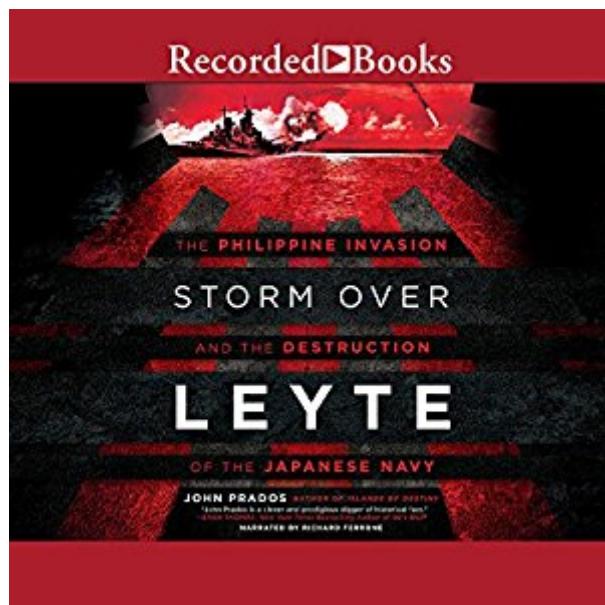


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Storm Over Leyte: The Philippine Invasion And The Destruction Of The Japanese Navy



Synopsis

The story of the Battle of Leyte Gulf in World War II - the greatest naval battle in history. As Allied ships prepared for the invasion of the Philippine island of Leyte, every available warship, submarine, and airplane was placed on alert while Japanese admiral Kurita Takeo stalked Admiral William F. Halsey's unwitting American armada. It was the beginning of the epic Battle of Leyte Gulf - the greatest naval battle in history. In *Storm over Leyte*, acclaimed historian John Prados gives listeners an unprecedented look at both sides of this titanic naval clash, demonstrating that despite the Americans' overwhelming superiority in firepower and supplies, the Japanese achieved their goal, inflicting grave damage on US forces. And for the first time, listeners will have access to the naval intelligence reports that influenced key strategic decisions on both sides. Drawing upon a wealth of untapped sources - US and Japanese military records, diaries, declassified intelligence reports, and postwar interrogation transcripts - Prados offers up a masterful narrative of naval conflict on an epic scale.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the entire history of naval warfare, there has never been a battle as large as the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Fought between the juggernaut U.S. Navy and the desperate Imperial Japanese Navy in October, 1944, this battle saw the last attempt by the Japanese to inflict a crushing blow upon the Allies and swing the tides of war back into their favor. John Prados does a wonderful job of setting up the scene for this titanic clash, providing lots of information and detail on the planning which went into the battle, the forces involved, and the commanders calling the shots. He sheds light on the key

role the Allied intelligence services played in deciphering Japanese plans and movements, as well as how key decisions in crucial moments came to play a major part in the outcome. Much has been written about the battle from an American standpoint, and this book helps balance things a bit by providing a good look at the Japanese viewpoint. Even though the Japanese faced long odds, they still felt a major victory could stem the Allied tide heading towards their shores. Prados examines the Japanese commanders, forces and decisions in great detail, thus helping the reader understand the hows and whys of their actions. He doesn't go into as much detail on the Allied (predominantly American) side, possibly because so much has previously been written from their viewpoint. Now, in a battle of this magnitude, decisions are made which don't always work out for the best. There's an old adage that no plan ever survives an encounter with the enemy, and this certainly applies in many aspects of the battle.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf is a long-standing favorite subject among both readers and writers of military history. It was the last great fleet-on-fleet battle and included also the last clash of dreadnought battleships. It was the battle that both the US and Japan had spent decades preparing for, although neither had projected quite these circumstances. John Prados' book is the latest of many about Leyte Gulf. It is presented as a follow-on to his previous book on Guadalcanal and the Solomons campaign, differentiating it from the extensive literature through its emphasis on intelligence and its operational implications for both sides. There is a lot more intelligence affecting Leyte Gulf than earlier battles. The US intelligence capabilities were far advanced from those of a few years before. Where the Japanese perceptions of their enemies and their situation had first been filtered through the distortions caused by unreasonably optimistic assumptions, by the time of Leyte these were had become heavily tinged with desperation. Intelligence takes center stage in this book along with the admirals and the warships. Even if there are not the heroic code breakers of Midway or those that targeted Admiral Yamamoto, there are still fascinating stories presented, of Japanese plans captured, copied and replaced as well as the intelligence failures that came close to presenting the Japanese with a tactical victory off Samar, when a last-light sighting of an attacking Japanese task force by a US Navy aircraft ended up being ignored. This remains an operational rather than intelligence account, but it presents a US intelligence situation at Leyte has resonance for the present. It shows the difficulties inherent in integrating multiple INTs to form a fused, coherent picture.

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