

Summary of Action, Battle of Midway June 4, 5, June, 1942.

TOTAL CASUALTIES

Personnel

Killed	6	(6 enlisted)
Missing	36	(24 officers-12 enlisted)
Wounded	21	(11 officers-10 enlisted)

Aircraft

	SBD-2	SB2U-3	F4F-3	F2A-3	Total
Estimated on hand June 4	18	16	7	20	61
In commission 4 June	16	11	6	19	52
Shot down or loss unknown	6	2	3	12	23
Crashed returning to base	2	4			6
Total complete loss	8	6	3	12	29
Crashed on field or badly damaged	2	1	2	1	6
Total loss and unserviceable	10	7	5	13	35
In commission 8 June	3	5	1	3	12

Items of Interest Noted

(a) Time and again, VMF pilots stated they were not aware of Japs on their tails until bullets were heard or seen coming from the rear. European experience indicates pilots must keep an eye on their tails even during an attack. Decoys have been used just to catch the inexperienced pilot in this manner. Search to the rear must be doctrine.

(b) VMF pilots all state that the zero fighter is far superior in all respects to either the F4F or F2A-3.

(c) Several VMSB pilots stated that Jap fighters of the fixed wheel type were far superior to our scout bomber types.

(d) In spite of determined bombing attacks with releases being made at very low altitude, few hits were made upon targets. Bombers were being harrassed by AA fire and hostile fighters during their dives, but the low released altitude should have been productive of a larger number of hits.

(e) One pilot stated his rear gunner had never fired a gunnery practice before he was called upon to defend himself against a Japanese fighter.

(f) Nearly all of VMF and VMSB broke up into single plane units after the initial attack, thereby losing all effect of mutual protection and becoming relatively easy targets.

(g) Nearly all pilots finally sought cloud cover as