

# Battles of Kizugawaguchi

The two **Battles of Kizugawaguchi** (木津川口の戦い, *Kizugawaguchi no Tatakai*) were fought during Oda Nobunaga's attempted sieges of the Ishiyama Hongan-ji in Osaka. The Hongan-ji was the primary fortress of the *Ikkō-ikki*, mobs of warrior monks, priests, and farmers who opposed Oda's rule. He ordered one of his admirals, Kuki Yoshitaka, to organize a blockade against the fleets of the Ikki's allies, who sought to supply the fortress and break the siege. Many of the ruling families of the neighboring provinces opposed Oda, chief among them the *Mōri* clan.

## First battle (1576)

In the first battle, in 1576, the Mōri navy led by Motoyoshi, son of Murakami Takeyoshi, defeated Kuki Yoshitaka's fleet, breaking the blockade and supplying the fortress.<sup>[1]</sup> Both sides fought with firearms, a rather new development in Japanese warfare; but Mōri's experience and knowledge of *naval tactics* was ultimately the deciding factor.

## Second battle (1578)

Two years later, the *Ishiyama Hongan-ji* was still under siege, and Oda's fleet, with Takigawa Kazumasu commanded a *White Ship* to accompany the six black ships commanded by Kuki Yoshitaka against Mori navy, made another attempt to break the Mōri supply lines. Going against convention, Yoshitaka fought with six very large *o'atakebune* ships, rather than a combination of small (*kobaya*), medium (*sekibune*), and large (*adakebune*) craft. Normally, *atakebune* were floating wooden fortresses covered in gun and bow emplacements. According to some accounts, it may be believed that these six were *Tekkōsen*, the first *ironclads*, and were built such that guns could not penetrate them. However, these crafts probably had limited iron plating in key locations rather than true ironclads, made primarily or entirely of metal.

Several Mōri vessels under Murakami Takeyoshi were burned and sunk, and Oda's fleet ultimately achieved victory.<sup>[1]</sup> The supply lines were broken, and the Hongan-Ji fell soon afterward. However, the Mori discovered an existing flaw in the *Tekkōsen* design during this battle. As Mōri samurai rushed to board the large ship, all the defending warriors ran to that side of the deck to defend themselves, and the vessel capsized as its center of gravity shifted.

### First Battle of Kizugawaguchi

Part of the *Sengoku period*

<b>Date</b>	August 1576
<b>Location</b>	Kizugawaguchi, off the coast of <i>Osaka</i> <div><span><span><span><span><span>34°37′51.9971″N</span> <span>135°25′44.2103″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>34.6308361°N 135.4288889°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>34.6308361; 135.4288889</span></span></span></span></span></div>
<b>Result</b>	Mōri victory

### Belligerents

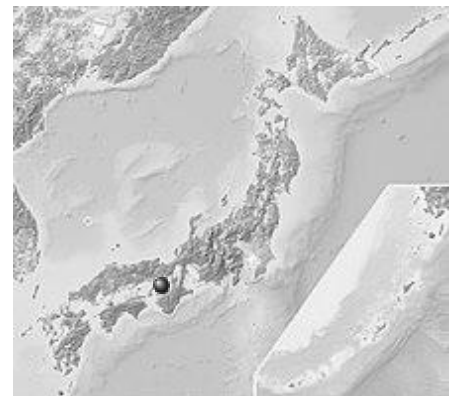
forces of <i>Oda Nobunaga</i>	<i>Mōri</i> clan
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### Commanders and leaders

<i>Kuki Yoshitaka</i>	<i>Murakami Motoyoshi</i>
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### Strength

~300 vessels	~700 vessels
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Location within Japan

Yoshitaka went on to defeat the Mōri once more the following year.

## References

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1. Turnbull, Stephen (2000). *The Samurai Sourcebook*. London: Cassell & CO. p. 228. ISBN 1854095234.

<b>Second Battle of Kizugawaguchi</b>	
Part of the <u>Sengoku period</u>	
<b>Date</b>	1578
<b>Location</b>	Kizugawaguchi, off the coast of <u>Osaka</u>
<b>Result</b>	Oda victory
<b>Belligerents</b>	
forces of <u>Oda Nobunaga</u>	<u>Mōri clan</u>
<b>Commanders and leaders</b>	
<u>Kuki Yoshitaka</u>	<u>Murakami</u>
<u>Takigawa Kazumasu</u>	<u>Takeyoshi</u>
<b>Strength</b>	
6 <u>atakebune</u>	600 vessels
1 <u>whiteship</u>	

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