

# AFTER ACTION REPORT



## INVASION: NORWAY

BY DAVID FOX

**Game Designer:**  
Kevin Boylan

**Game Developers:**  
Gene Billingsley and Tony Curtis

**Art Director:**  
Rodger B. MacGowan

**Counter Art:**  
John Kranz and Rodger B. MacGowan

**Game Map Art:**  
Joe Youst



By Rodger B. MacGowan ©1996

**Unit Scale:**  
Battalion; Single ships and Air unit squadrons

**Time Scale:**  
Three days per turn

**Map Scale:**  
16 miles per hex

**Number of Players:**  
One-to-Two

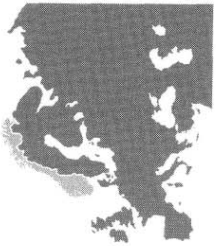
**Contents:**  
560 full-color counters  
One 22x34 inch full-color mapsheet  
One 22x17 inch Operational Display map  
One 32-page Rulebook  
One 16-page Quickstart Booklet  
One 12-page Scenario & Historical Commentary  
Six Player Aid Sheets

***April, 1940:** Poland has fallen, overwhelmed by the whiplash speed of the blitzkrieg. Now it's Scandinavia's turn. Denmark will provide little challenge, but what of Norway? Gone are the open plains of Silesia, replaced by densely forested mountains and frozen fjords. Will the blitzkrieg work in country where winter doesn't really end until the middle of May?*

*For the first time, the Royal Navy will come into play - which will prove superior; the heavily-armored might of the British battlefleet, or the precision bombing of the Luftwaffe? This will be the debut of the true air-sea-land campaign; can the Germans combine all three elements successfully? And the battle must be quick - the invasion of France will allow no delays.*




*We'll play the Operation Weseruebung scenario, which runs in three-day turns from the beginning of April to the middle of June and covers the full historical campaign. No variants will be used - both sides will have to play what they've been dealt. For those who are following along, we'll use the Quick Start invasion plan. It follows history, is easier than making up your own, and is pretty much the best plan anyway.*

(continued on page 26)



# INVASION:

# NORWAY

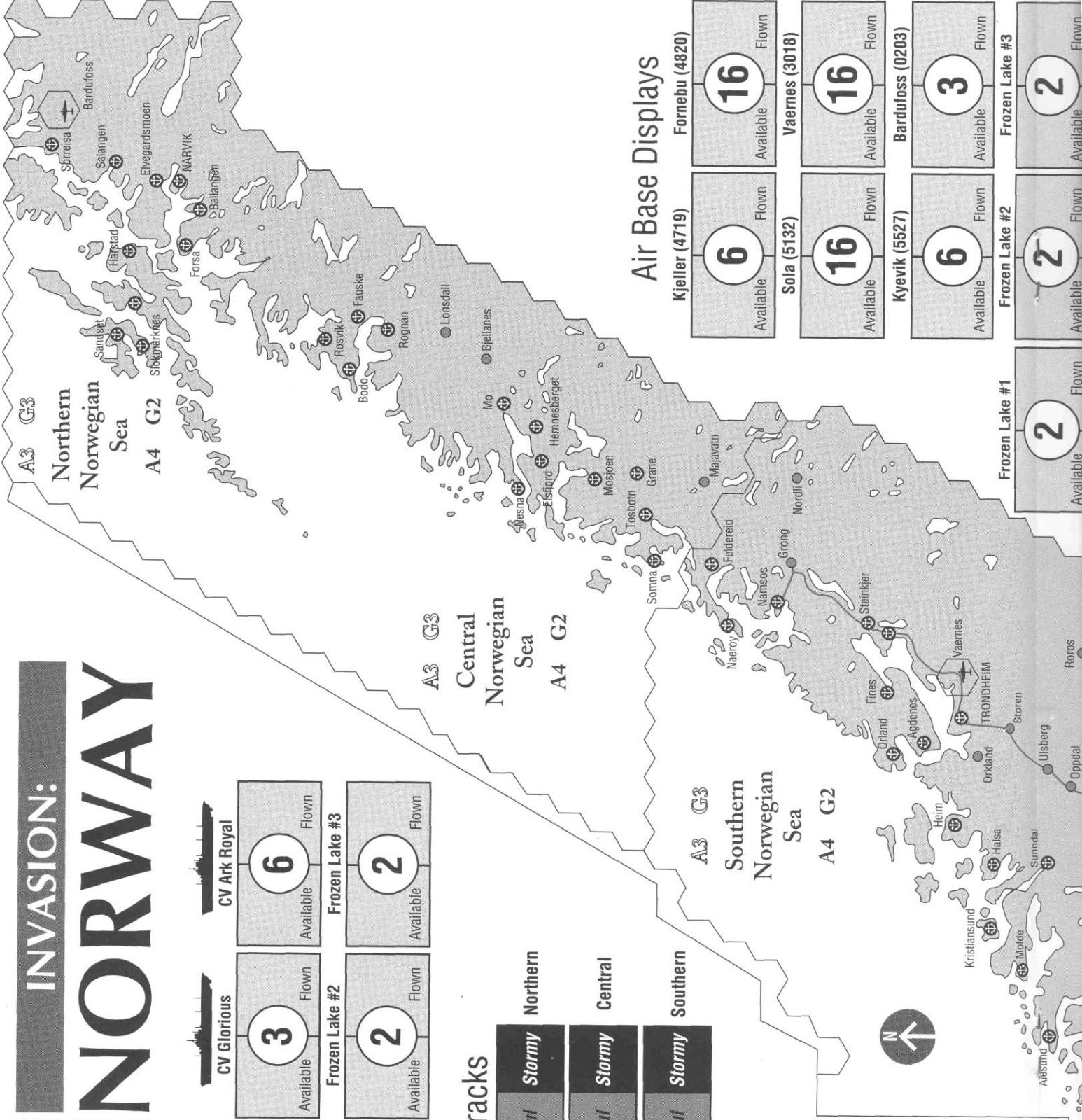
 CV Furious	 CV Glorious	 CV Ark Royal
3	3	6
Available	Available	Available
Flown	Flown	Flown
Frozen Lake #1		
2	2	2
Available	Available	Available
Flown	Flown	Flown
Frozen Lake #2		
2	2	2
Available	Available	Available
Flown	Flown	Flown
Frozen Lake #3		
2	2	2
Available	Available	Available
Flown	Flown	Flown

## Weather Tracks

	Northern	Central	Southern
Fair	Cloudy	Foul	Stormy
Fair	Cloudy	Foul	Stormy
Fair	Cloudy	Foul	Stormy

## Air Base Displays

Kjeller (4719)	Fornebu (4820)
6	16
Available	Available
Flown	Flown
Sola (5132)	Vaernes (3018)
16	16
Available	Available
Flown	Flown
Kjevik (5527)	Bardufoss (0203)
6	3
Available	Available
Flown	Flown
Frozen Lake #1	Frozen Lake #2
2	2
Available	Available
Flown	Flown
Frozen Lake #3	
2	
Available	
Flown	



Frozen Lake #1

2

Available

Frozen Lake #2

2

Available

Frozen Lake #3

2

Available

City

Town

Supply

Highway

Port

Airbase

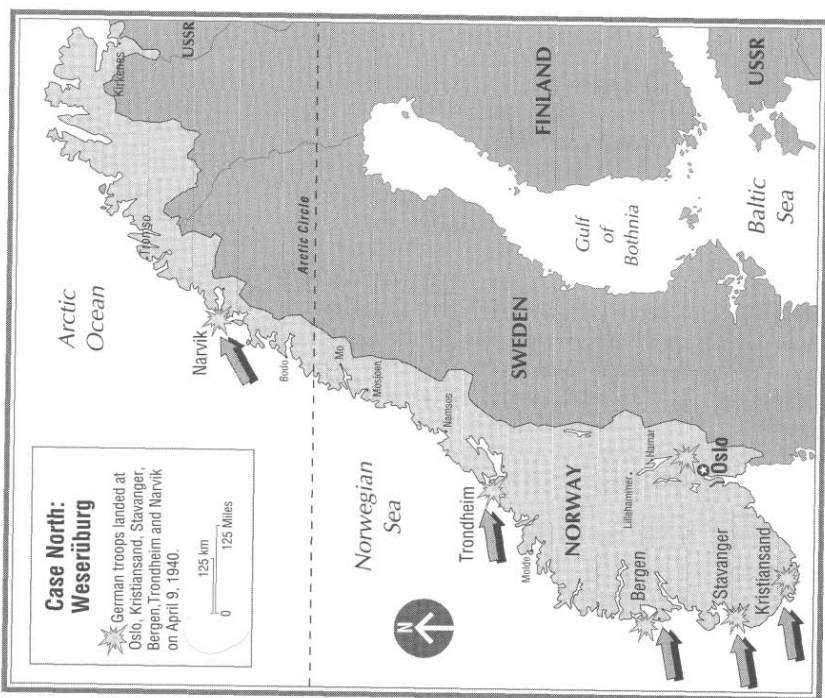
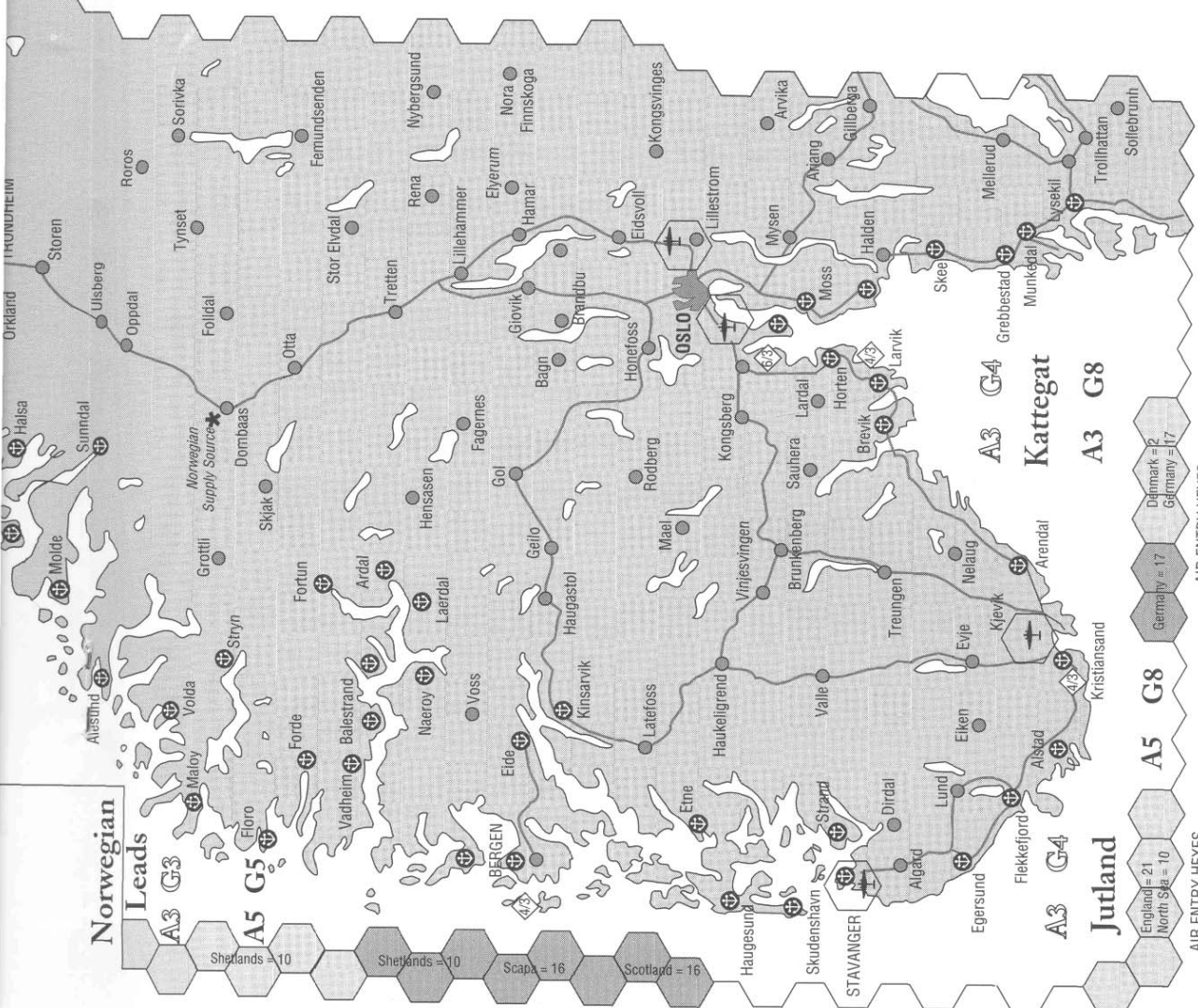
Coast Artillery

Zone Detection Values

Air Detection in outline letters

Naval Detection in black letters

16 Miles per hex



# Turn Record Track - 1940

April #2	April #3	April #4	April #5	April #6	April #7	April #8	April #9	April #10	May #1	May #2	May #3
May #4	May #5	May #6	May #7	May #8	May #9	May #10	June #1	June #2	June #3	June #4	June #5
			Troms		Akershus	Trond. Fjd.	Hortland	Trondelag	Nordland		

RBM

STUDIO

RBM Sketch Map

by Rodger B. MacCowan

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# After Action Report

## April 2, 1940:

The Germans dispatch 2 AP's (Transport ships) towards Narvik carrying a coastal defense battery and a battery of the 730th Artillery. The Norwegian Coast Guard catches the transport with the coastal battery off Jutland; the other runs safely into the Norwegian Leads.

## April 3:

The five remaining AP's and the five AO's (Tanker ships) make their runs up the coast. An AP with a supply point and the AO *Dollart* with 6 ASP's (Air Supply Points) destined for Trondheim are caught - the rest make it through successfully. The remainder of the *Kriegsmarine*, broken up into invasion groups, sail out into their pre-invasion Sea Zones.

### *Narvik Group:*

CL *Emden*, 2 DD's & 1 TB in Central Norwegian Sea

### *Trondheim Group:*

BC *Gneisenau*, CA *Blucher*, CL's *Karlsruhe* & *Konigsberg*, and 1 TB in Southern Norwegian Sea

### *Bergen Group:*

PB *Lutzow*, 2 DD's, & 2 SB's in Norwegian Leads

### *Kristiansand Group:*

BC *Scharnhorst*, CA *Hipper*, GT *Bremse*, & 2 SB's in Kattegat

### *Frederickstad Group:*

CL *Koln* & 1 TB in Kattegat

The British send the BC *Renown* and four DD's into the Northern Norwegian Sea, and 1 DD into the Norwegian Leads, to lay mines.

## April 4:

Northern Zone: *Foul*

Central Zone: *Fair*

Southern Zone: *Cloudy*

The hard-working Norwegian coast guard captures the AO *Moonsund* with 6 ASP's in the Kattegat and an AP with a coastal battery in the Norwegian Leads. The remaining ships of the Export and Tanker Echelons slip through safely. The result of mournful Allied detection die-rolling, this will be key later on in the game - the Germans have managed to move four tankers

loaded with airplane fuel, three artillery batteries, and a coastal defense battery into sea zones where the gasoline and artillery will be very welcome to isolated, hard-fought German garrisons in future turns.

Now it's the British Navy's turn to move, and they must get the heavy metal out to sea. Even without hindsight it's pretty obvious what the invasion objectives will be, so the British put together three heavy battle groups to hit the invaders:

- BB *Rodney*, BC *Repulse*, CA *Sheffield*, and 3 DD's into the Southern Norwegian Sea to strike at Trondheim.

- BB *Valiant*, CA's *Devonshire*, *Berwic* and *York* into the Norwegian Leads to hit Bergen or Stavanger. (The Germans detect them in the Leads, and a flight of Ju-88's damage *Devonshire*.)

- The *Renown* (BC) group, already in the Northern Norwegian Sea, will target Narvik.

CL's *Penelope* & *Emile Berlin* and 1 French DD steam into the Central Norwegian Sea to block any possible additional German movement up the coast. Five AP's with 5 Supply Points and 1 DD escort sail into the Shetlands, to provide supply for

future Allied landing forces. Finally, BB *Warspite*, CL *Arethusa* and CV *Furious* (with 2 Skua and 1 Swordfish points) sail into the North Sea to provide air support for the soon to be embattered Norwegians.

The Germans move 15 AP's into the Kattegat carrying three battalions of the 69th Division, three artillery batteries, and 3 Supply Points. The Allied die-rolling woes continue, as the submarines in the Kattegat don't get a single hit.

## Invasion:

Now the fun begins. We'll cover this group by group:

*Koln Group* lands at Frederickstaad. The Bolarne battery sinks the TB point, but the lone German battalion of the 69th division lands safely. The only opposition is a Norwegian artillery battery; the gunners put up a good fight, reducing the German battalion before retreating to Moss after the Germans burn one of their Quisling re-rolls. The Germans capture the Frederickstaad mobilization center, gaining 2 supply points.

*Scharnhorst Group* runs the battery at Kristiansand unscathed. A heavy assault of three battalions from the 69th division, with air support from He-III's out of Denmark, hammers the Norwegian 1/3 battalion. The Norwegians retreat to Kjevik, leaving the Germans to capture the Kristiansand battery, the mobilization center, and the Norwegian TB in the port.

*Lutzow Group* - The Bergen battery is caught completely by surprise, not even getting a chance to fire on the invaders. The attack by 3 battalions of the 163rd division originally goes badly, but the second Quisling re-roll routs the Norwegian 1/9 battalion. The Germans capture the TB in Bergen and advance after combat into Ulven, capturing the trucks and mobilization center therein.

*Gneisenau Group* - The Agdenes battery damages CL *Karlsruhe*. The

## Ship Types in Invasion:Norway

APs = Transport  
AO = Tanker  
DD = Destroyer  
CD = Combat Ship  
CL = Light Cruiser  
CLA = Antiaircraft Cruiser  
CA = Heavy Cruiser  
CV = Aircraft Carrier  
BC = Battlecruiser  
BB = Battleship  
PB = Combat Ship  
ML = Minelayer  
SB = S-Boats  
TB = Torpedo Boats  
LC = Landing Craft  
GT = Gunnery Training



## Invasion: Norway 1940

cruiser's cargo, a now depleted battalion of the 163rd division, captures the battery. Two more battalions of the 163rd assault Trondheim, capturing the city along with its trucks and mobilization center. The fourth battalion captures Vaernes airbase; the Norwegian Fokkers stationed there escape to a frozen lake airbase at hex 3417.

*Emden Group* lands unopposed, capturing Elvesgardsmoen and Narvik, including the two Norwegian CD's in the port. Taking the mobilization center at Elvesgardsmoen is particularly important, as this gives the mountain troops two valuable supply points to use in the lean weeks ahead.

### Now for the air portion:

*Sola Group* - Allies detect them flying over Jutland and intercept with two Skuas from CV *Furious*, but the Ju-88c escorts fight them off. The parachute company, however, is destroyed on landing. The Transport Assault battalions land, capturing the airfield with the last Quisling re-roll. The Norwegian TB in Stavanger escapes to Flekkefjord.

*Fornebu Group* - All three battalions of the 69th division land safely, followed by two supply points. The Norwegian Gladiators escape to an Ice Field at 3817.

*Oscarburg Group* - The paratroopers are destroyed on landing.

*Horten Group* - This company of paratroops lands safely (the only ones to do so), capturing the Bolarne coastal battery and Norwegian ML *Trygvasson*.

Once safely ashore, the Germans expand their lodgements. The three battalions at Fornebu attack Oslo with air support from He-III's out of Germany, driving the Norwegian HKMG battalion out of the city to Kjeller - they barely miss capturing King Hakkon. The Oscarburg battery surrenders.

The Norwegians dutifully begin mobilization. The 1st, 4th, 5th and 6th Brigades put a thin line together in the forests north and east of Oslo. The 7th and 8th block the Setesdal highway, while the 10th forms a solid defense around Voss and Kinsarvik. Far to the north the 16th Mountain Brigade begins to mobilize at Bardofuss, awaiting promised Allied reinforcements. The only British response to all this is a Night Bombing raid on Denmark by their heavy bombers. As a fitting ending to these lamentable three days, all miss.

Overall, the invasion has gone very well. The Germans have captured all of their major objectives - the ports of Narvik, Trondheim, Bergen, Oslo and

Stavanger, and the airfields at Fornebu, Sola, and Vaernes with light casualties in both ships and men. Now the drive north will begin.

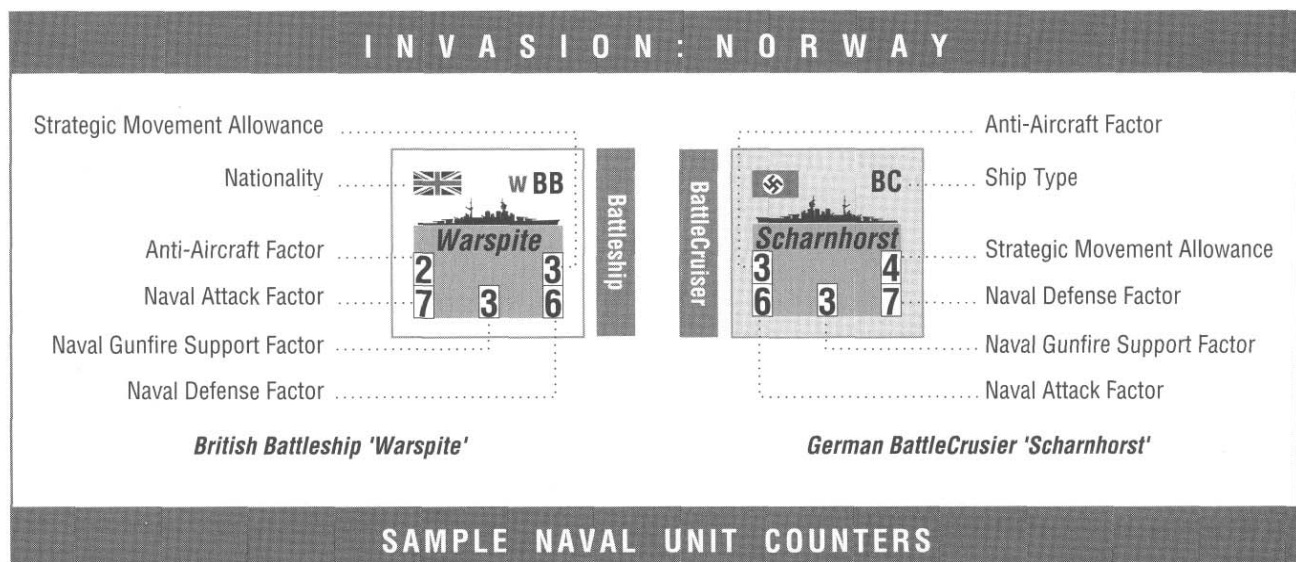
The Germans end the turn with +83 Victory Points.

### April 5:

This is the turn in which the Allies must respond, and with the three battle groups they have the muscle at sea to do it. They must run in and hit the German ships as they lie vulnerable in port, at the same time setting the stage for their own counter-invasion landings.

Unfortunately, the turn begins on a gloomy note for the Allies, as German Ju-88's flying out of Denmark avoid a hail of flak to damage BB *Valiant* in the Norwegian Leads. While the *Valiant* staggers off to Scapa Flow for repairs, the British pull BB *Warspite* away from escorting *Furious*, and together with CA's *Berwick* & *York*, run in to attack Bergen. The Bergen battery damages *Berwick*, but the Royal Navy ships continue undaunted, sinking the entire German *Bergen Group* - PB *Lutzow*, 2 DD's & 2 SB's, although at heavy cost - *Berwick* & *York* are both sunk.

BC *Renown* steams into Elvesgoeden, sinking CL *Emden*. The four British DD's move on Narvik, sinking 2



## After Action Report

German DD's, 1 TB, and 2 AP's for the loss of two DD's of their own.

The most powerful British battle group - BB *Rodney*, BC *Repulse*, and CA *Sheffield* tackle Trondheim. The Agdenes battery damages *Sheffield*, which goes on anyway to sink CL *Karlsruhe*. *Rodney* & *Repulse* sink BC *Gneisenau*, but are themselves damaged and withdraw without finishing off the remaining German ships.

While this is going on, the first British troops arrive in Norway - two battalions of the 148th Brigade land at Andelsnes to support the Norwegians blocking the Gubransdal highway between Oslo and Trondheim.

The Germans can do very little to avenge their sunken ships. The surviving vessels at Trondheim, CL *Konigsberg*, CA *Blucher*, 1 TB, 5 AP's, and AO *Euroland* remain in port, hoping that the *Luftwaffe* will reduce the Royal Navy enough to allow them to run for safety next turn. Unfortunately, a combination of cloudy weather in the Central Zone and accurate AA fire frustrates German air attacks on the host of Allied targets now at sea. More significantly, the Germans transfer several flights of bombers to Norway, including 4 points of deadly Ju-87 Stukas to Sola, allowing them to reach the Southern Norwegian,

Norwegian Leads, and Jutland sea zones with their short range.

The Germans enjoy more success on the ground. The 69th Division, with motorized support from the 13th MG battalion and the 40th Panzer company, shatters the weak Norwegian defenses north of Oslo, advancing all the way to Tretten by turn's end. Elsewhere, the 3rd Mountain Division links up with the Frederickstad invaders, while the 196th Division clears the coast between Christiansand and Stavanger. At Trondheim the 163rd Division advances south against light Norwegian opposition.

The situation has now changed somewhat. The *Kriegsmarine* set the charges ashore successfully, but now most of the German Navy is rusting gently at the bottom of the Norwegian Sea. The Allies have already begun to bring their land forces to bear - only two weak battalions now, of course, but a pre-cursor of more to follow. They will have to hurry, however, as the Germans have already broken out of Oslo and the Norwegians don't show many signs of being able to stop them.

German +63 VP's

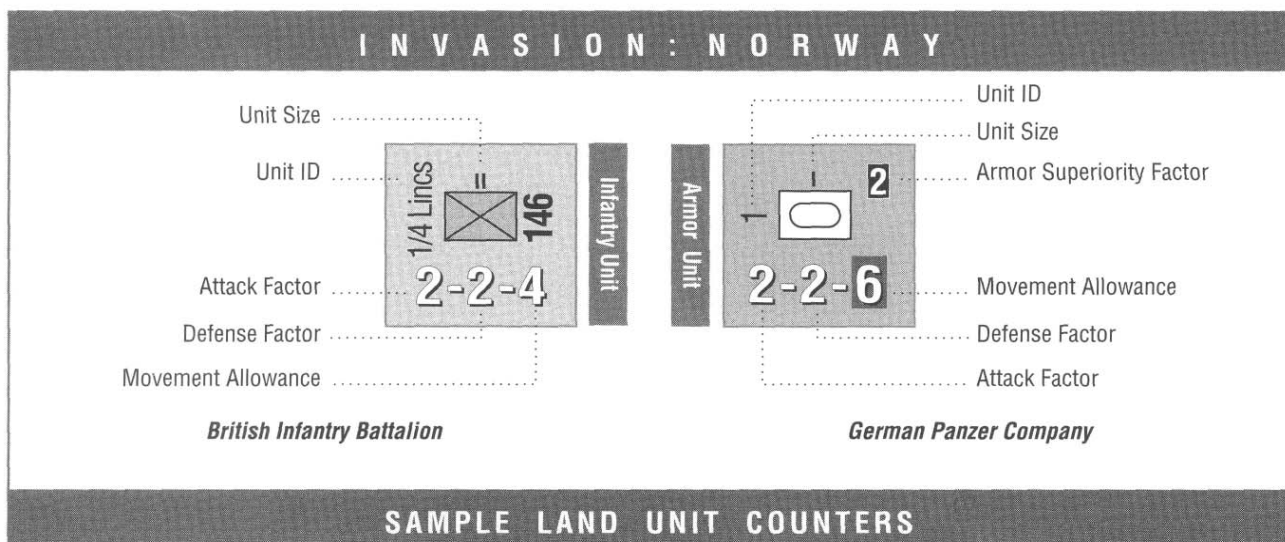
### April 6:

Northern: *Foul*  
Central: *Cloudy*  
Southern: *Cloudy*

For the British, the bad news at sea continues. Stukas from Sola find BB *Warspite* sailing alone in the Norwegian Leads. The British intercept with Skuas off Furious, but the Stuka's Me-109 escorts make short work of them. With pinpoint accuracy, the Stukas sink *Warspite*. This is a very heavy blow to the Allies, as *Warspite* was one of their strongest units. The lesson, of course, is that lone ships without heavy air or AA support are little more than sitting targets for the *Luftwaffe*.

The Allies will have their revenge, however. The German decision to leave their ships in Trondheim proves to be disastrous as BC *Renown*, CL's *Penelope* & *Emile Berlin*, and 2 DD's attack the port. The Agdenes battery damages *Penelope*, but the Allies manage to sink CL *Konigsberg*, CA *Blucher*, 1 TB, 4 AP's, and AO *Euroland* for loss of both destroyers and damage to *Renown*.

The Allied build-up around Narvik begins. An amphibious assault on the port is contemplated, but believing that the German defenders are too strong, the Allies decide on a more conventional approach, landing two battalions of the 24th Guards brigade at Salangen and Sorreisa, and a battalion of the 5th Demi-Brigade of Chasseurs at Harstad. The French are blocked at the Harstad ferry by the



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Freitag battalion of sailors, but the Guards, together with the Norwegian 14th brigade, launch their first attack on Elvesgardsmoen, inflicting heavy losses on the German defenders. The Allies also land two battalions of the 146th Brigade and the 1st Royal Marine battalion at Halså and Sunndal, in position to move against Trondheim or assist the hard-pressed Norwegians holding the Gubransdal highway.

The Germans finish off the last Norwegian remnants in the south-eastern corner of the country, including the 1st Brigade, surrounded and destroyed in its mobilization center at Mysen. To the north, the invading spearheads reach Otta and Stor Elvdal. Without some Allied help soon, the Norwegians will certainly crack.

Faced by increasing Allied pressure on Narvik, the Germans make a bold decision. All the remaining German ships - BC *Scharnhorst*, CA *Hipper*, CL *Koln*, GT *Bremse*, and 2 SB's set out from Germany carrying two battalions of the 196th Division and 3 supply points bound for Narvik. They make it to the Southern Norwegian Sea undetected.

Germans +68 VP's

### April 7:

Northern: *Fair*

Central: *Fair*

Southern: *Cloudy*

The unusually mild weather for a Norwegian April continues, much to the dismay of the Royal Navy, as the deadly Stukas from Sola sink BC *Renown* in the Southern Norwegian Sea as she tries to make it back to Scapa Flow for repairs.

The *Scharnhorst Group*, with the all-important reinforcements for Narvik, is intercepted by BB *Rodney* in the Central Norwegian Sea. He-III's flying from Fornebu damage *Rodney* before she can engage, and the battleship breaks off the attack. The Germans make it into port otherwise unscathed, landing their troops and supplies. Later this turn, He-59

seaplanes arrive from Orland, carrying another supply point. This will turn out to be the decisive point in the campaign, as the Allied failure to stop their arrival will doom their efforts to take Narvik by siege or assault.

The relentless German motorized column (4th, 13th, & 14th MG battalions, with two companies of the 40th Panzer) captures Dombaas, destroying the 1st Royal Marine battalion and driving the remnants of the 146th Brigade back towards Halså. With the fall of their main supply depot, most of the remaining Norwegian units in the southern half of the country surrender in the following days.

The British 15th Brigade, with their all-important Anti-tank guns, arrive on the eastern coast. Originally earmarked to add more weight to the forces attacking Trondheim, instead they are fed into stopping the German meatgrinder on the highway. The 148th brigade launches an attack against the German 163rd Division at Orkland. With Swordfish support from Furious (and much to their surprise), the attack succeeds, pushing the defenders back into Trondheim. As the northern, Norwegian half of the operation, the 3rd Dragoon battalion hits the Berger naval battalion at Agdenes, but the land-locked sailors hold on, driving the dragoons back with heavy losses.

German +76 VP's

### April 8:

Northern: *Foul*

Central: *Cloudy*

Southern: *Fair*

The British pull together a makeshift battle group to run into Narvik and hit the ships there. CA's *Glasgow & Devonshire*, CL's *Emile Berlin & Enterprise*, and CLA *Curacao* go in, damaging CA *Hipper*, CL *Koln*, and sinking 1 SB, while losing *Glasgow*. The German ships slip out of port that night, running south into the Southern Norwegian Sea.

For several days, the Allies have been planning an amphibious operation to regain the initiative in the south. An invasion flotilla, escorted by BC *Repulse*, CLA *Curlew*, and CA's *Birmingham & Manchester* lands the 27 Demi-brigade de Chasseurs at Stavanger. Defended only by a battalion of the 196th Division and a mobile coastal defense battery, capturing the port will gain the Allies valuable victory points and allow them to base Hurricanes where they can intercept German bombers flying off the Norwegian airfields. Additionally, there's a good chance of capturing the German aircraft stationed at Sola, including the dangerous Stukas. This last goal is thwarted when the Ju-87's intercept the flotilla in the Leads, damaging *Repulse* and returning to Vaernes. The remainder of the operation, however, goes smoothly. The heavy cruisers suppress the coastal battery, and with air support flying from the newly arrived CV *Royal Oak*, the Chasseurs capture Stavanger, catching four points of Ju-52's at the airfield.

This changes everything. In one stroke, the Allies have gained a firm foothold in southern Norway and ended the unchallenged *Luftwaffe* domination of the Norwegian Leads. The Germans, however, react quickly, moving four battalions of the 196th Division, previously garrisoning the southern ports, to surround Stavanger, while He-III's from Denmark and Germany converge to hammer the city. They inflict 3 hits of damage on the port, destroying all of the supplies that the Chasseurs brought with them.

To the north, the German 214th Division breaks the last Norwegian defenses at Oppdal, opening up the supply line to Trondheim. The Allies decide to evacuate all of their remaining troops in the central region.

### April 9:

Northern: *Foul*

Central: *Cloudy*

Southern: *Fair*

## After Action Report

A German convoy carrying three battalions of the 214th Division towards Christiansand is detected by CA's *Suffolk & Manchester*. But BC *Scharnhorst* rushes in to intercept from the Norwegian Leads, damaging *Manchester* and seeing the convoy safely into port. A swarm of bombers again pounds Stavanger, inflicting 3 more hits (for a total of 5) and destroying all of the supplies that the Chasseurs have on hand. Reinforced by the newly arrived battalions, the Germans attack Stavanger from the landward side, destroying 2 French battalions. Allied reinforcements arrive in the form of the 2nd Royal Marine battalion ferried in from Strand, but Stavanger is definitely besieged.

The Allies evacuation from the central region begins. Covered by the 15th Brigade, the remnants of the 146th escapes out to sea. The Germans hit the rearguard hard, driving them back five miles and capturing Sunndal.

Germans +79 VP's

### April 10:

Northern: *Foul*  
Central: *Stormy*  
Southern: *Fair*

The weather finally rallies to the Allied cause. With the Central Zone shut down to air operations, the

Royal Navy can operate in that region relatively free of molestation. They take advantage of the situation to land the French Foreign Legion Brigade at Stavanger. After this, however, the rest of the turn is an unmitigated Allied disaster.

In a running fight through the Norwegian Leads, the injured *Hipper* and *Koln* damage CL *Effingham* and make it to Denmark safely. Ju-88's home in on the two British cruisers in Jutland, damaging *Suffolk* and sinking *Manchester*.

The British successfully evacuate the 148th Brigade from Heim and Hals. But the British 15th Brigade rearguard is in a tough spot. At Kristiansund the German motorized units hit them head on, losing an entire company of tanks to the British anti-tank guns. But a battalion of ski troops sweeps around their flank to hit them from the rear. The British roadblock collapses, and the pursuing panzers overrun the survivors. The entire 15th Brigade - all three battalions - is lost.

With central Norway now free of enemy troops, the Germans are free to send troops south to Stavanger, while the relief effort towards Narvik resumes with the 3rd Mountain and 163rd Divisions leading the way. The Norwegian 14th Brigade puts up a stiff fight at Majavatn, but they just haven't got the strength to

seriously impede the invaders.

German +92 VP's

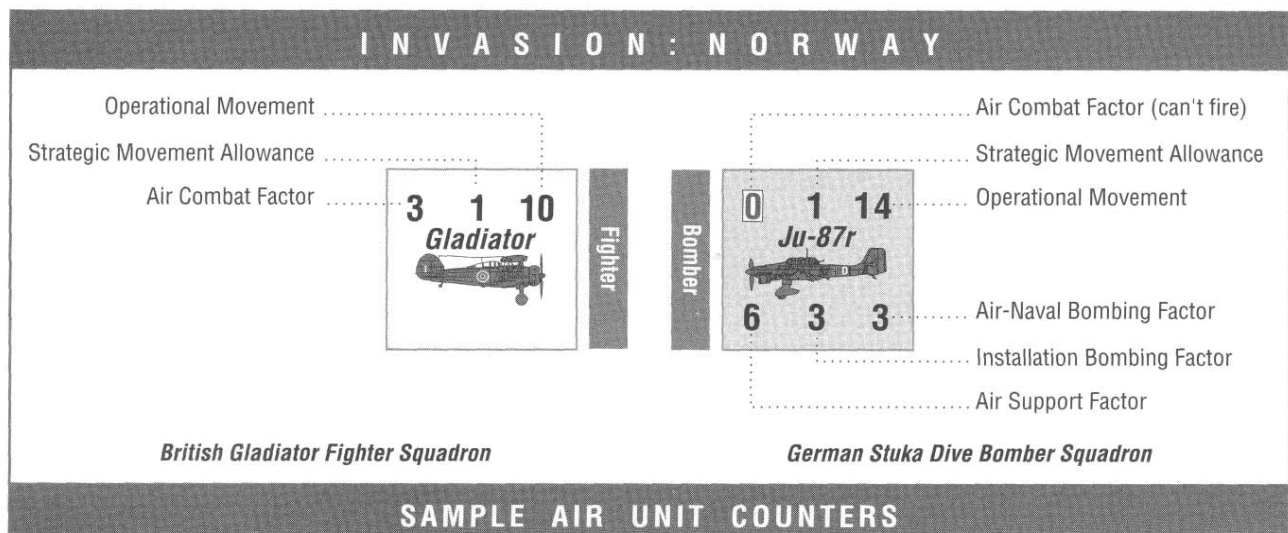
### May1:

Northern: *Fair*  
Central: *Cloudy*  
Southern: *Cloudy*

This is a crucial turn. The Invasion of France begins right on schedule, which means that the bulk of the German bombers and almost all of their Ju-52 transports are withdrawn. The Germans now have to deal with a weakening of their previously unchallenged air superiority, and the reduction of more than half of their transport capacity. The Allies only lose a few cruisers and destroyers initially. However, in the coming turns almost all of the surviving French units will be taken away.

In an effort to once again gain the initiative, two Polish battalions from the BPCP Brigade are landed at Eide and Kinsarvik, immediately cutting off Bergen. Their plan is to land the remainder of the brigade next turn and then assault the heavily garrisoned (two battalions of the 163rd and a Naval battalion) port. Just north of there, a destroyer slips out of Allesund, bearing King Hakkon and his Guards back to England.

More reinforcements arrive for Narvik. FW 200's from Vaernes



SAMPLE AIR UNIT COUNTERS



## Invasion: Norway 1940

parachute in a Mountain Company to join the garrison, while long-range Do-26 seaplanes bring in a supply point. A commandeered Norwegian freighter also slips into port carrying more supplies - the Allies respond to this by landing the Royal Marine Battery at Balangen, which promptly sinks the next two captured ships trying to slide past.

The Allies besieging Narvik, reinforced with the KOH Tank Platoon and Norwegian ski troops from the Finnmark, make a major effort to take Elvegardsmoen. Backed by the tanks, the British Guards launch a heavy attack while a battalion of the Chasseurs attempts an amphibious landing. The result is disastrous - the French are chopped to pieces before they can even come ashore, while the overland attack is halted with heavy losses on both sides. The only good result, from the Allied perspective, is that the Norwegians cut the rail-line from Sweden, frustrating a German attempt to send in supplies from the neutral country - they arrive in Trondheim instead. The German relief column captures Namsos.

German: +99 VP's

### May 2:

Northern: *Stormy*

Central: *Fair*

Southern: *Cloudy*

More Allied ships leave for France. Taking advantage of the reduced AA cover, Ju-88's from Fornebu damage CV *Glorious*.

The Germans now have elements of three divisions - 69th, 196th, and 181st - around Stavanger, and they make their heaviest assault yet. With no supplies on hand, the depleted French garrison can't even fire support missions from their artillery. In hard fighting they lose two battalions outright as the Germans drive to within one mile of the city. Faced with disaster, and finally unwilling to pour more troops into the port, the Allies decide to evacuate.

The evacuation itself is epic. The

Hurricanes escape to Scapa Flow, the French tanks and artillery leave Stavanger by ship, while the rearguard, a beat-up battalion of the French Foreign Legion, slips away after nightfall to an AP waiting at Strand, only to find that the Germans have emplaced a mobile coastal battery at Skundenshavn. BB *Resolution* and CL's *Montcalm & Vindictive* move in to suppress the battery. In the ensuing battle the battery scores a critical hit on *Montcalm*, which sinks with the loss of all hands. The Legionnaires barely make it out of port ahead of a German mountain battalion advancing overland, but the AP is detected and sunk by Stukas from Vaernes. This episode - desperate, improvised tactics, carried out bravely in the face of massive air superiority, ultimately culminating in failure - represents the entire Allied Norway campaign in microcosm.

Germans: + 108 VP's

### May 3:

Northern: *Foul*

Central: *Fair*

Southern: *Fair*

The Allied High Command is now forced to take a long look at the Norwegian theatre - their only remaining footholds are an increasingly futile (and costly) siege of Narvik, and an isolated half-brigade of Poles at Hide. The Germans have now reached a Decisive level of victory, and the Allies don't have enough forces on hand to effect this result. Slowly, reluctantly, they reach the decision to withdraw their remaining troops. The Battle for Norway is over.

German: + 108 VP's

*Decisive German Victory*

## Analysis

### German Player

To win in **Invasion: Norway**, the Germans have to fight a nearly flawless campaign, and this time they did. Their only serious mistake was leaving their ships in Trondheim after beating off the initial Allied naval

attack on April 5, which was more than made up for by their daring run up the coast with reinforcements for Narvik. As for the rest, skillful deployment of the *Luftwaffe* bombers (particularly the Stukas), the formation of a powerful mechanized column to break through to Trondheim, and the rapid utilization of reserves at Stavanger and Hide guaranteed a victory.

### Allied Player

The Allies have been taught some hard lessons by this campaign, the most important being the pre-eminence of airpower. Even the strongest ships are vulnerable when operating near an enemy shore without good fighter cover, as the British learned by losing both *Warspite* and *Renown* to short-range German dive-bombers.

The other lesson, which they never really learned, in Norway or later, is that scattered, improvisational tactics will not work against a well-prepared, centralized enemy. By spreading their landings up and down the coast - Narvik, Trondheim, Stavanger, Hide - the Allies dissipated, rather than concentrated, their land-bound strength, which the Germans were able to counter through skillful employment of reserves on interior lines. In retrospect, reinforcing Stavanger after it became obvious that they would never be able to expand their beachhead was repeating the error of Gallipoli, doing little more than providing the Germans with a steady stream of victory points through reduced battalions and sunken ships. These forces might have been better off withdrawn and employed elsewhere.

Allied command of the air might have overcome these two significant factors (as it would later in the war). Without it, the Allies were doomed from the start.

