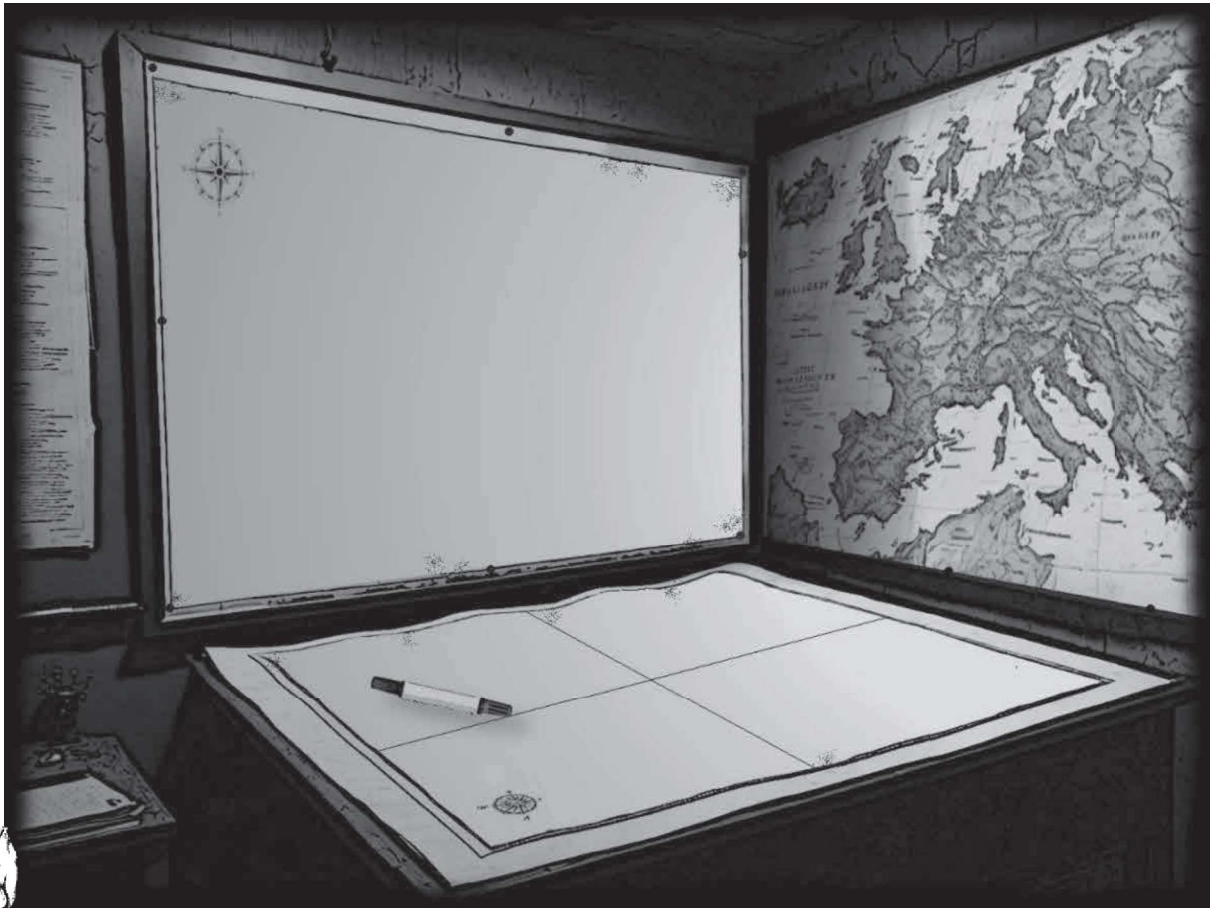




“Well, Sir!” said Shoigu still pretending to work. “You do not say whether our progress with the Special Military Operation pleases you.”

“Oh, it is excellent!” replied the wise Medvedev struggling to see anything at all through his blurred vision. “These important looking arrows, and the colours of the symbols, yes, I will tell the Tsar without delay, how very beautiful I think them, and how everything is going according to The Plan.”



*The war map.*

“We shall be much obliged to you,” said Gerasimov. Then they named the many regiments and their successes and described the pattern of the other pretended stuff. The wise Medvedev listened to their words so he might try and repeat them to the Tsar in sober fashion.

