

TABLE 9

This is a game report of our game at Euro Wifcon 2004. It started on Saturday and was conceded by the Allies on S/O 42 (Thursday).

The players:

Germany: Gianpiero Castoldi
Japan/Italy: Stefano Andreoni
CW: Bo Nielsen
USA/China: Claus Jansen
Russia: Michael Mortensen

Notable options: 2D10 crt with all the options, no bounce combat, otherwise pretty standard.

In September 39 Germany took out Poland with overwhelming force, took Netherlands using Rundstedt to reorganize the reserves in combination with a seaborne invasion in Rotterdam during the third impulse and Denmark. In China Japan took Si-Han and some hexes nearby and the southern resources near Canton; Russia occupied Eastern Poland and Bessarabia.

In December 39 Belgium fell and Japan expanded its control in China taking out most of the southern regions.

No relevant activity in Europe in January 40, but Japan took Chang Sha and made a Pact with Russia receiving in exchange one oil.

In Mars Germany started its march toward Paris, took Lille and one hex in front of the French capital, Japan continued its advance in China freeing more hexes in the south, taking Nanning and consolidating in the north.

June saw the fall of Paris and the Italian war declaration; during its surprise impulse the Invincible was sunk in Gibraltar by some mini subs and some convoys in the Atlantic and Mediterranean did the same end, one Italian division landed and captured Cyprus, Russia started to move many units near the Polish border. Vichy was created and Italy & Germany started to garrison most of the ports and to move some units on the Yugoslavian border.

In July Germany and Italy started the strategic war using subs and bombardments over UK; war against Yugoslavia was declared and Hungary & Rumania aligned; Yugoslavia fell at the end of the turn. Nothing of notice in China where Japan started to consolidate its conquest and to move out some white print units and marines; USA has played some very annoying options against it early and the situation was very dangerous, in particular the oil embargo played at the end of this turn hurt a lot. "Luckily" for Japan the Russian oil was enough to survive since the arrival of the Sixth in Mars 41, but the oil situation forestalled any new attack in China. Anyway in response, Japan started to plan a Mars 1941 attack as an extreme solution.

From September 40 to Mars 41 the strategic war against UK reached its zenith, UK was encircled by subs and bombarded, its production fell for some turns at critical level. At the same time Russia continued to amass units on the border and, finally, realized the danger. Luckily for it the losses had been very low from the start, just one militia & a division lost, it had more than average entry chits, but Russian ones were also very good. A long planning started from September to June to calculate how Germany could have broken the pact, we realized that it could have reached the 2:1

ratio in June, but for one point only and after moving most of the German units on the border.

It was the third impulse of June 41 when Russia realized that it could not hold and decided to retreat; it declared war to Italy and played a super combined to flee from the border. Immediately Germany declared war and started to advance in Russia, some minor drawback stopped the advance in the north, but in the south it succeeded to cross the Dneper at the first occasion and Russia started to flee at full speed toward the Caucasus and the Moscow area.

At the same time Japan decided to postpone its war declaration because America was in a big danger as it could not even play the first gear up (the best chits were in the german/russian pool) and the things were going very well in Russia for the axis and was not the case to enter the war.

At the end of the month of August Germany used an offensive chit around Moscow and blitzed a critical stack south of the town, the blitz cut off the rail line and divided in two the front. Russia desperately retreat from the area toward Siberia and Yaroslav. The unfortunate that retreated toward the town were defeated after some bitter fighting in September. In the south Rostov fall and the german armour started to move toward Caucasus.

It was September 41 when in a surprise coup Japan declared war to USA, CW & Nei. In an impressive move it took Pearl Harbor with Yamashita, the Imperial Guard Marines & a marines division and the support of the carrier fleet; Batavia fall as Singapore, Rabaul and Lagaspi in the Philippines. The surprise landing in Pearl destroyed two carriers, the Lexington and the Enterprise and 5 slow battleships, the Arizona was captured!

In Russia some skirmishing happened when Germany mopped up some pockets; only Leningrad and the Caucasus were in Russia hands at that time.

In December 41 Japan took Pago Pago, Manila, Rangoon and a beach head was established in New Zaeland, minor skirmishing continued in Russia as Germany prepared itself for the next push, the fall of Leningrad.

In January 42 New Zaeland fall and a new beach head was established in Australia, this time all the Japanese army was ready for the final battle around Camberra. In Russia nothing happened except that, now most of the army was near the map border and ready for the good weather to enter Siberia.

Mars 42 saw, the fall of Leningrad; after some months of bad weather, finally in the last impulse of the turn snow started to fall and Germany played the second offensive and took the city; at the same time Japan landed in French Samoa and USA was denied from the last major port in the area.

Starting from June Germany moved in Siberia and started to crush the Russian line hex by hex, it was the end.

The game ended in September 42 when the Allies surrendered as Germany and Japan were so powerful that was impossible for them to hope in a future victory, Italy was so strong that most of its army defended France alone and its navy was strong enough to fight alone the strategic war and defend the Mediterranean sea, Russia was falling and USA was unable to fight back in the Pacific for long time.

Stefano

