

BONUS SCENARIO: BATTLE OF BARENTS SEA



DECEMBER 31 1942

Local Time: 0840

In order to make a quick impact upon the Red Army successes in the Stalingrad area, the German High Command decided to attack the heavily military equipment and supply laden convoys destined for Murmansk.

CONDITIONS

Daylight, visibility: 15 kyds., numerous snow squalls

Weather Modifier: 2

Wind: Moderate SE

Initial Bearing: Kriegsmarine forces W of Royal Navy convoy

Initial Range: 18 kyds.

HISTORICAL RESULT

The only thing that kept this contact of force from erupting into a full sea battle is the timidity of the German admirals and Hitler himself. The German forces involved were ordered, *"Procedure on meeting the enemy: avoid a superior force; otherwise destroy according to the tactical situation"*, and then another *"Contrary to the operational order regarding contact against the enemy, use caution even against enemy of equal strength because it is undesirable for the cruisers to take any great risks"*. So German local leaders were to attack and destroy an Allied convoy, but assume that their own heavy ships were made of glass?

The Royal Navy executed a pre-planned formation change, with the DD flotilla forming a defensive screen on the threatened side of the convoy, making smoke, and ready to stand up to whatever might come their way. Meanwhile, the convoy turned away, directly into the path of the onrushing *Lützow* and her accompanying DD's. The tactic worked as planned, but with very restricting orders and visibility hampered by frequent snow squalls, the Germans were unable to fully engage the convoy and its escorts.

KRIEGSMARINE

Operation Regenboden:

CA *Admiral Hipper* (Flagship) Hipper Class CA

5th Destroyer Flotilla (-)

Z16 *Frederich Echholdt* (F), Z4 *Richard Beitzen*

- Z1 Class DDs,

Z29 - Z23 Class DD (1936 'A' Type)

Crew Quality: Trained (all ships)

Damage Control: Poor (all ships)

Radar: Type "A"

Sonar: none used

Cohesion: 14

Initial Heading: 115 degrees (SE)

Initial Speed: 20 knots

Initial Formation: Attacking from northern flank of convoy

Objective: Engage and destroy convoy with minor damage. (Note: defined elsewhere = hull damage less than top row, at least 50% of main armament functioning, no fires, no flooding.)

Operation Aurora

KM *Lützow* (Flagship) - Deutschland Class CA

(described as a "Pocket Battleship," or *panzerschiff*: armored ship, but classed as CA in size.)

5th Destroyer Flotilla (-)

Z6 *Theodor Riedel* - Z1 Class DD,

Z30 - Z23 Class DDs (1936 'A' Type)

Z31 - Z23 Class DDs (1936 'A' Mob Type)

Crew Quality: Trained (all ships)

Damage Control: Poor (all ships)

Radar: Type "A"

Sonar: none used

Cohesion: 14

Initial Heading: 53 degrees (NE)

Initial Speed: 20 knots

Initial Formation: Attacking from southern flank of convoy.

Objective: Engage and destroy convoy with minor damage. (Note: defined elsewhere = hull damage less than top row, at least 50% of main armament functioning, no fires, no flooding.)



Bonus Scenario: Battle of Barents Sea

ALLIED CONVOY JW 51B

14 Merchantmen:

AK Empire Archer (UK) Cargo - military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft

AK Daldorch (UK) Cargo - military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft

AO Empire Emerald (UK) Cargo - fuel oil, aviation fuel

AO Pontfield (UK) Cargo - fuel oil, aviation fuel

AK Chester Valley (US) Cargo - military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft & barrels of gasoline

AK Puerto Rican (US) Cargo - military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft & barrels of gasoline

AK Executive (US) Cargo - military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft & barrels of gasoline

AK R.W. Emerson (US) Cargo - military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft & barrels of gasoline

AK Ballot (US) Cargo - military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft

AK Jefferson Meyers (US) Cargo - military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft & barrels of gasoline

AK Vermont (US) Cargo - military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft & barrels of gasoline

AK Yorkmar (US) Cargo - military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft & barrels of gasoline

AK John H. LaTrobe (US) Cargo - military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft & barrels of gasoline

AK Calobre (Panamanian) Cargo - Military vehicles, general cargo, deck cargo - tanks, aircraft & barrels of gasoline

ROYAL NAVY

Distant Escort

17th Destroyer Flotilla:

HMS Onslow, HMS Oribi, HMS Obedient,
HMS Orwell, HMS Obdurate - O Class DDs;
HMS Achates - A Class DD

Close Escort:

HMS Bramble - Halcyon Class MS;
HMS Circe - Algerine Class MS;
HMS Blankney, HMS Ledbury, HMS Chiddingfold -
Hunt (Type 2) Class DD;
HMS Rhododendron, HMS Honeysuckle - Flower
Class PG;
2 Armed Trawlers: HMS Northern Gem,
HMS Vizalma

Close Covering Force

Force R:

HMS Sheffield - Southampton Class CL;
HMS Jamaica - Fiji Class CL;
HMS Musketeer, HMS Matchless - M Class DDs

Crew Quality: Veteran/Trained (all ships)

Damage Control: Normal (all ships)

Radar: Types "A" & "B"

Sonar: none used

Cohesion: 15

Initial Heading: 70 degrees (NE)

Initial Speed: 11 knots

Initial Formation: Convoy with escorting forces.
Covering force shows up on
turn 16. (1130 local time)

Objective: Protect convoy ships at all costs. Avoid
crippling damage to escorting ships.