

VELLA GULF

2330 18 August 1943

Background: When Admiral Wilkinson caught wind of a Japanese attempt to run reinforcements down to Kolombangara, he decided to let a force of six American destroyers deal with it. This was the first time in the Solomons campaign that American destroyers were used independently against the "Tokyo Express;" previously, they had been tied rigidly to their cruisers. The American destroyermen had trained in radar-directed torpedo tactics. They would now have a chance to use them.

Forces:

Nihon Kaigun Captain Sugiura Kaju	Division 1:	Shigure Kawakaze Arashi Hagikaze	(Shiratsuyu) (Shiratsuyu) (Kagero) (Kagero - flag)
United States Navy Commander Frederick Moosbrugger	Division 1:	Lang Sterett Stack	(Benham refit - flag) (Benham refit) (Benham refit)
	Division 2:	Dunlap Craven Maury	(Dunlap - flag) (Gridley) (Gridley)

Set-up:



- The playing surface is limited to a width of 28 inches from east to west. Both the east and west edges are land.
- The Japanese friendly edge is the north edge; the American friendly edge is the south edge.
- The Japanese start in line, with Hagikaze leading, on a course of 180 degrees (due south). Hagikaze is 7 inches from the north edge and 13 inches from the east edge.

The Americans start in two parallel lines, with Division 1 3 inches southeast of Division 2. The flagships are leading, and both formations are steaming on a course of 45 degrees. Dunlap is 10 inches from the east edge and 26 inches from the north edge.

Victory Conditions: Victory is determined on points. Score one point for each ship torpedoed but not sunk and two points for each ship sunk.

Special Rules:

1. Base visibility is **0** (gunfire visibility factor of **-7**) -- moonless and squally.
2. All American ships have SG search radar and Mk 4 fire control radar. Maury has a CIC.
3. Because they are carrying troops, no Japanese ships other than Shigure may reload torpedo mounts.
4. Shigure trails the other ships of her division by 3 inches at the start.
5. The Japanese must hold their course and maintain a speed of 3.25" until they sight the Americans.

Outcome: Moosbrugger's force fought a near-perfect battle, sinking three of four Japanese destroyers in a surprise torpedo attack. Only Shigure escaped, and she took a dud torpedo through her rudder. There were no American losses.

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

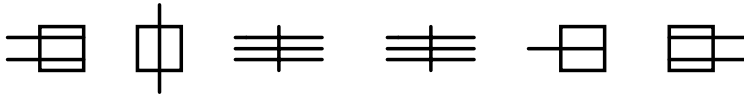
Internal Diagram

FO1 1FP	PM A 1FP	FO2 FO 4FP	BR1 B1 3FP	BR2 B2 3FP	BR3 B3 3FP	ER1 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

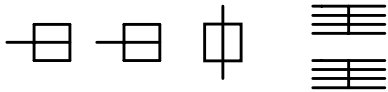
Internal Diagram

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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Benham

<u>Navy</u>	United States Navy	<u>Date</u>	1942, as refit
<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	Fore
Torpedoes:	21 inch torpedoes in 2 quadruple mounts 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: 28	DIW: 14	Sinking: 18
		<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1 20.5"-22.5": ±3 24": ±5

Armament Arrangement



Notes

- 10 ships in class.
- Shown with the after 2 torpedo mounts removed in favor of added AAMGs. All except Benham and Ellet were modified in this way.

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
	Boiler Room 1	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 1	42-44	Torpedo 1 or 2
	Engine Room 2	45-51	AAMGs [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
	Void	61-62	Main Y
Void, Propshaft 1 or 2		63-64	Void
	Steering	65-66	Steering

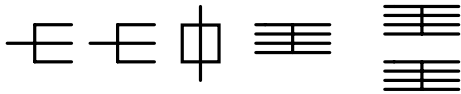
Internal Diagram

FO1 1FP	FM A&B 1FP	FO2 3FP	BR1 B1 B2 6FP	BR2 B3 3FP	ER1 E1 5FP	ER2 E2 5FP	AM X&Y 1FP	FO3 1FP	V 1FP	ST 1FP
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Mahan/Dunlap

<u>Navy Class</u>	United States Navy Destroyer	<u>Date</u>	1942
		<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	Fore
Torpedoes:	21 inch torpedoes in 3 quadruple mounts 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>Fires</u>	Mount: 4 AAMGs:4
		Magazine: 6	Fuel Oil: 4
<u>Flotation</u>	Total: 29	DIW: 15	Sinking: 20
		<u>Explosions</u>	Mount: 3 Magazine: 4
		<u>Torpedo Hits</u>	17.7"-18": ±1 20.5"-22.5": ±3 24": ±5

Armament Arrangement



Notes

- 16 ships in class. *Dunlap* class, with 2 ships, was similar.
- As modified in 1942 by removal of a midships 5 inch mount and the installation of additional AAMGs.

Hits

	Fuel Oil 1	11-13	Forward Void
	Fuel Oil 1	14-15	Main A
	Forward Main Magazine	16	Main A
	Forward Main Magazine	21-23	Main B
	Fuel Oil 2	24	AAMGs
	Fuel Oil 2	25	Bridge
	Fuel Oil 2	26	Main Director (1-3), Bridge (4-6)
	Fuel Oil 2	31	Search Radar
	Boiler Room 1	32-33	Funnel
	Boiler Room 1	34	Torpedo A
	Boiler Room 2	35-36	Torpedo A
	Boiler Room 2	41	Funnel
	Engine Room	42	Torpedo 1 or 2 (1-3), Searchlight (4-6)
	Engine Room	43-44	Torpedo 1 or 2
	Engine Room	45-51	AAMGs
	Aft Main Magazine	52	AAMGs
	Aft Main Magazine	53-55	Main X
	Fuel Oil 3	56	Main Y
	Fuel Oil 3 (1-3), Propshaft 1 or 2 (4-6)	61-62	Main Y
	Void (1-3), Propshaft 1 or 2 (4-6)	63-64	Void
	Steering	65-66	Steering

Internal Diagram

FO1	FM	FO2	BR1	BR2	ER	AM	FO3	V	ST
1FP	A&B	3FP	B1	B3	E1	X&Y	2FP	1FP	1FP
	1FP		B2	B4	E2	1FP			
			5FP	5FP	9FP				

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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