

DECLASSIFIED  
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ACTION REPORT

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200.9  
of 27 Sep 58  
BY g/c DATE 3-16-65

USS SUWANNEE

CVE 27

SERIAL 0013

6 JULY 1945

ACTION REPORT - OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF OCCUPATION OF  
OKINAWA - NANSEI SHOTO - 1 APRIL - 16 JUNE 1945

COVERS CVE SUPPORT FOR  
OKINAWA OPERATION

131319



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Reg. No. 2276  
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R. S. No. 7 969

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CVE-27/A16-3(1)  
(95-wrb)  
Serial 0013

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

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

6 JUL 1945

S-E-C-R-E-T

From: The Commanding Officer.  
 To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.  
 Via: (1) Commander Carrier Division TWENTY-TWO  
 (Commander Task Unit 32.1.3).  
 (2) Commander Escort Carrier Force, Pacific Fleet  
 (Commander Task Group 32.1).  
 (3) Commander Amphibious Group FOUR  
 (Commander Task Force 31).  
 (4) Commander THIRD Fleet,  
 (5) Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Report, Operations in Support of Occupation of  
 Okinawa, Nansei Shoto, 1 April - 16 June 1945.

Reference: (a) Articles 712, 874(6) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920.  
 (b) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 1CL-45 dated January 1945.  
 (c) Commander THIRD Fleet Standard Instructions 1-45.  
 (d) Commander Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
 Operation Plan No. A1-45 dated 9 February 1945.  
 (e) Commander Escort Carrier Force Task Force Instructions  
 dated 1 February 1945.  
 (f) Commander Carrier Division 22 Operation Order No. 1-45.  
 dated 24 March 1945.  
 (g) Commander Carrier Division 22 dispatch 170249 of June  
 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Eight photographs of damage caused by explosion on  
 24 May 1945. -p.63

1. In compliance with reference (b), subject Action Report in eight parts, with enclosure (A), is submitted herewith.

*D.S. Cornwell*  
D.S. CORNWELL.

Copy to:  
Cominch (1) (advance)  
Cincpac (3) (advance)  
ComAirPac (1) (advance)

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

ACTION REPORT - OKINAWA

PART I

This ship, with Air Group FORTY aboard, participated in the rehearsal for the Okinawa operation at Guadalcanal on 5-6 March 1945, and subsequently participated in the occupation of Okinawa and the neutralization of enemy air bases in the Sakishima Gunto during the period 1 April to 16 June 1945.

PART II

This ship operated with Task Unit Fifty-Two point One point Three from the beginning of the operation up to 28 May 1945 and with Task Unit Thirty-Two point One point Three thereafter, until 16 June 1945.

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

ACTION REPORT - OKINAWA

PART III - CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT

A. Weather.

1. Weather conditions in the vicinity of this vessel were almost without exception favorable for flight operations throughout the operation. On 4 June, however, all planes were secured during the afternoon and all the following day due to a typhoon approaching from the south. The task unit remained within a hundred-mile area southeast of Miyako Jima while the typhoon passed to the east, curving northeast. No effects were felt from this typhoon beyond a slight swell occasioned by it.

2. Weather over Miyako and Ishigaki was usually poor for attack purposes. Low ceilings and haze were a normal condition, and occasionally frontal conditions blotted out one or both islands. On a few occasions flights passed through fronts enroute to the target and on arrival found excellent weather.

B. Important Events.

1945

5-6 March Air support missions flown in rehearsal at Guadalcanal for Okinawa operation.

14 March Underway at 1204(K) for Ulithi.

17-20 March Gunnery exercises conducted with towed targets.

21 March Dropped anchor at Ulithi at 1408(K).

27 March Underway at 0914(K). Gunnery exercises conducted.

28 March Gunnery exercises conducted with towed targets.

31 March Arrival in the Okinawa operating area.

1-2 April Flew air support missions for Demonstration Landing southeast of Okinawa.

3-7 April Flew air support missions over southern Okinawa.

8-10 April Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.

11 April Replenished in Kerama Retto anchorage.

12 April LCAP shot down enemy "Myrt" 15 miles bearing 090 from task unit at 0920(I); body of pilot picked up by destroyer; ship's position was 24° 58' N, 129° 46' E. Automatic weapons test-fired. Refueled from 1301 to 1707(I).

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

ACTION REPORT - OKINAWA - PART III - CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT.

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B. Important Events (continued).

- 13 April Flew target combat air patrols in Okinawa area. Five "Sonia's" shot down.
- 14-15 April Flew target combat air patrols and supply-drop missions in Okinawa area.
- 16-17 April Flew air support missions over Ie Jima and southern Okinawa.
- 18-19 April Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 20 April Refueled from 0641 to 1022(I).
- 21 April Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 22 April Replenished in Kerama Retto anchorage.
- 23 April Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 24 April Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto. Conducted air defense practice.
- 25-27 April Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 28 April Refueled from 0705 to 1036(I). Conducted practice firing for condition watch.
- 29 April Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 30 April Replenished in Kerama Retto anchorage.
- 1-3 May Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 4-5 May Flew air support missions over southern Okinawa.
- 6-7 May Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 8 May Refueled from 0837 to 1146(I).
- 9 May Replenished in Kerama Retto anchorage.
- 10 May Flew target combat air patrols in Okinawa area.
- 11 May Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 12-13 May Flew target combat air patrols in Okinawa area.

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ACTION REPORT - OKINAWA - PART III - CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT.

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B. Important Events (continued).

- 14-15 May      Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 16 May        Flew air support missions over southern Okinawa.
- 17 May        Refueled from 0716 to 0959(I). Conducted practice firing with automatic weapons.
- 18 May        Replenished in Kerama Retto anchorage.
- 19 May        Flew target combat air patrols in Okinawa area.
- 20-21 May     Flew air support missions over southern Okinawa.
- 22 May        Weather restricted air operations to local patrols.
- 23 May        Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 24 May        Flew air support missions over southern Okinawa. TBM exploded after landing (see Part VI - D).
- 25 May        Refueled from 0736 to 1013(I).
- 26-28 May     Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 29 May        Replenished in Kerama Retto anchorage.
- 30 May -  
4 June        Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto. Secured planes in preparation for typhoon.
- 5 June        No flight operations.
- 6 June        Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto.
- 7 June        Refueled from 0945 to 1254(I).
- 8 June        Replenished in Kerama Retto anchorage.
- 9-14 June     Attacked airfields and installations in Sakishima Gunto
- 15 June        Flew local patrols.
- 16 June        Attacked town on Amami O Jima and airfield and town on Kikai Jima. Primary target Kyushu was closed in. Detached from Task Unit 32.1.3 and departed for Leyte at 1950(I).
- 19 June        Dropped anchor in San Pedro Bay, Leyte at 1731(I).



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

ACTION REPORT - OKINAWA

PART IV - ORDNANCE

A. Performance of own ordnance material and equipment.

1. Ammunition was expended in AA practice as follows:

<u>Caliber</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>No. of Rounds</u>
5"/38	A.A. Common	96
5"/38	VT Mk. 53 Mods 3. (Monthly Test)	12
40MM	HEIT	33,323
40MM	HEP	4,197
20MM	HEI	26,146
20MM	HET	13,245

2. The performance of all ship's ordnance was satisfactory. No ship's ordnance was used against the enemy.

3. No trouble was encountered with Aircraft Ordnance material with the exception of the usual trouble with the Mk. 4 bomb shackle. There were many "hung" bombs, one of which exploded as the plane landed aboard. Details of this incident appear in Part VI - D.

B. Performance of enemy anti-aircraft.

1. The outstanding feature of enemy anti-aircraft fire at Miyako and Ishigaki was the absence of visible bursts. Occasionally, gun flashes would be seen but bursts rarely. However, medium A/A bursts of a bluish white color were clearly visible on several occasions, notably when glare was absent and the ceiling was high (about 12,000 ft.).

2. In general, light and medium A/A was accurate; our planes were hit on twenty-five occasions over these islands, and four planes were lost. All the airfields on these islands were strongly defended by A/A, but the volume of fire was meager or moderate, due either to an attempt to conceal positions or to a shortage of ammunition.

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

ACTION REPORT - OKINAWA

PART V - DAMAGE

A. Battle Damage to Own Units.

1. This ship received no battle damage.
2. Details of damage to own aircraft will be found in Part VI (A)(3).

B. Battle Damage Inflicted on the Enemy.

1. Details of damage to the enemy by air attack will be found in Part VI (A)(4).

C. 1. Details of damage caused by explosion on flight deck will be found in Part VI (D).







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

ACTION REPORT - OKINAWA - PART VI - SPECIAL COMMENTS AND INFORMATION -  
 SECTION (A) - AIR OPERATIONS (1) Table of  
 sorties and plane availability by days.

10	16	9				12			16	4	
11	16	9	16	8		4			8	2	1 VT Message Drop
12	12	9		4		16	1 VT Photo		8	4	1 VT Message Drop
13	12	10				12	8	1 VT Coord.	12	4	1 VT Message Drop
14	11	9	19	14				2 VT Photo	4		1 VT Message Drop
15	13	10	8	4			8		12	4	1 VT Ferry 1 VT Message Drop
16	14	11				12	20	4 VT Coord. 1 VT Photo	8	5	
17	13	11							8	2	1 VT Message Drop
18	13	11							8		
19	13	11					24	1 VT Coord.			
20	13	12				16	16		16	4	1 VT Message Drop
21	13	12				4	16	1 VT Coord.	8	2	1 VT Message Drop
22	13	12							4	2	
23	17	12	12	7			4	1 VT Photo		4	1 VT Message Drop
24	13	11				4	8	1 VT Coord.	16	4	1 VT Message Drop
25	12	10							8	2	1 VT Message Drop
26	12	11	10	8					17	4	
27	11	12	11	6			8	1 VT Photo	20	6	1 VT Message Drop
28	15	12	15	8			4		4	2	1 VT Message Drop
29	15	12							8		
30	15	11	16	14			4	1 VT Photo	15	6	
31	16	11	16	16			12		7	2	1 VT Message Drop
JUNE											
1	15	9	24	19			4		8	2	1 VT Message Drop
2	15	11	8	7			4	1 VT Photo	16	6	1 VT Message Drop
3	20	12	20	16			4		8	2	1 VT Message Drop
4	15	10	8	6					8	4	
6	15	10	23	15			4	1 VT Photo	8	2	1 VT Message Drop
8	20	12							8		
9	20	12	8	8			4		8	4	
10	19	11	16	16			4		16	4	
11	20	11	24	14			4		16	3	1 VT Message Drop
12	19	10	24	18					12	2	1 VT Message Drop
13	19	11	27	16				1 VF Photo	8	2	1 VF Message Drop
14	19	12	16	15			8	1 VT Photo		1	1 VT Message Drop
15	19	11							8	2	2 VT Message Drop
16	19	11	16	8							1 VF Strike Spare 1 VT Strike Spare 1 VT Message Drop
19	19	11									2 VT, 4VF Ferry