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Serial 0018

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Subject: Report of Action - 4-6 June 1942.  
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of VSBs was, for a short while, thought to be enemy VTB. One YORKTOWN fighter plane, whose pilot was wounded in the foot, crash-landed aboard. He had not cut his gun switch. Upon crashing, all six of his machine guns commenced firing in the direction of the island and continued firing for about 2 seconds. .50 caliber bullets sprayed the after end of the island, killing the after 5-inch gun control officer, Lieutenant R. R. Ingersoll, U.S.N., (son of Vice Admiral Ingersoll), and 4 enlisted men, and wounding 20 others, the majority of whom were in Battle II behind one-inch, especially hardened armor plate. The bullets penetrated not only this armor plate but also penetrated a 4" steel I-beam.

9. Aircraft operations on easterly courses shortly caused this ship to lose sight of the YORKTOWN. The VSBs were being re-armed. When the 11 planes of VB8 returned from Midway they had only to be gassed. Had they located the enemy and made their attack prior to their return, they probably would not have been ready to send on the next flight.

10. At 1644 the ENTERPRISE was apparently attacked by enemy aircraft, no damage being done. At this time the ENTERPRISE was about 12 miles to westward. This ship was not attacked.

11. At 1803 commenced launching the second attack group, consisting of 16 VSBs. The target was then assumed to bear 275° T., distant 162 miles and was supposed to consist of two or three burning CVs, 1 or 2 BBs, CAs and DDs. At 1930 the attack was commenced; three hits were made on one BB (2 1000-lb. bombs and 1 500-lb. bomb); 2 500-lb. bomb hits were made on a heavy cruiser. All planes returned from this attack, the last plane landing aboard at 2059. The one enemy CV sighted was not attacked, as it was burning throughout its entire length and was assumed to be of no further value as a target.

12. During the night of 4-5 June the task force retired to the eastward until 0200, 5 June, when course was changed to 000° T., and at 0348 to 270° T. At 0110, 5 June the casualties, resulting from the accidental firing of the VF machine guns, were buried at sea. During the night, information received indicated that an enemy force was bearing 320° - 340° T., 170 - 200 miles from Midway, on course West to Northwest, and that there was a probability that a carrier was still able to operate planes.

13. At 0930, speed was changed to 25 knots and the force maintained generally westerly courses throughout the day. At 1712, commenced launching the attack group, consisting of 26 VSBs. The