

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

On the morning of February 21, 1944 (local time), Fighting Squadron SIXTY was ordered to make a strafing attack on personnel and ground targets defending Parry Island, Eniwetok Atoll, in preparation for landings by Marines and Infantry from the lagoon the following day.

Ten fighter planes took off, rendezvoused, and made a series of strafing runs along the lagoon beach as ordered. Small fires were started in the brush. Personnel were probably hit and ground targets damaged; but no results of the attack, other than the fires, could be observed.

Pilots taking part in this mission were as follows: Lt. Comdr. H. O. FEILBACH, Squadron Commander; Ens. John F. SMITH, Lt. (jg) R. A. SINGLETON, Lt. (jg) E. P. BARBER, Lieut. E. A. FISCHER, Ens. D. O. TIMM, Lt. (jg) Q. D. LA FARGUE, Lt. (jg) Earl HELWIG, Lt. (jg) R. H. NESBITT, Lt. (jg) G. C. WILSON.

Although this action was of minor importance in the landing operations at Eniwetok, it pointed to certain tactical conclusions which were of definite value to the Squadron. In the case of similar operations over Tarawa in November, 1943, coordination between ground and air units was attempted by a ship-based control station, and the result was a considerable degree of confusion at times. In this action, the control officer simply assigned areas to be attacked and left the tactical direction of operations to the Flight leader. Although units from three separate squadrons were involved in the action, the Flight leader was able to give detailed instructions, assign specific targets, and allow ample time for each group to press home its attack without danger of mutual interference.

It might also be mentioned that conditions were quite favorable for a type of strafing attack which, though not unique, has long been practised by this Squadron. In this type of attack, a division of 4 VF is placed in column, flying normal to the line of attack. At the initial point (5,000-6,000 ft., 45° elevation) the planes turn 90° to form a line abreast as they go into their dive. This form of attack offers a diversity of targets to the opposing gunner; it affords a highly concentrated fire on the target; and it enables the planes to rendezvous quickly for another attack.

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

**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.

Use additional sheets if necessary).

**Planes and their equipment performed efficiently, as usual. No unusual incidents were reported.**

- ARMAMENT**
  - Guns, Sunights
  - 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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

*C. F. Westerlund, (Lt. jg), USNR*  
SIGNATURE  
ACT Officer

APPROVED BY:

*H. O. Feilbach Lt. Cdr.*  
SIGNATURE  
Commanding

*2-27-44*  
DATE

**AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT**

REF ID: A68133  
 CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**I. GENERAL**

(a) Unit Reporting VF-60 (b) Based on or at USS SUWANNEE, At Sea (c) Report No. 2  
 (d) Date of Action 22 February 1944 (e) Take off: Time 0315 (GCT); Lat. 11° 30' N. Long 162° 30' E  
 (f) Mission Strafe ground targets on Parry Island, Eniwetok Atoll. (g) Time of Return 0530 (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
<b>F6F-3</b>	<b>VF-60</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>None</b>	

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
		<b>None*</b>					

\* - 11 planes of VF-35 and VF-37 cooperated in this mission.

**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
	<b>None</b>		(GCT)			
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_

**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		
<b>None</b>					

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

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~~RESTRICTED~~  
~~SECRET~~

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## 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	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, REMARKS
1				None
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
		None		

## VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA

(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, PLANES RETURNING				
						NO. OF PLANES	.30	.50	20MM	MM.
F6F-3	66	66	2½	250 gal.	155 gal.	10		13,000		
								rounds		

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

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

**No enemy aircraft were encountered.**

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
 GROUP 1  
 EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
 DOWNGRADING AND  
 DECLASSIFICATION

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

- (a) Location of Target(s) West shore of Parry Island (b) Time Over Target(s) 0345 GCT.  
 (c) Weather and Clouds Over Target Scattered cumulus, .4, 2,500-6,000 ft.; clear.  
 (d) Sun or Moon: Sun elevation 130°. (e) Visibility Unlimited.

## XI. TARGETS, RESULTS OF ATTACK.

	(a) DESCRIPTION OF TARGET (List All Ships in Group, Whether or Not Individually Attacked)	(b) A/C ATTACKING (c) SQUADRON	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH TARGET	(e) ALTITUDE OF RELEASE	(f) HITS
	1	<b>Entrenched personnel and field artillery.</b>	<b>10 VF-60</b>	<b>13,000 rounds.</b>	<b>1,500-500 ft.</b>
2					
3					
4					
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).

**Small fires were started in brush by incendiaries. No enemy personnel were actually seen and no enemy guns appeared to be firing. The attack was general, designed to harass and soften the enemy. No specific targets were assigned.**

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

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

**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

**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

On the afternoon of February 21, 1944 (local time), Fighting Squadron SIXTY was again ordered to make a strafing attack on the west beach of Parry Island, after making a similar attack in the morning. These attacks were in preparation for landings by Marines and Infantry from the lagoon the following day.

Ten fighter planes took off, rendezvoused, and made a series of strafing runs along the beach as ordered. Small brush fires were started. Personnel were probably hit and ground targets damaged; but no results of the attack, other than the fires, could be observed.

Pilots taking part in this mission were as follows: Lt. Comdr. H. O. FEILBACH, Squadron Commander; Ens. John F. SMITH, Lt. (jg) J. D. SHEA, Ens. D. O. TIMM, Lieut. E. L. DASHIELL, Ens. W. A. SCHMALL, Lt. (jg) J. C. SIMPSON, Lt. (jg) H. A. WALTERS, Lt. (jg) E. P. BARBER, Lt. (jg) Earl HELWIG.

Although this action was of minor importance in the landing operations at Eniwetok, it pointed to certain tactical conclusions which were of definite value to the Squadron. In the case of similar operations over Tarawa in November, 1943, coordination between ground and air units was attempted by a ship-based control station, and the result was a considerable degree of confusion at times. In this action, the control officer simply assigned areas to be attacked and left the tactical direction of operations to the Flight leader. Although units from three separate squadrons were involved in the action, the Flight leader was able to give detailed instructions, assign specific targets, and allow ample time for each group to press home its attack without danger of mutual interference.

It might also be mentioned that conditions were ideal for a type of strafing attack which, though not unique, has long been favored by this Squadron. In this type of attack, a division of 4 VF is placed in column, flying normal to the line of attack. At the initial point (5,000-6,000 ft., 45° elevation) the planes turn 90° to form a line abreast as they go into their dive. This formation offers a diversity of targets to the opposing gunner; it affords a highly concentrated fire on the target; and it enables the planes to rendezvous quickly for another attack.

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

REPRODUCTION  
PROHIBITED

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

### XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.

Use additional sheets if necessary).

**Planes and their equipment performed efficiently, as usual. No unusual incidents were reported.**

**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

REPORT PREPARED BY:

*J. W. ...*  
 SIGNATURE *ACE Officer*  
 RANK AND DUTY *LT (jg) USNR*

APPROVED BY:

*H. O. Feilbach*  
 SIGNATURE *Commanding*  
 RANK AND DUTY *LT. Cdr.*

*2-27-44*  
DATE

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
CARRIER DIVISION TWENTY TWO

(fj) 67-44

A16-3

Serial 078

c/o Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,  
14 March 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to  
CO SUWANNEE Conf. ltr.,  
CVE27/A16-3(1), Serial 018  
of 10 March 1944.

From: Commander Carrier Division TWENTY TWO.  
To : The Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Via : (1) Commander Task Group 51.11 (Commander Group Two,  
FIFTH Amphibious Force).  
(2) Commander Task Force 51 (Commander FIFTH Amphibious  
Force).  
(3) Commander Central Pacific Force.  
(4) Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Reports.

- 1. Forwarded.

*J. M. Wood*  
J. M. WOOD,  
By direction.

Copy to:  
U.S.S. SUWANNEE.

67-44

A16-3(3)  
Serial 084

**COMMANDER GROUP TWO  
FIFTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET  
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.**

CONFIDENTIAL

22 March 1944

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to  
SUWANNEE conf. ltr.  
CVE27/A16-3(1) serial  
018 of 10 March 1944.

From: Commander Group TWO, FIFTH Amphibious Force  
(Commander ENIWETOK Expeditionary Group -  
CTG 51.11).  
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Via : (1) Commander FIFTH Amphibious Force (CTF 51).  
(2) Commander Central Pacific Force.  
(3) Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.  
Subject: Action Reports.  
1. Forwarded.

*H. W. Hill*  
H. W. HILL. T

*A163/UV*  
C5A/A16-3(3)

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER  
FIFTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

05/JAC

Serial **0193**

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

28 MAR 1944

THIRD ENDORSEMENT to  
SUWANNEE Conf. Ltr.  
CVE27/A16-3(1) Serial  
018 of 10 March 1944.

From: Commander FIFTH Amphibious Force,  
U.S. Pacific Fleet.  
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Via : Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.  
Subject: Action Reports.

R. K. TURNER.

Copy to:  
ComGenPac (complete)  
ComGrp2, 5thPhibFor  
ComCarDiv22

*J. J. Kircher*  
J. J. KIRCHER,  
BY DIRECTION.