Santa Cruz Islands – Scenario Instructions

Scenario S1:

This scenario simulates the historical situation. The Japanese naval forces are intended to support the planned seizure of Henderson Field during the morning of October 26th. Furthermore, the upcoming battle is intended to see the „final destruction“ of the US Pacific Fleet...!?

Scenario Start:

October 25th, 0600. Scenario length is open ended.

Weather:

2y, 6z, 10B, 15B, 20z, 25B, 30D, 34F, 38D

Japanese Set Up:

All Japanese naval forces except 8th Fleet forces start at any hex between 13t and 27t in any given order with 10 fuel factors expended.

Shokaku (4F, 5D, 3T, 2ST), *Junyo* (6F, 5D, 2ST),
Zuikaku (7F, 7D, 2T, 2ST), *Zuiho* (5F, 1ST),
Chikuma, *Tone* (1 Jake).

Japanese **AF** starts in Shortland harbor (16E) and **BF** starts within 1 hex distance of 20A with 10 fuel factors expended. Both forces are intended to bombard Henderson Field during the night of October 25th/26th or the morning of October 26th.

One Japanese SS may each be set up within 3 hexes around 27O, 34D and 35K.

Rabaul Ready Boxes:
6 land based Zero factors, 7 Betty factors, 2 Mavis factors; also add Hiyo's air units to Rabaul[1]: 6 Zero factors, 5 Val factors, 2 Kate (ST) factors.

Gasmata Ready Boxes:
4 land based Zero factors, 3 Nell factors.

Buin Ready Boxes:
5 land based Zero factors.

Lae Ready Boxes:
4 land based Zero factors, 1 Nell factor.

Buna Ready Boxes:
2 land based Zero factors.

Shortland Ready Boxes:
2 Rufe factors, 2 Pete factors, 2 Mavis factors.

Truk:
(none released – release on a die roll of „**1-2**“)
2 land based Zero factors, 2 Nell factors, 2 Betty factors, 2 Mavis factor.

US Set Up:

US **TF 16** and **TF 17** start within three hex distance around <u>any</u> of the Santa Cruz Islands with 5 fuel factors expended. Their task is to intercept any Japanese attempts to attack Henderson Field.

Enterprise (9F, 4SD, 5D, 3T),
Hornet (9F, 4SD, 5D, 4T).

US **TF 64** starts within two hexes of 31N, also with 5 fuel factors expended. **TF 64** is mainly intended to intercept any major Japanese bombardment mission against Henderson Field. US **TF 61** starts in any hex between 40G and 40Q[2].

One US SS may each be set up within 6 hexes around 14H, 18z and 24A.

Henderson Field:
8 land based Wildcat factors, 5 land based Dauntless factors, 1 land based Avenger factor, 2 Airacobra factors, 1 Catalina factor.

Espiritu Santo Ready Boxes:
4 Fortress factors, 5 Catalina factors.

Port Moresby Ready Boxes:
4 Fortress Factors, 4 Mitchell factors, 4 Marauder factors, 4 Airacobra factors, 8 Warhawk factors.

Charters Towers:
(none released – release on a die roll of „**1-3**“)
5 Mitchell factors.

Townsville:
(none released – release on a die roll of „**1-3**“)
5 Marauder factors.

Noumea:
(none released – release on a die roll of „**1-4**“)
4 Catalina factors.

Scenario S2:

Same as *scenario S1*, but assuming that the Japanese CV *Hiyo* did not suffer any engine breakdown before the battle, thus being able to participate.

Hiyo (6F, 5D, 2ST).

Scenario S3:

Same as *scenario S1*, but assuming that the US CV *Saratoga* had been repaired just in time to participate in this battle. Set up **TF 64** within three hex distance around <u>any</u> of the Santa Cruz Islands with 5 fuel factors expended.

Saratoga (9F, 4SD, 5D, 4T).

Scenario S4:

Same as *scenario S1*, but with both, *Hiyo* and *Saratoga*, additionally participating in this battle. Set up **TF 64** within three hex distance around <u>any</u> of the Santa Cruz Islands with 5 fuel factors expended.

Hiyo (6F, 5D, 2ST),
Saratoga (9F, 4SD, 5D, 4T).

Scenarios S1(a) – S4(a):

Same as *scenarios S1 – S4*, but with full Japanese air complement for their carriers.

Shokaku, *Zuikaku* (7F, 7D, 2T, 2ST),
Junyo, Hiyo (6F, 5D, 2ST),
Zuiho (5F, 2ST),
Chikuma, *Tone* (1 Jake).

Scenarios S1(b) – S4(b):

Same as *scenarios S1 – S4*, but with full US air complement for their carriers.

Enterprise (9F, 4SD, 5D, 5T),
Hornet (9F, 4SD, 5D, 5T),
[*Saratoga* (9F, 4SD, 5D, 4T)].

Scenarios S1(c) – S4(c):

Same as *scenarios S1(a) – S4(a)*, but with full US air complement for their carriers.

Enterprise (9F, 4SD, 5D, 5T),
Hornet (9F, 4SD, 5D, 5T),
[*Saratoga* (9F, 4SD, 5D, 4T)].

4.3 Special Victory Conditions:

Each of Hiyo's air factors is worth 2 VP (due to lack of experienced carrier crews), as long as being used from land bases [scenarios S1, S3, S1(a), S3(a), S1(b), S3(b), S1(c) and S3(c)]

---

[1] only in scenarios without Hiyo! In scenarios with Hiyo apply these air factors to Hiyo instead.

[2] Originally there had been no US oilers in the battle area.