

### CRUISER ACTION OFF ULSAN -- 4.50 a.m, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1904

The main naval events of the Russo-Japanese War centered on the Japanese blockade of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, on the western side of the Korean peninsula. However, a Russian cruiser squadron based at Vladivostok waged a smaller but still active naval campaign, ranging down toward the merchant shipping lanes of the Japanese Home Islands and disrupting the flow of Japanese reinforcements bound for Korea. When in August of 1904 the Port Arthur squadron attempted an abortive break-out from the Japanese blockade, Admiral Iessen led the Vladivostok cruisers out to meet the Russian fleet. Iessen did not know that the break-out had failed. Nor did he know that his long-time nemesis, Admiral Kamimura, was barring the Russian advance to the south with a cruiser force of his own. As dawn broke on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Iessen saw Kamimura's ships steaming across his line of retreat.

Russian Forces: Rossiya (flag), Gromoboi, and Rurik

Russian Set-up: In line ahead on a course of 270 degrees (due west), leading ship 60 inches from the north edge and 36 inches from the east edge.

Japanese Forces: Izumo (flag), Azuma, Tokiwa, and Iwate

Japanese Set-up: In line on a course of 270 degrees (due west), leading ship 50 inches from the east edge and 33 inches from the north edge.

The playing area is 72 inches by 48 inches, with the longer edges running north to south.

Visibility: 12 inches

Victory Conditions: The Russian player wins by exiting at least two ships without permanent P or M hits off of the north edge of the playing area. The Japanese player wins by preventing at least two Russian ships from exiting off of the north edge of the playing area, while losing no more than one ship. Any other result is a draw.

Outcome: Iessen tried to run past Kamimura to escape to Vladivostok, but Kamimura blocked him and pounded Rurik. Although Iessen tried repeatedly to spring Rurik from the Japanese cruisers, he was ultimately forced to leave her to be sunk. With his other ships damaged, Iessen's squadron ceased to be a factor in the war.

Note: Ignore references to event cards when playing this scenario.