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Succinctly, the circumstances supporting the recommended award are:

Task Force 16, having received definite information of the presence of several enemy carriers, ordered a group attack on those ships as primary objectives. Accordingly, all planes capable of being airborne were launched at 0900 LCT on the morning of June 4th, 1942. Included in this group was Torpedo Squadron Eight, ably Commanded by Lt-Comdr. John C. Waldron, USN. Just prior to launching, he has reported to the Commanding Officer for final instructions and has stressed the point that his squadron was well trained and ready and that he would strike his blow at the enemy regardless of consequences. His grim determination to press home an attack against all obstacles, his foreknowledge that there was the possibility that his squadron was doomed to destruction with no chance whatever of returning safely to the carrier, impressed all present with the remarkable devotion to duty and the personal integrity of an officer whose pilots asked only that they be allowed to share in the dangers and disastrous fate sure to follow such an attack.

Torpedo Squadron Eight, flying low, beneath the broken clouds, became separated from the remainder of the group, which flew at higher levels. They found the enemy carriers, those at high altitude did not. Beset on all sides by the deadly Zero fighters, which were doggedly attacking them in force, and faced with an seemingly impenetrable screen of cruisers and destroyers, the squadron valiantly drove in to short range. Plane after plane was shot down in flames by fighters, anti-aircraft bursts were searing faces and tearing chunks of fuselage, and still the squadron bore in. Those who were left dropped their torpedoes at point blank range, saw them run true and explode with blinding flashes against the sides of the enemy carriers. They had made certain for Task Force, and for the Navy, that Japanese air power was crippled at the start.

Only one survivor, from the fifteen planes and thirty men who manned the torpedo planes, is left to tell the story. The suggested citation speaks for itself. No higher praise nor traditions of the service could possibly be cited that gallant band.

This flight is of historical importance, as it is believed that a Japanese battleship was sunk by dive bombing. The attack groups were launched on the morning of June 6th, 1942, to attack an enemy force consisting of a BB, 1 or 2 CA's and several destroyers. Arriving over this force, the air group was immediately made the focus of all anti-aircraft batteries. One plane, Ensign Ellis, pilot, was shot down, and several other aircraft were also destroyed.