

# CONFIDENTIAL

## ACTION REPORT

ORIGINAL

USS SUWANNEE

CVE 27

SERIAL 043

8 JULY 1944

### ACTION REPORTS.

[ COVERS AA ACTION DURING APPROACH  
FOR SAIPAN LANDINGS 15-19 JUNE 1944.  
IN TASK GROUP 53.7. ]

81000

*Orig. JW.*

IN REPLY REFER  
TO NO.

CVE27/A16-3(1)  
(10-grs)  
Serial: 043

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

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

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

**8 JUL 1944**

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To: The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Via: (1) Commander Task Group 53.7 (Commander Carrier  
Division Twenty-Two).  
(2) Commander Task Force 53.  
(3) Commander 5th Fleet.  
(4) Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Reports.

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

- Enclosure:
- (A) Commander Air Group 60 Aircraft Action Report - - - - - 1-44.
  - (B) Commander Air Group 60 Aircraft Action Report - - - - - 2-44.
  - (C) Commanding Officer VF-60 Aircraft Action Report - - - - - 4-44.
  - (D) Commander Air Group 60 Report of Anti-Submarine Action by Aircraft - - - - - 1-44.

1. This vessel took part in the approach on the Marianas Islands as a unit of Task Group 53.7. Routine combat air patrols and anti submarine patrols were conducted.

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

*W. D. Johnson*  
W. D. JOHNSON.

Copy to:  
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*RS*  
*7-03809*  
**81000 FILMED**

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# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL  
 RESTRICTED  
 (Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting Air Group 60 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Suwannee, at sea. (c) Report No. 1-44  
 (14 June, 1944)  
 (d) Date of Action 15 June, 1944 (e) Take off: Time 2215 (GCT); Lat. 13-50 N. Long. 152-56 E  
 (f) Mission Anti Submarine Patrol. (g) Time of Return 0155 (GCT)

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

| (a)<br>TYPE | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>NO. OF SORTIES | (d)<br>NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C | (e)<br>NO. ATTACKING TARGET | (f)<br>BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) | (g)<br>FUZE, SETTING |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| TBM-1c      | VT-60           | 1                     | 1                             | 0                           | 4x350# Torpex Depth Bombs.                     | 25' Hydrostatic.     |
| F6F-3       | VF-60           | 1                     | 1                             | 0                           | None.  |                      |

## 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)<br>TYPE | (b)<br>NO. OBSERVED | (c)<br>NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C | (d)<br>TIME ENCOUNTERED | (e)<br>LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER  | (f)<br>BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED                                     | (g)<br>CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING   |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Betty       | 1                   | 1                           | 0015(GCT)               | Approximately 14-05N 152-22E<br>Bearing 335 True<br>60 miles from base. | 2 small bombs jettisoned.<br>2x7.7 mm in dorsal Turret.<br>1x20 mm in tail turret. | Standard dirty brown color. Red discs on fuselage, but none on wings. |

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Snooper or Sector Search.  
 (i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) 3/10 Covered. Cumulus clouds at 3500 feet.  
 (j) Sun or Moon Sun 70 degrees, Bright. (k) Visibility 20-25 miles.

## V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>ENEMY A/C | (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: |          |                                      |                       | (c)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE                 | (d)<br>DAMAGE CLAIMED |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
|                          | TYPE A/C                     | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER                      | GUNS USED             |   |                       |
| Betty                    | TBM-1c                       | VT-60    | Leon T. Bingham.<br>AOM 2/c. Gunner. | 1x.50 cal.<br>Turret. | Port wing outboard of engine. 10 above. | Destroyed.            |

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**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 TBM seemed to operate normally in all respects, however three of the F6F guns failed after firing a few rounds. One gun jammed with a short round, another with a link jam and the third from a broken link.

(Continued from preceding page)

It should be noted that Ens. Jedlund controlled and maneuvered his TBM remarkably well in order to give his gunner opportunities to fire at the most vulnerable spots from the best possible angles, and he should be highly commended for the manner in which he carried out his plan of action.

Bingham's last shots, although outboard of the port engine, must have hit a very vulnerable spot which would indicate that the Betty carried gas tanks outboard of the engines as well as in the wing roots.

According to those present the 20 mm. in the tail seemed to have a very low rate of fire and to be of low velocity, leaving a characteristic corkscrewing trail of smoke.

The aim of the Jap gunners seemed to be very bad as only one of the two planes involved sustained only one bullet hole.

This particular Betty had no waist guns.

The Jap pilot did not attempt to head for cloud cover nor turn away from his course at any time maintaining a constant heading while violently skidding in shallow turns.

There were figures and writing on both fuselage and tail, but at no time was anyone able to read them.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

*H. E. Richmond*  
H. E. Richmond, Lieut. USNR.  
SIGNATURE

*H. O. Feilbach*  
H. O. Feilbach, Lt. Cdr. CAG 60.  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

15 June, 1944.  
DATE

**AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT**

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

**I. GENERAL**

(a) Unit Reporting Air Group 60 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Suwannee, at Sea (c) Report No. 2-44  
15 June, 1944  
 (d) Date of Action 16 June, 1944. (e) Take off: Time 2210-2215(GCT); Lat. 13-55.7N Long 152-28E  
TBM 0140  
 (f) Mission Anti Submarine Patrol. (g) Time of Return F6F 0225(GCT)

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

| (a)<br>TYPE | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>NO. OF SORTIES | (d)<br>NO. ENGAGING ENEMY A/C | (e)<br>NO. ATTACKING TARGET | (f)<br>BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) | (g)<br>FUZE, SETTING |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| TBM-1c      | VT-60           | 1                     | 1                             | 0                           | 4x350# Torpex Depth Bombs                      | 25' Hydrostatic.     |
| F6F-3       | VF-60           | 1                     | 1                             | 0                           | None   |                      |

**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)<br>TYPE | (b)<br>NO. OBSERVED | (c)<br>NO. ENGAGING OWN A/C | (d)<br>TIME ENCOUNTERED | (e)<br>LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER      | (f)<br>BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED         | (g)<br>CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING          |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Betty       | 1                   | 1                           | 0012<br>(GCT)           | Approximately<br>14-00N 151-14E   | No Bombs Nor Torpedoes<br>observed to be jettisoned    | Standard dirty<br>brown color. Red     |
|             |                     |                             | (GCT)                   | Bearing 090,40<br>Miles from base | 2x7.7 mm. in dorsal turret<br>1x20 mm. in tail turret. | discs on fuselage<br>but none on wings |
|             |                     |                             | (GCT)                   |                                   |  |  |
|             |                     |                             | (GCT)                   |                                   |  |  |

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) Snooper or Sector Search.  
 (i) Weather and Clouds at Location of Encounter(s) 3/10 Covered. Cumulus Clouds  
 (j) Sun or Moon Bright sun, 75 degrees (k) Visibility 20 Miles.

**V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).**

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>ENEMY A/C | (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: |          |                       |            | (c)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE               | (d)<br>DAMAGE CLAIMED |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                          | TYPE A/C                     | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER       | GUNS USED  |                                       |                       |
| Betty                    | F6f-3                        | VF-60    | Ens. K. N. Montgomery | 4x.50 cal. | Fuselage, starboard<br>side, 5 level. | destroyed.            |





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XII. Tactical and Operational Data:

On 16 June, 1944 at 1011 local time, (-10 time zone; east longitude date) a Betty was sighted by an anti submarine patrol from this ship consisting of one TBM-1c, pilot Lt. Cdr. W.C. Vincent, gunner Dean V. Kopren, AOM1c, Radioman Robert C. Gerson, ARM2c, a passenger Lt. M.L. Connally, USMCR, a Marine observer temporarily attached to this ship, and one F6F piloted by Ens. Kenneth N.

**Montgomery.**

The patrol was flying along its second leg on a heading of approximately 000 degrees true when Lt. Cdr. Vincent sighted a plane through binoculars bearing 020 degrees true, 5 miles distant, on a course South East, at 1011, local time. He signalled the fighter, which was 50 feet to his port quarter, to follow and dove to 100', turning to 070 degrees and losing sight of the contact. About one minute later, at 1012, the plane was sighted again at 11 O'clock and appeared to be a Betty, about 4 miles distant on a course of 090, and was reported to base as a bogey. The F6F commenced to close up from the starboard quarter to the starboard beam of the bogey indicating 245 Kts. The TBM was closing slowly from 7 O'clock, indicating 200 Kts, slowing to 190 when bomb bays were opened to jettison bombs. (Bombs did not release on emergency release probably because the release handle was not pulled hard enough.) The bogey started a slight turn to port away from the fighter. The TBM started firing short bursts with wing guns at a range of over three miles. Although the first burst fell about 1000 yards short of the bogey, he seemed reluctant to turn into the fire from the TBM. (The fighter pilot stated that the bogey seemed more afraid of the TBM than he did of the F6F.) Within 3 minutes the fighter had drawn abeam of the bogey, identified it as a Betty and made a flat side-run on its starboard quarter. His first burst was low and behind, but correcting for it he then fired a long burst into the fuselage from behind and a little to starboard. The Betty nosed down, hit the water and exploded. There were no survivors observed and very little debris with the exception of an object about six feet long and from two and one half to three feet in width. The pilots of both planes stated that this object appeared to be a liferaft either wrapped up in or having a Jap flag painted on it.

COMMENTS:

This Betty was apparently of the same model as the one shot down by pilots from this ship on the previous day. (See Air Group 60 Aircraft action report #1-44 of 15 June, 1944.) It had one probable 20 mm. gun in the tail and what appeared to be two 7.7 mm guns in the dorsal turret. There were no waist guns observed.

The characteristic red discs were very much in evidence on the fuselage, but there were none on the wings.

The maximum speed of this model Betty at sea level appears to be between 170-180 kts. The TBM in this case, with four passengers and 1400# of bombs, was overhauling the Betty at 200 kts. indicated.

Lt. Cdr. Vincent stated that "the Jap seemed to be either stupid, confused or very green as he attempted no evasive action whatsoever other than turning away from the TBM." He should have realized that the machine gun fire from

**XIII. MATERIAL DATA.** (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.  
Use additional sheets if necessary).

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  - Turrets
  - Ammunition
  - Bombs, Torpedoes
  - Bomb Sights
  - Bomb Releases
- COMMUNICATIONS**
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  - Visual Signals
  - Codes, Ciphers
- RECOGNITION**
  - IFF
  - Signals
  - Battle Lights
  - Procedures
- PROTECTION**
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  - Leak Proofing
- EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**
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  - Power Plant
- OXYGEN SYSTEM**
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- STRUCTURE**
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  - Flight Characteristics At Various Loadings
- POWER PLANT**
  - Engines
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  - Lubricating System
  - Starters
  - Exhaust Dampers
- HYDRAULIC SYSTEM**
- ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**
  - Auxiliary Plant
  - Lights
- FUEL SYSTEM**
- FLIGHT CLOTHING**
- MAINTENANCE**
- BASE FACILITIES**
  - Plane Servicing Equipment
  - Personnel Facilities

Both the TBM and the F6F functioned normally in all respects.

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the TBM would be ineffective as it was done at extremely long range, yet it was this fire that kept him from turning into the TBM thereby leaving himself wide open to the fighter. These tactics apparently were very effective as they resulted in shooting the Jap down although the practice of flying a TBM and an F6F together on patrol had only started a few days previous to this engagement.

REPORT PREPARED BY:  
*H. E. Richmond*  
H. E. Richmond, Lieut. USNR ACT. OFF. VT-60  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

APPROVED BY:  
*H. O. Feilbach*  
H. O. Feilbach, Lt. Cdr. USNR. CAG 60  
SIGNATURE RANK AND DUTY

16 June, 1944.  
DATE