

Note: After a battle, it was common for commanders to write after action reports that summarized the losses of both sides. After a great victory, commanders often sent their troops a message congratulating them on their effort.

Office of Chief Of Naval Operations, File of Memoranda and Reports Relating to the Battle of Midway, 1946 (excerpt)

National Museum of the Pacific War

From: Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.
To: Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: Battle of Midway.

1. In numerous and widespread engagements lasting from the 3rd to 6th of June, with carrier based planes as the spearhead of the attack, combined forces of the Navy, Marine Corps and Army in the Hawaiian Area defeated a large part of the Japanese fleet and frustrated the enemy's powerful move against Midway that was undoubtedly the keystone of larger plans. All participating personnel, without exception, displayed unhesitating devotion to duty, loyalty and courage. This superb spirit in all three services made possible the application of the destructive power that routed the enemy and inflicted these losses:

- (a) 4 CV sunk -- *Akagi, Kaga, Soryu, Hiryu* -- with the loss of all their planes and many of their personnel. Estimated 275 planes, 2400 men.
- (b) 2 probably 3 BB damaged, 1 severely.
- (c) 2 CA sunk -- *Mogami, Mikuma* -- 3 or more others damaged, some severely.
- (d) 1 CL damaged.
- (e) 3 DD sunk, 1 other possibly sunk.
- (f) 4 AP and AK hit, 1 or more possibly sunk.
- (g) Estimated total number of personnel lost 4800.

2. These results were achieved at the cost of the *Yorktown* and *Hamman* sunk and about 150 planes lost in action or damaged beyond repair. Our total personnel losses were about ninety-two (92) officers and two hundred and fifteen (215) men.

This report from the headquarters of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet to the headquarters of the U.S. Navy's top admiral compared the estimated losses of the Japanese with those of the Americans.

*Some of the estimates in this report later proved inaccurate. In reality, U.S. forces did not damage any Japanese battleships (BB), and total Japanese losses were closer to 3,000 personnel.