

**SCENARIO 7 - (HYPOTHETICAL) Scenario Design: Bob Best****HAZARDOUS DUTY: APRIL 2 - APRIL 5, 1945****USS LA PRADE, DE 409**

**Situation:** During the first days of the operation there were insufficient destroyers available to assign more than one destroyer to a picket station. To meet the emergency all available LCS, LSM (R) and PGM craft were assigned as close support units for the Picket Duty Destroyers. Destroyer Escorts were considered as picket support units because of their inadequate anti-aircraft armament.

On April 2nd the destroyer USS Prichett assumed Picket Duty on Station 1. The next day a suicide plane heavily damaged Prichett. USS La Prade, DE 409, assigned to the support group at Picket Station 1 was directed to relieve Prichett and take over Picket Duty there until relieved. La Prade assumes Picket Duty on Station 1 on the night of April 3rd. The game begins with the Morning April 4th game turn phase.

**Special Rules:** 1. USS La Prade is armed with two 5 inch/38 dual-purpose gun mounts, 2 twin 40 mm mounts and 10 single 20 mm mounts. Use the Firing Reference Chart shown below for the USS La Prade.

2. The scenario is two game turns in length. La Prade is automatically relieved at the end of the second day. At the end of each phase starting with mid-day on the first day, roll one die on the table below to see if help arrives early.

Die Roll	Turn 1 Mid-day	Turn 1 Evening	Turn 2 Morning	Turn 2 Mid-day	Turn 2 Evening
1 - 3	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Relieved	Relieved
5	-	Relieved	Relieved	Relieved	Relieved
6	Relieved	Relieved	Relieved	Relieved	Relieved

3. The game may be played with either the basic or the advanced rules.

**Winning the Scenario:** Victory is determined by surviving until relieved. Any other result is a Japanese victory.

**Outcome:** While this was a hypothetical scenario there were many situations where damaged/sunk destroyers were relieved by whatever ships were closest to cover the Picket Station until they could be relieved. DE 409, USS La Prade was one of several destroyer escorts that fought at Okinawa. La Prade was commissioned April 20th 1944 and served with hunter-killer groups in the Pacific. She assisted in sinking a Japanese midget submarine at the entrance to Kossol Roads Harbor, Palau Islands before moving to Okinawa. She received one Battle Star for her service in the Pacific. She served with the Pacific reserve Fleet until January 1972 when she was stricken from the rolls.

Gun Mount	315°	0°	45°	90°	135°	180°	225°	270°
Bow 5" #1	L-M-H	L-M-H	L-M-H	L-M-H	-	-	-	L-M-H
Stern 5" #5	-	-	-	L-M-H	L-M-H	L-M-H	L-M-H	L-M-H
Bow 40mm A	L-M-H	L-M-H	L-M-H	L-M-H	-	-	-	L-M-H
Stern 40mm E	M-H	-	M-H	L-M-H	L-M-H	L-M-H	L-M-H	L-M-H
Port 20mm A	L-M	L-M	-	-	-	-	-	L-M
Stbd 20mm B	-	L-M	L-M	L-M	-	-	-	-
Stbd 20mm C	-	-	L-M	L-M	L-M	-	-	-
Port 20mm D	L-M	-	-	-	-	-	L-M	L-M
Port 20mm E	L-M	-	-	-	-	M	L-M	L-M
Stbd 20mm F	-	M	L-M	L-M	L-M	-	-	-
Stbd 20mm G	-	M	L-M	L-M	L-M	-	-	-
Port 20mm H	L-M	-	-	-	-	-	L-M	L-M
Port 20mm I	-	-	-	-	-	L-M	L-M	L-M
Stbd 20mm J	-	-	-	L-M	L-M	L-M	-	-

- = Cannot fire L - M - H = Can fire at indicated level(s) L=Low M=Medium H=High