

Durazzo December 1915

Historical Context:

For the evacuation of Serbian troops and civilians from the Balkans between December 1915 and February 1916 see Paul G. Halpern, "The Naval War in the Mediterranean 1914-1918," Chapter 6.

Also see Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Retreat_\(Serbian\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Retreat_(Serbian))

Scenario description:

The evacuation of the Serbian troops was mainly from Durazzo (now Durrës) to Corfu, with naval security provided by the Italian fleet. Austrian attempts at interdiction used destroyers, submarines and aircraft, but no larger fleet units.

This scenario assumes that the Austrian fleet at Pola sortied in December 1915 to seriously challenge the evacuation.

Italian briefing:

British intelligence sources indicate that major Austrian units have left Pola and may threaten the evacuation of troops from Durazzo or other Albanian ports.

You are ordered to proceed to sea from Brindisi and search northeastward toward the northern Albanian coast. It is imperative that no Austrian naval forces approach Durazzo.

Due to the shortage of available modern units, a French battle squadron, cruiser squadron and destroyer flotilla will be attached to your command.