

Summary of action - Battle of Midway, June 4, 5, 1942.

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and fighter opposition was encountered during this attack.

The carrier was last seen smoking badly. Major Norris, with 11 SB2U-3, was unable to search for the carrier because of heavy fighter opposition, so made a glide bombing attack against a battleship at 0820 from 13,000 feet. The battleship was left smoking and listing heavily. 4 SB2U-3 and 8 SBD-2's failed to return from this attack, though 4 of the 12 pilots were later picked up. 6 Jap zero fighters and possibly 4 more were claimed by this squadron.

While the squadrons were on their sorties, Midway was bombed and strafed. A total of 14 bombs, mostly of 500 lb. type, between 0635 and 0705. The power supply was cut off, gasoline tanks hit and miscellaneous minor damage was done. 6 enlisted men were killed. Several Jap fighters were claimed by the ground units.

Major Norris lead VMSB with eleven planes on a second sortie at 1900 to attack a burning carrier 180 miles away, but was unable to find the carrier. All aircraft returned with the exception of Major Norris.

At 0700 on 5 June, VMSB set out with 12 planes to attack two battleships, one already damaged, 140 miles from Midway. Sight contact was made at 0805 and 2 direct hits, plus numerous near misses, were claimed. This attack was made partially by dive bombing and partially by glide bombing. Only one plane was lost.

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