



Two major Guadalcanal sea battles are diagramed here. The Battle of the Eastern Solomons occurred northeast of Guadalcanal as a Japanese Combined Fleet task force sailed from Truk to intercept the U. S. Navy's Task Force 61, patrolling the waters traveled by Marine convoys going to Guadalcanal. The Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands (extreme right) replayed the contest in October with different players. All the while Japanese reinforcements were delivered to Guadalcanal via the Slot, a passage through the Solomon Islands.

Legend for the Battle of the Eastern Solomons:

A: *Saratoga* and *Enterprise* (solid blue line) launch planes on August 24, hit and eventually sink light carrier *Ryujo* of the Diversionary Group (dotted red line) while *Wasp* (dotted blue line) is sent for refueling. B: *Enterprise* and *North Carolina* are attacked and damaged by planes from *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku* (solid red); *Saratoga* is missed. C: *Enterprise* planes attack *Shokaku* minutes after her planes are launched causing minor damage. D: *Saratoga* dive bombers attack seaplane tender *Chitose* causing moderate damage. E: On August 25 USMC planes from Henderson Field and USAAF bombers from Espiritu Santo attack the Reinforcement Group (dotted red) sinking a destroyer, damaging cruiser *Jintsu* and causing the Japanese force to turn back. F: *Wasp* returns to the area on August 25 and launches search planes which find nothing. G: Henderson Field is attacked by land-based Bettys and *Ryujo* carrier planes early on August 24. Guadalcanal air units defend the field and launch attacks of their own.

Legend for the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands:

1: Two USN carrier task forces steam on a northwest course to intercept the Japanese Combined Fleet force waiting north of Guadalcanal for signs their army has retaken the island. Planes from *Shokaku*, *Zuikaku* and two other carriers attack the *Enterprise* and *Hornet* task forces causing significant damage. *Hornet* sinks after multiple air attacks and *Porter*, a destroyer, is sunk by a submarine torpedo. 2: Carrier planes from *Enterprise* and *Hornet* hit and severely damage *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*, forcing them from the battle and damage cruiser *Chikuma*. Early in the battle USN PBVs attack *Zuikaku* but do not hit her. 3. As the Japanese ships depart, however, a PBV damages destroyer *Teruzuki*.

INSET MAP:
The Battle of Cape Esperance:
 AA: Admiral Scott's USN cruiser and destroyer force "crosses the T" of a Japanese Bombardment Group escorting but lagging behind a transport run down the Slot. The American ships pound the Japanese ships as they turn away, sinking a destroyer, *Fubuki*, and damaging two cruisers, *Aoba* and *Furutaka*; the latter sinks later. A navy destroyer, *Duncan*, is sunk by enemy gunfire and another is damaged. Cruiser *Boise* is hit several times later in the action but departs under her own power.