

SECRET

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

23. (a) As a result of remarkable intelligence work, the tactical situation was in our favor; it is not believed that the enemy knew the whereabouts of our carriers until after radio silence was broken, which was on the fighter director circuit. It is felt that this violation of radio silence could have been avoided had all friendly aircraft, both shore based and ship based, been equipped with standard I.F.F. equipment.

(b) Two hours and nineteen minutes elapsed between the time that many planes were sighted approaching Midway and the receipt of identical information on the Fox schedule. This points to a definite need for direct communication between patrol craft and the attacking carriers.

(c) It is believed that these errors and delays are responsible for the fact that a more complete victory was not gained, and are submitted in the hope that their correction will enable us to gain victories in the future when the strong tactical advantages which we held this time may not always be ours.

24. Attention is particularly invited to Enclosure (C). Inasmuch as the action covered by this report was an action involving actual combat by aircraft only, as far as this vessel was concerned, and considering the strategic importance of the battle, it is urged that the awards recommended in Enclosure (C) be granted. In particular, the Commanding Officer feels that the conduct of Torpedo Squadron Eight, led by an indomitable Squadron Commander, is one of the most outstanding exhibitions of personal bravery and gallantry that has ever come to his attention in the records of the past or present.

M. A. MITCHELL.