

Baltic Arena

5th Edition Standard

Naval Operations in the Baltic 1941-1945

by

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The Admiralty Trilogy Group

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The designers of *Command at Sea* and *Baltic Arena* are prepared to answer questions about the game system. They can be reached in care of the Admiralty Trilogy Group at adtrgroup@aol.com. Visit their website at admiraltytrilogy.com.

Cover by Terry Leeds

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City and Area Names in *Baltic Arena* Then and Now

<i>Names of Cities</i>		<i>Names of Cities</i>		<i>Names of Areas</i>	
<i>Then</i>	<i>Now</i>	<i>Then</i>	<i>Now</i>	<i>Then</i>	<i>Now</i>
Leningrad	St. Petersburg	Libau	Liepaja	Dagö	Hiiumaa
Reval	Tallin	Memel	Klaipeda	Ösel	Saaremaa
Baltischport	Paldiski	Königsberg	Kaliningrad	Moon	Muhu
Pernau	Pärnu	Pillau	Baltijsk	Sworbe	Sorve
Ust-Dwinsk	Daugavgriva	Elbing	Elblag	Kurland	Kurzeme
Riga	Riga	Danzig	Gdansk	Hela	Hel
Windau	Ventspils	Gotenhafen	Gdynia		

Dedication

To my father, Kurt Kluxen (10 September 1911 - 16 April 2003)

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Michael Emmerlich (www.german-navy.de) and Jari Aromaa (www.hut.fi/~jaromaa/Navygallery) for allowing us to use illustrations from their excellent websites. Michael's website has many drawings he has made of Kriegsmarine warships, and Jari's website includes a gallery of photographs from his grandfather's collection. His grandfather, Tauno Johannes Paukku, served as a Lieutenant in the Finnish Navy.

Thanks to Jay Wissmann and Pat Hreachmack for their thorough proofreading, and Bill Madison for his assistance with the graphics.

Thanks to Chris Carlson for his mine warfare rules.

Thanks to Gabriel Garrido for his assistance in collecting material concerning Soviet submarine operations in the Baltic.

About the Author

As a child, before knowing about wargames, I learned chess from my father. In the 1970s, I had my first contact with wargames, and in 1975 I bought my first naval tabletop game (*World War I Naval* by John Hammond, Skytrex Ltd.) and I still own it. Wanting to learn more about ships, especially capital ships, I started then to collect data about them. I now have a quite large library about ships, weapons, tactics, and strategy.

I was an officer in the German Bundeswehr and until retirement held a commission as reserve officer, with occasional callups for training. After active duty, I was in the nuclear power plant business. Then, I participated in the development of fuel cells and after this, was busy in sales and erection of fossil power plants in the Pacific Rim and in the Near and Middle East. Later I was responsible for Information Security and Crisis and Security Management in Europe, Africa, Near and Middle East and Asia-Pacific for power plant business.

I retired in 2018.

Some information about my father: He was born in 1911 and in 1939 was a teacher in Pomerania. At that time (1936-1938) all teachers there were made members of the NDSAP [ed: Nazi Party] - regardless if they wanted to or not. In September 1939, he left the party as protest against the attack on Poland and was immediately drafted into the Wehrmacht. In the advance guard of the attack columns of the Wehrmacht, he participated in the campaigns in France, the Balkans and Russia. Wounded in Russia, he was then sent to Africa (holding a commission as Lieutenant) and was captured by Allied troops.

He spent the rest of the war as POW in Alabama - also becoming chess champion of the camp. After the war he helped to translate the 'Operation Paperclip' files and returned to Germany after this task. He became an English history professor, writing a couple of books including *History of England*, and dedicated his life to reconciliation of England and Germany.

5th Edition Update: This version of *Baltic Arena* is compatible with the *Command at Sea* 5th edition rules. Changes from the earlier version include different aircraft ranges, the addition of searchlights, as well as many smaller changes and corrections.

The Forgotten Sea

by Stephen McLaughlin

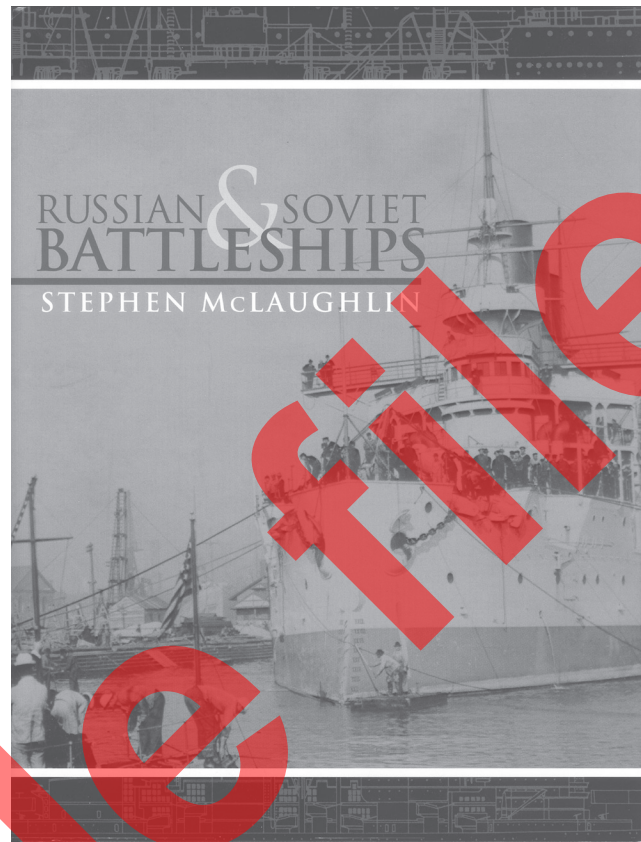
Even for students of the Second World War at sea, the Baltic theater remains *mare incognitum* -- the unknown sea. There were no great gunnery actions like the *Bismarck* chase or carrier battles like Coral Sea or Midway, nor was there a long convoy campaign to equal the Battle of the Atlantic. The Baltic offered little scope for such grand operations, although its narrow gulfs and bays made it a theater ideally suited to the use of land-based aircraft, small combatants and the mine. Both side made profligate use of the mine -- during the course of the war the Baltic became "polluted" with them, as one modern writer has aptly put it. Mines have been called the only weapon that can alter geography, for a minefield can create an obstacle more deadly than any shoal or reef, and can make a narrow strait as impassable for ships as an isthmus.

When the war began the Red Navy was still reeling from the purges that had torn the Soviet armed forces apart in the second half of the 1930s. Many of the best officers had been killed or imprisoned. The purges had also undermined any hopes of ever completing Stalin's overly ambitious naval construction program. Nevertheless, at the outbreak of war the Red Navy boasted the largest submarine force in the world, but it was a force destined to play only a minor role in the war. The inexperienced officers and their poorly-made boats were hemmed-in by German minefields and net barriers, although these obstacles did not stop the Soviet high command from sending out one doomed boat after another.

If the Red-Banner Baltic Fleet's submarines accomplished little that was noteworthy, the same cannot be said for the Soviet light forces -- the destroyers, mine-warfare ships and gunboats. What their officers and men lacked in skill they more than made up for in sheer determination, as the desperate evacuations of the Tallin (Reval) garrison in August 1941 and the Hangö garrison in November 1941 amply demonstrate. The losses in ships were heavy, but thousands of troops were brought to Leningrad, where every able-bodied soldier would soon be needed.

The Germans and their Finnish allies were more skilled than their enemy, but the Kriegsmarine, facing the Royal Navy to the west, was naturally unwilling to commit heavy ships to the dangerous, mine-strewn waters of the eastern Baltic. Most U-boat losses in the Ostsee were due to training accidents in the western basin of this narrow sea, and neither surface ships nor U-boats ventured far to the east. For the most part, the Germans were content to keep the Red Navy penned in the Gulf of Finland.

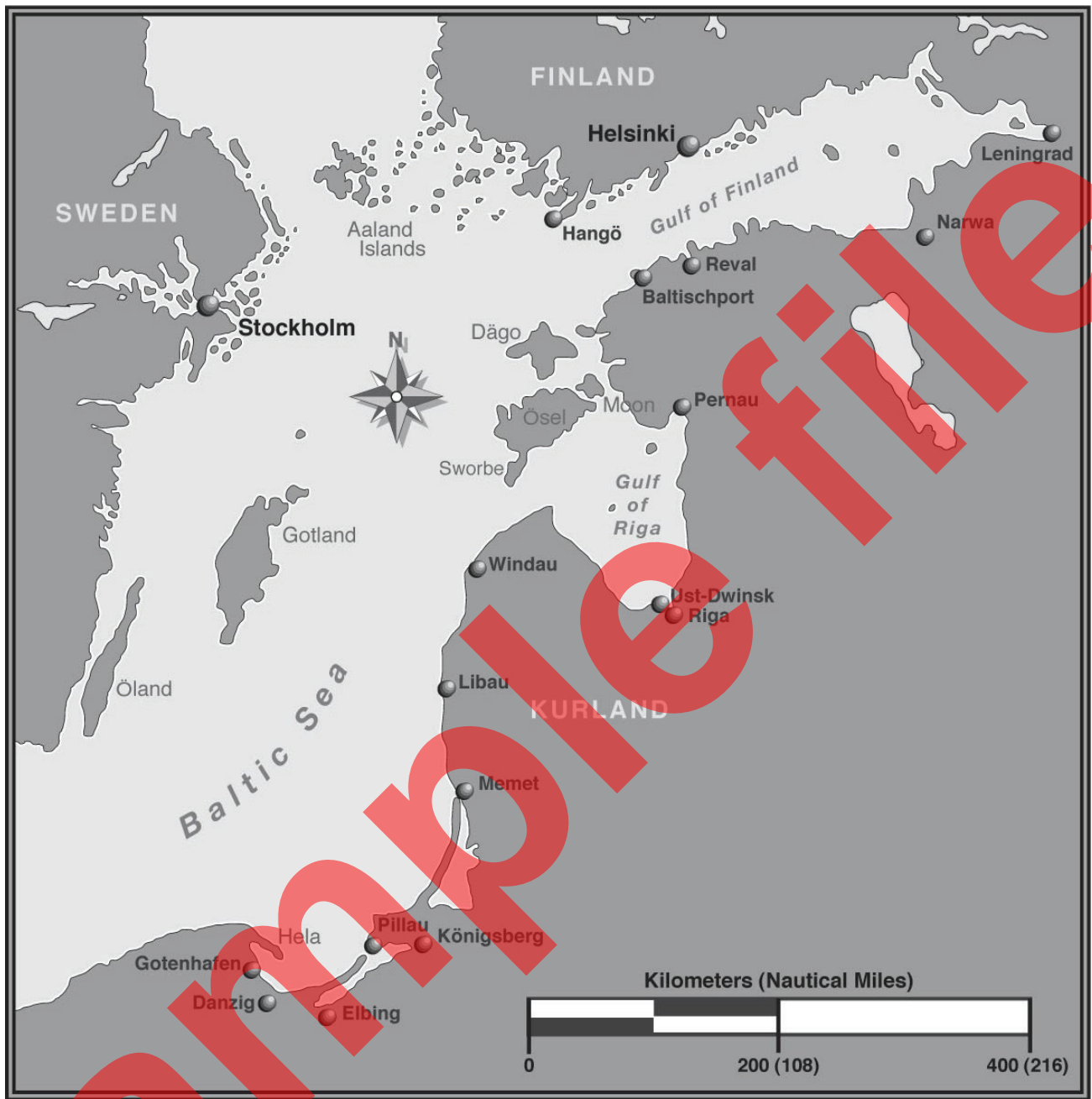
If this sounds like a formula for stalemate, that was far from the case. Destroyers, torpedo boats, gunboats, minesweepers, minelayers, coast artillery and aircraft clashed time and again in the narrow waters of the Baltic. Many of these bitter actions will be found in *Baltic Arena*, reminding us of a desperate battleground and the brave men on both sides who fought and died there.



Stephen McLaughlin is a regular contributor to the journal *Warship*, where his articles on Russian armored cruisers and the U.S.-built Russian battleship *Retvizan* have appeared. Fascinated by the history of battleships since boyhood, McLaughlin became intrigued by battleships that were never built, particularly the never-completed Soviet battleships, and learned Russian so he could explore the extensive post-glasnost literature on Russian battleships. His research led to the writing of *Russian & Soviet Battleships*, which appeared in 2003 from Naval Institute Press.

He is the coauthor, with R.D. Layman, of *The Hybrid Warship* (Naval Institute Press, 1991)

A librarian at the San Francisco Public Library for the past twenty years, McLaughlin earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. He lives in Richmond, California.



Comparison of Ranks

<u>Germany</u>	<u>Finland</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>USSR</u>	<u>USA</u>
Generaladmiral			Admiral Flota	Fleet Admiral
Admiral		Amiral	Admiral	Admiral
Vizeadmiral	Vara-amiraali	Viceamiral	Vitse-Admiral	Vice Admiral
Konteradmiral	Kontra-amiraali	Konter-amiral	Kontr-Admiral	Rear Admiral
Kapitän zur See	Komodori	Kommendör	Captain 1st (perwago) Rank	Captain
Fregattenkapitän	Komentaja	Kommendör-kapten af 1a Gr.	Captain 2nd (wtorogo) Rank	Commander
Korvettenkapitän	Komentaja-kapteeni	Kommendör-kapten af 2a Gr.	Captain 3rd (tretjago) Rank	Lt. Commander
Kapitänleutnant	Kapteeni-luutnantti	Kapten	Captain-Lieutenant	Lieutenant
Oberleutnant zur See	Luutnantti	Lötnant	Starschi Lieutenant	Lieutenant j.g.
Leutnant zur See	Ali-luutnantti	Fänrik	Lieutenant	Ensign
			Mladschi Lieutenant	Ensign