

### British Briefing

North Sea, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1905.

Winds westerly at 14 knots. Sea state 3. Visibility 9 nautical miles.

A Russian squadron from the Baltic is sailing to the Far East. It is expected to exit the Skagerrak today and to steer a course for the English Channel.

In accordance with our alliance with Japan, you are ordered to destroy the Russian squadron.

### Russian Briefing

North Sea, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1905.

Winds westerly at 14 knots. Sea state 3. Visibility 9 nautical miles.

Your squadron is sailing from the Baltic to the Far East and has exited the Skagerrak. Set a course for the English Channel. Japanese torpedo boats have been reported in the North Sea.

Maintain action stations and be alert for hostile action by the Japanese or their British allies. Any opportunity to damage British naval forces should be pursued.

### French Briefing

North Sea, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1905.

Winds westerly at 14 knots. Sea state 3. Visibility 9 nautical miles.

The British are expected to interfere with the movement of the Russian squadron from the Baltic to the Far East.

Your force is ordered to escort the Russian squadron from the Skagerrak to the Atlantic. Any British force is to be treated as hostile, and any damage inflicted on the British fleet will be welcomed.

Background to the war:

The Russo-Japanese War has been in progress since 1904. Historically, the Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894 did not require France to support Russia since no Triple Alliance member state was involved. The Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902 did not require Britain to support Japan since Japan was not at war with more than one state.

In this somewhat altered history, Germany has decided to spend money on the army and not build a large fleet. Anglo-German relations are good. France finds it necessary to support Russia due to the military balance in Europe. Japan, assuming that this is the case, attacks French assets in Asia. Thus France and Russia are at war with Japan and the Anglo-Japanese Alliance is invoked.