

Jim Eliason (Allies) vs Bryan Eshleman (IJN) BPA SE rnd 3 May-June 2010

AAR

Turn 1: Bryan's Pearl raid was dismal, sinking/bottoming only 3 BBs, plus crippling two more, and sinking one CA and the 7AF. Indo was a clean sweep, with Prince of Wales going down round 3. IJN got the standard 3 POC for NT1.

Turn 2: With a very large American fleet ready to plaster a divided IJN, Bryan opted to send nothing to the USM, trying to hold HI and the perimeter. A CV and five CAs disabled his two CAs in the Aleutians with no loss, and four CVs forced the retreat of one LBA from the SPO, again with no loss to either side. IJN +9 POC.

Turn 3: HI was the usual IJN CVs vs six US LBA. I wasn't even close. Bryan killed four LBA and damaged the other two on the first round, losing only the Hiryu. I bugged out. He abandoned Indo. Elsewhere four CVs killed an LBA in SPO, and four patrolling IJN cruisers were destroyed, with a fifth disabled. Again, there were no US ship losses, though the I-boat crippled Hornet and Suzuya crippled a previously damaged Tennessee. IJN +11

Turn 4: With only four American ships sunk in the first three turns, Bryan didn't like his position. He went all out for the KO in 5, sending most of the fleet and two amphib units to USM. I countered with two marines and a CV to Coral Sea, and a suicide Wasp to USM. Wasp rolled four 1s and was obliterated. Junyo opted not to target my marines, sinking the single patrolling CA instead (with 3 damage) and was sunk by Enterprise. Four amphib units were destroyed in bitter ground fighting in New Hebrides, but the island stayed in US hands. ML and HI saw one patrolling IJN CA and a raiding CVL trying to fight off large Allied surface forces. The main event was a big counterattack into Indo with three LBA, three US CVs, and two British CVLs against four IJN LBA and Zuiho. After two rounds the IJN had one damaged LBA against three US LBA.

At this point Bryan resigned looking at a likely flip of Singapore, very little chance to flip Samoa next turn, and a likely lead of only 17 POC. For turn 5 the USN would have two big CVs (plus the crippled Hornet), Hermes, probably ten LBA, lots of BBs and CAs based at Lae and Guadalcanal, plus an airbase at Attu.