

SECRET

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Serial 0018

OF10/Ld

June 13, 1942.

Subject: Report of Action - 4-6 June 1942.

16. At 1239 ENTERPRISE launched her only attack of this day, 31 VSB believed launched. Interceptions on the voice attack frequency indicated a large measure of success, after a long delay while waiting for 3 VTB to reach the target.

17. The wind was light but favorable throughout the day, blowing straight from the enemy; launching was conducted occasionally without deviation from Fleet course or speed.

18. Upon the return of the ENTERPRISE Group, 24 VSB were launched at 1530 for what proved to be the final attack of the three-day action. One deferred forced landing returned at 1602. At 1645, the attack was begun on the enemy force consisting of 1 CA (probably KINUGASA class), 1 CA or CL, and 2 DDs. The enemy force was at this time about 110 miles 264° T. from HORNET position. Results of this attack are as follows: One 1000-lb. bomb hit on CA, six 1000-lb. bomb hits on CA or CL, 1 1000-lb. bomb hit on DD. Very heavy explosions were seen in the CA, and it was left completely gutted by fire, personnel abandoning ship. At 1728 the attack group returned, without losses, and was recovered. Retirement was commenced on a northeasterly course. Cruiser seaplanes assumed the inner air patrol.

19. At 1544, the following TBS message was received from OTC: "Have you painted white cross on topside as previously directed?" This was answered in the affirmative. At about 1700 one pilot saw a white cross on the forecastle of the CA which he attacked. It is considered highly probable that the foregoing TBS transmissions were intercepted, for although this equipment is known to be reliable for only short distances, it is also known that super-frequency transmissions have been heard for at least 300 miles.

20. The Commanding Officer desires to commend the entire crew of the HORNET to the Commander-in-Chief as deserving of high praise for their performance of duty during the subject action. All hands conducted themselves in a manner fitting the Navy's best traditions. There were no outstanding individuals, as the action was purely an air action, and there is no cause for censure. Recommendations for awards to the Air Group are contained in Enclosure (C).

21. Recapitulation of own and enemy losses follows (personnel casualties by name are included in Enclosure (B)):