

CONFIDENTIAL
ACTION REPORT

DECLASSIFIED

USS SUWANNEE

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200.9
of 27 Sep 58
BY gic DATE 7-14-69

CVE 27

SERIAL 073

2 OCTOBER 1944

ACTION REPORT, MOROTAI OPERATION.

COVERS AIR SUPPORT FOR INITIAL LANDING
ON MOROTAI, HALMAHERA ISLANDS. IN TASK
UNIT 77.1.1. ALSO SUPPORTED GROUND
FORCES AND ATTACKED JAP AIRDROMES.

89496

ORIGINAL

In reply refer to
File No.

CVE27/A12-1
(95-hlr)
Serial 073

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

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

2 - OCT 1944

DECLASSIFIED

From: The Commanding Officer.
 To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
 Via: (1) Commander Task Group 77.1.
 (Commander Task Force 78)
 (2) Commander Task Force 77.
 (Commander Attack Force)
 (3) Commander SEVENTH Fleet.

Subject: Action Report, Morotai Operation.

Reference: (a) Article 762, U.S.Navy Regulations, 1920.
 (b) Com7thPhib conf. ltr. FE25/A16-3(3) serial
 0212 dated 17 February, 1944.

Enclosure: (A) Aircraft Action Reports, Morotai Operation,
 Air Group SIXTY.

1. In compliance with reference (b) the following report
 is submitted:

PART I

1. On 10 September, 1944, at 1230I, U.S.S.SUWANNEE, as part of Task Group 77.1 (also Task Force 78), in accordance with CTG 77.1 Sortie Plan 7-44, departed Seeadler Harbor, Admiralties, for Morotai, Halmahera Islands, in company with SANGAMON, CHENANGO, SANTEE, MIDWAY and FANSHAW BAY with 8 DE as screen (CTG 77.1 Rear Admiral T.L. Sprague in SANGAMON). On September 13, D-2 Day, at 1115I, Task Group 77.1 rendezvoused with the Attack Force, Task Force 77, SUWANNEE thereafter maintaining part of the combat air patrol, anti-snooper patrol and anti-submarine patrol over the convoy. On 15 September, D-Day, and days thereafter, SUWANNEE provided air support missions for the ground forces operating on Morotai Island, and launched fighter sweeps against Lolobata airfield and fighter-bomber strikes against Galela, Miti and Kace air strips and Wasile Bay area installations. It also maintained combat air patrol and anti-submarine patrol over Morotai and over carrier group. During an airsea rescue, and while providing air cover for PT boats and a rescue plane effecting a rescue of a downed pilot off Cape Lolobata, two F6F-3s and one pilot were lost as a result of enemy anti-aircraft fire. On 25 September at 0942I, SUWANNEE, in accordance with dispatch orders, departed Morotai for Seeadler Harbor in company with CHENANGO and 2 DE as screen, forming Task Unit 77.1.4 (CTU 77.1.4 Captain W.D. Johnson in SUWANNEE) arriving Seeadler on 29 September, 1944.

File No.

CVE27/A12-1
(95-hlr)
Serial 073

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Action Report, Morotal Operation.

For "composition of own forces", "mission, doctrine and tactical aspects", see Action Report of Commander Task Group 77.1.

Statistical Summary of Operations.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Sorties: | VF 268, VT 78, Total 346. |
| 2. Strikes: | VF 57, VT 8, Total 65. |
| 3. Hours flown: | VF 960.1 VT 308.9, Total 1269. |
| 4. Anti-submarine patrol: | 69 |
| 5. Combat air patrol: | 193 |
| 6. Photographic missions: | 3 |
| 7. Air-sea rescue cover: | 12 |
| 8. Army air observer: | 2 |
| 9. Miscellaneous: | 2 |
| 10. Bombs dropped, tonnage: | 19.5 |
| 11. Ammunition expended: | |
| | .50 cal. 56,000 rounds (approx) |
| | .30 cal. 5,000 rounds (approx) |

PART II

10 Sept. In accordance with CTG 77.1 Sortie Plan 7-44, U.S.S. SUWANNEE, as part of Task Group 77.1, departed Secadler Harbor, Admiralties, in company with SANGAMON, CHENANGO, SANTEE, MIDWAY and FANSHAW BAY with 8 DE, EDMONDS, DENNIS, BULL, EVERSOLE, J.C. BUTLER, RAYMOND, ROWELL and SHELTON (CTG 77.1 in SANGAMON).

11 Sept. Maintained CAP over carrier group.

12 Sept. Launched 4 VF as anti-snooper patrol to fly with FANSHAW BAY ASP.

U. S. S. SUWANNEE

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CVR27/A12-1
(95-hlr)
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U. S. S. SUWANNEE
(CVR-27)

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Action Report, Morotai Operation.

- 13 Sept. Fueled one DE of screen. At 1115I rendezvoused with the Attack Force, Task Force 77.
- 14 Sept. SUWANNEE went to General Quarters at 1018I and again at 1358I, unidentified aircraft in both cases proving friendly. TG 77.1 departed from Attack Force to operate in area east of Morotai Island, Halmaheras.
- 15 Sept. On D-Day, SUWANNEE launched 10 VF for fighter sweep of Lolobata airdrome and Wasile Bay area installations, Halmahera, fighter sweep probably sinking 300 ton ship by strafing. Four fighter-bombers supported troop landings on Morotai. Maintained local and target CAP and ASP and launched Army Air Observer.
- 16 Sept. 10 VF again swept Lolobata field and local and target CAP and ASP were again maintained. Launched 8 VF, and later 4 VF as relief, as cover for Dumbo and PT Boats in air-sea rescue operation of SALTER pilot off Cape Lolobata. F6F-3, piloted by Ensign W.P. Bannister, USNR., was seen to crash into the Bay 100 yards from the downed pilot, probably as a result of enemy anti-aircraft fire. SALTER pilot and Ensign Bannister's section leader both reported he did not appear on the surface. An F6F-3, piloted by Ensign P.W. Lindskog, USNR., was struck by anti-aircraft fire and forced to land on the water, the pilot being rescued by Dumbo.
- 17 Sept. Launched 9 fighter-bombers and 4 VT for support mission against enemy troops and installations on Morotai. Launched 16 VF for target CAP.
- 18 Sept. Conducted air operations, maintaining target CAP and ASP. Launched fighter-bomber strike against Galela airdrome, strike also strafing Miti and Hatababako air strips, all on Halmahera. Launched VT strike against Morotai.
- 19 Sept. Morning CAP, when relieved on station over Morotai, strafed Miti airstrip burning two enemy aircraft, probably already damaged, on the ground. Fighter-bomber strike against Galela destroyed five aircraft on the ground. Fueled U.S.S. EVERSOLE. At 1850I SUWANNEE went to General Quarters, unidentified aircraft eventually fading off the screen.

U. S. S. SUWANNEE

In reply refer to
File No.

1810

OVB27/A12-1
(95-hlr)
Serial 073

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



CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Action Report, Morotai Operation.

- 20 Sept. Maintained target CAP and ASP. At 2051I SUWANNEE went to General Quarters but unidentified aircraft faded from the screen.
- 21 Sept. Conducted air operations, maintaining ASP and CAP over Morotai. Launched fighter-bomber strike against Calala dispersal area and supply dumps. Launched another fighter-bomber strike and photographic plane against the supply area at Coorea, Wasile Bay area and also personnel concentrations and dispersal areas at Gorea, Kaee.
- 22 Sept. Conducted air operations, maintaining ASP and CAP over Morotai.
- 23 Sept. Maintained target ASP and CAP and launched photographic mission over southeast portion of Morotai Island.
- 24 Sept. Launched local CAP and ASP and target CAP and repeated the photographic mission over the southeast portion of Morotai. Fueled U.S.S. ROWELL.
- 25 Sept. Launched local ASP. At 0942I SUWANNEE left formation for Seeadler Harbor accompanied by CHENANGO and 2 DE, RAYMOND and J.C. BUTLER. At 0945 assumed designation of Task Unit 77.1.4 (Captain W.D. Johnson, GTU 77.1.4 in SUWANNEE).
- 26 Sept. Launched ASP and CAP over carrier unit. Fueled J.C. BUTLER.
- 28 Sept. Maintained ASP and CAP over carriers.
- 29 Sept. Anchored Seeadler Harbor, Admiralties.

PART V

1. For aircraft action, see enclosure (A), Aircraft action Reports, Morotai Operation, Air Group SIXTY.

W.D. JOHNSON.

Copy to:

- CominCh (advance copy)
- ComAirPac.
- CINCPAC

Original

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

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

2 - OCT 1944

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From: The Commanding Officer.
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via: (1) Commander Task Group 77.1.
(Commander Task Force 78)
(2) Commander Task Force 77.
(Commander Attack Force)
(3) Commander SEVENTH Fleet.

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U. S. S. SUWANNEE
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Statistical Summary of Operations.

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2. Strikes:	VF 57, VT 8, Total 65.
3. Hours flown:	VF 960.1 VT 308.9, Total 1269.
4. Anti-submarine patrol:	69
5. Combat air patrol:	193
6. Photographic missions:	3
7. Air-sea rescue cover:	12
8. Army air observer:	2
9. Miscellaneous:	2
10. Bombs dropped, tonnage:	19.5
11. Ammunition expended:	
	.50 cal. 56,000 rounds (approx)
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Subject: Action Report, Morotai Operation.

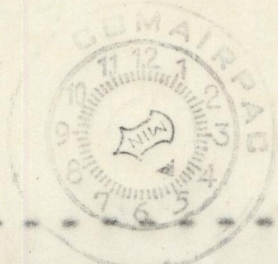
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In reply refer to
File No.

1276
RECEIVED

CVE27/A12-1
(95-hlr)
Serial 073

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



CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Action Report, Morotai Operation.

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- 29 Sept. Anchored Seeadler Harbor, Admiralties.

PART V

1. For aircraft action, see enclosure (A), Aircraft Action Reports, Morotai Operation, Air Group SIXTY.

W.D. JOHNSON.

Copy to:

- CominCh (advance copy)
- ComAirPac.
- CINCPAC

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
 (Reclassify when
 filed out)
CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting Air Group 60 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. Sumner, at sea. (c) Report No. AG-60 133-44
 (d) Take off: Date 17 September, 1944 Time (LZT) 0755 I-9 (Zone); Lat. 22N Long. 122E
Slide Bomb and Strafe Target Areas 354 B and 355 A.
 (e) Mission Morotai Island, Halmahera Group. (f) Time of Return 1000 I-9 (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

TYPE (a)	SQUADRON (b)	NUMBER			BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f)	FUZE, SETTING (g)
		TAKING OFF (c)	ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
<u>TBM-1c</u>	<u>VT-60</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4x500# G.P.</u>	<u>Inst. Nose, .01 Tail</u>
<u>TBF-3</u>	<u>VT-60</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2x500# G.P.</u>	<u>0.1 Tail, .01 Nose.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>TBM-1c</u>	<u>VC-65</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>U.S.S. Midway</u>				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (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>			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) None.

(i) Did Any Part of Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? No. If so, Describe Clouds 1700', Cumulus, 6/10.
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(j) Time of Day and Brilliance of Sun or Moon Day, Bright sunlight. (k) Visibility 30 miles
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (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>						