

DECLASSIFIED

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

USS ENTERPRISE (CV6)

CONFIDENTIAL

26 June 1942

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.
Reference: (a) CO ENTERPRISE Conf. Serial 0133 of June 8,
1942.
(b) CO ENTERPRISE Conf. Serial 0137 of June 13, 1942.
Enclosures: (A) Supplementary report by VB6.
(B) supplementary report by VS6.

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

2. As a supplement to these reports, enclosures (A)
and (B) are forwarded as matter of historical interest. These
enclosures are the individual squadron reports of Bombing SIX
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

Enc "C"

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commander Bombing Squadron Six.
To: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. ENTERPRISE.
Via: Commander ENTERPRISE Air Group.

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

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

Enclosure: (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.

A. 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., ACRM(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
6-B-9	Ensign E.A. Greene	MUNTEAN, S.A., RM3c

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BOMBING SQUADRON SIX,
June 10, 1942.

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

6-B-11 Ensign T.W. Ramsay
6-B-12 Ensign L.A. Hopkins

DUNCAN, S.I., ARM2c
ANDERSON, E.R., RM3c

Third Division

6-B-13 Lt(jg) J.J. Van Buren
6-B-14 Ensign N.F. Vandivier
6-B-15 Ensign G.H. Goldsmith

NELSON, H.W., JR., ARM1c
KEANEY, L.E.J., Sealc
PATTERSON, J.W., JR., ARM3c

6-B-16 Lt(jg) E.L. Anderson
6-B-18 Ensign B.S. Varian, jr.

MASON, S.J., jr., ARM2c
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 men. 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 1,500 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.

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(d) Summarizing, five planes out of fifteen returned; the personnel of four other planes were rescued; the personnel of six planes are unaccounted for. One of the five planes which returned, 6-B-16, was so badly damaged by shrapnel and machine gun fire that it could not be flown on subsequent attacks.

6. The gunner of 6-B-16, MASON, Stuart James, jr., 393 28 71, ARM2c, USN, was wounded in the face and in the legs by shrapnel, bullets, and plane fragments during pull-out from the dive and retirement from the enemy fleet. He continually manned his twin mount guns against enemy fighters until clear of them and later repaired the plane's damaged radio enabling the use of ZB in locating parent ship.

7. No fighter opposition was encountered prior to pull-outs from the dives. Apparently most of the AA fire was concentrated on the torpedo planes which were attacking at the same time. Most planes were attacked by fighters after pull-out from dives.

8. The conduct of all pilots and gunners left nothing to be desired. All pilots remained in formation despite the obvious fact that carrying a 1,000 lb bomb for as long as they were carried entailed gasoline consumption that rendered possible return to own ships unlikely and despite oxygen supply difficulties which at least four pilots encountered. Dives were continued to a very low altitude in spite of danger from explosions of bombs dropped ahead of each plane. Hits resulted.

B. Thursday, afternoon and evening.

1. On Thursday afternoon and evening, June 4, 1942, Bombing Squadron Six participated in a second attack against Japanese surface ships. Only four of the seven VB-6 planes which remained after the first attack could be launched. Three of the four formed a section led by Commander Bombing Squadron Six; the fourth was assigned to a section of VB-3. The attack group was led by Commander Scouting Squadron Six, and consisted of planes of VS-6, four planes of VB-6, each loaded with one 1,000 lb bomb, and fourteen planes of VB-3. VB-6 personnel on this flight consisted of:

6-B-1	Lt. R.H. Best	MURRAY, J.F., ACRM(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-12	Ensign S.C. Hogan, jr.	BRAUN, E.K., Sealc

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2. The objective was given as 1 CV, 2 BB, 3 CA, and 4 DD at Lat. 31-40 N, Long. 172-10 W.

3. The attack group departed at 1745 and climbed to 13,000 ft. while enroute to the objective. The objective was sighted at about 1845 to the northwest. It was seen to consist of 1 CV, 1 BB, 1 CA or CL and 3 to 4 DD, the heavy ships separated by several miles and each accompanied by a destroyer. Three additional destroyers were sighted about thirty miles to the southeast, headed for the main enemy formation. Beyond these three destroyers to the south could be seen three large columns of smoke near the scene of the first engagement. The weather was the same as described for the first attack. The attack group climbed to 19,000 ft. and circled to a position up-sun from the enemy. The attack was started at about 1905 with a high-speed run-in. At least four "zero" fighters attacked before the push-over point was reached, and 6-B-3 was shot down. VS-6 dove first with the CV as a target. Misses were observed and Commander Bombing Squadron Six decided to dive on the CV also. The first section of VB-3 dove ahead of VB-6, also on the CV as a target. Two direct hits were observed. Then VB-6 dove scoring one direct hit. The CV was seen to be burning for two-thirds of its length from the stern forward. A direct hit was observed on a BB. Retirement was made at high speed and at low altitude. Advantage was also taken of broken cloud cover at 2,000 to 3,000 ft.

4. Fairly heavy AA fire was encountered during the dive and after pull-out. "Zero" fighters also attacked after pull-out.

5. At about 1920, 6-B-2 and 3-B-7, which were in company, sighted and attacked a "Kawanishi 95" seaplane and probably damaged it with fixed gun fire. It jettisoned its bombs and escaped.

6. At about 1940, Commander Bombing Squadron Six, who had retired initially to the westward, observed the enemy CV still burning, but moving with the fleet. Shortly thereafter he sighted an enemy low wing monoplane seaplane heading for the enemy fleet.

7. All VB-6 planes except 6-B-3 returned safely.

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8. The pilots and gunners exhibited the same exemplary conduct as shown during the first attack of the day. All of the crews except that of 6-B-12 had flown on the first attack.

C. Friday, evening.

1. On Friday, June 5, 1942, the remaining six SBD planes of Bombing Squadron Six participated in an attack against a Japanese CL. The tactical organization consisted of:

6-B-4 Lt. L.A. Smith	CARUTTERS, H.H., A2M2c
6-B-2 Lt(jg) E.J. Troeger	WALTERMAN, G.W., RM3c
6-B-12 Ensign L.A. Hopkins	ANDERSON, E.R., RM3c
6-B-10 Lt. H.P. Lanham	GARAUDY, E.J., ARM1c
6-B-1 Lt(jg) E.L. Anderson	CHOCALOUSEK, W.G., ARM1c
6-B-17 Ensign A.L. Rausch	JONES, H.L., AOM3c

The attack group was led by Lieutenant D.W. Shumway, VB-3, and consisted of a total of 32 SBD's from VB-3, VB-5, VB-6, and VS-6. All planes were armed with one 500 lb bomb.

2. The objective was given as 1 CV (damaged), 2 BB, 3 CA and 4 DD which had been last reported at 1000 at Lat.30-00 N, Long.179-32 W, course 310° T., speed 12 knots.

3. The attack group departed at 1730. Half of the group formed a scouting line at low altitude. The remainder of the group of which VB-3 was a part climbed to about 18,000 ft. enroute to the objective. The only contact made was with a CL at about 2030 at Lat.33-00 N, Long.177-00 E. It was then dusk. The enemy CL maneuvered at high speed. It was attacked and many near misses, but no direct hits, were observed.

4. Unusually heavy small calibre AA fire was encountered. Apparently large calibre guns were employed for AA also, using unfused projectiles, because many splashes but no shell bursts were seen.

5. All VB-6 planes returned safely.

6. Landing aboard was accomplished after dark. The pilots of 6-B-12 and 6-B-17 made their first night carrier landings. These pilots had had no night field carrier landing instruction. Each had made more than twenty or more day carrier landings.

**BOMBING SQUADRON SIX,
June 1, 1942**

TACTICAL ORGANIZATION - VB-6.

1. Effective this date the tactical organization of Bombing Squadron SIX will be as follows:

FIRST DIVISION

<i>Seriously ill</i>	6-B-1	Lt. R.H. Best	MURRAY, J.F., ACRM(PA)
	2	Lt(jg) E.J. Kroeger	HALTERMAN, G.W., RM3c
	3	Ens. F.T. Weber	HILBERT, E.L., AOM3c
<i>Recovered by PB4?</i>	6-B-4	Lt. L.A. Smith	CARUTHERS, H.H., ARM2c
	5	Lt(jg) W.E. Roberts	STEINMAN, W.B., ARM3c
	6	Ens. D.W. Halsey	JENKINS, J.W., RM3c

SECOND DIVISION

<i>Recovered by PB4?</i>	6-B-7	Lt. J.R. Penland	HEARD, H.F., ARM2c
	8	Ens. T.F. Schneider	HOLDEN, G.L., ARM2c
	9	Ens. E.A. Greene	MUNTEAN, S.A., RM3c
	6-B-10	Lt. H.P. Lanham	GARAUDY, E.J., ARM1c
	11	Ens. T.W. Ramsay	DUNCAN, S.L., ARM2c
	12	Ens. L.A. Hopkins	ANDERSON, E.R., RM3c

THIRD DIVISION

<i>Recovered by PB4?</i>	6-B-13	Lt(jg) J.J. Van Buren	NELSON, H.W., jr., ARM1c
	14	Ens. F.F. Vandivier	KEANEY, L.E.J., Sealc
	15	Ens. G.H. Goldsmith	PATTERSON, J.W., jr., ARM3c
	6-B-16	Lt(jg) E.L. Anderson	MASON, S.J., jr., ARM2c
	17	Ens. A.L. Rausch	JONES, H.L., AOM3c
	18	Ens. B.B. Varian, jr.	YOUNG, C.R., ARM3c
	*	Ens. S.C. Hogan, jr.	BRAUN, E.K., Sealc
	*	Ens. D.L. Ely	ARNOLD, G.H., Sea2c
	*	Ens. H.W. Liffner	KIMBERLIN, L.L., ARM3a

** TWO MONTHS EXPERIENCE IN SQUADRON.*

R.H. Best
R.H. BEST,
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy,
Commander Bombing Squadron SIX.

FVB-6/A16/nhn

BOMBING SQUADRON SIX,
June 10, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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	CARUTHERS, E.H., All2c
6-B-16	Lt(jg) E.L. Anderson	CHOCALOUSEK, W.G., AR11c
6-B-2	Ensign D.L. Ely	ARNOLD, G.H., Sea2c
6-B-10	Lt. H.F. Lanham	GARAUDY, E.J., AR11c
6-B-17	Ensign H.W. Liffner	KIMBERLIN, M.L., All3c

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 knots.

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 2 DD were sighted. The SBD's continued thirty miles beyond this force searching for BB's. No other ships were sighted and a high speed 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. The VF were seen to strafe the 2 DD.

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-V(H), USNR, VB-6, and consisted of 3-B-10 and one SBD from VS-6. The photographer in 3-B-10 was Mr. A.D. Brick of Fox Movietone News.

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

J.R. Pelland
J.R. PELLAND.

SCOUTING SQUADRON SIX

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

June 20, 1942.

From: Commander, Scouting Squadron SIX.
To: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. ENTERPRISE.
Via: Commander, ENTERPRISE Air Group.
Subject: Report of Action, June 4-6, 1942.
Reference: (a) U.S. Navy Regulations, Art 874, par. 6.
Enclosure: (A) Scouting Squadron SIX Tactical Organization of June 2, 1942.

1. Scouting Squadron Six participated in four separate attacks against Japanese naval forces during the period June 4 through June 6, 1942, and in one photographic flight over Japanese naval forces on June 6, 1942. On June 4, 1942 there were nineteen pilots attached to the squadron, seven of whom had been in the squadron for more than seven months, two for more than three months, seven for two months and three for one month. There were eighteen SBD-3 airplanes assigned and all were in commission. Action was expected. The following is a chronological account of the part Scouting Squadron Six played in the action:

A. Thursday June 4, 1942, forenoon and afternoon.

1. On Thursday, June 4, 1942, Scouting Squadron Six participated in an attack on a Japanese force consisting of four aircraft carriers, several battleships or heavy cruisers, and many 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-S-1 Lt. W.E. GALLAHER
6-S-2 Ens. R.W. STONE
6-S-3 Ens. J.Q. ROBERTS

MERRITT, T.E. ACRM(AA)
BERGIN, W.H., RM1c
SWINDELL, T.R., AOM1c

6-S-7 Lt.(jg) N.J. KLEISS
6-S-18 Ens. C.E. DEXTER

SNOWDEN, J.W., RM3c
HOFF, D.L., RM3c

Second Division

6-S-10 Lt. C.E. DICKINSON Jr.
6-S-15 Ens. J.R. MCCARTHY
6-S-12 Ens. C.D. PEIFFER

DE LUCA, J.F., ARM1c
HOWELL, E.E., RM2c
JECK, F.C., RM3c

SCOUTING SQUADRON SIX

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

June 20, 1942.

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

6-S-16 Lt(jg) J.N. WEST
6-S-17 Ens. V.L. MICHAEL
6-S-14 Ens. J.C. LOUGH

STITZELBERGER, A.R., RM2c
DANCE, J.D., RM3c
HANSEN, L.D., RM2c

Third Division

6-S-4 Lt. C.R. WARE
6-S-5 Ens. F.W. O'FLAHERTY
6-S-6 Ens. J.A. SHELTON

STAMBAUGH, W.H., ARM1c
CAIDO, B.F., AM11c
CRAIG, D.W., RM3c

Photographic Planes Accompanying EAGC

6-S-8 Ens. W.R. PITTMAN
6-S-11 Ens. R.A. JACCARD

ADKINS, F.D., AMM2c
PIXLEY, P.W., RM3c

2. The attack group departed at 0930 and climbed to 20,000 ft. enroute to the objective. Before reaching the objective, 6-S-9 was forced to return to the ship when the pilot was unable to shift to high blower. This airplane is not shown on the above tactical organization.

3.(a) At about 1205, the Japanese 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 1,500 ft. to 2,500 ft. and the ceiling was unlimited. The surface wind was 5 to 8 knots from the southeast. The Enterprise Air Group Commander designated by voice radio one CV target for himself and VS-6 and another CV target for VR-6. Commander Scouting Six followed the three plane section led by CLAG on a CV of the Kaga or Akagi class and observed two of this sections bombs to be near misses - the impact of the third bomb was not observed. The CV at this time was undamaged. A clear view of the entire flight deck was obtained during the dive and any damage by previous bomb hits would have been noted. The bomb dropped by the Commanding Officer of Scouting Six was a direct hit in the center of the flight deck about 200 ft. from the stern. At least two more direct hits were scored by the first division and the CV was afire and smoking heavily. 6-S-2 joined up with 6-S-1 almost immediately after pull-out from the dive and a high speed low altitude retirement was made through an opening in the screening vessels. During retirement several more hits were observed on the CV attacked by Scouting Squadron Six and about five minutes after completion of the attack a terrific explosion was observed which completely enveloped the CV in flames. Although several Japanese fighters were observed overhead in position to attack, no attacks were pressed home against 6-S-1 and 6-S-2. A Messerschmitt type fighter was seen to attack 6-S-8 and the fighter was seen to crash into the water in flames. Retirement was continued in the direction of Midway for a short time and then an interception course was set for our own task force. During retirement it was observed that three CV were on fire and smoking heavily.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L SCOUTING SQUADRON SIX

June 20, 1942.

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

(b) The second division leader followed immediately after the last plane of the first division on the designated target scoring a direct hit with his 500 lb. bomb. At least two other hits were scored by this division. The third division was seen to follow the second division on the designated target. None of the pilots of this division returned but the second division leader stated that the third division made at least one direct hit.

4.(a) Four of the five planes of the first division returned. 6-S-3 was seen to enter his dive but has not been heard from since.

(b) Two planes of the second division returned. 6-S-10 was forced to land in the water just as he reached our task force. The personnel were picked up by the U.S.S. Phelps and were later transferred to the U.S.S. Enterprise. The personnel of 6-S-15 were rescued but are not available for compilation of this report.

(c) None of the three planes of the third division returned and no information is available as to whether they were shot down or whether they had forced landings due to shortage of fuel.

(d) The two planes which accompanied CEAG returned.

(e) Summarizing, eight planes out of sixteen returned; the personnel of two other planes were rescued; the personnel of six planes are unaccounted for. One of the eight planes which returned, 6-S-8, was damaged by machine gun fire and could not be flown on subsequent attacks.

5. The twin mount free-gun in 6-S-8 came out of its mount in the dive. ADKINS, Floyd Delbert, 382-13-76, A.M.M.2c, U.S.N., held the gun in his lap during the dive and so effectively manhandled it after the dive that he shot down a Messerschmitt type fighter which attacked his plane almost immediately after the pull-out.

6. No fighter opposition was encountered prior to pull-outs from dives and very little A-A fire was encountered as it seemed to be concentrated on the torpedo planes which were attacking at the same time. Some planes encountered both A-A fire and attacks by fighters on retirement.

7. The conduct of all pilots and gunners was magnificent. Although only seven of the sixteen pilots had previously dropped live bombs, all pilots pressed home their attacks and released at a low altitude. A high percentage of hits was the result.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

SCOUTING SQUADRON SIX

June 20, 1942.

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

B. Thursday, afternoon and evening.

1. On Thursday afternoon and evening, June 4, 1942, Scouting Squadron Six participated in a second attack against Japanese surface ships. Only seven of the nine planes remaining after the first attack could be launched. One of these, 6-S-16, returned almost immediately due to engine trouble. The attack group was led by Commander Scouting Squadron Six, and consisted of six planes of VS-6, four planes of VB-6, and fourteen planes of VB-3. The VS-6 tactical organization for this flight was as follows:

6-S-1 Lt. W.E. GALLAFER
6-S-2 Ens. R.W. STONE
6-S-11 Ens. R.A. JACCARD

MERRITT, T.E., ACRM(AA)
BERGIN, W.H., RM1c
PIXLEY, P.W., RM3c

6-S-7 Lt(jg) N.J. KLEISS
6-S-17 Ens. V.L. MICHEEL
6-S-18 Ens. C.E. DEXTER

SNOWDEN, J.W., RM3c
DANCE, J.D., RM3c
HOFF, D.L., RM3c

2. The objective was given as 1 CV, 2 BB, 3 CA, and 4 DD at Lat. 31-40N, Long. 172-10W.

3. The attack group departed at 1745 and climbed to 13,000 ft. while enroute to the objective. The objective was sighted at about 1845 to the Northwest and was seen to consist of 1 CV, 1 BB, 1 CA or CL and 3 to 4 DD. The heavy ships were widely separated and each was accompanied by a destroyer. The weather was the same as described for the morning attack. The attack group climbed to 19,000 ft. while circling to a position up-sun from the enemy. The attack was started at about 1905 with a high-speed run-in. Four or five "Zero" fighters attacked before the push-over point was reached but no VS-6 planes were shot down. VS-6 dove first and the first two planes missed astern when the CV made a sharp 180° turn away from the direction of the dive. The third plane to dive scored a direct hit and at least one hit was scored by the second section. Three planes of VB-6 and most of the VB-3 planes attacked the CV and several more hits were made and the CV was afire from stem to stern. Some VB-3 planes attacked a BB and at least one direct hit was made. Retirement was made at high speed and at a low altitude.

4. Fairly heavy A-A fire was encountered during the dive and after pull-out. "Zero" fighters also attacked after pull-out.

5. All VS-6 planes returned safely from this attack.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L SCOUTING SQUADRON SIX

June 20, 1942.

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

6. All pilots and gunners conducted themselves in the same exemplary manner as was done in the first attack. All the crews had flown on the first attack.

C. Friday evening.

1. On Friday, June 5, 1942, nine SBD planes of Scouting Squadron Six participated in an attack against a Japanese CL. The tactical organization was as follows:

6-S-13 Lt. PATRIARCA
6-S-16 Ens. PITTIAN
6-S-11 Ens. JACCARD

BADGLEY, J.R., ACRM(AA)
ADKINS, F.D., AM2c
FIXLEY, P.W., RM3c

6-S-7 Lt(jg) KLEISS
6-S-9 Ens. RODENBURG
6-S-18 Ens. DEXTER

SNOWDEN, J.W., RM3c
BRUCE, T.J., Sea2c
HOFF, D.L., RM3c

6-S-2 Ens. STONE
6-S-17 Ens. MICHEEL
6-S-1 Ens. VANTEN

BERGIN, W.H., RM1c
DANCE, J.D., RM3c
CLARK, M.W., AM2c

The attack group was led by Lieutenant D.W. SHUMWAY, VB-3, and consisted of a total of 32 SBD's from VB-3, VB-5, VB-6, and VS-6. All planes were armed with one 500 lb. bomb.

2. The objective was given as 1 CV (damaged), 2 BB, 3 CA, and 4 DD which had been last reported at 1000 at Lat. 30-00N, Long. 179-32W, course 310° T, speed 12 knots.

3. The attack group departed at 1730. Half of the group formed a scouting line at low altitude while the remainder of the group climbed to 18,000 ft. enroute to the objectives. At about 2030 contact was made with a Japanese CL at Lat. 33-00N, Long. 177-00E. It was then dusk. The CL was attacked and many near misses, but no direct hits were observed. During the attack, the CL maneuvered at high speed.

4. Heavy small calibre A-A fire was encountered.

5. All VS-6 planes returned safely but 6-S-1 piloted by Ensign C.E. VANTEN, Jr., landed aboard the HORNET.

6. Landing aboard was accomplished after dark. The pilots of 6-S-16, 6-S-11, 6-S-9, 6-S-18, 6-S-17, and 6-S-1, made their first night carrier landings. These pilots had had no

SCOUTING SQUADRON SIX
C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

June 20, 1942.

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

previous night flying in SED planes and had had no night field carrier landing instruction.

D. Saturday, forenoon.

1. Eighteen VSB planes, of which six were Scouting Six planes, were launched at about 0710 to search a relative sector 180°-360° (T) to a distance of 200 miles. All Scouting Six planes completed their search without making any contacts.

2. 6-S-1, piloted by Ensign C.L. VAHLEN, Jr., accompanied the Hornet group on an attack mission and failed to return.

E. Saturday, afternoon.

1. On Saturday, June 6, 1942, six SED planes of Scouting Squadron Six participated in an attack against a Japanese force consisting of 1 CA, 1 CL, and 2 DD. The tactical organization was as follows:

6-S-16 Lt. F.A. IATRIARCA
6-S-2 Ens. R.W. STONE
6-S-11 Ens. R.A. JACCARD

BADGLEY, J.R., ACR1(AA)
BERGIN, W.H., RM1c
PITLEY, P.W., RM3c

6-S-7 Lt(jg) N.J. KLEISS
6-S-17 Ens. V.L. MICHEEL
6-S-18 Ens. C.E. DEKTER

SNOWDEN, J.W., RM3c
DANCE, J.D., RM3c
HOFF, D.L., RM3c

The attack group was led by Lieutenant SHORT, VS-5, and consisted of 31 SED's from VB-3, VB-5, VB-6, VS-6; 3 TBD's from VT-6 and 12 F4F-4's from VF-5.

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 knots.

3. The attack group departed at 1315. The SED's proceeded independently, climbing to about 19,000 ft. enroute to the objective. At 1400 1 CA, 1 CL and 2 DD were sighted. The SBD's continued thirty miles ahead of this force searching for the BB's, but no other ships were sighted. A high speed run-in was then made on the force contacted at 1400 and an attack was delivered at about 1415. Most of the SED's attacked the CA, which was very heavily damaged. Some pilots attacked the CL and at least one hit was observed. The VF planes strafed the 2 DD.

4. All planes returned safely.

SCOUTING SQUADRON SIX

June 2, 1942.

TACTICAL ORGANIZATION FOR ATTACK. (By Divisions)

Sect. Lights	Sqd. No.	Bu.No.	Pilot	Gunner
<u>FIRST DIVISION</u>				
Red	S-1	03207	Lt. W.E. Callaher	Merritt, T.E., ACRM
"	2	4681	Ens. R.W. Stone	Bergin, W.H., RM1c
"	3 #	4526	Ens. J.Q. Roberts	# Swindell, T.R., AOM1c
Yellow	S-7	03232	Lt(jg) N.J. Kleiss	Snowden, J.W., RM3c
"	-18	03240	Ens. C.E. Dexter	Hoff, D.L., RM3c
"	9	4616	Ens. E.E. Rodenburg	Bruce, T.J., Sea2c
<u>SECOND DIVISION</u>				
Green	S-10	03208	Lt. C.E. Dickinson	# DeLuca, J.F., ARM1c
"	15	4615	Ens. J.R. McCarthy	# Howell, E.E., RM2c
"	12 #	4600	Ens. C.D. Peiffer	# Jeck, F.C., RM3c
White	S-16	03236	Lt(jg) J.N. West	Stitzelberger, A.R., RM2c
"	17	03239	Ens. V.L. Micheel	Dance, J.D., RM3c
<u>THIRD DIVISION</u>				
Amber	S-4	# 03206	Lt. C.R. Ware	# Stambaugh, W.H., ARM1c
"	5	# 03224	Ens. F.W. O'Flaherty	# Gaido, B.F., ARM1c
"	6	# 03225	Ens. J.A. Shelton	# Craig, D.W., RM3c
White	S-13	03234	Lt. F.A. Patriarca	Badgley, J.R., ACRM
"	14 #	4612	Ens. J.C. Lough	# Hansen, L.D., RM2c
<u>PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION</u>				
White	CC	4618	Lt.Cdr. McCluskey	O'Brien, J.M., ACRM
"	S-8	4589-F	Ens. W.R. Pittman	Adkins, F.D., ARM2c
"	S-11	4563-F	Ens. R.A. Jaccard	Fixley, F.W., RM3c
<u>UNASSIGNED</u>				
			Ø Ens. C.E. Vammen	Ø Clark, M.W., ARM2c

APPROVED:

W.E. GALLAHER
Lieutenant, U.S.N.
Commanding

SUBMITTED:

C.R. WARE
Lieutenant, U.S.N.
Flight Officer, VS6

- # "Missing in Action" since June 4, 1942.
 # Landed in water on June 4, 1942; plane lost, personnel safely recovered.
 Ø "Missing in Action" since June 6, 1942.

ENCLOSURE (A)

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