SOFTWARE & TECH

Battleship Yamato Wiki

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Introduction to the Legendary Battleship Yamato

The story of the **Battleship Yamato** is one of the most fascinating chapters in naval history. For anyone seeking detailed information, the **Battleship Yamato Wiki** serves as a comprehensive digital archive of this iconic vessel. Constructed in absolute secrecy, the Yamato was the largest and most heavily armed battleship ever built. Commissioned by the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) during World War II, she represented the pinnacle of battleship design and the ultimate expression of Japan's naval ambitions. In this article, we will explore every facet of this magnificent ship — from its engineering marvels to its tragic end — relying on the wealth of knowledge found in the **Battleship Yamato Wiki** and other historical sources.

The Genesis of the Yamato Class

Strategic Context and Design Philosophy

In the 1930s, Japan withdrew from the Washington Naval Treaty and the London Naval Treaty, which had limited battleship dimensions and armament. The IJN sought to build a new class of super-battleships that could outmatch any potential enemy, particularly the United States. The **Battleship Yamato Wiki** notes that the design process began in 1934, with the goal of creating a vessel with overwhelming firepower, heavy armor, and superior speed. The Yamato class was born from this ambition, with two ships completed: **Yamato** and her sister ship **Musashi**. A third ship, **Shinano**, was converted into an aircraft carrier during construction.

Key Specifications

According to the **Battleship Yamato Wiki** , the Yamato displaced approximately 72,800 tons when fully loaded. Its overall length was 263 meters (862 feet and 10 inches), with a beam of 38.9 meters (127 feet and 7 inches). The ship was powered by 12 Kanpon boilers driving four steam turbines, producing 150,000 shaft horsepower and a top speed of 27 knots. But the most awe-inspiring feature was its main battery: nine 46 cm (18.1 inch) Type 94 naval guns, arranged in three triple turrets. These were the largest naval guns ever fitted to a warship. The armor belt was up to 410 mm (16.1 inches) thick, and the turret faces were 650 mm (25.6 inches) thick — designed to withstand hits from the largest shells.

Construction and Launch

Yamato's construction began on November 4, 1937, at the Kure Naval Arsenal. The **Battleship Yamato Wiki** highlights the extreme secrecy surrounding the project. A massive drydock was built specifically for her, and a huge curtain was erected to hide her from spies. She was launched on August 8, 1940, and formally commissioned on December 16, 1941, just days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The cost was immense, equivalent to several modern aircraft carriers, and her construction consumed vast amounts of steel and resources that Japan could ill afford as war loomed.

Early Service and the Battle of Midway

Yamato first served as flagship of the Combined Fleet under Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. However, as detailed in the **Battleship Yamato Wiki** , she saw little action in the early years of the war. She was present during the Battle of Midway in June 1942, but took no direct part in the combat, remaining far behind the carrier forces. This pattern of inactivity continued for much of 1942 and 1943, as fuel shortages and the changing nature of naval warfare kept the big battleships in port.

Deployment to the Solomon Islands

In May 1943, Yamato sailed for Truk Lagoon in the Caroline Islands. She was damaged by a torpedo from the US submarine USS *Flying Fish* in December 1943, which required repairs in Kure. The **Battleship Yamato Wiki** notes that she returned to service in early 1944 and participated in the Battle of the Philippine Sea (June 1944), but again did not fire her main guns at enemy ships. By this point, the IJN's carrier forces were being decimated, and the battleships were increasingly seen as a "fleet in being" rather than a decisive weapon.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf: Yamato's First Real Engagement

The biggest test for Yamato came in October 1944 during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. At the Battle off Samar, part of the larger Leyte Gulf operation, Yamato engaged US escort carriers and destroyers. According to the **Battleship Yamato Wiki** , she fired her 46 cm guns at enemy ships for the first time, but results were limited. One of her shells may have hit the escort carrier USS *Gambier Bay*, but the damage was not conclusive. The engagement showed that the era of battleship duels was over; air power and carrier task forces dominated. Yamato escaped the battle with minor damage, but the IJN suffered a crushing defeat.

Operation Ten-Go: The Final Voyage

The Suicide Mission

By April 1945, the war situation for Japan was hopeless. The US Navy was closing in on Okinawa. The IJN conceived a desperate plan: send Yamato, along with a few escorts and no air cover, to attack the US invasion fleet. This was Operation Ten-Go. The **Battleship Yamato Wiki** describes it as a one-way mission; the ship had only enough fuel to reach the target beaches, where she would be beached and used as a stationary gun battery. However, the real purpose was to allow Yamato to die in battle, upholding the samurai spirit. On April 6, 1945, Yamato set sail from Tokuyama.

The Attack

On April 7, 1945, a massive force of US carrier aircraft attacked Yamato and her escorts. Without air support, the battleship was helpless against wave after wave of dive bombers and torpedo bombers. According to the **Battleship Yamato Wiki** , the ship suffered around ten torpedo hits and several bomb hits. Her superstructure was shattered, and massive flooding caused a severe list. At around 2:23 PM, Yamato capsized and then suffered a catastrophic magazine explosion, sending a mushroom cloud visible hundreds of miles away. The ship sank in the East China Sea, taking with her 2,747 of her 3,332 crew members. The loss of Japan's ultimate battleship marked the symbolic end of the IJN as a major fighting force.

Yamato's Legacy and Cultural Impact

Historical Significance

The **Battleship Yamato Wiki** emphasizes that while Yamato achieved little in actual combat, her legacy is immense. She represented the peak of battleship technology — a magnificent anachronism in an age of carrier warfare. Her construction consumed resources that could have been used for other projects, and her final

mission was a tragic waste of life. Yet, for many in Japan and around the world, she symbolizes the bravery and futility of war.

Pop Culture and Memorials

Yamato has become a cultural icon in Japan. The anime and film series *Space Battleship Yamato* (known in the West as *Star Blazers*) reimagined the ship as a spaceship, symbolizing hope and rebirth. Numerous museums, models, and documentaries keep her story alive. The **Battleship Yamato Wiki** provides links to museums such as the Yamato Museum in Kure, which features a 1/10 scale model of the ship. Wreck dives have explored the remains, but due to the depth and deterioration, much of the wreck is off-limits.

How to Use the Battleship Yamato Wiki Effectively

Whether you are a history student, a model builder, or simply a curious reader, the **Battleship Yamato Wiki** is an invaluable resource. It aggregates information from official records, survivor accounts, and technical manuals. When using it, ensure you cross-reference with other reputable sources, as wikis can contain errors. The wiki typically includes sections on design, construction, service history, armament, armor, and crew life. For deeper dives, look at the references and external links at the bottom of the page, which often lead to primary source documents and photos.

Some key terms you will encounter while exploring the **Battleship Yamato Wiki** include:

- Yamato Class — The class of battleships that included Yamato, Musashi, and Shinano.
- Type 94 46 cm gun — The main armament, the largest ever mounted on a battleship.
- Japanese battleship Musashi — Yamato's sister ship, sunk in October 1944.
- Operation Ten-Go — The final mission.
- Kure Naval Arsenal — The shipyard where Yamato was built.
- Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) — The naval force that operated the ship.

Frequently Asked Questions About Battleship Yamato

1. How big was the Yamato compared to the USS Iowa? The Yamato displaced nearly 73,000 tons, while the Iowa class displaced about 57,000 tons. The Yamato's main guns were also larger (18.1 inches vs 16 inches).
2. Did the Yamato ever sink any ships? The Battleship Yamato Wiki states that her main guns only directly sank a few vessels, mostly small destroyers and auxiliary ships. Her anti-aircraft guns downed some planes, but she had no major battleship-on-battleship victories.
3. What was the crew size? Approximately 2,700 to 3,300 officers and men.
4. Is there a museum dedicated to Yamato? Yes, the Yamato Museum in Kure, Japan, features a massive model and exhibits about her construction and history.
5. Can you see the wreck today? The wreck lies at a depth of about 340 meters in the East China Sea. It is partially collapsed, and only limited exploration has been done due to depth and legal restrictions.

Conclusion: Remembering the Battleship Yamato

The **Battleship Yamato Wiki** offers a comprehensive window into one of history's most remarkable warships. From her secret construction to her spectacular and tragic end, the Yamato remains a subject of endless fascination. She embodied the hopes and fears of a nation at war, and her story serves as a poignant reminder of the costs of conflict. Whether you are drawn to her engineering marvels, her operational history, or her cultural legacy, the resources available through the **Battleship Yamato Wiki** provide a starting point for a deep and rewarding journey into naval history. As you explore further, remember that behind every statistic and battle report lies the human experience of those who served aboard this mighty ship.

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