An Unsinkable Carrier: The Midway-Based Forces and the Battle of Midway

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Abstract
The Battle of Midway is remembered as one of the greatest military victories in American history and marked as the turning point of the Second World War in the Pacific. The victory has long been celebrated as a great US Naval victory, brought about by the US Navy’s Carrier Task Forces. Remembering the battle solely as a carrier victory overlooks the contributions of the Midway-based forces. In truth, the Midway-based forces performed invaluable roles and contributed greatly to the overall victory, and historiography of the Battle of Midway is incomplete without their inclusion. This study documents the contributions of the Midway-based forces and seeks to rectify their omission in the history of the Battle of Midway.

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The Battle of Midway - in this aircraft carriers battle, Japan lost the initiative in the Pacific. In the battle of Midway, each side planned to attract the enemy’s key naval force, its aircraft carriers, into a decisive battle with its own key naval force, and sink them. Achieving that will dramatically reduce the potential and the threat of the enemy’s Navy, and the winner’s Navy will dominate the Pacific Ocean and will gain the initiative for future operations. Six months after the attack at Pearl Harbor, this was the Japanese Navy’s plan for the battle of Midway. This was also exactly what the American Navy planned. Midway Island - with 115 fighters and bombers based in it, it was like a stationary but unsinkable aircraft carrier. The Battle of Midway (June 4th, 1942). The Battle of Midway. By Andrew Lambert Last updated 2011-02-17. Outgunned and understrength, the US Navy nonetheless turned a deadly Japanese ambush into a crushing victory. Andrew Lambert examines the decisive battle of the Pacific war. On this page. Decisive battle. He secretly reinforced the air units on Midway, using the island as an unsinkable aircraft carrier. His sea-going carriers were positioned to the north-east of the island, waiting to ambush the Japanese carriers when they arrived for their assault. Nimitz could not hope to win a direct engagement. The American tactics relied on the peculiar characteristics of carrier warfare.