

COPY

June 8, 1942

From Commander, Fighting Squadron, SIX
To Commander, ENTERPRISE Air Group
Subject Narrative of Events 4 - 6 June 1942
Reference (a) CEAG memo. of April 19, 1942.

1. At 0905 on 4 June launched first combat air patrol consisting of :

Lieutenant	R. W. Mehle. USN
Lieutenant (jg)	F. B. Quady. USN
Ensign	T. C. Provost, AV(N). USNP
Ensign	H. L. Grimmell, Jr., AV(N). USNR
Ensign	W. W. Wileman, AV(N). USNR
Rdo. Elect.	T. W. Rhodes. USN
Machinist	H. M. Sumrall. USN
Machinist	W. H. Warden. USN

This patrol was recovered at 1150.

2. At 1000 escort group was launched consisting of:

Lieutenant	J. S. Gray, Jr., USN
Lieutenant (jg)	J. C. Kelley. USN
Lieutenant (jg)	H. N. Heisel, Jr. USN
Ensign	R. M. Rich, AV(N). USNR
Ensign	W. J. Hiebert, AV(N). USNP
Ensign	N. D. Hodson, AV(N). USNP
Ensign	W. C. Presley, AV(N). USNR
Ensign	J. H. Daly, AV(N). USNP
Machinist	J. A. Achten. USN
Machinist	C. Allard. USN

This group took station above torpedo planes climbing and saw them enter overcast approaching Japanese fleet 10 miles distant at 1110. Squadron commander expected torpedo planes to make cloud covering attack used successfully in Coral Sea, however they proceeded at 100 feet overcast and were ambushed. Prearranged distress signal from torpedo planes was not given. Escort group patrolled over Japanese fleet until 1210 in order to cover the approach of the dive bombers. As fuel was low the approach was announced free of enemy opposition and the group landed at 1250.

3. At 1130 launched second combat patrol consisting of:

Lieutenant (jg)	R. J. Hoyle, USN
Lieutenant (jg)	W. E. Rawie, USN
Ensign	W. M. Holt, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	M. C. Roach, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	M. V. Kleinmann, Jr., AV(N), USNR
Rdo.Elect.	E. H. Bayers, USN
Machinist	B. W. Reid, USN
AP1c	H. S. Packard, USN

This group recovered at 1330.

4. At 1245 launched third combat air patrol consisting of:

Lieutenant	R. W. Mehle, USN
Lieutenant (jg)	F. B. Quady, USN
Ensign	T. C. Provost, III, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	H. L. Grimmell, Jr., AV(N), USNR
Ensign	R. M. Gunsolus, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	W. W. Wileman, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	J. A. Halford, AV(N), USNR
Machinist	H. M. Sumrall, USN

At 1400 Ensign Provost and Ensign Halford were vectored to a Japanese Nakajima 97 dive bomber acting as a snooper. They jointly shot this plane down. This patrol was recovered at 1550.

5. At 1435 launched fourth combat patrol consisting of:

Lieutenant(jg)	R. J. Hoyle, USN
Lieutenant (jg)	W. E. Rawie, USN
Ensign	R. M. Rich, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	W. M. Holt, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	W. C. Presley, AV(N), USNR
Rdo.Elect.	E. H. Bayers, USN
Machinist	W. H. Warden, USN
Machinist	B. W. Reid, USN

At 1540 a mixed patrol of Fighting Squadron Three pilots and Packard, H. S., AP1c, U.S. Navy, Ensign M. V. Kleinmann, Jr., AV(N), U.S. Naval Reserve, and Ensign M. C. Roach, AV(N), U.S. Naval Reserve were launched as a fifth combat patrol. These patrols took part in the following engagements:

Lieutenant(jg) Rawie, Ensign Rich, and Ensign Presley sighted a torpedo plane approaching the YORKTOWN at 300 feet. They dived on it from 6,000 feet, each plane making a firing run. On his second attack, Ensign Rich killed the rear gunner and closed to point blank range where he shot the plane down in flames.

Lieutenant (ig) Hoyle, and Machinist Warden sighted a twin float Nakajima 97 seaplane fighter headed for them at about one mile distant 300 feet below them. Lieutenant (ig) Hoyle made an opposite above run on this plane firing from 300 to 100 yards. As he approached the plane for a second run the gunner bailed out and the plane exploded from damage caused on his first attack. Lieutenant (ig) Hoyle reports that the parachute used by the Japanese had a large "bundle" extending from the harness to a point five feet up the shrouds.

Radio Electrician Bayers, and Machinist Reid, sighted two zero fighters about 7,000 feet below them. The Japanese section leader was circling and the wing man weaving. Radio Electrician Bayers attacked, and as his tracers were seen by the wing man he went into a vertical climb leaving his section leader a sitting shot. After a short burst the section leader crashed in flames into the sea. Radio Electrician Bayers dived for the water to escape the remaining fighter which apparently was shot down by some other plane before it could attack him. Upon reaching 300 feet Radio Electrician Bayers sighted an enemy torpedo plane and shot it down in one short burst.

Machinist Reid, sighted two planes as his section leader dived on the enemy fighters. Machinist Reid proceeded at once to attack those two torpedo planes and shot them both down.

Ensign M. C. Roach, Ensign M. V. Kleinmann, Packard, H. S. AP1c, became engaged in a dog fight with several zero fighters but as their initial attacks failed to account for the Japanese they could not match the performance of the zero fighters to get in further effective shots. They were saved from embarrassment by help from friendly planes with an altitude advantage who shot all of them down on their first run.

The fourth and fifth patrols were recovered at 1745.

6. The sixth combat air patrol was launched at 1650. This patrol was made up of:

Lieutenant	J. S. Gray, Jr. USN
Lieutenant	R. W. Mehle, USN
Lieutenant (ig)	H. N. Heisel, USN
Ensign	W. J. Hiebert, AV(N), USNP
Ensign	H. L. Grimmell, AV(N), USNP
Ensign	N. D. Hodson, AV(N), USNP
Ensign	J. R. Daly, AV(N), USNR
Machinist	J. A. Achten, USN

This patrol saw action as follows:

At about 1800 two sections of the combat patrol were sent after bogies in the vicinity of the YORKTOWN. These sections were composed of:

Lieutenant	J. S. Gray, Jr., USN
Lieutenant (jg)	F. E. Quady, USN
Machinist	H. M. Sumrall, USN
Machinist	J. A. Achten, USN

A single float seaplane reconnaissance plane was sighted and an attack immediately commenced. After two runs on this plane which was being attacked by about six fighters, Lieutenant Gray gave chase to another single float plane which was seeking to escape by cloud flying. The first plane was destroyed by Machinist Sumrall and Machinist Achten after repeated runs. Lieutenant Gray destroyed the second plane after an extended chase which used up nearly all fuel and ammunition on board. The extreme maneuverability of this type of plane is the main reason for the large expenditure of ammunition in destroying them.

This patrol was recovered at 1855.

7. At 1725 the seventh patrol consisting of the below pilots was launched. They were recovered at 1905.

Lieutenant (jg)	F. E. Quady, USN
Ensign	T. C. Provost, III, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	W. M. Holt, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	W. W. Wileman, AV(N), USNR
Machinist	H. M. Sumrall, USN
Machinist	C. Allard

8. The eighth patrol was launched at 1840 and recovered at 2020. It consisted of:

Lieutenant (jg)	J. C. Kelley, USN
Lieutenant (jg)	W. E. Rawie, USN
Ensign	R. M. Rich, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	M. C. Roach, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	J. A. Halford, AV(N), USNR
Rdo. Elect.	E. H. Bayers, USN
Rdo. Elect.	T. W. Rhodes, USN
AP1c	H. S. Packard, USN

9. The ninth patrol launched at 2000 and recovered at 2055 consisted of:

Lieutenant	J. S. Gray, Jr., USN
Lieutenant	R. W. Mehle, USN
Lieutenant (jg)	R. J. Hoyle, USN
Lieutenant (jg)	F. B. Quady, USN
Lieutenant (jg)	H. N. Heisel, USN
Ensign	T. C. Provost, III, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	W. J. Hiebert, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	W. M. Holt, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	H. L. Grimmell, Jr., AV(N), USNR
Ensign	N. D. Hodson, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	W. C. Presley, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	J. H. Daly, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	R. M. Gunsolus, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	W. W. Wileman, AV(N), USNR
Rdo.Elect.	T. W. Rhodes, USN
Machinist	H. M. Sumrall, USN
Machinist	J. S. Achten, USN
Machinist	C. Allard, USN
Machinist	B. W. Reid, USN

10. Fighting Squadron Six did not see action on 5 June 1942, but maintained a combat patrol throughout the day.

11. On 6 June 1942 the below named pilots in addition to flying regular combat patrol, proceeded as part of an attack group to strafe any enemy light forces encountered:

Lieutenant	J. S. Gray, Jr., USN
Lieutenant (jg)	R. J. Hoyle, USN
Lieutenant (jg)	F. E. Quady, USN
Ensign	T. C. Prevost, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	W. J. Hiebert, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	W. M. Holt, AV(N), USNR
Ensign	J. A. Halford, AAV(N), USNR
Rdo.Elect.	E. H. Bayers, USN
Rdo.Elect.	T. W. Rhodes, USN
Machinist	H. M. Sumrall, USN
Machinist	B. W. Reid, USN
APic	H. S. Packard, USN

A force of two heavy cruisers and two large destroyers was attacked at 1445. Six planes strafed each destroyer to point blank range knocking off large chunks of metal, causing a small explosion and a fire on each ship. About 4,000 rounds were expended at each ship of which about 75% were hits.

1000
1000
1000

12. In all of these actions Fighting Squadron Six sustained no casualties to personnel and only occasional bullet holes in the planes. Machinist Warden landed in the water out of fuel after the first combat patrol on 4 June because the ship was unable to take him aboard. He was picked up by a destroyer.