



The Battle of Tsushima

Bill Madison
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Admiralty Trilogy Seminar
Presented by:
Clash of Arms Games





From the Baltic to Tsushima

- ◆ 15 October 1904 Russia's Baltic Fleet renamed the Second Pacific Squadron departs Libau for an 18,000 nm voyage
- ◆ Fleet consists of raw crews many of whom are revolutionaries
- ◆ 60 colliers are contracted from the Hamburg-Amerika Line to provide coal for the voyage
- ◆ Night of 21/22 October Russian Fleet engages the Hull fishing fleet working the Dogger Bank (Aurora hit five times losing her chaplain. One trawler sunk five damaged, two men killed and six wounded)

“I should have engaged the Russians at Tangier...with four of my battleships, at a distance of from 5,000 to 6,000 yards. It appeared to me that this would only be chivalrous, under the circumstances.”

VA. Lord Charles Beresford

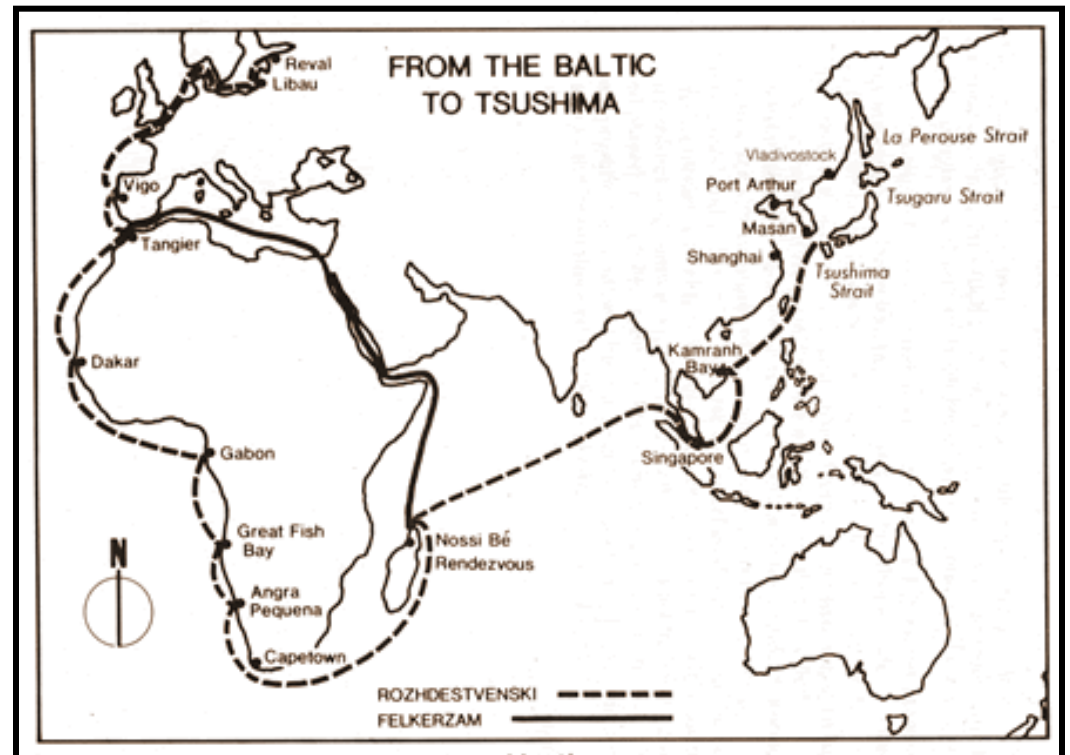


From the Baltic to Tsushima

- ◆ Longest stay was at Nossi-Be (notified of the fall of Port Arthur)
- ◆ May 9, 1905 arrives at Van Fong (Kamranh Bay) coaling fiasco
- ◆ Joined by Third Pacific Squadron (Nebogatov) departs 14 May
- ◆ Arrive Tsushima Straits night of 26/27 May (7.5 month voyage)

“hardly anyone slept; it was too clear we’d be meeting the enemy in full strength...”

Flag-Captain Clapier de Colongue





Zinovi Petrovitch Rozhdestvenski

- ◆ Born 11 November 1848, into an aristocratic family
- ◆ Graduated the Naval Academy in 1870 and the Mikhail Artillery Academy in 1873 with honors
- ◆ Saw service in the Russo-Turkish War 1877-1878 as commander of TB No.2
- ◆ Appointed command of The Second Pacific Squadron in April 1904
- ◆ Captured at Tsushima he recuperated in a Japanese hospital where he was well treated and even visited by Adm. Togo
- ◆ After his return to Russia he was court-martialed but acquitted because he had been unconscious at the time he was captured
- ◆ Retired in 1906 and was in poor health till his death on 14 January 1909





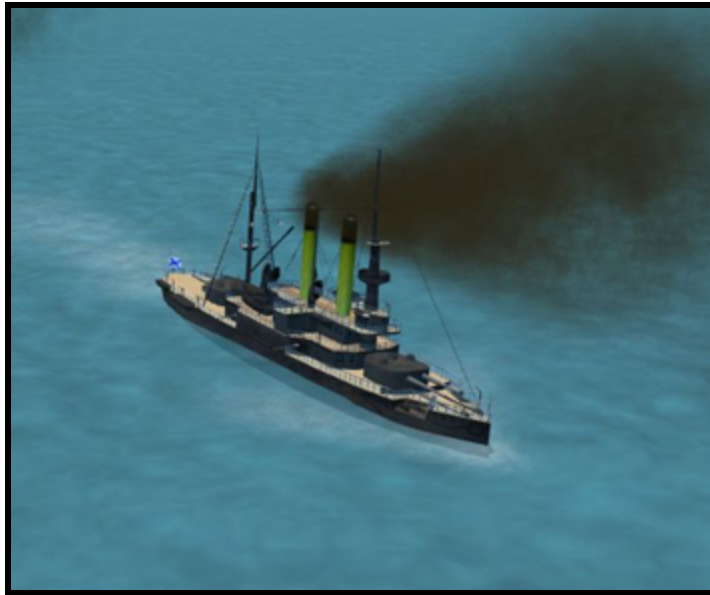
Togo Heihachiro

- ◆ Known as the “Japanese Nelson”
- ◆ Fought at Kagoshima 1863 (Samurai)
- ◆ Entered the new Imperial Navy 1871
- ◆ Trained in England 1871-1875
- ◆ Circumnavigated the globe aboard *Hampshire* 1875
- ◆ Almost removed from the active list in 1893 due to poor health
- ◆ Sank *Kowshing* 1894
- ◆ Battle of the Yalu 1894
- ◆ Rear Admiral 1895
- ◆ C-in-C Combined Fleet 1903
- ◆ Named a count 1907
- ◆ Fleet Admiral 1913
- ◆ Died 30 May 1934





The Russian Fleet



***HIRMs* Admiral Ushakov**

- ◆ 26 x 12-in.
- ◆ 15 x 10-in.
- ◆ 2 x 9-in.
- ◆ 6 x 8-in.
- ◆ 43 x 6-in.
- ◆ 92 guns/Total weight 32,090 lb.

- ◆ Battleships 11 (5/3/3)
- ◆ Armored Cruisers 4
- ◆ Protected Cruisers 4
- ◆ Destroyers 9
- ◆ Armed Yacht 1
- ◆ Auxiliary Vessels 9



***HIRMs* Knyaz Suvorov**



The Japanese Fleet



HIJMS Asama

- ◆ 16 x 12-in.
- ◆ 1 x 10-in.
- ◆ 30 x 8-in.
- ◆ 80 x 6-in.
- ◆ 127 guns/Total weight 28,400 lb.

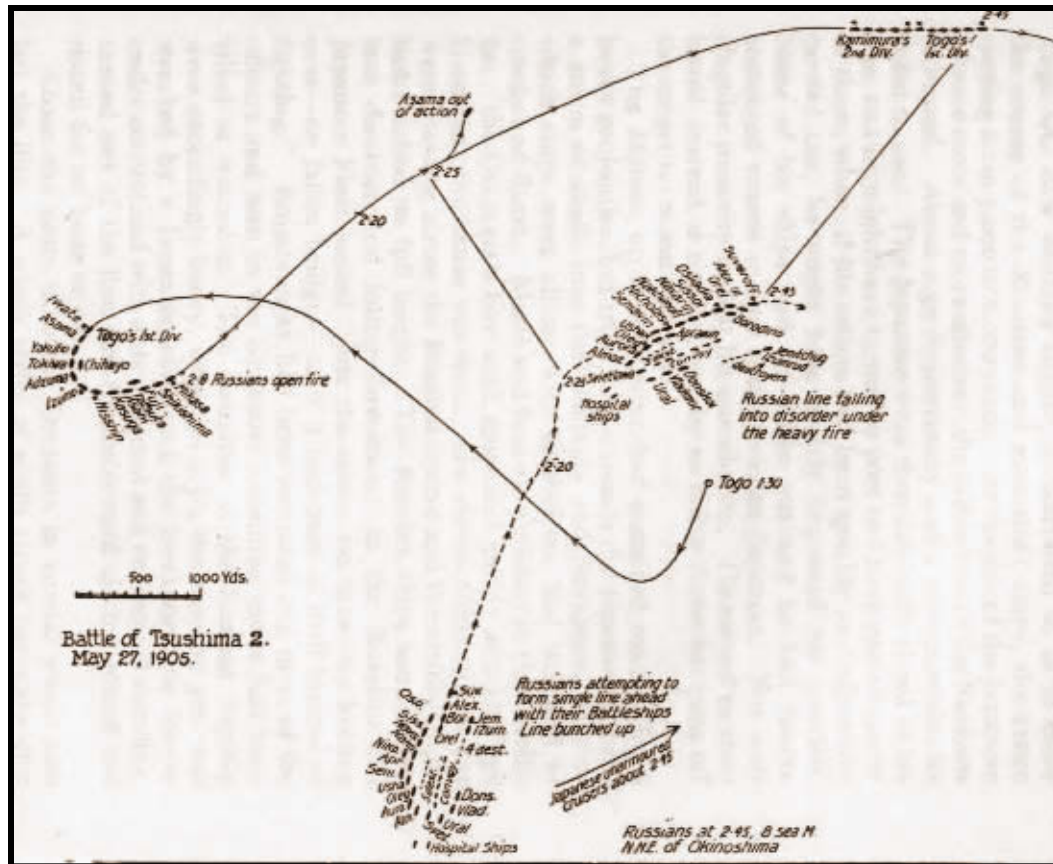
- ◆ Battleships 5 (4/1)
- ◆ Armored Cruisers 9
- ◆ Protected Cruisers 14
- ◆ Scout Cruisers 3
- ◆ Destroyers 21
- ◆ TBs 16



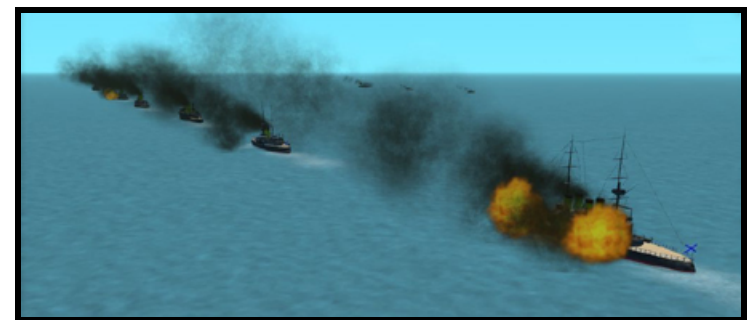
HIJMS Mikasa



The Battle of Tsushima



- ◆ The battle can be broken into three phases
- ◆ First Stage (1339-1425): The initial gunnery duel
- ◆ 1410 The Russian's open fire
- ◆ Asama damaged 1423

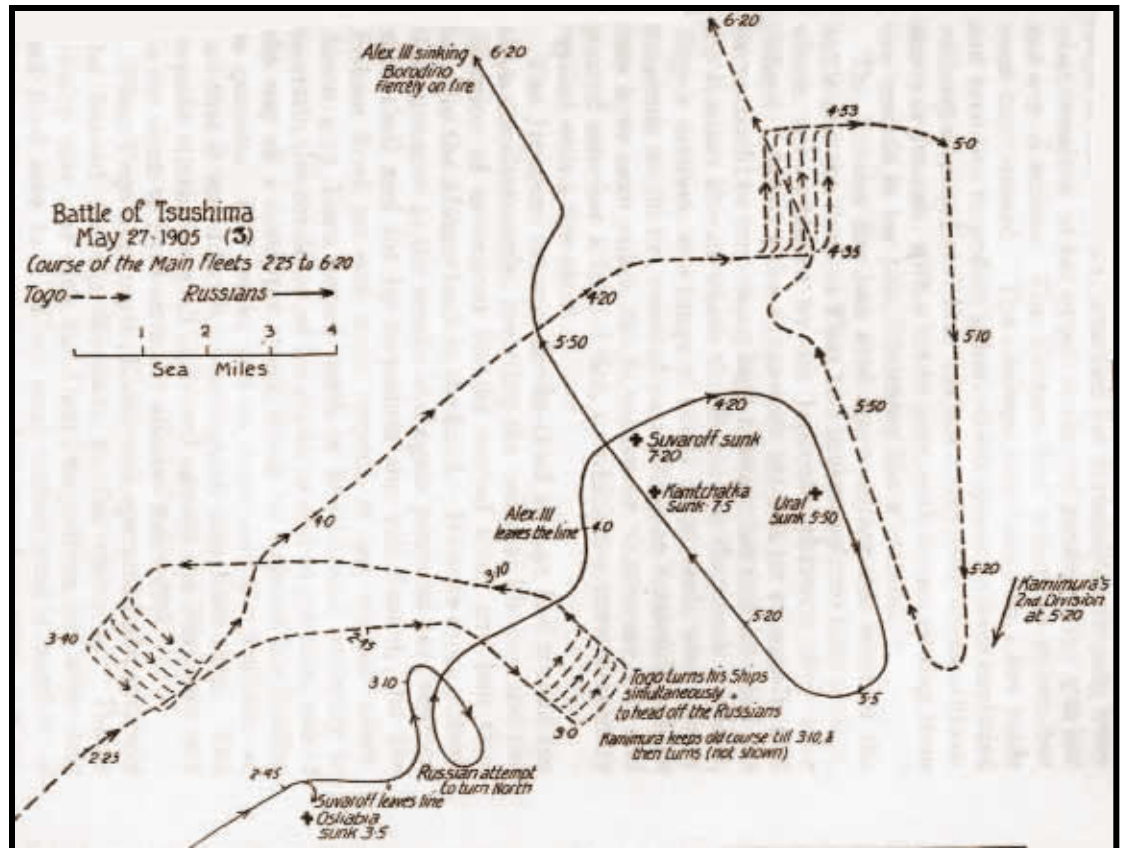


The Russian Fleet opens fire



The Battle of Tsushima

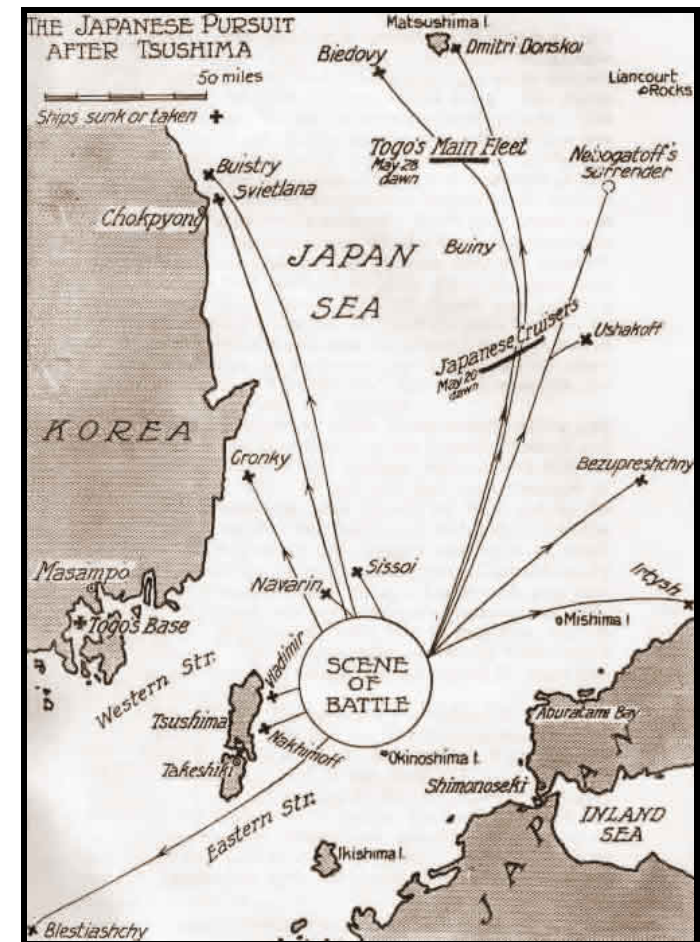
- ◆ Second Stage (1425-1930): The Russian's try to break contact
- ◆ Oslabya - 1515
- ◆ Alexandr III – 1900
- ◆ Kn. Suvorov – 1930
- ◆ Borodino - 1930





The Battle of Tsushima

- ◆ Third Stage (1900 May 27 – 1905 May 28): Flotilla attack and pursuit
- ◆ Navarin – 0200
- ◆ Nakhimov – 0500
- ◆ Vladimir Monomakh – 0500
- ◆ Siso Veliki – 1030
- ◆ Nebogatov Capitulates – 1030
Surrenders: Imp. Nikolai I, Orel,
Gen. Adm. Apraxin, Adm. Senyavin,
Izumrud wrecks at Vladimir Bay
- ◆ Adm. Ushakov – 1800
- ◆ Dimitri Donskoi engaged 1900 scuttled 0600
29 May





Aftermath

- ◆ The Russian Fleet entered the straits with 38 ships
 - 3 Battleships were captured the rest were sunk
 - 1 Cruiser was captured, 4 were interned, the rest were sunk
 - 1 Destroyer captured, 1 interned, 2 (*Grozni, Bravi*)Vladivostok...
 - 4 Auxiliaries sunk, 2 captured (AH), 3 interned
 - *Almaz* made it to Vladivostok
 - The Russians lost 4,830 KIA, 5,917 POW, 1,862 interned

- ◆ The Japanese Fleet entered the straits with 68 ships
 - 3 TBs were sunk due to collision
 - The Japanese lost 117 KIA, 583 WIA

At Jutland there was 1 Battleship, 4 Battle Cruisers, 3 Armored Cruisers, 4 Light Cruisers and 13 Destroyers sunk



Thank You!



HIJM Itsukushima