52 : 1	8th Army -10% 18th Rifle Division (52) 524th Heavy Gun Regiment (1) 51st Crps Art Rgt (0) 226th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0) 3rd Army -30% 166th Rifle Division (43) 364th Crps Art Rgt (0) Fort: 1.60->0.52
CV: 361->556.9 Eng Val: 6 Comm HQ: XXXVII Panzer Corps G Joachim Lemelsen	Show Details Exit	CV: 188->365.3 Comm HQ: 11th Army GM Georgy Zakharov

- 23) At this point, there was little to do other than reordering my units as best I could, in order to present some good defenses and ensure proper supplies until next turn.

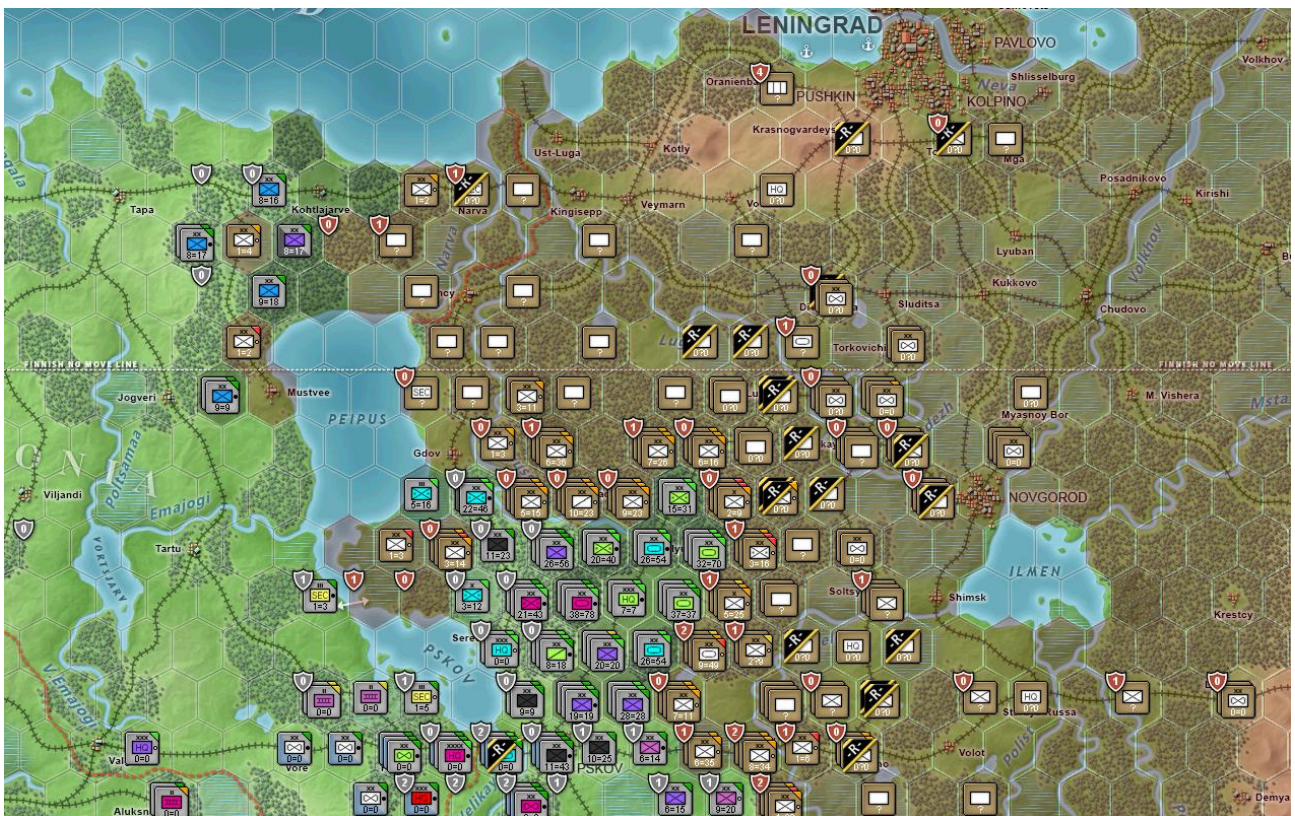
The Pskov attack has been a disappointment this turn. I have gained a mere nine hexes on my way to Leningrad. However, Soviet losses have been heavy, and I can hope that I am slowly wearing down the Soviet ability to resist and replace losses in their front line units. This turn, some 71.000 Soviet soldiers have been lost in this area, as well as more than 650 AFV + SP/AC's. Unfortunately, the Germans as well have suffered, losing 150 AFV. Another piece of good news is the fact that there are now at least some 18 routed Soviet combat formations standing in front of Leningrad. Those units, at least, will not be receiving reinforcements come next turn.

In other areas of the north, I have moved to encircle two Soviet Rifle divisions north of Lake Peipus, and in the process beaten back the Soviet lines a little.

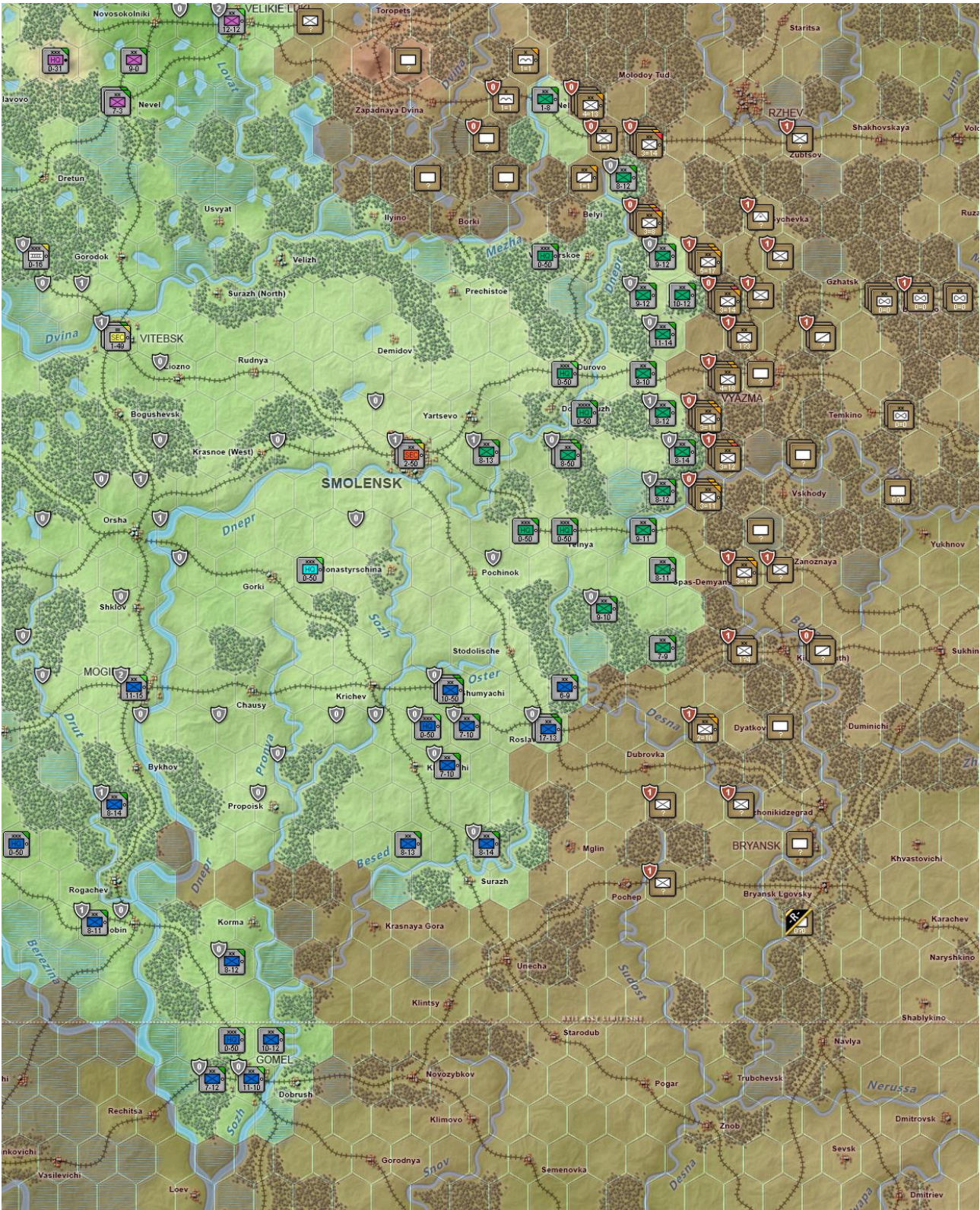
At Velikie Luki, the arrival of three fresh infantry divisions will probably be all I need to prevent the Soviets from recapturing the city.

All in all, I have been humbled this turn. The Soviet defenses south of Leningrad are far from reaching their “breaking point” yet. This turn, I have only been able to take a few hexes from the Soviets, and they have a lot of forces still in the area. On the bright side, I have six Rifle divisions encircled and a lot of other combat units routed, while the Soviet airforces seem close to breaking point, due to heavy losses.

Below is an image of the situation south of Leningrad, as I give the turn to HardLuck.



The Center



Situational Assessment

The Soviets have attacked west this turn, pushing their forces up towards the German front and threaten to flank the German 9th Army to the north.

The Soviets enjoy air supremacy in this area, and have the majority of their tactical bombers concentrated in this area. In response, I have pushed several LW Flak Units out to the Corps Commands in the 9th Army last turn.

Finally, my rail FBD's will reach Vitebsk this turn and be just short of Smolensk in three turns, so I will soon need to decide on whether I will draw the Panzers south from the attack on Leningrad.

Planning

My general plan for this turn is to shift forces northwards and counterattack the Soviets moving forward in this area. As most of the Soviet units seem rather weak, I expect to be able to do so easily, but without any encirclements or other fancy stuff. For now, this sector will simply consist of infantry units slogging it out.

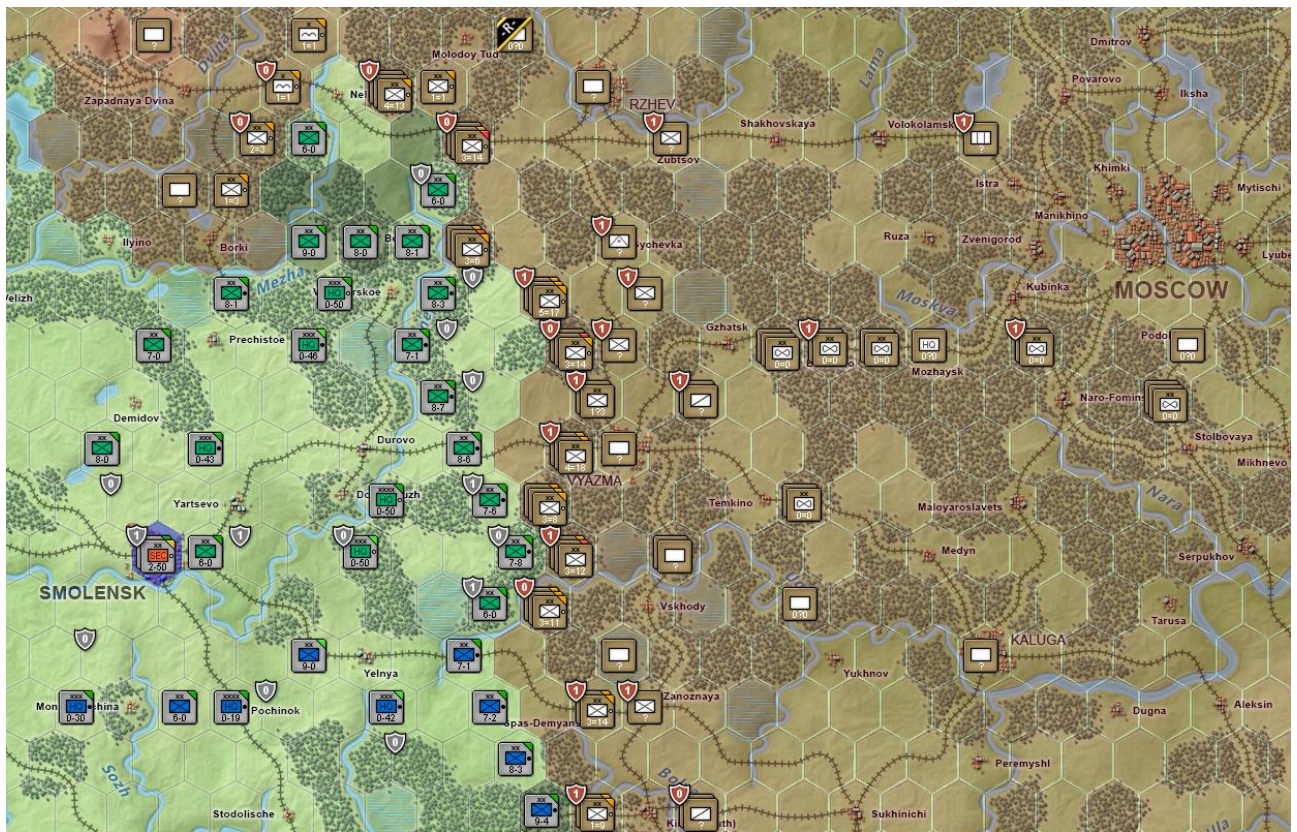
In the south of this sector, I will continue southwest and, in conjunction with troops moving northwest from the south, close the ring around the Pripyat Marshes.

Execution

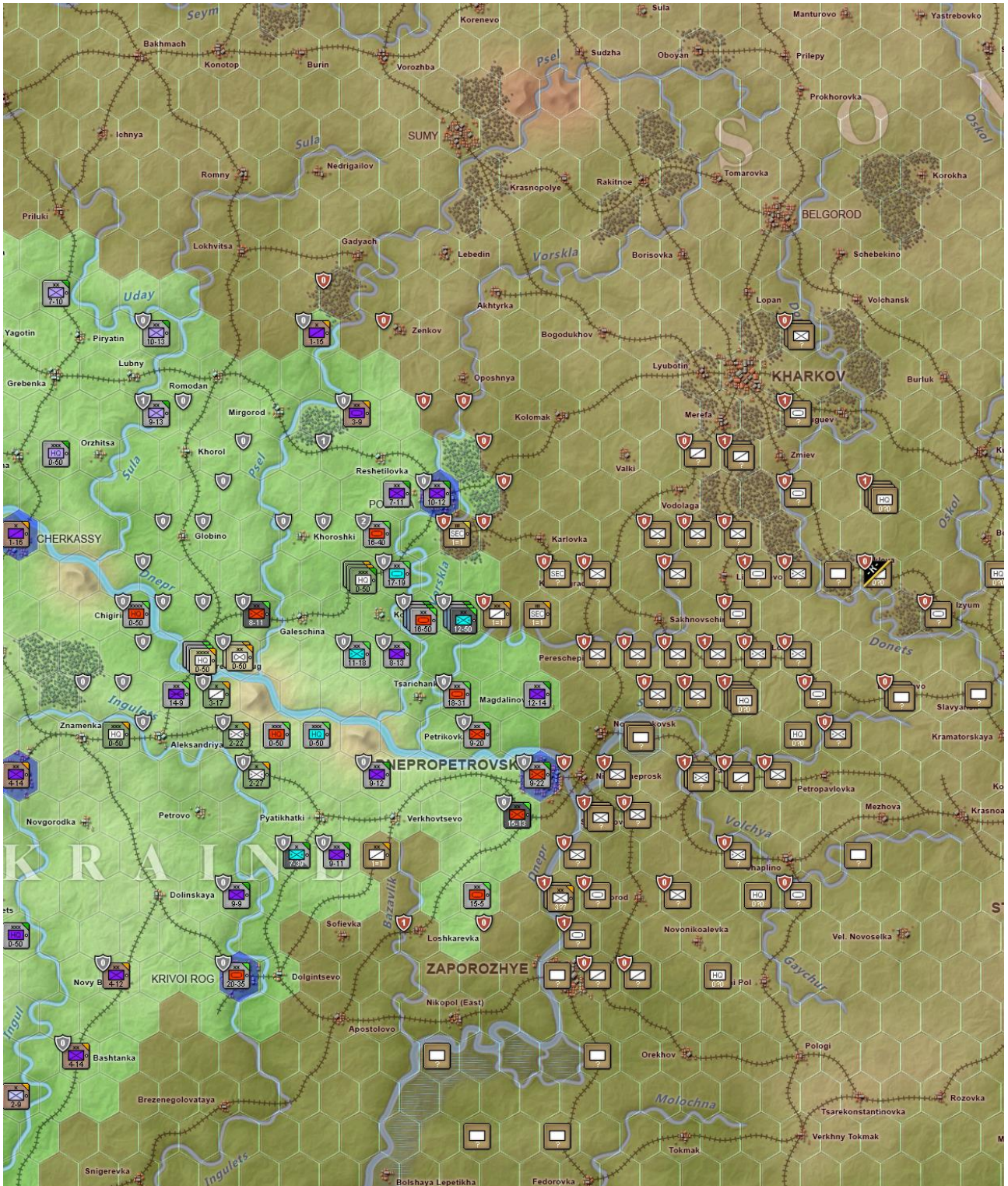
I deem it highly unlikely that the Germans will be able to continue their advance eastwards in this area, unless some Panzer forces are relocated from the north. The Soviet positions in front of Vyazma are simply too strong.

However, while some heavy fighting might erupt on this front, depending on the Soviet desire for aggressive operations, I deem it unlikely that the Soviets will be able to push the Germans back either.

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 seem to wish to make a stand on a line running from Kharkov to Zaporozhye. This seems to take the form of a concentration of force in front of the Stalino area, much like it has been done in front of Moscow and Leningrad.

I have been unable to find any Soviet airfields in the area other than one with 50 or So Recon aircraft on it, so I guess the Red Army aviation is solely focused on action in the Moscow and Leningrad areas.

Planning

My main focus this turn will be to bring my Panzers back into position for renewed HQBU's while also bringing forward the infantry divisions that will be conducting the first attacks on the Kharkov – Zaporozhye line.

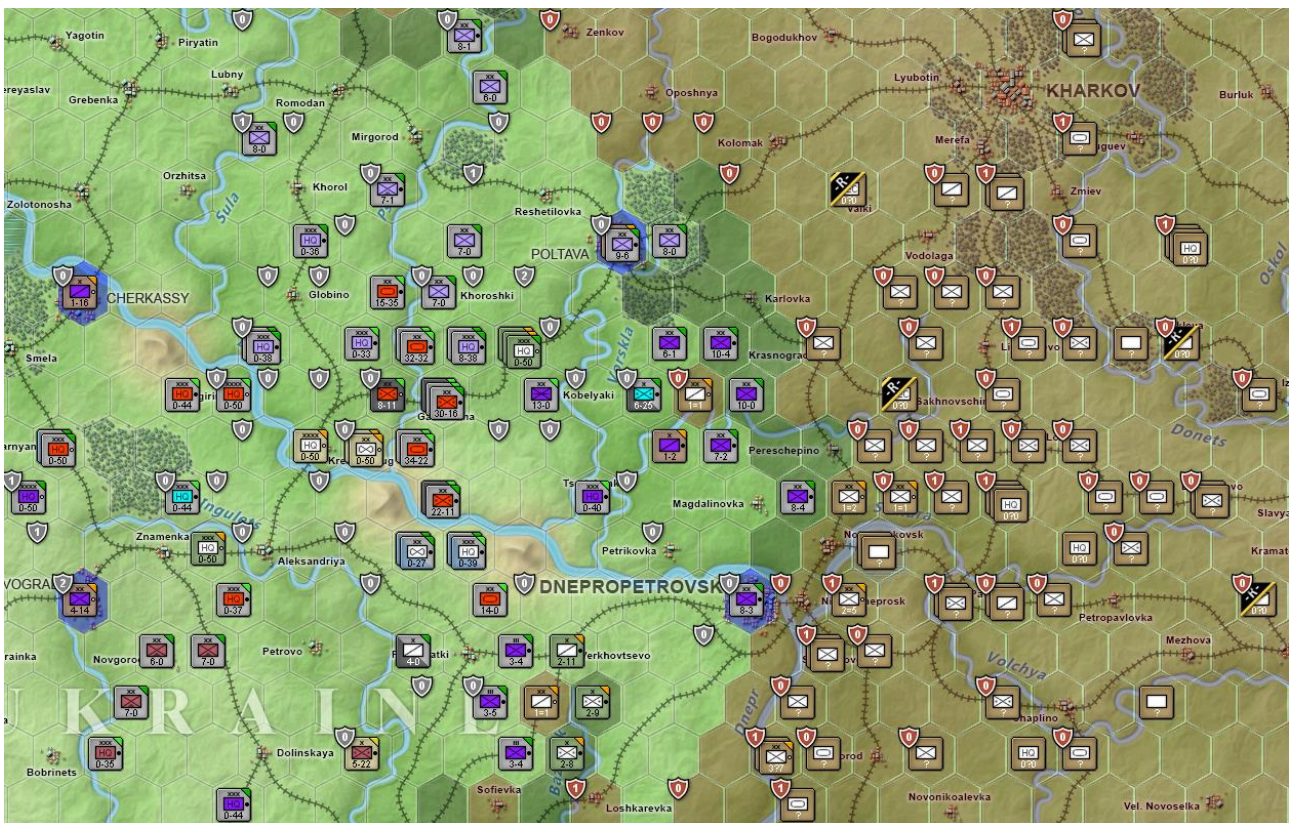
Doing this should mean I can take real action again come turn ten in this area. By then my FBD should have advanced to two hexes short of Kirovograd, and by then I will be able to turn the rail advance straight east.

Execution

Nothing much has happened this turn. I have tried to place my Panzer HQ's in positions where they will be 10MP from a railhead come next turn. My plan is to do a series of HQBU's while the infantry divisions are arriving from the west. Come turn 10, I can then attack in earnest.

While waiting for turn 10 to arrive, I have encircled a few minor Soviet formations so that I will be able to destroy them come next turn.

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



Conclusion

The Carnage in the north continues, but without any significant territorial gains this turn. On the other sectors, it seems I must wait for reinforcements and supplies before being able to push further east. Losses since my last turn are 22.000 Axis soldiers, 460 guns and 168 AFV + SP/AC's to 82.000 Soviet soldiers, 740 guns and 848 AFV + SP/AC's.

In the air, the Soviets have lost 589 machines since my last turn, while I have lost 75. Notable losses are 20 Bf109F's and 31 SB-2 Rcn's.