

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

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their only means of self defense. It is believed that without this cloud cover, there would have been much heavier casualties among the scattered, single plane units.

(h) Six VMSB planes landed in the water on the return flight, several being out of gasoline. This squadron took off about 0605 and did not start out to intercept the enemy until around 0710.

(i) VMSB appears to have used "glide bombing" tactics on all but one attack by one division, thereby reducing their accuracy. Also, preliminary maneuvers consisted of considerable circling and weaving around over the target area, thereby exposing themselves for an unnecessary length of time.

(j) The Jap fighters usually broke off their attack as soon as our free gunners commenced firing at them.

(k) The Japanese fighters usually concentrated on the leader of our formations. Our sub-leaders must be indoctrinated to take over the lead quickly.

(l) Japanese AA batteries appear to obtain accurate heights very rapidly.

(m) Four VMF ordnance men were killed when a Jap bomb hit their bomb dump. These men were presumably at the dump. It would appear that these men did not take proper cover during the bombing attack.

F. H. Schwable

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