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Q. Did you hear any discussion about the turrets of the TBF's?

A. No. The one TBF that got back had the hydraulic system knocked out, came in with one wheel down and one wheel up. His retracting tail wheel assembly dropped down, and that completely blanked off the .30 cal tail gun. That might have been a blessing in disguise, he might not have been able to do much damage and it probably saved him from getting killed because they rattled a few off the tail skag, right in front of his face. As far as I know the turret was satisfactory.

Q. Had the gunners fired the turret once or twice or not at all before they went into battle?

A. I'm sorry, I can't answer that question for you. I didn't ask the officer in charge of the TBF's.

Q. Did the boys in the B-26's say they could run away from the Zeros after they got rid of their torpedoes?

A. They said they couldn't. They claim they had 72 inches on, the needle had gone around once and started around again, everything pushed to the dash board. One of them swears he was indicating 300 and the Zero fighter came right in on him, made pass after pass at him, and stayed right with him. They not only couldn't pull away from them, but the Zeros had enough excess soup to make passes, too.

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TBF-1
VT-8, DET.