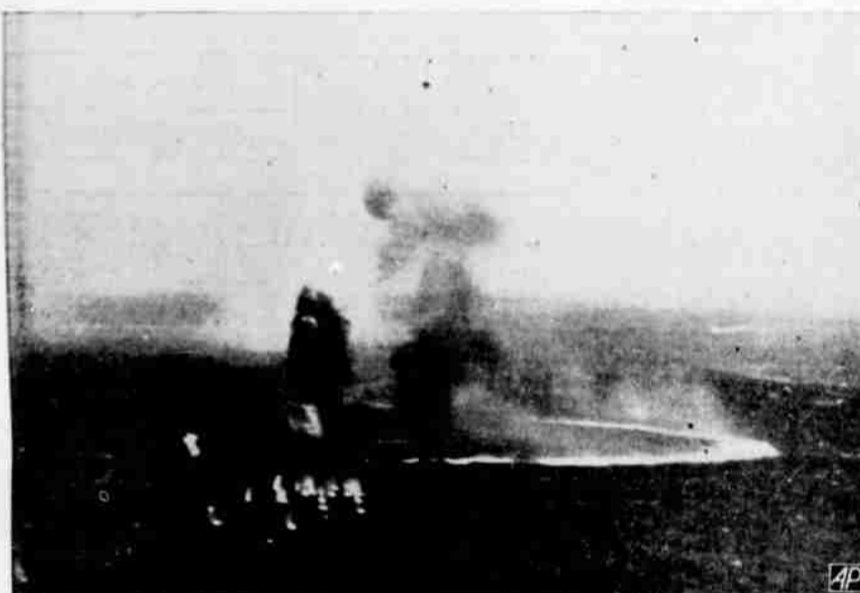


U. S. S. Lexington Hit Japs Hard Before Being Knocked Out



JAP PLANE CLOSES IN TO ATTACK U. S. S. LEXINGTON—A Japanese torpedo plane (arrow) "hedge hops" over anti-aircraft bursts as it closed in to attack the U. S. Lexington in the Coral sea battle. White spray at left was thrown up by bursting anti-aircraft shells, exploding as they hit the water. Black puff of AA fire at right indicates another Jap plane attacking from that direction. The Lexington, badly damaged in the attack, later blew up and sank.



JAP CARRIER FIRED BY NAVY PLANES IN CORAL SEA—Flaming debris sprinkled the water and smoke plumed from a Japanese carrier of the Shokako class, as she veered in the Coral Sea making a big "S" in her wake. Navy torpedo and dive-bombing planes left her ablaze on the morning of May 8.

By STANLEY JOHNSTON
(Copyright, 1942 by The Chicago Tribune)
Distributed by United Press Assn.
In her last fight the Lexington was not merely on the receiving end of battle blows.
Her armor, bunding with those of the second carrier in our sea-borne air force, delivered a devastating left hook, followed by a right cross to the Japanese chin, almost at the moment when the

Japanese were showering their blitz upon us.
The only real records available for the deeds of the day are the reports and memories of the gallant boys who flew away to do their jobs. They say that at least three Japanese aircraft carriers opposed them in the fighting that day with more than 160 Japanese planes. And they say, many of them told me as much within an hour after their return to the

Lexington from battle, that they sank one of the carriers and left another totally enveloped in fierce flames. The least damage the second carrier could have suffered would have been a complete gutting.
Scouts Make Contact
Our scouts were off at dawn. They made contact with the Japanese at 8:10 a. m. on May 8. At 9:30 a. m. our dive bombers and torpedo planes with a small fighter escort took the air to blast the Japs.

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The Japanese were fortunate in being in an area of the sea where there was an unusually large number of hard rain squalls. These served to screen parts of their ocean fleet—one squadron of a dozen heavy dive-bombers from the Lexington never did find a Japanese target and returned without striking a blow.
Our first contact with the enemy was made by one of the youngest pilots on our scouting force. To amplify his report Lieut. Comm. Robert Dixon, skipper of the scout unit, flew into the youngster's sector and remained there two hours and 30 minutes. During that time he had a number of brushes with enemy planes, but remained over the hostile ships sending out radio messages and directional signals to lead the oncoming striking squadrons to the target.

Bombers, Torpedo Planes Attack
The first American attack came when Comm. Bill Ault, leading four heavy dive bombers, and Lieut. Comm. Jimmy Brett at the head of 11 torpedo planes struck at Japanese carrier No. 1.
"The Japs were using the same protective screen for their carrier that we generally did while cruising," Comm. Brett said later. "It was screened by several cruisers and destroyers that we ignored, even to the extent of flying right

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over one cruiser, while going in. That cruiser didn't fire at us. She must have mistaken us for some of their own—the weather was so bad it was an easy mistake to make.
"We slid through a bit of acid and came out astern of the carrier. Her lookouts recognized us and she began a sharp right turn. All the anti-aircraft guns in the unit upped up on us, bounced us around some, but didn't stop us.
"Several enemy fighters—I saw Messerschmitt types with liquid cooled engines. Zeros and older fixed landing gear types mixed together—came at us, but we were in the final run by that time, well fanned out.
Carrier Decks Empty
"Just before I let my fish (torpedo) go I could see the carrier well. Her decks were empty—all her planes were in the air, either defending the ship or pounding our own carriers. We saw the whole Jap vessel jump as our torpedoes began exploding. Then we were busy dodging fighters, calling down our own fighting pilots, and heading home.
"We closed up into a tight formation so all our gunners could get cross fire into any Jap fighters bothering us. It was well, too, because 12 Jappies came down on us. They came cautiously because we were flying only 30 feet above the water.
"After several gentle passes in our direction two of the Zeros got caught in our gunners' converging fire and dropped flaming into the sea. The rest cleared out, and left us alone. Our problem then became one of nursing our fuel—we were damned low—so that we could make it back home. Thirty miles out one plane's tanks ran dry. The pilot made a perfect wheels-up landing. Later a destroyer picked up the pilot and his two men. The rest of us made it back. We could hardly believe from the way the Lexington looked at that time, that she had been hurt."

Let us revert for a moment to the attack on Japanese carrier, No. 1. As Comm. Brett's torpedo planes came snaking out of the low cloud, Comm. Ault's four heavy dive bombers were gaining altitude for their attacks. They first flew over the Japanese at 3,500 feet, picked the carrier from amid the formations below. The Japanese ships momentarily were in clear air but were steaming fast for a rain squall.
Bombers Unmolested
The four planes turned into their dives just as the first torpedoes were being released. Much of the carrier's anti-aircraft were busy with the torpedo planes—there being 11 of them—and Comm. Ault's bombers were not molested in their swift, straight descent. The result was that three of their bombs plunged through the carrier's deck. Towering masses of smoke and debris rose after each blast.
"The bombs seemed to act in a dual manner," one of the torpedo pilots who saw the dive bombers come down said after-

ward: "Not only did they tear that carrier apart but they also had an incendiary effect. Of course, that's not so strange. Carrier have huge tanks full of fuel oil and high test gasoline. Once this starts to burn it's goodbye."
Only one of this force of four dive bombers reached the Lexington after the battle. A cloud of Zeros intercepted Comm. Ault's little force and shot down three. The commander's last words over the radio were:
"My rear gunner is badly hit, I'm also wounded. Going down on the water."
Heroes Many
The dive bombing pilots of United States carrier II were busy meanwhile, dropping their big explosive charges on and around the Japanese carrier II. There were 24 of these which accounts for the large number of hits—seven—as compared with the Lexington's total of three on the carrier her dive bombers hit. The Lexington's main dive bomber group, remember, did not find the Japanese at all, and the only dive bombing support given the torpedo planes was by four planes.
Some of the most determined and gallant acts of the entire five day battle came during the attack of United States carrier II's dive bombing groups. Lieut. John L. Powers, one of the pilots, had told his comrades that he was going to put his big bomb into a Japanese carrier "come hell or high water."
Powers' dive was watched by a number of men. They said he held his ship straight for the Japanese deck until he was down to 500 feet—point-blank range even for a dive bomber. There he released his bomb and began his recovery. The missile went true to its mark and the resulting explosion shattered not only the Jap ship but also Powers' plane.
"There is no question that John knew what he was doing," one of his fellow pilots told me. "He knew that if you go below 700 feet in your recovery the blast will get you every time. To stay above 700 feet means you must release your bomb no lower than 1,000 feet. He held his to 500 and was probably below 300 feet when the explosion came. He just decided not to miss. God bless him."

School Elects
LORANE—Annual school election was held at the high school this week. C. G. Smith was elected director for two years in place of W. T. Moore who resigned. Dan Warnock was elected director for a three year term. John Mulligan was elected clerk for one year. Advisory board members elected were Joseph Kempston and O. W. Crader. The budget for the coming year was voted.
Miss Mildred Petrie of Lake Geneva, Wis., is visiting an aunt, Mrs. W. H. Lohrey.
The Raymond Woods family and Irene Briggs and Ruth Woods are attending meetings of the Assembly of God at Salem over the week-end.

An acquaintance of mine lately gave me her own particular method of selecting friends. She is gregarious by nature; has a great capacity for enjoying people. I have often felt uneasy about the widely different types which attract me. It was unseemly, I have told myself, to enjoy a woman of questionable character almost as much as I did the minister's wife. But my friend gave me an explanation of how this may be.
She enjoys one person, she explained, because she makes a good dinner companion, although she might have nothing to offer if literature were being discussed. Another of her friends is intensely civic-minded, and the zeal with which she enters into political issues stimulates and entertains those about her. Still another friend has such sympathy and understanding that she can talk over her small personal problems with her and this bringing them into the open clarifies many a foggy situation.
I began to understand why it is that I am attracted by such divergent personalities. I once taught with a girl who was my antitype in every way, and her thought processes continually amazed me. She was not even what the world calls a very "moral" person, and my family never ceased to marvel at our mutual enjoyment of each other.
An extremist in dress, it was important to her that her hat be the latest model, while I usually wore no hat at all, or if I did, it would likely be a weird affair, purchased season before last. No doubt she considered me a dowdy creature, and I know I thought her rather shallow. Yet something about her set my wits at a new and sparkling tempo. In her presence, I put my best foot forward. A fine gift, that, to receive from any one.
It has been my privilege to count among my friends a few of the great and the near-great. The fellowship we have enjoyed together, and still do, is one of my heart's dearest treasures. Yet two whose company I often choose to the exclusion of all others are of the "unhonored and unsung" type. One of them has a deep, all-prevailing sincerity; an inward honesty. He has a faculty for getting at the heart of things, so that I always see more clearly such problems as I discuss with him.
A firm believer in total abstinence, yet some of those whom I have enjoyed most are given to lingering o'er long at their cups. I have forgotten their weakness because of their strength. The one I have in mind just now never makes unkind remarks, practicing the admonition to dwell only on those things which "are

of good report," and I know so surely that did the need arise, this woman would rise to my defense; would believe no ill of me until forced to do so. Even then, she would not repeat it.
Yes, I need all these variously minded friends. May their tribes flourish and increase!

Women Workers Said Making Good At Jobs
WASHINGTON, June 20.—(AP)—War plant managers who have hired thousands of women workers are well pleased with the way they are "making good in industry," Thelma McKelvey, chief of the women's division of the war manpower commission, reported today.
Miss McKelvey, just returned from a tour of west coast industries, said about 2,000,000 women will be employed in war plants by the end of the year. Pointing out that housing and transportation problems restrict the importation of new workers in many places, she said that "every woman will be needed in areas engaged in strategic production, such as San Diego and Seattle."

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THOSE VARIOUSLY-MINDED FRIENDS

BAR EXAMINATIONS
SALEM, June 20.—(AP)—Sixty law students will take state bar examinations at the capitol here Monday and Tuesday, the lowest number in many years, the supreme court said today.
DRAFT BOARD "GREATS"
FARMINGTON, N. M.—(AP)—From a roster of less than 4,000 men, the local draft board can furnish a couple of Woodrow Wilsons, a Robert E. Lee, a Thomas Edison, a Martin Luther, an Oliver Cromwell, a Lloyd George, a Henry Ford, an Al Smith and a King George.
ASKED FOR DIRT
CAMP CALLEN, Cal. (AP)—Pvt. Leon Custer, 32, of Kansas, was homesick for some home-town gossip. He wrote to his girl friend at Wichita, Kas., saying, "Let's have some town dirt." The return envelope contained a handful of Kansas' richest top soil.

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