

Arctic Convoy

Operational Scenario 9a

by Robert Holzer

Roughly a week before Admiral Scheer left Norway for her search for Soviet freighters, the British Admiralty sent a fast convoy, consisting of four DDs to bring much needed ammunition for Allied ships to Murmansk. On 13 August the US CA Tuscaloosa, escorted by 3 DDs, followed with 300 tons of supplies and 167 men ordered to operate two Hampden squadrons already sent to Murmansk. Thus it came that Allies and Germans operated in close vicinity without knowing from each other.

Follow all instructions of Operational Scenario Nine, but add the following forces:

Starting at Scapa Flow (AN13), with the Allied player secretly rolling 3D6. The result is the number of days (multiplied with six = number of turns) the US TF must wait before being released.

- US CA37 Tuscaloosa
- US DD456 Rodman
- US DD457 Emmons
- Brit DD148 Onslaught

This TF may be given a Raiding mission for its travel to Murmansk, i.e. it may begin play off-board. Once the TF reaches Murmansk, it may no more be given a Raiding mission.

At Murmansk (AB67)

- Brit DD139 Marne
- Brit DD140 Martin
- Brit DE32 (Hunt-II class DEs Middleton, Blankney)

These ships will only be released when either the Tuscaloosa TF arrives at Murmansk or if Admiral Scheer is detected less than ten sea zones from Murmansk.

The Allied ships of both TFs must return to Scapa Flow before the scenario ends (British Hunt class DEs may remain at Murmansk). The Allied player is free to form one or more fleets for those ships's return journey.

Special Rules

Unlike all other scenarios, the German player must use the "Off Board Ship and Task Force Air Search Table" to search for the US task force on its way to Murmansk and back to Scapa Flow. Ignore any Huff Duff results.

Victory Conditions

The Allied player receives 20 VP for Tuscaloosa and 6 VP per DD when the Allied ships safely reach Murmansk, unloading their cargo there.

The German player receives the full VPs value of the ships of the US TF if those ships do not arrive at Scapa Flow before the scenario ends.

Aftermath

Tuscaloosa with her three DDs, backed up by DDs Marne and Martin, left Murmansk on 24 August without knowledge of the German pocket battleship operating in its vicinity. The British DDs Marne, Martin and Onslaught were detached to hunt down a German ship detected by Huff Duff or Ultra. They found and sunk the German minelayer Ulm, which was on its way to lay some mines in Soviet waters. Apart from this incident, the Allied ships had an uneventful journey back to Scapa Flow.