

# Hell in the Pacific: Plan Orange 1931 and 1935

A Variant for Avalon Hill's Victory in the Pacific

Plan Orange is a popular topic for game variants. It allows players to simulate the last dying moments of the Mahanian battleship doctrine in the Pacific. It can also be a lot of fun to play. That said, the likelihood of either Japan or America coming to blows before 1941 was relatively low. The Japanese navy's political power declined in relation to the army, as the naval high command was torn between hardliners and those who favored rapprochement with the west. The army was mostly united by an aggressive policy. When the Great Depression began, the army responded with a policy of conquest. By occupying Manchuria, and starting a war with China in 1937, they dragged Japan into a land war in Asia, that in spite of some spectacular land victories, had no end in sight. The navy did well during the invasion of China making air strikes, supporting amphibious landings, and defeating China's paltry fleet. But it was the army's war to win or lose, and as the war dragged on, the desire for a land war in Asia looked less, and less desirable. The final nail in the coffin came when the Red Army defeated the Japanese at Lake Khasan and Khalkhin Gol. After that, a strike south against Britain, France, America, and the Netherlands, was seriously contemplated.





### **Special Rules**

### **Initiative (Optional)**

The side that moved last in the previous turn may continue moving last in the current turn by sacrificing 1 POC.

### **Foreign Bases**

Ships and aircraft may only base in ports their nation controls.

### Aircraft Rebase (Optional)

Aircraft must have a base or port that they operate from. They may patrol any sea zone that the base occupies. After combat they may move to any friendly base or port. Reinforcements must deploy to a friendly base or port.

### **Gunnery Limits**

All ships must be targeted before a ship can be fired upon by multiple ships. Marines are always the last ship targeted.

### Air Strike Limits (Optional)

No ship can be targeted in a fleet by a multiple air strike units until all ships in the fleet are targeted. Marines are always the last ship targeted.

### **Retreat and Pursuit**

If the retreating groups slowest ship is faster than the pursuing fleet's slowest ship, withdraw is automatic. Otherwise, compare the slowest speeds from each group. To continue the pursuit, you must roll less than or equal to the difference of the two speeds. A roll of one always succeeds, and a six always fails.

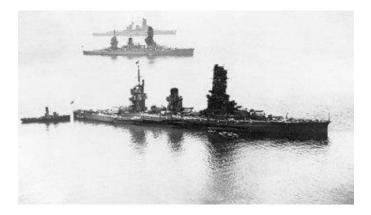
### Air Combat

There is no separate air combat. Both players attack with their air units before resolving the surface action.

### Land Based Air

These air units may control a sea zone. All enemy units must be destroyed or withdrawn. When enemy units are present, the air unit may conduct combat rounds until the enemy are gone. When there are no friendly units in the zone with airstrike factors, the attacking air unit is destroyed when rolling a one on any of its attack dice.





### Plan Orange 1931

This scenario supposes the Imperial Japanese Navy is more united in its desire for a confrontation with America. Plan Orange 1931 speculates that Japan, led by the navy, decided to seize the Philippines rather than Manchuria in September 1931. America is able to ready its Pacific Fleet, while Atlantic forces are being transferred. American naval high command though is in disarray, and not on a proper war footing. The Great Depression is at its worst, and Herbert Hoover can ill afford a war in the Pacific. As such, American forces will not be as swiftly mobilized, particularly without something like Pearl Harbor to rally the people. Britain, Australia, the Netherlands, and France favor America but desire no wider war unless Japan nears their colonial possessions. Their forces are weak, but are not yet distracted by Germany and Italy. These nations will however place embargos on Japan as the war goes on.

Starting POC is 0. Americans/Allies move first

### **Japanese Oil Supplies**

Starting on turn 5, Japanese ships not based out of Yokosuka must make a speed roll to leave port - if Indonesia was not Japanese controlled on the previous turn. If the roll fails, they remain in port. Starting on turn 7 all Japanese ships must make a speed roll to leave port.

### **Japanese Speed Rolls**

Ise and Hyuga add +1 to the die for their speed rolls.

### **Allied Repair**

Pearl Harbor has 1 repair point per turn. It gains 1 per turn up to a maximum of 4. San Francisco has 4 repair points per turn. After the British entry into the war, Singapore, Alexandria, and Ceylon have 1 repair point per turn. After French entry into the war, Madagascar has 1 repair point.

### **Japanese Repair**

Yokosuka has 4 repair points.

### **Neutral Entry**

Areas that start under Japanese or American Control maybe attacked freely. If certain neutral sea zones are entered, roll a die for each area. These areas cannot be controlled unless the nation involved goes to war.

# Sea Zones and Bases:

### Indonesia

US loses 1 POC each time they enter this sea zone on a die roll of 4-6.

If Japan enters the sea zone, France declares war on Japan with a die roll of 4-6. The Netherlands declares war on Japan with a die roll of 6. Britain declares war on Japan with a die roll of 5-6. If Britain declares war, Australia declares war on Japan with a die roll of 2-6. If Japan holds Indonesia for 2 turns in a row, then war is automatic with all countries.

### South Pacific

Each time Japan enters this sea zone, they lose 1 POC on a die roll of 3-6.

### Lae and Guadalcanal

These are British bases and cannot be converted without landing Marines. If this occurs Britain and Australia will automatically declare war. The Netherlands will also declare war on a die roll of 5-6. This means Britain, Australia, and the Netherlands may declare war on America if they assault these bases.

### Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal

If America enters the sea zone they lose1 POC each time. When Japan enters this sea zone, Britain and Australia declare war on Japan. France declares war with a die roll of 3-6. Netherlands will declare war with a 5-6.

### Coral Sea

America loses 1 POC on a die roll of 5-6 each turn they enter this sea zone.

If Japan enters the sea zone, Britain and Australia declare war on a die roll of 4-6.

### New Hebrides

This base (actually bases) are British and French, and cannot be converted without landing Marines. If this occurs Britain, France, and Australia will automatically declare war. This could mean Britain, France, and Australia may declare war on America if they assault these bases.



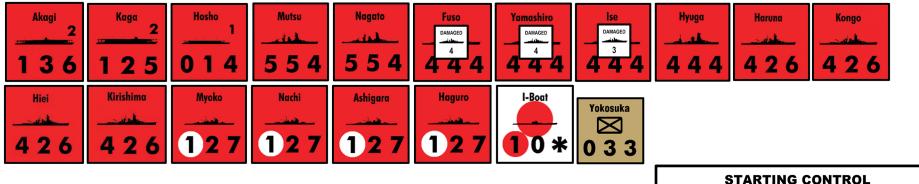


TURN 1

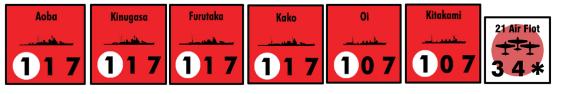
Yokosuka Repair Capacity 4 per turn

All new units arrive in Yokosuka. Returning Air/Land Units arrive in any friendly Major Port

YOKOSUKA







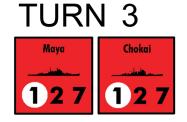


















RETURNING

AIR/LAND

**UNITS FROM** 

**TURN 1** 



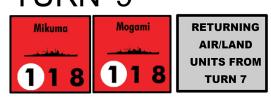


TURN 4

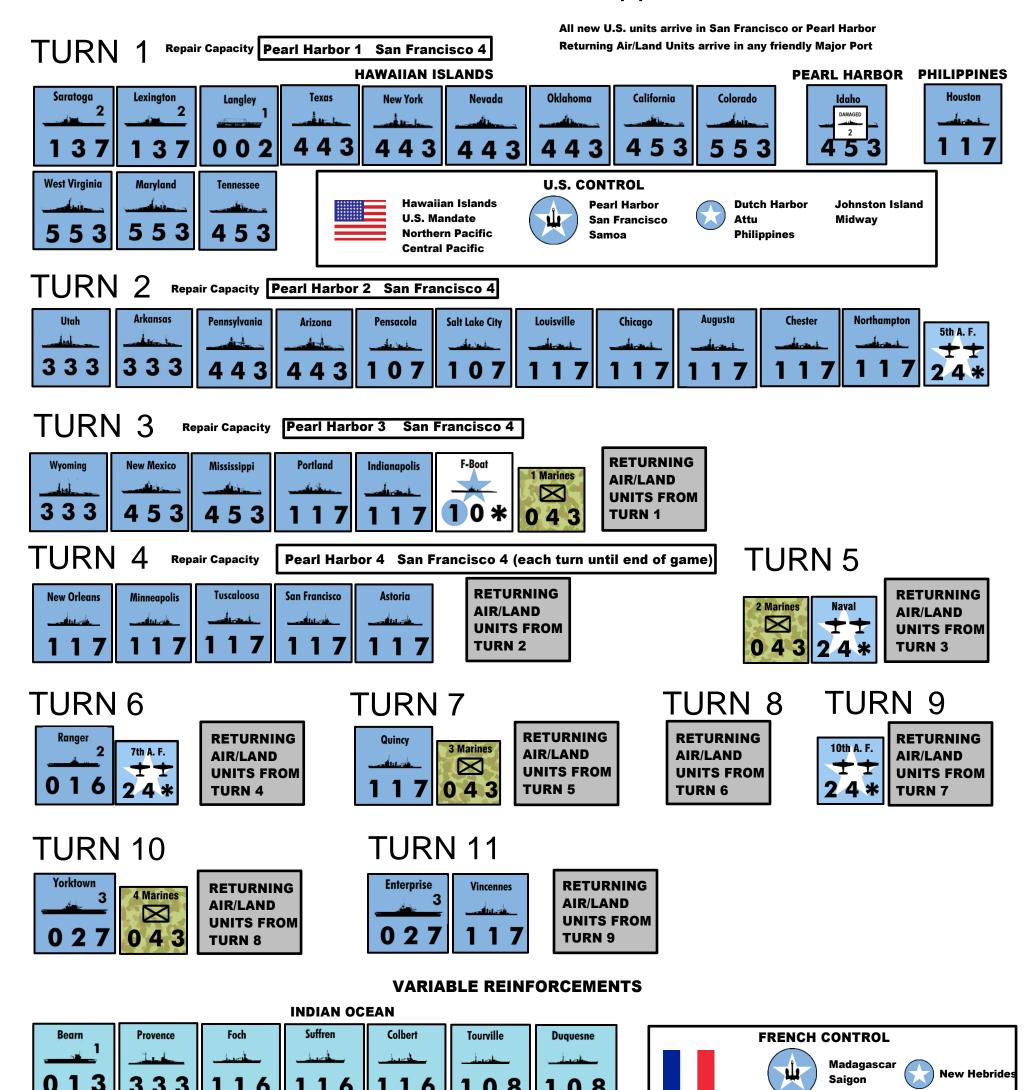




TURN 5



# 1931 Allied Order of Appearance



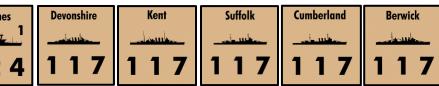






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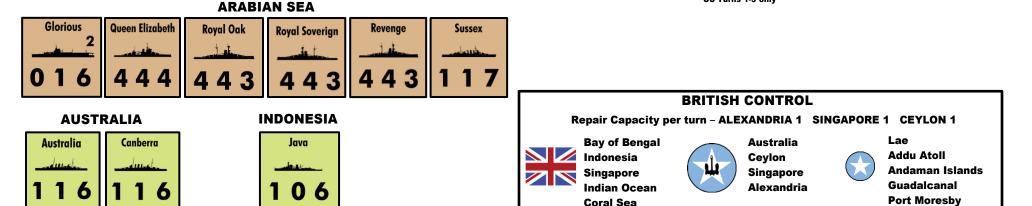
SINGAPORE



# **US MANDATE**









### Plan Orange 1935

Plan Orange 1935 speculates that Japan decided to seize the Philippines in early 1935. During this time, Prime Minister Keisuke Okada tried to ratchet down defense spending. Japan used stimulus spending to stave off the worst of the Great Depression, but as a consequence the army, in particular, got use to an expanded budget. A coup was attempted in early 1936. This scenario supposes an earlier coup. Tensions swiftly rise, and America is able to ready its Pacific Fleet, with many Atlantic forces transferred in time for action. Japan attacks, although much of her battle fleet is being modernized and is out of action. America is better off financially, and is able to bring slightly greater forces to bear as the war goes on. The country though, is still economically fragile, and split by isolationists. National will should falter if America loses heavily. Britain, Australia, and France, unlike 1931, are more willing to join the fray if they perceive a threat. In both Britain and France, rearmament, however tenuous, is underway. That said Italy and Germany are stirring, and whatever forces France and Britain can spare may not be able to participate. They will also place embargos on Japan which will be even more effective than those of 1931.

Starting POC is 0. Americans move first. Game lasts 10 turns.

### **Japanese Oil Supplies**

Starting on turn 5, Japanese ships must make a speed roll to leave port - if Indonesia was not Japanese controlled on the previous turn. If the roll fails, they remain in port.

### **Allied Repair**

Pearl Harbor has 1 repair point per turn. It gains 1 per turn up to a maximum of 6. San Francisco has 4 repair points per turn. After the British entry into the war, Singapore, Alexandria, and Ceylon have 1 repair point per turn. After French entry into the war, Madagascar has 1 repair point.

### War Weariness

America is -1 POC on any turn where they lose equal to or more ship gunnery and air strike factors than the Japanese.

### Akagi

This carrier may, at the start of any turn, be modernized. It returns in 2 turns with an air wing of 4. Yokosuka is -1 repair points for those 2 urns.

### **Neutral Entry**

Areas that start under Japanese or American Control may be attacked freely. If certain neutral zones are entered, roll a die for each area. These areas cannot be controlled unless the nation involved goes to war.

# Sea Zones and Bases:

### Indonesia

Every turn America enters this sea zone they lose 1 POC on a die roll of 5-6.

If Japan enters the sea zone, France declares war on a die roll of 3-6. The Netherlands declares war on Japan with a die roll of 6. Britain declares war on Japan on a die roll of 4-6. If Britain declares war, then Australia declares war on Japan with a die roll of 2-6. If Japan controls Indonesia for 2 turns in a row, then war is automatic with all countries.

### South Pacific

Japan loses 1 POC every turn they enter this zone on a die roll of 3-6.

### Lae and Guadalcanal

These bases are British and cannot be converted without landing Marines. If this occurs, Britain and Australia will automatically declare war. The Netherlands will declare war on a die roll of 5-6. This means Britain, Australia, and the Netherlands may declare war on America should they invade.

### **Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal**

US loses 1 POC each turn they enter this sea zone. If Japan enters the sea zone, Britain and Australia declare war on Japan. France declares war with a die roll of 2-6. Netherlands will declare war on a die roll of 5-6.

### Coral Sea

US loses 1 POC each turn they enter this sea zone with a die roll of 6.

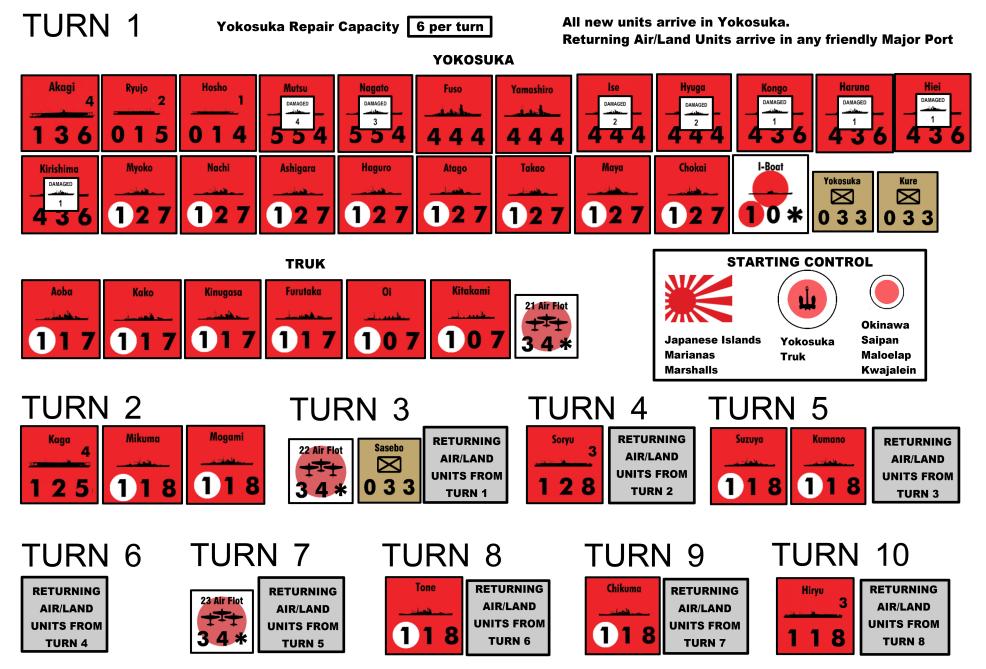
If Japan enters the sea zone, Britain and Australia declare war on Japan with a die roll of 3-6.

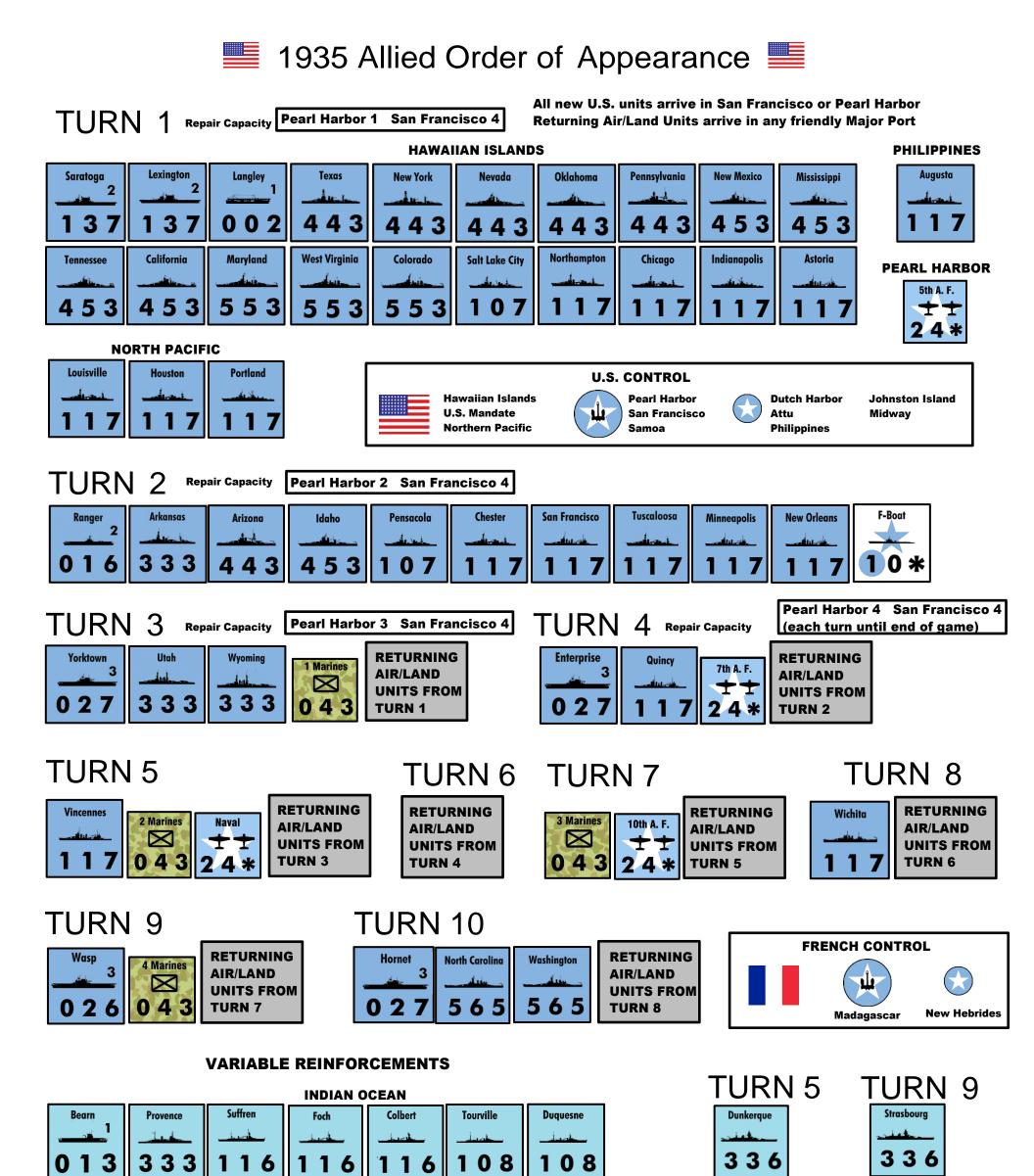
### New Hebrides

This base (actually bases) are British and French and cannot be converted without landing Marines. If this occurs Britain, France, and Australia will automatically declare war. This means Britain, France, and Australia may declare war on America if they invade these bases.













**Dorsetshire** 

**ARABIAN SEA** 

Norfolk

117



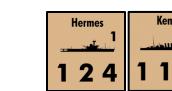
AUSTRALIA

Canberra

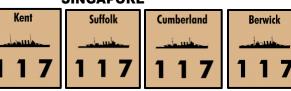
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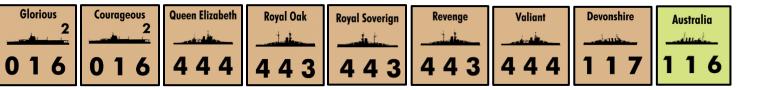








# **ARABIAN SEA**



8

#### TURN 2 URN 3









**INDONESIA** Java

17

**CORAL SEA** 

Sussex



Replace with De Ruyter on Turn 5

06



# **Design Notes**

Some players may wonder why I do not have carriers getting much stronger as the war goes on, or why I have fewer ships getting involved than in Victory in the Pacific. Japanese heavy industry only came into its own later in the decade. The American economy was still in pieces. War is generally bad for an economy and even worse for societies torn by social tension, which was particularly true in America. Carriers do get a bit better in the 1935 scenario, and while they will not dominate the high seas, their part to play is much greater in 1935. As to the number of ships, once again I deemed that neither nation was able or willing to produce the kinds of ships they did in the 1940s. A Plan Orange scenario is basically a colonial squabble that can get out of hand but is likely to be contained to the Pacific Ocean. World War II was two separate wars connected by diplomatic maneuvers and unfortunate timing. The invasion of China was not enough to drag the west into a war in 1937, and nor would an early conflict with America so long as it was contained. That said, if players want to increase the probability of France and Britain intervening then by all means do so, but keep in mind their main commitments were in Europe. The rise of fascism and communism, not to mention the Spanish Civil War, kept the bulk of their fleets in European waters.

On the matter of ship ratings, one will notice that carriers are weaker here. This is because their offensive capabilities were quite limited in 1931, and arguably I have been too generous. I decided not to make them much better as the war went on, nor to have either nation field large air forces. Air tactics were still being learned, and neither nation had the capacity to field large air forces. The aircraft being used also lacked the punch of later monoplanes; most of the carrier aircraft are biplanes. I did consider a rule for the introduction of the Mitsubishi A5M but deemed it a case of adding too much to the game. Veteran players of Victory in the Pacific will notice that Akagi and Kaga are weaker. Both ships were floating gas cans that were destroyed at Midway with shocking ease. Their hardiness in Victory in the Pacific always irked me, especially compared to the more robust Shokaku and Zuikaku. For 1931 the Kongo class battleships have weaker armor, as they were not upgraded until after 1935, which is why their upgraded

versions in the 1935 scenario have damage markers. Other stats were changed using the Avalon Hill General article by Jim Davis from Volume 17, Number 6, where he detailed more accurate ship stats. I also drew inspiration from Brian Herr's peerless Victory at Sea Redux.

I included some rules I typically use to increase realism in my regular sessions of Victory in the Pacific. I recommend them all, but made most optional for purists. Retreat and Pursuit rules are meant to show the chanciness of naval pursuit, where sudden weather changes and reluctant admirals fail to press home a victory. Gunnery Limits are meant to prevent ganging up, making losses from battle a bit more realistic; every session of Victory in the Pacific leaves the ocean as a graveyard. The same is true with air strike limits. Aircraft Rebase is meant to prevent the sudden massing land based air units and make the player plan ahead a bit more. Lastly, Initiative and Air Combat are only meant for Hell in the Pacific. The game is more straight forward than either War at Sea or Victory in the Pacific. The Initiative rule is meant to spice things up and allow for a possible change in fortune. The special rules for air combat simulates the limitations of aircraft tactics and designs in 1931 and 1935. Aircraft are important, but not decisive; the battleship is the unit of decision.

# **Credits:**

Game Design: Sean Chick

Art Design: Craig Johnson, Emily Harvey

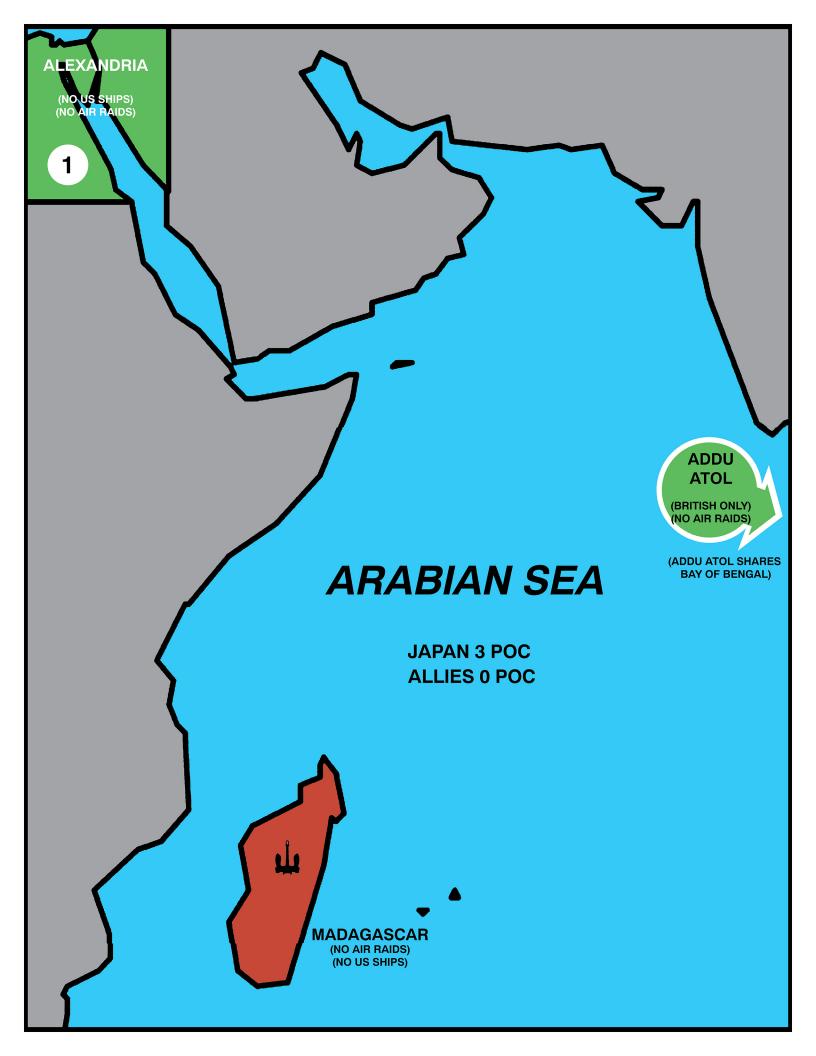
*Playtesting: Daniel Chick, Andrew Simoneaux, Lance Wattigney* 

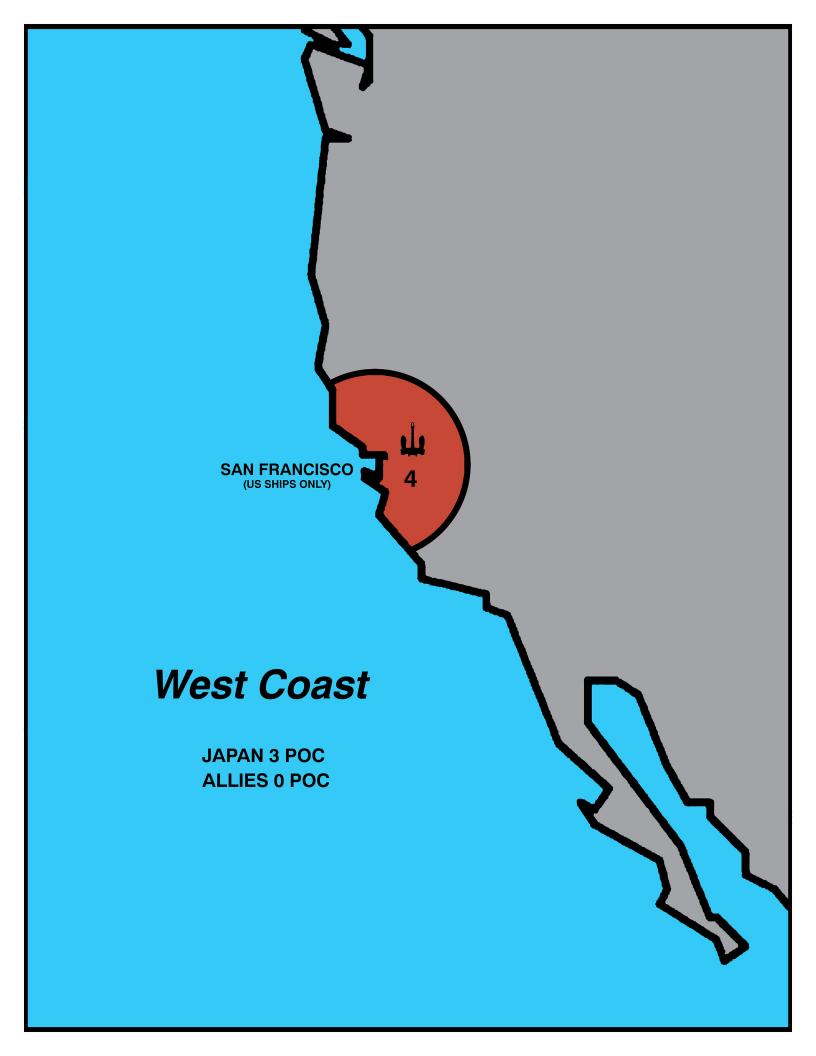
Editor: Craig Johnson

Special Thanks: Bill Krasner, Brian Herr, Leo Zappa

This game is dedicated to William Sariego, a fine designer, a fun gamer, and a truly decent man.







Kaga 4 125	Kaga 2 1 2 5	Hiryu 3 118	Haruna 436	Chikuma  118	0i 107	Indianapolis  1 1 7	Portland  1 1 7	New Orleans	Astoria  1 1 7	Quincy 1177	San Francisco	
Akagi 4 136	Akagi 2 1 3 6	Soryu 3 128	Hiei 436	Tone 118	Kitakami 107	Vincennes  1 1 7	Minneapolis	Pensacola 107	Salt Lake City	Langley 1 0 0 2	Wichita  1 1 7	
Ryujo 2 0 1 5	Mogami 118	Nagato 554	Fuso 4444	Yamashiro 4444	Kongo 436	Texas 4 4 3	New York	Nevada 4 4 3	Oklahoma 443	Arizona 443	Pennsylvania	
Hosho 1 0 1 4	Mikuma 118	Mutsu 5 5 4	Hyuga 444	lse 4444	Kirishima 436	New Mexico	Idaho 4 5 3	Mississippi 453	California	Tennessee 453	Colorado	
Chokai	Takao 127	Myoko 127	Haguro	Furutaka	Aoba 1177	Washington	Chester 1177	Chicago  1 1 7	Louisville 1177	Northampton	Houston 1177	
Atago 127	Maya 127	Ashigara	Nachi 127	Kako	Kinugasa 1177	Saratoga 2 1 3 7	2 137	Yorktown 3 0 2 7	Enterprise 3 0 2 7	Hornet 3 0 2 7	Wasp 3 0 2 6	
Australia  1 1 6 Canberra	De Ruyter 1177 Java	I-Boat 10*	Haruna 426 Hiei	Kongo 426 Kirishima	Kumano 1188 Suzuya	Provence	Bearn 1 0 1 3	Ranger 2 0 1 6	Maryland 5 5 3	West Virginia 5 5 3	North Carolina	
116	106	10*	426	426	118	Duquesne	Tourville 108	Augusta 1177	Arkansas 3 3 3 3		Wyoming  3 3 3 3	
Queen Elizabeth 4444 Revenge	Hermes 1 1 2 4 Devonshire	Renown 335 Glorious	Berwick <b>1 1 7</b> Royal Oak	Ark Royal 2 0 2 7 Kent	Hood 445 Norfolk	Suffren 116 Colbert	Dunkerque	Strasbourg 336 Cornwall	Cumberland	Royal Sovereign 443 Sussex	Courageous 2 0 1 6 Suffolk	
443	117	<sup>2</sup> 016	443	117	<u> </u>	117	116	117	<u> </u>	117	<u> </u>	