

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.

IN REPLY REFER
TO No.

CVE27/A16-3(1)
(10-jep)
Serial: 059

U. S. S. SUWANNEE
(CVE-27)



c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.
25 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.
 To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
 Via: (1) Commander Carrier Division, TWENTY-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 FORTY 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) ✓

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 1

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

(I)

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) S.E. Okinawa and Eastern Islands Time Over Target(s) 0845-1020 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target No clouds over area actually attacked
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

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

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used None
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run 1-500# Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release 2000-2500 feet
(NUMBER) (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 O Shima Bridge	long 200 yds.	8 VF-40	3-500# G.P. Bombs 20-5" H.E. Rockets	See Below	Slight
2 Inlet Bridge	long 50 yds.	1 VF-40	1-500# G.P. Bomb 2-5" H.E. Rockets	See Below	Slight
3 A/A Positions NW Ike Shima		4 VF-40	4-500# G.P. Bombs 12-5" H.E. Rockets	See Below	Slight
4 O Shima Village		1 VF-40	6-5" H.E. Rockets		Unobserved
5 Kutaka Village		2 VF-40	6-5" H.E. Rockets	See Below	Slight
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).

O Shima Bridge:- 1-500# bomb hit on O Shima approach; 2-5" rockets hit on bridge; 3-5" rockets hit on O Shima approach; 2-5" rockets hit on northern approach; 4 duds; 8 misses.

Inlet Bridge:- 1-500# bomb and 2-5" rockets hit on western approach or road leading to approach.

A/A positions NW of Ike Shima:- Positions believed to be empty; all bombs went over into reef; 6 direct hits with rockets and 6 hits in area

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

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

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

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
- 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

One of the 500# G.P. bombs lost its tail fins during a rocket attack. The same type of accident befell two of the 500# G.P.'s carried in a mission later in the day.

Two 5" H.E. rockets fell off racks (one on each of two planes) when wings were unfolded on deck. In a mission later in the day 6 rockets hung in the racks and would not launch. The electrical systems were checked on landing and found to be in perfect working condition. It is noted that in every case failures to fire occurred in pairs.

Efforts are being continued to find the cause of these failures.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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

APPROVED BY:
Richard S. Sampson
R.D. SAMPSON, Lt. Comdr., USN Comdg. 2 April 19
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY DATE

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 2

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) S.E. Okinawa and Eastern Islands Time Over Target(s) 1250-1415 (Zone) (I)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target None
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Unlimited
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bomb Sight Used None
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run 1-500# Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release 2000-2500 feet
(NUMBER) (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 Barracks at Sashiki		2 VF-40	2-500# G.P. Bombs 4-5" H.E. Rockets	See Below	Serious
2 Bldg., 200 yds. S.W. of Anza		2 VF-40	2-500# G.P. Bombs 6-5" H.E. Rockets	See Below	Slight
3 Revetments, S.W. O Shima		2 VF-40	1-500# G.P. Bomb 5-5" H.E. Rockets	6	Slight
Possible Gun Position 800 yds. NW Tobaru		1 VF-40	1-500# G.P. Bomb		Unobserved
Possible Gun Position 200 yds. W Minatoga		1 VF-40	1-500# G.P. bomb 4-5" H.E. Rockets	See Below	Slight
Possible Gun Position 400 yds. S.W. Anza		1 VF-40	1-500# G.P. Bomb		Unobserved
7 Minatoga		1 VF-40	6-5" H.E. Rockets	6	Slight
Possible Gun Position 400 yds. N. Anza		1 VF-40	5-5" H.E. Rockets	5 in area	Slight

(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).

9. Possible Gun Position 400 yds. WNW Kutekin 1 VF-40 6-5" H.E. Rockets 6 Slight
10. Possible Gun Position 1000 yds. N.E. Yabiku 1 VF-40 2-5" H.E. Rockets 2 in area Slight
11. Possible Gun Position 800 yds. E. Yabiku 1 VF-40 2-5" H.E. Rockets 2 in area Slight

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.
- 6-5" H.E. rockets hung in racks and were brought back to base.

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