

## Free Battle

### For use with Axis and Allies Naval Miniatures

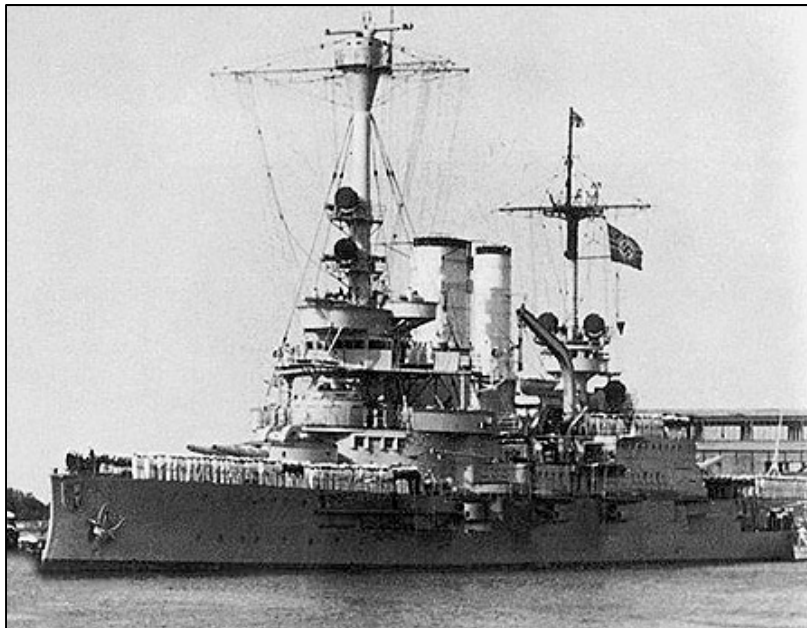
#### 1939 “Opening Salvo”

#### Baltic Sea Germany VS Poland

##### Setting

The German Battleship Schleswig-Holsten (pictured below) opened World War Two by firing the first shots in the Battle of Westerplatte. A German Battle force of ships, and auxiliaries met up with airborne forces to begin the invasion of Poland on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1939.

*Game Play note, vessel substitutions have been made to act as additional Polish vessels.*



### **Objective**

German objective is to land troops.

### **Decisive Victory Conditions**

A victory for the Allies results into the both transports sinking.

### **Map**

Use one normal battle map with a coast or island to simulate the landing site on Polish player's side.

### **Conditions**

This is mourning to daylight action, and calm seas.

### **Reconnaissance**

none

### **Set Up**

German Battleship and one Destroyer are placed in harbor with remaining German units placed 6 boxes away from island. Nordmarks are placed 8 boxes away.

Polish units defend the island with A Coastal Defense Ship and A ORP Blyskawica placed in the harbor and the rest of the Polish ships are placed 3 boxes away from Island.

### **Units**

#### **Allied**

#### **Polish**

|   |                |             |        |               |
|---|----------------|-------------|--------|---------------|
| 2 | ORP Blyskawica | (Destroyer) | (1941) | (Polish)      |
| 1 | ORP Orzel      | (Submarine) | (1939) | (Polish)      |
| 2 | Witt De With   | (Destroyer) | (1940) | (Netherlands) |
| 1 | Vainamoinen    | (Cruiser)   | (1940) | (Finland)     |
| 1 | B-239 Buffalo  | (Aircraft)  | (1940) | (Finland)     |
| 2 | Shore Batterie |             |        |               |

## Axis

### Germany

|   |                                      |              |        |           |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------|-----------|
| 2 | Z 20 Karl Galster                    | (Destroyer)  | (1939) | (Germany) |
| 2 | Z18 Hans Ludemann                    | (Destroyer)  | (1939) | (Germany) |
| 1 | Schleswig-Holsten                    | (Battleship) | (1939) | (Germany) |
| 1 | Fi 167                               | (Aircraft)   | (1940) | (Germany) |
| 1 | Bf 109                               | (Aircraft)   | (1939) | (Germany) |
| 2 | Nordmark<br>(act as landing vessels) | (Auxiliary)  | (1939) | (Germany) |

### Outcome

Early on 1 September 1939, Germany launched an attack against Poland. *Schleswig-Holstein* had been positioned in the port of Danzig on what had been called a ceremonial visit in late August. The ship was moored close to the Polish fortress at [Westerplatte](#); at 04:47 on 1 September, *Schleswig-Holstein* opened fire with her main battery at the Polish positions on the Westerplatte, and in doing so fired the first shots of World War II. A force of German marines was landed to take the fortress. The Poles managed to hold off the Germans for seven days, but were forced to surrender on 8 September at 10:30.

### Acknowledgements

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We would like to thank: Time Magazine, Wikipedia, Pt Boats Inc, Historic Naval Ships Association, Imperial War Museum, US Naval Archives.

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## *Thank You*