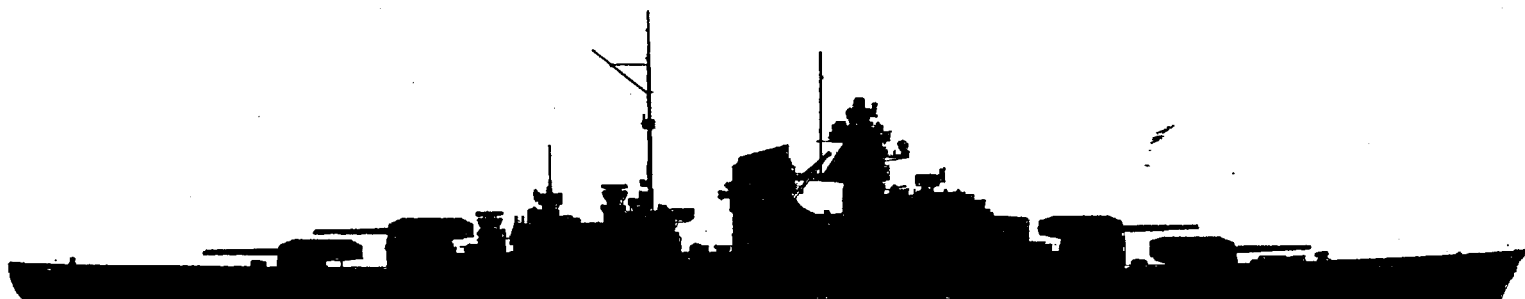


Michael Smith's
SINK THE BISMARCK!

2ND EDITION



Rules of Play

● INDICATES CHANGE OR CLARIFICATION

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Game Credits

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1st Edition Box Art:
"Kampf der Bismarck" from the painting by Claus Bergen
SPECIAL THANKS ...
To my loving wife Karen, who supported me so well during the design and playtesting of the game.

SINK THE BISMARCK!

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SINK THE BISMARCK! 2nd Edition
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1.0 Introduction

Sink the Bismarck! is an operational level simulation of the pursuit and destruction of the German battleship *Bismarck* by the Royal Navy in May 1941. All the essential elements of the campaign are represented, including evasion and detection, surface combat, air attacks, convoys, visibility, and weather. Scenarios include both historical and hypothetical encounters, exploring some of the "what ifs" of this most famous sea chase. An optional rule covers fuel consumption; this rule provides more realism, but should only be used after mastering the basic game.

2.0 Game Components

2.1 PARTS INVENTORY

The following is a list of *Sink the Bismarck!* 1st edition game components.

1. Game Box and Lid
2. One Mapsheet
3. 200 Die-Cut Counters
4. One Rule Book
5. Two Task Force Cards
6. One Ten-sided Die
7. One Card of Charts and Tables
8. One German Plotting Card

2.2 THE MAPSHEET

One mapsheet (22" x 25") of the North Atlantic is provided with the 1st Edition Game. Players maneuver their respective Task Forces and Air Units on this map in such a way as to locate, and attack opposing forces. Each map hex represents about 75 miles. Task Forces may only enter numbered hexes. Also located on the mapsheet are the Terrain Effects Chart, Game Turn Track, Visibility and Surface Combat Indicators, which are used to help facilitate play of the game.

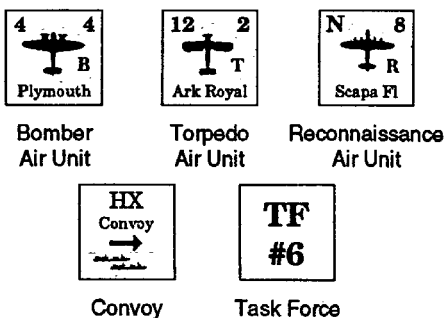
2.3 COUNTERS AND MARKERS

Included in the game is a sheet of 200 die-cut counters, which represent all the major fighting ships and air units that participated in the campaign. Included are additional ships which are used in the hypothetical scenarios. Also included are various markers and counters used to facilitate the play of the game. Scenario instructions will specify the units used to play in each particular scenario.

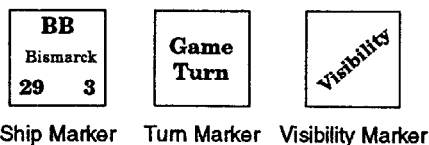
2.31 Counter Identification

German: *Gold on Black*
 British Surface Ships: *White on Red*
 British Convoys: *Black on Pink*
 British Air Units: *Red on White*

2.311 Mapsheet Counters

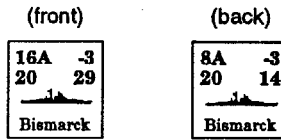


2.312 Markers



Detected Marker Shadow Marker

2.313 Surface Combat Counters and Markers

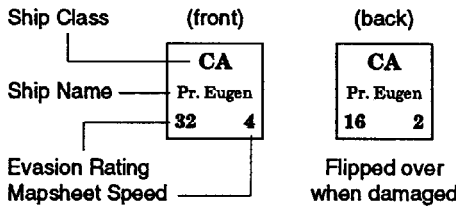


Surface Combat Ship Counter



2.32 Task Force Card Ship Markers

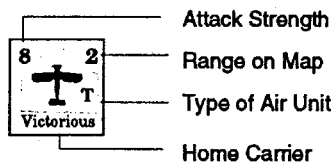
Each ship in the game is represented by a ship marker. These Markers are used only on the Task Force Cards.



Classes of Ships

BB: Battleship
 BC: Battlecruiser
 CV: Aircraft Carrier
 CA: Heavy Cruiser
 CL: Light Cruiser
 DD: Destroyer

2.33 Air Unit Counters



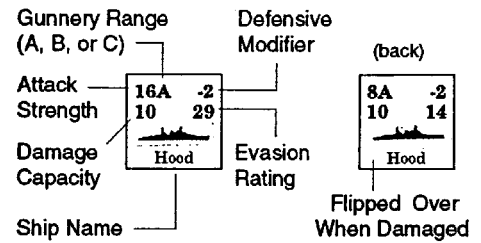
"N" = No Attack Strength

There are basically two types of air unit counters used in the game: Reconnaissance (Recon) and Attack. The Attack Air Units are further subdivided into Land-Based Bombers and Carrier-Based Torpedo Bombers. Prior to play, Recon and Land-Based Bomber air units are placed on the appropriate airbases on the mapsheet; Torpedo Bombers are placed in the home carrier's holding box on the task force card.

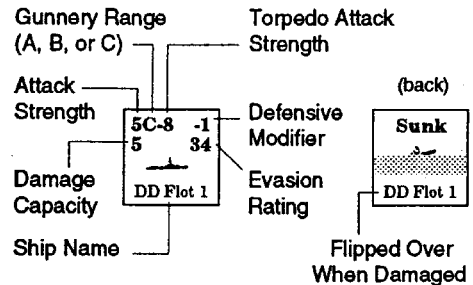
Types of Air Units

R: Reconnaissance
 B: Land-Based Bomber
 T: Torpedo Bomber

2.34 Surface Combat Ship Counters



Important: These counters are used only to resolve combat between opposing ships (see rule section 12.0). They are not used on the map or on the task force cards.



2.35 Player Aids

Included in the game are two Task Force Cards, one each for the German and British Players. Also provided is a Charts and Tables Card containing the Damage Point Table, Visibility Table, Shadow Table, and Detection Table. Another card is provided which contains the "German Plotting Sheet" which is a facsimile of the Mapsheet, this is used only by the German player to plot the movement of his units. The Movement Log (which is found on the back page of this rules booklet) is an alternative method of plotting German movement. A Fuel Consumption Checkoff Sheet is also provided in this rules booklet, but is only used when using optional rule 17.0.

2.36 The Die

A ten-sided die is used in the game, the zero (0) face is read as a ten (10) not a zero.

3.0 Prepare for Play

First, players must decide which scenario to play. The Historical scenario is recommended for beginners, because it has the fewest number of units. Each player will organize and place his markers on the mapsheet, and task force cards, in accordance with the scenario set-up instructions. Only the ships and air units listed in the scenario are used. All remaining counters and markers are set aside, including the ship counters which are used for surface combat (see 2.34). The German player may use either the Movement Log or the Plotting Sheet, to

plot the movement of his units. Two copies of the Movement Log are required if using this method; the vertical columns should be numbered 1-28, i.e., one column is used for each of the 28 game turns. If using the Plotting Sheet, only one copy is needed for play, though some players prefer more.

4.0 Sequence of Play

Sink the Bismarck! is played in turns. Each turn is divided into phases which must be strictly performed in the sequence described below:

1. **Unit Availability Phase:** The British player places on the map any ships which enter play in the current turn (see scenario instructions). Additionally, beginning on turn two, the British player draws a convoy counter from the container, and places it on the map (see 9.7). Dummy task forces that have been previously detected and removed from play, may also be returned to the map at this time (see section 6).
2. **Visibility Phase:** The German player determines the visibility conditions for the current turn.
3. **Detection Phase:** Both players may attempt to detect enemy task forces located in the same hex. Shadowed task forces do not require detection.
4. **Surface Combat Phase:** Surface combat occurs only if the detecting player desires. In order to engage in surface combat, the opposing task forces must be in the same hex as one another.
5. **Air Attack Phase:** Land-Based Bombers and Torpedo Planes may attack enemy task forces detected or shadowed this turn, that are in range.
6. **Shadow Phase:** The British player may select one air unit or task force for normal shadow, per hex. Task forces or air units desiring to maintain shadowing (either normal or high speed) from the previous turn(s) also attempt at this time.
7. **German Movement Plot Phase:** The German player now plots the movement for each task force and recon aircraft he desires to move, using either the Movement Log or Plotting Sheet. Shadowed German task forces are physically moved at this time, instead of in Phase Nine.
8. **British Movement Phase:** The British player now physically moves each task force, convoy, and recon aircraft desired.

9. **German Movement Phase:** The German player now physically moves each recon aircraft and each unshadowed task force, in accordance with the plotted moves recorded in Phase Seven. The British player may attempt detection and high speed shadow against each German task force moving through a British occupied hex. Conversely, the German player may attempt detection of task forces and convoys for each hex he moves through.

10. **Damage Control Phase:** Both players now attempt to repair damaged ships. Detection Markers are removed from all task forces; Shadow Markers are retained.

5.0 Visibility

5.1 There are three levels of visibility in the game: Good, Fair (Average), and Poor. During Phase Two of each game turn, the German player rolls a single die to determine the visibility for the current turn using the Visibility Table found on the Charts and Tables Card.

5.2 Visibility can have an effect on detection and shadowing attempts made each game turn, as explained in section 10.2, and on the Shadowing Table.

6.0 Task Forces

6.1 "REAL" TASK FORCES

6.11 There are two markers for each Task Force in the game. One Marker is used on the mapsheet, the other on the Task Force Cards. Individual ship markers or counters are never placed on the mapsheet. A Task force can consist of one or more ships. There is no limit to the number of ships which may be in a single Task force. A task force can also contain no ships; these are referred to as Dummy Task Forces, and will be explained later.

6.12 Most task forces in the game are organized as they were historically. However, during the course of play they may combine or split-up in any manner the players wish. Task forces are organized using the Task Force Cards. To designate ships operating together in a task force, place the ship markers, face-up, in any unused box on the Task Force Card. To identify this task force, a Task Force Marker is placed, face-down, directly above the box in use (players may prefer to keep the Task Force Cards hidden). Only the owning player knows the identity

and composition of each task force, unless it is detected. The British player is limited to thirteen task forces which may be in play at any one time; the German player is limited to four (these limitations may vary by scenario). The limitation on the number of task forces includes both "real" and Dummy task forces.

6.13 Task force markers are moved during the appropriate player's Movement Phase. Each task force moves on the map, at a maximum speed of the slowest ship in the task force. No more than four friendly task forces can occupy a single hex at any one time.

● 6.14 Task forces located in the same hex may combine or split only during Phase One of each turn (exception: see 11.5). Shadowed German task forces may not split-up, unless engaged in surface combat.

6.15 Task forces consisting of certain numbers of ships are awarded bonus modifiers in all detection attempts. These are explained in section 10.2, and are listed on the Detection Table.

6.2 DUMMY TASK FORCES

6.21 Dummy task forces and preplotted German movement, together, make-up the essential element of "fog of war." Dummies are basically used to confuse the enemy as to the location of the "real" task forces.

6.22 Each player may introduce a limited number of Dummies in the game. The British player may have no more than two Dummies, the German player three (these limits may vary by scenario).

6.23 There are no limitations on the movement of Dummies. However, if a Dummy moves too fast, or somehow operates differently from a real task force, the opposing player may notice the difference.

6.24 Since Dummies contain no ships they may not attempt detection or conduct combat. If a Dummy task force is detected, the owning player simply reveals it is a Dummy and removes it from play. Detected Dummy Task Forces may be reintroduced during Phase One on the following turn.

6.25 Dummies may be used to allow a player to pretend to split his force into two separate task forces, with only one, of course, being real. This ploy may be useful during the game, because the enemy player cannot know if the new task force is real, or not.

- 6.26 Dummies may be removed from play at any time and reenter the game during Phase One by placing them in any desired hex on the map. (*Exception:* The German player cannot place Dummies in the same hex as a shadowed task force.) For example, if the true location of all German ships has been revealed to the British player, it will be obvious than any remaining German task forces are Dummies. It will behoove the German player, in this situation, to remove the Dummies from the map, and replace them during Phase One. (The obvious course is to place them with existing real task forces, then split these at the first opportunity—leaving the British player wondering whether the German vessels have been reallocated to new task force markers).

6.27 Dummy task forces, as organized on the Task Force Cards, will of course contain no ships in the holding boxes.

7.0 Movement

7.1 GENERAL TASK FORCE MOVEMENT

7.11 A player may move all, some or none of his task forces on the map in a single turn. A player is never required to move any of his task forces.

7.12 A task force can move at any speed up to its maximum, or not at all. It is never required to move.

- 7.13 When moving, each hex entered must be adjacent to the hex being exited. Hexes may never be skipped during the course of movement. Task forces can never enter an unnumbered sea hex, or a full land hex. British task forces may never move off the map; German task forces, are permitted to exit the southern edge of the mapsheet, but once they do so they may never return into play.

7.14 Damage sustained during combat, as stated in section 12.15, also affects a ship's mapsheet speed as follows:

<i>Evasion Rating</i>	<i>Maximum Speed</i>
30-24	4
24-29	3
15-23	2
8-14	1
1-7	Moves 1 hex on even numbered turns only.

7.2 GERMAN TASK FORCE MOVEMENT

7.21 During Phase Seven of each turn, the German player secretly plots the movement of each task force (and Recon aircraft) he desires to move, using either the Movement Log or Plotting Sheet.

7.22 When plotting the movement of a task force using the Movement Log, the German player must write the hex number(s), in order, that each task force moves through each turn.

7.23 When using the Plotting Sheet, a line must be traced through each hex for each task force that moved during the turn. At the end of the plot line, identify the task force with a circled number corresponding to the task force number.

7.24 After the German player secretly plots his moves in Phase Seven, the British player physically moves all desired units in Phase Eight. In Phase Nine the German player moves all his task forces and Recon aircraft in accordance with his plot.

7.25 Only the German player may enter ports in Norway, German Occupied Europe, and El Ferrol, Spain. German task forces may never enter "Restricted" sea hexes (see the Terrain Effects Chart on the map).

7.3 BRITISH TASK FORCE MOVEMENT

7.31 During Phase Eight of each turn, the British player physically moves each task force (and Recon Aircraft) desired. The British player is also responsible for the movement of all convoys during this Phase.

7.32 The British player may also move during Phase Nine, if successful at Detection, and High Speed Shadowing, but only if the Shadowing ship has sufficient movement points remaining in the current turn.

7.33 Only the British player may enter ports in Great Britain, Iceland, Gibraltar, St. Johns, and Londonderry.

8.0 Air Unit Movement

8.1 TYPES OF AIR UNITS

8.11 There are two types of air units in the game, Reconnaissance (Recon) and Attack. Recon aircraft are used only for the detection of enemy task forces, never to attack. Conversely, Attack aircraft can only be used to attack enemy

task forces, never to detect. Recon aircraft move in the same phase as task forces. Attack aircraft move only during the Air Attack Phase (they can attack only detected or shadowed enemy task forces within range, and must return to base at the end of the Phase).

8.2 AIR UNIT MOVEMENT

8.21 A player can move all, some or none of his air units in a turn. A player is never required to move, or to attack with, any of his air units.

8.22 On each aircraft counter is printed the maximum number of hexes, or radius, that it can fly from its homebase.

- 8.23 No German air unit may move through any land hex of Great Britain, though German Land-Based Bombers may attack British task forces in the port of Plymouth. There are no restrictions on British air movement. Any number of air units may enter or pass through the same hex. The movement of air units has no effect on ship movement, nor vice versa. Air units cannot move off the map. Attack Air units must be returned to their homebase or aircraft carrier after conducting any attacks. If an aircraft carrier is sunk, its air complement is also considered destroyed.

8.24 Air units may fly each and every turn if the owning player so desires.

8.25 During Phase Seven of each turn, the German Player secretly plots the movement of each recon aircraft he desires to move. If using the Movement Log, only the last hex need be noted. German recon aircraft are physically moved during Phase Nine.

8.26 The British player moves his recon aircraft during Phase Eight, along with his task forces.

8.27 Attack aircraft can attack any detected enemy task force within range, during the Air Attack Phase of each turn. Each attack aircraft counter can attack only once per turn.

8.28 Recon aircraft counters remain permanently on the map, within flying distance (radius) of their homebase (they represent each base's ability to fly sorties, rather than individual aircraft).

9.0 Convoys

9.1 Convoys are individually represented by pink colored convoy counters. Convoys are moved by the British Player. All convoys move at a speed of one hex per turn on the mapsheet.

9.2 Convoys begin the game on the map-sheet, or are introduced during the course of play. Scenario instructions specify the exact location of all convoys at the start of play. Each convoy counter has a designator (e.g., HX), which identifies the general course of movement and destination. Place the convoy counters for each designator in discrete piles face up (i.e., with their values hidden). The convoys placed on the map prior to play, are drawn randomly from each designator group (see scenario instructions).

9.3 On the reverse side of each convoy counter is printed the number of victory points awarded to the German player if the Convoy is destroyed. These values are kept secret by the British player, until destroyed (during play of the game be careful not to turn the convoy counters over). Also, note that some convoys are dummies, and of course have no value. The British player receives no victory points for dummies which survive the game.

9.4 After the initial placement of convoy counters on the mapsheet, all remaining convoys are placed in an opaque container. Starting on the second turn of play, during Phase One, a convoy counter is drawn from the container and placed on the mapsheet according to section 9.7.

● 9.5 There may never be more than 12 convoy counters (real and dummy) on the map at any one time. No more than 4 convoy counters can be stacked in the same hex, after movement in Phase Eight.

9.6 Located on the mapsheet are two convoy tracks labeled ATLANTIC and AFRICAN. Each track also specifies the convoys that travel on each track. Convoys must be moved or may stray no further than four hexes from each assigned track.

9.7 HX, SC, ON, and ONS convoys travel on the Atlantic Convoy track. HX and SC convoys enter play in hex 1319 (St. Johns). ON and ONS convoys enter play in hex 3716 (The Clyde). SL, WS, and OG convoys use the African convoy track; only WS and OG convoys are permitted to exit the map using this track. OG convoys also enter play in hex 3716 (The Clyde); SL convoys in 2838. Convoys exiting the map on the African convoy track may do so no more than four hexes from the track. Convoys must always move

at their one hex speed until they reach their destination.

● 9.8 Convoys move during Phase Eight, along with British task forces and Recon aircraft. Convoys must always move in such a way that they never move further from their destination. However, Convoys may move to maintain the same distance from their destination port.

● 9.9 Convoys and their escorts are automatically detected by German task forces located in the same hex, if the German player so desires (exception: German dummies cannot detect anything). Convoys cannot detect German task forces, unless the latter attacks the convoy. This applies even to convoys being escorted. This gives German ships the ability to run or fight based on the convoy's escort. Recon aircraft can detect convoys (see section 10). Dummy convoys, once detected, are removed permanently from the game. If a real convoy is detected, only the fact that it is real is revealed, not its victory point value.

● 9.10 If the German player elects to, he may attack and attempt to destroy any convoy he detects with his task forces. Destruction of unescorted convoys is automatic. Convoys escorted by British task forces may not be destroyed unless all escorting task forces have been sunk. Escorting British task force counters are placed underneath convoy counters; non-escorting task forces which are located in the same hex as a convoy are placed on top of convoy counters. The escorting or non-escort status of a task force located in the same hex as a convoy, is accomplished only during Phase Eight. Escorting task forces may not disengage from surface combat. Convoy destruction of unescorted convoys takes place during Phase Nine; escorted convoys during Phase Four. German Land-Based Bombers may not destroy convoys.

● 9.11 German task forces electing to destroy convoys are automatically detected. When making an attack the German player must tell the British player the number, and types of ships completing the destruction.

9.12 If a German task force, during the course of a pre-plotted move, passes through a hex containing a convoy, the German task force may stop, detect, and destroy it if he desires. If the German task force chooses to destroy

the convoy, movement for the turn ends in that hex (despite the plot).

10.0 Detection

10.1 A task force must be detected before it can be attacked by ships or aircraft. Each real task force and recon aircraft may attempt detection each game turn. Detection attempts can be made during Phase Three against enemy task forces located in the same hex as a friendly task force and/or recon aircraft. Additionally, detection can be attempted during Phase Nine as German task forces move through hexes occupied by British units. Air units cannot be detected.

10.2 The Detection Table, located on the Charts and Tables Card, is used to resolve all attempts at Detection. All detection die rolls are made secretly by the player attempting to Detect.

Modifiers for Detection attempts are as follows:

Visibility for the turn is:	
• Good	+1
• Poor and/or Night	-2
Recon aircraft attempting detection during the Day	+3
The task force attempting detection contains:	
• 3 or 4 ships	+1
• 5 or 6 ships	+2
• 7 or more ships	+3
• aircraft carrier	+2

Note: DD Flotillas for the purposes of this rule count as one ship.

10.3 Detection may not be attempted in hexes containing fog. Shadowing may not be conducted in fog hexes unless the shadowing ship(s) are equipped with effective search radars. These ships are identified on the Shadowing Table, on the Charts and Tables Card.

10.4 Once a task force is detected, a Detection Marker is placed directly on it, and the owning player must reveal the numbers and general types (battleship, carrier, cruiser, or destroyers) of ships that make up the task force. For example, the owning player might say "One battleship, one cruiser, and one DD flotilla present," it is not necessary to name the ships.

● 10.5 If more than one enemy task force is located in the same hex, friendly detection attempts must be made separately for each enemy task force. Consequently, it is possible to have both

