



Jap fleet into defeat.

The following day, a PBY patrol plane swooped over the scene of the action and spotted a lone wounded flier floating in the oil slicks. He had watched the whole action from start to finish from beneath the shelter of a black seat cushion, a cushion held above his head to hide him from Jap strafing planes. They picked him up and flew him to Midway for hospitalization.

His 29 squadron mates who "did not make it back" were listed as "Missing in Action."

*There were 30 empty places at a table in the ward-room as the officers of the HORNET filed in to breakfast.*

*One of the empty places belonged to Ensign John P. Gray of Houston, Texas.*

*When he failed to return after being reported missing in action, his mother wrote a letter to a high ranking officer in the Navy Department.*

"... He was a good son, and a gentleman, and I am sure a fine officer. If we are to see him no more we can remember with

pride that his was a good life, sacrificed for a cause, which I believe has God's blessings. I have many happy memories of his courage and enthusiasm and knowing him as I did and the things for which he stood, can well believe that his last thought might have been, 'I will open up a hole here and someone else will carry on.'"

*... And they did carry on. Shortly after the Battle of Midway, a new Torpedo Eight Squadron came into being. This squadron, under the leadership of Lt. H. H. (Swede) Larsen, flew Grumman Avengers, aptly named, for they were the newest and deadliest torpedo planes in the air.*

*The Avengers added a new page in the history of Naval Aviation. The vengeance they exacted was sure and swift; a vengeance vividly described in a communique from Vice Admiral John McCain, USN, at that time Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics, sent to the men and women who built the planes.*



AVENGER TORPEDO PLANES RECENTLY HELPED TO EXACT A LARGE MEASURE OF REVENGE FOR TORPEDO SQUADRON 8—THE GALLANT BAND OF NAVY FLIERS WIPED OUT ALMOST TO THE LAST MAN DURING THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY. IN 14 ACTION PACKED WEEKS, A NEW GROUP WHICH INHERITED THE SQUADRON'S NAME HAS TAKEN AN