

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**ACTION REPORT**

ORIGINAL

USS SUWANNEE

CVE 27

SERIAL 018

10 MARCH 1944

FORWARDING OF AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORTS.

FORWARDS WITH IDENTIFYING COMMENT ACA-1  
REPORTS OF VC-60 (NOS. 5-44 THROUGH 15-44)  
AND VF-60 (NOS. 1-44 THROUGH 2-44) FOR SUPPORT  
OF ENIWETOK CAMPAIGN - BASED ON SUWANNEE  
IN TASK GROUP 51.18 ON ROUTINE CAP AND ASW  
PATROLS - AND DIRECT SUPPORT OF TROOPS.



From Box # 10 (1-39 series) OJW 29 DEC 1952 Change Over No.

In Reply refer to  
File No.

CVE27/A16-3(1)  
(10-grs)  
Serial: 018

U. S. S. SUWANNEE

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

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

10 MAR 1944

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To: ✓ The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Via: (1) Commander Task Group 51.18. (Commander Carrier  
Division Twenty-Two).  
(2) Commander Task Group 51.11. (Commander Group Two,  
Fifth Amphibious Force).  
(3) Commander Task Force 51. (Commander Fifth Amphib-  
ious Force).  
(4) Commander Central Pacific Force.  
(5) Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Reports.

Reference: (a) ComGroup Two, Fifth Amphibious confidential ltr.  
A16-3(3) Serial 025 of 2/8/44.

Enclosure: (A) Compron 60 Aircraft Action Report 5-44.  
(B) Compron 60 Aircraft Action Report 6-44.  
(C) Compron 60 Aircraft Action Report 7-44.  
(D) Compron 60 Aircraft Action Report 8-44.  
(E) Compron 60 Aircraft Action Report 9-44.  
(F) Compron 60 Aircraft Action Report 10-44.  
(G) Compron 60 Aircraft Action Report 11-44.  
(H) Compron 60 Aircraft Action Report 12-44.  
(I) Compron 60 Aircraft Action Report 13-44.  
(J) Compron 60 Aircraft Action Report 14-44.  
(K) Compron 60 Aircraft Action Report 15-44.  
(L) ComFightRon 60 Aircraft Action Report 1-44.  
(M) ComFightRon 60 Aircraft Action Report 2-44.

1. This vessel took part in the Eniwetok operation as a unit of Task Group 51.18. Operations in connection with air support of the attack force and routine Combat Air Patrols and Anti-Submarine Patrols were conducted.

2. Forwarded herewith as enclosures are action reports of attached aircraft units. Other than these aircraft actions, this vessel had no action with the enemy.

  
W. D. JOHNSON.

Copy to:  
Cominch  
ComAirPac  
CincPac



**I. GENERAL**

(a) Unit Reporting VC-60 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Suwannee, at Sea (c) Report No. 5-44  
 (d) Date of Action 17 February, 1944 (e) Take off: Time 1850-1905 (GCT); Lat. XX Long. XX  
Attack, Targets of Opportunity in Target Areas 500-1-4-5-12-13,  
 (f) Mission Privilege (Eniwetok) Is. Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Is. (g) Time of Return 2305-2310 (GCT)

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

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NO. OF SORTIES	(d) NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO. ATTACKING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
TBF-1	VC-60	2	0	2	4x350# Torpex Depth Bombs,	Inst. Nose and Hydro.
TBM-1c	"	1	0	1	" " " "	Tail.

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
N							
O							
N							

**IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (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
N			(GCT)			
O			(GCT)			
N			(GCT)			
E			(GCT)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) None  
 (i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) 3/10 scattered 2500 Ft. Ceiling Unlimited. Clear atmosphere  
 (j) Sun or Moon Average Sunlight (k) Visibility 15 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		
N						
O						
N						
E						







**AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT**

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

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

**Targets of Opportunity in Target Areas 500-1-4-5-12-13,**

- (a) Location of Target(s) Privilege (Eniwetok) Is., Eniwetok Atoll. (b) Time Over Target(s) 2240 GCT.  
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target 3/10 Scattered, 2500ft. Ceiling Unlimited, Clear Atmosphere.  
 (d) Sun or Moon Average Sunlight (e) Visibility 15 Miles

**XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.**

	(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
		(c) SQUADRON			
1	500 Pillboxes and Installations Area /	TBF-1 VC-60	4x350# Torpex DB.	1500	2 (see *)
2	Installations Area 504	TBF-1 VC-60	" " "	2000	1 (see *)
3	Installations Areas 501-512	TBM-1c VC-60	" " "	2500	2 (see *)
5					
6					
7					
8					

(g) RESULTS: (FOR SHIP TARGETS 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, WITH DIAGRAMS OR CHARTS WHERE DESIRABLE. DESCRIBE TARGETS FULLY IN (a), AND IN REPORTING DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION, IDENTIFY BY NUMBERS AT LEFT. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY).

- \* 1. In this instance the bomb release mechanism failed to function properly resulting in dropping of two bombs when the bomb bay doors were opened.
- 2. One bomb landed in the water while two others were seen to drop but not explode. These two bombs may be presumed to duds.
- 3. Two Bombs missed target and hit in the Lagoon.

(h) Were Photographs Taken? NO. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.



**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

**No enemy aircraft nor anti-aircraft fire was observed.**

**ATTACK**

**OWN TACTICS**

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

**DEFENSE, ENEMY**

- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Anti-aircraft
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics

**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



**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

The bomb release mechanism in one of the TBF's in this flight failed to the extent that in two different runs, when the bomb bay doors were opened, a bomb fell out of the aircraft. Upon being questioned, the pilot stated that he followed the usual procedure in preparing for a bomb drop, but that in some way the bombs had become released from the racks upon opening the bomb bay doors, which caused premature drops both of which landed in the lagoon.

REPORT PREPARED BY:  
*H. E. Richmond*  
**H. E. Richmond, Lieut. USNR, ACI Officer**  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:  
*W. C. Vincent*  
**W. C. Vincent, Lieut. USNR, C.O. VC-60** 18 February 1944  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY DATE



**I. GENERAL**

(a) Unit Reporting VC-60 (b) Based on or at USS SUWANNEE, At Sea (c) Report No. 6-44  
 (d) Date of Action 17 February 1944 Take off: Time 1850-1905 (GCT); Lat. XX Long. XX  
Attack. Target Areas 749 & 752 and/or Wooded Area on  
 (f) Mission Engebi (Fragile) Is. Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Is. Time of Return 2310-2345 (GCT)

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

(a) TYPE	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NO. OF SORTIES	(d) NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	(e) NO. ATTACKING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
TBF-1	VC-60	2	0	2	4x350# Torpex Depth B.	Inst. Nose, Hydrostatic Tail.
TBM-1c	"	4	0	4		" " "

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
NONE							

**IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (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
NONE						

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) NONE  
 (i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) Cumulus 7/10 Covered 2200 Ft. Clear Atmosphere  
 (j) Sun or Moon Average sun above (k) Visibility 15 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		
none						







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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

**Target Areas 749 & 752 and/or Wooded area on Engebi**

- (a) Location of Target(s) (Fragile) Is. Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Is. (b) Time Over Target(s) 2235-45 GCT.  
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target Cumulus Clouds, 7/10 covered 2200 Ft. Clear Atmosphere  
 (d) Sun or Moon Average sun above (e) Visibility 15 miles

**XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.**

	(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
		(c) SQUADRON			
1	See Above	TBM-1c VC-60	None	x	0 (see* be.)
2	Installations areas 750-751	TBF-1 VC-60	Four	1500	2 "
3	Installations in Wooded Area	TBM-1c VC-60	Four	1600 av.	4 "
	" " " "	TBM-1c VC-60	Four	2300	4 "
5	Target Areas 759 & 760	TBF-1 VC-60	Four	1800	4 "
6	Target Areas 747 & 748	TBM-1c VC-60	Four	1200	4 "
7					
8					

(g) RESULTS: (FOR SHIP TARGETS 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, WITH DIAGRAMS OR CHARTS WHERE DESIRABLE. DESCRIBE TARGETS FULLY IN (a), AND IN REPORTING DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION, IDENTIFY BY NUMBERS AT LEFT. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY).

- Radioman in tunnel of this plane had station indicator on wrong station. Being a new man, he had apparently forgotten instructions and the situation was not remedied until after the aircraft had returned to the ship.
- Two hits were observed, one each in areas 750 and 751. One bomb was seen to drop in the water and the fourth was unobserved.
- One bomb was seen to hit in area 742, the other three hitting in areas 748 and 752 in the woods.
- All four bombs were seen to hit in wooded areas 748 and 752.
- This pilot did not hear target designations and made no drop on his first run. On his second run all four bombs were dropped and four hits were seen in areas 759 and 760.
- Two bombs were observed to hit in the trenches of area 747 and two in the wooded area of the southeast corner of area 748.

(h) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.