CRUEL SEAS

MONITOR MAYHEM

Monitor Mayhem

6th June 1944

The bombardment began at 7:25 in the morning on June 6th. On the eastern end of the Allied landing zone, the battleships HMS Ramilles, HMS Warspite and the monitor HMS Roberts, assisted by five cruisers blasted the German fortifications from suicidally close range.

Like an army of ants, landing craft swarmed towards Sword Beach, the ungainly duplex-drive Sherman tanks interspersed between them.

Huge shells screamed overhead, carving huge craters out of the beach and cliff face.

Out to sea, shark-like shapes scythed through the morning mist towards the armada. These sleek, predatory vessels were the last remaining S-Boat flotilla on the Atlantic coast. Their orders were to interdict the Allied landing and cause as much damage as possible.

Strung out at the far end of the line, HMS Roberts was too tempting a target to pass up. Shaking out into a loose V formation, the S-Boats began their attack!

Special Rules:

Off-Shore Bombardment: To soften up the German forces on Sword Beach, HMS Roberts must maintain a set course to keep its guns trained on its designated target.

The monitor must be moving at slow speed along the table centreline to bombard Sword Beach. Each turn, HMS Roberts may choose to fire its guns at the beach, resolving the attack as if it were firing at a shore battery.

Once Sword Beach has taken 100 points of damage, it is free to engage other targets with its main battery guns.

33 capital ships and over 60 destroyers bombarded the French coastline on D-Day. As part of the Eastern Force, HMS Roberts bombarded the batteries at Houlgate, some miles east of Sword Beach. Posted at one end of the line, it was particularly vulnerable to a lightning assault by what remained of the Kriegsmarine's coastal forces.

HMS Roberts
Displacement: 7,970 Long Tons
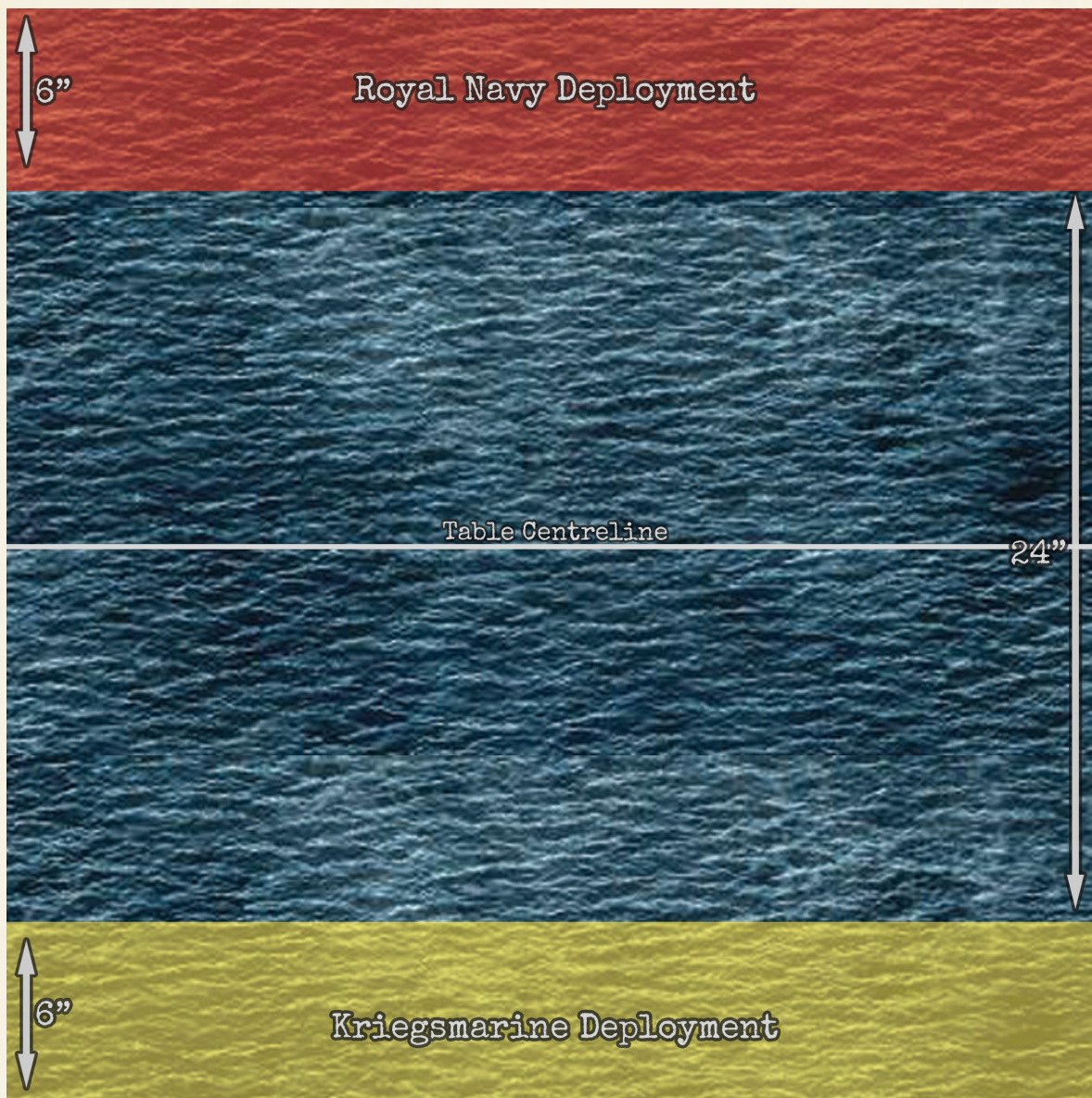Length: 373ft 3in
Beam: 89ft 9in
Draft: 11ft
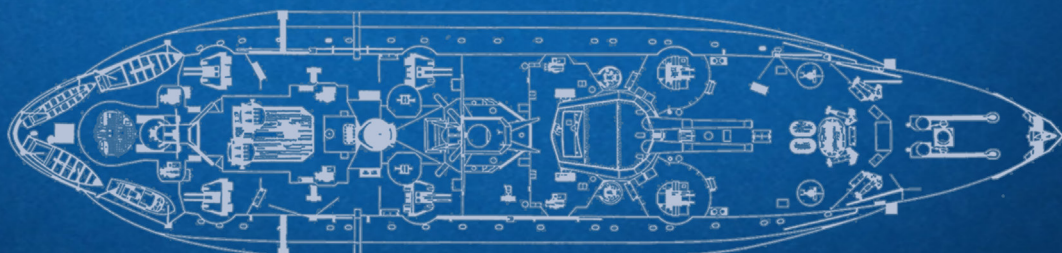
Armour
Turret: 13in
Barbette: 8in
Belt: 4-5in

Armament
2x 15-inch/42 Mk 1 guns
4x 4in AA guns
16x 2-pdr AA guns
20x 20mm AA cannons

Royal Navy Deployment

6"

Table Centreline

24"

6"

Kriegsmarine Deployment

Royal Navy
- HMS Roberts (HMS Abercrombie) with Regular Crew.

Kriegsmarine
- 3x E-boat S-100 class with Veteran crews

Game Length
The game lasts until either side's vessels have been sunk!

Objectives
Kriegsmarine: You must sink that monitor before it can finish bombarding the landing zone!

Royal Navy: You must keep up the bombardment and drive off the attacking E-Boats.

Deployment
Place the Royal Navy Monitor anywhere in the marked area moving at Combat Speed.

Place the three E-Boats anywhere in the marked area moving at Fast Speed.

Victory
The Kriegsmarine win if they can sink the Monitor - bonus points if they can manage it before Sword Beach takes 100 points of damage.

The Royal Navy win if they can sink the attacking E-Boats.

"Try playing this scenario before a Bolt Action game set on Sword Beach - if the Monitor gets sunk, any Forward Naval Observers must pass an Order Test to successfully call for a strike package!"

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