



# *The Battle of Tsushima*

*Bill Madison*  
*Historicon 2005*

*Admiralty Trilogy Seminar*



# From the Baltic to Tsushima

- ◆ 15 October 1904 Russia's Baltic Fleet renamed the Second Pacific Squadron departs Libau for an 18,000 nm voyage
- ◆ Fleet consists of raw crews many of whom are revolutionaries
- ◆ 60 colliers are contracted from the Hamburg-Amerika Line to provide coal for the voyage
- ◆ Night of 21/22 October Russian Fleet engages the Hull fishing fleet working the Dogger Bank (Aurora hit five times losing her chaplain. One trawler sunk five damaged, two men killed and six wounded)

*“I should have engaged the Russians at Tangier...with four of my battleships, at a distance of from 5,000 to 6,000 yards. It appeared to me that this would only be chivalrous, under the circumstances.”*

**VA. Lord Charles Beresford**

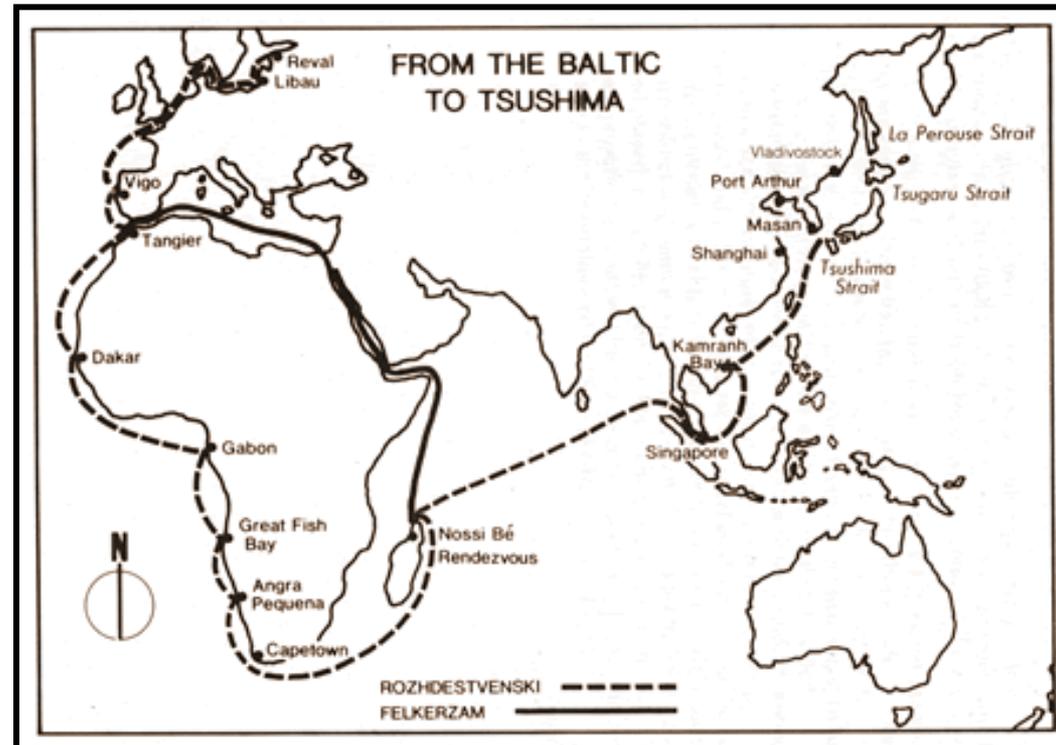


# From the Baltic to Tsushima

- ◆ Longest stay was at Nossi-Be (notified of the fall of Port Arthur)
- ◆ May 9, 1905 arrives at Van Fong (Kamranh Bay) coaling fiasco
- ◆ Joined by Third Pacific Squadron (Nebogatov) departs 14 May
- ◆ Arrive Tsushima Straits night of 26/27 May (7.5 month voyage)

**“hardly anyone slept; it was too clear we’d be meeting the enemy in full strength...”**

**Flag-Captain Clapier de Colongue**





# Zinovi Petrovitch Rozhdestvenski

- ◆ Born 11 November 1848, into an aristocratic family
- ◆ Graduated the Naval Academy in 1870 and the Mikhail Artillery Academy in 1873 with honors
- ◆ Saw service in the Russo-Turkish War 1877-1878 as commander of TB No.2
- ◆ Appointed command of The Second Pacific Squadron in April 1904
- ◆ Captured at Tsushima he recuperated in a Japanese hospital where he was well treated and even visited by Adm. Togo
- ◆ After his return to Russia he was court-martialed but acquitted because he had been unconscious at the time he was captured
- ◆ Retired in 1906 and was in poor health till his death on 14 January 1909





# Togo Heihachiro

- ◆ Known as the “Japanese Nelson”
- ◆ Fought at Kagoshima 1863 (Samurai)
- ◆ Entered the new Imperial Navy 1871
- ◆ Trained in England 1871-1875
- ◆ Circumnavigated the globe aboard *Hampshire* 1875
- ◆ Almost removed from the active list in 1893 due to poor health
- ◆ Sank *Kowshing* 1894
- ◆ Battle of the Yalu 1894
- ◆ Rear Admiral 1895
- ◆ C-in-C Combined Fleet 1903
- ◆ Named a count 1907
- ◆ Fleet Admiral 1913
- ◆ Died 30 May 1934





# The Russian Fleet

- ◆ Battleships 11 (5/3/3)
- ◆ Armored Cruisers 4
- ◆ Protected Cruisers 4
- ◆ Destroyers 9
- ◆ Armed Yacht 1
- ◆ Auxiliary Vessels 9



***HIRMs* Admiral Ushakov**

- ◆ 26 x 12-in.
- ◆ 15 x 10-in.
- ◆ 2 x 9-in.
- ◆ 6 x 8-in.
- ◆ 43 x 6-in.
- ◆ 92 guns/Total weight 32,090 lb.



***HIRMs* Knyaz Suvorov**



# The Japanese Fleet

- ◆ Battleships 5 (4/1)
- ◆ Armored Cruisers 9
- ◆ Protected Cruisers 14
- ◆ Scout Cruisers 3
- ◆ Destroyers 21
- ◆ TBs 16



*HIJM Asama*

- ◆ 16 x 12-in.
- ◆ 1 x 10-in.
- ◆ 30 x 8-in.
- ◆ 80 x 6-in.
- ◆ 127 guns/Total weight 28,400 lb.

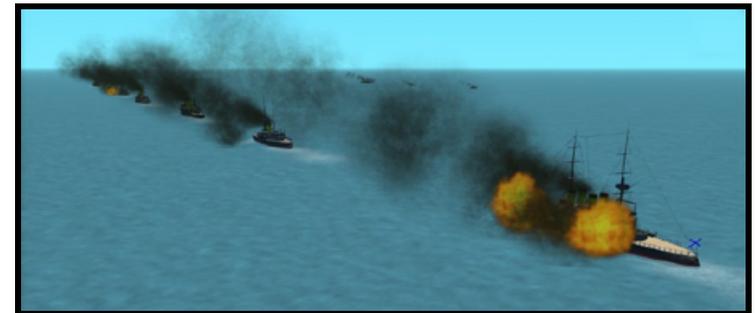
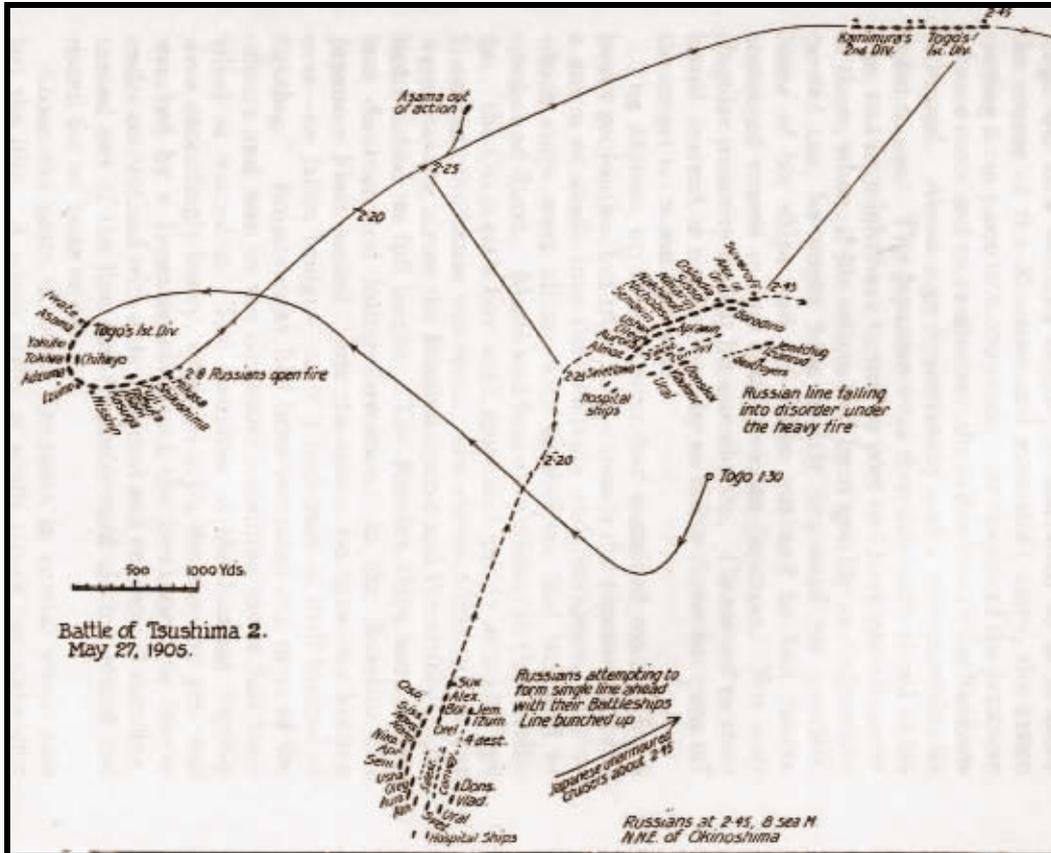


*HIJM Mikasa*



# The Battle of Tsushima

- ◆ The battle can be broken into three phases
- ◆ First Stage (1339-1425): The initial gunnery duel
- ◆ 1410 The Russian's open fire
- ◆ Asama damaged 1423

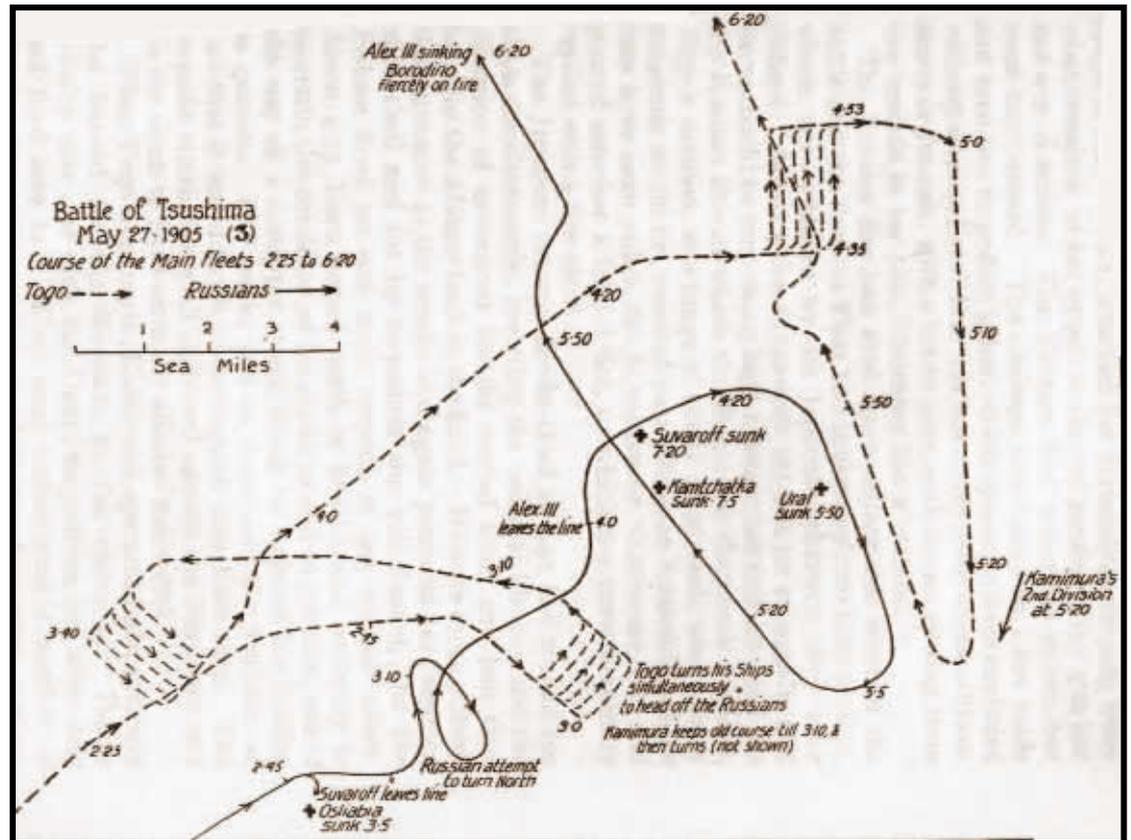


The Russian Fleet opens fire



# The Battle of Tsushima

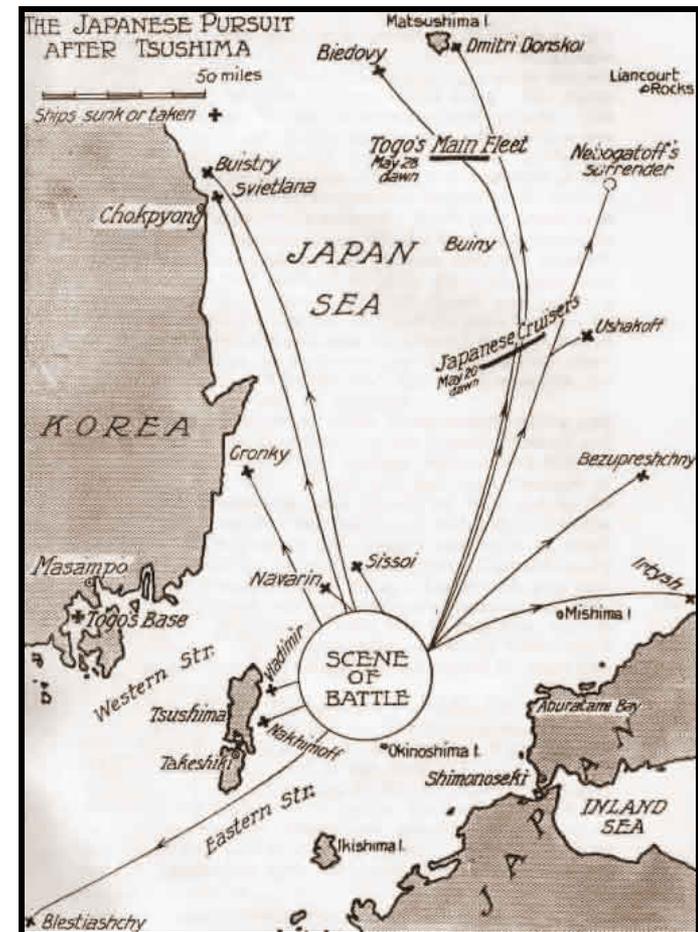
- ◆ Second Stage (1425-1930): The Russian's try to break contact
- ◆ Oslyabya - 1515
- ◆ Alexandr III – 1900
- ◆ Kn. Suvorov – 1930
- ◆ Borodino - 1930





# The Battle of Tsushima

- ◆ Third Stage (1900 May 27 – 1900 May 28): Flotilla attack and pursuit
- ◆ Navarin – 0200
- ◆ Nakhimov – 0500
- ◆ Vladimir Monomakh – 0500
- ◆ Sisoï Veliki – 1030
- ◆ Nebogatov Capitulates – 1030  
Surrenders: Imp. Nikolai I, Orel,  
Gen. Adm. Apraxin, Adm. Senyavin,  
Izumrud wrecks at Vladimir Bay
- ◆ Adm. Ushakov – 1800
- ◆ Dimitri Donskoi engaged 1900 scuttled 0600  
29 May





# Aftermath

- ◆ The Russian Fleet entered the straits with 38 ships
  - 3 Battleships were captured the rest were sunk
  - 1 Cruiser was captured, 4 were interned, the rest were sunk
  - 1 Destroyer captured, 1 interned, 2 (*Grozni*, *Bravi*) Vladivostok...
  - 4 Auxiliaries sunk, 2 captured (AH), 3 interned
  - *Almaz* made it to Vladivostok
  - The Russians lost 4,830 KIA, 5,917 POW, 1,862 interned
  
- ◆ The Japanese Fleet entered the straits with 68 ships
  - 3 TBs were sunk due to collision
  - The Japanese lost 117 KIA, 583 WIA

**At Jutland there was 1 Battleship, 4 Battle Cruisers, 3 Armored Cruisers, 4 Light Cruisers and 13 Destroyers sunk**



# Thank You!



*HIJM* Itsukushima