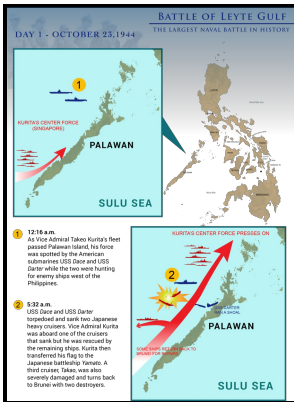


Battle of Leyte Gulf, 23-26 October, 1944

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The Battle of Leyte Gulf: 23

Detailed Account Build-up to Battle The pre-invasion attacks on Japanese bases between the Philippines and the East China Sea soon paid an unexpected dividend.

THE BATTLE FOR LEYTE GULF

At 05:24, Darter fired a salvo of six torpedoes, at least four of which hit Kurita's, the heavy cruiser Atago. In July of 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt traveled to San Diego, to embark in USS Baltimore, a heavy cruiser, which now sailed for Honolulu.

Battle of Leyte Gulf, October 23

Admiral Halsey took the bait and ordered his entire Third Fleet into pursuit, leaving Leyte Gulf exposed as the Japanese had hoped. In mid-June the Joint Chiefs of Staff suggested abandoning the invasion of Luzon and instead going straight from Leyte to Formosa.

Battle of Leyte Gulf: 23

The Imperial Japanese Navy had suffered its greatest loss of ships and crew ever. His ships were armed for combat with Japanese battleships and carriers. Nishimura with the battleships Fuso and Yamashiro, supported by the heavy cruiser Mogami and four destroyers, planned to come through the Surigao Strait, south of Leyte, followed on the same path by three more cruisers and four destroyers brought into the battle from Japan, under Vice Admiral Shima.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf

Rear Admiral Ralph Davison in command in the Fleet Carrier Franklin. Thomas Cutler also explains some of the reasoning for the Japanese withdrawal when complete victory was at hand for them. Shima hadn't originally been included in the plan but had persuaded his superiors to let his small force take part.

Battle of Leyte Gulf, October 23

Ozawa's carrier aircraft then made an appearance. Admiral Nishimura, coming from Brunei, was given the two old battleships Fuso and Yamashiro, one cruiser and four destroyers. Holloway, III, a Chairman Emeritus of the Naval Historical Foundation, fought in the battle as a 22 year old officer, and recorded his reflection on that day for the Foundation in the 2014 video republished below.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf

The two groups had not worked together before, and already Shuma was two hours behind Nashimura's force, it did not look good for them.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf

The destroyer—despite her unequal fight with the enemy—finished the battle with only six of her crew dead.

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