

## Strategic overview

### Turn 16: Strategic Considerations

This turn, I have lost some 70 Luftwaffe single seat fighters. The problem is that once I commit to battle, the Soviets will simply spend their turn searching for dogfights against my already somewhat fatigued Air Groups. The result seems to be that if I commit the Luftwaffe during my own turn, I have to turn off ground support during the soviet turn. Thankfully, for now I have enough fighters to replace losses.

Near	Loc	Attk	Result	Type	ATTACKER			DEFENDER			ATTACKER LOSSES			DEFENDER LOSSES		
					Ftr	Bmr	Utl	Ftr	Bmr	Utl	Ftr	Bmr	Utl	Ftr	Bmr	Utl
Maloyaroslavets	103,51	Sov	Retreated	Delib	94	6	0	80	31	0	23	0	0	16	2	0
Likhoslavl	99,34	Sov	Retreated	Delib	67	2	0	61	12	0	10	1	0	13	1	0
Likhoslavl	100,34	Sov	Retreated	Delib	78	0	0	40	40	0	5	0	0	13	4	0
Rzhev	95,42	Sov	AF Bombed	-	50	135	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	7	2	0
Demidov	86,48	Sov	AF Bombed	-	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Rzhev	95,42	Sov	AF Bombed	-	66	118	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	5	0	0
Prechistoe	87,48	Sov	AF Bombed	-	0	105	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
Vyazma	95,49	Sov	AF Bombed	-	99	29	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	3	0	0
Kaluga	102,53	Sov	AF Bombed	-	35	104	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	3	0
Ruza	101,44	Sov	Retreated	Delib	90	0	0	160	40	0	26	0	0	3	0	0
Prechistoe	87,48	Sov	AF Bombed	-	0	133	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Pskov	74,30	Sov	AF Bombed	-	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
Vyazma	95,49	Sov	AF Bombed	-	106	15	0	0	0	0	4	5	0	1	0	0
Kaluga	102,53	Sov	AF Bombed	-	70	115	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	4	0
Mozhaysk	101,46	Sov	Retreated	Delib	61	5	0	13	9	0	2	1	0	1	2	0

At this time in our game, HardLuck has posted on the AAR, that the Soviets aim to claim air superiority over at least two thirds of the front by late 1941. In my honest opinion that is a “freebie”, as any player willing to micromanage the Soviet Airforce should be able to do this easily.

Strategically, I deem that Army Group South is so far forward, that I do not really need to worry much about a soviet attack in this area. The Soviets will simply not have the time to push forward enough to really threaten the Germans positions.

In the north, the situation is quite the opposite. The Soviets are quite far forward in positions that could easily threaten the German positions around Pskov. Thus I need to conduct attacks to limit their potential for capitalizing on this threat. The answer to this is to limit the Soviet rail capacity in the area as much as possible. For this reason I intend to use the coming winter turns on two attacks.

First, I will use the panzers currently at Army Group South to conduct another attack northwest of Pskov. Battle reports indicate that the Soviets have pulled Zhukov off the line in this area, and there are currently no Guards divisions here either.

Second, I will use the Panzers currently at Army Group Center to attack at Bologoe once again, hoping to destroy the rail system supplying the Demyansk area.

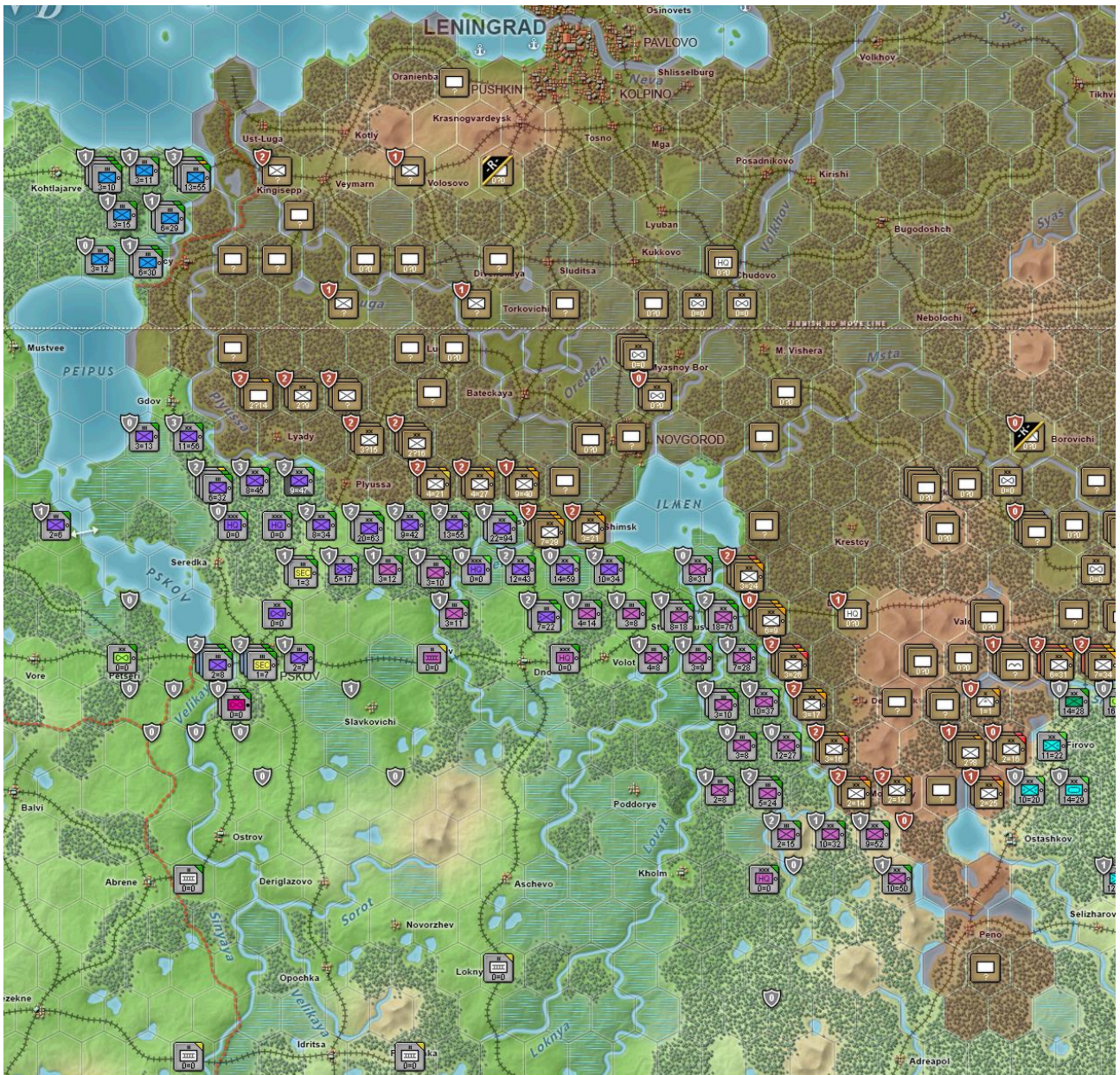
Should these attacks succeed, the Soviets will find it harder to supply any main attacks in the northern sector in the month of December. While I expect my attacks to cause heavy losses amongst the Panzers, the fact that I have lost few tanks so far in the campaign will mean that this should not be critical.

I will use the remaining turns before the mud to prepare as well as I can for those events.

*Note: After having done the entire turn, I had an upload error in the Soviet phase, meaning I had to redo the turn. That means that I have played through the Execution phase of this turn twice for all sectors.*



## The North



### *Situational assessment*

In the north, have remained passive this turn, and battle reports confirm that Zhukov and Vasilevsky are now both employed in front of Moscow.

All Guards Rifle divisions have been pulled off the line and employed in the area around Bologoe.

### *Planning*

In order to weaken the Soviet defensive positions as much as possible before the mud, I will launch attacks in the area around Plyussa and Soltsy. The sole purpose of those attacks is to weaken the Soviet defensive positions, making it easier for the German Panzers to roll forward come winter.

I will also disengage to Luftwaffe fighter wing completely from this area this turn, in order to strengthen my presence in front of Moscow and around Torzhok. This might also help me mask my intentions regarding an early winter attack in this area.

### Execution

In the north, began the turn with reassigning the I Fliegerkorps to Luftflotte II and moving it south to Velikie Luki, so as not to get involved in the fighting in the north.

I then gathered a force of some four infantry divisions and attacked the soviet positions at Soltsy, hoping to throw the soviets out of their positions. The result was interesting in that the Soviets flew heavily in the defence of the town, but their bombers failed to kill off more than 40 "Landsers" prior to ground combat beginning. This was done at a cost of 25 aircraft, mainly level bombers.

<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>XXXXVIII Corps -6%</div> <div>30th Infantry Division (94)</div> <div>45th Pioneer Battalion (9)</div> <div>255th Pioneer Battalion (6)</div> <div>I Corps</div> <div>1st Infantry Division (54)</div> <div>21st Infantry Division (62)</div> <div>58th Infantry Division (88)</div> <div>[v]</div>	<div>1 of 1</div> <div>80,27 - Clear(Soltsy) - Clear</div> <div>Turn:16 1941-10-02</div>		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>27th Army</div> <div>44th Rifle Division (90)</div> <div>146th Rifle Division (112)</div> <div>280th Rifle Division (64)</div> <div>30th Mountain Division (22) R</div> <div>138th Howitzer Regiment (1)</div> <div>430th BM Howitzer Regiment (2)</div> <div>376th Howitzer Regiment (1)</div> <div>[v]</div>
	<div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 95968, art 1113, afv 93</div> <div>DAM: men 152, art 15, afv 5</div> <div>LOST: men 416, art 12, afv 2</div> <div>ATK: flr 0, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: flr 0, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>DEF: men 52394, art 548, afv 39</div> <div>DAM: men 359, art 15, afv 1</div> <div>LOST: men 431, art 6, afv 4</div> <div>DEF: flr 289, bmr 78, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: flr 4, bmr 21, utl 0</div>		
	<div>280th Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>146th Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>44th Rifle Division ROUTED</div> <div>Show Details</div> <div>Odds 3.16 : 1</div> <div>Exit</div>		
<div>CV: 438-&gt;844.6</div> <div>Eng Val: 12</div> <div>Comm HQ: I Corps</div> <div>GL Karl Adolf Hollidt</div>	<div>CV: 292-&gt;266.7</div> <div>Fort: 2.02-&gt;0.00</div> <div>Comm HQ: 27th Army</div> <div>GL Filipp Golikov</div>		

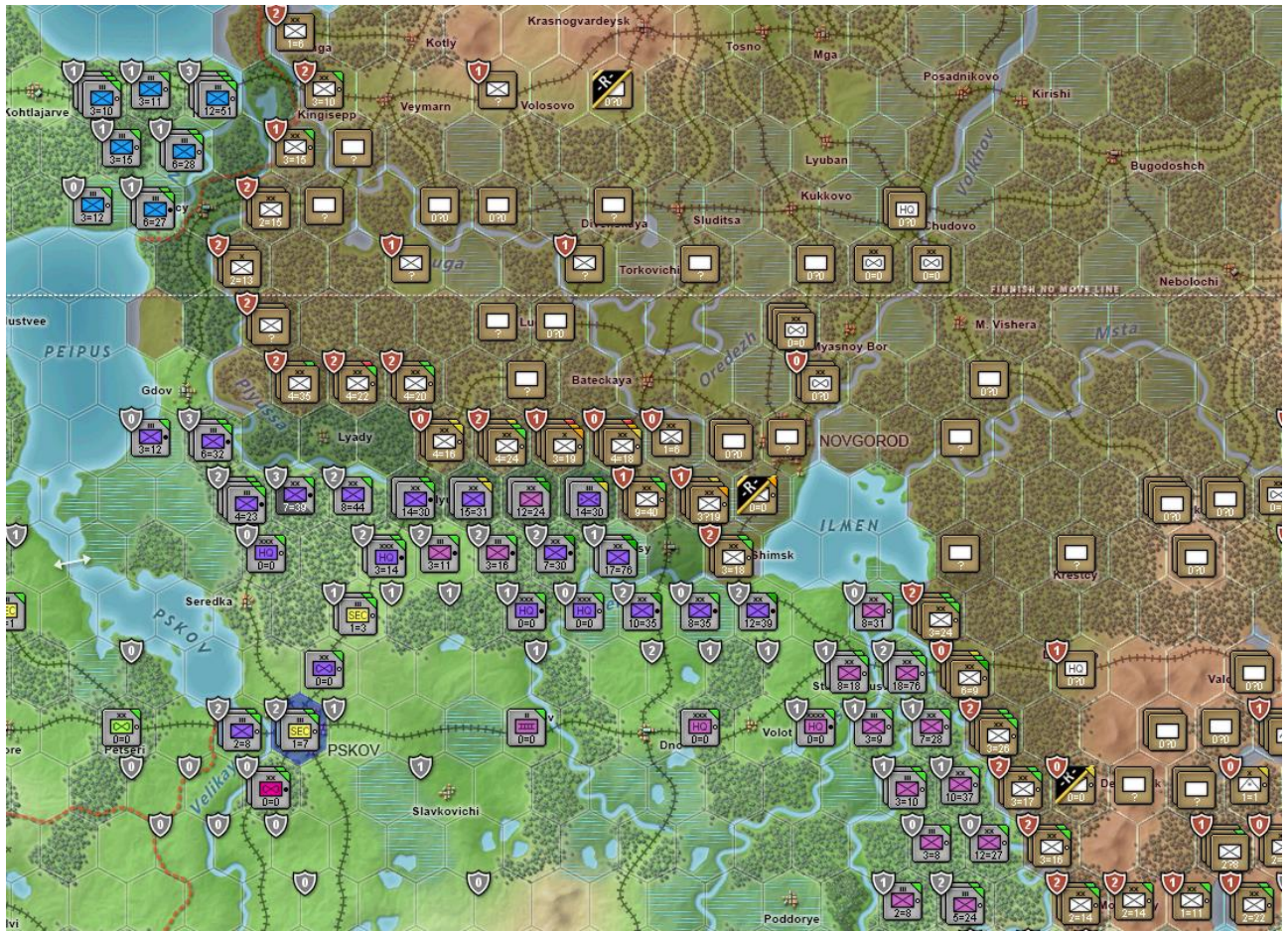
I followed up with another three attacks on the Soviet fortifications in the area, resulting in another two wins and one defeat. The defeat was still a success of sorts, as the main purpose of the attack brought the fortification level of the hex from 2.10 to 0.84.

After the attacks, I left the German divisions close to the Soviets, in order to prevent the construction of new fortifications as best I could.

On the downside, the attacks actually cost the Germans more casualties than they did the Soviets.

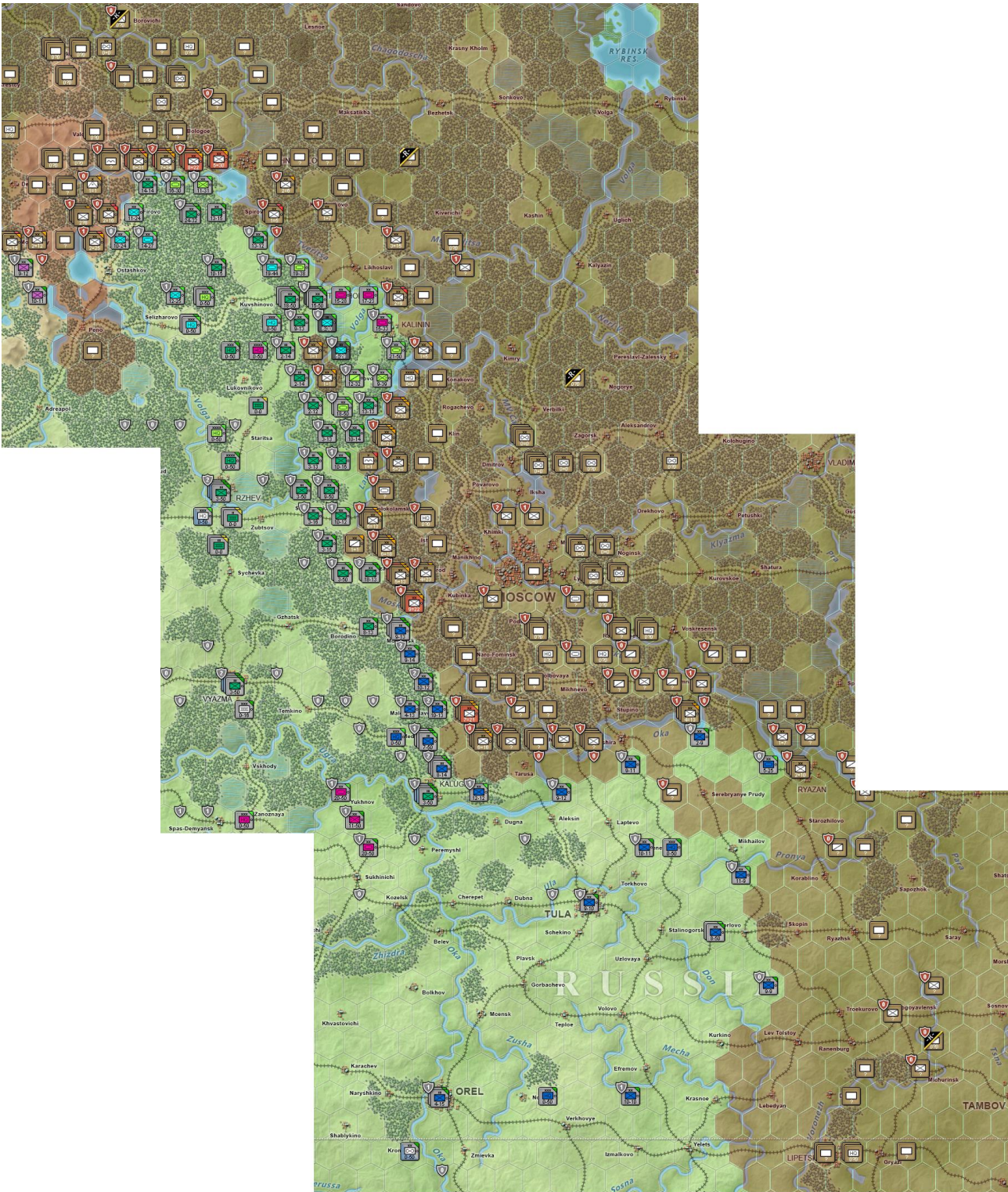
Below is an image of the situation south of Leningrad, as I give the turn to HardLuck.







The Center



### Situational Assessment

West of Vysny Volochek, the Soviets are holding on to their positions, doing what they can to strengthen them against further German attacks. The Soviets have employed five of their Guards Rifle divisions in the area, showing that they mean to hold these lines at all cost. They have even thrown one unit forward in a suicide attack, threatening the German rail lines to Rzhev.

At Kalinin, the Soviets are merely putting up a delaying line, and have made no attempts to relieve the two encircled Rifle divisions.

Outside Moscow, the Soviets have begun advancing, benefitting from the absence of strong German Panzer forces on the lines. The attacks directly west of Moscow has been led by Zhukov and Vasilevsky.

South of Moscow, the Soviets have reclaimed Ryazan. They have also throwm a cavalry division forward to cut of supplies to the Panzer division outside the city. This is of little concern, as I still have fuel enough in the division to give me 25 MP. The city is now home to a population of 10 manpower at 94 damage. This means that the Soviets will lose an estimated 12.000 recruits for the Red Army before the city is repaired. In my view, that is worth the efforts of a Panzer division for two turns.

South of Ryazan, the Soviets continue to give ground, obviously not valuing this terrain very much.

In the air, the Soviets have begun heavy attacks on the Luftwaffe fighter airfields, doing some damage to the Luftwaffe fighter wing. They are using solely Level bombers for this (of course escorted by fighters), meaning that any AA defense of mine need to be based on the 88mm AA gun.

Finally, the Soviets have conducted a minor breach of the “in-game Geneva Convention” by making a bombing run versus an FBD unit outside Bryansk. The result was less than spectacular, and I assume this was simply a mistake by the Soviets, as there has been no other such events.

Axis Forces Defending:	1 of 1 97,60 - Clear(Ordzhonikidzeград) - Clear Turn:15 1941-09-25		Soviet Forces Attacking:
	Forces Engaged		
	DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	ATK: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 0, art 0, afv 0 LOST: men 0, art 0, afv 0 ATK: ftr 41, bmr 65, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 1, utl 0	
12 -> 88mm Anti-aircraft Gun 17 -> 37mm Anti-aircraft Gun 15 -> Sdkfz-6/2 SP Flak	ground forces were BOMBED		Bryansk Air Command 41 MiG-3 45 SB-2 8 Pe-2 10 DB-3B 2 IL-4
	Show Details	Exit	

### Planning

In the north, I will start the action by removing the two encircled Soviet divisions. I will follow up by encircling or removing the Soviet unit attacking south (depending on it's type – if it is infantry, I wish to encircle it).

After that, I intend to continue attacks on Bologoe, using mainly the XXIII Corps to force a crossing of the Shlina river and then throwing my Panzers across the river. Depending on the defense in Bologoe itself (it might actually just be the army commands of the forward units), I will then attack the town or else work to expand the bridgehead.



Outside Moscow, I will mainly try to maintain the movement of the German Infantry divisions in order to help constructing further defenses. That means I will not be getting involved in a fight with the Soviet attackers, trying instead to build some credible defenses. I will obviously remove the weaker Soviet Airborne and Cavalry units and swap empty terrain, in order to deny the Soviets buildup areas for further attacks. The exception to this is at Kaluga, where I will be using a few of the reserve Panzers for a counterattack on the forward Soviets in order to create a little more space between the Soviets and the city.

South of the Oka, I will be pulling back from Ryazan while continuing to move forward towards Lipetsk. I have no intention of trying to hold on to terrain in front of Ryazan that could easily be encircled by a Soviet counterattack across the Oka come winter.

In the air, I will do some heavy reorganizing of the Luftwaffe this turn. First, I will assign FliegerKorps HQ's to each of the forward fighter commands based in Rzhev, Vyazma and Kaluga. Second, I will start assigning Mixed and Heavy Flak Units to the forward Fliegerkorps and pulling up such units from Army Group South, where the Soviets have little Air presence. The plan is to assign these to the Fliegerkorps come next turn. Finally, I will assign a series of Recon Air Groups to the forward airfields. As I understand game mechanics, an attacking Air Group will randomly select a defending Air Group to bomb. If I place several Recon Air Groups on the target, chances are, that fewer of my fighters will be hit.

### Execution

In the center, I began my attacks by moving the airfields from Rzhev closer to the Shlina river and then collected a force of five infantry divisions and one motorized division to do the first attack across the river. As I really needed this attack to be successful, I then set two mobile divisions to act as reserves and proceeded to attack.

<b>Axis Forces Attacking:</b>		1 of 1		94,30 - Light Woods - Clear		Turn:16 1941-10-02	
XXXXVII Panzer Corps -16%		<b>Forces Engaged</b>		<b>Soviet Forces Defending:</b>			
4th Panzer Division (61) R		ATK: men 107338, art 1127, afv 169		DEF: men 36829, art 424, afv 39		52nd Army	
XXXIX Panzer Corps -16%		DAM: men 81, art 6, afv 6		DAM: men 232, art 8, afv 1		9th Guards Rifle Division (85)	
20th Motorized Division (55)		LOST: men 270, art 7, afv 1		LOST: men 518, art 7, afv 4		166th Rifle Division (63)	
II/70th Artillery Battalion (0)		ATK: ftr 147, bmr 50, utl 0		DEF: ftr 284, bmr 46, utl 0		3rd Guards Rifle Division (66)	
177th Stug Battalion (6)		LOST: ftr 1, bmr 15, utl 0		LOST: ftr 27, bmr 12, utl 0		110th BM Howitzer Regiment (1)	
1/52nd SP Flak Company (0)						615th Art Rgt RVGK (1)	
1/8th Panzerjager Company (0)						103rd AT Artillery Regiment (0)	
						Leningrad Air Command	
[v]		3rd Guards Rifle Division RETREATED				[v]	
		166th Rifle Division RETREATED					
		9th Guards Rifle Division RETREATED					
		Odds 3.93 : 1					
CV: 437->1026.0		Show Details		Exit		CV: 216->260.8	
Eng Val: 26						Fort: 0.18->0.00	
Comm HQ: XXIII Corps						Comm HQ: 52nd Army	
GL Lothar Rendulic						GM Ivan Petrov	

After that, I pushed three Panzer divisions across the Shlina, reorganized my Corps structure, and did another attack in order to widen the bridgehead and secure a steady flow of supplies and fuel to the Panzers.

<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>XXXIX Panzer Corps -6%</div> <div>7th Panzer Division (101)</div> <div>12th Panzer Division (79)</div> <div>51st Nebelwerfer Regiment (1)</div> <div>733rd Howitzer Battalion (0)</div> <div>280th Mot. Flk Bn (0)</div> <div>605th SP Lt Flk Bn (3)</div> <div>643rd Jagdpanzer Battalion (5)</div> <div>[v]</div>	1 of 193,30 - Light Woods - ClearTurn:16 1941-10-02		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>52nd Army -30%</div> <div>14th Guards Rifle Division (91)</div> <div>2nd Motorcycle Regiment (1)</div> <div>110th BM Howitzer Regiment (0)</div> <div>615th Art Rgt RVGK (0)</div> <div>103rd AT Artillery Regiment (0)</div> <div>13th Army</div> <div>251st Rifle Division (87)</div> <div>[v]</div>
	<div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 100024, art 1035, afv 1181</div> <div>DAM: men 120, art 12, afv 45</div> <div>LOST: men 333, art 7, afv 10</div> <div>ATK: ftr 162, bmr 36, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 3, bmr 7, utl 0</div> <div>DEF: men 37396, art 395, afv 19</div> <div>DAM: men 370, art 16, afv 2</div> <div>LOST: men 541, art 10, afv 4</div> <div>DEF: ftr 180, bmr 33, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 17, bmr 1, utl 0</div>		
	<div>9th Moscow PM Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>251st Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>14th Guards Rifle Division ROUTED</div> <div>Odds 3.59 : 1</div> <div>Show DetailsExit</div>		
<div>CV: 676-&gt;1209.0Eng Val: 12</div> <div>Comm HQ: LVII Panzer Corps</div> <div>GL Otto von Knobelsdorff</div>	<div>CV: 269-&gt;336.0Fort: 2.22-&gt;0.00</div> <div>Comm HQ: 13th Army</div> <div>GL Pyotr Filatov</div>		

Having done those two attacks, I had no more mobile divisions capable of moving across the river and conduct prepared attacks, so instead I simply strengthened my bridgehead as best I could and then moved the Luftwaffe airbases back to safety (swapping the base at Rzhev with the one arriving from Pskov, so as to limit fatigue).

In front of Moscow, I have done a few attacks on the weaker Soviet units and swapped the empty terrain in order to give myself a buffer zone.

At Kaluga, having reorganized the local Luftwaffe organization according to plan, I did a few bombing attacks on the Soviet positions before attacking them with the Panzer divisions. These two attacks were a complete success in the sense that the Luftwaffe were actually able to protect the German bombers, that were then capable of inflicting at least 100 casualties (plus damaged and disrupted elements) before ground combat commenced. This area also saw Vasilevsky in command of one of the battles near Moscow. The attacks were less successful on the ground where, although victorious, the casualty exchange rate were less than favorable.

<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>XXXXI Panzer Corps 1st Panzer Division (170) 18th Panzer Division (136) 36th Motorized Division (97)     100th Flammpanzer Battalion (31)     611th Gun Battalion (0)     II/59th Howitzer Battalion (1)     601st SP Lt Flk Bn (6)</div> <div>[v]</div>	1 of 3 > 104.50 - Light Woods - Clear Turn:16 1941-10-02		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>51st Army 149th Rifle Division (54) 206th Rifle Division (56) 2nd Guards Rifle Division (76)  North Caucasus Air Command 29 MiG-3 19 I-153</div> <div>[v]</div>
	<div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 66250, art 742, afv 466 DEF: men 31539, art 311, afv 36 DAM: men 70, art 4, afv 16 DAM: men 335, art 12, afv 1 LOST: men 300, art 6, afv 4 LOST: men 544, art 8, afv 1 ATK: ftr 122, bmr 118, utl 0 DEF: ftr 180, bmr 45, utl 0 LOST: ftr 3, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 28, bmr 5, utl 0</div>		
	<div>2nd Guards Rifle Division RETREATED 206th Rifle Division RETREATED 149th Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>Odds 4.71 : 1</div> <div>Show Details Exit</div>		
<div>CV: 518-&gt;1187.9 Eng Val: 16 Comm HQ: XXXXI Panzer Corps G Georg-Hans Reinhardt</div>			<div>CV: 186-&gt;251.7 Fort: 0.02-&gt;0.00 Comm HQ: 51st Army GL Vasily Sokolovsky</div>

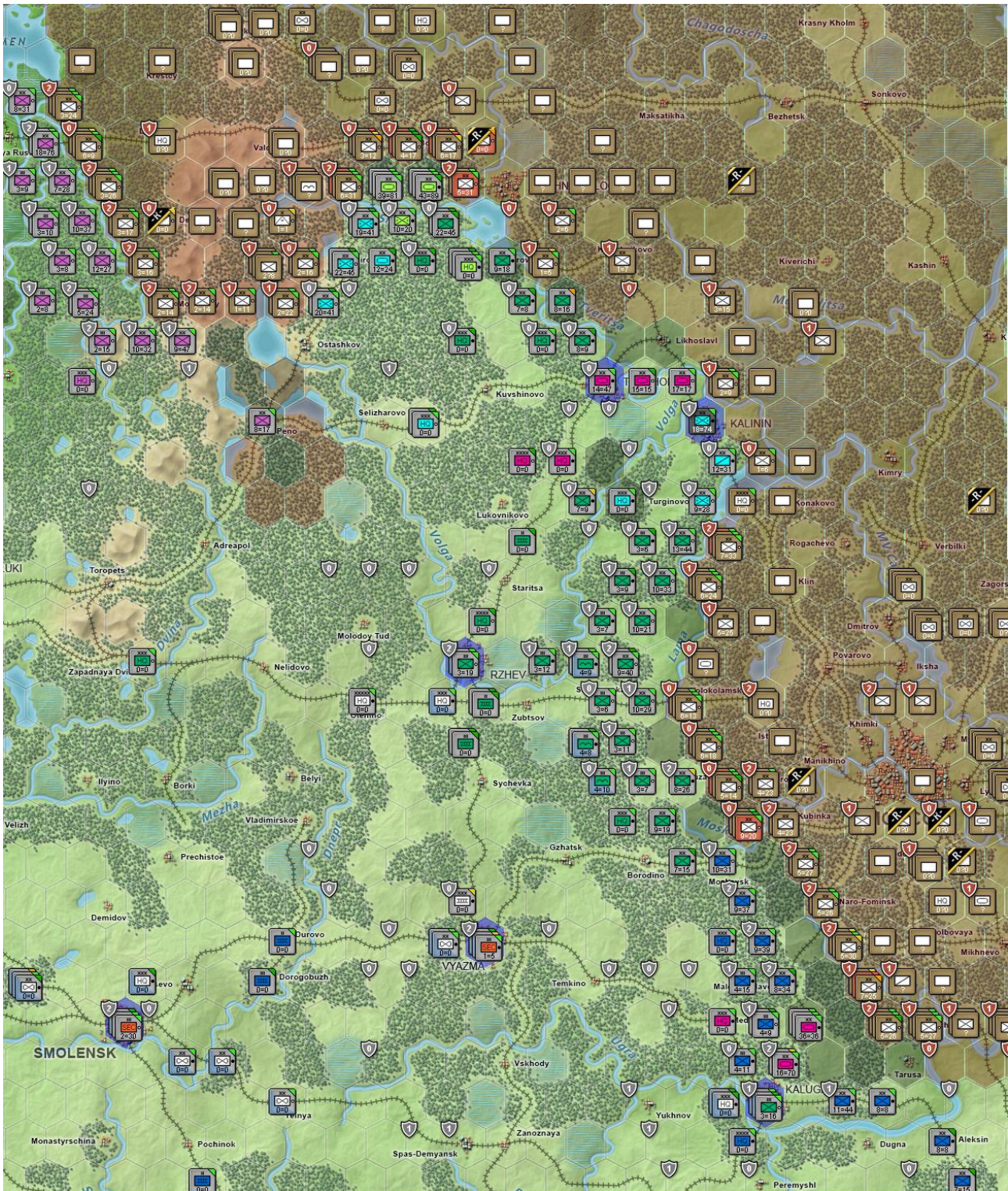
<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>XXXXI Panzer Corps 1st Panzer Division (148) 18th Panzer Division (122) 36th Motorized Division (85)     100th Flammpanzer Battalion (30)     601st SP Lt Flk Bn (6)     276th Mot. Flk Bn (1)     561st Jagdpanzer Battalion (9)</div> <div>[v]</div>		<div>1 of 3 &gt; 104,51 - Light Woods - Clear Turn:16 1941-10-02</div> <div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 66014, art 719, afv 462 DEF: men 65987, art 724, afv 50 DAM: men 239, art 31, afv 27 DAM: men 395, art 21, afv 1 LOST: men 821, art 20, afv 10 LOST: men 514, art 20, afv 3 ATK: ftr 120, bmr 67, utl 0 DEF: ftr 138, bmr 37, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 1, utl 0 LOST: ftr 25, bmr 2, utl 0</div> <div>197th Rifle Division RETREATED 217th Rifle Division ROUTED 111th Rifle Division ROUTED</div> <div>Odds 2.90 : 1</div> <div>Show Details Exit</div>		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>43rd Army -10% 53rd Rifle Division (22) R 217th Rifle Division (44)     21st Motorcycle Regiment (3)     471st Art Rgt RVGK (1)     438th Art Rgt RVGK (1)     350th BM Howitzer Regiment (1) 54th Army</div> <div>[v]</div>	
CV: 463->1001.9 Eng Val: 12 Comm HQ: XXXXI Panzer Corps G Georg-Hans Reinhardt				CV: 212->345.1 Fort: 0.18->0.00 Comm HQ: 54th Army GM Aleksandr Vasilevsky	

South of the Oka, I have pulled back from Ryazan, taken Kursk and pushed slightly forward at Lipetsk.



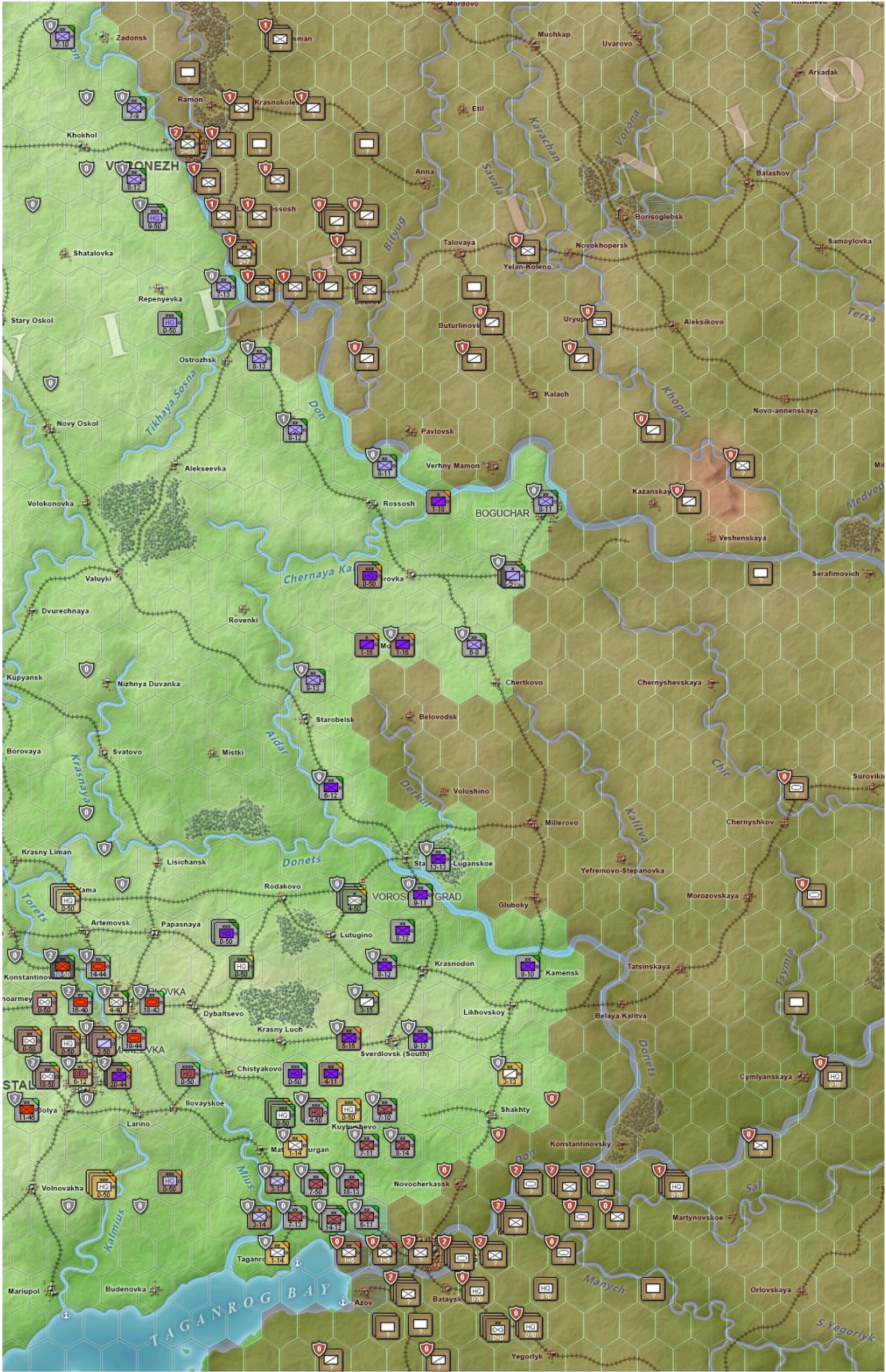
In the air, I have made sure that the fighter airfields at Rzhev, Vyazma, Kaluga and Smolensk is adjacent to a Luftwaffe HQ (in the chain of command) with an average of four Mixed Luftwaffe Flak Batallions. I am unsure of whether or not these units will be deployed this turn for protecting the airfields, and am curious to find out.

At Moscow, this has led to the following situation, as I give the turn to HardLuck.





The South





### Situational assessment

At voronezh, the Soviets continue to man their lines along the Don river, while south of the city they are continuing to pull back in front of the advancing German Infantry divisions.

At Rostov, I realize I have made another mistake in not moving a mobile unit adjacent to the city last turn, in order to make evacuation of the city industries more difficult. The mistake is modest, as I believe the Soviets have evacuated enough industries to supply the Red Army effectively, even if I took the ones in Rostov.

On Crimea, the Soviets have strengthened their defense of Kerch to include three Rifle divisions and around Sevastopol, the Soviets are also still holding on to their positions.

### Planning

On the wide Ukrainian plains, I will do very little but to swap some small Soviet towns to German control.

Outside Rostov, I will send one motorized division charging forward along the rail line crossing the Donets at Belaya Kalitva before turning it around and moving back towards the German lines. The purpose of this attack is to destroy another section of Soviet rail lines.

At Rostov itself, I will attack to secure the swamp hexes north of the Don and also make a six division infantry attack on the city itself. If this fails, I will follow up by a similar attack by two Panzer Corps. I want to take the city, partly because of its population production, and partly because it is now the only railhead allowing for any sort of serious Soviet winter advance south of the Voronezh area.

On Crimea, I will conduct a single attack outside Sevastopol, but otherwise simply begin constructing defensive positions for the winter.

Behind the front, I will move one Panzer Corps onto the rail system for relocation north. This will be followed by two HE-111 airfields also moving north, as well as a lot of the LW Mixed Flak Battalions assigned to Army Group South.

### Execution

Outside Rostov, the first attack on the swamp were conducted solely by Rumanian units. Having built up a decent CV advantage, I took the chance in an all Rumanian attack, which succeeded – barely.

1 of 1121,102 - Swamp - ClearTurn:16 1941-10-02		
<b>Axis Forces Attacking:</b> XXX Corps 8th Rum. Infantry Division (49) 14th Rum. Infantry Division (37) 5th Rum. Infantry Division (56) II/54th Artillery Battalion (0) I/77th Howitzer Battalion (0) XI Rum. Corps -16% 1st Fort RM Inf Bde (24) [v]	<b>Forces Engaged</b> ATK: men 68934, art 565, afv 0 DAM: men 55, art 6, afv 0 LOST: men 174, art 1, afv 0 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 13815, art 152, afv 9 DAM: men 711, art 7, afv 1 LOST: men 206, art 12, afv 1 DEF: ftr 56, bmr 13, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 261st Rifle Division ROUTED	<b>Soviet Forces Defending:</b> Coastal Army 261st Rifle Division (96) 6th Motorcycle Regiment (5) 611th Crps Art Rgt (2) Southern Air Command 9 MiG-3 47 I-153
CV: 192->280.7Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: XXX Corps G Hans von Salmuth	Show DetailsOdds 2.06 : 1Exit	CV: 103->135.8Fort: 0.32->0.00 Comm HQ: Coastal Army GL Nikandr Chibisov

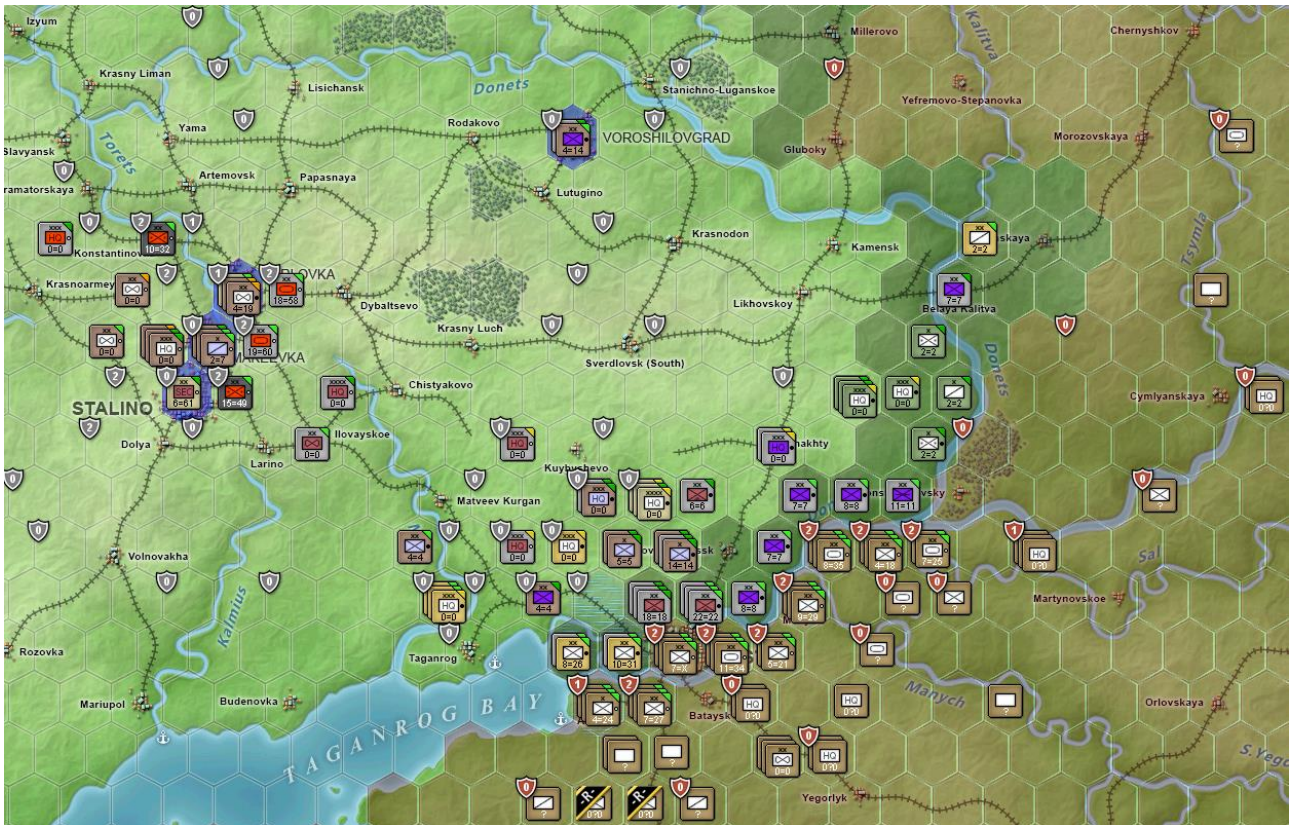
The other attack on the swamps also succeeded but the city of Rostov turned out to be defended by three Rifle divisions, so I had to postpone the attack on the city. Come next turn, I might dedicate one Panzer Corps to this attack, supported by the Infantry divisions in the area.

I have also pushed up to the Don, so as to prevent the Soviets from easy counterattacks. I certainly expect to see some attacks pushing the Germans back, but my main plan is to construct fortifications stretching northeast from Rostov in order to defend this area for a turn or two more come winter.

As I began looking at the Panzer corps I wanted to move north, I realized I could move them far quicker by simply moving them north than by using rail. I quickly moved two of the Panzer corps in this area north to the area around Bryansk, where the northern rail is now ensuring supplies and fuel.

On Crimea, I conducted one attack on the defenders of Sevastopol which failed, and otherwise began digging in for winter at Feodosiya.

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





## **Conclusion**

This turn, territorial gains have been few, and I am spending more and more time preparing for winter and less time on attacks.

In the air, I have turned off interception, interdiction and ground support during the Soviet turn, as leaving them on will simply drain away my remaining fighter strength. I have also begun concentrating my airforce in one sector (the center), as I can simply see no real use for spreading the Luftwaffe out over a wider area.

The best thing I can hope for with the Luftwaffe is to be able to fly ground support missions during both the Axis and the Soviet turns in order to limit the effectiveness of the Soviet tactical bombers. For now, no such planes are flying, and I have a feeling that the Soviets are sparing those IL-2's they have, so that they may return come the blizzard.

On a side note, doing the same turn twice has been somewhat tedious, but the results seem to duplicate themselves nicely. On one of the attacks on the Shlina river, I even saw the same Soviet Guards Rifle division rout to the same hex. It seems "luck" is not really a great factor in this game after all – should you be in doubt.