



*A Model 21 Zero on the deck of Junyo during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal in mid-November.*

by two Kates flying as guide planes. At 0700 these Zeros arrived over Savo Island and five minutes later dived on the four VMSB-131 TBFs making their attacking runs, as well as the three VMF-112 Wildcats.

Lieutenant Douglas Bangert's TBF was badly shot up, and he was unable to make his torpedo drop. The other three Avengers completed their attacks with two direct hits claimed, although none were in fact achieved. One gunner was slightly wounded during the Zero attack, before all four planes returned to Henderson Field where Bangert's damaged Avenger was written off.

The Zeros also targeted one of the VMF-112 F4Fs flown by Second Lieutenant Howard Bollman, which received hits in the engine. After losing oil pressure Bollman ditched off Savo Island. He swam ashore and was subsequently assisted by natives for five days, before a Higgins boat collected him on 18 November.

The seven F4Fs led by Major Campbell now joined the combat at low level, and the Americans quickly got the upper hand. Three Zeros were downed, with the loss of FPCO Mukai Tasuke, Warrant Officer Ono Zenji and FPO2c Hasegawa Tatsuzo. Shigematsu then led his surviving pilots back to the *Junyo* where they touched down at 1015.

As soon as the TBFs landed, four more were made ready to repeat the attack again led by Captain Dooley. Also taking off were eight SBDs from VMSB-132 and VMSB-141 armed with 1,000-pound bombs. Escort was provided by eight VMF-112 F4Fs.