

PLAYERS (Teampay without bidding)

Germany/Italy: Stefan Stubenvoll

Japan: Michael Semer

CW/USA/China: Achim Tulke

USSR/France: Sebastian Appelhans

Important Options:

CLASSIC, OC, motorized movement, defensive and offensive shore bombardment, 1D10 with modifiers (per paratrooping PARA +1, per 2 ARM/MECH blitz-attacking in clear/desert and fine +1, per ARM/MECH defending in clear/desert and fine -1, 2 or more printed factories -1, per defending faced down corps +1)

Important Options not chosen:

Oil, Chinese attack weakness, Japanese carrier range, Japanese command conflict

ASIA/PACIFIC:

After early Japanese successes in China (fast fall of Si-An) the Japanese offensives, which were never delivered with utmost pressure and relied heavily on strategic bombing and force preserving, bogged down in Central and South China before the natural mountain ranges. Only in North China was the first mountain range north of Si-An broken and occupied by Japanese units.

USSR declared war on Persia in Sep/Oct 40, but could conquer it only 1 turn later.

The US entry was rather slow, partly by bad luck, partly by bad German performance in Europe and resulted in a "Gear up" only in Jan/Feb 42. Nevertheless, the slow entry coupled with bad weather lured Japan in a somewhat belated war entry in Mar/Apr 42, which allowed the western allies a strong defense in the Pacific including a British Far East Squadron of 3 5-movement HS and 4 carriers. With a "Japan first" strategy US men and materials were pushed with priority into the Pacific, resulting in successful holding operations of Singapore and Manila (supported by bad weather in North monsoon in the summer turns) and attacks against the Japanese convoy lines, which were using both ports from the middle of 42. A key event was a with rather good odds delivered attack of Japanese forces against Singapore (including Japanese paratroops), which was not successful. The Japanese broke overstrained by needs for expansion and convoy escort duties, could never get his inner defense perimeter and was therefore successful economically struggled from the start of 43.

EUROPE:

Germany conquered Poland and Denmark in Sep/Oct 39 (8 impulses), while the USSR claimed successfully Bessarabia, and Hungary and Bulgaria got their territories. Winter and spring turns in 1939/40 had bad weather (storm, snow, blizzard), so actions were reduced to strategic bombardment of Germany as well as of France, and on naval combat in which half of the German fleet was sunk.

Only in May/June 40 (Initiative Axis), beginning with the third impulse, weather had changed to fine. Germany attacked the Netherlands (Amsterdam and Rotterdam conquered), and subsequently Belgium (Brussels conquered). Italy declared war on CW, later France DoWed Italy. A first OC against French troops brought only bad results (1 and 3 rolled), so that Germany could not advance beyond the French/Belgian border at the end of the turn. CW corps occupied two hexes in Belgium and France. A 2nd German OC resulted in two breakthroughs in Jul/Aug 1939 south of Lille and west of Metz, but suddenly the turn ended on a 1.

In Sep/Oct 40, Italy invaded Oran, but this position was not extended in the following as Algiers was heavily defended. Germany approached with 1 hex on Paris. In the 1940/41 winter turns, weather did not allow Germany to extend its positions around Paris to more than 2 hexes. Finland was aligned in Jan/Feb 1941 after USSR claimed Finnish territory successfully (May/June 40). The Italian Fleet was severely sunk/damaged, with only 2 SCS remaining on the map in Mar/Apr 41 (later Italy repaired many of its SCS). In May/June 41, Paris was finally conquered, including a total annihilation of the BEF (some 6 corps). Germany vichified France. The subsequent determination of Vichy/Free French territories resulted in a complete conquest of France. As Barbarossa was no longer possible in 1941, Germany aligned Hungary and conquered Yugoslavia in Jul/Aug 41.

With the Fall of France, the Axis tried in earnest a two pincer attack on Egypt via Lybia and a Syrian beachhead, but where were already too much CW ground troops, thus even the dominance of the Axis air forces in the Mediterranean could not assure the conquest of Egypt. The positions in Lybia and Syria were partly evacuated and partly destroyed by CW forces till the end of 42. In the Western Med the Allies took North Africa against near to none resistance and moved troops into Corsica after Vichy Collapse in March/April 43, building up reserves of ground troops for possible invasions.

Barbarossa was launched in May/June 1942. Germany could move into Russia, conquered Kiev and Minsk, but stalemate was reached along the Dnepr, the Russian/Estonian border, Pskov and Vitebsk (the two cities still in Stalin's hand). Beginning in Sep/Oct 1943, Germany removed its troops gradually to Dnestr and Duna, and later Njemen. Only in Mar/Apr 44 the USSR managed to cross the Dnestr, which turned out to become the decisive event in East Europe. In May/June 1944 Rumania was conquered, and in Jul/Aug 44 Bulgaria. Liberation of Yugoslavia and conquest of Hungary happened during Sep/Oct 44 and Nov/Dec 44, while in the North Stalin's liberators crossed the Wisla and approached the Oder.

The first invasions by the Western Allies on the European mainland took place in Denmark in Jul/Aug 43 and Normandy in Sep/Oct 43. While the beachhead in Denmark was contained around Frederickshaven, the invasion in France could be extended into Brittany, thus assuring enough depth vs. counterattack. While the beachheads settled down for a stalemate in Winter, the axis of seaborne invasions shifted into the Mediterranean in 44. An invasion in Southern France in Mar/Apr 44 got rapidly ground and forced the overstrained Axis forces into a gradual withdrawal to the Seine, Central Massif and Italian border. Italy was incompletely conquered in Sep/Oct 1944, and completely conquered one turn later with an Western Allied invasion in Albania. Till the end of the game in Jan/Feb 45 the axis forces were pushed back to the Rhine, with the first german cities falling on the western front. Berlin was conquered by USSR in the last impulse of Jan/Feb 45.