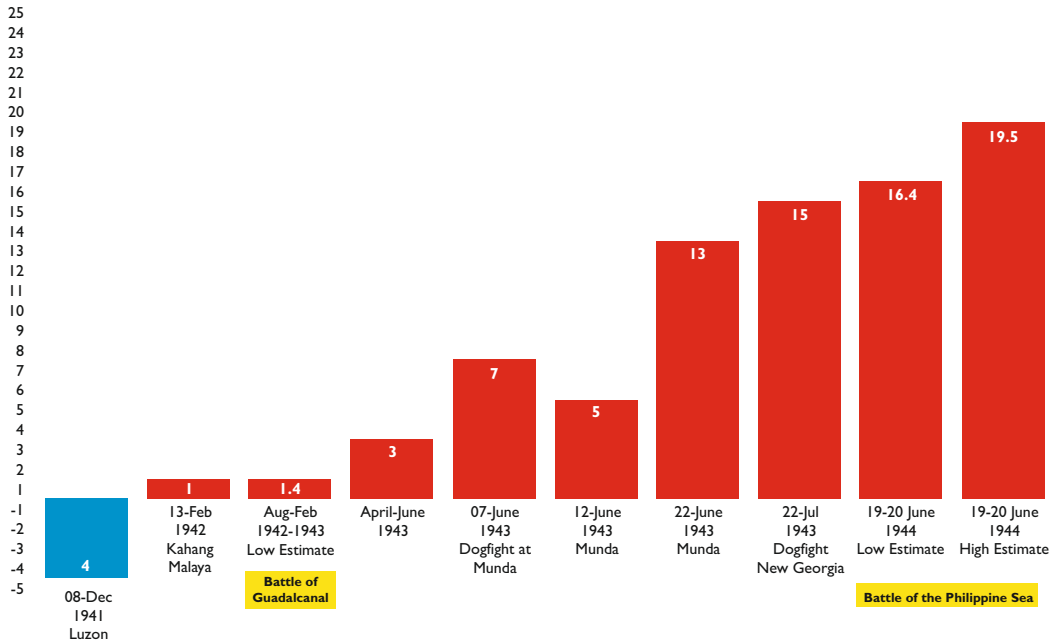


Ratio of Japanese Planes Shot Down Relative to US Planes

Chart: 31.4

Ratio to 1



- During the Battle of Guadalcanal, Japan lost as many as 880 aircraft compared to 615 US aircraft. Given that the round trip from Rabaul to Guadalcanal was 1,300 miles this was quite an impressive performance and even on the highest estimate of aircraft losses only amounted to a kill ratio of 1.4:1.
- The degradation of Japanese performance after April 1943 reflected the decline in quality of replacement Japanese pilots and the improvement in US pilot training and tactics as well as the arrival of new aircraft such as the Hellcat, the Corsair and the Lockheed Lightning.
- The air battles over Luzon in 1941 were as one sided in favour of the Japanese as later dogfights were in favour of the US. The P-40 Warhawk and the p-35 Seversky were no match for the Mitsubishi Zero but more importantly lack of warning meant that the US fighters could not climb to ceilings which could have made them competitive.