

Midway 1942: Turning Point in the Pacific

Osprey Campaign series No. 30 (1993)

By Mark Healy; illustrated by various artists

Contents:

Prelude to Midway
US Preparations
Opposing Plans
Opposing Commanders
Opposing Naval Air Arms
The Battle 3 June
The Battle 4 June
Aftermath
Chronology
Further Reading
Wargaming Midway (by Bob Cordery)

Illustrations:

Japanese Navy pilot
US Marine Corps pilot
IJN Soryu (carrier)
USN Hornet (carrier)
Japanese -Valø dive bomber
USMC Brewster Buffalo
US Grumman F4
Vought SB2U Vindicator
B-17 bomber
US Douglas Dauntless
Japanese -Kateø
US Douglas Devastator
US Grumman Avenger
Japanese -Zeroø fighter
US Grumman Wildcat
IJN Akagi (carrier)
IJN Hiryu (carrier)

Three schematic maps ó Japanese attack on Midway; sinking of Akagi; sinking of Yorktown.

Comments:

An excellent study of the Battle of Midway, with emphasis on planning and intelligence prior to the battle and a detailed narrative of the battle itself ó this is useful because timing was king in carrier battles ó it was a crucial decision when to launch airstrikes, in which direction and with what armament. All these complex events and timings are explained with admirable clarity. There are a number of very useful tables outlining what ships and aircraft were present on each side. The chapter on wargaming focuses on

committee games, matrix games, board games and computer games. A few books on naval wargaming are mentioned for tactical battles. The emphasis is more on strategic games, which is understandable given the distances involved but there is nothing here for the soloist.

--Paul Le Long

