

947

420. per h. Berth  
29/1/43.

THE PACIFIC WAR ZONE --- DIVE BOMBERS ATTACK U.S.S. HORNET.

America's Aircraft-Carrier Hornet --- one of the United States' famous plane-carrying ships; she was equipped as one of the finest modern war vessels; her complement was nearly three thousand officers and men. The Hornet's squadrons of aircraft earned distinction in the battle of Midway Island, shooting down many Japanese Zeros.

~~The~~ ~~was~~ --- The Solomons; the Hornet launched terrific bombing attacks on Japanese bases; they sank or damaged altogether eighteen enemy warships; transports, aircraft-carriers and battleships <sup>Now</sup> ~~Now~~, off Santa Cruz Islands near Guadalcanal, ~~the bombers take off to attack an enemy fleet .... and~~ Japanese raiders come to hit back at the Hornet.

Thirty eight dive-bombers in the first wave; followed by torpedo-planes. In this attack, American gunners and fighters shot down all but ~~six~~.

~~But~~ After this furious onslaught the Hornet <sup>had</sup> ~~was~~ a serious list, ~~was~~ <sup>two tubes of his did that.</sup> The water system had been damaged; but the heroic crew fought the flames with buckets hauled <sup>inboard</sup> by ropes. ~~Two torpedo hits did not~~

~~Now she is badly on fire, but~~ they made an attempt to save her by taking her in tow. They failed, and finally came the order --- "Abandon Ship."

So they took that gallant crew off on stretchers and the bo'sun's ~~air~~ chair. The Hornet was sunk later by American demolition men. But of her crew of nearly three thousand, all but one hundred and <sup>to</sup> ~~two~~ twenty-nine were saved. Enough to avenge their old ship --- ~~to~~ carry on her good work of smashing the Japanese in the Pacific.