

STRATEGIC COMMAND WWII: WAR IN EUROPE

Situational AAR#2 – “The Road to Paris” (Pt.2)

by JR Renaud



ACTIVITY REPORT – 01 JUNE 1940

0415 hrs 01 June 1940

Situational Report; General Orders

From: *Oberkommando der Wehrmacht*

To: *All Armeegruppe Headquarters; Oberkommando der Marine*

Meine Herren, I can find little fault in your performance thus far. It is regrettable that our colleague Kurt Student's forces have suffered so much; your timely rescue of them would be most welcome, to me and our Führer, who worries so about our troops.

The Kriegsmarine will continue to stay on high alert in port, although if an opportunity is seen for our Unterseeboote to slip into the open seas to inflict more damage on the enemy, I'm sure our great leader would also greet favourably such news. But I am not the naval expert, so I leave it in your skilled hands.

Otherwise, it seems the enemy is content to sit in their Maginot forts and feebly test our defences every so often. Let them! Their scramble to reinforce the French border with Belgium will also prove too late, I am certain.

The route to Paris has almost been forced open, meine Herren. *Vorwärts* with your panzers, and smash in the door! I will meet you in the *Place de l'Étoile*, where the ultimate triumph will be ours.

Sieg Heil!

0555 hrs 01 June 1940

Orders and Execution; Battle Reports

1. See *Note #6*.

Note #6

See *Figure 9*. After much deliberation – and reinforcing my two fighter groups to full strength – I decided to invest 175 of my remaining MPP in Advanced Aircraft; 100 in Logistics. (I kept them all from last turn; not always a good decision, since you want Research investments to start working for you ASAP, as their effects have only a percentage chance per turn of occurring.) I would also like to start influencing Spain, Finland, Romania, and Hungary to my side – not to mention try to keep the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. out of it as long as possible! – but there are only so many MPP to go around. The 49 I have left can be carried over – hopefully to be added to several hundred I will get as ‘plunder’ from conquered countries (already obtained 14 from Luxembourg). Else, I will use it to reinforce a couple of units.



2. Detach IV Armeekorps from von Kuchler HQ; 9 Armee, KG 51^a, and SG 2 detached from von Rundstedt; detach KG 1 & SG 1 from von Bock.
 - a. N/A
3. Attach IV Armeekorps, SG 2 to von Bock HQ; 9 Armee, VIII Armeekorps to von Kuchler; XXVII Armeekorps, 12 Armee, SG 1 to von Rundstedt.
 - a. N/A

4. Luftflotte III (Coblenz; 161,80) ordered to R&R, then perform Intercept/Escort missions¹.
 - a. N/A
5. Luftflotte I (158,78) ordered to R&R.
 - a. N/A
6. IV Panzerkorps (154,79) advances to coord. 153,79 S Ypres; 7th Army (Fra.) identified coord. 152,79 SW Ypres, fighter group Calais (151,79), BEF Corps 151,80 S Calais & 152,81 N Amiens, BEF Army Lille (153,80); attack deferred.
 - a. N/A
7. III Panzerkorps (155,79) moves to coord. 154,80 NW Brussels; attack deferred.
 - a. N/A
8. 1 Fallschirmjäger-division attached to von Kuchler HQ².
 - a. N/A
9. III Panzerkorps attacks I (Belg.) Corps (Brussels; 155,80).
 - a. 10%; 30%
 - b. Nil; enemy destroyed.
10. II Armeekorps moves into Liège (157,80).
 - a. N/A
11. IV Armeekorps moves to coord. 155,75 N The Hague; attacks Winkelman HQ (The Hague).
 - a. Nil; 30%
12. I Armeekorps advances to coord. 155,77 N Antwerp; attacks King Leopold HQ (Antwerp).
 - a. Nil; enemy destroyed.
13. 18 Armee moves to coord. 156,76 S Amsterdam; attacks II Corps (Nether.) (Amsterdam).
 - a. Nil; 10%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
14. X Armeekorps proceeds to coord. 155, 79 between Antwerp & Brussels; attacks 1 Garrison (Belg.) in Eben-Emael (156,80).
 - a. 10%; enemy destroyed.
15. 9 Armee enters Rotterdam (156,77); attacks Winkleman HQ.
 - a. Nil; enemy destroyed.
16. 9 Armee redeploys to Antwerp (155,78).
 - a. N/A
17. IV Armeekorps occupies The Hague, moves to Rotterdam.
 - a. N/A

¹ Right-click >Reinforce; r-click >Set Mode>Auto.

² Units are automatically detached if they become out-of-supply. This action saw an immediate increase in Readiness for 1 FSJ from 40% to 60%.

18. SG 1 (160,80; S Cologne) bombs III Corps (Fra.) (155,81; S Brussels); intercepted by fighters out of Châlons; escorts (Luftflotte IV) intervene.
 - a. Luft. IV 10%, SG 1 Nil; interceptors est. 20%, III Co 20%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
19. 6 Armee marches into Brussels; attacks III Corps.
 - a. Nil; 50%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
20. II Armeekorps (Liège) advances to coord. 156,81 SE Brussels; attacks III Corps.
 - a. 10%; enemy destroyed.
21. SG 2 (159,77) dive-bombs 7th Army (Fra.); intercepted by fighters based at Calais.
 - a. 10%; interceptors 10%, 7th Ar 10%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
22. Redeploy Luftflotte IV to coord. 156,80 NE Brussels.
 - a. N/A
23. KG 1 (Essen; 161,77) bombs 7th Army.
 - a. 20%; 10%, Readiness, Morale, Entrenchment reduced.
24. KG 51^a (159,78) bombs 7th Army.
 - a. 10%; 10%, Readiness, Morale, Entrenchment reduced.
25. IV Panzerkorps (153,79) attacks 7th Army.
 - a. 10%; 40%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
 - b. Nil; enemy destroyed.
26. V Panzerkorps (157,82) races to coord. 154,80; attack deferred.
 - a. N/A
27. XXVII Armeekorps (158,81; S Hürtgen Forest) moves to into Ardennes Forest (157,82); attack deferred.
 - a. N/A
28. 12 Armee (Luxembourg) attacks IX Corps (Fra.) (Briey Mine; 158,83).
 - a. Nil; 30%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
29. 4 Armee (158,82; NW Luxembourg) attacks IX Corps.
 - a. 10%; 40%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
30. XXVII Armeekorps attacks IX Corps.
 - a. Nil; enemy destroyed.
31. VIII Armeekorps (158,79) redeploys to coord. 157,81 S Liège.
 - a. N/A
32. 7 Fallschirmjäger-division (158,84) attacks 6 Grp de Bombardement based in Nancy (158,85).
 - a. Nil; 10%
33. Redeploy von Bock HQ to coord. 157,77 SW Arnhem.
 - a. N/A
34. Redeploy von Kuchler HQ to coord. 156,79 NW Maastricht.
 - a. N/A

35. Redeploy KG 1 to coord. 158,79 NE Maastricht.
 - a. N/A
36. Redeploy St.G. 2 to coord. 156,78 S Rotterdam.
 - a. N/A
37. Redeploy SG 2 to coord. 157,78 N Maastricht.
 - a. N/A
38. Redeploy KG 51^a to Liège (157,80).
 - a. N/A
39. Order XII Armeekorps (in reserve; 163,82; SE Mainz) to Reinforce to full strength.
 - a. N/A
40. Order XVIII Armeekorps (161,83; Saar Mine) to full strength.
 - a. N/A
41. Order U-30 SS (87,74) to move to coord. 91,90 and raid South America & Caribbean-UK Convoy Route.
 - a. N/A
42. Order U-37 SS (Rostock; 171,69) to Cruise to coord. 142,50 W Shetland Islands.
(See *Note #7*.)
43. END REPORT

Note #7

See *Figure 10*. Movement of naval units in SC3 can be accomplished using waypoints simply by ctrl-left-clicking in each hex into which you want the ship to move; cancel by right-clicking. Your remaining range is shown as you set waypoints.

This is useful if you want to try to avoid areas where you suspect the enemy lurks in wait, especially for submarines. I have found that it is almost imperative to move my SS each turn or two after a successful 'hunt', since the enemy can narrow down your location. You can also set them to run Silent (right-click menu >Set Mode>Silent; but note that Hunt/Silent are mutually exclusive, and you cannot Set Mode after movement). Even then, however, that only reduces the chance of being detected. Either way, sailing back and forth along a convoy route seems a sure way to blunder right into a hunter – or ten! – so I usually alternate between routes, entering and exiting at different points. It may also be a good idea to periodically move somewhere as far away as possible – using Naval Cruise (left-click twice; uses 1 Supply Point) – and hide for a couple of turns, but I'm still testing this.

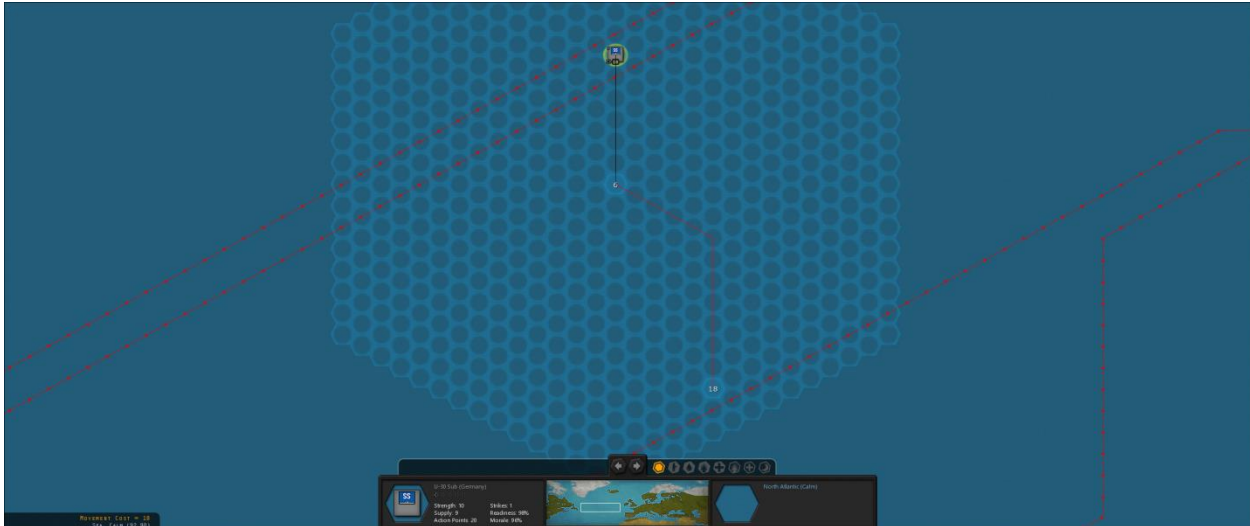


FIGURE 10 – NAVAL MOVEMENT BY WAYPOINT

Enemy Response

Location: *Oberkommando der Wehrmacht HQ*

Source: *Consolidated Report from all Western Armeegruppen*

Generalfeldmarschall, once more the enemy retreats before our inexorable advance. Belgium and The Netherlands have surrendered, and France will swiftly follow. It appears as though the so-called British Expeditionary Force is pulling back as well; we will do our best to trap or destroy these troops, for it will surely devastate enemy morale. To this end, we will drive our panzers between the Pas de Calais and Paris, while VII Fallschirmjäger-division smashes their aircraft on the ground in Nancy, and then proceeds to cut off the Maginot Line with an advance toward Epinal and Belfort, with support from von Rundstedt's armeegruppe. The enemy plugged the gap in their line when we destroyed IX Corps in the Briey Mine, but it matters little; this reserve force will be eliminated as well.

Sieg Heil!

1610 hrs 22 June 1940

Incoming Decoded Message

Guten Tag, mein Freund

My congratulations on your expeditious victories in the Low Countries. Continue your advance on Paris, and we will force the enemy to their knees!

I appreciate as well your handling of the unfortunate situation between Admirals Raeder and Dönitz, and your advice regarding our research priorities. Now, my air marshals argue about the direction of our Luftwaffe: Do we focus on long-range heavy bombers to obliterate the English industrial base? Jets and rocket interceptors to defeat the enemy in the skies over

London prior to an invasion? Battlefield interdiction and close support? Settling these matters would also be a great relief to me, mein guter Freund.

Mit deutschem Gruß

Adolf



SITUATIONAL MAP – 1010 HRS 23 JUNE 1940

1010 hrs 23 June 1940

Situational Report; General Orders

From: *Oberkommando der Wehrmacht*

To: *All Armeegruppe Headquarters; Oberkommando der Marine*

Meine Herren, although at the time I thought it a mistake to vacate The Hague in favour of an advance southeast by IV Armeekorps, I see now the enemy could not have taken advantage. Still, it would not be a bad idea to think about garrisoning these occupied cities.

Similarly, I questioned 6 Armee occupying Brussels; surely, would it not have been better to allow Kurt Student's tattered division to take cover there? Once again, however, the enemy failed to take advantage, and *Zuerst Fallschirmjäger* yet lives! Our Führer will be so pleased.

Press the advance, meine Herren! Ignore the Maginot Line and take Paris – and destroy the British Expeditionary Force along the way!

Vorwärts!

Orders and Execution; Combat Reports

1. Detach VIII Armeekorps (157,81 S Liège) from von Kuchler; V Panzerkorps (154,80 NW Brussels) from von Rundstedt; from von Kuchler.
 - a. N/A

2. Attach V Panzerkorps to von Bock HQ, VIII Armeekorps to von Rundstedt.
 - a. N/A
3. Order 1 Fallschirmjäger-division (154,81 SW Brussels) to R&R.
 - a. N/A
4. Order SG 2 (157,78; N Maastricht) to R&R.
 - a. N/A
5. Order Luftflotte III to Intercept/Escort³.
 - a. N/A
6. KG 51^a (Liège; 157,80) bombs BEF Army (Lille; 153,80); intercepted by enemy fighters out of Châlons (155,84); escorts (Luftflotte I; 158,78; S Arnhem) intervene.
 - a. KG 51 20%, escorts 20%; interceptors 20%, BEF Ar nil, Readiness, Morale, Entrenchment reduced.
7. SG 1 (160,80; S Cologne) bombs BEF Army; intercepted by fighters based at Dover; escorts (Luftflotte I) intervene.
 - a. SG 1 nil, escorts 20%; interceptors 40%, BEF Ar 10%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
8. St.G. 2 (156,78; S Rotterdam) dive-bombs BEF Army.
 - a. Nil; nil, Readiness, Morale reduced.
9. IV Panzerkorps (152,79; NE Calais) takes Calais (151, 79); I Corps (U.K.) identified at coord. 151,80 S Calais; French army revealed Amiens (151,81); attack deferred (see *Note #8*).
 - a. N/A

Note #8

See *Figure 11*. The reason for moving IV Panzerkorps first was to reveal the enemy in Amiens; my next move will be a breakthrough by III Pz to 152,81, between Amiens and Lille, giving up my Prepared Attack on the BEF. If I had moved III Pz without prior scouting of the enemy in Amiens, III's advance would have been stopped short by the 'ambushing' unit previously unrevealed. I may have inflicted damage and/or taken some, but worst of all my remaining AP would be lost and I'd be unable to use one or both Strikes. I'm still risking that the enemy may occupy coord. 152,82 SE Amiens, but I also plan to bring V Pz through 1 FSJ to Loos Mine. Thus, each corps supports the other, and I should be able to dislodge the BEF Ar from Lille, especially after bringing up a few more units!

³ Right-click >Set Mode>Auto.

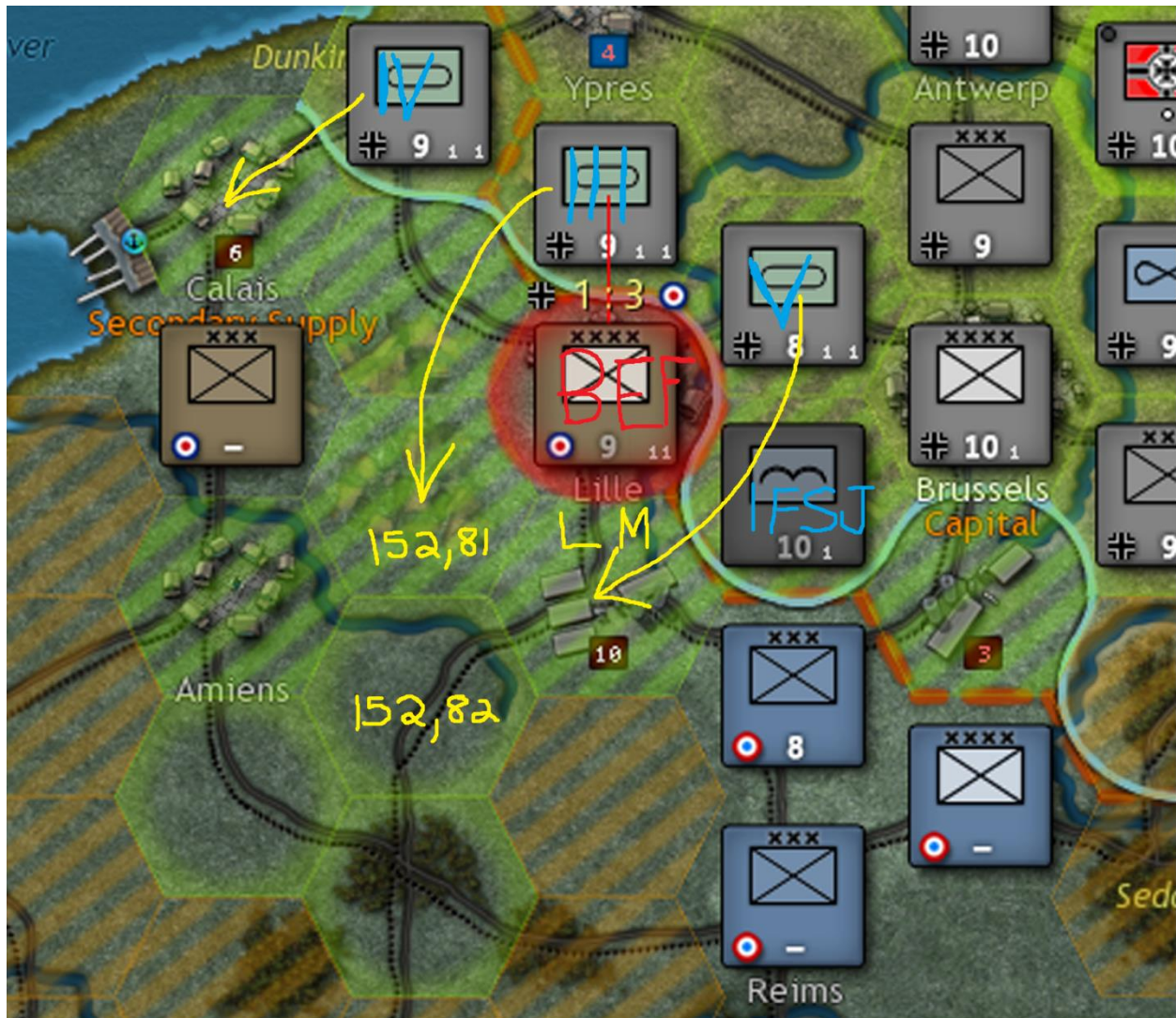


FIGURE 11 – PANZERBITZ!

10. III Panzerkorps executes breakthrough to coord. 152,81 between Amiens and Lille; attack deferred.
 - a. N/A
11. V Panzerkorps (154,80; NW Brussels) blitzes to Loos Mine (153,81); attack deferred.
 - a. N/A
12. 9 Armee (Antwerp; 155,78) moves to coord. 153,79 N Lille; attacks BEF Army.
 - a. Nil; 10%, Readiness, Morale, Entrenchment reduced.
13. 6 Armee (Brussels; 155,80) captures Mons Mine (155,81); attacks I Corps (Fra.) (154,82 SE Mons).
 - a. Nil; 50%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
14. V Panzerkorps attacks I Corps.
 - a. Nil; enemy destroyed.

15. I Armeekorps (155,77; between The Hague & Antwerp) moves to coord. 154,80 NW Brussels; attack deferred.
 - a. N/A
16. IV Panzerkorps attacks I Corps (U.K.).
 - a. 10%; 40%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
 - b. Nil; 10%, Readiness, Morale reduced, retreats to coord. 150,81 NW Amiens; IV Pz advances into coord. 151,80.
17. V Panzerkorps attacks BEF Army.
 - a. 10%; 20%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
18. III Panzerkorps attacks BEF Army.
 - a. Nil; 30%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
 - b. Nil; enemy destroyed.
19. X Armeekorps (155,79; between Antwerp & Brussels) advances to coord. 154,82 N Reims; French army revealed at coord. 154,84 S Reims; attack deferred.
 - a. N/A
20. VIII Armeekorps (157,81; S Liège) enters Sedan (156,83); attack deferred.
 - a. N/A
21. II Armeekorps (156,81; SE Brussels) moves to coord. 156,82 N Sedan; attack deferred.
 - a. N/A
22. VIII Armeekorps attacks 9th Army (Fra.) (155,82; NW Sedan).
 - a. 20%; 20%, Readiness, Morale, Entrenchment reduced.
23. II Armeekorps attacks 9th Army.
 - a. 20%; 10%, Readiness, Entrenchment reduced.
24. X Armeekorps attacks 9th Army.
 - a. Nil; 10%, Readiness reduced.
25. 12 Armee (Luxembourg; 159,82) attacks XLIV Corps (Fra.) (Briey Mine; 158,83).
 - a. Nil; 50%, Readiness, Morale reduced.
26. XXVII Armeekorps (Ardennes; 157,82) attacks XLIV Corps.
 - a. 10%; enemy destroyed.
27. 4 Armee (Bastogne; 158,82) advances into Briey Mine; attack deferred.
 - a. N/A
28. VII Fallschirmjäger-division attacks 6 Grp de Bombardement (Fra.) (Nancy; 158,85).
 - a. Nil; 30% (See *Note #9*.)

Note #9

See Figure 12. My primary goal here is to break through to VII Fallschirmjäger; secondarily, I want to destroy or force 6 Grp de Bombard. from Nancy; and finally, to keep a foothold behind the Maginot Line, with the eventual goal of cutting off the enemy in their forts.

I am almost certain to remove XLIV Corps, and the rest don't really matter, although it would behoove me to inflict some damage on 2nd Army, or it may get the opportunity to counterattack once I do isolate the Maginot.

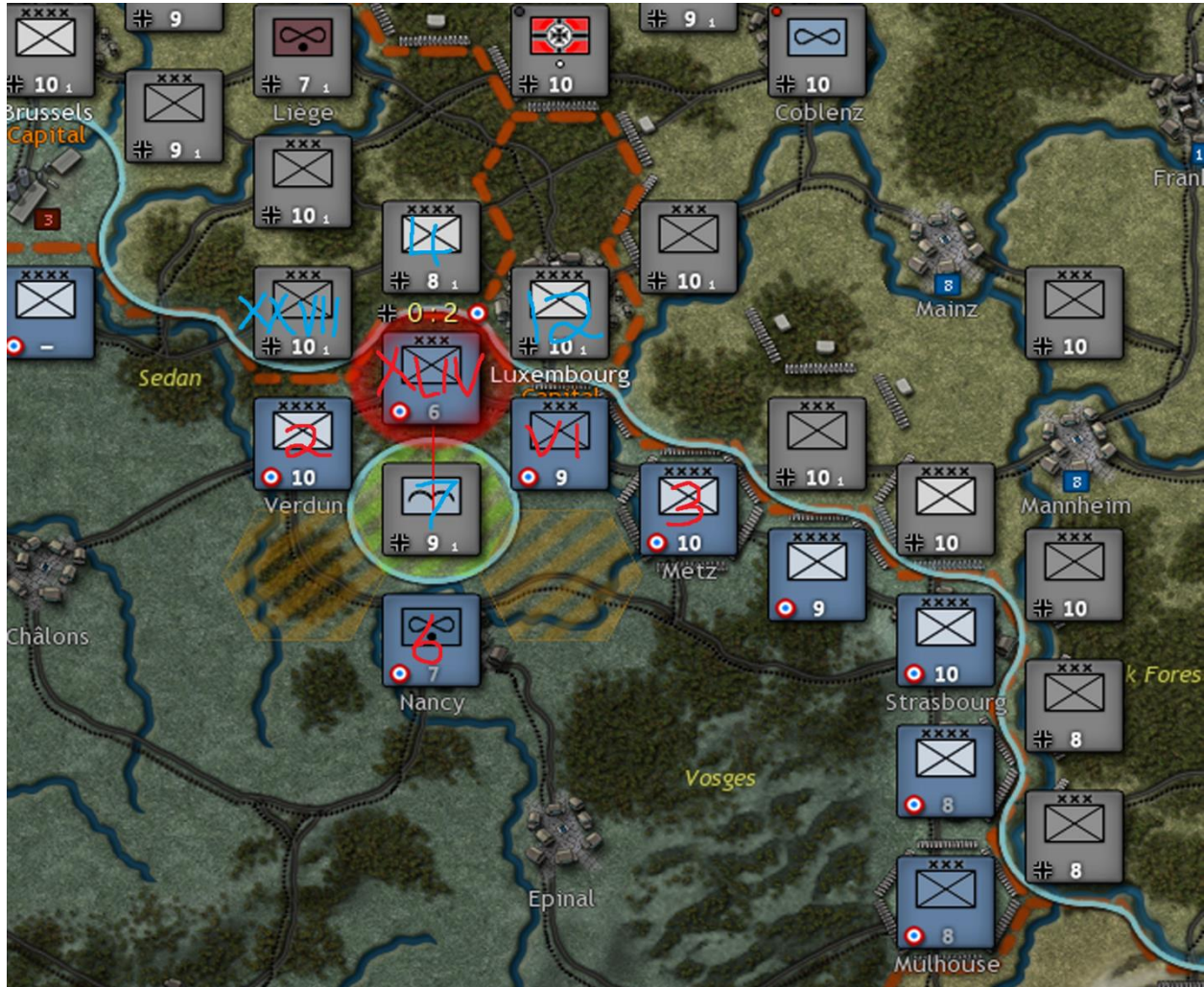


FIGURE 12 – VII FALLSCHIRMJÄGER-DIVISION IS SURROUNDED!

29. 18 Armee (156,76) redeploys to Antwerp (155,78).
 - a. N/A
30. IV Armeekorps (156,77) redeploys to Ypres (153,78).
 - a. N/A
31. Von Bock HQ redeploys to coord. 154,79 SE Ypres.
 - a. N/A

32. Von Kuchler HQ redeploys to Brussels (155,80).
 - a. N/A
33. KG 1 (158,79 N Hürtgen Forest) redeploys to coord. 155,79 N Brussels.
 - a. N/A
34. Luftflotte III (Coblenz; 161,80) redeploys to coord. 156,81 SE Brussels.
 - a. N/A
35. SG 1 (160,80; S Cologne) redeploys to Maastricht (157,79).
 - a. N/A
36. U-30 SS Hunts at coord. 102,100.
 - a. N/A
37. Requisition 10 and 11 Garrison.
38. Influence Spain, Finland.
39. Invest in Industrial Technology.
40. END REPORT



INFLUENCE SPAIN & FINLAND



REQUISITION GARRISONS



SITUATIONAL MAP – PRIOR TO ENEMY RESPONSE – JUNE 1940



SITUATIONAL MAP – 7 JULY 1940

Enemy Response

Location: *Oberkommando der Wehrmacht HQ*

Source: *Consolidated Report from all Western Armeegruppen*

Herr Generalfeldmarschall, the enemy cannot stand before our indomitable troops! The French armies in Amiens and Verdun have been reinforced, it appears to full strength, but otherwise there has been a general withdrawal behind the wavering frontlines. Following our destruction of the BEF Army, the British have even apparently abandoned their so-called allies; one of the two shredded corps facing us around Calais was observed moving onto transports in the harbour, and has since sailed away into the Channel, presumably to England. So much for their *Entente Cordiale!*

Generalfeldmarschall, our panzertruppen, though hurting, are primed to roll the rest of the way to Paris. Can you hear them singing *der Panzerlied?*

What are your orders?

[To be continued in Pt.3]

^a Named II./St.G.51 in the game.