

Capt Mac Fall

1858-A

TACTICAL PROBLEM III-SR-1934.

HISTORY OF MANEUVER.

As a result of the screening surface vessels of the two fleets coming in contact about 0430 and thereafter in the chart maneuver of Operations Problem III, the forces of the two fleets were put on the game board, in the dispositions shown on the chart, as of 0530, 24 January.

BLUE CV-3 and screening destroyers were about 50 miles to SEastward of ~~CV~~ Main Body, and CV-4 with screening destroyers about 50 miles to Eastward of Main Body.

ORANGE CV-3 and screening destroyers had been sent about 95 miles to Westward of ORANGE Main Body, while Crudiv 5 (3 CLs) was on a scouting mission and at 0530 was between BLUE Main Body and BLUE CV-3.

MOVE 1.

From 0530 to 0545, 24 Jan.
Bar. 29:75; Cond. b.c.; Vis. 1/4 day normal by end
of move; Ceiling 3000; Wind SW, Force 3; Sea S.

BLUE:

Main Body on course 270, speed 15 with CA-30, CLs 5, 6, 7 on a scouting line in advance. CLs 5 & 7 launched one VS each to scout. These scouting cruisers made contact with ORANGE cruisers just before end of move and started to retire on their Main Body

At 0530 BLUE CV-4 launched 3 VS to scout strategically, armed with 2 116# bombs.

At 0530 11 VP each armed with 4-500# bombs, took off from SAURI ROADS with orders to bomb enemy fleet (It will be around 1100 before this force can reach fleet area).

BLUE Subdiv 15 (5 SS) will be the only BLUE submarines liable to get into the tactical phase and they are converging on fleet area from their observation stations (probably be about 1100 before any possibility of their getting in).

ORANGE:

Main Body on course South, speed 10, CL-43 in van, CL-42 at high speed to close on CL-43. Crudiv 9 (CAs 36, 37, 38, 39) made contact with enemy cruisers while concentrating a rejoining own Main Body at high speed.

Crudiv 5 en route to join Main Body at high speed.

At 0530 ORANGE CV-3 launched 8 VF to scout to SE'ward in pairs.

Apparently no ORANGE submarines can possibly be present in the fleet area.

MOVE 2.

From 0545 to 0600; 24 Jan.
Same weather conditions except full day normal visibility by end of move.

BLUE:

Main Body changed to fleet course 225, speed 15; BBs ceased zigzag and catapulted planes. CA-30, CLs 5, 6, 7 retiring on Main Body at high speed.

BLUE CV-3 sent off 3 VS for strategical scouting, each armed with 2-116# bombs.

By end of move BLUE has not sighted ORANGE heavy ships.

ORANGE:

Main Body continued course South increasing speed to 15 knots. Crudiv 9 continued retiring on Main Body, launching their spotting planes.

CV-3 launched 16 VF equipped with smoke apparatus and 7 VF to protect them, with orders to report to O.T.C.

Crudiv 5 en route to rejoin Main Body at 0550 launched 6 VS for scouting. At 0600 one of these scouts makes contact with BLUE carrier (CV-4) and they are all recalled to Crudiv 5.

ORANGE cruisers and destroyers have sighted the BLUE formation except the carriers by the end of the move.

Battle lines are about 40,000 yards apart at the end of the move.

MOVE 3.

From 0600 to 0606.

Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Main Body taking approach disposition, BBs going division column left 30°, speed 15; BBs 40 and 44 taking ORANGE CA-36 under fire; BB-46 opening fire on CL-8 and BB-38 opening fire on CL-9. CAs 32 & 34 opened fire on ORANGE CA-37.

BLUE VO from battleships at 0604 start reporting positions of ORANGE heavy ships, VS from CV-4 develops ORANGE Main Body, reporting to her carrier.

BLUE C-in-C received a message from the Commander of the DUMANQUILAS Base Force as follows: "0024 ORANGE began landing at 0300 and now holds beach head between CULASIAN RIVER and TAYROB RIVER. BLUE forces now occupying prepared positions on hills west of DUMANQUILAS HARBOR. BLUE VP bombing attacks on ORANGE transports continuing. Bombing attack of harbor by about 50 ORANGE Army bombers with escort pursuit planes began 0530 causing great damage DEWEY, many auxiliaries sunk 0600."

ORANGE:

Battle line went head of column left 30° to course 150, increasing speed to 19 knots. Crudiv 9 turned to course 270, speed 30, moving out of range of BLUE BBs. CLs 8 & 9 turned to course 225 at 23 knots moving out of range. Other forces retiring toward Main Body preparatory to deploying.

No gunfire.

ORANGE C-in-C received a report from the Comdr. DUMANQUILAS Force as follows: "0024 Arrived debarkation area 0300 with 6 remaining transports and escort. Landing opposed by machine guns. BLUE VP bombing attacks began on transports at 0515 still continuing. ORANGE now holds beach head between CULASIAN RIVER and TAYTOB RIVER. Will advance to Eastward in effort to secure crest of hills to westward of DUMANQUILAS HARBOR. About 5000 infantry, one battalion 75s, one battery 6 inch howitzers, ten days supplies ashore, troop losses have been very heavy. XAP-3, 5, 7, 8 beached in order permit future salvage; artillery and cargo XAP-4, 9, CL-22 sunk. Have directed CL-23, 24 all DMS proceed ILOILO, all AMs remain. 10,000 reenforcements now loading MANILA, 2000 to arrive DUMANQUILAS night 25-26 January, remainder following night. Consider success operations to capture DUMANQUILAS dependent on safe arrival these reenforcements with adequate artillery and supplies, their approach and debarkation must be covered by air to prevent BLUE bombing attacks. 0600."

MOVE 4.

From 0606 to 0612.

Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Main Body ordered deployment, course 160, speed 15. BBs forming column, ceased fire. CAs 32, 34, 36 fired on ORANGE CA-36; CA-33 & 30 firing at ORANGE CA-37.

BLUE CV-4 began launching two bombing groups, one of 16 VB armed with 1000# bombs and protected by 9 VFs; and the other of 18 ~~34~~ VB armed with 1000# bombs and protected by 9 VF, orders to bomb enemy capital ships.

~~CV-5 starts launching 16 VB armed with 1000# bombs and 14 VF to protect them, to rendezvous~~

ORANGE:

Battle line continued course 150, speed 19, no gunfire. Crudiv 9 turned to course 165 by column movement, speed 30, opening fire on BLUE CAs 34 & 32, double concentrations. Other forces retiring on Main Body preparatory to deployment.

ORANGE CV-3 launched 16 VB armed with 1000# bombs and 16 VF to protect them, with orders to rendezvous near Main Body.

MOVE 5.

From 0612 to 0615.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Main Body turning to course 180, speed 15; CA-30 dividing fire on ORANGE CAs 38 & 39; CA-33 firing on CA-37 as was CA-36; CA-34 & 32 firing on ORANGE CA-36. Other forces deploying, no fire.

At 0612 BLUE CV-3 began launching 18 VB armed with 1000# bombs and protected by 18 VF, to attack enemy capital ships and/or carrier.

ORANGE:

Battle line turning to course 240, speed 19. Crudiv 9 turned to course 210, speed 30, ceased firing. CV-3 heading toward 0830 rendezvous.

MOVE 6.

From 0615 to 0630.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Main Body changed to course 225, speed 18, the last 3 minutes of move BBs 40, 41 & 36 opening fire on ORANGE Crudiv 5. CLs 5 & 6 are maneuvering to join up with Crudiv 6 which is also firing on ORANGE Crudiv 5, for last 3 minutes of move; the first 12 minutes having been firing on ORANGE Crudiv 9. Desron 4 forming double line ahead of battle line. (

At 0621 BLUE bombing flight from CV-4 sighted an ORANGE plane on NE'ly course which avoided.

At 0630 BLUE bombing flight from CV-3 sighted and reported ORANGE Crudiv 5 and a VS from CV-3 reports ORANGE CL-43 and Crudiv 9.

ORANGE:

ORANGE Battle Line continued retiring on course 240, speed 20. CLs 12 & 13 ordered to join Crudiv One. Other forces retiring on Main Body at high speed. At 0624 Crudiv 5 came on game board opening fire on BLUE DDs 355, 206 & 207; she launched 3 VS to scout to Northward and Eastward which at 0621 sighted reported and avoided the BLUE bombing flight from CV-4 and at 0624 sighted the BLUE CV-4 reported and held contact.

The the 8 ORANGE VF which had been scouting concentrated over the ORANGE battle line.

By end of move ORANGE CAs-36 & 37 are 60% A.W. damaged.

MOVE 7.

From 0630 to 0645.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battle line turned division column right 10° to course 235, BBs 40, 41 & 36 continuing to fire on ORANGE Crudiv 5. Crudiv 6 continued firing on ORANGE Crudiv 5. CLs 5 & 6 now ordered to join forces on right flank.

BLUE CV-4 starts retiring to Eastward upon report of ORANGE Crudiv 5 position. Her VS plane holding contact with ORANGE force directed to scout to Northward and Westward for ORANGE carrier.

At 0645 BLUE VP reported sighting an ORANGE submarine on Westerly course which submerged on approach of the VPs.

Bombing flights from CV-4 and CV-3 en route to attack ORANGE capital ships.

ORANGE:

Battle Line continued retiring on course 240, slowing to 18 knots. Crudiv 9 retiring on course 240, CAs 36 & 37 slowed to 16½ knots. CL-43 continued closing on CL-42. CLs 8, 9, 12 & 13 forming up as Crudiv One. Desron Two proceeding to stations 8000 yards ahead of battle line to act as A.S. screen. Crudiv 5 turned away to course East (off the game board) firing at BLUE DDs while in range.

VS from Crudiv 5 remained in contact with BLUE CV-4.

MOVE 8.

From 0645 to 0648.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battle Line continues course 235, speed 18; other forces taking stations assigned. CL-7 with Desron 3 opened fire on ORANGE CL-8. All other gun fire has ceased.

Bombing flights from CV-4 and CV-3 in sight of own Main Body by end of move, en route to bomb ORANGE capital ships.

ORANGE:

Battle Line turned to course 270, speed 18; CC-4 turning to course 250 to support Crudiv 9 which has turned to course 270, slowing down on account of crippled CAs 36 & 37. Other forces continued as before; Crudiv 5 now maneuvering to Eastward of BLUE Main Body, off the game board.

MOVE 9.

From 0648 to 0703.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battle Line continued course 260, speed 18, at 0651 BB-40 & 46 opened fire on ORANGE CC-4 at range of 28,000 yards. Other forces conforming to movements of battle line; no gunfire.

At 0648 both BLUE bombing flights passed over the BLUE formation on N & S flanks. ORANGE BB sight the Northern group coming in at 0654 (9 VF, 16 VB) from NE'ward and 4 minutes later the Southern Group (18 VB, 18 VF). ORANGE has 23 VF and 14 VT (s,okers) over the battle line. The VF from both BLUE attack groups join up and a general melle takes place between 27 BLUE VF and 23 ORANGE VF in which all 23 ORANGE VF and 23 BLUE VF are shot down. The ORANGE VTs avoid going to disengaged side of battle line. 16 VB make dive bombing attack on ORANGE BB-3 meeting heavy A.A. fire and losing 6 VP but make 1.99 A.W. and .81 U.W. 14" hits, damaging BB-3 a total

of 14% and slowing her to 21.4 knots. 9 VB attack BB-1 and 9 VB attack BB-4, meeting light A.A. fire and lose 2 VP from each group; BB-1 and BB-4 each receive 1.57 A.W. and .65 U.W. 14" hits and are slowed to 21.6 knots. Remaining 24 VB and 4 VF start back for carriers.

At 0658 the second bombing flight from CV-4, en route to bomb ORANGE capital ships, sight, report and avoid ORANGE Crudiv 5.

At 0700 the VP bombing flight sights and reports position of ORANGE sub (RO-32) which submerged as plane approached.

ORANGE:

Battle Line continued course 270, speed 18, BBs 1, 3 & 4 being damaged by air bombs as described above. CC-4 turned back to course 270, firing at BLUE CL-5. Crudiv 9 continued course 270, speed 16, sending her planes which were in the air to spot for the battle line and CC-4. Other forces retiring, conforming to movements of battle line. Crudiv 5 trying to get around BLUE force and rejoin.

ORANGE bombing flight informs O.T.C. he cannot reach the BLUE carrier and that he will put his attack on the BLUE force, asking position and disposition.

MOVE 10.
From 0703 to 0718.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battle Line continued course 260, speed 19, BBs 40, 41 & 46 firing on ORANGE CC-4. At about 0710 saw ORANGE bombing planes coming in which passed over and attacked Crudiv 6. ORANGE 16 VBs put their attack on the leader of Crudiv 6 (CA-30) and sank her. 3 VB lost from A.A. fire. (CA-30 received more than enough hits to sink her if she had been undamaged; she had previously been in a night gun engagement and damaged 30% A.W. then.)

By end of Move 10 BLUE CL-5 is 80% A.W. damaged from CC-4 fire and slowed to 5 knots; CLs 6 & 7 taking position with right flank forces, 3 planes patrolling ahead as A.S. screen.

BLUE CV-3 has launched 16 VTs armed with Type E torpedoes, 2 VT equipped as heavy smokers, 9 VS equipped as light smokers, and 18 VF to protect this force, with orders to attack enemy battle line.

ORANGE:

Battle Line on course 270, speed 18, no fire; CC-4 retiring at 26 knots, firing at BLUE CL-6 and under fire of BLUE BBs. Crudiv 9 continues course 270, increasing speed to 24, CA-36 falling behind takes course 290 at 16.5 knots. Other forces conforming to movements of battle line, no gunfire.

ORANGE ~~xxxx~~ bombing attack made on BLUE heavy cruiser as above, 13 remaining VBs start return to carrier.

At 0715 message received by entire ORANGE Force from C-in-C that the Commanding General of the PHILIPPINE Area had estimated that DUMANQUILAS would fall about 1 Feb. if BLUE Forces and Re-enforcements were prevented from reaching DUMANQUILAS until at least 3 Feb. C-in-C's plan was to hold BLUE Fleet fighting a retiring action and withdrawing through the CHINA SEA via GASPAR STRAIT.

MOVE 11.
From 0718 to 0724.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battle line turned to course 270, speed 19.5, BB-44 making 17 knots, falling behind. No gunfire. Other forces conforming to movements of battle line. No gunfire.

At 0720 BLUE VP flight again sighted and reported an ORANGE submarine (RO-31).

ORANGE:

Battle line turned to course 308, speed 18; CC-4 using maximum speed to rejoin, having been 60% U.W. damaged in the fire from BLUE BBs. Crudiv 9, with CA-36 falling behind, turning to battle line course. Other forces retiring with battle line; no gunfire.

Crudiv 5 stopped for 15 minutes to pick up planes.

ORANGE CV-3 has launched 16 VTs armed with torpedoes and 7 VF to protect them, with orders to attack enemy battle line.

MOVE 12.
From 0724 to 0754.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

BLUE BBs went column right 40° to course 310, speed 19.5, BB-44 behind making 17 knots. No gunfire. CL-5 passed through the formation at 5 knots on reverse course and stopped (out of the picture 80% damaged). Other forces conforming to BBs movements, no gunfire.

Returning planes are landing on BLUE carriers. VS from CV-4 sights and reports position of ORANGE carrier at 0734.

At 0742 BLUE bombing attack from CV-3 consisting of 18 VB and 9 VF make attack on ORANGE CC-4, VF made strafing attack on A.A. crews and the VB bombed sinking the CC. (CC-4 was 60% A.W. damaged and in that condition she was overbombed, but had she been undamaged she would have suffered about 4 direct hits.) 1 VF and 1 VB were shot down by A.A. fire and the remainder start back to their carrier,

MOVE 13.

From 0754 to 0815.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battle Line continued course 310, speed 19.5, BB-44 making 17 knots; other forces conforming to movements of battle line. No gunfire. BBs 34 & 35 were attacked by ORANGE torpedo planes and received 2 hits each, doing 23% U.W. damage and reducing their maximum speed to 16 knots, as described under the ORANGE side of this move.

Toward the end of the move BLUE torpedo attack got home on the ORANGE battle line; 3 light VS smokers lay a smoke curtain on right and 3 VS a smoke curtain on left bow of battle line about 4000 yards from the battle line and the 2 heavy smokers lay another smoke curtain about 300 yards behind the VS smoke. BLUE lost 2 VS and 1 VT smokers while laying this curtain. Then the VF (18) came through the smoke and made strafing attack on A.A. gun crews of battle line, followed by the torpedo attack. 8 VT coming in from each bow of center of battle line. Two torpedo hits were made on one battleship (BB-5) and one on another (BB-6); BLUE losing 7 VF during strafing attack and 5 VT torpedo planes after they had attacked, from A.A. fire.

ORANGE had had 14 VT smokers over his battle line but had

detached 7 of them to assist the ORANGE torpedo attack on the BLUE battle line. The other 7 were sighted by the BLUE VF, but they kept on disengaged side and were unmolested.

ORANGE:

Battle Line continued course 308, slowing to 18.7 knots. At the end of the move BLUE torpedo attack delivered as described above and BB-5 received 2 hits, damaging her 19% and slowing her to 19 knots; BB-6 received 1 torpedo hit which ~~xxx~~ damaged her 10% and slowed her to 21 knots. Crudiv 9 was retiring, CA-36 on course 225, speed 16.5 opened fire on BLUE CA-33. Other forces were conforming to movements of retiring battle line, no gunfire.

Crudiv 5 was evidently trying to go about the BLUE force to rejoin his battle line.

By the end of the move the ORANGE planes made torpedo attack on the BLUE battle line. They encountered a line of about 13 destroyers on line about 4000 yards in advance of battle line which was in 3 columns. 3 VT on one side and 4 VT on the other laid a heavy smoke curtain ahead of destroyer line which drifted with the wind down to the destroyers, when the torpedo planes attacked from both bows on the center BB division. The VFs made a strafing attack with machine guns on the A.A. gun crews. 4 torpedo hits were made, two each on BB-34 and 35 as described above. ORANGE lost 3 VT smokers and 3 VF, and after their attack 3 VT torpedo planes.

MOVE 14.
From 0815 to 0830.
Ceiling now 5000 ft.

BLUE:

Battle line turned to course 285, speed 19.5, with BBs 34 & 35 falling behind, making 16 knots, and BB-44 making 17 knots already behind. Desron 4 taking squadron formation on right flank of battle line with Desdiv 10 screening the slow BBs. Other BLUE forces were conforming to the battle line movements and there was no gunfire.

ORANGE:

Battle Line changed course to 315, speed 18.5; CA-36 ceased firing. CLs 42 & 43 taking position on left battle flank. Other forces retiring with battle line as before. No gunfire. The 3 planes from Crudiv 9 are in position to spot for battle line.

MOVE 15.
From 0830 to 0845.
Same weather conditions.
Ceiling 5000 ft.

BLUE:

Battle line turned to course 275, speed 19.5 with BBs 34, 35, and 44 falling behind. BBs 40, 41, 36, 46 & 48 opened fire on BBs 5 and 6, triple concentration on BB-5, double concentration on BB-6. CAs 33 & 36 of Crudiv 6 open fire on ORANGE CA-36 at 16,000 yards. Other forces conforming to movements of battle line, no gunfire.

At 0830 BLUE CV-4 has launched 5 VS to scout for enemy carrier (now has one VS maintaining contact), 4 VS as BLUE carrier guard, and 10 VB armed with 1000# bombs, with orders to bomb enemy carrier. CV-4 has 17 VB and 8 VF reserVICing on deck.

ORANGE:

Battle line turns to course 320, speed 21, opening fire on BLUE 5 BBs in battle line. BBs which have planes on deck (BBs 5 & 2 & 6) catapulted their planes about the middle of the move before opening gunfire. Crudiv 9 planes also spotting for ORANGE battle line. Other forces were conforming to the movements of the battle line, no gunfire. CA-36 falling behind.

MOVE 16.

From 0845 to 0900.
Cond. BCQ, rain squalls.
Ceiling 5000 ft.

BLUE:

Battleships turned to course 315, leading 5 making 19.5 kts. BBs 44, 34 & 35 having fallen behind because of lack of speed; the 5 leading ships maintaining fire on ORANGE BBs 5 & 6 as in last move. CLs 6 & 7 changed course to right to avoid possible fire from heavy cruisers. Crudiv 6 formed column on course 275. Desrons adjusting position on Main Body, Desdiv 10 screening slow battleships, Desdivs 11 & 12 on right flank of Main Body.

BLUE CV-3 launched 14 VB armed with 1000# bombs, 4 VF and 7 VS with orders to attack enemy battle line.

ORANGE:

Battle Line continued course 320, speed 21 (BB-5 falling behind, can only make 19 kts.) opening fire on BLUE BB-40 triple concentration, BB-38 double concentration and BB-46 single. Crudiv 9 continued course 320, speed 26 joining battle line, CA-36 being sunk by gunfire during the move. CLs 42 & 43 on various courses to left battle flank. Crudiv One turned to course 320, speed 18, CLs 12 & 13 laying 80 mines each on line NE x SW; mines 100 yards apart. Crudiv 10 turning to course 320, speed 17; XCA-1 being blown up by mine laid by CLs.

Desron Two on various courses and speeds moving to maintain screen 8000 yards ahead of battle line.

MOVE 17.

From 0900 to 0909.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battleships forming column on course 225, speed 15.5, the 5 leading BBs firing on ORANGE BBs except BB-5; one double concentration on BB-4. Other forces maneuvering as before, no gunfire.

ORANGE:

Battleships turned to course 310, slowing to 18 knots; BB-5 sank at beginning of move. BB-6 & 4 firing on BLUE BB-40; BBs 3 & 2 on BB-38; and BB-1 on BB-46. BBs changing to battle formation X. Crudiv One turned to course North, speed 18. Other forces maintaining position on battle line, no gunfire.

3 ORANGE VT lay a smoke screen 8000 yards in advance of BLUE battle line which is completed by 07 $\frac{1}{2}$. One of these VTs were shot down by A.A. fire.

MOVE 18.

From 0909 to 0912.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

BBs forming column on course 225, BB-44 taking station as leader, BBs 34 & 35 falling in behind the last ship in column, same fire distribution as before. Other forces taking station as before; no gunfire.

At end of move VB flight returning to CV-4 reports contact with ORANGE Crudiv 5, and a VS is sent out to hold contact with them.

ORANGE:

Battle line turned to course North, speed 16.4, BB-6 & 4 firing at BB-40; BBs 1, 2 & 3 firing on BB-38, indirect fire when target blanketed by smoke. Crudiv continued course 310 increasing speed to keep out of range of BLUE CAs. CLs 42 & 43 ~~opened~~ changed course to East, speed 23, ready to open fire on BLUE CLs 7 & 6. Crudiv One continued course North, speed 18. Other forces continued retiring as before, no gunfire.

By end of move BB-4 was 50% damaged and loses plane spot.

MOVE 19.

From 0915 to 0918.

Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battleships continued forming column as before, same fire distribution, indirect fire; shift to direct fire upon emerging from smoke. Other forces maneuvering as before, no gunfire.

ORANGE:

Battleships went ships left 30° to course 330, speed 16.4; BB-6 & 4 firing double concentration of BB-40; BBs 3, ~~2~~ 2, 1 firing a triple concentration on BB-38. Crudiv 9 continued course 310, speed 25, no gunfire. CLs 42 & 43 turned 10° to course 80, speed 28, firing at BLUE CLs 7 & 6. Crudiv 1 turned to course 310, speed 18, no fire. XCAs 4 & 3 continued course 325, speed 17, no fire. Boats of Desron Two proceeding to new stations as screen 4000 yards astern of battle line.

By end of move BB-4 is 50% damaged and loses plane spot.

MOVE 20.

From 0918 to 0924.

Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battleships went column left 30° to course 255, speed 15.5, BB-44 taking position between BB-46 & 38; BBs 34 & 35 taking position astern of BB-38. BB-36 firing on BB-4, BBs 41 & 40 on BB-6; BB-46 on BB-1; BB-44 on BB-2; BB-38 on BB-3. BBs 34 & 35 not firing. CLs 6 & 7 retiring toward battle line to avoid enemy CL fire, planes patrolling ahead and on bows. Crudiv 6 turned to course 325, speed 27, no fire. Desrons keeping stations, Desron 4 astern of main body.

BLUE has 16 VS from Crudiv 6 which made a sweep out to destroy ORANGE spotting planes, who retired under protection of own main body.

ORANGE:

Battleships continued course 310, increasing speed to 19.4, BB-5 falling behind at 16.4 knots. BB-1 firing at BB-46; BB-2 at BB-40; BB-3 at BB-41; BBs 4 & 6 on BB-36. Crudiv 9 retiring on course 310, speed 26, keeping out of range of BLUE CAs. CLs 42 & 43 turned to course 310, speed 28, ceased firing. Crudiv 1 continued course 310, speed 18; no fire. XCAs 3 & 4 turned to course 310, speed 17, no fire. Boats of Desron Two taking positions astern of battle line; DL-4 ran through mine field laid by CLs and was blown up.

MOVE 21.
From 0924 to 0930.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battleships went ships right to course 270, speed 15.5; BBs 36, 41 & 40 firing on BB-4; BB-44 firing on BB-6. CLs 6 & 7 turned to southwestward no fire. Crudiv 6 turned to course 305, speed 27, no fire. Destroyers maintaining position on battle line; no fire.

BLUE bombing flight from CV-3 sighted enemy forces and upon determining disposition decided to bomb CAs of Crudiv 9.

ORANGE:

Battleships continued course 310, speed 20.4, BB-6 falling way behind at 8.5 knots; BB-4 slowed to 17.2 knots. BB-1 firing on BB-46; BB-2 on BB-40; BB-3 on BB-41; BBs 4 & 6 on BB-36. BB-6 was sunk by gunfire at end of move. Crudiv 9 turned to course 325 speed 26, keeping out of range of BLUE CAs. CLs 42 & 43 on various courses at high speed to take station on left battle flank. Crudiv 1 continued course 310, slowing to 15.5; XCAs 4 & 3 continue course 310, speed 17. Desron 2 on course 310, speed 24; between 0927 and 0930 DLs 1 to 3 and 5 to 12 laying 24 mines each in 11 lines, mines 100 yards apart with 30' depth setting; DL-5 ran through CL mine field and was blown up after laying one-half her string of mines.

ORANGE CV-3 launched 13 VB armed with 1000# bombs with orders to attack enemy battle line. 2 VT which had laid smoke returning to carrier; 4 VTs with smoker apparatus circling in vicinity of own battle line.

MOVE 22.
From 0930 to 0945.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battleships forming column on course 270, speed 15.5; BBs 36 & 41 sent ahead at 20 knots to get BB-4. BB-46 fired on BB-6 until she sank; BBs 36 & 41 on BB-4; only gunfire. CLs 6 & 7 turned to course 285, speed 26. Crudiv 6 continued course 305, speed 27 (will open fire on DLs 3 & 2 if range is 11,000 yards. Destroyers conforming to battleship movements.

BLUE bombing attack from CV-3 proceeding to attack ORANGE Crudiv 9.

ORANGE:

Battleships continue course 310, speed 20.4; BB-4 at 17.2 knots; BBs 1, 2 & 3 ceased fire; BB-4 firing at BLUE BB-36. Crudiv 9 turned back to course 310, speed 26, keeping out of range of BLUE CAs. Other cruisers continue as before, no gunfire. DLs proceeding in lines 4000 yards behind battle line changing course 30° on each side base course; DL-10 went alongside BB-6 to take off C-in-C and then rejoined at 34 knots.

4 ORANGE VT smokers ordered to lay smoke screen to blank off enemy fire.

MOVE 23.
From 0945 to 0954.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

BLUE battleships turn to course 290, speed 15.5, BBs 36 & 41 slowing to rejoin force after sinking ORANGE BB-4. No gunfire. Other BLUE forces continue as before, no gunfire; Desron 4 forming screening line ahead of BBs.

During the move BLUE bombing group of 13 VB made attack on ORANGE Crudiv 9. VFS made strafing attack on cruisers followed by the bombing attack, dive bombing. Noted hits on deck of two cruisers. 2 VF and 2 VB were shot down by A.A. fire.

BLUE CV-4 launched 17 VB and 8 VF with orders to attack enemy battle line.

ORANGE:

BBs 1, 2, 3 continued course 310, speed 20.4; no fire. BB-4 fired on BLUE BB-36 until she was sunk by BLUE fire. Other forces retiring as before, no gunfire. Crudiv 9 was attacked by BLUE bombing planes, preceded by strafing attack. CAs 38 & 39 each received 1.46 A.W. 14" hit damage. (CA-39 now 90% damaged and stopped; CA-38 70% A.W. damaged and slowed to 23 knots; and CA-37 had been previously damaged 60% A.W. by gunfire.)

ORANGE VTs which were to lay smoke curtain saw gunfire broken off and didnot lay the smoke.

MOVE 24.
From 0954 to 1015.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battleships continue course 290, speed 15.5; BB-34 opening fire on crippled BB-4 at 20,000 yards, and BB-35 at 15,000 yards. Crudiv 6 stopped to pick up planes. Other forces continued as before; CLs 6 & 7 turning to avoid mine field. At end of move DDs 74, 75, 156 & 157 were blown up in the mine fields laid by the ORANGE DLs.

At end of move bombing planes attack the leader of the BLUE formation and BB-36 received damage amounting to 2.65 A.W. and .85 U.W. 14" hits, slowing BB-36 to 19.5 knots. A.A. fire shot down 2 VB planes.

2 VS land on the water beside CL-5 (way behind BLUE Fleet) out of gas. ****

ORANGE:

Battleships turn to course 290, speed 17.6 ready to open fire on BLUE cruisers if they close range inside 30,000 yards. BB-4 fired on BB-36 until she sank at 1012. CAs 37 & 38 continued course 310, speed 23, CA-39 stopped. Other forces continued retirement conforming to movements of battle line.

13 ORANGE VB attack the BLUE battleship formation, are opposed by moderate A.A. fire, and put attack on leading BLUE battleship BB-36 noting several direct hits and hits close aboard. 3 VB lost in the attack.

3 VS from Crudiv 9 land on water out of gas at 1015 and the personnel is picked up.

**** BLUE CV-3 launched 12 VT armed with torpedoes, 7 VS as light smokers, and 11 VF, with orders to attack ORANGE battle line.

MOVE 25.

From 1015 to 1115.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

Battleships stopped for 15 minutes to pick up planes, then continued course 290, speed 15.5, holding fire for suitable target. All cruisers stopped to pick up their planes and then continued as before, no gunfire. Destroyers formed screen while large ships picking up planes.

CA-34 was subjected to a strafing and ~~mining~~^{torpedo} attack by about 14 ORANGE planes, at 1100, and was sunk. 5 ORANGE planes being shot down.

At 1015 BLUE VS plane maintaining contact with enemy carrier starts back for own carrier (BLUE bombing attack was not in sight of ORANGE carrier at this time). At 1100 the 10 BLUE VB armed with 1000# bombs had made contact with and dive bombed ORANGE CV-3. They were met by heavy A.A. fire and 4 VB were shot down. They saw several hits on deck, and a few planes were on deck. 4 remaining VB start back for own carrier.

At 1112 the 17 VB and 8 VF from BLUE CV-4 made attack on ORANGE battle line. The VF made starfinf attack and the VBs dive bombing attack on BB-1 and noted several direct hits and hits alongside. 3 VF and 3 VB were shot down by A.A. fire.

The 11 VPs were approaching the battle area. They were armed with 4-500# bombs each.

ORANGE:

BBs 1, 2 & 3 turned to course 310, speed 17.4, retiring, no gunfire. Other forces continued retiring as before, no gunfire. Desron 2 proceeding to form A.S. screen 5000 yards ahead of battle line.

At 1112 BB-1 was subjected to strafing and dive bombing attack by about 25 BLUE planes. BB-1 was damaged 3.47 A.W. and 1.12 U.W. 14" hits in the attack and is now total damaged about 50% and slowed to 18.5 knots maximum speed.

CV-3 was landing planes when a bombing attack of about 10 BLUE planes was sighted coming in. A.A. fire was opened and 4 VB were shot down. CV-3 suffered a number of direct hits on deck and her flight deck was destroyed together with 6 planes that were on deck. 6 planes that were in the air ready to land, had to land on the water and the crews picked up.

At 1100 ORANGE 3 VT smokers accompanying the torpedo planes were joined by 3 VT smokers that were over the ORANGE battle line, and they laid a smoke screen 5000 yards in the van of the battle line. Immediately the ORANGE planes started smoking the BLUE DD A.S. screen about 2000 yards ahead of the battle line also started to smoke. The 10 VT armed with torpedoes attempted to attack the battleships but could only see the mass of ships, so pulled out and delivered their attack on BLUE CA, sinking her. 2 VF and 1 VT smoker were shot down by A.A. fire in the battleship area and 3 torpedo planes were shot down by A.A. fire while attacking BLUE CA-34.

MOVE 26.
From 1015 to 1115.
Same weather conditions.

BLUE:

BLUE Fleet continued on course 290, speed 15.5 chasing the ORANGE force until they turned into GASPAR STRAIT. BLUE had decided that he would not enter the STRAIT because of probable submarine menace.

BLUE submarines S-16¹⁶⁹ and 168 were on both sides of the Eastern channel in GASPAR STRAITS and would see the ORANGE force coming through.

The BLUE torpedo plane force (12 VP with torpedoes; 11 VF, and 7 VS smokers) made an attack on center BB of ORANGE battleship formation and scored 2 hits on BB-2. The VS laid smoke, the VF strafed the ORANGE destroyers which were ahead and on bows of BBs. The destroyers made smoke but it was not effective soon enough to stop the torpedo attack.

The 11 BLUE VP from SAURI ROADS which had been coming up from the SE'ward all during the board maneuver would get in their attack this move (1230). They put their attack on BB-2 and noted several direct hits and hits alongside. Met by heavy A.A. fire and 4 VPs were shot down.

ORANGE:

ORANGE battleships, DL-10 with C-in-C on board, and Desron 1 as screen, changed course to 335, speed 17.4, zigzagging, making good 14.7 knots. All other forces conforming to movements of battleships, all forces zigzagging.

At 1130 BB-2 was attacked by BLUE torpedo planes and suffered 2 torpedo hits. Again at 1230 10 BLUE VPs attacked BB-2 and damaged her the equivalent of 1.68 A.W. and .89 U.W. 14" hits. Her total damage at end of VP attack was about 44% and she was

slowed to 16.2 knots. The ORANGE force continued up through GASPAR STRAIT, and the action was broken off.

The game was called at this point.