

British Mission Card

The Age of Sail

Scenario 1: The Eastern Mediterranean, 1798

Orders

Admiral Nelson: Your task is to locate the French fleet, interdict and destroy the transports, above all preventing a move past Gibraltar into the Atlantic and a possible junction with additional French naval and ground forces; should that happen, a possible invasion of England looms. Moreover, an attack on Egypt is also a problem as it threatens British trade lines with India. Finally, a vacillating Turkey and Naples appear receptive to British overtures of alliance, an accord that would secure British bases allowing naval operations to reach far into the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

While you (Nelson) have a high probability of locating the French fleet, you have only 3 battleships (and three frigates) under your immediate command.

Troubridge is also under your command; he has 10 battleships (no frigates).

Should you engage without Troubridge, you will be greatly outnumbered; survivability is in doubt. Yet, if found, the transports are highly vulnerable.

Shadowing the enemy fleet is complicated by a lack of frigates, crucial to keeping contact with the French. And the weather is always unpredictable, perhaps preventing contact and impacting the likelihood of reinforcement as well. Finally, you can remain at sea some 30 days before you will need to find a port and replenish water/food/crew.

Decision Point 1

What are your orders?