

Strategic overview

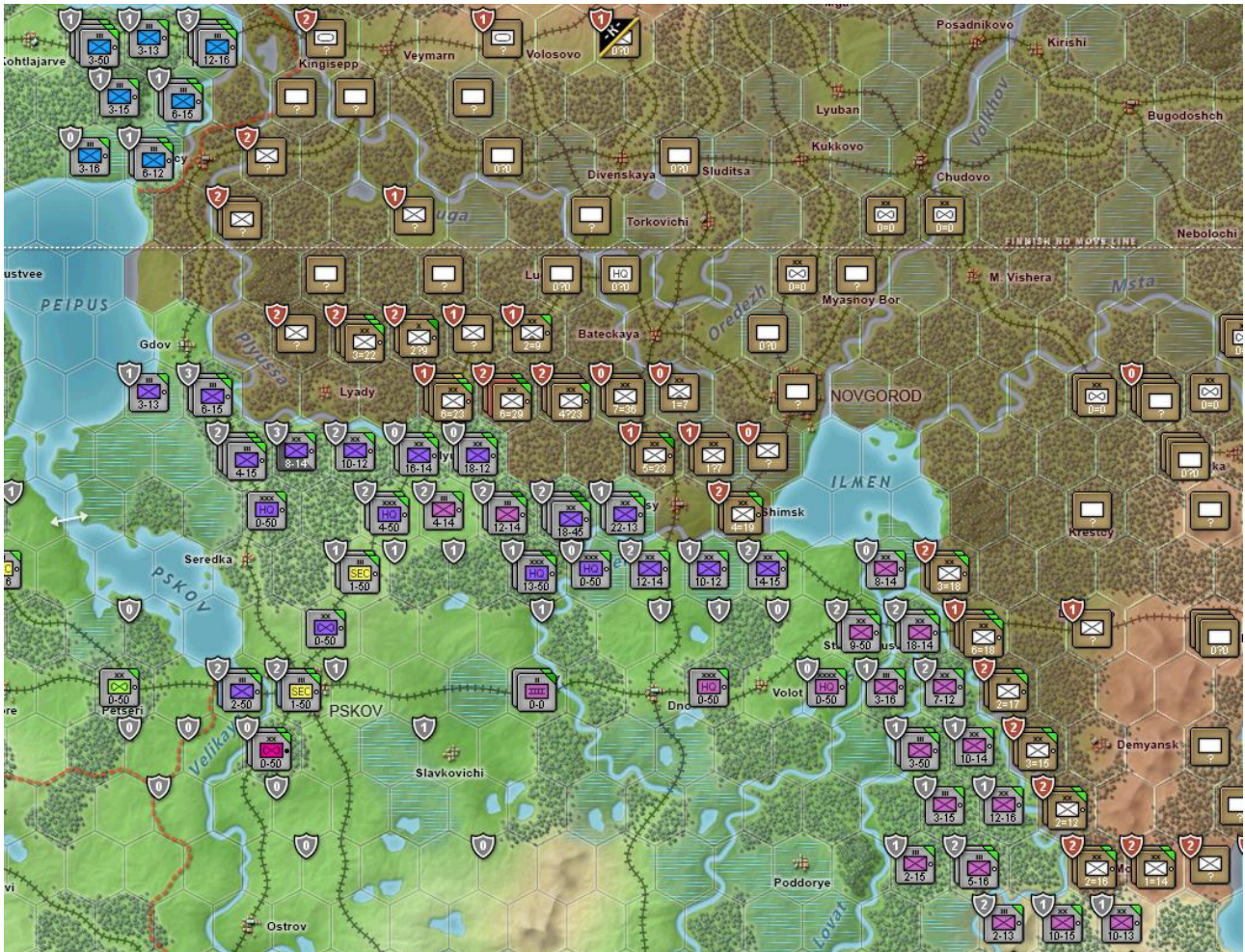
Turn 17: Strategic Considerations

During the Soviet turn, the most interesting events have occurred in the air. The Soviets have continued the bombing campaign against the Luftwaffe airbases, destroying a total of 92 aircraft including 53 fighters and fighter bombers.

These losses are not as severe as they sound, as several of them were suffered in air Groups about to be withdrawn either this turn or next turn. Last turn, I placed two such airfields in non-city terrain and on top of a Luftwaffe HQ with some flak units attached. The result was the loss of 24 fighters and fighter bombers about to withdraw for a Soviet cost of three fighters and 70 level bombers. Combined with other Soviet losses this adds up to a total of 221 Soviet level bombers lost this turn.

However, as the Soviets still have some 4.000 level bombers in their reserve pool, they can easily sustain such losses for a long time to come. On the German side, the combined losses of fighters since my last turn is about ten higher than the production in the same period. From a Luftwaffe perspective, I am glad the mud is about to arrive.

The North



Situational assessment

The Soviets have conducted a couple of counter attacks this turn, taking back a couple of forest hexes west of Plyussa. Apart from that little has occurred on the ground in this area.

In the air, the Soviets have responded to the departure of the Luftwaffe fighters with sending most of their own airforces to different areas as well-

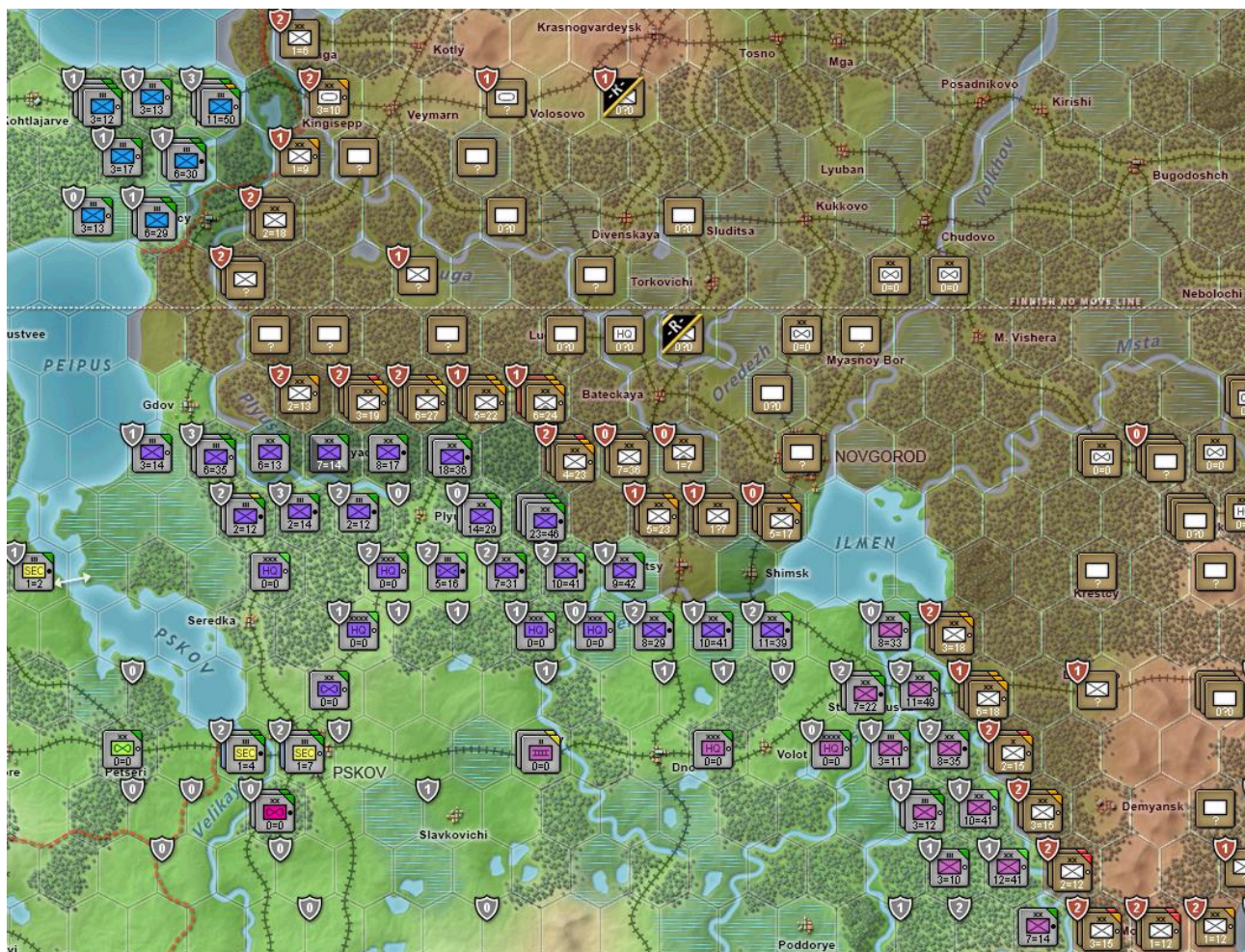
Planning

In this area, I will continue with the infantry attacks, hoping to dislodge a few Soviet rail hexes before the mud arrives.

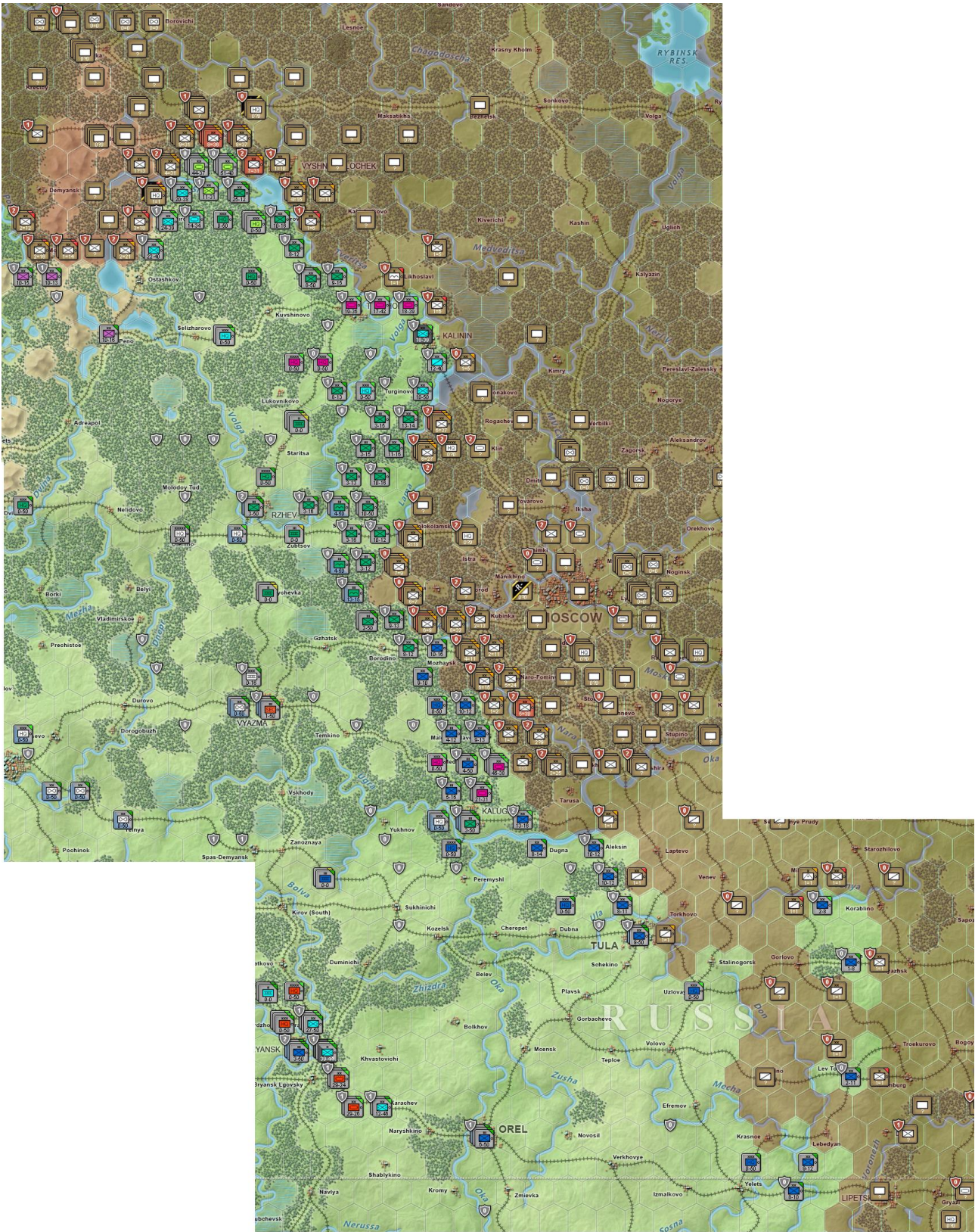
Execution

The situation this turn resembles the situation last turn quite a lot. I have managed to throw the Soviets out of three more hexes and have also left my infantry next to the Soviet lines.

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



The Center



Situational Assessment

At of Vysny Volochek, the Soviets have strengthened their positions as best they can, throwing more Guards Rifle divisions into the line against the German Panzers. The town of Bologoe is now held by three such Guards Rifle divisions, and the Soviets have also deployed no less than eight Air Groups of tactical bombers to this region. I think it is safe to say that the original Soviet plans were to save these aircraft for the coming winter, but that they think the threat in this area is important enough that they have decided to deploy after all.

Along the Tveritsa, there are few Soviet forces, and the Soviets seem deployed mainly to delay any German thrusts in the area.

In front of Moscow, the Soviets are continuing to push forward, this time displacing three of my stacks in an attempt to break my defenses prior to winter. The Soviets have also left their units straight up against the Germans, intending to make it more difficult for me to fortify my positions.

Outside Tula, the Soviets have pushed forward some ten cavalry divisions in order to encircle three of my Infantry divisions. As I have two entire Panzer Corps standing nearby, I will not find it difficult to lift the encirclement, but I will have to take care to establish a connected frontline of units to prevent further Soviet cavalry encroachments during the rasputitsa.

In the air, the Soviets have continued their bombing campaign against the Luftwaffe airfields. While their losses have been extremely high, they still have some 4,000 level bombers in reserve, and I cannot help but wonder why they haven't been doing bombing attacks around the clock for the past 10 or so turns, in order to break the Luftwaffe. That is certainly one of my preferred strategies when playing the Soviets, and also one which I think there is little defence against.

Planning

At Vysny Volochek, my first attack will obviously be directed at Bologoe. This attack will be conducted by the full six mobile divisions standing next to the city, and I will be very interested to follow the detailed attack report for various reasons. First of all, I wish to find out more about the Guards Rifle divisions capabilities and second, I want to see if the Soviet tactical bombers fly – and if they do how my own flak performs against them. As I have five flak battalions and two flak companies attached directly to the divisions, I can not really expect for much more flak to participate in any battle over the coming winter.

After the Bologoe attack, I will try to expand the bridgehead across the Shlina, in order to be better placed for further attacks during the snowy weeks.

In front of Moscow, I will attack to clear a hexrow before the main German lines once more. West of Ruza, I might even be able to push back two stacks of three Soviet divisions twice in order to encircle another stack of Soviet divisions. In order to help achieve this, I intend to support the attacks by massive air attacks by level bombers flying at night. I do not believe that my fighter wing can sustain the strain of flying the number of missions required to support the bombing attacks. In order to conduct the attacks, I will have to use more or less all available Panzers, and I will abandon Kalinin in order to free up the units needed for this attack. That will eventually cost me some 6,000 recruits for the Red Army.

At Tula, I will need to use one Motorized division to free up two of my encircled divisions. Having done so, I will pull them back towards Tula and set up my remaining infantry in a Regiment sized continuous line, in order to prevent further cavalry intrusions.

Execution

At Vysny Volochek, I began the turn by moving the Rzhev airfield closer to Bologoe, decided not to use my He-111 bombers (as they were needed elsewhere), moved the Smolensk fighter airbase to Rzhev, set ground support to “on” and proceeded to attack, expecting some 100-200 or so Luftwaffe fighters to fly, supported by Ju-88’s.

The attack proved, once again, that the sheer numbers of Soviet fighters will always beat the Luftwaffe. As the Soviets could fly some 316 fighters, these easily pushed past the Luftwaffe fighter cover and took a heavy toll on the bombers. Second, it turned out that the Soviet tactical bombers were about as dangerous to the German flak units as those flak units were to the tactical bombers – in all, the Soviet bombers took out 349 men, 16 guns and two AFV before the fight even started. The German flak units were unable to take out more than seven tactical bombers. I am getting increasingly convinced, that there is simply no way the Luftwaffe can compete under the current ruleset.

On the ground, the Soviets escaped an attack by 1.200 Panzers with no more than 500 men and two AFV lost. That is quite honestly another disappointment to me.

<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>XXXXIX Panzer Corps -6%</div> <div>7th Panzer Division (142)</div> <div>12th Panzer Division (126)</div> <div>3rd Motorized Division (96)</div> <div>51st Nebelwerfer Regiment (3)</div> <div>733rd Howitzer Battalion (0)</div> <div>620th Gun Battalion (0)</div> <div>280th Mot. Flk Bn (1)</div> <div>[v]</div>	<div>1 of 193,29 - Light Woods(Bologoe) - ClearTurn: 17 1941-10-09</div> <div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 101454, art 1112, afv 1200</div> <div>DAM: men 250, art 24, afv 45</div> <div>LOST: men 718, art 26, afv 13</div> <div>ATK: ftr 150, bmr 84, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 6, bmr 21, utl 0</div> <div>DEF: men 42923, art 463, afv 43</div> <div>DAM: men 222, art 21, afv 2</div> <div>LOST: men 525, art 13, afv 2</div> <div>DEF: ftr 316, bmr 62, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 25, bmr 7, utl 0</div> <div>3rd Guards Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>7th Guards Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>13th Guards Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>Show DetailsOdds 3.40 : 1Exit</div>			<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>8th Army</div> <div>13th Guards Rifle Division (120)</div> <div>7th Guards Rifle Division (112)</div> <div>11th Motorcycle Regiment (4)</div> <div>1st Gds Hvy Gun Rgt (2)</div> <div>403rd BM Howitzer Regiment (2)</div> <div>40th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0)</div> <div>228th Heavy Mortar Battalion (0)</div> <div>[v]</div>
	<div>CV: 896->1879.8Eng Val: 16</div> <div>Comm HQ: LVII Panzer Corps</div> <div>GL Otto von Knobelsdorff</div>			
<div>CV: 334->551.6Fort: 1.58->0.00</div> <div>Comm HQ: 8th Army</div> <div>GM Fyodor Tolbukhin</div>				

Deciding there was no point in simply throwing away level bombers for nothing, I turned ground support off and continued to do another few attacks in the Bologoe region. These attacks confirmed the impression from the first attack – the Soviet tactical bombers are more dangerous to the German flak units than those flak units are to the Soviet tactical bombers.

In front of Moscow, I initiated the action by setting all He-111 bombers to fly night and commenced to bomb the stacks I wished to displace with all the bombers available. After that I moved a Stuka airfield close to the proposed attack site and also closed in with the fighter airfield in Vyazma. Setting ground support to 100 and ground support escort to 200, I then attacked the northern Soviet stack showing 7=8 CV with three infantry divisions of my own totaling 28 CV.

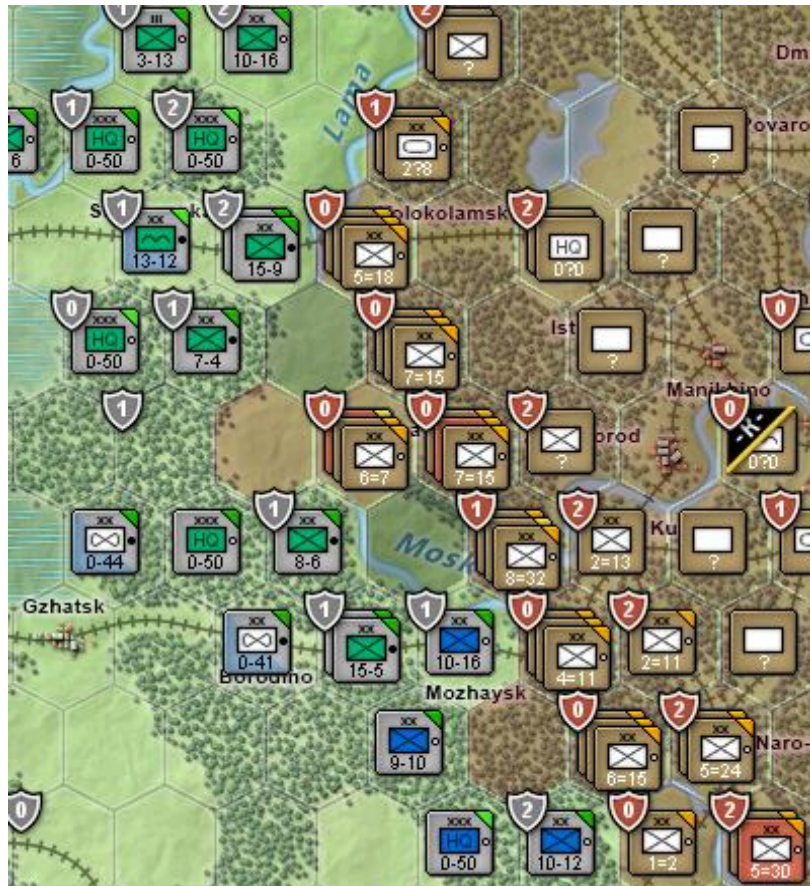
This attack saw Zhukov in command of the defending forces, and a heavy loss of German Landser’s. The result was the withdrawal of the Soviet forces to the nearby woods, where they set up with a CV of 7=15. The attack also saw some more I-153BS flying in defense of the Soviet forces. Surprisingly, very few aircraft flew on either side, which I can not explain.

<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>XXXXII Corps 102nd Infantry Division (89) 129th Infantry Division (94) 106th Infantry Division (99) 646th Howitzer Battalion (1) 808th Howitzer Battalion (1) I/38th LW Mix Flk Bn (3) 89th LW SP Lt Flk Bn (2)</div> <div>[v]</div>		<div>1 of 3 > 100,44 - Clear - Clear Turn: 17 1941-10-09</div> <div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 53004, art 667, afv 10 DAM: men 163, art 39, afv 1 LOST: men 735, art 22, afv 0 ATK: ftr 41, bmr 3, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>70th Rifle Division RETREATED 175th Rifle Division RETREATED 137th Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>Odds 4.49 : 1</div> <div>Show Details</div> <div>Exit</div>		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>33rd Army 51st Tank Division (32) R 137th Rifle Division (31) 70th Rifle Division (25) 399th Howitzer Regiment (1) 458th Art Rgt RVGK (2) 460th Art Rgt RVGK (2) 269th Art Rgt RVGK (2)</div> <div>[v]</div> <div>CV: 129->181.3 Fort: 0.06->0.00 Comm HQ: 33rd Army GA Georgy Zhukov</div>	
<div>CV: 289->814.5 Eng Val: 6 Comm HQ: XXXXII Corps GL Hans-Jurgen von Arnim</div>					

The second attack of the area was then done against another stack of three Rifle divisions with 7=8 CV. This attack was also conducted by three German Infantry divisions under the same command. This time totaling 25 CV. This time the Luftwaffe flew in strength, while the Soviets still sent only light forces into the air. Amazingly, Soviet air losses were extremely light considering they were up against a massive superiority. Once again, the Soviets pulled back into the woods, and set up with a 7=15 CV stack.

<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>XXVII Corps 161st Infantry Division (38) 6th Infantry Division (40) 250th 'Blue' Inf Div (49) 607th SP Lt Flk Bn (3)</div> <div>VIII Fliegerkorps 103 Bf 109F-2</div> <div>[v]</div>		<div>1 of 3 > 101,46 - Clear - Clear Turn: 17 1941-10-09</div> <div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 49709, art 583, afv 35 DAM: men 70, art 7, afv 0 LOST: men 254, art 5, afv 2 ATK: ftr 171, bmr 45, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>DEF: men 37291, art 419, afv 33 DAM: men 99, art 11, afv 1 LOST: men 197, art 4, afv 0 DEF: ftr 20, bmr 4, utl 0 LOST: ftr 7, bmr 4, utl 0</div> <div>181st Rifle Division RETREATED 11th Guards Rifle Division RETREATED 20th Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>Odds 2.46 : 1</div> <div>Show Details Exit</div>		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>33rd Army -10% 20th Rifle Division (25) 399th Howitzer Regiment (1) 458th Art Rgt RVGK (1) 587th Art Rgt RVGK (1) 29th Army 11th Guards Rifle Division (33) STAVKA -35%</div> <div>[v]</div> <div>CV: 78->114.8 Fort: 0.14->0.00 Comm HQ: 29th Army GL Ivan Maslennikov</div>	
<div>CV: 130->283.3 Eng Val: 2 Comm HQ: XXVII Corps GL Walther Graessner</div>					

The local situation looked like this at this stage of the fighting around Ruza.



Conducting another series of night time bombing attacks on the two stacks I had just beaten. Out of pure interest, I counted the number of “disruption” results in the first of those attacks, and reached a total of 246.

After the bombing attacks, I proceeded to attack the two stacks with Panzer reinforcements, resulting in another two victories.

1 of 3 > 101.45 - Light Woods(Ruza) - Clear Turn: 17 1941-10-09		
Axis Forces Attacking:	Forces Engaged	Soviet Forces Defending:
XXXXI Panzer Corps 18th Panzer Division (116) 36th Motorized Division (84) 100th Flammpanzer Battalion (28) 615th Howitzer Battalion (1) 276th Mot. Flk Bn (1) 561st Jagdpanzer Battalion (7) 5/31st SP Flak Company (0)	<div> ATK: men 49325, art 597, afv 227 DAM: men 75, art 18, afv 20 LOST: men 218, art 4, afv 12 ATK: ftr 98, bmr 22, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 </div> <div> DEF: men 38580, art 467, afv 33 DAM: men 257, art 11, afv 3 LOST: men 209, art 12, afv 2 DEF: ftr 29, bmr 4, utl 0 LOST: ftr 9, bmr 2, utl 0 </div>	33rd Army -10% 20th Rifle Division (44) 458th Art Rgt RVGK (1) 269th Art Rgt RVGK (1) 101st AT Artillery Regiment (0) 29th Army 11th Guards Rifle Division (57) 637th Art Rgt RVGK (1)
CV: 302->660.6 Eng Val: 8 Comm HQ: XXXXI Panzer Corps G Georg-Hans Reinhardt	<div>181st Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>11th Guards Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>20th Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>Odds 3.47 : 1</div> <div>Show Details</div> <div>Exit</div>	CV: 132->190.0 Fort: 0.08->0.00 Comm HQ: 29th Army GL Ivan Maslennikov

<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>LVI Panzer Corps</div> <div>6th Panzer Division (130)</div> <div>II/61st Artillery Battalion (1)</div> <div>92nd LW SP Lt Flk Bn (6)</div> <div>603rd SP Lt Flk Bn (6)</div> <div>300th FKL Pz Pnr Bn (16)</div> <div>VI Corps -36%</div> <div>26th Infantry Division (61)</div> <div>[v]</div>	<div>1 of 4 > 101,44 - Light Woods - Clear Turn:17 1941-10-09</div> <div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 50075, art 532, afv 290</div> <div>DEF: men 42890, art 482, afv 29</div> <div>DAM: men 40, art 7, afv 12</div> <div>DAM: men 240, art 10, afv 0</div> <div>LOST: men 267, art 9, afv 9</div> <div>LOST: men 274, art 15, afv 0</div> <div>ATK: ftr 31, bmr 6, utl 0</div> <div>DEF: ftr 77, bmr 11, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>70th Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>175th Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>137th Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>Odds 3.52 : 1</div> <div>Show Details</div> <div>Exit</div>		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>33rd Army</div> <div>137th Rifle Division (58)</div> <div>70th Rifle Division (47)</div> <div>399th Howitzer Regiment (1)</div> <div>460th Art Rgt RVGK (2)</div> <div>101st AT Artillery Regiment (0)</div> <div>28th Sapper Regiment (3)</div> <div>30th Army -10%</div> <div>[v]</div>
	<div>CV: 303->819.1 Eng Val: 8</div> <div>Comm HQ: LVI Panzer Corps</div> <div>G Erich von Manstein</div>		<div>CV: 163->232.3 Fort: 0.16->0.00</div> <div>Comm HQ: 33rd Army</div> <div>GA Georgy Zhukov</div>

I finally moved to mobile divisions into each of the two clear light forest hexes, thus encircling a stack of three Soviet Rifle divisions, including one Guards Rifle division. The stack values I defend with come the Soviet turn are 30=61 and 26=53 in the two front hexes where the Soviets can attack from multiple locations and 30=30 and 33=33 in the flank hexes.

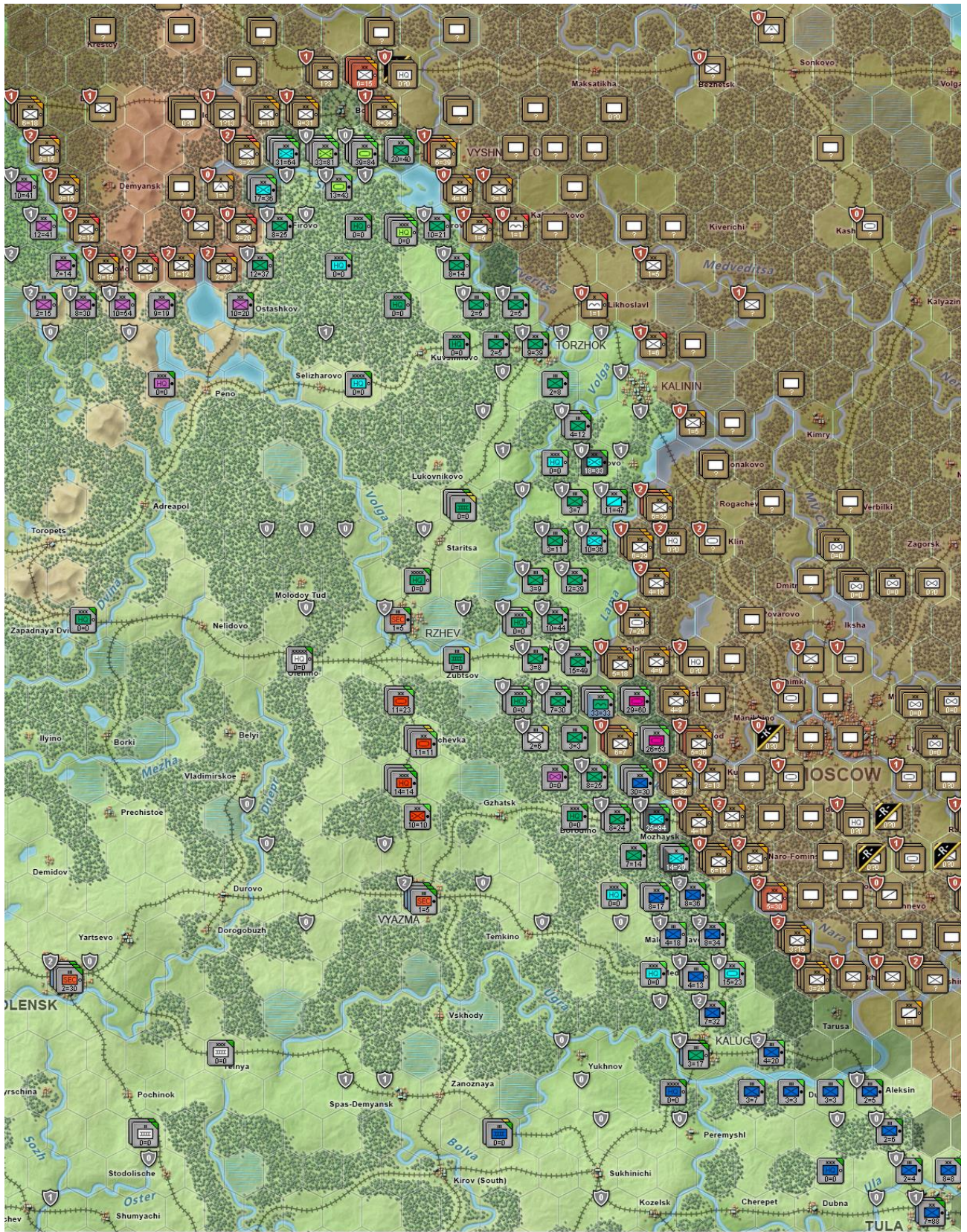
As my next turn will be mud, I think the encirclement of those units will last for a while.

Continuing with the attacks at Kaluga it soon became very clear that the Luftwaffe Ju87's are a lot less efficient than the Soviet IL-2' as can be seen by the combat report below, where 60 Stuka basically failed to destroy any Soviets – even in unfortified terrain. As the Stulas have morale around the mid 80's and fatigue below 10, I fail to see the reason for this.

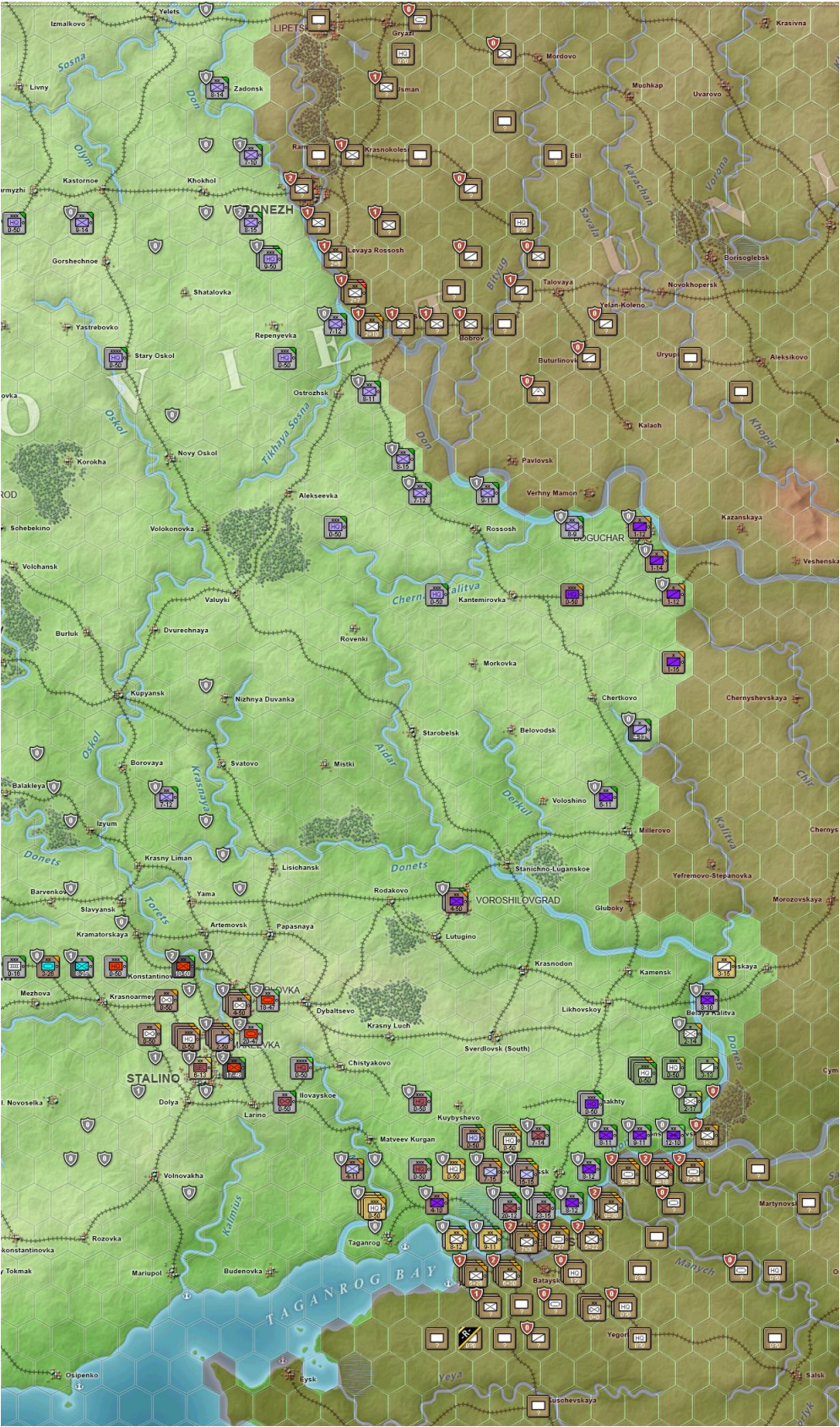
<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>II Fliegerkorps</div> <div>92 Bf 109F-2</div> <div>35 Bf 109F-4</div> <div>60 Ju 87B</div> <div>9 -> 37mm Anti-aircraft Gun</div> <div>CV: 98->244.9 Eng Val: 2</div> <div>Comm HQ: XXXIII Corps</div> <div>GO Gotthard Heinrici</div>	1 of 1104,50 - Light Woods - ClearTurn:17 1941-10-09		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>43rd Army</div> <div>294th Rifle Division (38)</div> <div>350th BM Howitzer Regiment (2)</div> <div>Bryansk Air Command</div> <div>9 I-16 Type 24</div> <div>9 I-16 Type 29</div> <div>4 DB-3B</div> <div>CV: 40->48.9 Fort: 0.06->0.00</div> <div>Comm HQ: 43rd Army</div> <div>GL Pavel Kurochkin</div>
	<div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 17766, art 213, afv 21</div> <div>DAM: men 28, art 2, afv 0</div> <div>LOST: men 57, art 1, afv 0</div> <div>ATK: ftr 163, bmr 60, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>DEF: men 12770, art 128, afv 1</div> <div>DAM: men 55, art 7, afv 0</div> <div>LOST: men 98, art 5, afv 0</div> <div>DEF: ftr 18, bmr 4, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 3, bmr 4, utl 0</div>		
	<div>294th Rifle Division RETREATED</div> <div>Odds 5.00 : 1</div> <div>Show DetailsExit</div>		

East of Tula, I deployed a Motorized division to break my encircled Infantry out of their “kessel”, and then deployed the units to present as much of a continuous front as possible. The thought is to prevent Soviet cavalry from penetrating the front prior to the muddy season.

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



The South



Situational assessment

In the south, very little has been happening. The Soviets still stand strong on the Don, while from the Donets northwards, very little is happening.

Planning

In the north, I plan to split my units into a series of regiments in order to present a front to the soviets that they may not “slip” past during the mud. I will do this now, even though there is a full turn before the mud for the Soviets. If the Soviets decide to attack, they should have to few MP available to exploit any breakthroughs in the German lines.

At Rostov, I plan to try to take the city by a massive push of all available Panzers backed by all available German infantry. The reason for this is that the city is the sole remaining rail connection across the Don still working and is essential for the Soviets in order to make any progress here come winter. The Soviet stack defending the city is 8=116, while I am able to bring 94 CV into the attack with another five or so infantry divisions in reserve.

Execution

The initial attack on Rostov went as can be seen below, reducing the Soviet defensive CV to 7=85.

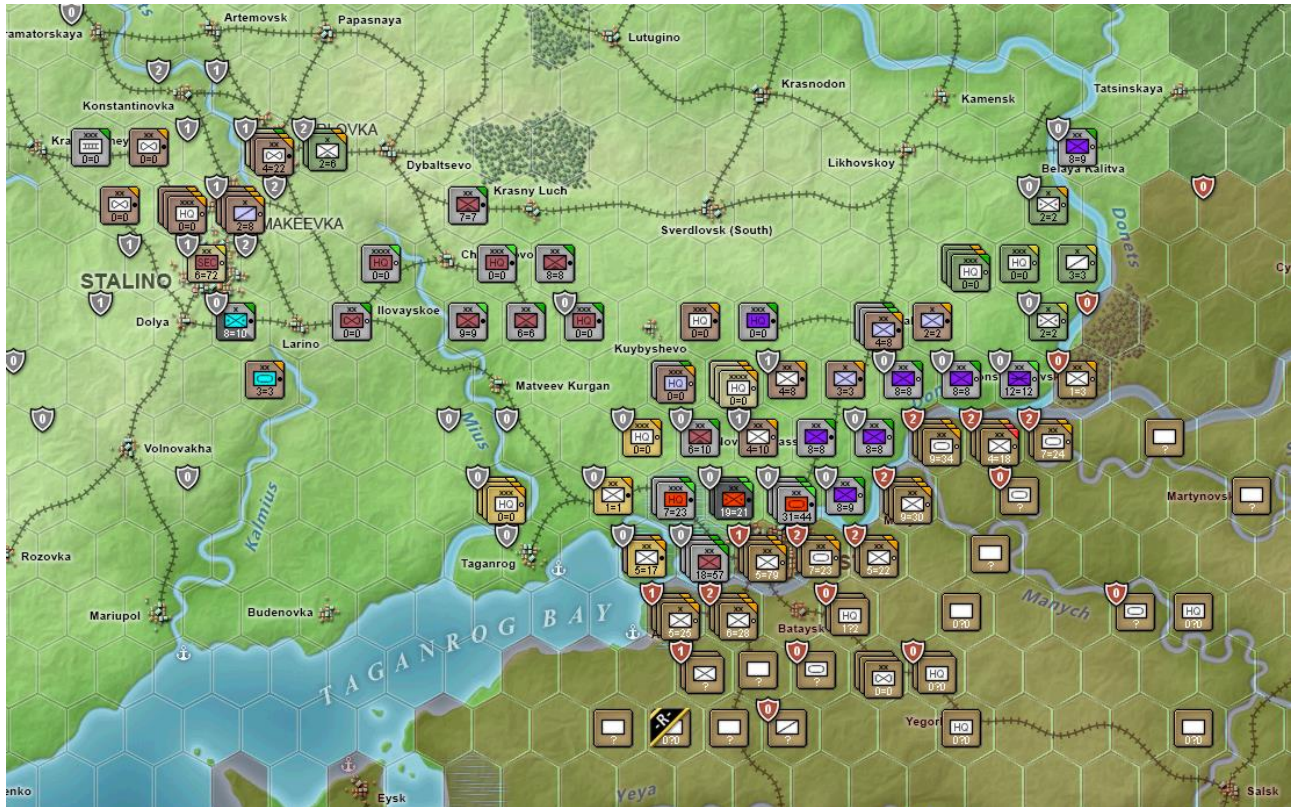
<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>XIV Panzer Corps</div> <div>9th Panzer Division (171)</div> <div>11th Panzer Division (173)</div> <div>L.A.H. SS Mot. Div (-) (124)</div> <div>Wiking SS Motorized Division (218)</div> <div>281st Mot. Flk Bn (1)</div> <div>670th Jagdpanzer Battalion (6)</div> <div>60th Pioneer Battalion (13)</div> <div>[v]</div>	<div>1 of 3 > 123,102 - Urban(Rostov) - Clear Turn: 17 1941-10-09</div> <div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 131787, art 1458, afv 525</div> <div>DEF: men 43911, art 490, afv 14</div> <div>DAM: men 125, art 6, afv 28</div> <div>DAM: men 117, art 6, afv 0</div> <div>LOST: men 415, art 10, afv 3</div> <div>LOST: men 322, art 2, afv 0</div> <div>ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>DEF: ftr 9, bmr 3, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 0, bmr 1, utl 0</div>		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>38th Army</div> <div>134th Rifle Division (719)</div> <div>150th Rifle Division (645)</div> <div>253rd Rifle Division (467)</div> <div>301st Howitzer Regiment (22)</div> <div>394th Crps Art Rgt (24)</div> <div>268th Art Rgt RVGK (28)</div> <div>526th BM Howitzer Regiment (29)</div> <div>[v]</div>
	<div>Defending Forces HELD</div>		
	<div>CV: 1237->1903.8 Eng Val: 26</div> <div>Comm HQ: XIV Panzer Corps</div> <div>GL Karl Strecker</div> <div>Show Details</div> <div>Odds 1.14 : 1</div> <div>Exit</div>		
<div>CV: 1237->1903.8 Eng Val: 26</div> <div>Comm HQ: XIV Panzer Corps</div> <div>GL Karl Strecker</div>		<div>CV: 2152->1665.7 Fort: 2.46->2.14</div> <div>Comm HQ: 38th Army</div> <div>GL Andrei Eremenko</div>	

Looking at my own units, I was able to do a second attack with a total of 74 CV, which went as follows

<div>Axis Forces Attacking:</div> <div>XIV Panzer Corps</div> <div>9th Panzer Division (146)</div> <div>11th Panzer Division (154)</div> <div>L.A.H. SS Mot. Div (-) (107)</div> <div>Wiking SS Motorized Division (185)</div> <div>281st Mot. Flk Bn (1)</div> <div>670th Jagdpanzer Battalion (5)</div> <div>60th Pioneer Battalion (12)</div> <div>[v]</div>	<div>< 2 of 4 > 123,102 - Urban(Rostov) - Clear Turn:17 1941-10-09</div> <div>Forces Engaged</div> <div>ATK: men 102389, art 1170, afv 512</div> <div>DEF: men 40586, art 458, afv 14</div> <div>DAM: men 93, art 8, afv 19</div> <div>DAM: men 120, art 7, afv 0</div> <div>LOST: men 387, art 2, afv 4</div> <div>LOST: men 480, art 3, afv 0</div> <div>ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>DEF: ftr 45, bmr 9, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0</div> <div>LOST: ftr 1, bmr 1, utl 0</div>		<div>Soviet Forces Defending:</div> <div>38th Army</div> <div>134th Rifle Division (586)</div> <div>150th Rifle Division (527)</div> <div>253rd Rifle Division (399)</div> <div>394th Crps Art Rgt (24)</div> <div>268th Art Rgt RVGK (26)</div> <div>526th BM Howitzer Regiment (27)</div> <div>447th Art Rgt RVGK (23)</div> <div>[v]</div>
	<div>Defending Forces HELD</div>		
	<div>CV: 916->1523.5 Eng Val: 18</div> <div>Comm HQ: XIV Panzer Corps</div> <div>GL Karl Strecker</div> <div>Show Details</div>	<div>Odds 1.05 : 1</div> <div>Exit</div>	<div>CV: 1679->1440.2 Fort: 2.14->1.92</div> <div>Comm HQ: 38th Army</div> <div>GL Andrei Eremenko</div>

Once again, I find that there is something “off” in the Soviet ability to resist massive German attacks in the fall of 1941. The mere fact that an attack by 130.000 men, 1400 guns and 500 AFV can result in a mere 322 Soviet casualties is just plain wrong in my book. Copuled with the results HardLuck has seen when attacking lone German regiments, I am beginning to think there is something wrong with the combat mechanism in the current build.

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



Conclusion

As this has been the last turn before the mud, the final German positions are the furthest advance I will get in 1941, barring a few hexes that I might take during the snow and before the blizzard.

I must admit to some disappointment in the way that massive German attacks have repeatedly failed to make progress on Soviet positions (attacking with nine divisions including four mobile divisions against a stack of three, should lead to a lot more than a few hundred Soviet dead in my book).

I am convinced the war is certainly not going my way, but for now I am still very far east in several locations.