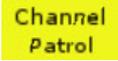


Guide to the use of the module for The Burning Blue

TBB requires quite a few random chit draws. So, the designer created the "cup" map board which has a "deck" named "opaque cup". Right-clicking a stack of chits gives you a "Send to Cup" command that puts the appropriate group of chits in the cup where you can draw from them (the chits are automatically shuffled so regardless of what you may see on the top when you draw a chit, what you get will be random). The weather chits have their own right-click menu when they have been drawn, with commands that can send them directly to the weather areas. Once complete with that draw you can return the stack to the original chit pile with the Return to Chits command.

There are a number of map cutouts intended to facilitate access to parts of the main map that could draw focus from where the action is. In the scenario setups the markers start here. The map cutouts are

- “Channel Patrol”  which includes the boxes for Luftwaffe Channel Patrols, RAF flights, and RAF Wings,
- “Game Status”  which includes the Game Clock, Air Picture track, Sun Display, Crosswinds, and Victory Points Track (also used for Scramble Limit, HF Radio Range, and RAF Response).
- “Luftwaffe Airfields”  which is a private window for the Luftwaffe Player so that the RAF player cannot see which units are moved to the Raid Display.

The units of the RAF player are setup on the British Tote Board  which is not private, because the British dispositions cannot influence German Planning.

Air units have a Log Sheet command (CTRL L) to allow recording information which would otherwise have been shown via disruption chits, or recorded on the paper log book. There are commands to indicate and change altitude (CTRL A, CTRL Up, CTRL Down). Note also the commands to place Order markers (CTRL SHIFT O), and Tally Ho markers (CTRL SHIFT T) for the unit in question. This should be easier than finding the order, or Tally Ho markers in the Game Counters window. The Notes command (CTRL N) writes notes that are shown above the unit, and there is a Notes Table command where you can record whatever you want about the unit that doesn't fit within the log or the normal notes.

Note also that when in an airfield hex, a squadron can be sent to the corresponding Landing Box on the Tote Board by the bottom-most right-click command. Likewise, when a squadron is in the Scramble box on the Tote Board, the top-most right-click command will send it to the corresponding airfield on the main map.

The Luftwaffe Raid markers are the only air counters that are normally on the map, and accordingly, they have the same commands with the addition of a command to change their detected strength (ALT S).

Of course, players can choose to use the strength, altitude, and disruption markers just like you would in the boardgame. Also, if you prefer to use the paper maps and logs that is perfectly fine and acceptable.

The Luftwaffe player uses the German Raid Display (ALT SHIFT R) to hold the air units and here the Detection cards for the raids are also placed, just like in the physical game. The German Raid Display can never be seen by the RAF player.

When you as Luftwaffe player use dummy Form Up markers, be aware that you cannot yourself see if a Form Up marker is a dummy or not without flipping it (CTRL F). But then your opponent can also see what it is. For that reason, you should turn any Form Up marker that you want to check invisible (CTRL I) to the RAF player first. You can also move it to the German Raid display which the RAF player can never see.

The RAF player uses the British Tote Board (ALT SHIFT T) just like in the physical game. The Luftwaffe player can see the Tote Board. In order to speed up play, the chore of rolling dice and moving all the squadrons on the Tote Board to Ready, this process has been automated through a button called "Advance ALL fighters on the Tote Board" (CTRL SHIFT A). Pressing this button an attempt will be made to move each fighter closer to its Ready box, rolling a die as needed. According to the rules, a player is not forced to move a fighter on, and in particular, a player can decide to move the fighters to the Available box instead of the Ready box. If any of this is the case, it is necessary to do the procedure manually, or correct manually any fighters that have been moved further on than desired.

When a fighter has made five attempts to move from the Available box to the Ready box, the automated procedure will make the sixth attempt successful, in accordance with the optional part of rule 18.2.2.

Rule 18.2.6 states that squadrons that are not assigned to the airfield where they are located will have to go through the Rearm/Refuel boxes a second time. For forward airfields, or for flights, the automated procedure doesn't know the correct assigned airfield, and in this case, the fighter will have to be moved manually to the Available, or Ready box.

If you want to be more players on each side, all you need to do is to have all players for one side use the same password (File – Preferences – Personal).

Luftwaffe Planning

A number of features have been provided to enable the Luftwaffe player to plan his or her raids on-map if desired. There is a special map showing all the Luftwaffe airfields. This is only visible to the Luftwaffe player, and here all the air units are placed according to the scenario. This should make it easier to select units to participate in a raid. For scenario 3 to 5, the Luftwaffe player will have to decide where the 3/2 units will have to be placed.

It is now possible to plot the raid paths directly on the main map by placing special planning markers (invisible to the RAF player) on the map board. These markers are found in various colors in the Game Counters Window. Each marker has a number of different images called layers that can be cycled through the Increase (CTRL F11) and Decrease (CTRL F10) commands on their right-click menu. These are "Arrow", "Form Up", "Waypoint", "Target", "Bomb", "Strafe", "Orbit", "Recovery", and a layer with just a dot, intended to be a neutral holder of the notes (see below).

When moved on map, these planning markers leave a like colored movement trail that can mark the map with a route. Each marker will have its own trail, so you can clone a marker, and split a route, or put the marker somewhere else. You can delete the entire trail of one of these markers by using the Erase Line (CTRL E) right-click command. All these markers and their trails can be hidden temporarily through the "Show/Hide Planning" marker, so that you can look at the map without the clutter of the planning markers.

The planning markers also have Notes (CTRL N) like air units, which are little labels above the unit. This could be used to mark things that the layers cannot do, or tell which raid they represent, if the color is not enough. Furthermore, there are Fixed Notes (ALT N) printing “Check Fuel”, “Split Raids”, “Balloon Barrage”, “HAA”, “LAA”, “Form Up”, “Recovery”, “Orbit”, “2nd Target”, “Nav Check”, “Bomb”, or “Strafe”. Finally, they have a Notes Table (CTRL SHIFT N) like air units that can be filled in with various information at the player's option, like composition of the raid.



There are also plan notes which are little colored pieces of text that you can place on the map for any purpose you like. They could for instance, be used for marking the game turns along the trails of the planning markers. The plan notes are likewise invisible to the RAF player.

Again, players are not forced to use planning markers and plan notes. You can use the old-fashioned paper and pen method just as before.

Below is an example of how a German plan could look. Planning marker have been used with various layers to show Form Up, waypoints etc, and the timing have been shown with plan notes. First, the planning marker was dragged along the route from the starting point to the end point, and at the end point. it was turned into a Recovery layer. Then more markers of the right tyoe were placed at points where something special was happening. Finally, the plan notes were added with the timing. In order to make the text show up at the right place, the note was some times placed in a hex to the left, and the text moved by adding spaces in front.



And this is how it would look at 12:55 PM to the RAF – and the Luftwaffe when planning is hidden:



TIPS

1. Right-click on a map spot to center the view there. You can walk your way around the map by right-clicking your way there.
2. Every piece in the game has its own menu. You get to it by right-clicking on a piece.
3. If you want to issue a right-click command on a bunch of pieces at once, use your mouse cursor to draw a box around a bunch of pieces. Then right-click a piece and do the command. (If not all the pieces share that command, you might not see it though). You turn it off by clicking anywhere on the map.
4. If you want to pick a single piece in a stack, double-click the stack to expand it first.