

**ACTION OFF ENOGAI****0005 5 July 1943**

Background: On July 5, 1943, American ships entered Kula Gulf to land troops at Rice Anchorage (on the island of New Georgia) and bombard Japanese positions at Vila and Bairoka. Their mission coincided with a Japanese effort to reinforce the Vila garrison.

## Forces:

United States Navy Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth	Division 1:	Nicholas Strong	(Fletcher - flag) (Fletcher)
	Division 2	Honolulu Helena St. Louis	(Brooklyn - flag) (St. Louis) (St. Louis)
	Division 3	Chevalier O'Bannon	(Fletcher - flag) (Fletcher)
Nihon Kaigun Rear Admiral Akiyama Teruo	Division 1:	Niizuki Yunagi Nagatsuki	(Akitsuki- flag) (Kamikaze) (Mutsuki)

## Set-up:

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The battle area is restricted. There is land on the west, south and east edges. The south edge is 40 inches from the north edge. The west edge is 20 inches from the east edge.

For both sides, the friendly edge is the north edge.

The Japanese Division 1 begins on a course of 180 degrees (due south) with Niizuki 16 inches from the east edge and 3 inches from the north edge.

The American divisions are steaming in order in line on a course of 180 degrees, with Nicholas 14 inches from the east edge and 25 inches from the north edge.

Victory Conditions: Victory is decided on points:

- a) 2 per cruiser sunk;
- b) 1 per destroyer sunk;

## Special Rules.

1. All USN ships have SG radar and CICs, and Mk 8 or Mk 12 fire control radars.
2. The Japanese are alert. The Niizuki has the equivalent of SG radar and a CIC.
3. All American ships must bombard both Vila and Bairoka. The former is on the west edge 10 inches from the south edge. The latter is on the east edge 10 inches from the south edge. They must deliver the bombardment from within 10 inches of each place, and must spend 6 turns in total on the bombardment mission (including transit time between the two). Of course, they are considered to be firing while within 10 inches of either place and engaged in the bombardment. While bombarding, the Americans cannot use their SG radar and spot visually with a -2 spotting modifier.
4. There is a Japanese battery of 4 6 inch guns (range 16") located at Bairoka. It will only fire at American ships that are dead in the water or on fire.
5. The visual sighting base is 2, with a visibility state of -7 -- overcast and moonless.

Outcome: The Japanese spotted the American bombardment force and launched torpedoes at least 15 minutes before the Americans knew that the Japanese were even there. One Long Lance torpedo slammed into Strong; she sank an hour later. Because the Japanese launched at a range of 11 miles -- far beyond the range of any American torpedo -- the Americans were left baffled at the cause of the Strong's sinking.

The authorities are at odds over the details of this action. Dull identifies the engaged ships as Niizuki, Yunagi and Nagatsuki, and says that the Niizuki fed target data from her radar to her consorts.<sup>1</sup> This is at odds with other data on Japanese radar development, which suggests that the Japanese had no effective surface search sets at the time of this engagement.<sup>2</sup> Rohwer and Hummelchen list the Japanese ships in the action as the Mochizuki, Mikazuki and Hamakaze under Captain Tsuneo Orita -- three older destroyer-transport that probably would not have had radar and may not even have had Long Lance torpedoes.<sup>3</sup> This group was the "First Transport Unit"

<sup>1</sup> Dull, Paul S. *A Battle History of the Imperial Japanese Navy*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1978. p.274.

<sup>2</sup> Skulski, Janusz. *The Heavy Cruiser Takao*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1994. p.21.

<sup>3</sup> Rohwer, Juergen and Huemmelchen, Gerhard. *Chronology of the War at Sea 1939-1945*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1992. p.219.

at the battle of Kula Gulf. Morison does not identify the Japanese vessels at all, writing only that the Americans had two radar contacts, and makes no reference to how the Japanese spotted their targets or laid their weapons.<sup>4</sup> Despite other data, Morison credits Niizuki with radar and says that she used it at the Battle of Kula Gulf (where she was sunk).<sup>5</sup> Morison's account of that battle suggests that Niikuki's set detected the presence of American ships 34 minutes before the Americans SG radar detected the Japanese, and that the Americans were tracked down to a range of 12,000 yards.<sup>6</sup> Morison also says that the action off Enogai took place on a "dark, overcast night," so it seems unlikely that Japanese optics outranged American radar in the engagement.<sup>7</sup> Based on this, I conclude that the Niizuki was present at this action, and that her radar data resulted in the hits scored that night. An alternate explanation, which the players may wish to explore, is that the three Japanese destroyers were hidden against the shoreline at Bairoka, launched torpedoes and then were spotted only when they exited the gulf.

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<sup>4</sup> Morison, Samuel E. *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II, Volume VI: Breaking the Bismarcks Barrier*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1950. p.157.

<sup>5</sup> Morison, pp.162, 166.

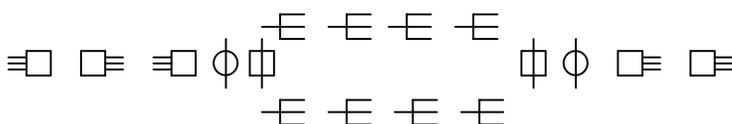
<sup>6</sup> Morison, pp.163, 166.

<sup>7</sup> Morison, p.156.

# Brooklyn

<u>Navy Class</u>	United States Navy Heavy cruiser	<u>Date</u>	1942		
<u>Surface Armament</u>		<u>Ranges</u>	<u>Directors</u>		
Main Battery:	6 inch guns in 5 triple turrets	24 inches	Fore and aft		
Secondary Battery:	5 inch guns in 8 single mounts	14 inches	Fore and aft		
<u>Gun:</u>	5"      10"      15"      20"      24"	<u>Power</u>	<u>Relia</u>		
6 inch triple	A/14      8/12      3/10      2/8      1/5	6	B		
5 inch single	A/10      8/6      2/1	4	B		
<u>Speed</u>	4.25"      12 boilers      4 engines	<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1	20.5"-22.5": ±2	24": ±3
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 70      DIW: 35      Sinking: 48				

## Armament Arrangement



## Notes

- Heavy cruiser size, but light cruiser guns.
- Class included Brooklyn, Honolulu and Boise.

## Hits

Fuel Oil 1	11-15	Forward Void
Main Magazine A	16-21	Main A
Main Magazine B	22-24	Main B
Main Magazine M	25-31	Main M
Plot/CIC	32	Bridge, Forward Secondary Director , AAMGs
Plot/CIC	33	Forward Primary Director, Secondary 1 or 2, Bridge, AAMGs
Boiler Room 1	34	Search Radar
Boiler Room 2	35	Funnel , Secondary 3 or 4
Boiler Room 3	36	Searchlights 1 or 2
Boiler Room 4	41	Secondary 5 or 6, Searchlights 3 or 4
Boiler Room 4	42	Secondary 7 or 8, Funnel
Engine Room 1	43-45	Void
Engine Room 2	46	AAMGs, Aft Main Director
Engine Room 2	51	AAMGs, Aft Secondary Director
Main Magazine X	52-53	Main X
Main Magazine Y	54-56	Main Y
Fuel Oil 2, Propshafts 1 or 2	61	Catapult 1 or 2 , Hanger
Fuel Oil 2, Propshafts 3 or 4	62	Catapult 1 or 2 , Hanger
Steering	63-64	Catapult 1 or 2, Hanger
Void	65-66	Hanger

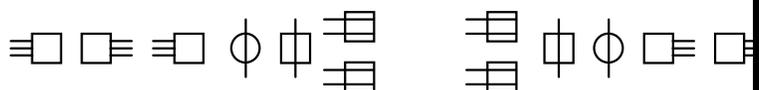
## Internal Diagram

FO1 4FP	PM A 2FP	PM B 2FP	PM M 2FP	PL 2FP	BR1 B1 7FP	BR2 B3 7FP	BR3 B5 7FP	BR4 B7 7FP	ER1 E1 11FP	ER2 E3 11FP	PM X 2FP	PM Y 2FP	FO2 2FP	ST 1FP	V 1FP
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# St. Louis

<u>Navy Class</u>	United States Navy Heavy cruiser			<u>Date</u>	1942			
				<u>Armor</u>	no modifier			
<u>Surface Armament</u>				<u>Ranges</u>				<u>Directors</u>
Main Battery:	6 inch guns in 5 triple turrets			24 inches				Fore and aft
Secondary Battery:	5 inch guns in 4 twin mounts			18 inches				Fore and aft
<u>Gun:</u>	5"	10"	15"	20"	24"	Power	Relia	
6 inch triple	A/14	8/12	3/10	2/8	1/5	6	A	
5 inch twin	A/13	8/9	2/5	1/1		4	A	
<u>Speed</u>	4.25"	12 boilers	4 engines	<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1	20.5"-22.5": ±2	24": ±3	
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 70	DIW: 35	Sinking: 48					

## Armament Arrangement



## Notes

- Variant of the *Brooklyn* class, with 5 inch 38 caliber guns in twin mounts and a revised internal arrangement.
- In class: St. Louis, Helena.

## Hits

Fuel Oil 1	11-15	Forward Void
Main Magazine A	16-21	Main A
Main Magazine B	22-24	Main B
Main Magazine M	25-31	Main M
Plot/CIC	32	Bridge, Foward Secondary Director, AAMGs
Boiler Room 1	33	Forward Primary Director, Bridge, AAMGs
Boiler Operating Station 1	34	Search Radar, Secondary 1 or 2
Boiler Room 2	35	Funnel, Secondary 1 or 2
Engine Room 1	36	Searchlights 1 or 2
Engine Room 1	41	AAMGs, Searchlights 3 or 4
Boiler Room 3	42	AAMGs, Funnel
Boiler Operating Station 2	43	Void
Boiler Room 4	44	Void
Engine Room 2	45	Secondary 3 or 4
Engine Room 2	46	AAMGs, Aft Main Director
Secondary Magazine	51	AAMGs, Aft Secondary Director
Main Magazine X	52-53	Main X
Main Magazine Y,	54-56	Main Y
Fuel Oil 2, Propshaft 1 or 2	61	Catapult 1 or 2, Hanger
Fuel Oil 2, Propshaft 3 or 4	62	Catapult 1 or 2, Hanger
Steering	63-64	Catapult 1 or 2, Hanger
Void	65-66	Hanger

## Internal Diagram

FO1 4FP	PM A 2FP	PM B 2FP	PM M 2FP	PL 2FP	BR1 B1 B2 5FP	BOS 1 4FP	BR2 B3 B4 5FP	ER1 E1 E2 11FP	BR3 B5 B6 5FP	BOS 2 4FP	BR4 B7 B8 5FP	ER2 E3 E4 11FP	PM X 2FP	PM Y 2FP	FO2 2FP	ST 1FP	V 1FP
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# Fletcher

<u>Navy</u>	United States Navy			<u>Date</u>	1942		
<u>Class</u>	Destroyer			<u>Armor</u>	None		
<u>Surface Armament</u>				<u>Ranges</u>		<u>Directors</u>	
Main Battery:	5 inch guns in 5 single mounts			18 inches		Fore	
Torpedoes:	21 inch torpedoes in 2 quintuple mount			6 inches at 5.50"		Port and starboard	
	2 special hits			10 inches at 3.25"			
<u>Gun:</u>	5"	10"	15"	18"	Power	Relia	
5 inch single	A/11	8/7	2/3	1/-1	4	A	
<u>Speed</u>	4.50	4 boilers	2 engines	<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1	20.5"-22.5": ±3	24": ±5
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 30	DIW: 15	Sinking: 20				

## Armament Arrangement



## Notes

- Most numerous class of USN fleet destroyers, with 175 ships in the class.
- Most early units built with twin 40mm mounts on the after pilothouse and the fantail. Some of the earliest (*viz* Fletcher) had one 1.1 inch mount on the pilothouse instead.

## Hits

Fuel Oil 1	11-14	Void
Forward Main Magazine	15-21	Main A
Fuel Oil 2	22-24	Main B
Fuel Oil 3	25	Bridge, AAMGs
Fuel Oil 3	26	Bridge, Main Director
Boiler Room 1	31	Search Radar
Boiler Room 1	32-33	Funnel
Engine Room 1	34-36	Torpedo A
Boiler Room 2	41	Searchlight 1 or 2, Funnel
Boiler Room 2	42-43	Torpedo B
Boiler Room 2	44	AAMGs, Torpedo B
Engine Room 2	45	AAMGs, Main M
Engine Room 2	46	Main M
Engine Room 2	51	Main M
Aft Main Magazine	52	AAMGs
Aft Main Magazine	53-55	Main X
Fuel Oil 4	56-62	Main Y
Void, Propshaft 1 or 2	63-64	Void
Steering	65-66	Steering [,AAMGs]

## Internal Diagram

FO1	PM	FO2	FO3	BR1	ER1	BR2	ER2	PM	FO4	V	ST
1FP	A&B	FO	FO	B1	E1	B3	E2	MX	3FP	1FP	1FP
	1FP	2FP	2FP	B2	4FP	B4	4FP	1FP			
				5FP		5FP					

# Akitsuki

<u>Navy</u>	Imperial Japanese Navy	<u>Date</u>	1942		
<u>Class</u>	Antiaircraft Destroyer				
<u>Surface Armament</u>		<u>Ranges</u>	<u>Directors</u>		
Main Battery:	3.9 inch guns in 4 twin mounts	20 inches	Fore and aft		
Torpedoes:	24 inch torpedoes in 1 quadruple mounts	22 inches at 6.00"	Aft		
	4 reloads	35 inches at 5.00"			
Maximum Value:	9	44 inches at 4.50"			
<u>Gun:</u>	5"      10"      15"      20"	<u>Power</u>	<u>Relia</u>		
3.9 inch twin	A/13      8/8      2/4      1/-1	3	B		
<u>Speed</u>	4.25"      3 boilers      2 engines	<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1	20.5"-22.5": ±3	24": ±5
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 27      DIW: 14      Sinking: 18				

## Armament Arrangement



## Notes

- Purpose-designed as antiaircraft destroyers to escort fast carriers, but frequently used as flagships.
- Twelve in class.

## Hits

Fuel Oil 1	11-14	Void
Forward Main Magazine	15-21	Main A
Forward Main Magazine	22-24	Main B
Fuel Oil 2	25	Void
Boiler Room 1	26	Bridge
Boiler Room 1	31	Forward Main Director, Bridge
Boiler Room 1	32	Funnel
Boiler Room 2	33-41	Funnel
Boiler Room 2		AAMGs
Boiler Room 2	42	Torpedo Director
Engine Room 1	43-45	Torpedo A
Engine Room 2	46	Searchlight, Torpedo Reload
Engine Room 2	51	Torpedo Reload
Engine Room 2	52	Aft Main Director
Aft Main Magazine	53-55	Main X
Aft Main Magazine	56-62	Main Y
Propshaft 1 or 2, Fuel Oil 3	63-64	Aft Void
Steering	65-66	Steering

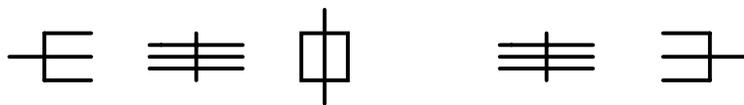
## Internal Diagram

FO1 1FP	FM A&B 2FP	FO2 2FP	BR1 B1 3FP	BR2 B2&B3 6FP	ER1 E1 4FP	ER2 E2 4FP	AM X&Y 2FP	FO3 2FP	ST 1FP
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# Mutsuki

<u>Navy</u>	Imperial Japanese Navy			<u>Date</u>	1942, as converted		
<u>Class</u>	Destroyer-transport			<u>Armor</u>	None		
<u>Surface Armament</u>				<u>Ranges</u>		<u>Directors</u>	
Main Battery:	4.7 inch guns in 2 single mounts			18 inches		Fore	
Torpedoes:	24 inch torpedoes in 2 triple mounts			8 inches at 5.50"		Aft	
Maximum Value:	9			16 inches at 4.50"			
<u>Gun:</u>	5"	10"	15"	18"	Power	Relia	
4.7 inch single	A/9	8/5	2/2	1/-2	4	B	
<u>Speed</u>	4.25	4 boilers	2 engines	<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1	20.5"-22.5": ±3	24": ±5
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 27	DIW: 14	Sinking: 18				

## Armament Arrangement



## Notes

- Twelve Mutsukis were converted to this role.
- These were the first destroyers to carry a 24 inch torpedo. They carried an early model of the torpedo, which was also found occasionally in Fubukis and light cruisers.

## Hits

Fuel Oil 1	11-13	Forward Void
Forward Magazine	14-16	Mount A
Crew Spaces	21-23	Torpedo A
Fuel Oil 2	24	Bridge
Boiler Room 1	25	Bridge, Main Director
Boiler Room 1	26-31	Funnel
Boiler Room 1	32	AAMGs, Supply Area
Boiler Room 2	33-35	AAMGs, Supply Area
Boiler Room 2	36	Funnel
Engine Room 1	41	Searchlight
Engine Room 1	42-44	AAMGs, Supply Area
Engine Room 2	45	AAMGs, Supply Area
Engine Room 2	46-52	Torpedo B
Aft Magazine	53-54	Main M
Aft Magazine	55-56	AAMGs, Supply Area
Fuel Oil 3, Propshaft 1 or 2	61-64	Aft Void
Steering	65-66	Steering

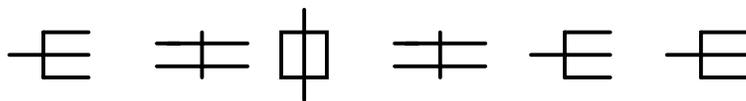
## Internal Diagram

FO1 1FP	PM A 1FP	V 2FP	FO2 FO 2FP	BR1 B1 B2 4FP	BR2 B3 B4 4FP	ER2 E1 4FP	ER2 E2 4FP	PM MY 2FP	FO3 2FP	ST 1FP
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# Kamikaze

<u>Navy</u>	Imperial Japanese Navy			<u>Date</u>	1942, as converted			
<u>Class</u>	Destroyer-transport			<u>Armor</u>	None			
<u>Surface Armament</u>				<u>Ranges</u>		<u>Directors</u>		
Main Battery:	4.7 inch guns in 3 single mounts			18 inches		Fore		
Torpedoes:	21 inch torpedoes in 2 twin mounts			8 inches at 4.25"		Aft		
Maximum Value:	9			16 inches at 3.25"				
<u>Gun:</u>				<u>Power</u>	<u>Relia</u>			
4.7 inch single	5"	10"	15"	18"	4	B		
<u>Speed</u>	4.25	4 boilers	2 engines	<u>Torpedo Hits</u>		17.7"-18": ±1	20.5"-22.5": ±3	24": ±5
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 27	DIW: 14	Sinking: 18					

## Armament Arrangement



## Notes

- Nine Kamikazes were converted to this role.

## Hits

Fuel Oil 1	11-13	Forward Void
Forward Magazine	14-16	Mount A
Crew Spaces	21-23	Torpedo A
Fuel Oil 2	24	Bridge
Boiler Room 1	25	Bridge, Main Director
Boiler Room 1	26-31	Funnel
Boiler Room 1	32	AAMGs, Supply Area
Boiler Room 2	33-35	AAMGs, Supply Area
Boiler Room 2	36	Funnel
Engine Room 1	41	Searchlight
Engine Room 1	42-44	AAMGs, Supply Area
Engine Room 2	45	AAMGs, Supply Area
Engine Room 2	46-52	Torpedo B
Aft Magazine	53-54	Main M
Aft Magazine	55-56	Main X
Fuel Oil 3, Propshaft 1 or 2	61-64	Aft Void
Steering	65-66	Steering

## Internal Diagram

FO1 1FP	PM A 1FP	V 2FP	FO2 FO 2FP	BR1 B1 B2 4FP	BR2 B3 B4 4FP	ER2 E1 4FP	ER2 E2 4FP	PM MY 2FP	FO3 2FP	ST 1FP
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