

# Shipping Control Authority

(Replenishment Fleet, American Combat Elements)  
(SCARFACE)

[\[The Day After Ragnarok\]](#)

HQ: Manila, Philippines

Bases: Pearl Harbor, Manila, Palau, Santo, Tarawa

Commander: RAMD Donald Beary, USN

Forces: 45-70 ships, various tonnages; 10,000  
civilian/military, all ranks

On paper, the Shipping Control Authority Replenishment Fleet acts as a replenishment service for post-Serpentfall American combat elements in the Pacific. In reality, Rear Admiral Emory Land has effective control over USN logistics in that theater, and Rear Admiral Beary is decidedly *not* subject to Land's orders. This suits both admirals perfectly well, as Admiral Beary is only a logistics officer these days by the most flexible standards.

Beary is, in fact, a corsair -- which is what the IJN calls him, usually with a certain amount of reluctant respect. Between the time of the Serpentfall and the armistice, Beary's logistics ships rapidly transformed themselves into

fast raiders, keeping the Japanese from pressing their advantage as the Allies retreated to more defensible positions. They turned out to be rather good at it, actually.

As was Admiral Beary, who quickly and decisively took a hand's-on approach to the new problem. His most daring feat -- or most infamous one -- during that time was the cutting-out and capture of the IJN *Yoizuki* just before the armistice was signed; the destroyer had been taken out with a skeleton crew to harry the last troop transports off of Okinawa, and Beary's forces were able to surprise the Japanese with a disguised merchant ship filled with Marines. To this day, the *Yoizuki* (renamed the *Clarence Van Ray*) remains in American service as an commerce escort for Pacific convoys.

Since the armistice, of course, Beary and his SCARFACE fleet are of course absolutely **not** raiding Japanese commercial shipping. They're raiding pirates, smugglers, and unscrupulous vessels who are falsely **claiming** to be Japanese commercial shipping, which is of course completely different. But regrettably necessary: some of the prizes that SCARFACE has taken contained some very naughty items, indeed. The kind of items that, if they really *were* meant for the IJN, would have been a clear violation of the armistice and a justification for starting up

the war again. But since Beary only takes false-flag ships (including ones with despicable, and instantly disavowed, Japanese renegades), everything is fine. Even the IJN admits that, albeit usually through extremely gritted lips.

As for the rumor that Admiral Beary continues to rotate his flag among the plethora of existing Navy vessels, converted merchantmen, captured enemy ships, and other elements of his command, solely in order to lead those ships into combat personally? That rumor is ridiculous on its face. Why, the man is sixty years old! Surely boarding actions and midnight raids on pirate havens is a younger man's game. Obviously, a certain archaic *romanticism* might be now associated with the South Pacific, in these post-Serpentfall times; but still, one must not let it go to one's head.

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