

U.S.S. SUWANNEE  
(CVE-27)FILE NO.  
CVE27/A16-3(3)

(95-hlr)

Serial 008

SECRETSubject: Action Report, Leyte Operation.  
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The second serious problem presented during most "close-in" interceptions was the large numbers of friendly planes (singles and groups) in the area. Many "Tally-Ho's" were made on ASF planes and returning strike groups of this division and other carrier divisions in the vicinity; during this time, the "bogies" either faded or opened.

## Recommendations:

1. There should be some type of SM radar on each carrier, or at least on one carrier of each division.
2. The carriers should operate at least 75 miles from large land masses.
3. Local CAP should be increased from 8 to 12 planes in the "bogey" area.

## 2. Operations.

It is significant that the attacks of 20, 25 and 26 October were made when TU 77.4.1 was landing or about to land aircraft. It is possible the enemy is using VHF and/or is well aware, after a few days of observation, of our flight schedules. SUWANNEE pilots heard Japanese language over Channel One during a strike against Cebu.

## Recommendations:

1. Consideration should be given to the feasibility of "staggering" schedules for launching and landing from day to day.
2. VHF frequencies should be changed from time to time.
3. Consideration should be given to using a code-word, changing daily, instead of "Prep Charlie".

## 3. Damage Control.

Many lessons were learned from the damage done on 25 October and 26 October. A detailed report, the third required by PacFlt conf. ltr 33-CL, with recommendations, is in the process of preparation. Enclosure (D) lists in detail SUWANNEE damage. Several tentative recommendations are submitted herewith:

## Recommendations:

1. An escape hatch, similar to that on Santee, be installed on the bridge of each carrier. There should be thorough consideration of the installation of escape hatches, or at least more than one method of egress, throughout the ship.

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Subject: Action Report, Leyte Operation.

- At least eight liquid-foam proportioners should be stowed in ready service rooms for fire-fighting on flight deck.
3. At least two extra casualty power systems should be located on hangar and main decks.
4. Consideration should be given to the installation of a large-size jettison panel and ramp on the hangar deck for jettisoning planes.
5. A general announcing transmitter system should be installed in I.C. room. The bridge system was cut out by the explosion leaving no means of general communication with personnel.
6. There should be numerous "plug-in" stations for welding and submersible pumps located on the first platform
7. Running cable along weather decks should be eliminated; cables should be run on the first platform, risers coming up where needed.

#### PART VI

#### 1. Personnel, performance, casualties.

The conduct of the officers and men aboard SUWANNEE was completely satisfactory. Their behaviour under attack and during the crisis of the fire was in accordance with the traditions of the Navy and was equal to the expectations of the undersigned. A preliminary report of the Executive Officer, pursuant to Article 948, U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920, is found in enclosure (F). Detailed reports are in process of preparation and will be submitted. A casualty list, as of 5 November, is found in enclosure (G). Particular attention is called to the preliminary recommendations of the Medical Officer to the Commanding Officer, found in enclosure (G). The most immediate recommendation is an adequate store of plasma aboard each ship. SUWANNEE has experienced some difficulty in the past in requisitioning plasma. Its supply was found woefully inadequate. Also regarded as of first urgency is a large and immediately available supply of burn dressings.

*W.D. Johnson*  
W.D. JOHNSON.

Copy to:

CominCh (advance copy)  
ComairPac (advance copy)  
CinCPac

MEMORANDUM

12 123

5 November 1944.

From: A.C.I. Officer, Air Group SIXTY.  
To: The Commanding Officer, Air Group SIXTY.  
Subject: Aircraft Action Reports.

1. The following aircraft action reports had been submitted and were awaiting signature of the Commanding Officer, Air Group SIXTY, when they were completely destroyed by the explosion and fire of 26 October, which demolished the room of the Commanding Officer, Air Group SIXTY.

VF-60 #58-44	-- 21 October	AG-60 #39-44	-- 19 October
#59-44	-- 23 October	#40-44	-- 19 October
		#41-44	-- 20 October
		#42-44	-- 20 October
		#43-44	-- 21 October
		#44-44	-- 22 October
		#45-44	-- 23 October.

2. Efforts are continuing to reconstruct the reports which will be submitted in due course.

H.E. RICHMOND,  
Lieutenant, USNR.

ENCLOSURE (A)

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
 (Reclassify when filled out)  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

## I. GENERAL

**12 123**

(a) Unit Reporting ASX Group 60 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Intrepid, at sea. (c) Report No. 10-60 (35-1)  
 (d) Take off: Date 18 October, 1944 Time (LZT) 0610 I -9 (Zone); Lat. 22N Long. 152W  
 (e) Mission anti-shipping sweep, Vooagan Islands, P.I. (f) Time of Return 1225 I -9 (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
<u>TB-3e</u>	<u>VT-60</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2x500 G.P.</u>	<u>Inst. Fuse. 11/2 Tall.</u>
<u>TB-3</u>	<u>VT-60</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>None.</u>	

## III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

## IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	(c) NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) None.  
 Did Any Part of  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? None If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility 10 Miles or more.  
(MILES)

## V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER		

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

REPORT No. 43-60 135-44

## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

## VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS

## VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
<u>F4U-7D</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>6:25</u>	<u>300 GL.</u>	<u>245 GL.</u>		<u>220</u>			<u>2</u>
<u>P-51</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>6:15</u>	<u>400 GL.</u>	<u>340 GL.</u>		<u>1400</u>			<u>2</u>

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm		<u>Inaccurate</u>		

## X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft seen in the air.

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
 (Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 4-50 435-14

## XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Shipping in South China Strait between Agros and Cebu Islands, Philippines Islands. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0910-0920 (Zone) 1080-1012 I-9  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 5000', Cumulus, 7/10  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 10 Miles av.  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used Camsight.  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 2-1 Spacing 50'-0 Altitude of Bomb Release 1800' av.  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None. Probably Destroyed None. Damaged None.

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1		<u>20781-10</u>			
<u>F T G.</u>	<u>Est. 3000 T.</u>	<u>VF-60</u>	<u>2x500' G.P.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>See Below.</u>
2		<u>2862-3</u>			
		<u>VF-60</u>	<u>500 lbs. .50 cal.</u>		
3	<u>Patrol or Escort Vessel.</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>1x500' G.P.</u>		
4	<u>150-175'</u>		<u>900 lbs. .50 cal.</u>		<u>See Below.</u>
5					
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

1. The two TH's each made one run, the first dropping one bomb and the second two, all of which were within 150' of the freighter. The results, if any, were unobserved.

2. The fourth bomb was dropped at the escort vessel and was a near miss, about 100' and there were no visible results. The escort vessel was then thoroughly strafed by the fighters which silenced all its guns as there was no more AA fire from it. No other results were observed. The sampans in the same vicinity were also strafed, but again there were no visible results.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

**XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.** (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely, following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

**ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY**

**OWN AIRCRAFT**

- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack and Their Effectiveness
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defense Tactics and Their Effectiveness

**ENEMY AIRCRAFT**

- Method of Locating, Distance
- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defensive Tactics

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Own Weaknesses
- Enemy Weaknesses
- Offensive Tactics, Own  
" " , Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own  
" " , Enemy
- Flexible Gunnery, Own
- Escort Tactics
- Fighter Direction
- Use of Radar
- Night Fighting
- Recognition, Aircraft

1. **There were no enemy aircraft seen in the air.**
2. **The AA fire from the escort vessel was inaccurate.**

**ATTACK**

**OWN TACTICS**

- Method of Locating Target
- Approach to Target
- Altitudes, Speeds
- Approach
- Dive
- Pull-Out
- Dive Angle
- Strafing
- Retirement
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Jamming

**DEFENSE, ENEMY**

- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics
- Use of Jamming

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Bombing Tactics
- Torpedo Tactics
- Effectiveness of Bombs, Torpedoes
- Selection of Targets
- Fuzing
- Strafing Tactics
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Radar
- Reconnaissance
- Photography
- Briefing

**OPERATIONAL**

- Navigation
- Homing
- Rendezvous
- Recognition, Ships
- Communications
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT No. AG-60 135-44

**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary).

**ARMAMENT**

- Guns, Gunsights
- Turrets
- Ammunition
- Bombs, Torpedoes
- Bomb Sights
- Bomb Releases

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- Radio, Radar
- Homing Devices
- Visual Signals
- Codes, Ciphers

**RECOGNITION**

- IFF
- Signals
- Battle Lights
- Procedures

**PROTECTION**

- Aarmor; Points and Angles of Fire Needing Further Protection
- Leak Proofing

**EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**

- Parachutes
- Life Belts, Life Rafts
- Safety Belts
- Emergency Kits
- Rations, First Aid

**NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT**

- Compasses
- Driftsights
- Octants
- Automatic Pilots
- Charts
- Field Lighting

**INSTRUMENTS**

- Flight
- Power Plant

**OXYGEN SYSTEM**

**CAMOUFLAGE AND DECEPTION DEVICES**

**STRUCTURE**

- Airframe
- Control Surfaces
- Control System
- Dive Flaps
- Landing Gear
- Heating System
- Flight Characteristics At Various Loadings

**POWER PLANT**

- Engines
- Engine Accessories
- Propellers
- Lubricating System
- Starters
- Exhaust Dampers

**HYDRAULIC SYSTEM**

**ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**

- Auxiliary Plant
- Lights

**FUEL SYSTEM**

**FLIGHT CLOTHING**

**MAINTENANCE**

**BASE FACILITIES**

- Plane Servicing Equipment
- Personnel Facilities

1. All aircraft functioned in a normal manner, with the exception of the guns in one of the fighters. The guns were thoroughly checked and cleaned after the hop and operated normally the next time they were used, although they had to be replaced a few days later due to excessive use.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. B. Holmsted, 1LTJG, USNR, AGC 10 17-40      H. O. Fallbeck, Lt. Cdr. USN, AGO 60, 18 October, 1944

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
 (Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting Air Group 60 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Lamson, at sea. (c) Report No. AG-60/36-41  
 (d) Take off: Date 18 October, 1944 Time (LZT) 1005 I-9 (Zone); Lat. 25N Long. 125E  
Bombing and Strafing Mission.  
 (e) Mission Attack Airfields, Leyte I., Philippine Islands. (f) Time of Return 1405 I-9 (Zone)

## II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
<u>TB-1c</u>	<u>VF-60</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4x500 / G.P. (3) 10x100 / G.P. (1)</u>	<u>Inst. Haze. H/O Tall. Inst. Haze.</u>
<u>TB-1c</u>	<u>VF-60</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Haze.</u>	

## III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE

## IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	(c) NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	(d) TIME ENCOUNTERED	(e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER	(f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED	(g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Haze.  
 Did Any Part of  
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? None If so, Describe Clouds \_\_\_\_\_  
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance  
 (j) of Sun or Moon Clear (k) Visibility 15 Miles  
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (MILES)

## V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:				(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		

VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1				
2				
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12				
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14				

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
<u>T2A-10</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>4:00</u>	<u>300 G.</u>	<u>230 G.</u>					<u>1</u>
<u>F6F-3</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>4:00</u>	<u>400 G.</u>	<u>235 G.</u>		<u>750</u>			<u>1</u>

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm				
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes
- URNS
- DIVES
- CEILINGS
- RANGE
- PROTECTION
- ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft were seen in the air.