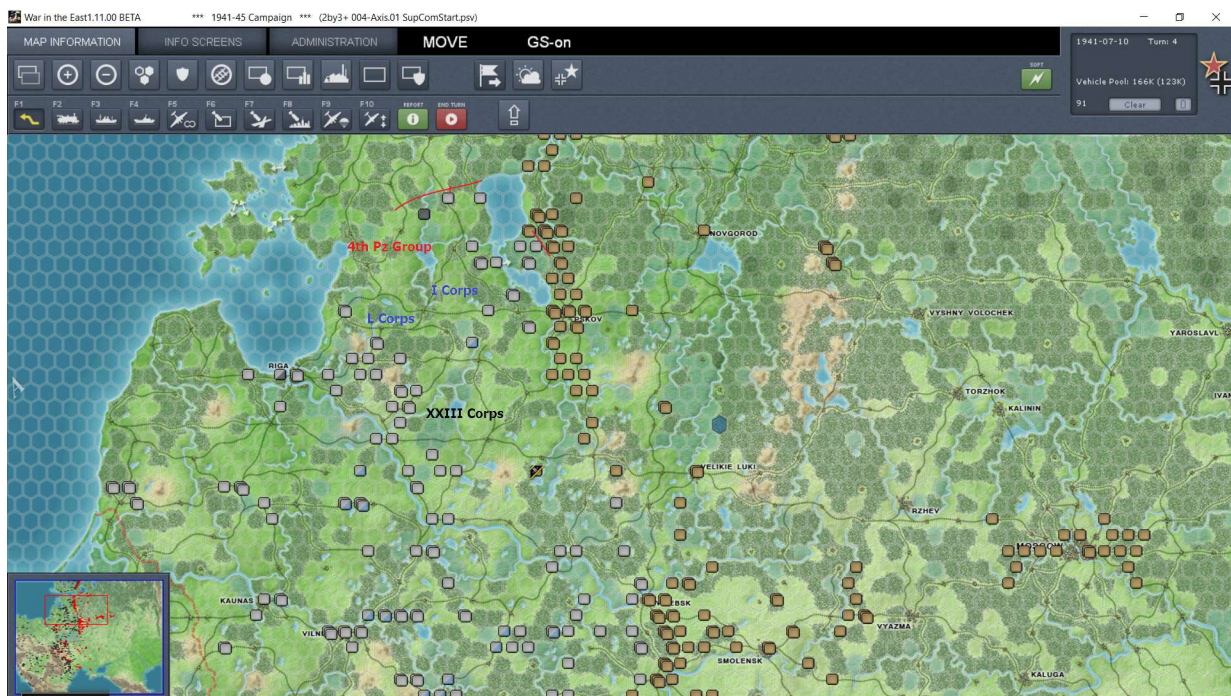


Situation

The map below provides the bigger picture of the opening of turn 4. On the southern end of the AGN flank AGC is advancing on Smolensk and Velikie Lukie with the plan to take Moscow. AGN is tasked to capture Leningrad.

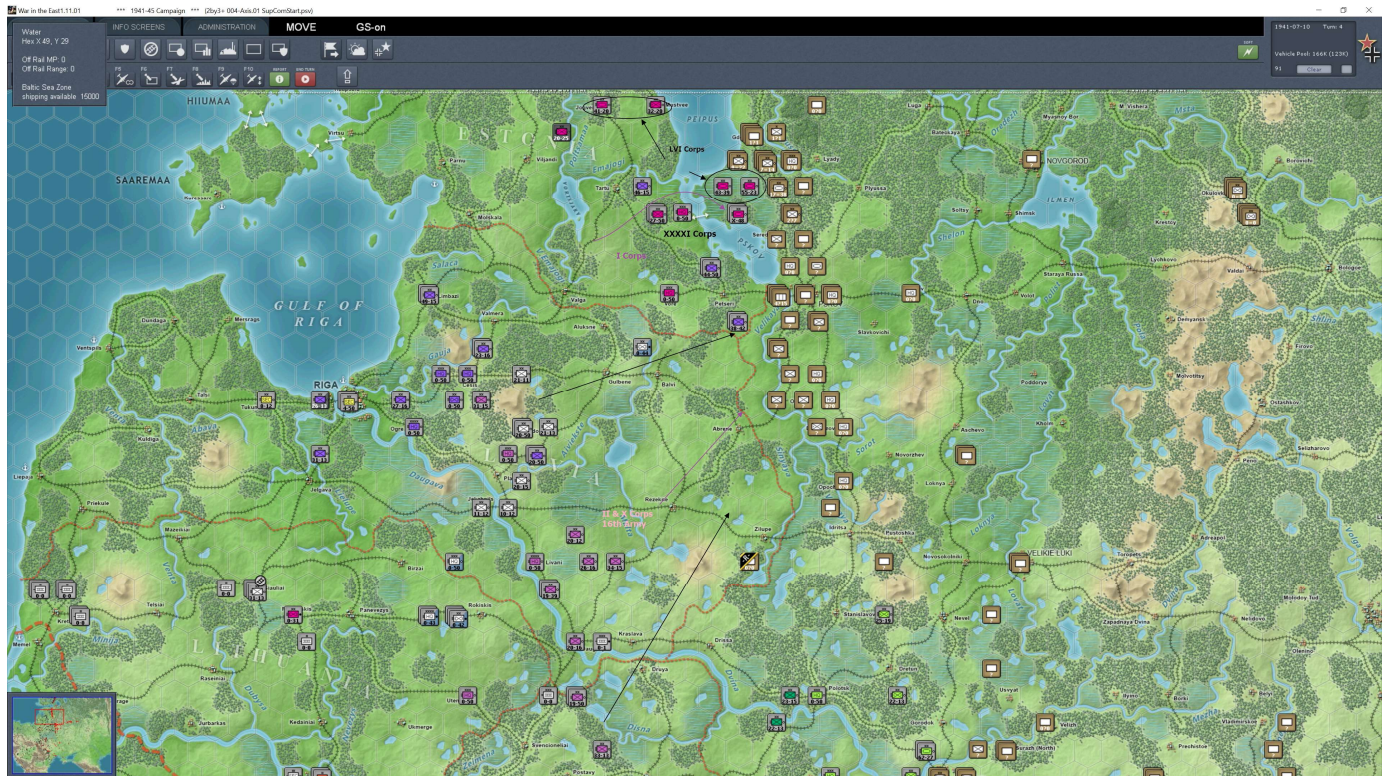
The Sinyaya, and Velikayya rivers offer a natural barrier to fortify while delaying German armor until the Infantry catch up. Originally the AGN North advance was to capture Pskov, a critical rail junction using I Corps from 18th Army. XXXI and LVI Pz Corps planned crossing south of Pskov to sweep toward Porkov and compromise the defensive position. Anticipating that avenue of assault LVI Corps on turn 1 was butted up against Daugavpils.

North of Lake Pskov is a major river crossing that was unintentionally left unguarded. The bridgehead is 3 hexes deep with swamp and difficult to keep supplied. With this LVI Corps swung North as did I Corps. To the south, the 16th Army protected the left flank of the 3rd Pz group from AGC. Leaving the situation below.

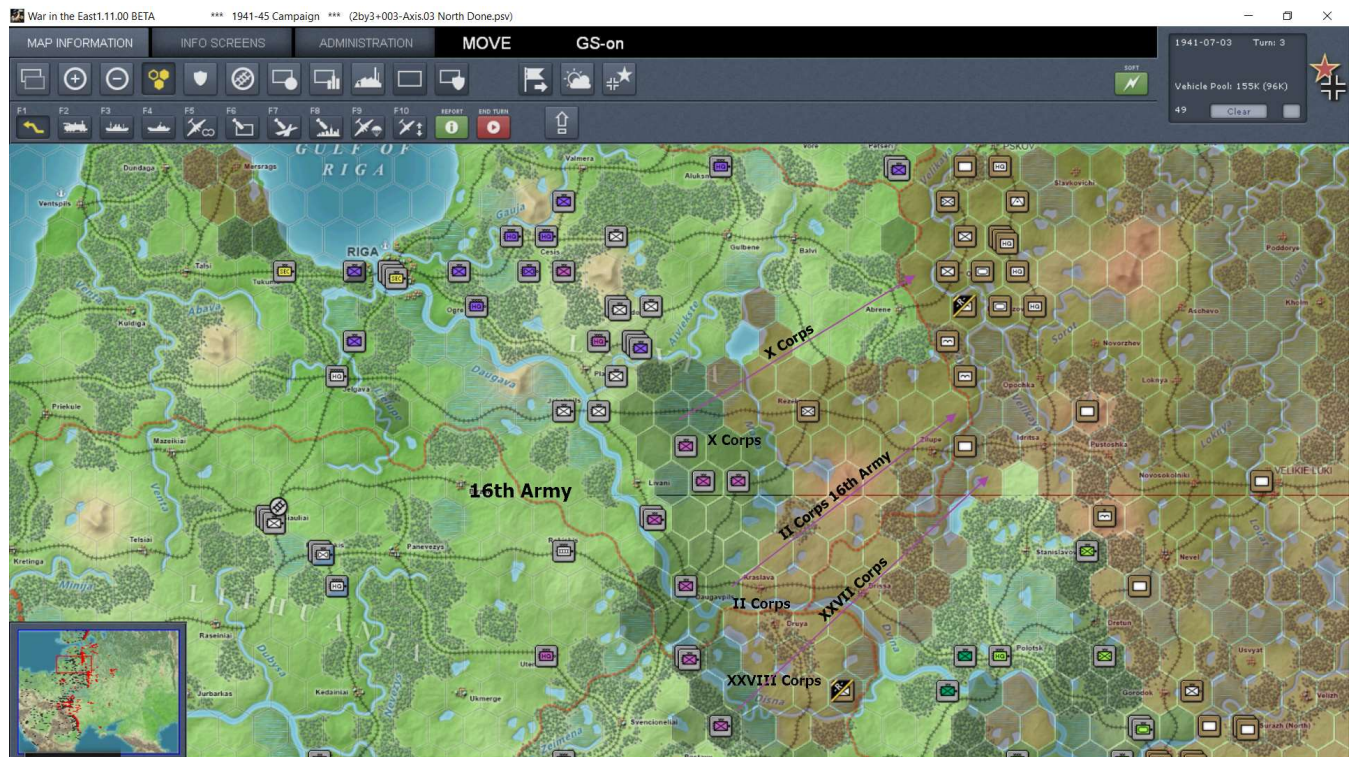


The map below shows the situation in more detail the beginning of turn 4. LVI Pz XXX has now completed a turn due north with the plan to cross the bridgehead at Lake Pskov. A look around Lake Pskov shows the Soviets have build up a reception committee for the 4th Pz Group. The swamp hexes have greatly hindered progress. We initially crossed the bridgehead turn #2 with one panzer division from XXXI Pz Corps, and now its turn 4. We are still establishing a bridgehead.

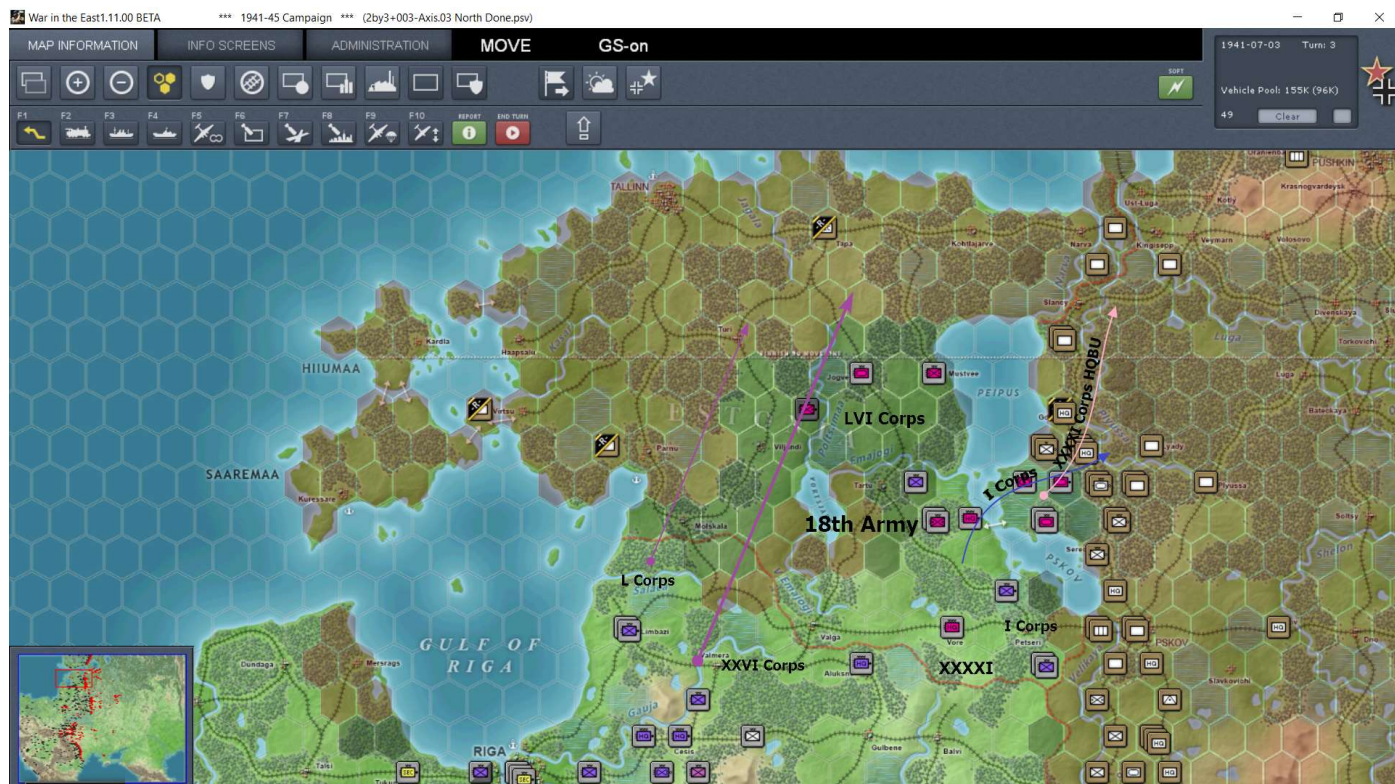
On the very northern end L Corps will head north and take Tallinn along with threaten the Narva River. This is likely the crossing point to begin the clearance of the Luga River. The rest of 18th Army including I Corps heads for the Pskov bridgehead. The details of 16th Army become quite apparent. They are a long way from their new objective – Pskov.



The map below shows in detail the untangling of 16th Army and the planned advance along a front of hexes. Originally 16 Army was going to simply act as an anvil behind the advance of 18th Army with I Corps and 4 pz Corps acting as the spearhead to take Pskov by Force. Now the 16th Army is involved directly with the capture of Pskov. X Corps is responsible to present a front on Pskov and keep the Soviets honest in their defense. My thought is with the north of Pskov compromised --- Pskov will be indefensible after turn 5, and taken by maneuver rather than blood.

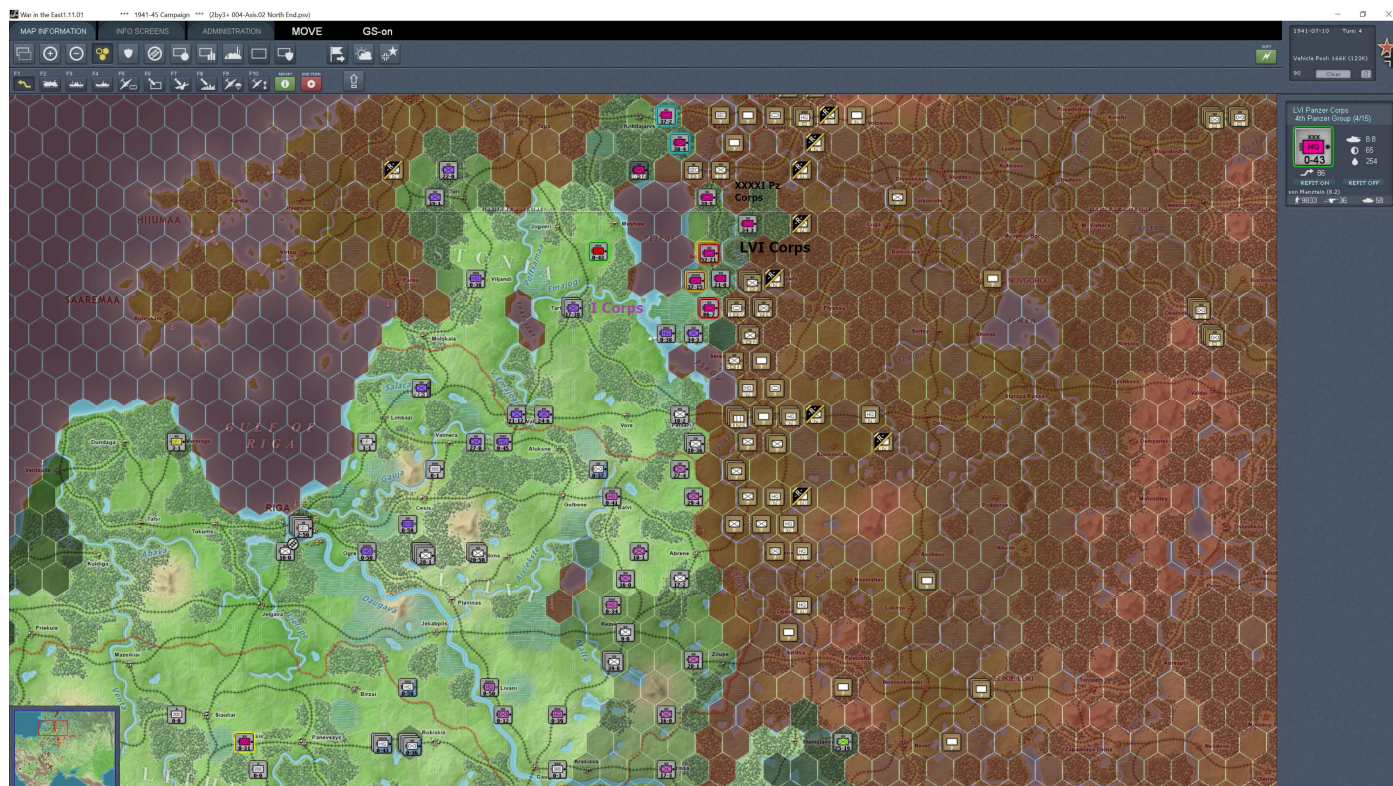


The map below shows that last turn XXXXI took a HQBU and plans to drive to the Narva. I Corps are to take the swamp hexes and secure the bridgehead. L Corps and XXVI Corps move North with a plan to cross the Narva Turn 5. XXXXI Corps will be on the East bank making the Narva a very difficult defensive position. The next line will be the Luga.



Execution:

The below map shows that even with a HQBU XXXXI had a tough go rooting out the Soviet infantry dug in swamp hexes. The goal was to get to the base of the Narva and that goal was accomplished. I Corps filled in all swamp hexes and the Bridgehead is secure. However, LVI Corps is split on both sides of Lake Pskov and a look shows the units isolated from their HQ due to the extra MP required from the swamp. Very likely LVI Corps will need a HQBU to be even remotely effective. Turn 5 will likely be a turn to consolidate gains and get ready to cross the Narva by L Corps.



Epilogue:

This turn was definitely a lesson in the use of SU. I attached a 150mm Infantry gun company to one of my Pz XX for the purpose of moving the infantry. I am not sure SP Mixed artillery or something more powerful for that slot might not have been a better choice. I have put 20mm SP flak in all my Pz XX and Jgd pz I BN in the motorized divisions. These SU's although use ammo and I am in a situation close to a rail head but 3 hexes deep across a swamp. "Lorries" will be used this logistics phase I am certain.

Finally, it is very clear at this point that units from other fronts have been shipped to this front. I am counting multiple armored units, with the 1st and 3rd armored divisions, with the 163rd motorized division for sure, and they all have good combat values. Given this situation, caution is the word for the day. AGN must not leave units out there for a counterattack. The Plyussa River faces the Eastern front for the now depleted and supply hungry LVI Corps. Two good Pz XX butt the Narva to the South and to the West banks.