

Axis Forces Secure Victory in Rhode Island

Casualties Heavy in Final Push to Take IRAC

by Tom Tanner, AP (Axis Press)

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Victory bells are ringing from Kiel to Wilhelmshaven celebrating the victory of the High Seas Fleet (HSF) over the Allies in the water near Rhode Island. But the cost of victory was high as four more Axis ships now lay at the bottom of sea.

The first sortie in the waters off the Island Requesting Axis Conquest (IRAC) was vicious as the Allied Fleet, realizing that their backs were to the wall, strove hard to pull out a victory. Ships of the HSF charged into the fray, not afraid to closely engage their enemy. In the heat of the sortie the SMS KRONPRINZ (KAPT David Tuttle) (20-0-1) was ram sunk by the USS MARYLAND (CAPT Steve Pavlovsky) (78-5-21).

Tragedy again struck the Axis Fleet when the SMS BADEN2 (KAPT Chris Decker) (19-4-30) pulled out of the line of battle and sank after being pummeled by unidentified Allied ships. In response to this loss signals broke out from the flagship to the HSF, "Sink the ARIZONA!" Ships from the 1st Scouting Group and 3rd Battle Squadron pursued that ship from one end of the operating area to the other. The USS ARIZONA (CAPT Don Fisher) (140-11-17) maneuvered his ship with dexterity but could not evade all the salvos being fired at him and by the end of the sortie his crew was pumping out the ship without pause. As the engagement ended several Allied vessels had sustained severe damage, but only Axis ships had made the supreme sacrifice, an issue of no little concern to ADM Tom Tanner on SMS HINDENBURG.

ADM Tanner's worries bore fruit just as the second sortie was about to begin when the SMS NASSAU (KDR Seale Tuttle), riding at anchor several miles from shore, suddenly went to the bottom for reasons yet to be determined. Speculation by KDR Tuttle that his ship was the victim of an underwater attack was met with skepticism. Adm Tanner, echoing the sentiment of another admiral nearly a century ago, was heard to say, "There seems to be something wrong with our bloody ships today!"

With the sortie underway the ARIZONA was again the primary target and very shortly she joined BADEN2 beneath the waves. Attention turned to the other Allied vessels. The HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH (CAPT Paul Broring) (38-6-22) became the next target but she was able to evade most of the Axis rounds. Meanwhile a new drama was playing out near the Hayes Buoys.

DKM ADMIRAL SCHEER (KDR Barry Tighe) (23-0-5) was maneuvering to use her triple bow guns when she fouled her props on a Hayes Buoy. IJN MUSASHI (CAPT Carl Camurati-san) (95-3-15) came up and delivered several point blank double broadsides into the ADM SCHEER before leaving her to her fate. As time ran down the ship settled lower and lower in the water. With her "Five" expired KDR Tighe made a valiant effort to reach the stricken ship but she slipped beneath the waves just as he stretched out his hand make contact. With four Axis ships sunk and only one Allied, it seemed certain that the Allies had won the battle. But like Jutland, sinking more ships does not assure victory. The Axis won on points, 10,695 to 8,110. The final Allied resistance crushed and having won every battle, the Axis won the 2003 National Competition of the International Radio Control Warship Combat Club 78,375 points to 46,370.

EPILOGUE:

Well, I'll turn off the Axis propoganda machine now and put out a hearty "BRAVO ZULU" to the Site Host Don Fisher for organizing a great event and to Contest Director Steve Pavlovsky who kept things (and me) on an even keel. Matt Moury organized the twice daily Grab Bags filled with donations from the participating captains and lots of nice plastic models from Chris Decker and Trident Hobbies.

The Awards Banquet Friday night was also a lot of fun with wonderful food and lots of rehashing of the week's events. And of course we got down to the awards portion, preceded by the voting for Best of Scale, Most Feared, Best Dressed and Brian Spychalski Awards. The results were as follows:

Combat Awards

Class 1 and 2 -- None

Class 3 – Kieran Kelly, SMS Scharnhorst

Class 4 – Tie, Ken Kelly in SMS Derfflinger and Tom Tanner in SMS Hindenburg

Class 5 – Paul Broring, HMS Queen Elizabeth

Class 6 – Carl Camurati, IJN Musashi
One-on-One Trophy – Matt Moury, SMS Baden
Von Fluegel – Matt Moury, SMS Baden
Lifeline Award – David Tuttle, DKM Graf Zeppelin
Most Damage w/o Sinking – Carl Camurati, IJN Musashi

Voted Awards

Best of Scale Convoy – Don Fisher, USS Hornet
Best of Scale Warship – Ken Kelly, SMS Derfflinger
Axis Spirit Award – Carl Camurati
Best Dressed – Don Fisher
Rookie of the Year – Barry Tighe
Most Feared Allied – Carl Camurati
Most Feared Axis – Matt Moury
Brian Spychalski Award – Carl Camurati

Funny that the Most Feared Allied was Axis, huh?

Following the meal we held the elections and then held the dreaded Rules Meeting about which I won't go into too much detail except to say these are the Club Officers for the 2004 battling year:

President – Don Fisher
Vice Pres. – Paul Broring
Secretary – Chris Decker
Treasurer – Seal Tuttle
Contest Director – Carl Camurati
Site Host – Chris Decker
Member at Large – Eric Broderick

And with that, I bid everyone “Adieu!” until next year in Rhode Island!