

LEYTE GULF

Major ships in the Battle of Leyte Gulf

JAPANESE FLEET:

Central Force

	Name	Tonnage	Main Armament
Battleships	Musashi*	42,500	9 16in.
	Yamato	42,500	9 16in.
	Nagato	32,720	8 16in.
	Haruna	29,330	8 14in.
	Kongo	29,330	8 14in.
Cruisers	Chikuma*	14,000	8 8in.
	Suzuya*	14,000	8 8in.
	Atago*	9,850	10 8in.
	Chokai*	9,850	10 8in.
	Maya*	9,850	10 8in.
	Noshiro	6,000	6.6 3in.
	Kinu	5,170	7.5 5in.

Southern Force

Battleships	Fuso*	29,330	12 14in.
	Yamashiro*	29,330	12 14in.
Cruisers	Mogami*	14,000	8 8in.
	<i>'Northern Force'</i>		
Battleships	Isa	29,990	12 14in.
	Hyuga	29,990	12 14in.
Aircraft carriers	Zuikaku*	29,800	
	Zuiho*	12,000	
	Chitose*	9,000	
	Chiyoda*	9,000	
Cruisers	Tama*	5,100	7.5 5in.

AMERICAN FLEET:

	Name	Tonnage	Main Armament
Battleships	Arkansas	26,100	12 12in.
	California	35,190	12 14in.
	Idaho	33,400	12 14in.
	Maryland	33,590	8 16in.
	Nevada	29,000	10 14in.
	New York	27,000	10 14in.
	North Carolina	35,000	9 16in.
	Pennsylvania	33,100	12 14in.
	South Dakota	35,000	9 16in.
	Tennessee	35,190	12 14in.
	Texas	27,000	10 14in.
	Washington	35,000	9 16in.
	West Virginia	33,590	8 16in.
	Aircraft carriers	Gambier Bay*	6,730
Hornet		27,000	
Kitsum Bay		6,730	
Lexington		27,000	
Princeton*		11,000	
Santee		12,000	
St. Lo*		6,730	
Cruisers	Suwanee	12,000	
	Wasp	27,000	
	White Plains	6,730	

* Vessels known to have been sunk

the entire force of Japanese carriers, three battleships, and ten cruisers. Even the flagship *Musashi* had gone down. For the sinking of these 26 ships the United States Navy had lost six capital ships out of a total of 166. The six ships sunk included a light aircraft carrier and some small carriers and destroyers. Four days of hard battle had ended in a Japanese defeat of great magnitude.

General MacArthur was naturally delighted that the American navy had managed to protect his landing. He sent this signal: 'At this time I wish to express to you and to all elements of your fine command my deep appreciation of the splendid service they have rendered in the recent Leyte operations. . . . We could not have gone along without them.'

Right The 11,000 ton aircraft carrier Princeton explodes. Fire caused by a bomb had reached the magazine. The Princeton sank.

