

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION REPORT

ORIGINAL

USS SUWANNEE

CVE 27

SERIAL 028

10 MAY 1944

ACTION REPORTS.

[FORWARDS 4 JCA-1 FORM REPORTS OF AIR
SUPPORT PROVIDED BY TASK GROUP 78.1
FOR INITIAL LANDING AT AITAPE, NEW
GUINEA BY TASK GROUP 77.3. REPORT
COVERS 22 APRIL 1944.]

72504

copy of

A16-3(16)(6)

IN REPLY REFER TO NO.

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

CVE-27/A16-3(1)
(10-grs)
Serial: **028**

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

10 MAY 1944

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

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via: (1) Commander Task Group 78.1 (Commander Carrier Division Twenty-Two).
(2) Commander Task Force 78 (Commander Carrier Division Twenty-Four).
(3) Commander Seventh Fleet.
(4) Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Reports.

Reference: (a) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 2CL-44.

Enclosure: (A) Commanding Officer VT-60 Aircraft Action Report - - - - - 1-44.
ACA-1a (B) Commanding Officer VT-60 Aircraft Action Report - - - - - 2-44.
detached (C) Commanding Officer VT-60 Aircraft Action Report - - - - - 3-44.
Op-16-VA (D) Commanding Officer VF-60 Aircraft Action Report - - - - - 3-44.

1. This vessel took part in the Aitape, New Guinea operations as a unit of Task Group 78.1. Operations in support of the attack forces 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
W. D. JOHNSON.

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-60 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Swanee, at sea. (c) Report No. 1-44
2002-2003
 (d) Date of Action 21 April, 1944. (e) Take off: Time 2026-2029 (GCT); Lat. XXX Long. XXX
Support Mission. Attack enemy installations on Seleo I., Aitape Harbor,
 (f) Mission and Target Area 360, Tadjil Airdrome, Aitape, New Guinea. Time of Return 2252-2257 (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. ATTACK- ING TARGET	(f) BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)	(g) FUZE, SETTING
<u>VTB</u>	<u>VT-60</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12x100# G.P. Bombs.</u>	<u>Inst. Nose</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>VTB</u>	<u>VC-7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>U.S.S. Manila Bay</u>	<u>VTB</u>	<u>VT-37</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>U.S.S. Sangamon</u>
<u>VTB</u>	<u>VC-41</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>U.S.S. Corregidor</u>	<u>VTB</u>	<u>VT-35</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>U.S.S. Chenango</u>
<u>VTB</u>	<u>VC-33</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>U.S.S. Coral Sea</u>				

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
<u>N</u>			<u>(GCT)</u>			
<u>O</u>			<u>(GCT)</u>			
<u>N</u>			<u>(GCT)</u>			
<u>E</u>			<u>(GCT)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) None
 (i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) 1/10 Covered 4500'. Ceiling Unlimited. Clear
 (j) Sun or Moon Sun Behind Clouds (k) Visibility 10-15 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		
<u>N</u>						
<u>O</u>						
<u>N</u>						
<u>E</u>						

ENCLOSURE (A)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

Installations on Seleo Island, Aitape Harbor and

2053

(a) Location of Target(s) Target Area 360, Tadji Airdrome, Aitape. (b) Time Over Target(s) 2246 GCT

(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target 1/10 Covered 4500'. Ceiling Unlimited. Clear

(d) Sun or Moon Sun Behind Clouds. (e) Visibility 10-15 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 <u>Seleo Island.</u>	<u>4 VTB</u> <u>VT-60</u>	<u>42x100# G.P.</u>	<u>av. 1900'</u>	<u>36 *</u>
2 <u>Target Area 360, Tadji Airdrome.</u>	<u>2 VTB</u> <u>VT-60</u>	<u>24x100# G.P.</u>	<u>av. 1800'</u>	<u>24 **</u>
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).

* Three planes dropped all bombs, six of which landed in the water just off shore. One plane made only one run dropping six bombs. The target areas were well covered, but the results were unobserved.

** All twenty four bombs dropped by these two planes landed in a wooded area along the center of target area 360, just north of the north landing strip. The results were unobserved.

(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

All aircraft seemed to function in a normal manner with the exception of the radios in two planes. In one the receiver was out for the greater part of the flight, but communications were finally established along towards the end of the hop. In the other plane the transmitter failed completely.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. E. Richmond, Lieut. USNR, A.C.I. Off.

W. C. Vincent, Lieut. USNR, Comm. Off.

23 April, 1944.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
 (Reclassify when filled out)
CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VT-60 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Suwannee, at sea. (c) Report No. 2-44
 (d) Date of Action 22 April, 1944 (e) Take off: Time 0432-0435 (GCT); Lat. xxx Long. xxx
 (f) Mission Support Air Mission. Glide Bombing. Houses and Buildings in Target Area 335, Rohm Pt. Aitape, New Guinea. (g) Time of Return 0650-0652 (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
<u>VTB</u>	<u>VT-60</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>12x100/ G.P.</u>	<u>Inst. Nose.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>VTB</u>	<u>VT-37</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>U.S.S. Sangamon.</u>				

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
<u>NONE</u>			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			
			(GCT)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) None
 (i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) 9/10 Covered at 3000'. Atmosphere Clear locally. Scattered showers.
 (j) Sun or Moon Sun Behind Clouds. (k) Visibility 25 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		
<u>NONE</u>						

ENCLOSURE (3)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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

Houses and Buildings in Target Area 335.

(a) Location of Target(s) Rohm Point, Aitape, New Guinea. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0530-0545 CT

(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target 8/10 Covered at 3000'. Atmosphere clear locally. Scattered showers.

(d) Sun or Moon Sun behind clouds. (e) Visibility 25 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	<u>Houses, buildings and military installations.</u>	<u>VTB</u>	<u>48x100# G.P.</u>	<u>av. 825'</u>	<u>48</u>
2		<u>VT-60</u>			
3					
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(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).

Due to the fact that the cloud base at the time of this attack was 3000 ft. the pilots had to push over at that altitude and by the time bombs were released all planes were very low accounting for the damage to the planes. Many buildings were hit, one being completely demolished and the rest of the area very well covered. This particular hop was given a Very Well Done by the Air Co-ordinator.

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