The Battle of Tsushima

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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
◆ 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
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

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

**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.

**HIRMs Knyaz Suvorov**
The Japanese Fleet

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

*HIJM* Asama

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

*HIJM* 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
Second Stage (1425-1930): The Russian’s try to break contact

- Oslyabya - 1515
- Alexandr III – 1900
- Kn. Suvorov – 1930
- Borodino - 1930
The Battle of Tsushima

- Third Stage (1930 May 27 – 1900 May 28): Flotilla attack and pursuit
  - Navarin – 0200
  - Nakhimov – 0500
  - Vladimir Monomakh – 0500
  - Sisoi Veliki – 1030
  - Nebogatov Capitulates – 1030
  - Adm. Ushakov – 1800
  - Dimitri Donskoi engaged 1900 scuttled 0600
  - 29 May
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