

A HELL OF A DAY: APRIL 6, 1945 USS COLHOUN, DD-801



Background:

From CINCPAC - X-Day for Kikusui #1. Large scale air attacks expected against Blue surface and land forces in Okinawa general area by planes from Kyushu and Formosa.

The Colhoun was on its way from Station 2 to Station 1 to help the USS Bush, also under attack, when the Japanese aimed for the Colhoun.

Assigned Picket Station:

Picket Station 2

Special Rules:

1. Scenario is one game turn in length.
2. Willow optional rule may be used.
3. Scenario may be played with either basic or advanced rules.
4. The player does receive on surface support fire marker and one air support fire marker per Rule 16.D.

Winning the Scenario:

If the ship remains afloat and still at her duty station at the end of three phases, the US player wins. Any other result is a Japanese victory.

Historical Outcome:



Over the course of the day, the USS Colhoun would face numerous planes. Between the hours of 0247 and 0600, she was attacked by at least 11 planes. Then a lull and in the afternoon at around 1528, she again faced Japanese attacks, and she was soon hit.

From the battle damage report dated 1945: Japanese suicide plane and bomb crashed into port side in way of after fireroom causing severe fires. Three after machinery spaces flooded four minutes later, second plane crashed into main deck over forward fireroom. Bomb detonated on boiler No.1 causing flooding and severe fire. All power lost. Third plane and bomb crashed into main deck 7 minutes later abreast after 40mm mount and carried over side. Bomb detonated close aboard on starboard side at frame 170. After living compartments and magazines flooded. Starboard list and trim by stern. Fourth plane grazed bridge and crashed into sea. 23-degree starboard list. Main deck aft awash to after 5-inch gun. Tow attempted. Partial structural failure in way of second hit. Sunk by U.S. forces.

Credits:

Photo – U.S. Navy

Diagram: Battle Damage Report, US Navy dated October 1945.