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Some SED's from the HORNET were picked up, heading into Midway for gas. We fired a few rounds at them before we were sure they weren't from Japan. Universal recognition signals would have prevented that.

Finally, the tension died and a sigh of relief went up but, of course, we still didn't know but the Japs might try it again at dusk or the next morning at dawn.

Along in the evening, after dark, we began to get information which led us to believe the Jap planes would not return. Lots of them had found their carriers weren't easy to land aboard, or couldn't be landed on at all. Our task forces had made contact and they were seriously punished.

That evening we sent out six SED's and five SB2U's to bomb what was reported as a burning CV. The fire must not have been very hot, or the location was wrong, as they failed to find her.

Early the morning of the fifth a submarine came up off the reef and fired about three shots at the island. The beach defense guns handed them right back to him, and he submerged and hauled away.

About three hours later we received word that the Japanese transports with troops and equipment were about 75 miles west of us, still headed towards Midway. That caused the boys to pause and think a bit. We didn't hear any more of them, and I think the only reason they came in that close was due to a breakdown in the communications of the Japanese task force. I don't believe they would have come that close if they had realized they were without air support.

In addition to the Marine aviation planes on the island, which I have been talking about until now, we had Army B-17's, Navy PBV-5's, six Navy TBF's and four Army B-26's. The B-26's and the TBF's were employed in a torpedo attack early on the 4th against the enemy force our dive bombers tackled. They took off after our dive bombers, but had so much more speed they arrived there ahead of them. It would have been better if they had arrived simultaneously. It would have lessened the air resistance to both the dive bombers and the torpedo planes had they made a simultaneous attack. As it was, the Japs took them on one at a time.

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DOD DIR 5200.9

✓ TBF-1'S
VT-8 DET.