



SCENARIO 6: BATTLE OF SURIGAO STRAIT

EXPENDABLE (PT BOATS) 25 October 1944, Local time: 0200

The Japanese Southern Force at the Battle of Leyte Gulf was intended to circle south of Panaon Island and attack the US transport fleet. The Japanese were unable to coordinate movement of the various elements of their fleet due to strict radio silence. The US fleet was ready for the Japanese to run the gauntlet of Surigao Strait. The first element of the gauntlet was a force of more than 36 PT boats.

AMERICAN FORCES

Six flotillas of Elco 80' PT boats from several MTB RONS

Crew Quality: Experienced.
Damage Control: Normal
Radar: Type "A"
Sonar: none
Cohesion: 15
Initial Heading: 090° T
Initial Speed: 15 knots
Formation: any

Objective: Warn the forces to the north of the Japanese arrival and disrupt the formation as much as possible. Inflict major damage on one cruiser or battleship or cripple / sink at least two DDs.



CONDITIONS

Night, clear, no moon
Max Visibility: 20 Kyds.
Weather Modifier: +8: night, no moon
Wind: Light ESE
Initial Bearing: IJN forces due east of USN forces
Initial Range: 10 Kyds



IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY

Yamashiro (Fleet flag), *Fuso* - *Fuso* Class BBs
Mogami - *Mogami* Class CA
Asagumo (DD Flag), *Michishio*, *Yamagumo* -
Ashashio Class DD,
Shigure - *Shiratsuyu* Class DD

Crew Quality: Experienced.
Damage Control: Normal
Radar: *Yamashiro* and *Fuso* - Type "A"
Sonar: DDs are B
Cohesion: 15
Initial Heading: 350° T
Initial Speed: 15 knots
Formation: Line ahead formation.

Objective: Maneuver past the PT boats to engage additional American forces to the north. Escape the PT boat attacks without suffering minor damage to the battleships or cruiser.

HISTORICAL RESULT

For this phase of the battle: Japanese victory

Nishimura's force ran the gauntlet of PTs suffering little damage, but foundered later that night against the fire of the heavier US ships, including six battleships. The *Yamashiro* has the distinction of being the last battleship to be lost to enemy action.

2 BATTLESHIPS
1 CRUISER
4 DESTROYERS

→ U S FLEET
→ CARRIER PLANE ATTACKS