

Turn 37, Strategic overview

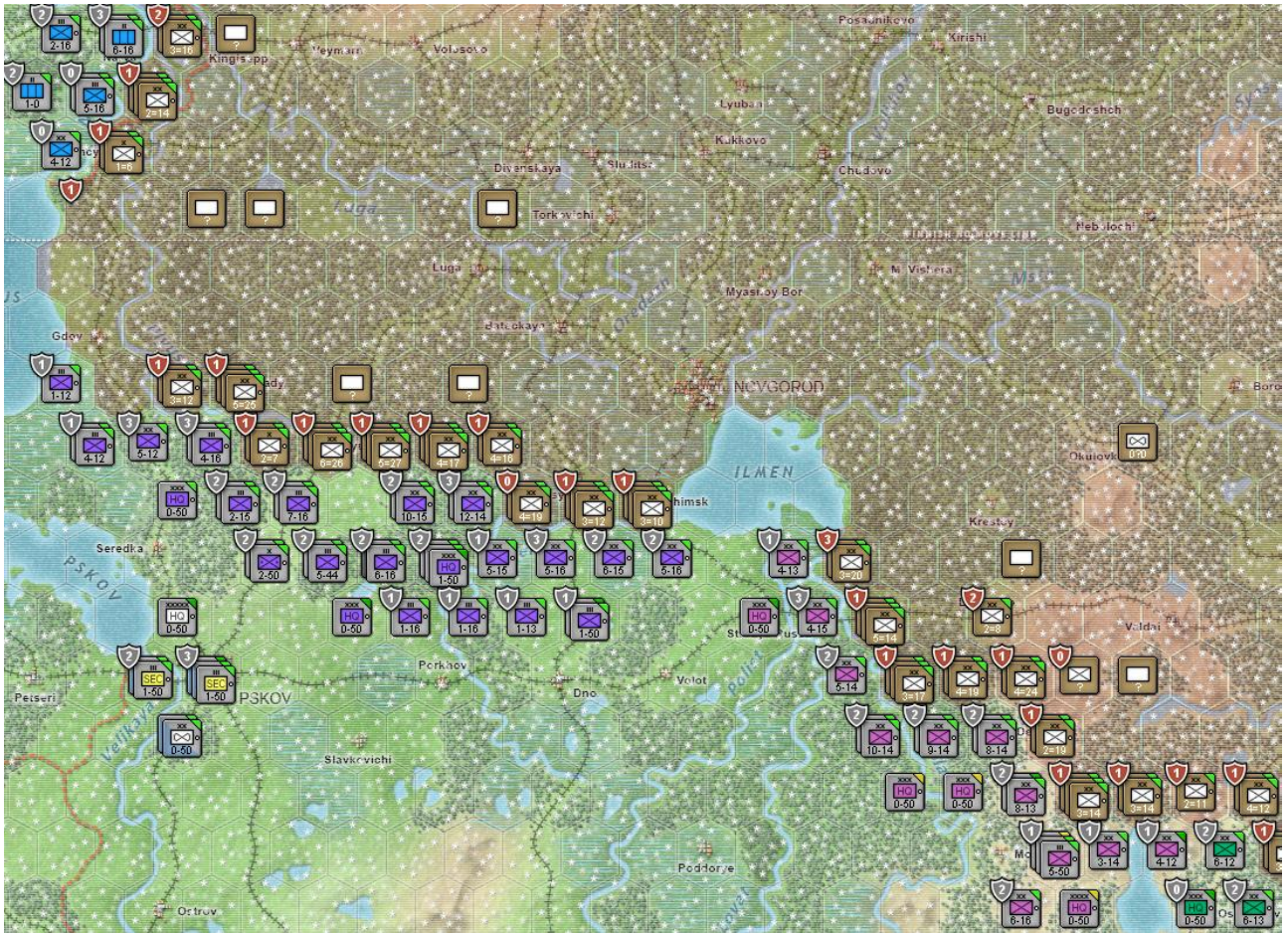
This has been another turn with no Soviet attacks and no Soviet Recon missions. The Germans have lost less than 17.000 men, of which no more than 3.500 has been killed or captured.

My main concern is still my vehicle pool. This turn, it has dropped by another 3.000 vehicles. Those 3.000 has apparently been moved into my units, where the total number of vehicles has risen by 3.000. However, my pool or vehicles in repair has risen to 143.000. The current numbers are Vehicles in units: 122.525, Vehicles in pool: 76.253 and Vehicles in repair: 142.614.

Armaments wise, the Wehrmacht has turned around, and are now building stores of armaments rather rapidly. The current armament pool is 56.000 points, but the manpower pool continue to be low. I produce about 20.000 German replacement soldiers each turn, and the Wehrmacht still needs about 380.000 to fill its TOE, so I guess that situation will not be corrected, even though it will probably improve a little during the mud.

The Rumanians continue to be starved of armaments, but otherwise, the Axis Minors are doing quite well.

The North



Situational assessment

The north does not even deserve a section in the report, as absolutely nothing is happening.

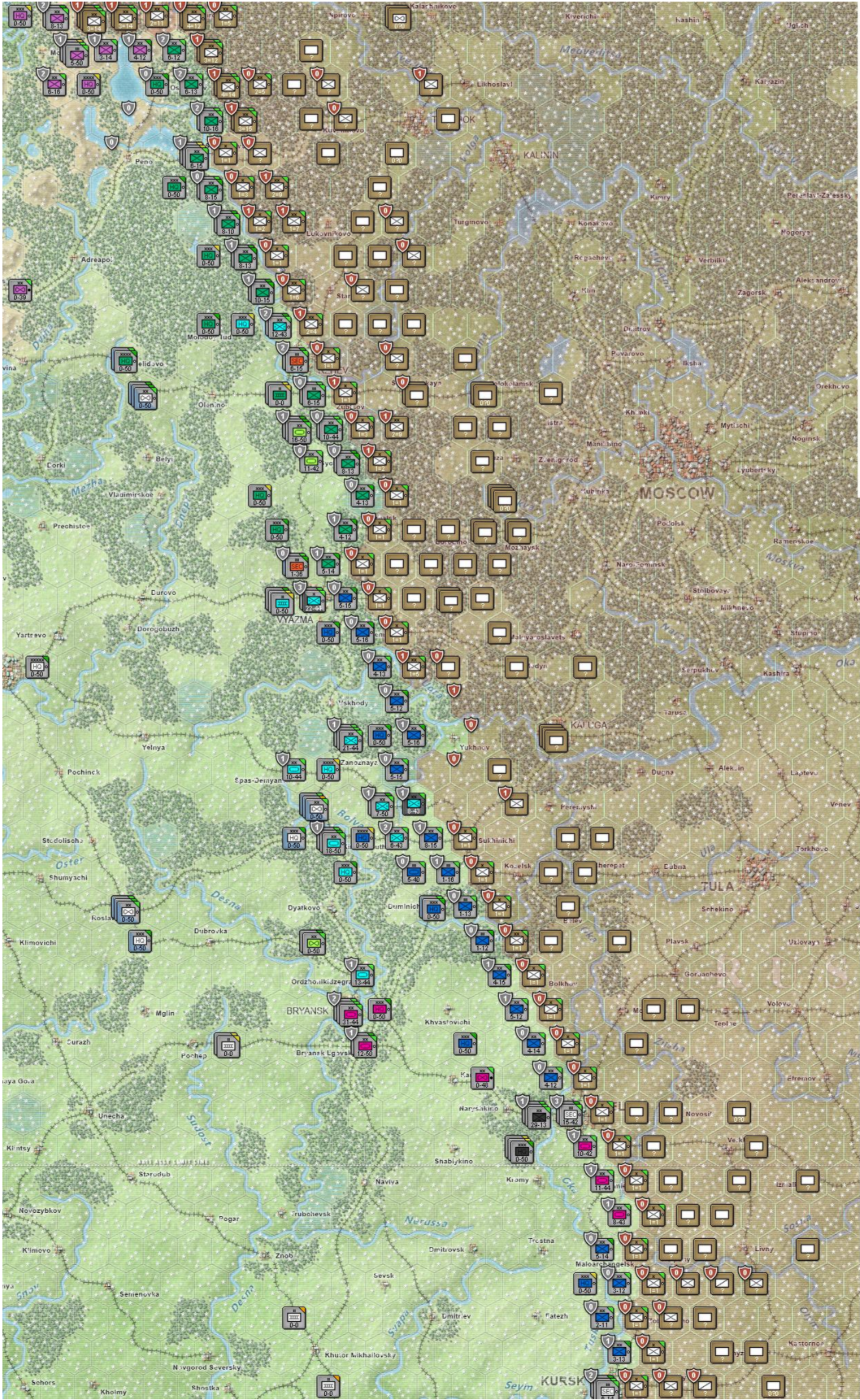
Planning

I plan to do nothing.

Execution

Nothing has happened.

The Center



Situational Assessment

Northwest of Moscow, the Soviets have pulled their stronger forces off the line against the Germans, and the front is now only held by weak infantry Brigades. I assume the Soviets are busy constructing defenses in depth further behind the lines.

West and southwest of Moscow, the main news are the continued absence of Soviet recon flights, indicating that the buildup of German forces are, as of yet, undetected.

Further south, around Orel, the situation is completely static.

Planning

Northwest of Moscow, I will attack the Soviets in a number of locations. My primary objective is to throw the Soviets back where they are weak or they have fortification buildups reaching level one. As a secondary objective, I would also like to limit the number of divisions I have on the front here in order to limit the amount of attrition losses I take over the coming turns.

West of Kaluga, I will continue my buildup of forces in order to strike east come next turn. This turn, I will have another Panzer Corps railed in from the south as well as moving the Corps north of Kursk off the front and onto rails. The movement spent this way needs to be spent anyways, and I will at least have a turn where the units sit on a rail line hopefully getting some more fuel.

In the air, I will upgrade the local Ju 87B machines with other types this turn, hoping for some extra punch come next turn.

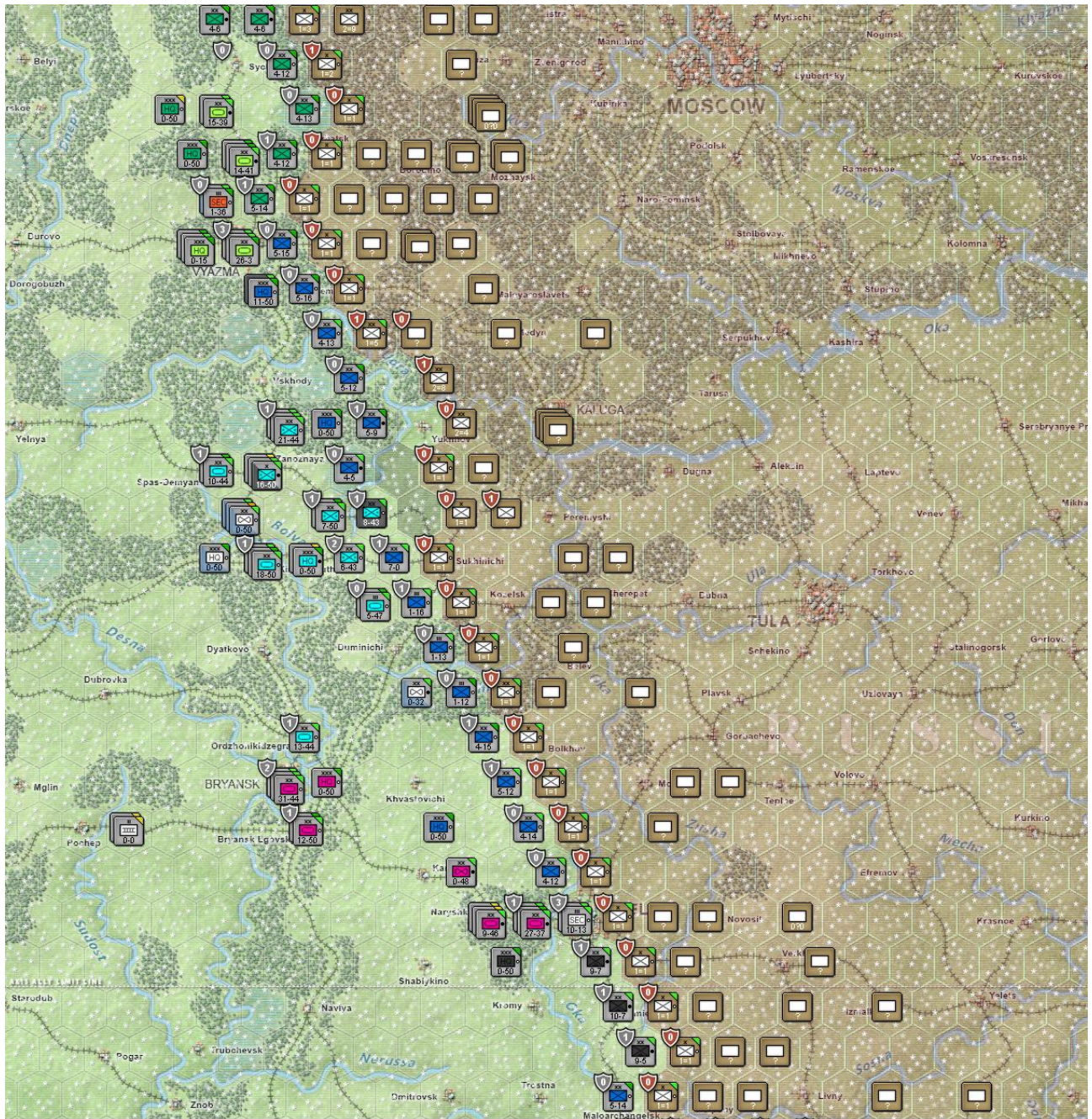
Execution

Northwest of Moscow, a series of attacks have forced the Soviets to withdraw their forward line of resistance by one hex. In many locations, I have been able to follow the retreating Soviets, thus pushing my own lines forward by one hex.

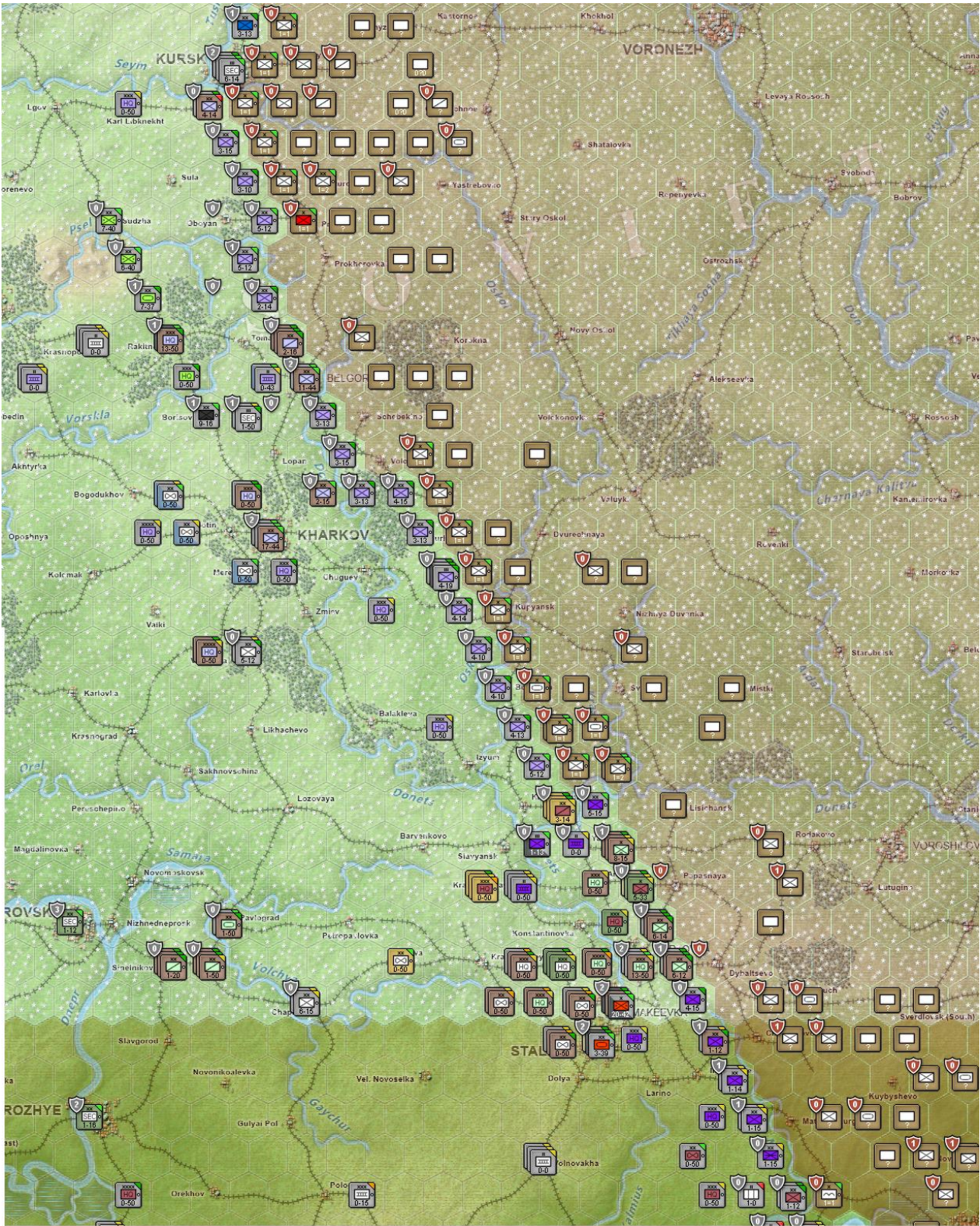
Southeast of Moscow, the buildup for the March offensive has continued, and I now have three Panzer Armies ready to attack come March. To support the attack, I have one Luftwaffe Corps with dive bombers and two corps with level bombers standing by.

All three Panzer Armies have been set to 100% TOE and Refit in order to get a little more punch come next turn. This will probably make an impact on the German Armaments Pool, as many of the Artillery Support units of these armies have previously been at TOE 70%.

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 withdrawn their line a hexrow east of the Stalino city complex, but otherwise very little has happened.

The weather is muddy in the southernmost hexes, just north of the Sea of Azov.

Planning

I plan to do little here, except follow the Soviets where they are withdrawing and otherwise build up fortified zones in the hexes around Mius where I have some fortifications in place.

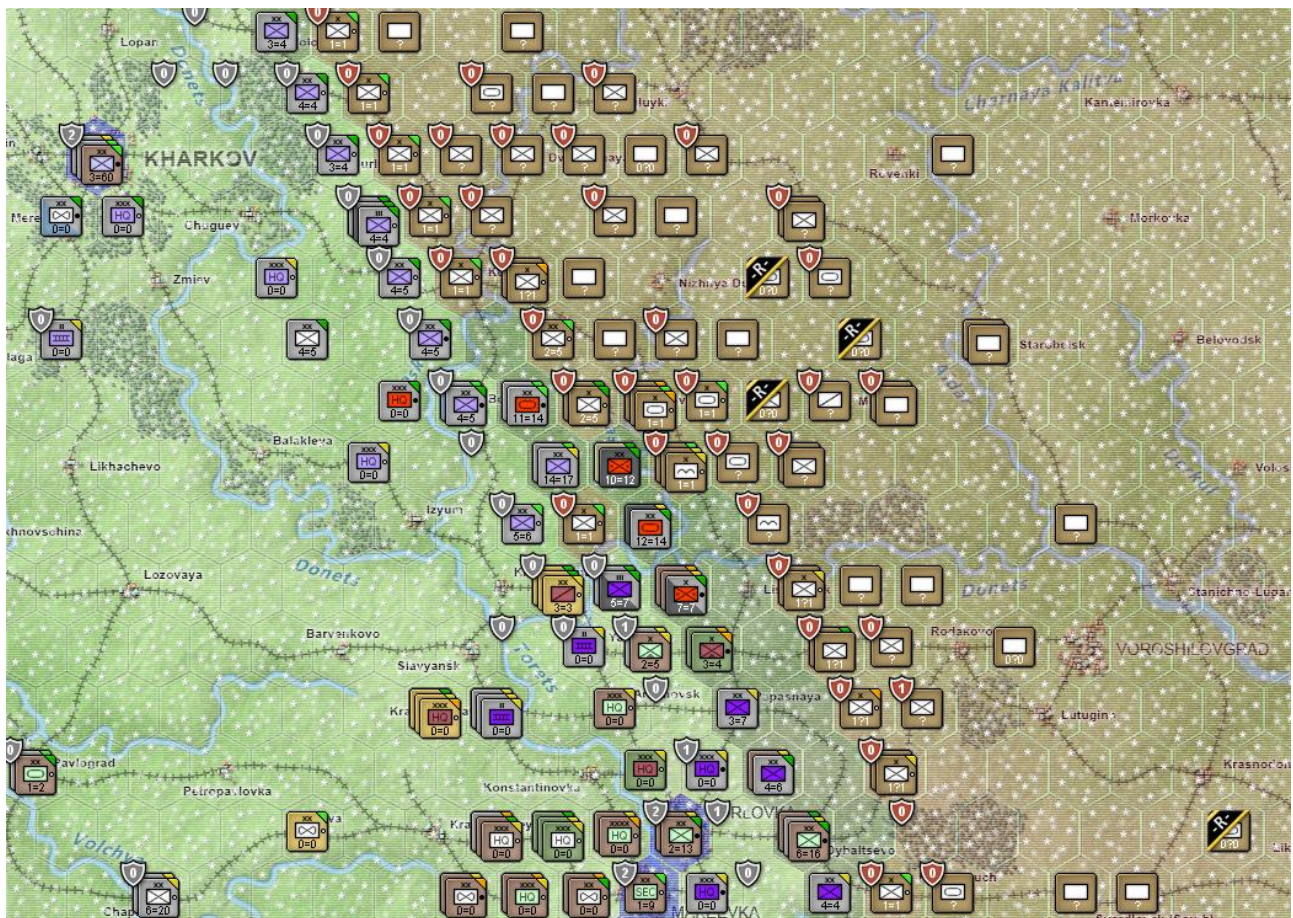
Execution

In the south, I have done a few attacks and, quite unplanned, I then decided to throw the local Panzer forces into an attack on the bend in the Soviet front north of Gorlovka.

The attack had little effect, other than encircle a lone Soviet Rifle Brigade that will, most likely, be relieved during the Soviet phase of the current turn. It may however, cause the Soviets to focus a little harder on the south, thus failing to recognize the pending attack in the center. We shall see.

Along the Mius river, I have constructed another series of Fortified zones, that will hold the fortifications until needed come the eventual Soviet counterattack.

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



Sevastopol



Situational assessment

Another snowy turn in the area around Sevastopol will help me getting my attack on the city fortress underway this turn

The Soviets have withdrawn from the remaining outer defenses of the city and now only hold the city itself. Undoubtedly, they have done this to avoid the risk of encirclements in the mountains to the east of the city. The result has been that the defenders are not as strong as they might have been, and only 3=43 CV now holds the hex. I have a detection level of ten against all the units here, so I expect this is the “final” CV I will have to face.

My own forces are looking decently in shape with a stack of three infantry divisions under one Corps command totalling 21 CV and four more division totalling 35 CV. I also have 86 level bombers and 120 dive bombers standing by to assist the attacks.

Planning

I have little hope of actually encircling any units in Sevastopol, as the port is fully functional. Should I decide to start bombing the port, the Soviets will simply let me bomb away, only to evacuate the city in a few turns, just before the port becomes inoperable. Instead I will launch the attack, with the primary objective of just taking the city. Based on previous experiences with attacking or defending Odessa, I am not absolutely sure if a withdrawing/routing unit will prefer withdrawing/routing over water or if it would rather move adjacent to an enemy unit.

Execution

Below, I will go through the attack execution.

- 1) The initial bombing attacks disrupted about 2.800 of the defenders, but failed to impact the fortification level of the fortress (much as expected).
- 2) I then set ground support to 300, put Walther Nehring in charge of the Corps and attacked with the three adjacent infantry divisions totalling 21 CV against 3=43. This attack saw massive German air support which suppressed some 2.200 men (or 10% of the defenders) from taking further part in the battle. This was nowhere near enough, however, as the final attack odds showed. The only success of the attack was to bring the defenders down to a strength of 3=42.

Axis Forces Attacking: IV Corps 24th Infantry Division (102) 71st Infantry Division (106) 262nd Infantry Division (77) IV/213th Howitzer Battalion (0) 851st Howitzer Battalion (0) IV/207th Howitzer Battalion (0) 855th Howitzer Battalion (1) [v]		1 of 3 > 94,122 - Rough(Sevastopol) - Snow Turn:37 1942-02-26 Forces Engaged ATK: men 52693, art 548, afv 23 DAM: men 188, art 11, afv 3 LOST: men 341, art 7, afv 0 ATK: ftr 110, bmr 140, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 21186, art 295, afv 0 DAM: men 33, art 4, afv 0 LOST: men 114, art 6, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0		Soviet Forces Defending: 44th Army 276th Rifle Division (267) 421st Rifle Division (239) 8th Naval Infantry Brigade (185) 10 -> 37mm Anti-Aircraft Gun 2 -> 12.7mm Anti-aircraft MG 2 -> 85mm Anti-aircraft Gun	
CV: 361->632.8 Eng Val: 2 Comm HQ: IV Corps GL Walther Nehring		Defending Forces HELD Odds 1 : 1.70 Show Details		CV: 691->1078.1 Fort: 5.10->5.08 Comm HQ: 44th Army GM Stepan Mamonov Exit	

- 3) Deciding I had plenty of time to reduce the fortress, I wished to find out if I could force the Soviets to withdraw east into the mountains rather than withdraw over the sea, so I replaced the three attacking divisions northeast of the city with another three and set another division as a reserve. I then did another prepared attack. This attack also failed, but did bring the Soviet fortification modifier down from 5.08 to 4.02.

Axis Forces Attacking: XXXXIX Mountain Corps 655th Pioneer Battalion (8) 657th Pioneer Battalion (8) 662nd Pioneer Battalion (8) 207th Pioneer Battalion (8) 658th Pioneer Battalion (9) 666th Pioneer Battalion (9) 102nd Hvy Nbl.W. Bn (0)		< 2 of 4 > 94,122 - Rough(Sevastopol) - Snow Turn:37 1942-02-26 Forces Engaged ATK: men 54018, art 646, afv 21 DAM: men 102, art 14, afv 0 LOST: men 211, art 3, afv 0 ATK: ftr 114, bmr 130, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0		Soviet Forces Defending: 44th Army 276th Rifle Division (271) 421st Rifle Division (238) 8th Naval Infantry Brigade (178) 10 -> 37mm Anti-Aircraft Gun 11 -> 12.7mm Anti-aircraft MG 1 -> 85mm Anti-aircraft Gun	
[^]		Defending Forces HELD			
CV: 433->893.9 Eng Val: 4 Comm HQ: XXXIX Mountain Corps GO Lothar Rendulic		Show Details Odds 1.58 : 1 Exit		CV: 687->562.8 Fort: 5.08->4.02 Comm HQ: 44th Army GM Stepan Mamonov	
[v]					

- 4) At this point, one of the Soviet defenders had supplies showing red, and the defending CV was down to 3=35. As I also had the opportunity to reduce the Soviet fortifications even further, I decided to do another attack, rather than just risk the Soviets withdrawing over the sea during their own turn. This attack was done with 23 CV from the stack of infantry divisions that had just done the previous attack. This attack proved immensely frustrating in more ways than one. First, the final attack odd ended up at 1.99:1 in favor of the Germans and second, the Soviet fortification level ended up at 2.96 and I fear the Soviets will be able to repair up to three, should they decide to stay put. The port of Sevastopol is now damaged to 17 points.

Axis Forces Attacking: XXXXIX Mountain Corps 292nd Infantry Division (88) 17th Infantry Division (94) 100th Lt Inf Div (137) 52nd Nebelwerfer Regiment (2) 1st Lehr Nbl.W. Rgt (2) 635th Howitzer Battalion (0) 740th Gun Battalion (0) [v]	< 3 of 5 > 94,122 - Rough(Sevastopol) - Snow Turn:37 1942-02-26 Forces Engaged ATK: men 57921, art 802, afv 21 DAM: men 81, art 7, afv 0 LOST: men 136, art 3, afv 0 ATK: ftr 126, bmr 145, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 DEF: men 20664, art 283, afv 0 DAM: men 77, art 2, afv 0 LOST: men 114, art 7, afv 0 DEF: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 LOST: ftr 0, bmr 0, utl 0 Defending Forces HELD Show Details Odds 1.99 : 1 Exit	Soviet Forces Defending: 44th Army 276th Rifle Division (230) 421st Rifle Division (206) 8th Naval Infantry Brigade (146) 10 -> 37mm Anti-Aircraft Gun 11 -> 12.7mm Anti-aircraft MG 1 -> 85mm Anti-aircraft Gun CV: 582->635.8 Fort: 4.02->2.96 Comm HQ: 44th Army GM Stepan Mamonov
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5) With the attacks ended for this turn, the situation is now as follows:



Conclusion

Since my last turn, I have lost 21.000 men, of which 16.000 are disabled. I have also lost 220 guns and 20 AFV + SP/AC's.

The attack at Kaluga is ready to commence, and we shall see what kind of Stosskraft the Germans possess in March 1942.

Around Sevastopol, I have been tantalizingly close to taking the last hex, but I have failed. However, the fortification network is down to level two with a chance it will rise to level three come next turn. I think it likely, that the city will fall in a turn or two.

Next turn, the blizzard will be over, and the weather forecast predicts snow all over the front.