

## SUMMARY OF ACTION

Battle of Midway, June 4, 5, 1942.

Between 0400 and 0430, 12 VMF planes were in the air to cover the takeoff of 11 PB5A's and 14 B-17's. All but 2 of VMF then landed, the remaining two continued to patrol.

One VF and two VSB sorties were then carried out against the enemy on June 4 and one VSB sortie on June 5. All squadrons were given orders to take the air, including the Navy TBF's and Army B-26's. At 0600, Major Parks, with approximately 14 fighters, took off and at 0616 intercepted about 20 Jap bombers with fighter escort at 12,000 feet, 30 miles from Midway. Captain Armistead, with some 10 fighters, intercepted an estimated 40 Jap bombers at 14,000 feet shortly thereafter. During these engagements, various VMF claims made by surviving pilots indicate 8 Jap bombers shot down, 4 possibles, 4 Jap fighters down with 1 possible. The small number of bombers that reached Midway compared to the forces seen, indicate heavier Japanese casualties than were definitely claimed, also, our non-returning pilots undoubtedly accounted for additional Japanese planes. 14 Pilots killed, 15 planes lost and at least 3 more badly damaged.

Meanwhile, VMSB, most of which had taken off about 0605, received orders at their rendezvous at 0710 to attack Jap carriers 180 miles away. Major Henderson, with 16 SED-2, made a glide bombing attack at 0755 from 9000 feet, breaking through a protecting cloud cover at 2000 feet. Heavy AA fire

12 planes

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