

fighter ace equalled Eddie Rickenbacker's WW I record. Joe Foss, from South Dakota, shot down 26 confirmed enemy airplanes. Later on, in *Life* magazine (6-7-43) he would be a celebrity of sorts, as the famous magazine did a thrilling combat story on him at the time. But it must be said, that no matter how unique one was, the team-effort was indeed stressed. Teamwork was an important theme in WW II, always.

Captain Joe Foss was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

By the 25th of October, there were about 25,000 Americans on Guadalcanal. In autumn, a series of naval engagements took place off the island, on and off for two months. The heaviest fighting occurred in November, right after the Battle of Santa Cruz.

Early autumn naval engagements were minor, and along a strategic value happened to end in deadlock for all sides.

Six days before Halloween, 1942, the sea battle of Santa Cruz added another demi-victory to the Japanese Navy, when a Japanese carrier force sent by Yamamoto was ordered to Guadalcanal to recapture and occupy the U.S. airfield.

Remember the aircraft carrier from which Doolittle lifted-off for Tokyo? Off Santa Cruz, the carrier *Hornet* was found by Yamamoto's searchplane, which radioed a report. Afterwards, enemy squadrons hit the *Hornet*, and down it went to the bottom of the sea. In less than seven months, the United States had lost four mighty aircraft carriers, and we were not truly on the offensive, yet.

Altogether, in the carrier battles of Santa Cruz, we had lost seventy-four *Dauntless*, *Wildcat*, and *Avenger* aircraft; lost the U.S. destroyer *Porter* with 15 men heard screaming in the boilerrooms. The *South Dakota*, the *San Juan*, the *Smith* were in flames. The carrier