

# CO-ORDINATION OF AIRPOWER GAVE U.S. MIDWAY VICTORY

Submarine Administered  
The Coupe de Grace to  
Flaming Jap Carrier.

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mailed 276 enemy aircraft were destroyed or lost at sea. Approximately 4800 Japanese soldiers, sailors and aviators were killed or drowned.

America's comparatively insignificant losses included damage to the aircraft carrier Yorktown and loss of the destroyer Hammann. Personnel losses were 92 officers and 215 men. The communiqué did not list total American plane losses (it mentioned 83), but they apparently were extremely light.

2 Victories in a Month

The Midway victory which sent more than 100,000 tons of Japanese ships to the bottom, followed by a little less than a month the American victory in the Coral sea. The Midway battle has been described as a "continuation" of that action of northern Australia. Fifteen enemy ships were sunk in the Coral sea and many others were damaged.

The two major defeats for the Japanese, coming so close together, may have a lasting effect on the Japanese war effort, naval authorities agreed. They believed it would be impossible for Japan to assemble such an invasion force again for months and said the two battles had swung the balance of naval and air power in the Pacific sharply to the side of the United States.

Admiral Ernest J. King, commander-in-chief of the U. S. navy, said while the Midway battle still was in progress that its outcome probably would determine the course of the war in the Pacific for at least a year.

From the details of the battle now assembled it is obvious that the victors ended for some time a Japanese threat to Hawaii and may have prevented an attack in force on Alaska, the Panama canal or the American mainland.

2 Hoosiers Are Heroes

The navy's communiqué was replete with tales of heroism—Maj. Lofton R. Henderson of Gary, Ind., a marine officer who crashed his plane down the stack of a Japanese carrier; another who crashed into a Japanese ship rather than bail out; a squadron of torpedo bombers which carried out an attack without support at a cost of 15 out of 15 planes and 29 out of 30 fliers. One of those lost in this squadron was Ensign William R. Evans of Indianapolis.

The battle also marked a highspot in co-operation among the armed forces. In contrast to Pearl Harbor, the armed forces were ready. "No plane was caught grounded at Midway," the communiqué said. It was recalled that an undisclosed number of planes were destroyed on the ground during the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in December.

"Alert navy, army and marine corps pilots, patrolling a far-flung 'beat' over the Pacific detected approach of the Japanese fleet, kept it under surveillance while coming in range, and then united to deal the enemy nearly annihilating blows in the battle of Midway," the navy department said in a supplementary statement praising the co-ordination of the fighting services.

Four Carriers Sent Down

This is the navy's recapitulation of the damage inflicted on enemy ships:

Four Japanese aircraft carriers—the Kaga (26,900 tons), Akagi (26,900 tons), Soryu (10,500 tons) and Hiryu (10,500 tons)—sunk.

Three battleships damaged by bomb and torpedo hits, one severely.

Two heavy cruisers—the Mogami (6500 tons) and Mikuma (8500 tons)—sunk; three others damaged, one or two severely.

One light cruiser damaged.

Three destroyers sunk and several others damaged by bombs.

At least three transports or auxiliaries.

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