

COPY

8/A16-3/(10-11t)
rial 0157

26 JUN 1942

DECLASSIFIED - OPNAV INST 5500.30
BY *[Signature]* DATE *25 NOV 57*

om: Commanding Officer.
: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

a: Commander Task Force Sixteen.

BJECT: Air Battle of the Pacific, June 4-6, 1942,
Supplementary detailed reports by VB6 and VS6 -
forwarding of.

ference: (a) CO ENTERPRISE Conf. serial 0133 of June 8,
1942.
(b) CO ENTERPRISE Conf. serial 0137 of June 13,
1942.

losures: (A) Supplementary report by VB6.
(B) Supplementary report by VS6.

1. ENTERPRISE official reports of the Battle of Midway
contained in references (a) and (b).

2. As a supplement to these reports, enclosures (A)
(B) are forwarded as matter of historical interest. These
losures are the individual squadron reports of Bombing SIX
Scouting SIX. These squadrons bore the brunt of the air
acks launched from ENTERPRISE June 4, 5, and 6. It is be-
ved that, in addition to the record contained in references
and (b), the more detailed information contained in enclosures
and (B) may prove of interest.

3. No useful purpose would be served in submitting
ilar reports on Torpedo SIX and Fighting SIX, as it is felt
t their employment is fully covered in the original reports,
erences (a) and (b).

/s/ G. D. MURRAY

D. Saturday, afternoon.

1. On Saturday, June 6, 1942, the remaining five SBD planes of Bombing Squadron Six participated in an attack against a Japanese force consisting of 1 CA, 1 CL and 2 DD. The tactical organization consisted of:

6-B-1 Lt. L.A. Smith
6-B-16 Lt(jg) E.L. Anderson
6-B-2 Ensign D.L. Ely

CARUTHERS, W.H. AMM2c
CHOCHALOUSEK, W.G., ARM1c
ARNOLD, G.H., Sea2c

6-B-10 Lt. H.P. Lanham
6-B-17 Ensign H.W. Liffner

GARAUDY, E.J., ARM1c
KIMBERLIN, M.L., AMM3c

The attack group was lead by Lieut. Short; VS-5, and consisted of 31 SBD's from VB-3, VS-5, VB-6, VS-6; 3 TBD's from VT-6 and 12 f4f-4's from VF-6. All VB-6 planes carried 1,000 lb bombs as did most of the other SBD's.

2. The objective was given as 2 BB, 2 CA and several DD at Lat.29-33 N, Long.175-35 E, course 270° T., speed 15 K

3. The attack group departed at 1315 . The SBD's proceeded independently and climbed to about 19,000 ft. en-route to the objective. At 1400 1 CA, 1 CL and 2DD were sighted. The SBD's continued thirty miles beyond this force searching for BB's. No other ships were sighted and a highspeed run-in was made on the force sighted at 1400 and attack delivered on it at about 1415. Most of the SBD's attacked the CA which was completely wrecked. Some individual pilots dove on the CL and at least one hit was observed.

4. All Planes returned safely.

5. At 1750 a photographic flight was sent out to obtain pictures of damage to enemy ships in the above action. The flight was led by Lt(jg) E.J. Kroeger, A-VINQ, USNR, VB-6 and in consisted of 3-B-10 and one SBD from VS-6. The photo in 3-B-10 was Mr. A.D. Brick of Fox Movietone News.

6. At the conclusion of the three day-Battle the pilot and gunners remaining in Bombing Squadron Six are as indicated by enclosure (A).

om: Commander Bombing Squadron Six.
: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. ENTERPRISE.
at: Commander ENTERPRISE Air Group.

bject: Report of Action, June 4-6, 1942.

ference: (a) U.S. Navy Regulations, Art. 874, para. 6.

closure: (A) Bombing Squadron Six Tactical Organization
of June 1, 1942.

1. Bombing Squadron Six participated in four separate attacks against Japanese naval forces during the period June 4 to June 6, 1942, and in one photographic flight over Japanese naval forces on June 6, 1942. On June 4, 1942, the squadron consisted of twenty-one pilots, eleven of whom had been in the squadron for more than nine months, three others since December, 1941, and seven for about two months. There were eighteen SBD-2 and SBD-3 planes assigned and all were in commission. Action was expected. Following is a chronological account of the part Bombing Squadron Six played in the actions.

Thursday, forenoon and afternoon.

1. On Thursday, June 4, 1942, Bombing Squadron Six participated in an attack on a Japanese force consisting of four aircraft carriers, several battleships or heavy cruisers, and a number of destroyers, about 150 miles northwest of Midway Island. The attack group was led by the Enterprise Air Group Commander and consisted of thirty-two SBD's; fifteen from VB-6; loaded with one 1,000 lb bomb each, sixteen from VS-6, loaded with one 500 lb bomb and two 100 lb bombs each, and the EAGC plane loaded with one 500 lb bomb and two 100 lb bombs. The squadron tactical organization was as follows:

First Division

6-B-1	Lt. R.H. Best	MURRAY, J.F., ACM(PA)
6-B-2	Lt(jg) E.J. Kroeger	HALTERMAN, G.W., RM3c
6-B-3	Ensign F.T. Weber	HILBERT, E.L., AOM3c
6-B-5	Lt(jg) W.E. Roberts	STEINMAN, W.B., ARM1c
6-B-6	Ensign D.W. Halsey	JENKINS, J.W., RM3c

Second Division

6-B-7	Lt. J.R. Penland	HEARD, H.F., ARM2c
6-B-8	Ensign T.F. Schneider	HOLDEN, G.L., ARM2c
	Ensign T.A. Greene	MUNTEAN, S.A., RM3c

COPY

CV6/A16-3/(10-11t)
Serial 0157

26 JUN 1942

DECLASSIFIED - OPNAV INST 5500.30
BY FIX DATE 25 NOV 59

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Via: Commander Task Force Sixteen.

SUBJECT: Air Battle of the Pacific, June 4-6, 1942,
Supplementary detailed reports by VB6 and VS6 -
forwarding of.

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(b) CO ENTERPRISE Conf. serial 0137 of June 13,
1942.

Enclosures: (A) Supplementary report by VB6.
(B) Supplementary report by VS6.

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and Scouting SIX. These squadrons bore the brunt of the air
attacks launched from ENTERPRISE June 4, 5, and 6. It is be-
lieved that, in addition to the record contained in references
(a) and (b), the more detailed information contained in enclosures
(A) and (B) may prove of interest.

3. No useful purpose would be served in submitting
similar reports on Torpedo SIX and Fighting SIX, as it is felt
that their employment is fully covered in the original reports,
references (a) and (b).

/s/ G. D. MURRAY

6-B-11 Ensign L.A. Hopkins
6-B-12 Ensign L.A. Hopkins

DUNNAN, S.L., ARM2c
ANDERSON, E.R., RM3c

Third Division

6-B-13	Lt(jg) J.J. Van Buren	NELSON, H.W., JR., ARM1c
6-B-14	Ensign N.F. Vandivier	KEANEY, L.E.J., Seale
6-B-15	Ensign G.H. Goldsmith	PATTERSON, J.W., JR., ARM3c
6-B-16	Lt(jg) E.L. Anderson	MASON, S.J., JR., ARM2c
6-B-18	Ensign B.S. Varian, jr.	YOUNG C.R., ARM3c

2. The attack group departed at 0930 and climbed to 20,000 ft. enroute to the objective. Shortly before reaching the objective several VB-6 pilots encountered difficulties with oxygen supply. The Squadron Commander noted the oxygen difficulties of his wing man. He removed his oxygen mask so that he would have the same reaction as other pilots and led the squadron to a position directly below the remainder of the attack force at an altitude of 15,000 ft.

3.(a) At about 1205, the enemy fleet was sighted and was seen to consist of 4 CV, 4 BB or CA and 8 to 10 DD. The weather was clear and visibility excellent. There were scattered cumulus clouds from 15,00 ft. to 2,500 ft. and the ceiling was unlimited. The surface wind was 5 to 8 knots from the southeast. It was known that other attack groups including three squadrons of SBD's, three squadrons of TBD's and accompanying fighters were due to arrive at the same objective at about the same time as the group of which Bombing Squadron Six was a part. The Enterprise Air Group Commander designated by voice radio one CV target for himself and VS-6 and another CV target for VB-6. Commander Bombing Squadron Six understood his target to be the "left hand" CV. He gave the attack signal, releasing his other two division leaders for individual division maneuvering and led his (first) division towards the "left Hand" CV. Almost at once he saw that VS-6 was diving on the "left hand" CV and so led his division against the "right hand" CV which was of the "KAGA" type. It was launching planes as the attack was made. At least three 1,000 lb bomb hits were observed on that target and it became a mass of flame and smoke. The first section of the first division joined up immediately after pull-out from the dive. At that time they sighted own torpedo planes coming in under heavy attack from enemy fighters and AA fire. They also saw an attack by own dive bombers of a separate attack group on a third CV on which many hits were scored, the CV becoming enveloped in flames and smoke.

APPROXIMATE
DISPOSITION
OF JAPANESE CARRIERS
at 1020, 4 June 1942

Hiryu

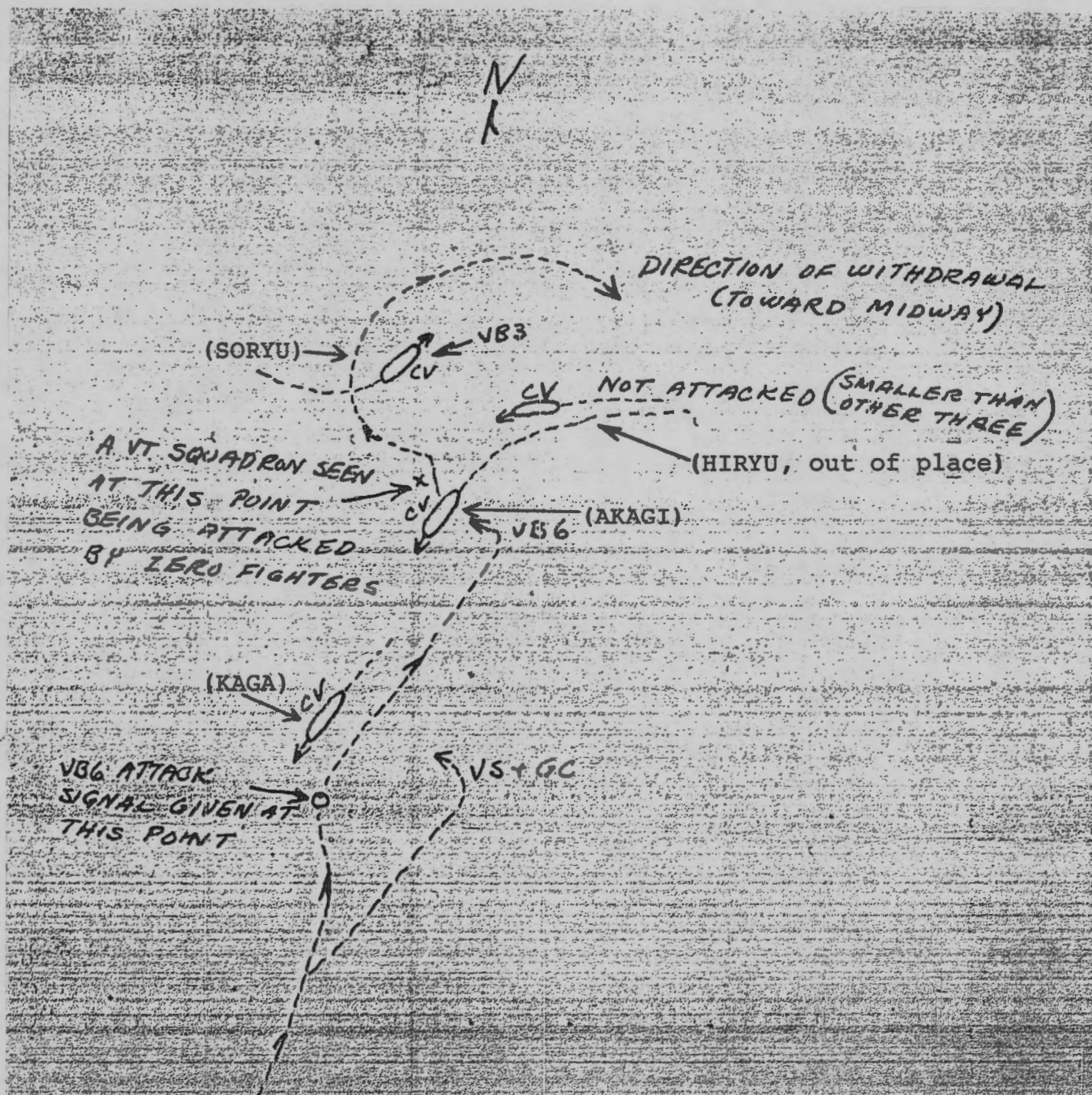
Akagi

Soryu

Kogo

Yorktown
SBDs

Enterprise
SBDs



FROM: VB-6 action report, 1230 4 June 1942. Note that HIRYU is out of place and SORYU is incorrectly described as a small carrier (she was the same size as HIRYU).

Enclosure (1)

N
1

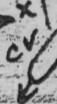
DIRECTION OF WITHDRAWAL
(TOWARD MIDWAY)

VB3



CV NOT ATTACKED (SMALLER THAN
OTHER THREE)

A VT SQUADRON SEEN
AT THIS POINT
BEING ATTACKED
BY ZERO FIGHTERS



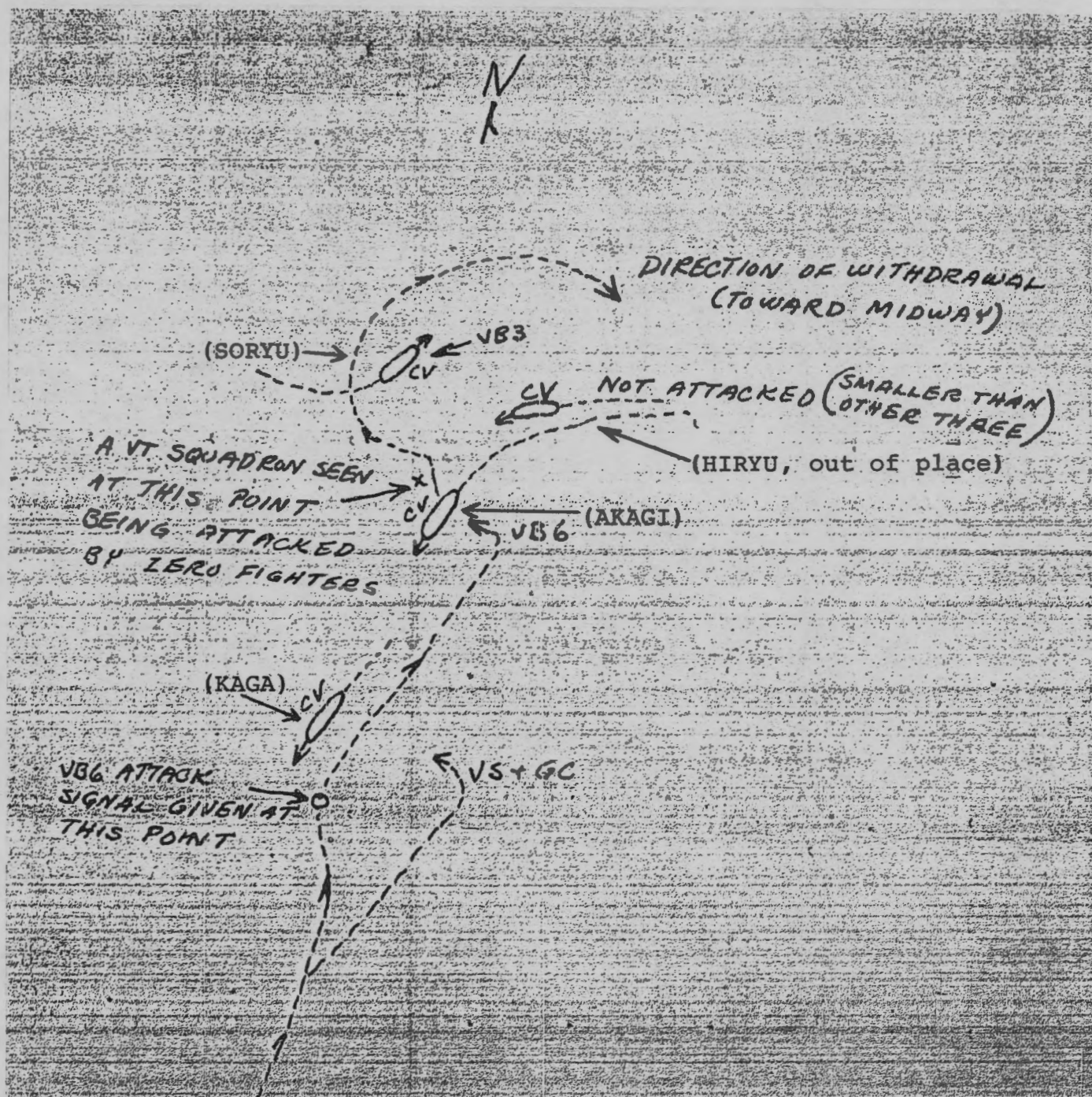
VB6

VB6 ATTACK
SIGNAL GIVEN AT
THIS POINT



VS+GC





FROM: VB-6 action report, 1230 4 June 1942. Note that HIRYU is out of place and SORYU is incorrectly described as a small carrier (she was the same size as HIRYU).

Enclosure (1)

BEST, Richard H.

Lt., USN.

Station: USS ENTERPRISE Action: Marshall Is.

Special Letter of Commendation by Sec. Navy.

March 11, 1942. (Cincpac File # P15 Serial 3)

Signed May 21 - 1942 - Rf 71601-40

*NDBA DFM
directed that
this stand
as recognition
of action on
TAROA
me.*

"For distinguished service in line of his profession during the operations of the U.S. forces against the Marshall Islands, ~~Feb 11, 1942~~. Despite enemy fighter opposition and anti-aircraft fire, Lt. Best displayed excellent leadership and judgement in conducting his group from the U.S.S. ENTERPRISE into position for the second bombing attack on the Island of TAROA, without loss of a plane. Furthermore, he lead the attack in a most skillful manner which resulted in (over)

great loss to the enemy, and, despite continued fighter opposition as a result of which his plane was riddled with bullets, he succeeded in escaping and returning to his ship."

7/10/43 DFC & Cit sent to OinC, Non Unit, Fitzimmons general Hospital, Denver, Colorado.

BEST, Richard H.

71601

Lt. ^{CDR} USN

USS ENTERPRISE

Marshall Is.

C
RW
See memo
9-50-44

Awarded: SPECIAL LETTER OF COMMENDATION by Sec. Navy
CinC Pac Serial 3.

Reconsideration of Award---Recommended for D.F.C.

Ltr. U.S. Pac. Flt---CinCpac File Pac-09-rew--P15

(1) Serial 3718 of Oct. 7, 1942--Signed W.F.

Hallsey--P15/FF12-5/Bo--Serial 3288

Awarded: DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS---Oct. 20, 1942.
Bd. Awd. Mtg.

For gallantry in action. As division leader in plane 6-B-10, Lt. Best executed several dive bombing attacks on enemy ships in Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Is, Feb. 1, 1942, which resulted in severe damage to a large enemy transport ^{OVER}

and another cargo ship. Later this same day, Lt. Best, after beating off several attacks by enemy fighters which left his plane riddled with bullets, obtained a direct hit on an enemy hangar and remained after the original attack to strafe and ensure its complete destruction. His courage and actions on these occasions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service.

Orig. Cit & DFC sent to
Lt. Cdr. Best 12-22-42

FVB-6/A16/Nu

U. S. S. ENTERPRISE (CV6)

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U. S. FLEET
RECEIVED

Serial 045

DECLASSIFIED BOMBING SQUADRON SIX, 02
1942 JUL 7 14
June 11, 1942.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

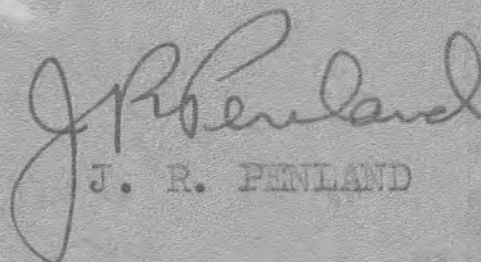
From: Commander, Bombing Squadron SIX.
To: Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.

Subject: U.S. Aircraft - Action with Enemy.

Reference: (a) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 13CL-42 of March 19, 1942.

Enclosures: (A) Report of VB-6, June 4, 1942, at 1230.
(B) Report of VB-6, June 4, 1942, at 1240.
(C) Report of VB-6, June 4, 1942, at 1750.
(D) Report of VB-6, June 5, 1942, at 2030.
(E) Report of VB-6, June 6, 1942, at 1340.
(F) Report of VB-6, June 6, 1942, at 1915.

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (A) to (F) are forwarded herewith.


J. R. PENLAND

Copy to: Cincpac.

CONFIDENTIAL

U. S. AIRCRAFT—ACTION WITH ENEMY

INSTRUCTIONS

To be filled out by unit commander immediately upon landing after each action or operation in contact with the enemy.

Do not "gun deck" this report—if data can not be estimated with reasonable accuracy enter a dash in space for which no data is available.

Date 4 June 194 2 Lat. 30-00N Long. 179-00W Time 1230 Zn. plu

Weather Clear - Visibility, good - Ceiling, unlimited.

Unit Reporting BOMBING SQUADRON SIX(ENT) Type Planes SBD-2 and -3

Nature of Operation: Air Group attack against Japanese force of four carriers and supporting ships.

Specific Objective: Japanese carriers.

Forces Engaged (include models and markings):

Own	Enemy
7 SBD-2	4 CVs, 2 BBs, 3 CA, many DDs
8 SBD-3	Type Zero Fighters
	Type Kawanishi 95 single float
	seaplane (VSF)

Type of Attack (Own/~~Enemy~~) (scratch one):

Dive bombing with 1000# bombs.

Enemy Tactics: Enemy ships scattered and circled at high speed during attack. General course southerly. Enemy fighters concentrated on VT, made no attacks on VB at altitude, engaged our planes on pu

Brief Description of Action (include altitudes and range of contact. Altitudes and direction of release and withdrawal). Enemy disposition sighted to northward, distance 21,000 ft. Reduced altitude to 15,000 during approach. Att

Weather Clear - Visibility, good - Ceiling, unlimited.

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Nature of Operation: Air Group attack against Japanese force of four carriers and supporting ships.

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Dive bombing with 1000# bombs.

Enemy Tactics: Enemy ships scattered and circled at high speed during attack. General course southerly. Enemy fighters concentrated on VT, made no attacks on VB at altitude, engaged our planes on approach.

Brief Description of Action (include altitudes and range of contact. Altitudes and direction of release and withdrawal). Enemy disposition sighted to northward, distance 21,000 ft. Reduced altitude to 15,000 during approach. Attacker's direction, enemy course southerly. Retired to NW swinging enemy disposition through N to course for Midway (120°) thence to

Weapons Employed:

Own	Enemy	Fighters used
1000# bombs, twin mount .30 cal. flex. guns	.50 cal. and	of about 20 mm.

Evasive Action Employed:

High speed.
~~Low altitude retirement.~~

Ammunition Expended (include types and fuse settings. Indicate number of duds.)

15 - 1000# bombs with 1/100 sec. fuses - No duds.

Results (certain): 2 CVs hit; each by several bombs; huge fires on both; one of these first hit by VS-6; a third CV hit by VB-3.

(Estimated):

Enclosure "A"

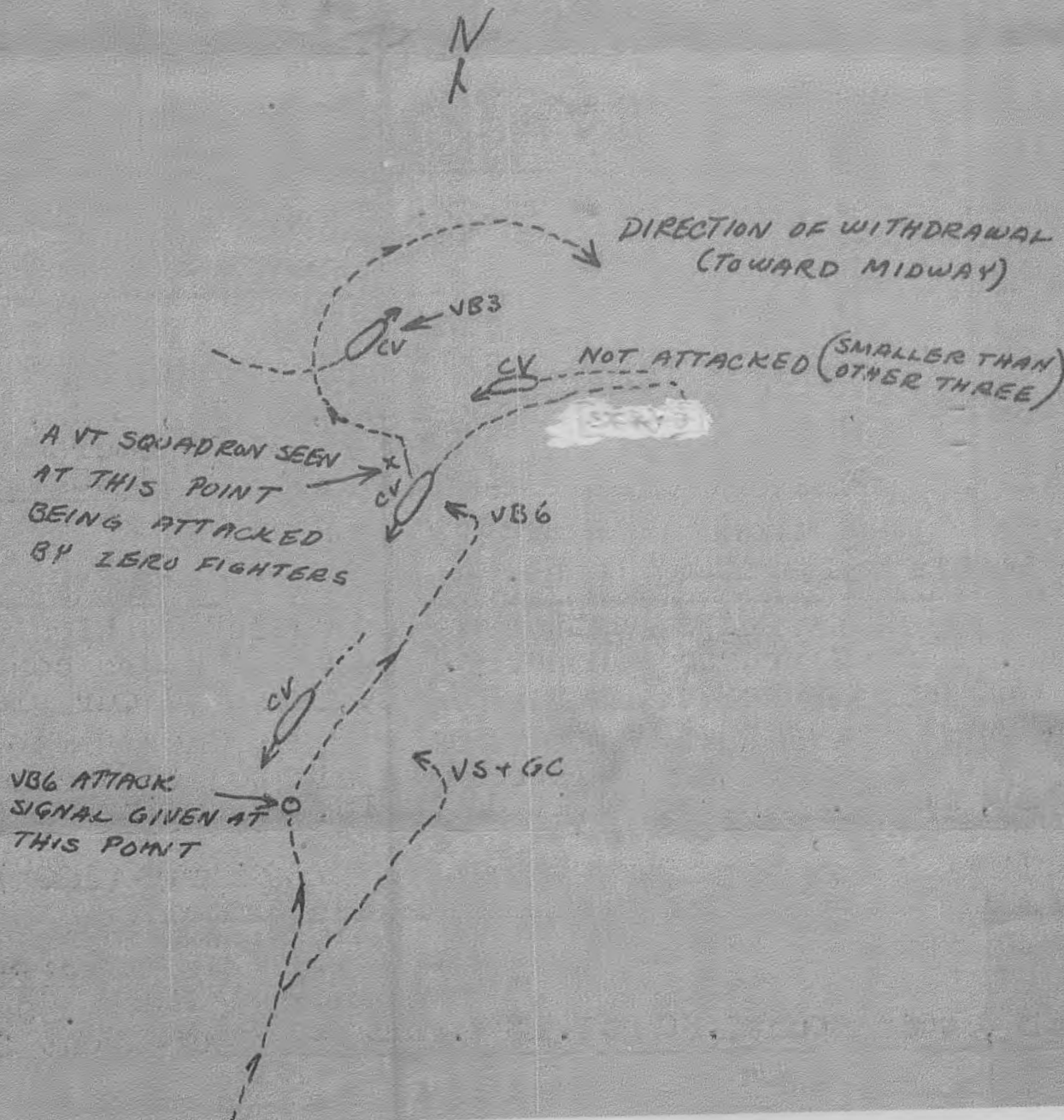
Damage to own aircraft.

Effectiveness of leak-proofing and

Ten SBDs lost after pull-out from dives; several because gasoline tanks badly shot up, others for same reason or because of fuel exhaustion. Leak-proof tanks not proof against heavy small caliber AA and fighter 20 mm fire. Armor effective. One SBD-3 badly shot up - elevators, elevator torque tube, fuselage, and wings.

For attack on submarine. ----

Remarks: Additional information in sketch.



Date 4 June 1942 Lat 30-00 Long 179-00 WTime 1240 Zn. P

Weather Clear, visibility good, ceiling unlimited

Unit Reporting BOMBING SQUADRON SIX (ENT) Type Planes SBD-3

Nature of Operation:

Retirement from dive bombing attack on enemy CV.

Specific Objective:

To return to parent carrier.

Forces Engaged (include models and markings):

Own

Five SBD-2 and -3

Enemy

Four Zero VF

Type of Attack (~~OWN~~/Enemy) (scratch one):

Astern runs initiated with altitude advantage.

Enemy Tactics: Variable tactics. Some VF would not press home attack while others were very aggressive.

Brief Description of Action (include altitudes and range of contact. Altitudes and direction of release and withdrawal). Our planes retired at 500-100 ft. altitude 160 knots.

Weapons Employed:

Own

Twin 30 cal free MG

Enemy

Fixed cannon

Twin 50 cal fixed MG

Fixed MG

Evasive Action Employed:

Weaving turns, concentration of forces.

Ammunition Expended (include types and fuse settings. Indicate number of duds.)

Unknown since only one plane reached carrier.

(Remaining planes forced down because of lack of gas)

Results (certain):

None

(Estimated):

Zero VF damaged

Damage to own aircraft

Effectiveness of leak-proofing

Several SBD's damaged by enemy VF fire. 6-B-16 received hits in elevators, elevator torque tube, fuselage frame #17, wings, and mast, MG bullets damaged rubber boat, rear seat parachute and equipment. Left main gas tank penetrated at after side by MG. Tank sealed itself effectively.

For attack on submarine. ---

Remarks

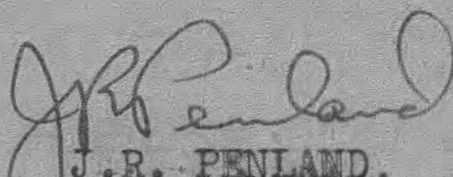
Enemy zero fighters were khaki colored, marked with three red balls in line on fuselage besides wing markings.

Our planes were attacked individually after pull-out and further attacked after effecting join up.

Enemy tactics were to gain altitude several thousand feet above and slightly to rear of formation and then to make a dive run astern (or nearly so) either slightly above or on our own level. Many enemy VF pulled out early when encountering free gun fire. One VF made one run from astern, fired and continued past our formation just below us. He was fired on by our fixed guns and no further attacks of this nature were observed.

Attacks continued until about 20 miles from enemy surface force.

Fire power of Zero VF not impressive considering the number of attacks made.


J.R. PENLAND,
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy,
Commander Bombing Squadron Six

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Date 4 June 1942 Lat. 30-52N Long. 176-28W Time 1750 Zn. pl.

Weather CUVU Scattered clouds 2,000 ft. to 5,000 feet.

Unit Reporting BOMBING SQUADRON SIX(ENT) Type Planes SBD-2 and -3.

Nature of Operation:

Attack enemy disposition in Lat. 31-40 N, Long. 179-10 W.

Specific Objective:

CV

Forces Engaged (include models and markings):

Own

4 SBD-2, -3

Enemy

4 Zero type fighters.
CV, CL, Twin float low wing
monoplane, seaplane. Kawan
95 type single float seaplane

Type of Attack (Own/Enemy) (scratch one):

Dive bombing.

Enemy Tactics:

High speed, continuous turning.

Brief Description of Action (include altitudes and range of contact. Altitudes and direction of release and withdrawal). Attack begun from 18,000 feet up-sun. With at low altitude with high speed.

Weapons Employed:

Own

500# bombs with 1/100 sec. fuze.
.30 cal. MG .50 cal. MG

Enemy

AA all caliber
Aircraft MG
cannon.

Evasive Action Employed:

High speed, low altitude, zig-zag combined with cloud flying.

Ammunition Expended (include types and fuse settings. Indicate number of duds.)

250 rounds .30 cal. 100 rounds .50 cal.

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Aircraft MG
cannon.

Evasive Action Employed:

High speed, low altitude, zig-zag combined with cloud flying.

Ammunition Expended (include types and fuse settings. Indicate number of duds.)

250 rounds .30 cal. 100 rounds .50 cal.

3 500# 1/100 sec. bombs.

No duds.

Results (certain): 1 hit midships, port side. At 1940 CV was burning
heavily but in formation with fleet.

(Estimated): 1 near miss. On retirement 95 seaplane engaged
forced to jettison bombs and probably damaged but not shot down. Enclosure 9