

OPERATIONAL SCENARIO EIGHT (A)
Leyte Gulf:
The Japanese Fantasy

By the latter half of 1944, Japanese leaders were engaging in the most murderous of fantasies by continuing to carry on their war with the United States. But it's much easier for a nation's leaders to bring their country to war than to admit they might have made a mistake in doing so. Japan lacked the industrial, natural and human resources to match American military power, but did try to build the ships and aircraft to meet the U.S. Navy. This scenario looks at the maximum possible Japanese response to the invasion of the Philippines.

- Time Frame:** 40 turns. Play begins on the first daylight turn.
- Maps:** All three maps are used.
- Starting Weather:** Malaya map west: 1 (Clear), Malaya map east: 2 (Cloudy), Java map (both zones): 1 (Clear), Japan map: 3 (Rain)

Axis Forces

At any airfield on Formosa [Pescadores (O 55), Takao (R 55), Tainan (O 56) or Taihoku (P 59)], Sakishimo Gunto (R 65), Okinawa (O71), or Southern Japan [Kagoshima (M79), Miyazaki (M 81), Nagasaki (K 79), Kumanmoto (K 80), Moji (K 87), Sasebo (J 79) and Kure (K 84)], at least 72 steps of which must set up in Japan:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 x Ki45 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 x Ki61 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 x Ki43 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 x Ki44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 x Ki84 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 x Ki51 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 x Ki67 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 x Ki67-1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 x Ki48 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 x Ki21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 x N1K2-J | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 x A6M3 [L] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 x J1N | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 x J2M |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23 x A6M5 [L] | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 x D4Y [L] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 x N1K1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x A6M2-N |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 x G3M2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x E16 |

At any airfield on the Philippines [Vigan (Y 51). Aparri (Z 52), Baguio (AA 49), Tugeugarao (AA 52), Iba (AC 48), Cavite (AD 47), Manila (AD 48), Batangas (AF 47), Legaspi (AI 51), Panay (AK 47), Cebu (AL 48), Ormoc (AL 49), Malabang (AP 45) or Del Monte (AP 48)]:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 x Ki45 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 x Ki61 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 x Ki43 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 x Ki44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 x Ki84 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x Ki51 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x Ki67 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x Ki67-1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 x Ki48 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x Ki21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 x N1K2-J | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x A6M3 [L] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 x J2M | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 x A6M5 [L] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 x D4Y [L] | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x N1K1 |

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 x G3M2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x H8K |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x H6K4 | |

Bonin Islands (AE 88), Iwo Jima (AE 85) or Chichi Jima (AD 86) airfields:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x Ki43 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x Ki44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x A6M5 [L] | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x N1K2-J |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x G4M2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x H8K |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x D4Y [L] | |

Amboinia (BI 40), Batjan (BE 41), Manado (AZ 40) airfields:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 x A6M5 [L] | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x N1K2-J |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x G4M2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x H8K |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 x D4Y [L] | |

At Sea (X 78):

Main Body (Northern Force)

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CV07 Shinano (see Special Rule 16) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CV10 Zuikaku '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> CV11 Unryu |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CV12 Amagi | <input type="checkbox"/> CV13 Katsuragi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CVL04 Junyo '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> CVL07 Ryuho '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CVL02 Zuiho '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> CVL08 Chitose '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CVL09 Chiyoda '44 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CVL10 Ibuki (see Special Rule 16) | |

on any of the carriers above

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 x A6M5 [C] | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 x A7M [C] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 x B7A [C] | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 x B6N [C] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x B5N [C] | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 x D4Y [C] |

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BBV07 Ise | <input type="checkbox"/> BBV08 Hyuga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 x N1K1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 x Ka-1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BB01 Kongo '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> BB04 Haruna '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CA04 Aoba '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> CL04 Tama '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CL09 Isuzu '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> CL12 Kinu '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CL25 Oyodo | <input type="checkbox"/> DD44 Uranami '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DD59 Hatsuharu '44 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DD61 Hatsushimo '44 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DD63 Wakaba '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> DD123 Akitsuki '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DD126 Hatsusuki '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> DD128 Wakatsuki '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DD129 Shimotsuki '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> DD136 Shimakaze |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DD137 Nadakaze | <input type="checkbox"/> DD138 Shirotae |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DD139 Yamabiko | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x AO | |

Force A

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BB09 Nagato '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> BB11 Yamato '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BB12 Musashi '44 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BB13 Shinano (see Special Rule 16) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CA05 Myoko '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> CA07 Haguro '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CA09 Atago '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> CA10 Takao '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CA11 Chokai '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> CA12 Maya '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CA15 Suzuya '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> CA16 Kumano '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CA17 Tone '44 | <input type="checkbox"/> CA18 Chikuma '44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CA19 Ibuki (see Special Rule 16) | |

- CL22 Noshiro '44
- DD92 Yukikaze '44
- DD96 Urakaze '44
- DD101 Hamakaze '44
- DD113 Fujinami '44
- DD117 Okinami '44
- DD119 Asashimo '44
- DD121 Hayashimo '44
- 2 x AO
- CL23 Yahagi '44
- DD93 Isokaze '44
- DD100 Nowaki '44
- DD107 Naganami '44
- DD114 Kishinami '44
- DD118 Hamanami '44
- DD120 Kiyoshimo '44
- DD122 Akishimo '44

Brunei (AK 31):

Force "C" (Van of Southern Force)

- BB05 Fuso '44
- CA13 Mogami '43
- DD77 Michishio '44
- DD83 Asagumo '44
- BB06 Yamashiro '44
- DD66 Shigure '44
- DD81 Yamagumo '44

At Sea (V 48):

Second Striking Force (rear of Southern Force)

- CA06 Nachi '44
- CL13 Abukuma '43
- DD54 Ushio '44
- DD89 Shiranui '44
- CA08 Ashigara '44
- DD52 Akebono '44
- DD84 Kasumi '44

At Sea (Y 45):

Transport Force

- CVH01 Akitsu Maru
- DE13 Akikaze '44
- DE53 Maki
- DE55 Sugi
- 1 x Type D DE
- CVH02 Nigitsu Maru
- DE52 Kuwa
- DE54 Kiri
- 4 x Type C DE
- 12 x small TR

Submarine Flotillas

- Flotilla A: 8 x I-boats
- Flotilla B: 4 x I-boats, 3 x RO-class
- Flotilla C: 8 x RO-class

Allied Forces

All Allied forces set up as for the standard Scenario 8.

Special Rules

Ignore special rule 5 (Japanese carrier training limitations); there is no extra penalty for Japanese aircraft taking off from or landing on carriers.

Also ignore special rule 12; the Axis player has no fuel limitations on aircraft sorties.

Ignore special rule 14; the Axis player is already receiving all of these forces and more in this scenario.

New Special Rule

16. Japanese Construction Decisions.

- a. The Axis player play deploy CVL10 Ibuki or CA19 Ibuki, but not both.

- b. The Axis payer may deploy CV07 Shinano or BB13 Shinano, but not both.

Victory Conditions

Victory conditions remain the same as for the standard Operational Scenario 8.

Player Notes

The additional carriers and aircraft give the Japanese carrier force some real teeth, and show why Halsey and almost all of his officers were so eager to chase after the Japanese flattops. These forces can do some real damage to the Americans, and the new-generation planes can stand up to the powerful American fighters.

With the carriers now a danger and the surface elements slightly strengthened, the Axis player now poses a much greater threat. The advantage still lies with the Americans, but the Japanese player (or team) has a much greater chance of victory in the Philippines.