

## VELLA LAVELLA

2203 6 October 1943

Background: In October of 1943, the Japanese high command sent the "Tokyo Express" to evacuate Vella Lavella. When aerial reconnaissance spotted the Japanese sortie, Admiral Wilkinson ordered two separate groups of destroyers to intercept it. One of the forces made contact, and attacked.

Forces:

United States Navy Captain Frank R. Walker	Division 1:	Selfridge Chevalier O'Bannon	(Porter - flag) (Fletcher) (Fletcher)
Nihon Kaigun Rear Admiral Ijuin Matsuji	Division 1:	Yugumo Kazegumo Isokaze Akigumo	(Yugumo) (Yugumo) (Kagero) (Yugumo - flag)
	Division 2:	Samidare Shigure	(Shiratsuyu) (Shiratsuyu - flag)

Set-up:

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The Japanese are in two groups. The first (Division 1) is in line with Akigumo leading. Its course is 30 degrees. It starts 11 inches from the north edge and 18 inches from the east edge. The second division starts on the north edge and 17 inches from the east edge. It is steaming in line ahead formation -- with Shigure leading -- on a course of 210 degrees.

The Americans begin in line ahead formation with Selfridge leading. They are on a course of 240 degrees. Selfridge begins 10 inches from the north edge and on the east edge.

Victory Conditions: Victory is determined on points. Score 2 points for each ship sunk and 1 point for each ship torpedoed but not sunk.  
Special Rules:

1. Japanese forces are all alert.
2. All American ships except Selfridge have SG search radar, CICs and Mk 12 fire control radars. Selfridge has SG and Mk 3 radars.
3. Visibility base is **15** inches (gunfire visibility factor of **-3**) -- clear with a moon.
4. The Japanese have a float plane which can place a starshell at any location on the playing surface in any Sighting Segment in which the Japanese player rolls 2 or 1 on a die.
5. The American friendly mapside is the east side. The Japanese friendly mapside is the west side.
6. Optional (but recommended): Both the Japanese and the Americans had unengaged forces in the vicinity of the battle. Either could have joined. Each side rolls two dice at the start of each turn to determine whether these forces engage.
  - (a) On a roll of **4** or less, American Division 2 appears on the east edge at any point selected by the American player. Division 2 consists of: Ralph Talbot (Bagley - flag), Taylor (Fletcher) and LaVallette (Fletcher). The Fletchers have SG and Mk 12 radars; Ralph Talbot has SG and Mk 4.
  - (b) On a roll of **3** or less, Japanese Division 3 appears on the west edge at any point selected by the Japanese player. Division 3 consists of: Fumizuki (Mutsuki - flag), Matsukaze (Kamikaze), Yunagi (Kamikaze).

Outcome: Fighting at two to one odds, Walker's force succeeded in sinking Yugumo. The Japanese torpedo riposte blasted Chevalier and blew off Selfridge's bow. O'Bannon, fighting in her fifth surface action since the First Naval Battle of Guadalcanal almost a year previously, suffered minor damage in a collision with the disabled Selfridge.

# Porter

<u>Navy</u>	United States Navy	<u>Date</u>	1941
<u>Class</u>	Destroyer	<u>Armor</u>	None

<u>Surface Armament</u>	<u>Ranges</u>	<u>Directors</u>
Main Battery:	5 inch guns in 4 twin mounts	18 inches
Torpedoes:	21 inch torpedoes in 2 quadruple mounts 2 special hits	13 inches at 4.25" 16 inches at 2.75"
		Fore Port and starboard

Speed      4.50                  4 boilers                  2 engines

Flotation    Total: 28                  DIW: 14                  Sinking: 18

Torpedo Hits    17.7"-18": ±1    20.5"-22.5": ±3    24": ±5

## Armament Arrangement



## Notes

- Eight Porters were built. They were designed as special "destroyer destroyers with single purpose guns.

## Hits

	Fuel Oil 1	11-14	Forward Void
	Fuel Oil 1	15	Main A
Forward Main Magazine		16-21	Main A
Forward Main Magazine		22-23	Main B
	Fuel Oil 2	24	Main B
	Fuel Oil 2	25	AAMGs
	Fuel Oil 2	26	Bridge
	Fuel Oil 2	31	Bridge
	Boiler Room 1	32	Main Director
	Boiler Room 1	33	Search Radar
	Boiler Room 1	34	Funnel
	Boiler Room 2	35	Torpedo A
	Boiler Room 2	36	Torpedo A
	Boiler Room 2	41	Torpedo A
	Engine Room 1	42	Funnel
	Engine Room 1	42	Torpedo B
	Engine Room 1	44	Torpedo B
	Engine Room 2	45	Torpedo B
	Engine Room 2	46	Searchlight
	Engine Room 2	51	Aft Main Director
	Aft Main Magazine	52	AAMGs
	Aft Main Magazine	53	Main X
	Aft Main Magazine	54-55	Main X
	Fuel Oil 3	56	Main Y
	Fuel Oil 3	61-62	Main Y
	Propshaft 1 or 2	63-64	Void
	Steering	65-66	Steering

## Internal Diagram

FO1 1FP	FM A&B 1FP	FO2 3FP	BR1 B1 5FP	BR2 B2 5FP	ER E1 E2 9FP	AM X&Y 1FP	FO3 1FP	ST 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 2 special hits	6 inches at 5.50" 10 inches at 3.25"	Port and starboard
<u>Speed</u>	4.50	4 boilers	2 engines
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 30	DIW: 15	Sinking: 20
		<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1    20.5"-22.5": ±3    24": ±5

## 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					

# Bagley/Gridley

<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 4 single mounts	18 inches
Torpedoes:	21 inch torpedoes in 4 quadruple mounts 2 special hits	6 inches at 5.50" 10 inches at 3.25"
		Fore Port and starboard

Speed      4.50                  4 boilers                  2 engines

Flotation    Total: 27                  DIW: 14                  Sinking: 18

Torpedo Hits    17.7"-18": ±1    20.5"-22.5": ±3    24": ±5

## Armament Arrangement



## Notes

- Twelve ships in both classes.

## Hits

	Fuel Oil 1	11-14	Forward Void
	Fuel Oil 1	15	Main A
Forward Main Magazine		16-21	Main A
Forward Main Magazine		22-23	Main B
	Fuel Oil 2	24	Main B
	Fuel Oil 2	25	AAMGs, Bridge
	Fuel Oil 2	26	Main Director, Bridge
	Fuel Oil 2	31	Bridge
Boiler Room 1		32	Void
Boiler Room 1		33	Search Radar
Boiler Room 1		34	Funnel
Boiler Room 2		35-36	Funnel
Boiler Room 2		41	AAMGs
Engine Room		42-44	Torpedo 1 or 2
Engine Room		45-51	Torpedo 3 or 4
Aft Main Magazine		52	Searchlight
Aft Main Magazine		53	AAMGs
Aft Main Magazine		54-55	Main X
	Fuel Oil 3	56	Main X
Fuel Oil 3, Propshaft 1 or 2		61-63	Main Y
Void, Propshaft 1 or 2		64	Void
Steering		65-66	Steering

## Internal Diagram

FO1 1FP	FM A&B 1FP	FO2 3FP	BR1 B1 B2 5FP	BR2 B3 B4 5FP	ER E1 E2 9FP	AM X&Y 1FP	FO3 1FP	ST 1FP
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# Asashio/Kagero/Yugumo

<u>Navy</u>	Imperial Japanese 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 3 twin mounts	18 inches	Fore
Torpedoes:	24 inch torpedoes in 2 quadruple mounts	22 inches at 6.00"	Aft
	8 reloads	35 inches at 5.00"	
	3 special hits	44 inches at 4.50"	
<u>Speed</u>	4.50	3 boilers	2 engines
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 28	DIW: 14	Sinking: 18
<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1	20.5"-22.5": ±3	24": ±5

## Armament Arrangement



## Notes

- All three classes were similar in game terms.
- Ten Asashios, 18 Kageros and 20 Yugumos were built.
- Use cruiser turn radius for Asashio class.

## Hits

Fuel Oil 1	11-13	Void
Forward Main Magazine	14-21	Main A
Fuel Oil 2	22	Void
Fuel Oil 2	23-24	Bridge
Boiler Boom 1	25	Main Director, Bridge
Boiler Boom 1	26	Void
Boiler Boom 1	31	Reload A
Boiler Room 2	32	Reolad A
Boiler Boom 2	33	Funnel
Boiler Boom 2	34	Torpedo A
Boiler Boom 3	35	Torpedo A
Boiler Boom 3	36	AAMGs
Boiler Boom 3	41	Funnel
Engine Room	42	Searchlight
Engine Room	43-44	Torpedo B
Engine Room	45	Torpedo Director
Engine Room	46	Reload B
Void	51	Reload B
Aft Main Magazine	52-54	Main X
Aft Main Magazine	55-61	Main Y
Propshaft 1 or 2, Fuel Oil 3	62-64	Aft Void
Steering	65-66	Steering

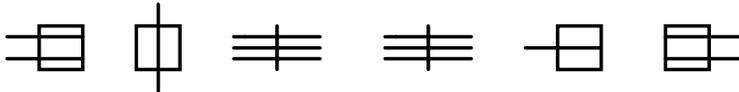
## Internal Diagram

FO1 1FP	PM A 1FP	FO2 FO 4FP	BR1 B1 3FP	BR2 B2 3FP	BR3 B3 3FP	ER2 E1,E2 6FP	V 2FP	PM Y 2FP	FO3 2FP	ST 1FP
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# Hatsuharu/Shiratsuyu

<u>Navy Class</u>	Imperial Japanese Navy Destroyer			<u>Date</u>	1940
				<u>Armor</u>	None
<u>Surface Armament</u>				<u>Ranges</u>	<u>Directors</u>
Main Battery:	5 inch guns in 2 twin mounts and 1 single mount			18 inches	Fore
Torpedoes:	24 inch torpedoes in 2 triple mounts 6 reloads 3 special hits			22 inches at 6.00" 35 inches at 5.00" 44 inches at 4.50"	Aft
<u>Speed</u>	4.25	3 boilers	2 engines		
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 28	DIW: 14	Sinking: 18		
				<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1    20.5"-22.5": ±3    24": ±5

## Armament Arrangement



## Notes

- Successor classes to the Fubukis and Akatsukis, extensively modified after the original design proved to be unstable.
- Shiratsuyus were similar, with quadruple torpedo mounts vice the triples, and 8 reloads rather than 6.

## Hits

Fuel Oil 1	11-13	Forward Void
Forward Main Magazine	14-21	Main A
Fuel Oil 2	22	Void
Fuel Oil 2	23-24	Bridge
Boiler Room 1	25	Bridge, Main Director
Boiler Room 1	26-31	Void
Boiler Room 1	32	Funnel
Boiler Room 1	33-34	Torpedo A
Boiler Room 2	35	Torpedo A
Boiler Room 2	36	AAMGs, Torpedo Reload A
Boiler Room 2	41	Funnel, Torpedo Reload A
Engine Room 1	42	Searchlight
Engine Room 1	43-44	Torpedo B
Engine Room 2	45	Torpedo B
Engine Room 2	46	Torpedo Director
Engine Room 2	51-52	Torpedo Reload B
Aft Main Magazine	53-54	Main M
Aft Main Magazine	55-61	Main Y
Propshaft 1 or 2, Fuel Oil 3	62-64	Void
Steering	65-66	Steering

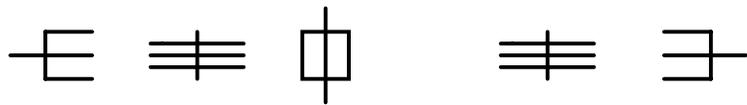
## Internal Diagram

FO1 1FP	PM A 1FP	FO2 FO 3FP	BR1 B1 B2 6FP	BR2 B3 3FP	ER2 E1 4FP	ER2 E2 4FP	PM MY 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
	No reloads			16 inches at 4.50"	
	3 special hits				
<u>Speed</u>	4.25	4 boilers	2 engines		
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 27	DIW: 14	Sinking: 18		
				<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1    20.5"-22.5": ±3    24": ±5

## 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

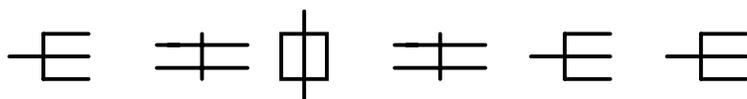
## Internal Diagram

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
	No reloads	16 inches at 3.25"	
	2 special hits		
<u>Speed</u>	4.25	4 boilers	2 engines
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 27	DIW: 14	Sinking: 18
		<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1    20.5"-22.5": ±3    24": ±5

## 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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