

# HIT THE BEACH

## *A World War II Game for 2, 3 or 4 players*

This exciting war game is based on the strategy of the Pacific Campaigns of World War II. The play features amphibious landings to establish beachheads; deploys "combined forces" of Air, Naval, Marine and Army units, and allows several alternate routes to victory. All players are forced to overcome, or by-pass, the Japanese Defenders as they advance to the final objective. The accompanying booklet, "**HIT THE BEACH**", which was prepared by the Editors of **AMERICAN HERITAGE**, the Magazine of History, gives a colorful account of this unique phase of World War II.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE GAME

Players, using their own "combined forces," **COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER** to try to be the **FIRST** to reach the "final objective", the main Japanese headquarters on the large island. The Japanese defense units, strategically placed along the invasion routes, are obstacles for **ALL PLAYERS**. When a player defeats a Japanese unit, he replaces it in another location, possibly to provide an additional obstacle to the progress of an opponent. While each player is assigned his own **BEACH** to clear for amphibious landings, he may move his ground units along any of the various routes, by-passing obstacles if possible, and may take advantage of beaches cleared and obstacles removed by his opponents. A player may "**RELIEVE**" an opponent's ground unit in the land area, sending it back to "**START**". The throw of the die determines the moves as players deploy their forces in their overall planned strategy.

## TO SET UP THE GAME

1. Open the board and place it between the players. The board pictures a large central island flanked by two smaller islands and four tiny atolls. The **SPACES** on the land areas are **BROWN CIRCLES**. Over the water areas, the **SPACES** are **WHITE DOTS**. The **SPACES** are connected by a **BLACK** line showing the paths (invasion routes) for movement. The large **RED CIRCLE** in the center of the large island is the Japanese Headquarters, the **FINAL OBJECTIVE**. The colored **BEACH** areas outlined on the board locate the places where **LANDINGS** are to be made to enter the islands.
2. Remove the plastic **PLAYING PIECES** from their runners by **TWISTING** until they break off. There are 5 types of pieces, as pictured on the box platform.

3. Place the 14 **YELLOW** Japanese "Defender" pieces on the board, **ONE EACH**, in the **YELLOW CENTERED BROWN CIRCLE** spaces. There should be one at each **BEACH** landing space and 6 in the marked spaces in the center of the large island.
4. Players decide what **COLOR** "combined forces" they are to play and place the 6 pieces of their color near their "start circle". Each player should have 2 Marine Division pieces (square bases), 2 Army Infantry Division pieces (round bases), 1 Naval Landing support piece (ship), and 1 Strategic Air Support piece (Airplane).
5. In a **TWO PLAYER GAME**, one player must use the **RED** forces and the other the **BLUE** so as to start from the same side of the board.
6. Players throw the die (1 dice). The highest player starts first and turns are taken, clockwise, to the left of the starting player.

## TO PLAY THE GAME

**THE OBJECT OF THE GAME** is to be the first player to occupy the "final objective" with one of his units. **RULES FOR MOVING**

1. In his turn, a player throws the die and moves any **ONE** of his pieces the number of spaces as shown on the die.
2. The "division" pieces (Marine and Army) move from **SPACE** to **SPACE** over sea (White Dots) and over land (Brown circles). The "support" pieces (Ship and Airplane) are used **ONLY** for **BEACH LANDING** support and **DO NOT** move along the paths nor occupy spaces. The "support" pieces can be moved **ONLY** with a throw of six (6) on the die.
3. When a 6 is thrown, the player may choose to move one of his "division" pieces (Army or Marine) the 6 spaces, **OR** may move **ONE** "support" piece (Ship or Plane). To move the "support" piece, it is immediately placed in a **BEACH AREA** of its **OWN COLOR**, but not on a white dot. The "support" pieces may be moved from the **START** circle to a **BEACH** area or from one **BEACH** area to another. Each player is responsible for two **BEACH LANDINGS**.
4. A "division" piece may be moved in **ANY DIRECTION** along **ANY** path, but may **NOT** be moved back and forth in two directions) in the same turn.
5. A "division" piece may move **OVER** other pieces of his own or an opponent. Only one piece may occupy a space at the same time.
6. A player must take the **FULL MOVE** as thrown on the die, or he may **PASS** and not take his move either by **CHOICE** or because a space is not open for that move.
7. A "division" piece cannot **STOP ON** the same space as another "division" piece (his own or opponent) if the piece is on a **WHITE DOT**.
8. If an opponent's "division" piece is on a **BROWN CIRCLE** (land area) and a player's move will allow his piece to **LAND-ON** the same space by exact count, the opponent's piece is **RELIEVED** and sent back to its start circle.
9. A "division" may **NOT JUMP OVER** or **MOVE PAST** a Japanese Defender piece. These obstacles must be removed according to the rules below.

## TO MAKE A BEACH LANDING

The Japanese Defender piece occupying the **BROWN CIRCLE** in a **BEACH AREA** can be removed according to these special rules.

1. The pieces of the **SAME COLOR** as the **BEACH AREA**, must be used to remove the Japanese "defender" piece of that **BEACH**. For example, the **RED** forces are to be used for the **RED BEACH** Japanese "defender."
2. Before the **BEACH** "defender" can be removed, **BOTH** "support" pieces of that color must be in (see rules for moving #3); That is, the "ship" and the "airplane" pieces of that color must be present.
3. Only a **MARINE DIVISION** piece (square base) of that color can remove the "defender" in the **BEACH** area. To do this, the player must move a **MARINE DIVISION** on to the "defender's" space, by **EXACT COUNT**.
4. The player removing the "defender" piece may place it on **ANY EMPTY BROWN** circle on the board - **EXCEPT** on another **BEACH** area space. Once a **BEACH** has been cleared of its defender "obstacle", that **BROWN** circle must be kept free of any "defender" piece throughout the game. Other **BROWN** circle spaces, even ones just next to the **BEACH** space, can be used for placing "defenders."
5. After a **BEACH** has been cleared, any piece may move on to or through that space, even an opponent's piece of another color. The "support" pieces are no longer required once the "defender" has been removed from that **BEACH**

## TO REMOVE DEFENDERS NOT AT A BEACH LANDING AREA

1. A player moving his "division" piece (either Marine or Army) onto a "defender" obstacle by **EXACT COUNT** removes the "defender" and occupies that space. He may then place the "defender" on any unoccupied **BROWN** circle space on the board (**EXCEPT** on a **BEACH LANDING** space as in rule 4 above.)
2. The "defender" may be placed in the same island, on the large island, or on an Atoll (tiny island with 1 brown circle) space. The "defender" piece may be placed ahead of an opponent player to provide further obstacles to his progress, or may be placed behind a player's own "division" piece to block an opponent from **RELIEVING** his piece, as in **"RULES FOR MOVING"** Number 8.
3. A "defender" piece occupying an Atoll **BROWN** circle space may be removed by either an Army or Marine "division" and does NOT require the **BEACH LANDING** procedure.
4. A "division" may move **BACKWARDS**, if desired, (See **MOVING** rule No. 4) to remove a "defender" or to **RELIEVE** an opponent's piece.
5. A player must move onto the **RED** "final objective" space by **EXACT COUNT**. **THE FIRST PLAYER TO OCCUPY** the main objective space is the **WINNER**.

## SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR STRATEGY

1. After clearing your first **BEACH**, it is usually best to get as many divisions through the small island as possible.
2. After a player has cleared both of his beaches, his "support" pieces are no longer needed.
3. It is often wise to split your forces, sending one or more divisions along the same route as an opponent. In this way you may wait for him to clear his **BEACH** then follow him onto the large island and **RELIEVE** his divisions. Remember, a piece may be "relieved" only on a land area, **NOT** over the sea (white dots).
4. Stack your divisions in front of a defender so that any one of several throws on the die will allow a removal of the obstacle.
5. Remember, other than for the **BEACH** "defender," Marines and Army divisions have the same power.
6. Placing obstacles in between your pieces and an opponent is a good protection, especially near the end of the game.

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*Rules OCR by G. Golding, July 4th, 2020*