



SCENARIO 7: BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF

RETURN OF THE BATTLEWAGONS (LEYTE GULF - "WHAT IF")

26 October 1944, Local time: 0600

One of the many "what ifs" of WWII naval combat is "what if" two lines of opposing battleships found and engaged each other, Jutland style?

The Leyte Gulf campaign at least provides the background for such a possibility, even if, by 1944, air power, radar, torpedo technology and other advances had passed the battlewagons by.

This scenario supposes that the big ships managed to find and engage each other, without interference from other ships, aircraft or the reality of naval combat circa 1944. Have fun!

US NAVY

Rear Admiral Jesse Oldendorf 's 7th Fleet Support Force battleships

1st Squadron: *West Virginia* (Fleet Flagship), *Maryland* - both *Maryland* Class BBs, *Mississippi* - *New Mexico* Class BB

2nd Squadron: *Tennessee* (Flagship), *California* - both *California* Class BBs, *Pennsylvania* - *Pennsylvania* Class BB

Crew Quality: Veteran
Damage Control: Exceptional
Radar: Type "C"
Sonar: NA
Cohesion: 16
Formation, course and speed: any

Objective: cripple more ships than your opponent.

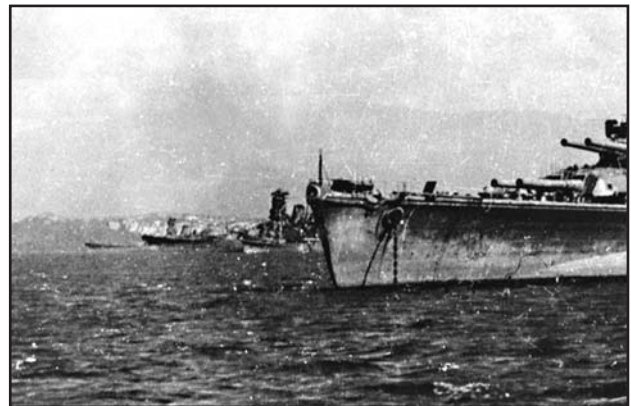


CONDITIONS

Daylight, visibility unlimited.
Weather Modifier: 0 (no modifier)
Wind: Light ESE
Initial Bearing: IJN forces due south of USN forces.
Initial Range: 40 Kyds

HISTORICAL RESULT

Reality intruded and this action never came to pass. The battle of Leyte Gulf essentially eliminated the Imperial Japanese Navy as a fighting force. The war would last another nine months, but the IJN and USN would never clash again on this scale. The face of naval combat was changed forever.



IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY

Kurita's "Center Force" battleships

1st Squadron: *Yamato* (Fleet Flagship), *Mustashi* - both *Yamato* Class BBs

2nd Squadron: *Nagato* - *Nagato* Class BB (Flagship), *Kongo*, *Haruna* - both *Kongo* Class BBs

Crew Quality: Veteran
Damage Control: Normal
Radar: Type "A"
Sonar: NA
Cohesion: 16
Formation, course and speed: any

Objective: Cripple more ships than your opponent.