



LOSS OF AMBON

Imperial Japanese invasion of Amboina during the operations into Netherlands East Indies.

Original Scenario: Ambon 42

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Version: 1942 Ambon RBv02

TOAW Version: TOAW IV 4.0.1.40

***** SCENARIO ANALYTICS *****

:: Hotseat::PBEM::Allied and Imperial Japanese Army PO

Date: PM 29th January 1942.

Location: Ambon Island, Moluccos Group, NEI.

Map Scale: approximately - 1mile per hex, half-day turns.

Unit Size: Battalion / Company / Platoon.

Scenario Length: 13 turns - about a week.

Complexity:

Allies (Dutch, Australian and USN)

Deployment: 16 formations, 50 units

Theater Options: 1

Imperial Japanese Army/IJN

Deployment: 11 formations, 39 units

Theater Options: 1

Unit Colors:

Japanese: Tan

Allies: Green, Blue

RB versions 01 & 02 Changes

- All Roads are unimproved
- Unit and equipment graphic changes. Unit colors used by the original author have been modified
- Australian and Japanese supply radius increased to 4
- Changed Force 1 from Allied to Japanese, adjusted events accordingly
- IJN supply points added to ports, support invasion entry points
- Revise IJN Obj Tracks. 5 tracks entered and randomized for the Japanese PO
- Revise Allied Obj Tracks. 3 tracks entered and randomized for the Ally PO
- Selected Allied formations Activate on Turn 2
- A new TO for the Allied PO provides additional supply points making the Allied PO more competitive
- Advanced Rule Active Disengagement set to OFF
- ZOC cost raised to 150
- Revised Victory Points, lowered absolute values and eliminated non-critical VP objectives
- A new TO for the Japanese PO boosts supply, supply radius and shock points making the Japanese PO more competitive

Randomization changes are specifically designed to make the scenario more enjoyable when played solo against both the Allied and Japanese PO.

***** ORIGINAL AUTHOR'S BRIEFING *****

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Unit Colors:

Imperial Japan

Army Units, red-white/blue

SNLF Marines, white-black/blue

IJNavy, dark blue-white/blue

IJN Air Flotilla, black-white/blue

Allies

KNIL Units, pale grey-black/green

Coastal Defense, yellow-black/green

Dutch Air Squadron, black-pale yellow/green

Netherlands Navy, light blue-white/green

Australian Infantry, white-tan/khaki

RAAF Squadron, light blue-white/khaki

US Navy Tender, dark blue-white/light blue

US Navy Patrol Wing, dark blue-yellow/light blue

With Rabaul, Kendari and Tarakan under Imperial Japanese occupation the next objective for an expanding East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere was the allied air base

and garrison on Ambon and the oil rich fields of Balikpapan. Japanese strategic plan was to seize the colonial possessions of the war affected European powers in South East Asia and the United States mandated territory of the Philippines. The wave of Nippon conquests rolled on.

The Netherlands East Indies garrison of the Moluccos Island Group deployed on Ambon were reinforced from Java when the Imperial Japanese forces swept south. The defense of Ambon also included 'Gull Force' the AIF 2/21st Battalion Group transported from Darwin in December 1941, as part of the military agreement decided upon between the Australian government and NEI in the event of war with Japan.

Dutch fortifications defend the central town of Paso, an emplacement of coastal guns protects Ambon Bay and the troop positions ring the body of water. The decision was made that a Japanese landing on the steep jungle covered south coast of Laitimor Peninsula was impossible, plus Laha airfield was inaccessible by inland routes and an enemy assault inside Ambon Bay, or an indentation into the Baguala Bay, was expected and planned for.

The neutralization of the Allied air base at Ambon was of importance to Japanese planners, where it was known enemy warplanes operated from to attack invasion transports, plus a new airstrip was being constructed at Liang. This small island fortress objective was achieved at the end of January 1942 by the reinforced veteran Japanese 228th Infantry Regiment, mainly supported by IJNavy Marines, land based bombers and naval warplanes. According to Major General Ito's plans the main Japanese invasion force landed unopposed at Hutumor and speedily advancing towards the objectives defeated the defenders.

"a battle during which took place heroism as to make the gods weep" - As reported by an IJN commander at Laha to Admiral Yamamoto.

TOAW Island Series scenario by Graham Donaldson.

Sources;

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AND fellow friends at www.geocities.com/dutcheastindies/

best regards, and good luck.

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