

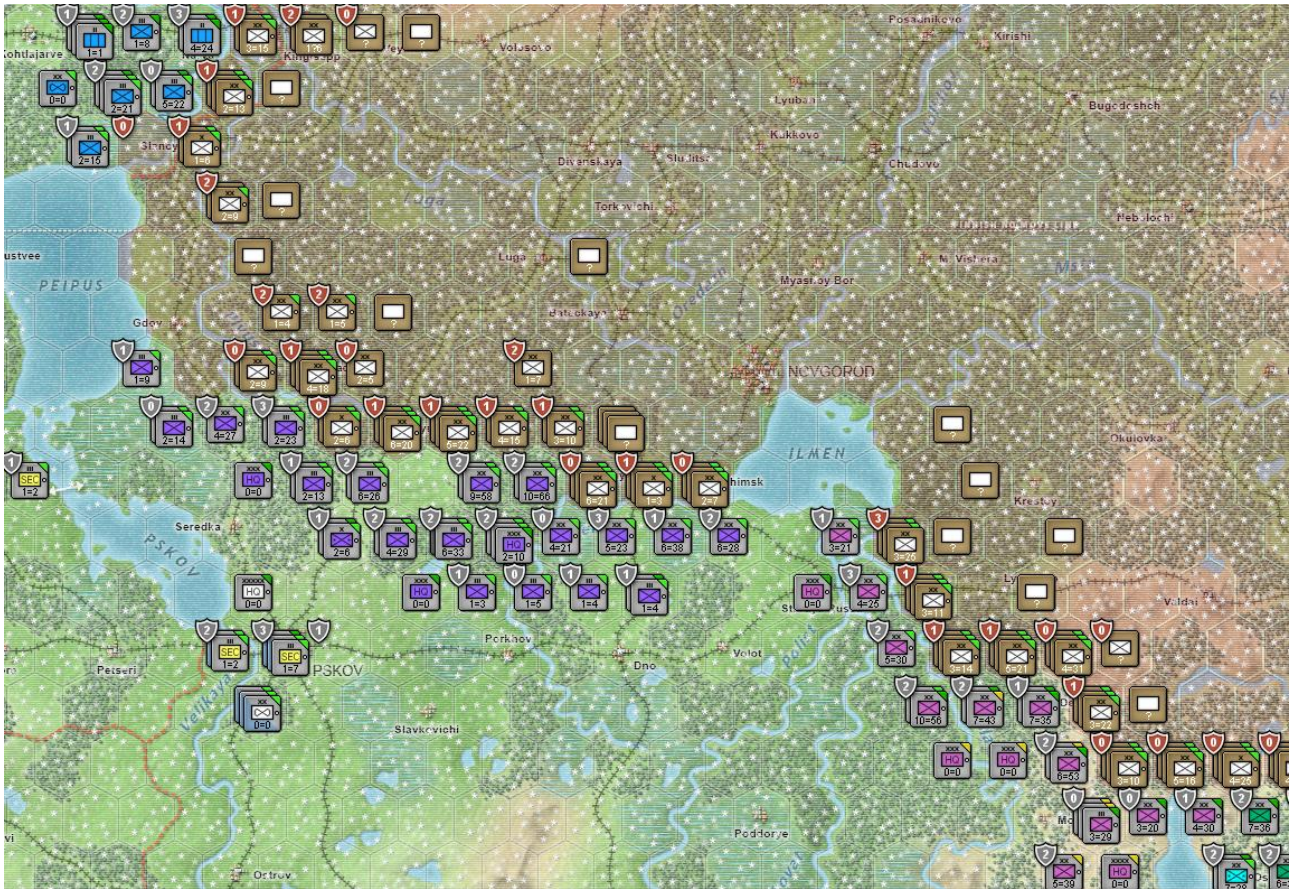
Turn 32, Strategic overview

On the ground, the encirclement I did last turn has been broken by the Soviets. What I can do is hope that the fact that I have done some attacks in January will force the Soviets to be more careful in their coming attacks.

Productionwise, the German stores of Armaments are now actually growing, with the current pool at 27.000 points of armaments. On top of this comes the pool of 8.000 Rumanian and 34.000 Hungarian points. I also have some 42.000 men in my German manpower pool, as well as 65.000 Rumanians and 31.000 Hungarians. I hope this is a sign that the reductions I have done to German infantry and artillery ToE's have been met.

Unfortunately, my vehicle pool is not below 100.000 German vehicles, and although I repair 10.000 vehicles (exactly) each turn and every turn, the amount of vehicles damaged means that my supply system is getting strained. This turn, I have 15.808 vehicles either lost or damaged during the logistics phase, so repairing 10.000 and producing another 3.095 for the eastern front is simply not enough.

The North



Situational assessment

If you have read the situation report describing the north last turn, you really do not have to read it this turn. Nothing has happened

The Soviets have done no attacks, and the German supply situation is getting ever better.

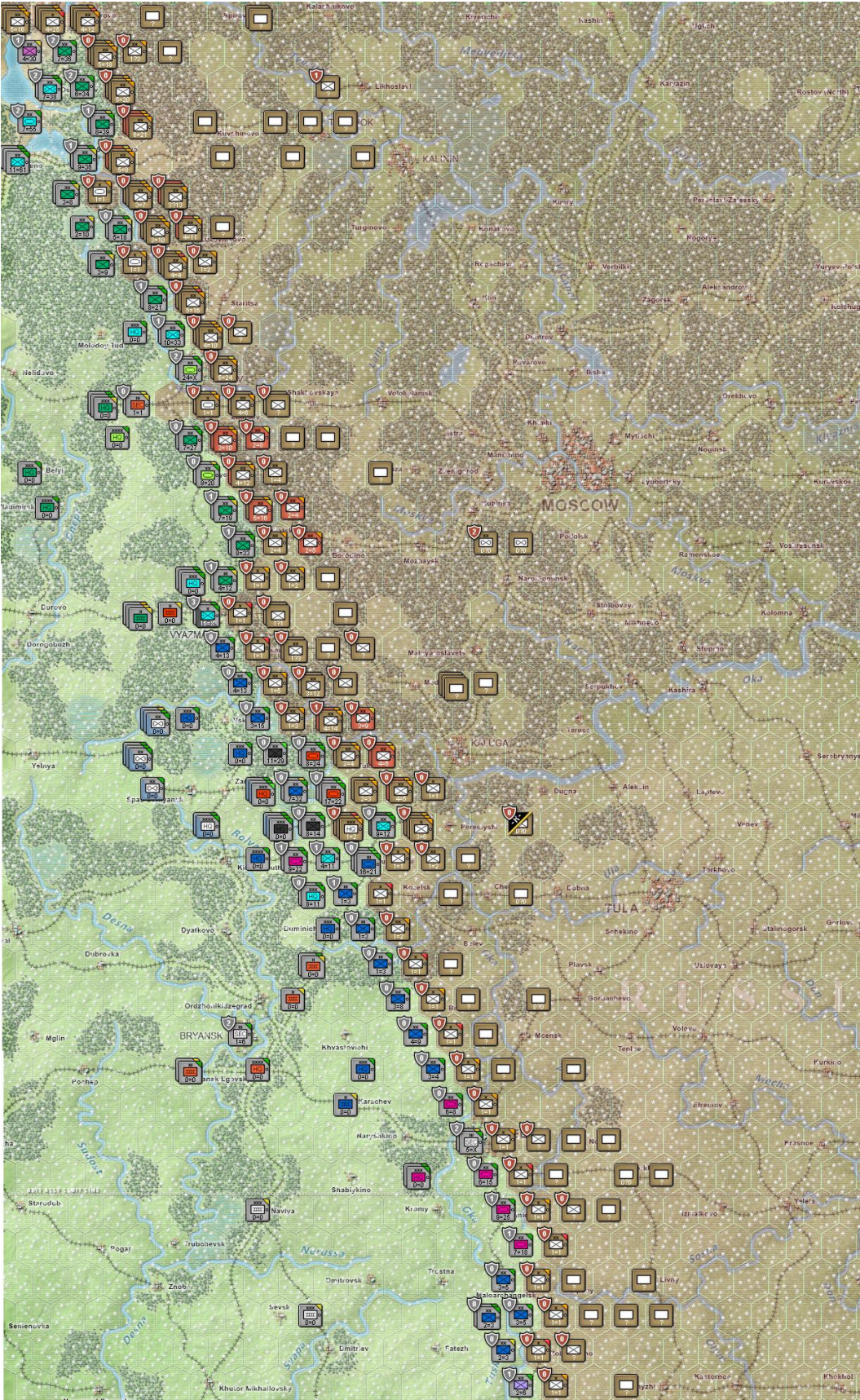
Planning

I will do absolutely nothing in the north this turn.

Execution

The forces in the area continue to rest and save up on supplies and ammunition. The vehicles saved this way will come in helpful in other locations.

The Center



Situational Assessment

In the northern part of the center, the Soviets have continued to attack a few German locations and have also thrown the Germans back in four locations.

The Soviets have also been showing some sign of interest in the area in that they have done no less than seven recon missions in the area for a loss of three R-5's. With the current production of recon aircraft at three pr turn for another eight turns and then an average of 3.5 for another 17 turns. My own recon missions seem to suggest that the Soviets are constructing a new defensive line behind the Shlina and Tveritsa rivers, but I am still a little unsure of the Soviet intentions, as there are still plenty of Guards units present in this area.

Further south, at Kaluga, the Soviets have broken the encirclement of the three Rifle Divisions with ease, and at the cost of a few German Panzers.

Axis Forces Defending: XXXXVIII Panzer Corps 13th Panzer Division (82) 844th Artillery Battalion (0) II/64th Gun Battalion (0) VIII Fliegerkorps 38 Bf 109E-7 14 Bf 109F-2 [v]	1 of 3 > 100,54 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:32 1942-01-22 Forces Engaged DEF: men 16165, art 160, afv 178 DAM: men 182, art 6, afv 7 LOST: men 151, art 5, afv 11 DEF: ftr 134, bmr 31, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 ATK: men 63532, art 825, afv 0 DAM: men 462, art 19, afv 0 LOST: men 1322, art 33, afv 0 ATK: ftr 48, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 13, bmr 0, utl 0 13th Panzer Division RETREATED Show DetailsOdds 5.35 : 1Exit		Soviet Forces Attacking: 43rd Army 23rd Guards Rifle Division (35) 39th Guards Rifle Division (28) 334th Rifle Division (20) 101st Army Art Rgt (0) 324th BM Howitzer Regiment (1) 238th Sapper Battalion (1) 40th Sep. Sapper Bn (1) [v]
	CV: 82->72.0Fort: 0.00->0.00 Comm HQ: XXXXVIII Panzer Corps G Werner Kempf		CV: 154->313.9Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: 43rd Army GL Pavel Kurochkin

I have also done a mistake in my own setup in the area last turn, in that the Panzer Regiment I moved forward to stop Soviet movement into the southeastern part of the encirclement has been attacked with a heavy loss of German armor as a result. Mainly because of this attack, the German loss of Pzkw III and IV has been 33 during the Soviet turn.

Axis Forces Defending: IX Corps 203rd Panzer Regiment (36) I/106th Artillery Battalion (0) 841st Howitzer Battalion (0)	1 of 3 > 101,56 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:32 1942-01-22 Forces Engaged DEF: men 4762, art 23, afv 158 ATK: men 50272, art 553, afv 30 DAM: men 280, art 1, afv 0 DAM: men 96, art 3, afv 0 LOST: men 106, art 2, afv 46 LOST: men 304, art 3, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 203rd Panzer Regiment RETREATED		Soviet Forces Attacking: 32nd Army 324th Rifle Division (24) 361st Rifle Division (18) 367th Rifle Division (14) 99th Rifle Brigade (4) 20th Army -25% 352nd Rifle Division (15) 377th Rifle Division (17)
	CV: 36->48.2 Fort: 0.02->0.00 Comm HQ: IX Corps G Friedrich Kirchner Show Details Odds 4.30 : 1 Exit		CV: 94->159.2 Eng Val: 2 Comm HQ: 32nd Army GL Nikolai Klykov

Behind the front, I have plenty of good order Luftwaffe units ready for action, including Ju87B's and a lot of level bombers.

Planning

In the northern part of the central sector, I will push the forward Tank Brigades back across the Volga and retake my positions on the river.

Further south, I will give up on encircling Soviet Rifle Divisions for now, and instead forces on strengthening my front as best I can while also relieving forces from frontline duty. The exception to this will be the two

Rifle Divisions that has just been relieved and pulled back one hex, as well as the forces currently in the hex that was previously encircled. Those locations will be attacked, partly because I wish to see how a recently encircled Rifle Division hold up to being attacked.

In the air, I will use the local Ju87's to support the attacks at Kaluga, while the level bombers will bomb the northern parts of the front while also relaying north this turn. I will do this so as to be better prepared for the fighting over the next few turns.

Execution

In the center, I have done a few attacks in the north, and also moved the bulk of the local Luftwaffe up here after assisting operations further south. With the level bombers, I have then conducted some night bombing missions on the local Soviets, in order to cause some fatigue that will then limit their effectiveness over the coming turns.

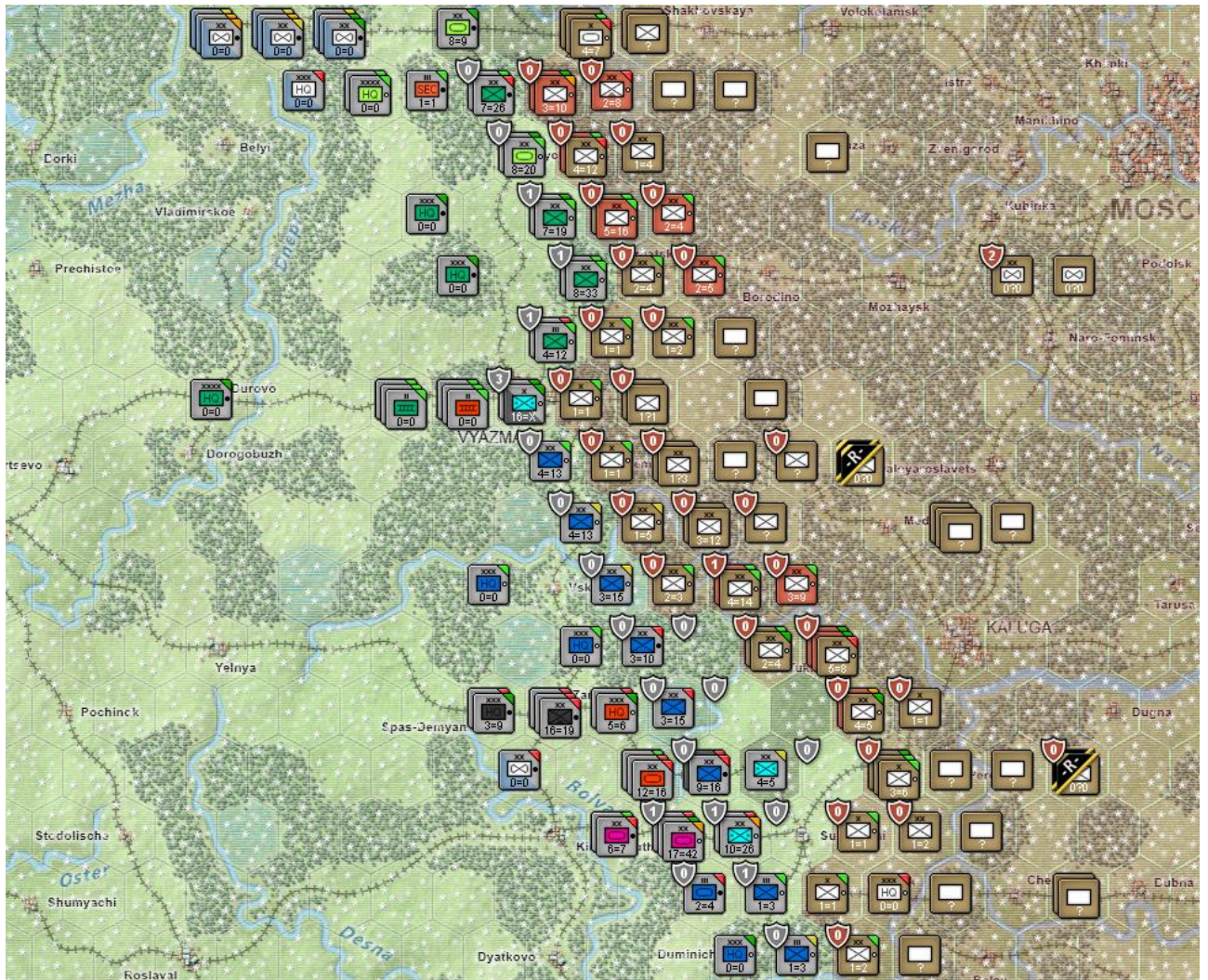
Further south, the attacks around Sukhinichi were successful. The attacks both showed the value of operating airfields close to the battlefield (less aircraft "falling off" due to distance flown) and that a former encirclement means little for the effectiveness of Soviet formations.

1 of 4 > 100,54 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:33 1942-01-29		
Axis Forces Attacking: XXXXVIII Panzer Corps 13th Panzer Division (50) 852nd Gun Battalion (0) 844th Artillery Battalion (0) 777th Howitzer Battalion (0) XXXXIII Corps -36% 255th Infantry Division (20) II/68th Gun Battalion (0) [v]	Forces Engaged ATK: men 33879, art 365, afv 157 DAM: men 134, art 7, afv 5 LOST: men 161, art 3, afv 3 ATK: ftr 108, bmr 21, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 271st Rifle Division RETREATED 120th Rifle Division ROUTED Show Details Odds 3.79 : 1 Exit	Soviet Forces Defending: 50th Army 120th Rifle Division (13) 271st Rifle Division (19) 124th Howitzer Regiment (1) 118th AT Artillery Regiment (0) Bryansk Air Command 7 P-40B [v]
CV: 71->162.6 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: XXXXVIII Panzer Corps G Werner Kempf		CV: 33->42.8 Fort: 0.00->0.00 Comm HQ: 50th Army GP Ivan Bagramyan

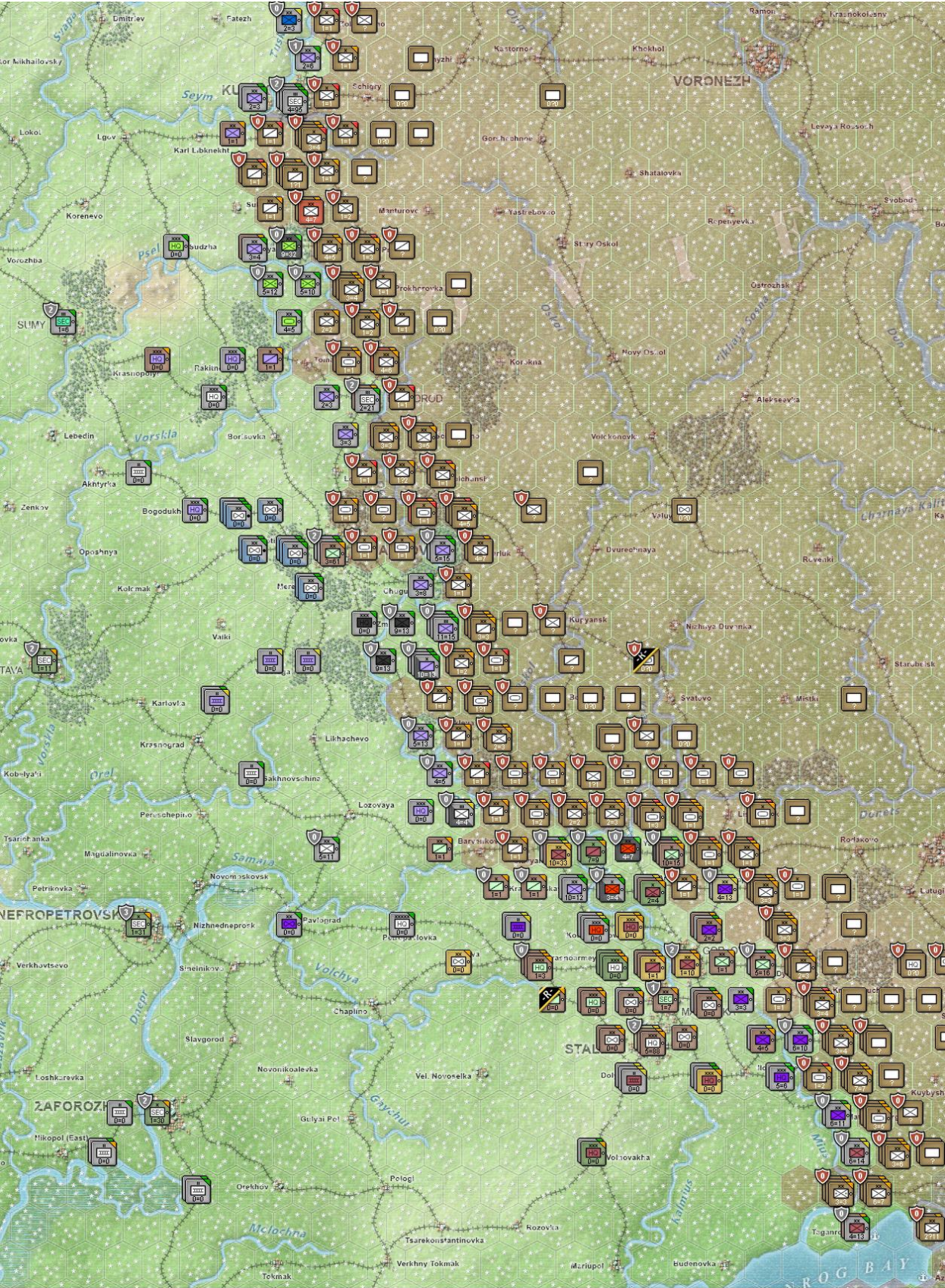
I followed the attacks by moving my assets back on rail as well as I could, and I now have three Corps standing by for reassignment come next turn. This will come in quite handy I guess, as the new north/south rail line will be finished by then. I will be able to further strengthen the forces in the south, if need be.

Finally, I used the local Ju52 transports to fly in some fuel to the Motorized Division that did not have enough MP to reach the main lines this turn.

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



The South



Situational assessment

In the south, the Soviets have continued to attack, more or less along the entire front. From Kharkov to Kursk, they have established three wedges into the Axis lines, and are threatening to envelop large parts of the Axis forces.

The main Kharkov attack has only seen two attacks this turn, but as with most of the other Soviet attack wedges, cavalry has now been placed in the front of the attack. I guess this is because they are less vulnerable to the extending supply lines. Interestingly, the vast majority of Soviet dive bombers are now deployed in this sector.

Axis Forces Defending:	< 2 of 3 > 109,90 - Light Woods - Blizzard Turn:32 1942-01-22		Soviet Forces Attacking:
	Forces Engaged		
	DEF: men 0, art 0, afv 0 DAM: men 0, art 7, afv 0 LOST: men 93, art 4, 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 40, bmr 143, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	
	ground forces were BOMBED		Volkhov Air Command 6 I-16 Type 18 4 Yak-1 24 LaGG-3 6 Hurricane IIB 18 Su-2 102 IL-2
	Show Details Exit		

At the Mius river, furthest to the south, the Soviets have broken through the Axis defenses and have pushed three divisions west into the gap, hoping to encircle a German and a Rumanian infantry division.

Behind the front, the Luftwaffe is placed around Kharkov with some 350 fighters and 120 dive bombers as well as a smaller number of level bombers. Further south, at Stalino, the Rumanian airforce sits with virtually all aircraft currently flying with the Rumanians.

Finally, I have a new Infantry Division on rails somewhere in Rumania, as well as a Panzer and a Motorized Division currently on rails around Dnepropetrovsk.

Planning

In the south, I will refrain from trying to outmaneuver the Soviet forces this turn, as the cavalry can wreck absolute havoc in my rear, if they manage to find a way through the lines. In short, I will simply use the forces I have to batter the Soviets. Those troops generally have a lot higher CV's than the opposing Cavalry divisions and Tank Brigades.

Planning will thus be limited, as events will be dictated by the use of brute force.

Execution

In the south, I began "reconstructing my defense from north to south, after initially turning ground support off in order to save on miles flown before the actual air battles. The Soviets began to fly heavy support just north of Belgorod.

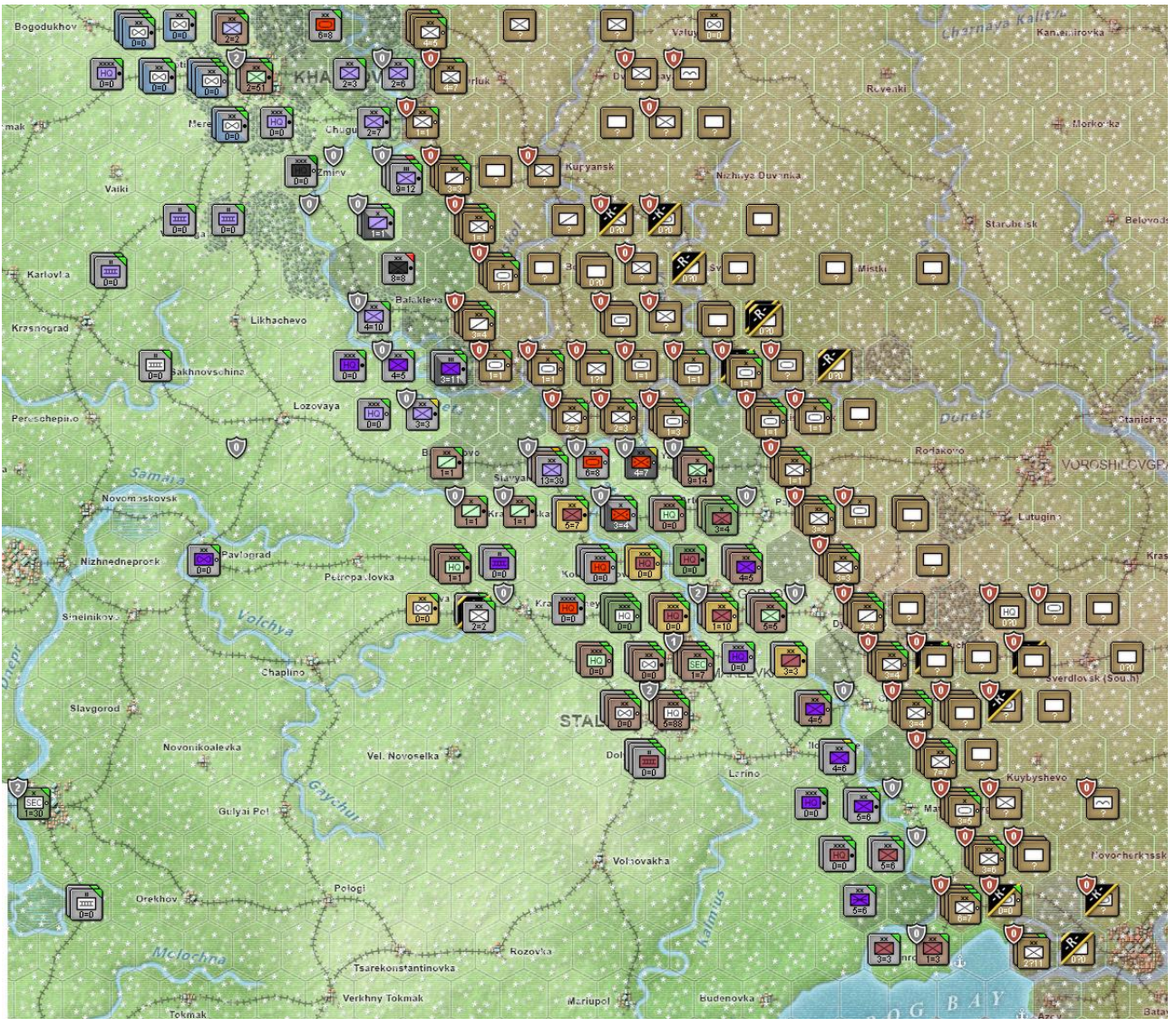
Axis Forces Attacking:	1 of 8 > 105,78 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:33 1942-01-29		Soviet Forces Defending: [^]
	Forces Engaged		
	384th Rifle Division ROUTED		
LVII Panzer Corps 19th Panzer Division (36) 427th Gun Battalion (0) II/55th Howitzer Battalion (0) 273rd Mot. Flk Bn (0) II Rum. Corps -36% 1st Rum. Cavalry Brigade (2) 52nd Rum. Pioneer Battalion (0)	ATK: men 19984, art 228, afv 123 DAM: men 101, art 11, afv 12 LOST: men 312, art 21, afv 5 ATK: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0	DEF: men 11096, art 128, afv 0 DAM: men 114, art 2, afv 0 LOST: men 67, art 2, afv 0 DEF: ftr 143, bmr 34, utl 0 LOST: ftr 3, bmr 2, utl 0	Volkhov Air Command 29 Yak-1 61 LaGG-3 12 Hurricane IIB 34 IL-2
CV: 38->90.4 Eng Val: 0 Comm HQ: LVII Panzer Corps GL Otto von Knobelsdorff	Show Details	Odds 3.07 : 1 Exit	CV: 25->29.4 Fort: 0.00->0.00 Comm HQ: 56th Army GP Maks Reiter

I set my own ground support to “ON” when I attacked non-cavalry (as those units tend to be under STAVKA command) proceeded to attack. But even with that setting, it was not always nearly enough to guarantee success in my attacks.

Axis Forces Attacking: LII Corps 101st Lt Inf Div (81) 53rd Nebelwerfer Regiment (1) 279th Mot. Flk Bn (0) I/8th LW Mix Flk Bn (1) 192nd Stug Battalion (2) 741st Pioneer Battalion (2) 133rd Hvy Nbl.W. Bn (0) [v]		< 10 of 11 > 108,87 - Clear - Blizzard Turn:33 1942-01-29 Forces Engaged ATK: men 17354, art 304, afv 21 DAM: men 45, art 8, afv 2 LOST: men 179, art 11, afv 1 ATK: ftr 102, bmr 32, utl 0 LOST: ftr 1, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 17375, art 228, afv 53 DAM: men 23, art 5, afv 0 LOST: men 95, art 1, afv 9 DEF: ftr 55, bmr 14, utl 0 LOST: ftr 13, bmr 3, utl 0 Defending Forces HELD Show Details Odds 1.77 : 1 Exit		Soviet Forces Defending: 40th Army 329th Rifle Division (19) 527th BM Howitzer Regiment (2) 507th Art Rgt RVGK (1) 360th Howitzer Regiment (1) 24th Sapper Battalion (1) 3rd Shock Army -30% 69th Tank Brigade (4) [v]	
CV: 87->62.1 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: LII Corps GL Robert Martinek				CV: 28->35.0 Fort: 0.04->0.00 Comm HQ: 40th Army GM Rodion Malinovsky	

All in all however, the brute force strategy seems to have worked in that the 25-30 attacks I have done in the south this turn has thrown the Soviets back out of most of the areas they have taken during their last turn. As my front is also beginning to look steadily stronger, I estimate that the Soviet offensive in the south is about to end – especially since the Soviets now have only one turn of January left.

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



Conclusion

Axis losses this last turn has been 47.000 men, which is getting to be the normal amount for this part of the winter. The Soviets have lost 77.000, which is a lot less than the manpower buildup in the Red Army. The Axis has also lost some 186 AFV + SP/AC's which is a heavy loss, especially as 68 of them are Pzkw II and IV's. The Soviets has lost some 650 AFV + SP/AC's, of which 82 are T-34's and 32 are KV-1's. In short, the Soviet losses are no more than their current production (or less) with regards to the important tanks, while the light tanks are suffering heavily.

In the air, the Germans has lost seven single seat fighters out of a total of 18 Axis fighters lost. The Soviets have lost some 163 fighters, of which 52 are Yak-1's. In short, this is also well below Soviet production.

My expectation for the coming turns are for the Soviet attacks to steadily diminish, especially with the arrival of February. That would mean that neither side will have what it takes to make any real progress for the next three months or so.