

Posted by [REDACTED] @ 2008-12-12 13:45:25

Tags: yamato, japan

Battleship Yamato

Uhhh, no. The 71,600 ton IJN Yamato did not have eighteen guns. In fact, it did not even have eighteen inch guns. My late uncle was part of the evaluation team after the war and the official US Navy count was 199 mounted guns forming the main, secondary and tertiary armament. Nine of those guns (3x3) were measured at 46 cm, or close to 18.1 inch.

Okay, that is my rant for the day.

1794 [REDACTED] @ 2008-12-12 15:28:32

(U) For future reference, the History Today article in question is this one.

1795 [REDACTED] @ 2008-12-12 18:30:29

I'm confused....

(U) The article says the the Yamamoto "had 18-inch guns" not that it had eighteen guns. You say that "it did not even have eighteen inch guns," yet you end with a statement that it had nine 18.1 inch guns. Given that the article uses round numbers for the information given, such as the ability to lob 3,200-pound projectiles when it would almost certainly have been able to throw 3,201-pound projectiles as well, I think the author can be forgiven for not including the .1-inch measurement.

(U) That's really interesting that your late uncle was able to be a part of the evaluation team and that he shared some of that information with you. That sort of thing is what really makes history come alive! At this point, I'm really wishing I had paid closer attention to my grandfather's WWII recollections when he was still alive....

(U) Thank you for sharing the additional details!

1796 [REDACTED] @ 2008-12-12 19:22:02

I had the opportunity to go Scuba diving in Truk Lagoon back in the late 1990's. One of the Japanese freighters (Yamagiri Maru) sunk there had a considerable number of the main battery shells (18.1) used by the Yamato in her hold. It was exciting to be able to see that part of history in person, but also very sobering to realize all the people that had died.

1797 re 1795 [REDACTED] @ 2008-12-12 19:22:39

Re: I'm confused....

Yes, you are correct. The article NOW says "18-inch guns", but before the revision it stated "18 guns". My uncle would not have approved.

1798 re 1796 [REDACTED] @ 2008-12-12 19:26:11

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I understand the YAMAGIRI MARU is fairly deep in the lagoon. Thirty metres or more?

..... 1802 re 1797 [REDACTED] @ 2008-12-15 11:50:34

Re: I'm confused....

(U)Every now and then a typo creeps in despite our best efforts.

..... 1803 re 1798 [REDACTED] @ 2008-12-15 13:56:52

I recall it was pretty deep - I had to go check my logs to see the actual depth though. It was pretty amazing. I think my deepest there was about 128 feet on the submarine that sank in the lagoon. The shallowest was about 20 feet on an airplane. Deep or shallow it was a pretty wonderful experience.

..... 1805 [REDACTED] @ 2008-12-16 14:40:24

yamato mea culpa

The typo was my fault. I was shortening that sentence, shortened a little too much, and didn't notice that I had cut something out that should have stayed in. My apologies, and my thanks (and admiration) to all the sharp readers who caught the error.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36