

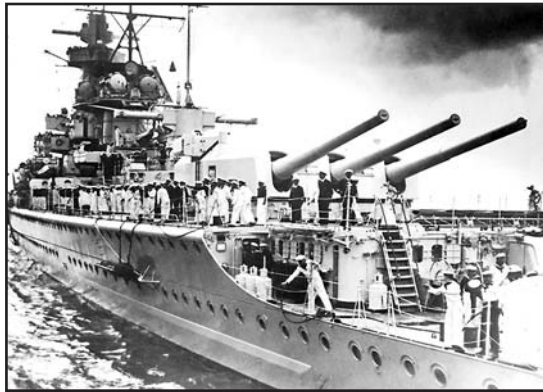


SCENARIO 1: BATTLE OF THE RIVER PLATE

13 DECEMBER 1939

Local Time: 0600

The "Pocket Battleship" *Graf Spee* sortied soon after war was declared between Germany and Great Britain. The Allies sent a number of task forces to track her down and destroy her. Off the coast of South America, one of the smallest of these forces, minus one of its heavy cruisers, caught up with the surface raider.



HISTORICAL RESULT:

Kriegsmarine tactical victory, but see discussion below.

The British split the cruisers into two groups. *Ajax* and *Achilles* circled to the north of the German while *Exeter* turned to the west. The *Graf Spee* turned away to the west, trying to keep the range open. Initially the *Spee* concentrated on *Exeter*, but the Royal Navy's tactics eventually forced her to split fire between the two formations. The *Spee*'s 11" guns eventually knocked out all of *Exeter*'s main armament, forcing her to retire. The light cruisers closed to torpedo range and fired, forcing the *Spee* to turn away under a smoke screen. Following *Exeter*'s withdrawal after about 90 minutes of pounding, the damaged light cruisers shadowed the *Spee* as she headed west to Montevideo. The Germans became convinced that significant forces had gathered outside the harbor and the *Spee* was scuttled, thus turning the tactical victory into defeat in the first significant naval engagement of the war.

CONDITIONS

Daylight, visibility: 20 Kyds
Weather Modifier: 0 (no modifier)
Wind: Light ESE
Initial Bearing: Royal Navy forces SE of KM forces.
Initial Range: 10 Kyds

KRIEGSMARINE

Admiral Graf Spee (Flagship) - *Deutschland* Class A (described as "Pocket Battleship", or "Panzerschiff": armored ship, but classified as CA in size.)

Crew Quality: Experienced
Damage Control: Normal
Radar: None
Sonar: None
Cohesion: 16
Initial Heading: 135 degrees (SE)
Initial Speed: 20 knots
Initial Formation: n/a

Objective: Evade warships and continue surface raiding campaign. Disengage from opposing forces with minor damages or less.

ROYAL NAVY

Exeter (Fleet Flagship) - *Exeter* Class CA
Ajax, *Achilles* - both *Leander* Class CL

Crew Quality: Experienced (all ships)
Damage Control: Normal (all ships)
Radar: None
Sonar: None
Cohesion: 16
Initial Heading: 135 degrees (SE)
Initial Speed: 14 knots
Initial Formation: any

Objective: Eliminate the *Graf Spee* as a threat to shipping. Inflict major damage on the *Graf Spee*.