

Turn 29, Strategic overview

Having reached January 1942, I start this report by looking a little at the production side of things, mainly with regards to the Luftwaffe. The first thing I notice is that the Bf109E-4B Fighter bomber is now upgrading remaining aircraft to the Bf109E-7/U1 Dive bomber with 13 conversions made this turn. That surprises me, as the upgrade path for the aircraft is listed as the FW190A-4 fighter bomber. However, as the Bf109E-7/U1 Dive Bomber is actually a better dogfighter than the Bf109E-4B, I am quite content. Due to the lack of production, I intend to use the aircraft type with my two Staffels from Spain and Croatia, and I change the aircraft type on the first air group this turn in order to ensure continued conversion (I will probably have to convert again soon).

Second, the Hs129B is now entering production. This is an interesting Dive Bomber, with which I have no experience at all. I look forward to deploying it in the anti tank role, and seeing if its 30mm Cannon is effective against the soviet tanks of 1942. Production is low, with only six produced pr turn and only 3.6 actually going to the eastern front, so I expect I will not be able to fly these aircraft effectively for some time to come.

Because of the increase in Dive Bomber production, I have decided to deploy my remaining Ju87-B's back to the front, hoping that any losses will be offset by the production of newer and better aircraft.

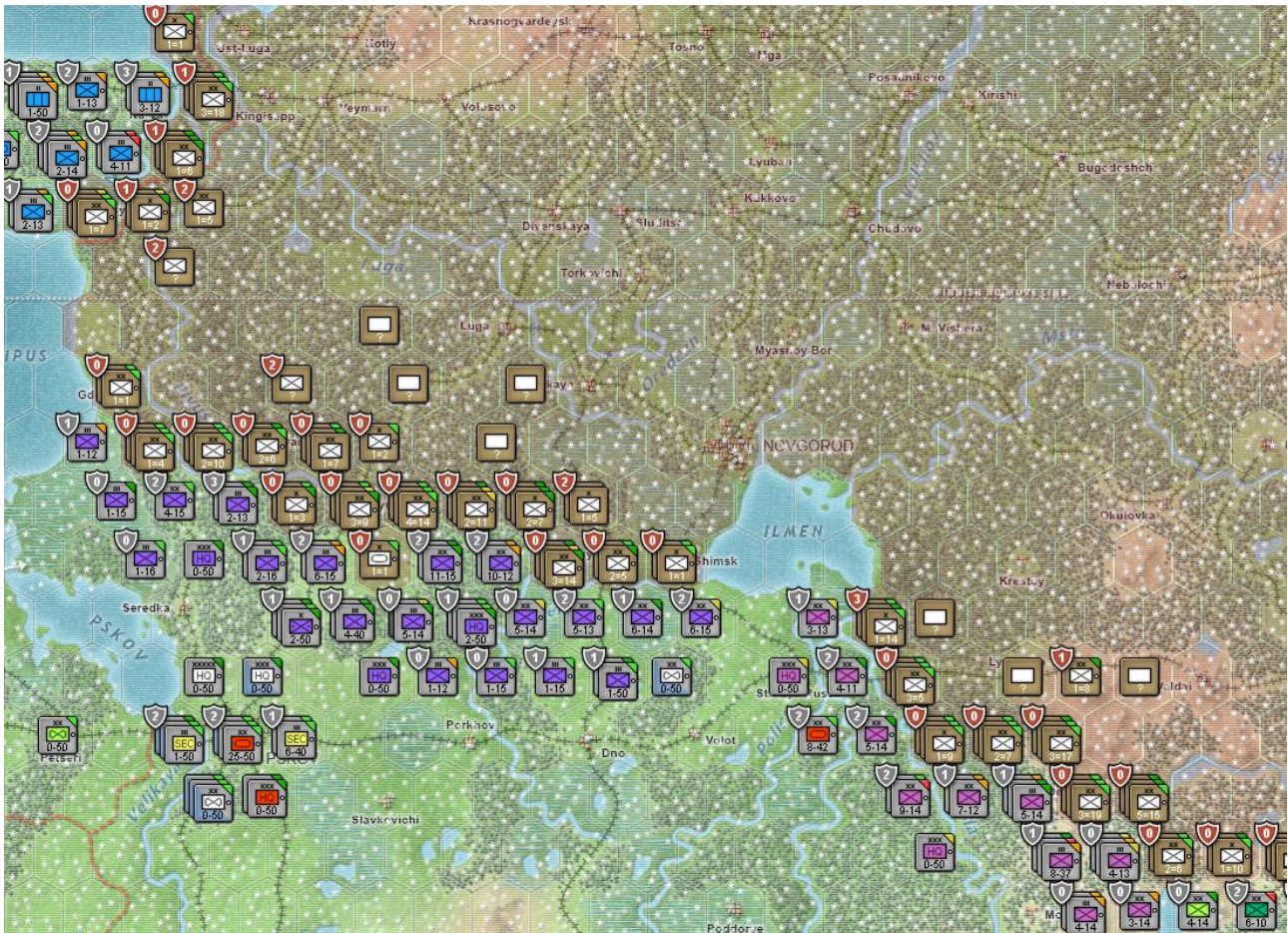
I have also begun producing my first night fighters, the Ju 88C-6, but with a production of only two pr turn (1.2 of which will reach the east), I consider this aircraft of no immediate relevance.

My level bomber production has risen on both the HE111's, the Ju88's and the Do 217's. Each type has seen a new version, with improved production but with no real change in the aircraft performance. As I already have some 510 various level bomber types in reserve and a production rising to 81 (48 reaching the east), I deem I have plenty of those aircraft to continue my policy of night bombing. I see little point in switching to day bombing however, as I will simply loose vast numbers of aircraft to Soviet daytime fighters if I fly unescorted, and I doubt I will have many fighters available for escort duties.

I have also begun production of what I term the only German Strategic Bomber of the war, the He 177A. Until December of 1942, production will grow no higher than three machines pr week (with 1,8 reaching the east), so I expect the aircraft type to be of little value for now. Come December 1942 its production will more than double and its payload will increase with 33%. I will delay decision on its use until I have a relevant number of them.

On the ground the arrival of January has seen a much needed increase in German infantry CV, which is good. However, the arrival of Soviet forces around Kursk has made traffic on the main north/south Axis rail link in the area an impossibility.

The North



Situational assessment

In the north, the Soviets have all but stopped offensive actions, attacking only in four different locations along the entire front, and displacing the Germans from one location. As a result, the number of German units being critically low on supplies are steadily dropping, and the situation is beginning to look almost stabilized in this sector.

Behind the front, the Luftwaffe is still fielding some 150 fighters, 250 level bombers and a few transport Air Groups unwilling to fly because they have more than half of their number in reserve.

Planning

In the entire north, I will move a few units around to ensure that enough supplies are at the front to fight, I will attack the lone Soviet Tank Brigade northeast of Pskov and I will abandon one hex in the southeasternmost part of the line.

Apart from that, the Luftwaffe will send some of its level bomber Air Groups and its two transport Air Groups into the National Reserve for future redeployment in the center. I will also begin moving the Airflotte command unit south, as I think the situation around Rostov may well warrant the support of a few German fighters in order to combat the increasing threat of the Soviet Air force.

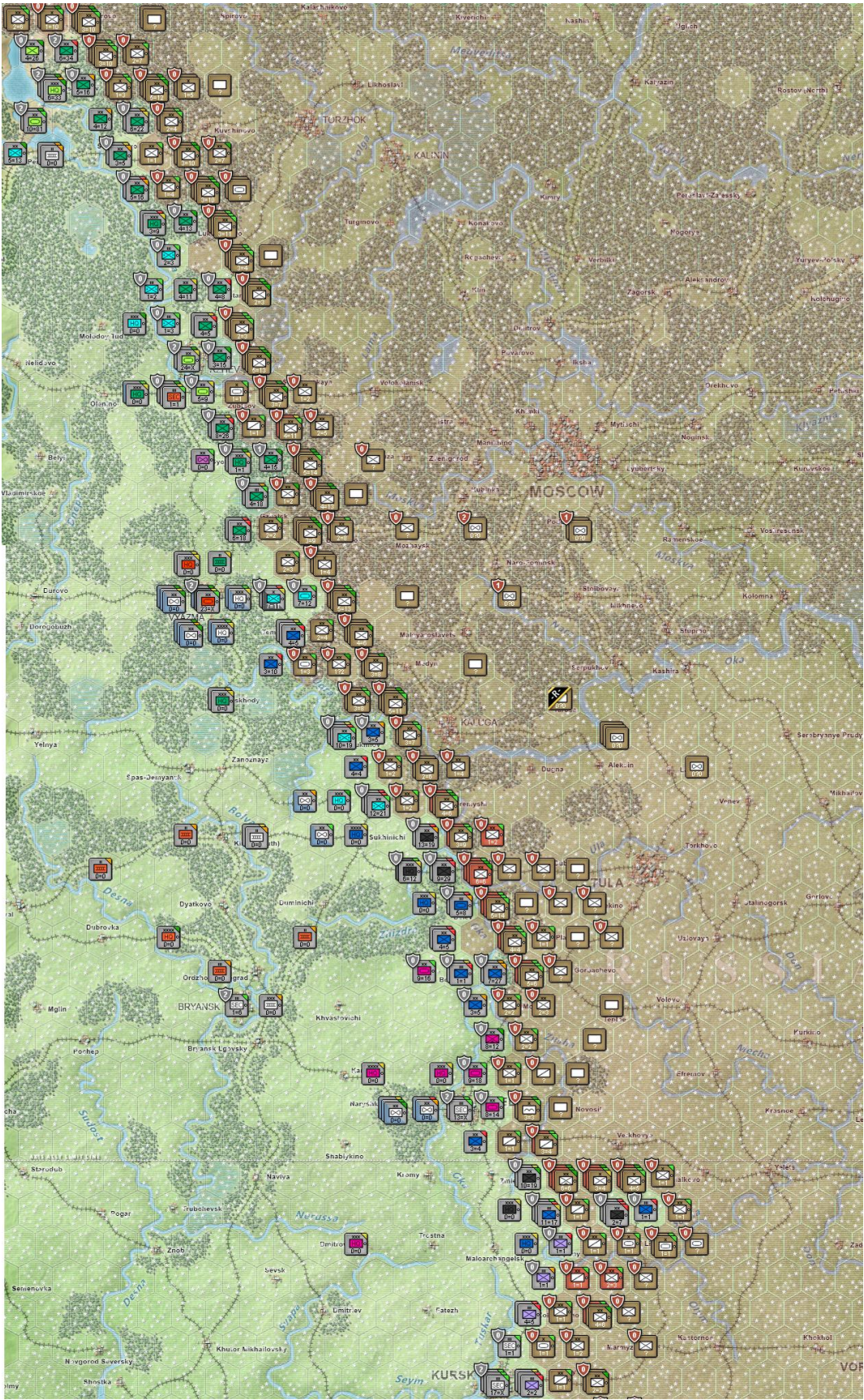
Execution

The only event worthy of note in the north this turn, is that the Soviet Tank Brigade was weak enough to be shattered by the German attack by one infantry division. I fail to see the purpose of the Soviets placing weak formations in such a precarious position, but I will continue to take what is offered.

Axis Forces Attacking:	1 of 1		76,27 - Clear - Blizzard		Turn:29 1942-01-01		Soviet Forces Defending:
	Forces Engaged						
	ATK: men 16963, art 178, afv 0			DEF: men 1237, art 22, afv 40			
	DAM: men 51, art 2, afv 0			DAM: men 118, art 1, afv 4			
	LOST: men 10, art 2, afv 0			LOST: men 401, art 12, afv 24			
XXXVIII Corps 294th Infantry Division (50) 45th Pioneer Battalion (3)	ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0			DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0			
	LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0			LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0			
	125th Tank Brigade SHATTERED						
CV: 53->98.3	Eng Val: 4					CV: 3->0.5	Fort: 0.02->0.00
Comm HQ: XXXVIII Corps	Show Details		Odds 196.60: 1		Exit		Comm HQ: STAVKA
G Friedrich-W von Chappuis						MAR Boris Shaposhnikov	

The situation looks like this, as I give the turn to HardLuck.

The Center



Situational Assessment

In the center, the Soviets have continued to push hard against the German lines.

Northwest of Moscow, the Germans have been pushed slightly back, but without any significant danger of encircling units. The forested terrain has seen to it, that the German CV's are so high that it requires a concerted effort on behalf of the soviets to push them back. This leaves little room for deep penetrations. Furthermore, this area has not seen the deployment of the strongest Soviet forces.

Directly west of Moscow, the soviets are throwing stronger units forward. In several places the Soviets have advanced a couple of hexes and have two CV units standing in the first line. The advances are now threatening the Luftwaffe bases at Vyazma.

West of Tula, the Soviets are also pushing with a strong Guards unit concentration, but the Soviet advanced has been slowed considerably by very strong defending units.

Southeast of Orel however, the Soviets have managed to push forward and encircle a German Mountain division along with a Panzer division. In order to do so, they have pushed aside a defending force of another Panzer division and a Mountain division in one of the biggest battles so far this winter. Besides the losses shown below, the detailed combat report shows another 869 Soviet Ground elements disrupted, so the forces holding back the encircled Germans, are not as strong as the Soviets could have wanted.

1 of 3 > 106,67 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:28 1941-12-25		
Axis Forces Defending: XXXIX Panzer Corps -33% 7th Panzer Division (42) 51st Nebelwerfer Regiment (0) 620th Gun Battalion (0) 605th SP Lt Flk Bn (1) 6/48th SP Flak Company (0) LII Corps 97th Light Infantry Division (69) [v]	Forces Engaged DEF: men 36078, art 499, afv 260 DAM: men 146, art 12, afv 9 LOST: men 169, art 15, afv 9 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 97th Light Infantry Division RETREATED 7th Panzer Division RETREATED [v]	Soviet Forces Attacking: 2nd Shock Army -30% 13th Guards Rifle Division (22) 12th Guards Rifle Division (19) 541st Howitzer Regiment (1) 1st Shock Army 10th Guards Rifle Division (39) 3rd Guards Rifle Division (35) 302nd Mountain Division (21) [v]
CV: 115->187.9 Fort: 0.02->0.00 Comm HQ: LII Corps GL Walter Weiss	Show Details Odds 2.16 : 1 Exit	CV: 138->218.4 Eng Val: 2 Comm HQ: 1st Shock Army GA Georgy Zhukov

Directly able to support the coming relief attack are the forces directly outside the "kessel" (including two Mountain divisions) as well as two Panzer divisions and two Motorized divisions that can be sent in from Kursk and Orel respectively.

In the air, the majority of the German Luftwaffe is also able to support the efforts of the forces fighting in this area.

Planning

Northwest and west of Moscow, the 11th Army will begin digging in as well as they can, while making sure I still have reserve available to counteract any breakthroughs. I will also be doing an attack or two to deny the Soviets their buildup areas for further advances. I expect the Soviets to keep on pushing westwards, but I suspect I can limit their territorial gains somewhat with the increase in German CV.

Between Kaluga and Orel, I will simply hold the line, in some locations pulling back a hex in order to strengthen the line.

Southeast of Orel, I will do what I can to not only extract the Germans from the kessel, but I will also try to remove the threat of further encirclements if I can. This means not only beating off the 1=1 CV Cavalry units

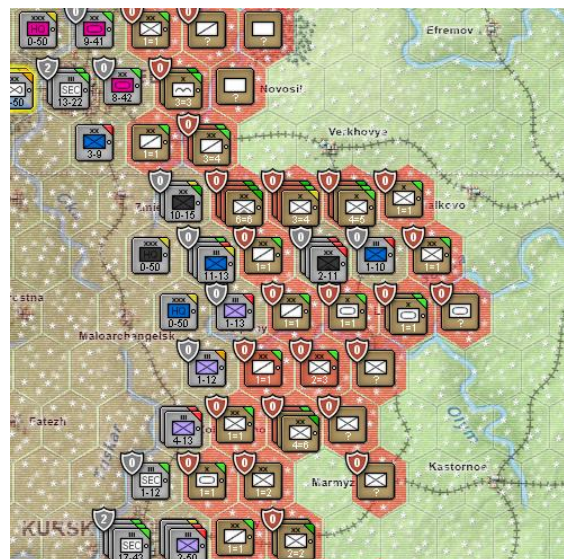
holding the Soviet front, but also grappling with the Soviets “responsible” for the encirclement, ie the 6=6 and the 3=4 stack to the northwest of the encircled troops. To help in this endeavor I will use the local Luftwaffe assets as well as the Panzers from both Orel and Kursk (except for one Motorized division).

Finally, I will rail in yet another Panzer Corps to work as a reserve in this area.

Execution

West and northwest of Moscow, the Germans appear to be stabilizing the situation somewhat. The lowest defensive CV of the entire stretch of frontline is 4=7 and in most areas the defensive CV is higher than 10. That does not mean that the Soviets will not be able to push back the front, it simply means that the Germans are capable of pushing back, slowing the advance and inflicting some losses.

Between Kursk and Orel, the situation looked like this as I started my attacks to relieve the encircled Germans.



Below I will detail the attacks, so that I (or you) may later analyze them to see if they were done optimally.

- 1) In order to ensure the movement of the Panzers from Orel to the front line, I initiated the attacks by using the 3=9 infantry division southeast of Orel to push back the Cavalry Division blocking movement.

Axis Forces Attacking: LIII Corps 112th Infantry Division (23) 132nd Hvy Nbl.W. Bn (0)	1 of 2 > 104,65 - Clear - Blizzard Turn: 29 1942-01-01		Soviet Forces Defending: 60th Army 38th Cavalry Division (1) 106th Howitzer Regiment (0)
	Forces Engaged ATK: men 15987, art 188, afv 0 DAM: men 60, art 3, afv 0 LOST: men 10, art 2, afv 0 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 3649, art 56, afv 1 DAM: men 191, art 4, afv 0 LOST: men 97, art 6, afv 1 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0		
	38th Cavalry Division ROUTED		
CV: 23->34.4 Comm HQ: LIII Corps G Karl Weisenberger	Odds 18.10 : 1 Show Details		CV: 1->1.9 Comm HQ: 60th Army GM Dmitry Lelyushenko
		Exit	

- 2) I then did a few recon attempts in the area in order to establish if the Soviets had any forward airbases ready to intercept my attacks. This revealed no airbases within five hexes of the coming attack zones, so I proceeded to do a nighttime attack with the He111's at Vyazma. This attack saw no Soviet losses, but did disrupt 210 ground elements, which would then translate into fatigue.

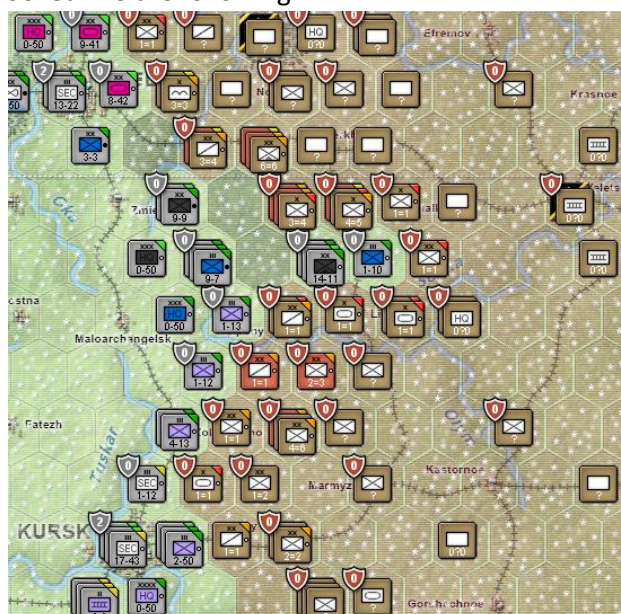
- 3) I then figured that using a total of three divisions (two Mountain) with a combined CV of 19 would be enough to displace the Soviet stack of 5=7. I turned ground support on, set both escorts and bombers to 100 and proceeded to attack. The attack saw no Soviets flying in defence of the Soviet forces and resulted in a withdrawal of the Soviet forces.

Axis Forces Attacking:	1 of 2 > 106,66 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:29 1942-01-01	Soviet Forces Defending:
LII Corps 215th Infantry Division (31) 1st Mountain Division (60) 101st Lt Inf Div (76) 53rd Nebelwerfer Regiment (1) 560th Panzerjager Battalion (0) 272nd Mot. Flk Bn (0) 279th Mot. Flk Bn (0)	Forces Engaged ATK: men 47507, art 655, afv 21 DAM: men 225, art 13, afv 1 LOST: men 338, art 11, afv 0 ATK: flr 148, bmr 21, utl 0 LOST: flr 1, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 36805, art 431, afv 18 DAM: men 113, art 12, afv 1 LOST: men 323, art 11, afv 0 DEF: flr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: flr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 302nd Mountain Division RETREATED 3rd Guards Rifle Division RETREATED 10th Guards Rifle Division RETREATED Odds 3.31 : 1	1st Shock Army 10th Guards Rifle Division (31) 3rd Guards Rifle Division (27) 302nd Mountain Division (18) 301st Howitzer Regiment (1) 374th Art Rgt RVGK (1) 4th BM Howitzer Regiment (2)
CV: 178->445.2 Eng Val: 8 Comm HQ: LII Corps GL Walter Weiss	Show Details Exit	CV: 80->134.2 Fort: 0.04->0.00 Comm HQ: 1st Shock Army GA Georgy Zhukov

- 4) Trying to save movement on my Mountain forces, I then did an attack with two infantry regiments already in place against the Cavalry division directly west of the encircled Germans (after having turned ground support escort off). This attack saw even more German fighters flying in support of the attack, which I have seen before. It also saw the retreat of the Soviet Cavalry division, meaning the front had reconnected with the encircled Germans.

Axis Forces Attacking:	1 of 4 > 106,67 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:29 1942-01-01	Soviet Forces Defending:
LIII Corps 2/268th Infantry Division (9) 3/268th Infantry Division (8) 132nd Hvy Nbl.W. Bn (0) IV Fliegerkorps 5 Bf 109F-2 29 Bf 109F-4	Forces Engaged ATK: men 9538, art 124, afv 0 DAM: men 24, art 2, afv 0 LOST: men 44, art 0, afv 0 ATK: flr 34, bmr 11, utl 0 LOST: flr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 4890, art 68, afv 1 DAM: men 113, art 5, afv 1 LOST: men 103, art 4, afv 0 DEF: flr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: flr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 91st Cavalry Division RETREATED Odds 6.82 : 1	60th Army 91st Cavalry Division (6) 106th Howitzer Regiment (0) 11 -> 12.7mm Anti-aircraft MG
CV: 17->35.5 Eng Val: 2 Comm HQ: LIII Corps G Karl Weisenberger	Show Details Exit	CV: 6->5.2 Fort: 0.02->0.00 Comm HQ: 60th Army GM Dmitry Lelyushenko

- 5) At this stage, the front looked like the following.



- 6) In order to free the encircled units from having to pay ZOC to ZOC movement penalty, I then moved the Mountain division that had already attack once to the southeast and proceeded to attack the stack of two Cavalry divisions totaling 1=1 with a hasty attack.

Axis Forces Attacking (H):	1 of 4 > 107,68 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:29 1942-01-01	Soviet Forces Defending:
LII Corps 101st Lt Inf Div (34) 279th Mot. Flk Bn (0) I/8th LW Mix Flk Bn (0) I/61st LW Mix Flk Bn (0) 192nd Stug Battalion (1) 741st Pioneer Battalion (1) I/1st Lehr Nbl.W. Bn (0)	Forces Engaged ATK: men 18012, art 320, afv 21 DAM: men 40, art 4, afv 0 LOST: men 87, art 5, afv 1 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 6638, art 95, afv 8 DAM: men 68, art 6, afv 0 LOST: men 69, art 1, afv 1 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 91st Cavalry Division RETREATED 37th Cavalry Division RETREATED	STAVKA -35% 37th Cavalry Division (2) 60th Army 91st Cavalry Division (5)
CV: 36->153.3 Eng Val: 2 Comm HQ: LII Corps GL Walter Weiss	Show Details Odds 20.44 : 1 Exit	CV: 7->7.5 Fort: 0.02->0.00 Comm HQ: 60th Army GM Dmitry Lelyushenko

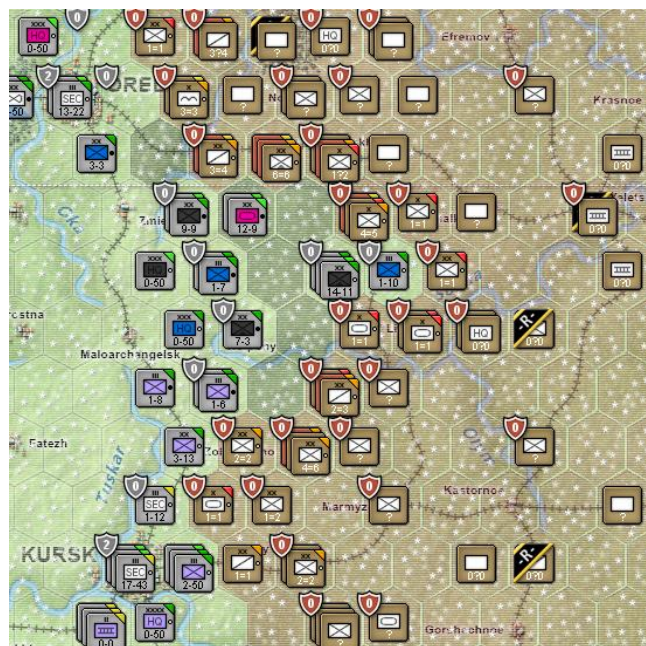
- 7) Moving the two northernmost Sixth Army Infantry Regiments into position for a prepared attack on the Soviet 1=1 Guards Cavalry unit, I attacked it with a total of 1.8CV, hoping to spare a little movement on a Mountain division, that would otherwise have to attack. That attack was extremely lucky.

Axis Forces Attacking:	1 of 1 106,69 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:29 1942-01-01	Soviet Forces Defending:
XVII Corps 1/56th Infantry Division (6) 2/56th Infantry Division (7) II/40th Artillery Battalion (0)	Forces Engaged ATK: men 8537, art 106, afv 0 DAM: men 77, art 2, afv 0 LOST: men 107, art 3, afv 0 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 6288, art 106, afv 1 DAM: men 68, art 10, afv 0 LOST: men 102, art 6, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 1st Guards Cavalry Division ROUTED	12th Army 1st Guards Cavalry Division (3) 1st Gds Art Rgt RVGK (2) 315th Art Rgt RVGK (1)
CV: 13->27.9 Eng Val: 0 Comm HQ: XVII Corps GL Hans Kreysing	Show Details Odds 2.02 : 1 Exit	CV: 6->13.8 Fort: 0.02->0.00 Comm HQ: 12th Army GM Andrei Grechko

- 8) Deciding it was now time for the final relief attack to get free of the ZOC movement penalty, I moved two Panzer divisions south from Orel in order to get the detection level as high as possible before doing a night time bombing attack. With Detection levels of 10 vrs all units in the 3=4 stack, the bombing attack saw the loss of two bombers for 326 ground elements disrupted.
- 9) I followed this up by a daytime bombing attack with my nearby Ju 88 bombers guarded by three fighter groups of single seat fighters, just in case. This saw another 141 elements disrupted.
- 10) I then attacked using the two Panzer divisions, having a total CV of 15 vrs 4.

Axis Forces Attacking:	1 of 3 > 107,66 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:29 1942-01-01	Soviet Forces Defending:
LVI Panzer Corps 6th Panzer Division (44) 17th Panzer Division (57) II/61st Artillery Battalion (0) 93rd LW SP Lt Flk Bn (1) 603rd SP Lt Flk Bn (2) 613th SP Lt Flk Bn (3) 717th LW Lt Flk Bn (0)	Forces Engaged ATK: men 35222, art 336, afv 427 DAM: men 81, art 14, afv 29 LOST: men 229, art 2, afv 15 ATK: ftr 9, bmr 2, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 27049, art 341, afv 0 DAM: men 448, art 9, afv 0 LOST: men 404, art 10, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 20th Rifle Brigade RETREATED 12th Guards Rifle Division RETREATED 13th Guards Rifle Division ROUTED	2nd Shock Army 13th Guards Rifle Division (18) 12th Guards Rifle Division (20) 110th Howitzer Regiment (0) 541st Howitzer Regiment (1) 123rd Ski Battalion (2) 61st Army -30% 20th Rifle Brigade (2)
CV: 112->305.8 Eng Val: 6 Comm HQ: LVI Panzer Corps G Erich von Manstein	Show Details Odds 6.26 : 1 Exit	CV: 43->48.8 Fort: 0.04->0.00 Comm HQ: 2nd Shock Army GM Konstantin Rokossovsky

- 11) At this point, the situation can be seen below.



- 12) As I wanted to reduce the Soviet buildup areas in order to lessen the chance of further encirclements, I then did an attack on the 2=2 soviet division in order to hopefully force it back. At this point, I really wanted to spare the two motorized divisions in Kursk, as I wanted them to help Army Group South if possible, so I attacked with one German infantry division and one infantry regiment, with another infantry regiment in reserve. Surprisingly, this attack did see the Soviets flying in defense of their units, but I managed to get another win.

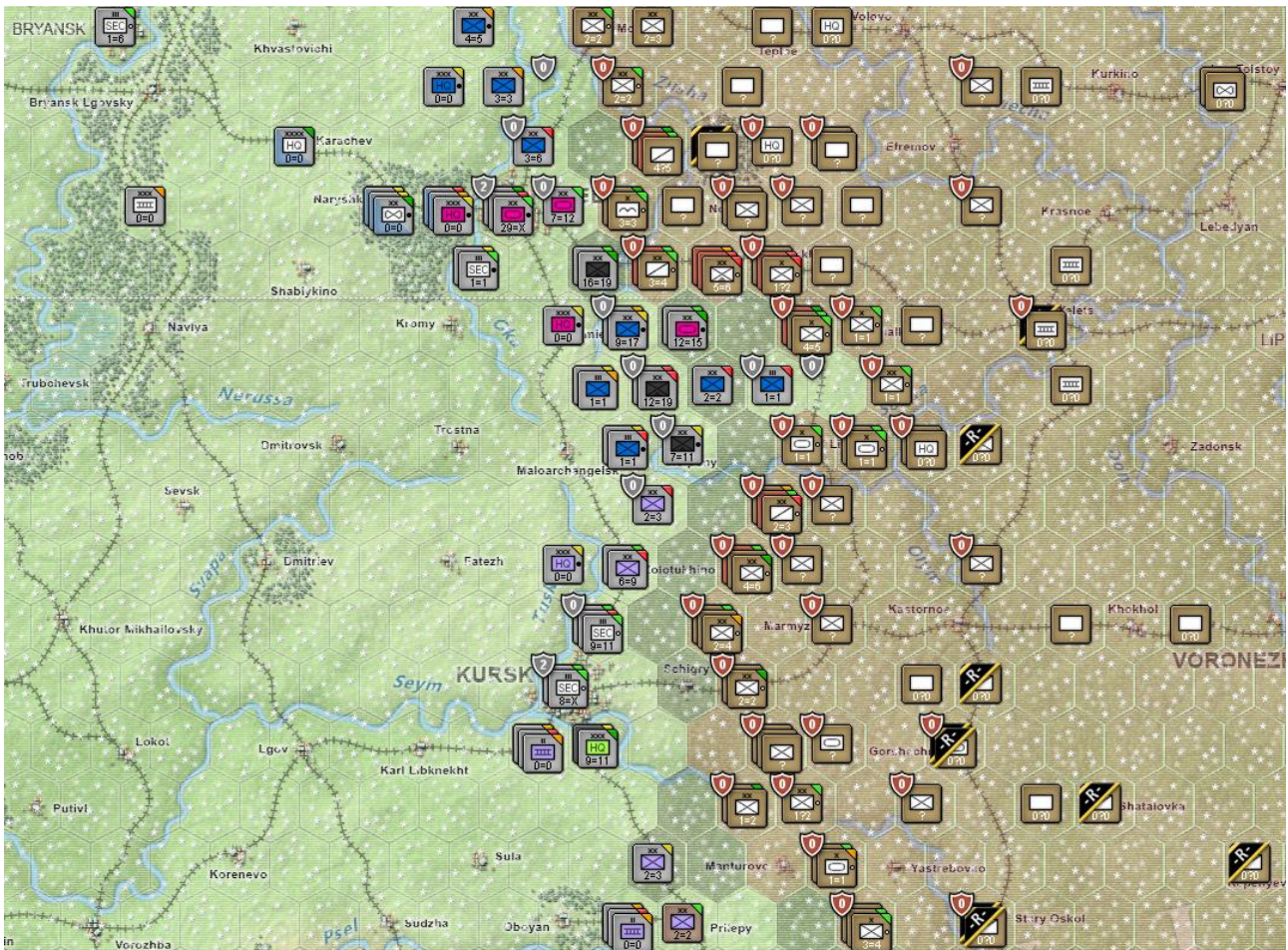
Axis Forces Attacking:		1 of 6 > 106,70 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:29 1942-01-01		Soviet Forces Defending:	
XVII Corps 298th Infantry Division (25) 2/56th Infantry Division (6) II/40th Artillery Battalion (0) 4/47th SP Flak Company (0) IV Fliegerkorps 19 Bf 109F-2		Forces Engaged ATK: men 16535, art 201, afv 3 DAM: men 74, art 4, afv 0 LOST: men 112, art 3, afv 0 ATK: ftr 36, bmr 2, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 0, utl 0		2nd Shock Army 395th Rifle Division (19) 43rd Artillery Regiment RVGK (1) Volkhov Air Command 14 MiG-3 11 Yak-1 34 LaGG-3	
CV: 31->117.1 Eng Val: 2 Comm HQ: XVII Corps GL Hans Kreysing		395th Rifle Division RETREATED Odds 3.04 : 1 Show Details Exit		CV: 20->38.5 Fort: 0.02->0.00 Comm HQ: 2nd Shock Army GM Konstantin Rokossovsky	

- 13) I then did an attack with the same infantry division as above, this time against the 1=1 Tank Brigade thrown into vanguard of the southern Soviet pincer. As this Tank Brigade was low on experience, I half expected a positive result.

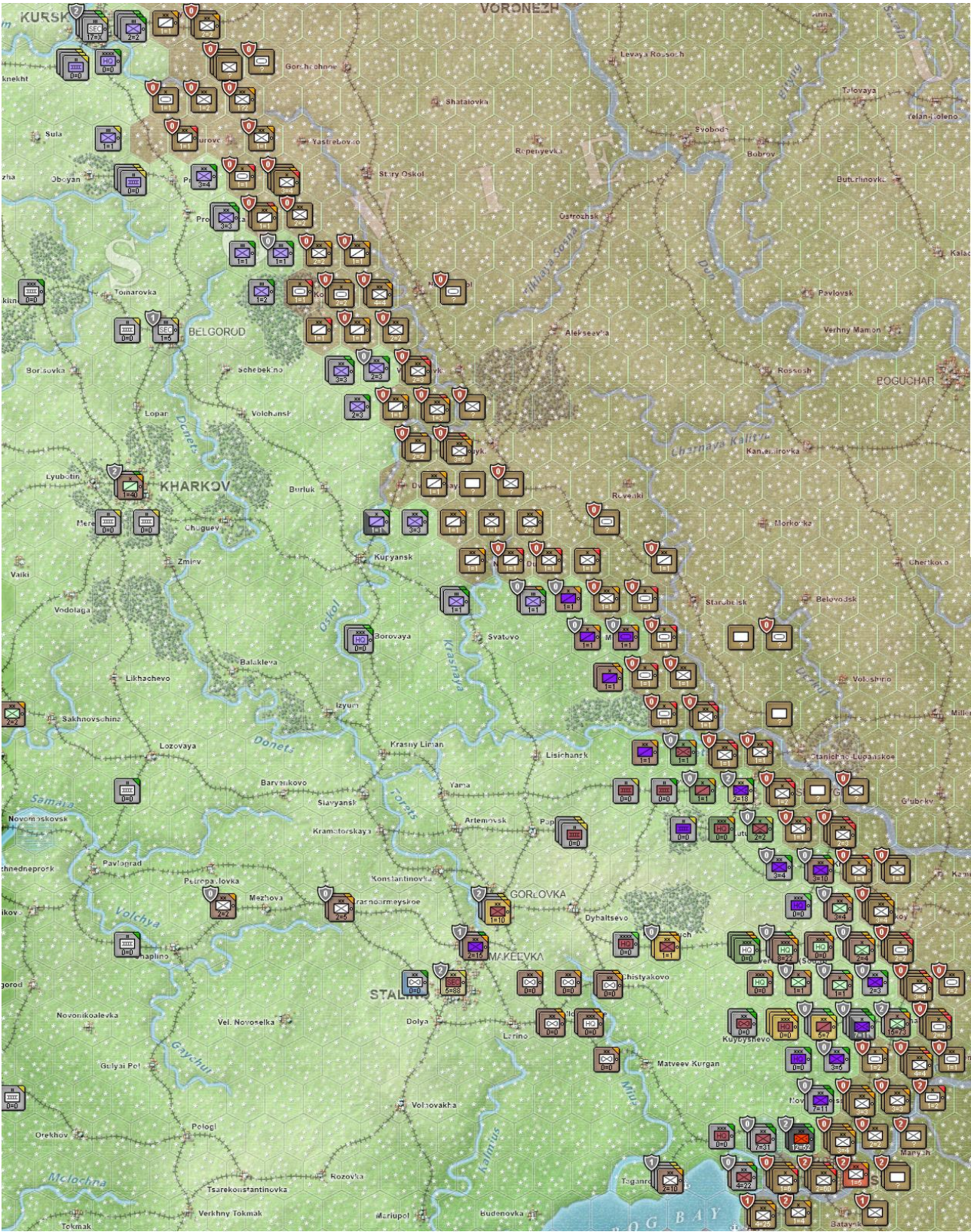
Axis Forces Attacking: XVII Corps 298th Infantry Division (22) 1I/40th Artillery Battalion (0) 3/800th Gun Battalion (0) 4/47th SP Flak Company (0)	1 of 1105,71 - Clear - BlizzardTurn:29 1942-01-01 Forces Engaged ATK: men 12663, art 162, afv 3 DAM: men 34, art 5, afv 0 LOST: men 38, art 0, afv 0 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 1423, art 26, afv 39 DAM: men 11, art 1, afv 0 LOST: men 22, art 0, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 5th Tank Brigade RETREATED		Soviet Forces Defending: STAVKA -20% 5th Tank Brigade (4)
	CV: 22->15.8Eng Val: 0 Comm HQ: XVII Corps GL Hans Kreysing Show DetailsOdds 6.32 : 1Exit		
	CV: 4->2.5Fort: 0.02->0.00 Comm HQ: STAVKA MAR Boris Shaposhnikov		

- 14) I then moved back the formerly encircled Mountain and Panzer division two hexes, and placed them in the center of a strong concentration of German formations. I hope that these units will not see combat during the Soviet turn, as they have fatigue levels of around 70 on all elements.
- 15) Finally, I moved the remaining Panzers at Orel south, and reordered my units so that the Panzers are all in a Panzer Corps and close to their commanding HQ. As an absolute last action of this area, I attacked the Rifle division northeast of Orel in order to reduce the Soviet buildup areas.

The situation in the center looks like this, as I give the turn to HardLuck.



The South



Situational assessment

In the northern part of this sector, the German front looks about to collapse. Using weak Cavalry units, the Soviets look increasingly likely to break ungappable holes in the front and then pour through westwards. The Germans opposite these attacks are simply too few, although they are gaining in strength due to January having arrived.

To the southeast, the Rumanians and Hungarians are also being pushed back, although I honestly think they are putting up quite a good fight, at least compared to what I had expected of them. The good news is that in this sector, the Soviet supply lines are getting stretched, and by now the Soviets often have 30+ MP to their nearest railhead, which should limit fuel supply to their Tank brigades.

Around Rostov, the Soviets are continuing to push slowly forward. With the strengthening of German CV's it looks as if some units can finally be pulled off the front and begin acting as a strategic reserve.

On Crimea, the Soviets have not really gained any ground this turn

Planning

In the northern sector, I will try to use a Motorized division out of Kursk and some counterattacks by local German forces in order to establish a semblance of order to the area.

The Rumanians and Hungarians meanwhile, will simply continue withdrawing, as they are not up to a sustained fight with the opposing Soviets.

Northwest of Rostov I will both pull back a few hexes to shorten my lines as well as do my best to pull the Rumanian Mountain troops off the line and on to the local rail. Come next turn, these units can then be shipped against the Soviet Cavalry to the north.

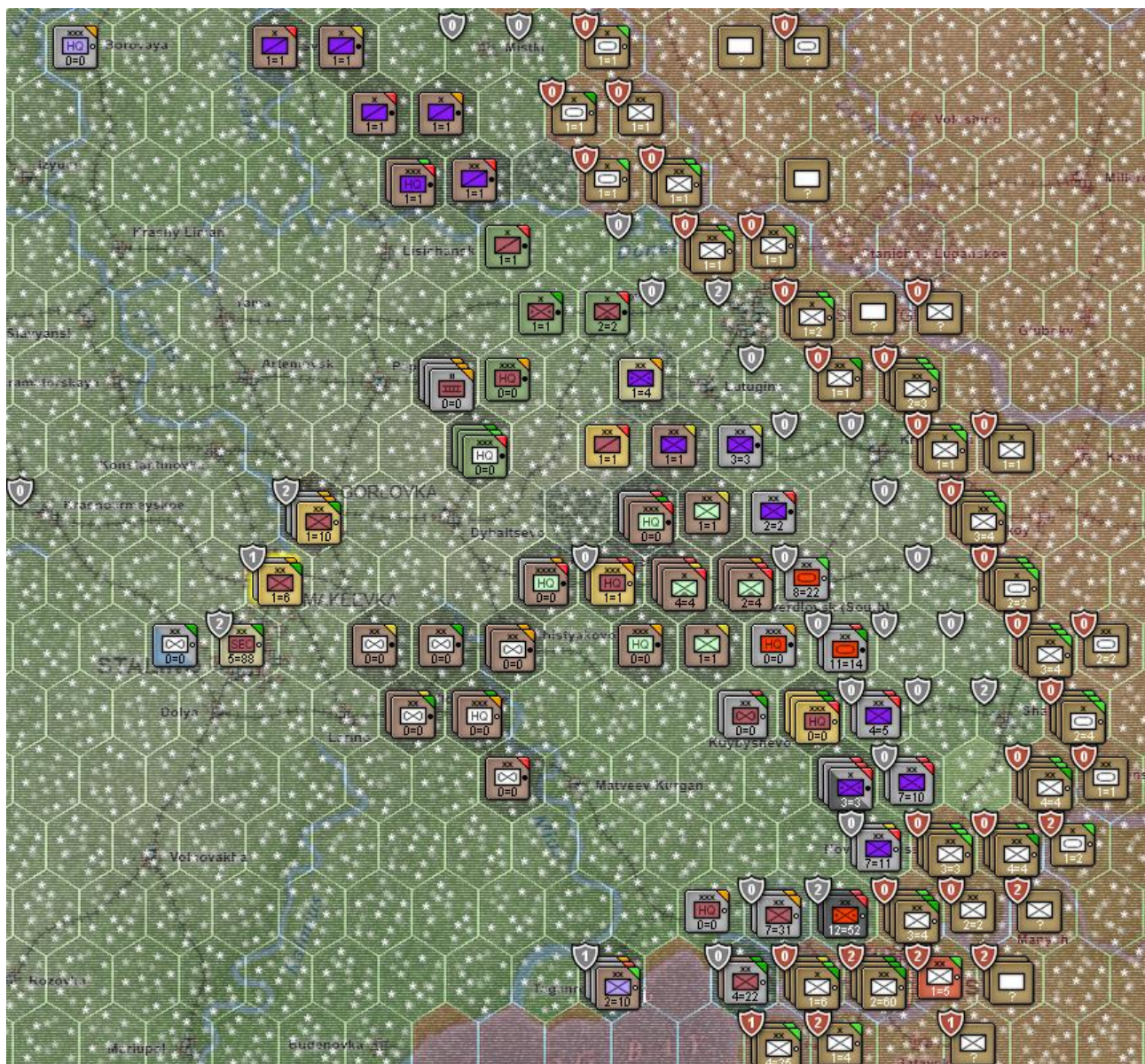
Execution

Along the northern part of this sector, the 6th Army is continuing to withdraw. I have tried to gather the divisions into whole units in order to utilize the combined strength of the divisions against the weak Soviet Cavalry divisions, but have been unable to do so along the entire front. I have also replaced the commander of the 6th Army to Gotthard Heinrici, mainly because he has an infantry rating of eight.

Further south, I have abandoned Voroshilovgrad and shortened my front a little. In the process, I had some hard fighting against a Soviet Tank Brigade which withstood two bombing attacks and two ground attacks before being forced to withdraw by a third ground attack.

On Crimea, I have basically kept the lines from last turn.

The situation in the south looks like this, as I give the turn to HardLuck.



Conclusion

German losses are still way to high. Over the last turn, I have lost some 80.000 men, of which only about 50.000 have been disabled. Thankfully, I have no more units encircled currently, although there is an infantry regiment southeast of Orel that is in a precarious position.

In the air, the Luftwaffe continues to build its strength, but so does the Soviet Air Force. By my calculations, the Soviets now have more than 3.500 level bombers and 4.000 non I-Type fighter aircraft. The only good news are that the soviets have only about 450 recon aircraft left, and have been limiting their recon missions lately – probably as a consequence of having so few aircraft to spare.