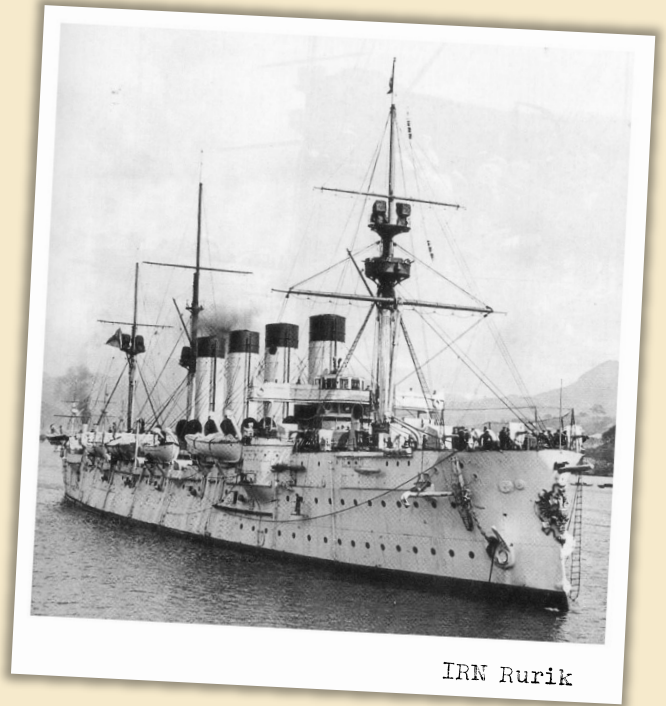


# ULSAN

## BACKGROUND

August 14, 1904. From their northern port at Vladivostok, an independent Russian cruiser squadron repeatedly evaded detection and harassed Japanese merchants and transports. In August, upon learning of the disaster at Port Arthur, the Vladivostok cruiser squadron briefly sortied to offer support. But soon after aborting the mission and turning back to port, the Russians were intercepted by the Japanese 2<sup>nd</sup> Cruiser Division.

This is an excellent beginner scenario for new players, requiring only a handful of ships per side. Any ship that leaves the northern table edge is considered out of the battle.



## RUSSIAN BRIEFING

ACR Rossiya, ACR Rurik, ACR Gromoboi

- +1 VP for each Russian ship exiting the northern edge
- +1 VP for each enemy with a shaded hull box but not sunk
- +4 VP for each enemy sunk

## OPTIONAL FORCES

Ulsan is a tough fight for the Russians, but you can replay the scenario with some historically-based options to create more scenario balance. Try adding the Russian C Novik, which had attempted to reach Vladivostok but did not arrive. You can also add C Varyag, assuming she went to Vladivostok instead of her historical (and doomed) course to Port Arthur. If Varyag is added, the Russians no longer earn VP for disengaging off the table.

On the Japanese side, the protected cruisers Naniwa and Takachiho were present and lightly engaged. For scenario balance they have not been included, but for a full historical experience could be added. If these ships are added, they enter at the rear of the Japanese column and the Russians earn +2 VP for each Russian ship exiting the northern table edge.

## JAPANESE BRIEFING

ACR Izumo, ACR Azuma, ACR Tokiwa, ACR Iwate

- +1 VP for each enemy with a shaded hull box but not sunk
- +2 VP for each enemy C sunk
- +3 VP for each enemy ACR sunk

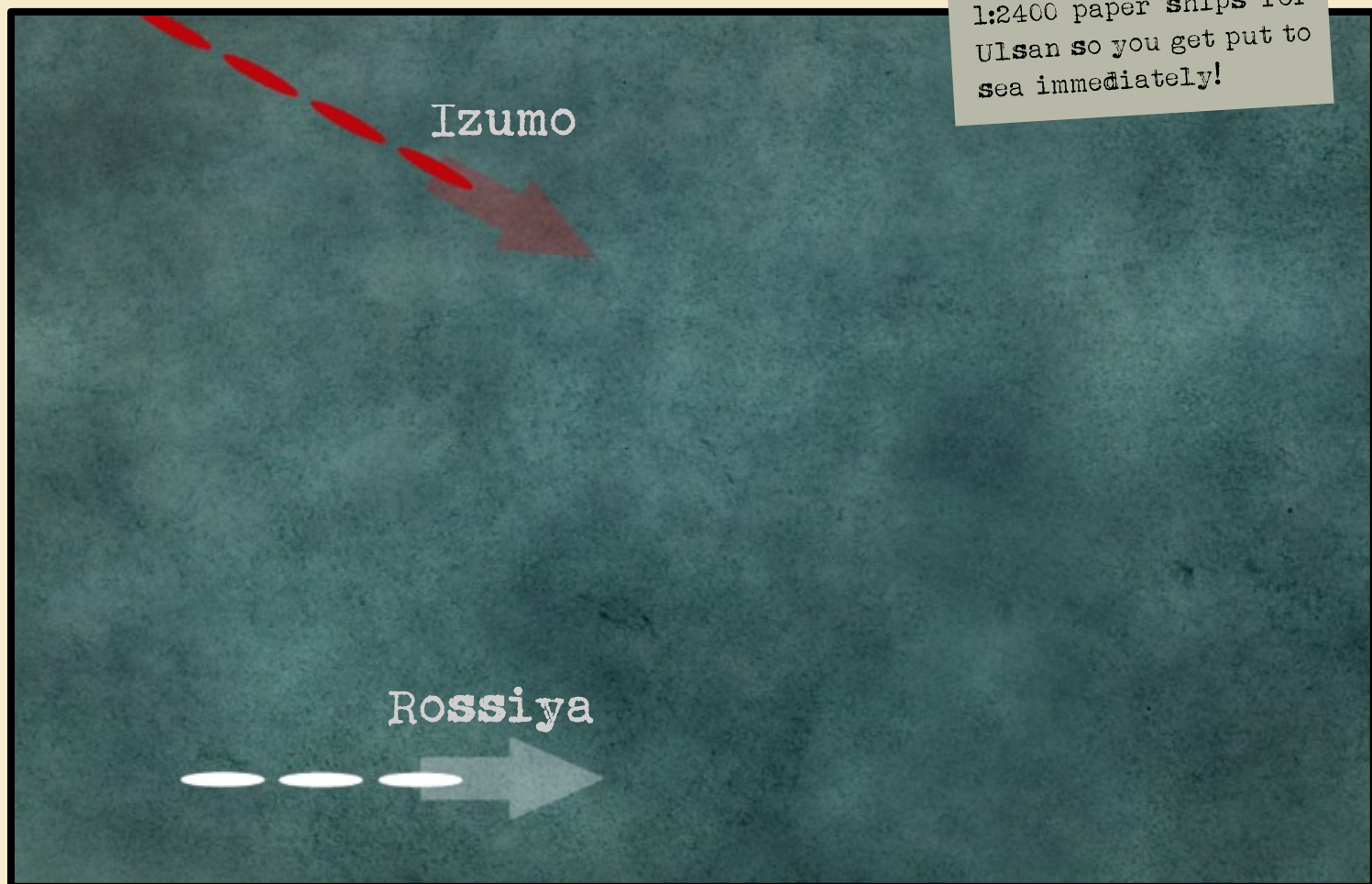
## SPECIAL RULES

The Japanese win ties on Initiative rolls. The Japanese commander, Admiral Kamimura Hikonojo, was born to a samurai family and earned a fearsome reputation. He was widely blamed for the Hitachi Maru incident, but earned vindication with his victory at Ulsan. He led the IJN 2<sup>nd</sup> Fleet a year later at Tsushima.



# ULSAN

No models? No problem!  
The RJW rules include  
1:2400 paper ships for  
Ulsan so you get put to  
sea immediately!



## SET UP NOTES

7'x5' table or larger. The two columns should begin 40" apart, moving in the direction shown on the map. The Russian line is led by ACR Rossiya. The Japanese line is led by ACR Izumo (pictured below in 1902).



## HISTORICAL OUTCOME

At 5:20a, in full sun with clear skies, the Japanese spotted the Russian cruisers and closed to 8,500 yards. Kamimura ordered fire concentrated on Rurik, at the tail end of the Russian battle line. She was hit multiple times including crippling rudder damage. Despite the damage and the death of her captain and all senior officers, Rurik heroically continued returning fire until the bitter end. Curiously, the Japanese chose not to close the distance and press their advantage, instead engaging in long range gunnery.

By 8:30a Admiral Jessen decided Rurik could not be saved and ordered his remaining cruisers to break off for Vladivostok. Multiple ships on both sides sustained hits in a three-hour chase. Kamimura gave up the chase despite many hours of remaining daylight and heavy damage to the surviving Russian cruisers. He received great acclaim for his victory, but later observers and historians have questioned his decision making in the battle.