CONFIDENTIAL ACTION REPORT

USS SUWANNEE

CVE 27

SERIAL 059

25 MAY 1945

FORWARDING OF AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORTS.

MERELY FORWARDS ACA-1 REPORTS OF VF-40 (NOS.1 AND 2) AND CARRIER AIR GROUP 40 (NOS.1 THROUGH 7) COVERING AIR SUPPORT OF LANDINGS ON OKINAWA BASED ON SUWANNEE IN TASK UNIT 52.1.3.

CVE27/A16-3(1) (10-jep) Serial: 059 U. S. S. SUWANNEE (CVE=27)

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c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

RECEIVED

From:

The Commanding Officer.

To: Via: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
(1) Commander Carrier Division TEENTY-TWO.

(Commander Task Unit 52.1.3).

(2) Commander Escort Carrier Force, Pacific Fleet. (Commander Task Group 52.1).

(3) Commander FIFTH Fleet.

(4) Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject:

Aircraft Action Reports.

Reference:

(a) CinCPac conf. ltr. 1CL-45.

Enclosure:

(A) Commanding Officer VF-40 Aircraft Action Report - 1.

(B) Commanding Officer VF-40 Aircraft Action Report - 2.

(C) Commander Air Group FURTY Aircraft Action Reports one through seven.

1. Forwarded herewith as enclosures are action reports on the Okinawa Gunto Operation, of attached aircraft units during the period 1 April to 6 April 1945.

D. S. CORNWELL

CC: Cominch (direct)
CinCPac (3 direct)
JICPOA (direct)
ComAirPac (direct)

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TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		CARRIED	(PER PLANE)		7.4	fuze, SETTIN (g)	
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IV. EN	IEMY AIRC	RAFT OBS	ERVED OR E	NGAGED (By Own Air	craft Li	isted in II	Only).		None	and the
(a) - TYPE	(b) NO. OBSERVED	NO. ENGAGIN OWN A/C	G (d) TIME ENCOUNTERE	D LOCA ENC	(e) TION OF OUNTER	Bo	OMBS, TORPEI GUNS O	DOES CARRIE BSERVED	D;	CAMOUFLA MARKI	GE AND
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VII. PERSON	NEL CASUA	LTIES (in aircraft lis	ted in II on	ly; identify wi	th planes lis	ted in VI by No	os. at left). None
(a) (b) NO. SQUADRON		(c)	September 1	(d) CAUSE	A Secretary of Secretary		(e) TION OR STATUS
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VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

VIII.	KANGE,	FUEL, AN	D AMMUN	ITION DATA	A FUR FLA	IAES VELL	Driiring		A 2015 BOX 10 30 3 77	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	AV. FUEL	AV. FUEL	(9) TOTAL AMMU	NITION EXPE	NDED	NO. OF PLANES
(a) TYPE A/C	MILES OUT	MILES RETURN	AV. HOURS IN AIR	LOADED	CONSUMED	.30	.50	20MM	MM	RETURNING
F6F-5	72	51	3.3	325	225		12,000			8
	-		1	100	Maria Zara					
				Land No.	100 X 5 70 X					

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

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

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

SPEED, CLIMB, at various altitudes

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in 11 Only).

REPORT No. 1

(I)

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) S.B. Okinewa and Eastern Island Sime Over Target(s) 0845-1020 (Zone) (c) Clouds Over Target No clouds over area actually attacked (e) Visibility Unlimited (d) Visibility of Target_ (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) Glide None Bomb Sight Used. (f) Bombing Tactics: Type. (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) Altitude of Bomb Release 2000-2500 16 1-500# Bombs Dropped per Run_ Spacing (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None __ Damaged None DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT (m) NO: HITS On Aiming Point DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE (j) NO A/C ATTACKING AIMING POINT (k) SQUADRON 3-500# G.P. Bombs See 8 long 20-5" H.E. Rockets Below Slight O Shima Bridge 200 yds. VF-40 1-500# G.P. Bomb See long 2-5" H.E. Rockets Below Slight Inlet Bridge 50 yds. VF-40 4-500# G.P. Bombs A/A Positions See 12-5" H.E. Rockets NW Ike Shima VF-40 Below Slight 6-5" H.E. Rockets Unobserved O Shima Village VF-40 See 2 6-5" H.E. Rockets Below Slight Kutaka Village VF-LO 7 (0) 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). 1-500# bomb hit on O Shima approach; 2-5" rockets hit on O Shima Bridge:bridge; 3-5" rockets hit on O Shima approach; 2-5" rocke hit on northern approach; 4 duds; 8 misses. 1-500# bomb and 2-5" rockets hit on western approach Inlet Bridge:or road leading to approach. A/A positions NW Positions believed to be empty; all bombs went over of Ike Shima:into reef: 6 direct hits with rockets and 6 hits in area

(p) Were Photographs Taken?_____Photographs of Damage, WhenTaken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

2 rockets fell off VF planes on carrier deck when wings were unfolded.

Kutaka Village: - 4 direct hits in building; 2 duds.

REPORT No.____

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

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
Plexible Gunnery, Own
Escort Tactics
Fighter Direction
Use of Radar
Night Fighting
Recognition, Aircraft

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

Flight took off at 0800 and reported on station at 0845 and was instructed to attack targets of opportunity in south Okinawa and Eastern Islands. Attacks centered mainly on the O Shima village and bridge and on a cluster of 4 A/A position on Ike Shima. O Shima village was hit by rockets and approaches to the bridge by 1-500# G.P. bomb and by rockets, resulting, it is believed, in some damage. The A/A position on Ike Shima were well hit by rockets and were well strafed, but it is doubtful if any guns remained in emplacements. The western approach to the bridge over the inlet near O Shima was also hit by 1-500# bomb and rockets and may have been damaged. Kutaka village was hit by rockets and some small buildings were damaged. A number of targets of small milits value were strafed.

The mission was marked by the absence of targets of any real military value.

Lt.Cdr. R.D. SAMPSON Lt.(jg) M.F. DENMAN Lieut. A.J. BARANOWSKI Ensign B.W. SMITH Lieut. W.H. NEAL, III Lt.(jg) J.M. MOLSBERGEN Lieut. D. MICHIE Ensign G.W. WARNER case failures to fire occurred in pairs.

One of the 500# G.P. bombs lost its tail fins during

Two 5" H.E. rockets fell off racks (one on each of tw

Efforts are being continued to find the cause of thes

a rocket attack. The same type of accident befell two of

planes) when wings were unfolded on deck. In a mission la

in the day 6 rockets hung in the racks and would not launc

The eletrical systems were checked on landing and found to

be in perfect working condition. It is noted that in ever

the 500# G.P.'s carried in a mission later in the day.

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

Armor; Points and Angles of Fire Needing Further Protection Leak Proofing

failures.

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

REPORT PREBARED BY

Lehman Lt., USNR, A.C.I. W.P. LEHMAN, SIGNATURE

R.D. SAMPSON, Lt. Cdr., USN Conds. 2 April 19

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TYPE SQUADRON (b) TAKING BAGGING ATTACKING CARRIED (PER PLANE) F6F-5 VF-40 8	TYPE (a) S(QUADRON (b)	TAKING OFF (c)	NUMBER ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	ATTACKING TARGET	HIS REPO		The state of the s				100
TYPE SQUADRON (b) TAKING POR PRINCH AND TAKENING CARRIED (FIR PLANE) FOR -5 VF-40 8 8 1.500 TAKEN CONTROL (FIR PLANE) FOR -5 VF-40 8 8 1.500 TAKEN CONTROL (FIR PLANE) FOR -5 VF-40 8 8 1.500 TAKEN CONTROL (FIR PLANE) FOR -5 VF-40 8 8 1.500 TAKEN CONTROL (FIR PLANE) FOR -5 VF-40 8 8 1.500 TAKEN CONTROL (FIR PLANE) FOR -5 VF-40 8 8 1.500 TAKEN CONTROL (FIR PLANE) FOR -5 VF-40 8 8 1.500 TAKEN CONTROL (FIR PLANE) FOR -5 VF-45 4 U.S.S. CHEMANGO FOR -5 VF-25 4 U.S.S. CHEM	(a) F6F-5 T	(b)	OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	TARGET		BOMBS AN	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR		The state of the s		
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III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION. TYPE SQUADRON NUMBER BASE TYPE SQUADRON NUMBER BASE TOP-3 VF-25 4 U.S.S. CHENANGO TEM-3C VT-40 6 U.S.S. SUWANNEE IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (20) Apparent Enemy Mission (S) (20) (20) OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (BY OWN AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (BY OWN AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OBSERVED OBSERVED OBSERVED OBSERVED OBSERVED (CONTINUED OF ENCOUNTER OF ENCO	III. OTIU	1			8		The second second			A SECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	
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Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon (Inight, Bright Moon; Day, overcast; etc.)			4								Mon	
(ZONE) (Apparent Enemy Mission(s) (YES OR NO) (YES OR NO) (YES OR NO) (YES OR NO) (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON: DAY, OVERCAST: ETC.) (K) Visibility (MILES) (MILES) V. ENEMY A/C TYPE A/C SQUADRON PILOT OR GUNNER GUNS USED WHERE HIT, ANGLE CI		THE PARTY OF THE P		(d)								
Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? (YES OR NO) Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). (a) TYPE A/C SQUADRON PILOT OR GUNNER GUNS USED WHERE HIT, ANGLE DESTROYED ANGLE OF DAMAGED BY: (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: TYPE A/C SQUADRON PILOT OR GUNNER GUNS USED WHERE HIT, ANGLE	TYPE	NO	NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C	ENCOUNTERED	LOCA	TION OF OUNTER	В	GUNS OF	SERVED);	MARK	ING
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TYP	(a) E OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	TYPE C	AUSE: TYPE ENE	MY A/C, IONAL CAUSE	WHERE H	T, ANGLE (tanks, equi	List armor, pment hit)	(Give Bure	ENT OF LOSS au serial numbe	OR DAMAGE, r of planes destroyed
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	VII. PE	RSONNEL	CASUAL	TIES (in air	craft listed	in II only; id	entify wit	h planes lis	ted in VI	by Nos. at	left). No.
(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	, N		(c) IK OR RATING			(d) AUSE	er Arman	- No.	(e)	STATUS
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	VIII. R	ANGE, FU	EL, AN	D AMMUNI	TION DAT	A FOR PLAN	VES RET	URNING	100		4 - 4 3 6 7
	(a) TYPE	(b) MILES	(c) MILES	AV. HOURS	(e) AV. FUEL	AV. FUEL	(g	TOTAL AMMU			NO. OF PLAN
	A/C	OUT F	RETURN	IN AIR	LOADED	CONSUMED	.30 -	.50	20MM	- MM	RETURNING
	-	70	40	3.1	325	205		5,60	0	1	8
	6F-5				4)						
	6F-5										
	6F-5										
			-AIRCR	AFT ENCOU	INTERED (C	Check one blo	ock on ea	ch line).			
			-AIRCR		INTERED (C	Check one blo		ch line).	Me	ODERATE	INTENSE
F	IX. EN		CALIBI	ER	INTERED (C				Mo	ODERATE	INTENSE
HEA	IX. EN	EMY ANTI	CALIBI 75mm and ells, 20mm	over	INTERED (C				M	ODERATE	INTENSE

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE) XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in 11 Only). (I) (a) Target(s) and Location(s) S. E. Okinawa and Eastern Island Sime Over Target(s) 1250-1415 (Zone) (c) Clouds Over Target None (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER) (d) Visibility of Target Clear, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (e) Visibility Unlimited None Glide (f) Bombing Tactics: Type_ Bomb Sight Used_ 1-500# Altitude of Bomb Release 2000-2500 fe Bombs Dropped per Run_ Spacing. (FEET) None Damaged None (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed_ DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT (m) NO HITS On Aiming Point DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE (i) NO. A/C ATTACKING AIMING POINT (k) SQUADRON 2 2-500# G.P. Bombs See 1 Barracks at 4-5" H.E. Rockets Below Serious VF-40 Sashiki See 2-500# G.P. Bombs 2 Bldg., 200 yds. 2 6-5" H.E. Rockets Below Slight S.W. of Anza VF-40 1-500# G.P. Bomb 3 Revetments, 2 5-5" H.E. Rockets 1-500# G.P. Bomb 6 Slight VF-40 .W. O Shima Possible Gun Position Unobserved VF-40 800 yds. NW Tobaru 1-500# G.P. bomb See Possible Gun Position 4-5" H.B. Rockets Below Slight VF-40 200 yds. W Minatoga 1-500# G.P. Bomb Possible Gun Position Unobserved 400 yds. S.W. Anza VF-40 6-5" H.E. Rockets Slight VF-40 Minatoga 5 in Possible Gun Position Slight 400 yds. N. Anza VF-40 5-5" H.E. Rockets area (0) 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 Slight 6-5" H.E. Rockets

- 9. Possible Gun Position 400 yds. WNW Kutekin VF-40
- 2 in 10. Possible Gun Position 2-5" H.E. Rockets VF-40 area Slight 1000 yds. N.E. Yabiku
- 2 in 11. Possible Gun Position 2-5" H.E. Rockets 800 yds. E. Yabiku VF-40

No. Hits:

- 2-500# G.P. bombs and 4-5" H.E. rockets hit buildings around barracks starting large fire visible from orbit point 20 miles distant.
- 1-500# G.P. bomb lost tail fins, dropped short; 1-500# G.P. bomb unobserved; 6 H.E. rockets were hits in immediate vicinity and possibly damaged the building.
- 1-500# G.P. bomb lost tail fins, drop unobserved; 4-5" H.E. rockets hit in area.

(p) Were Photographs Taken Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.