

CONFIDENTIAL

1. AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(e)

(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 TBF-1	VC-60	Shrapnel	Center Top Starboard	6"x3" Hole Repaired and plane ready to fly next day.
2			Wing	
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).

[illegible]

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
TBF-1	-	-	2hr 15"	300gls.	150gls.		NONE			
SBD-5	-	-	2hr 15"	250gls	135					

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

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

No Report

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

~~SECRET~~
RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

(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) Target Areas 201-211. Bititu (Helen) Is. (b) Time Over Target(s) 0355 GCT.

(c) Weather and Clouds Over Target _____

(d) Sun or Moon Same (e) Visibility _____

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>Same</u>	TBF-1 VC-60	29x500# G.P.	av. 800'	
2			to 2000'	26
3 <u>Same</u>	SBD-5	5x500 G.P.	av. 1400'	
			to 3000'	5
5		7x100# G.P.	Same	7
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).

Enclosed.

(h) Were Photographs Taken? None Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached.

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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

During this attack there was no enemy anti-aircraft fire nor opposing enemy aircraft. These facts gave all of the pilots plenty of time to manoeuver into the best possible positions from which to make their runs on the target. The attack was pressed home with the utmost precision and as a consequence, all but three (3) bombs were seen to land within the target areas. The spotting plane reported that the attack was very good and that the target areas were well covered by this group.

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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

All aircraft equipment seemed to be in good working order with the exception of bomb release mechanisms on two TBF's and two SED's. One TBF and one SED each came back with two bombs and one TBF and one SED each came back with one Bomb.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

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

REPORT OF ANTI-SUBMARINE ACTION BY AIRCRAFT

I. GENERAL

(a) Report No. 1 (b) Date Nov. 20, 1943 (c) Unit Composite Squadron SIXTY
BuNo. 28955
(d) Base USS SUWANNEE at Sea (e) Squadron No. 0-37 (f) Command Task Force 53
(g) Pilot Ensign William T. Sackrider, A-V(N), USNR. (h) Type plane SBD-5
(i) Time zone +12 (j) Time take-off 1705 GCT (k) Time attack 1915 GCT
(l) Date attack 20 Nov. 1943 (m) Lat. 00° 58' N (n) Long. 172° 45' E
(o) Weather Clear (p) Visibility 5 miles
(q) Ceiling Unlimited (r) Clouds Scattered 2000' (s) Wind 5 knots from 075°
(t) Relative position sun Low on horizon (u) Sea Calm
(v) Mission A.S.P. 180° - 210° Sector - SW Tarawa Atoll Sector hF if Submarine Plotting Chart, Tarawa, Atoll.

(w) Convoy No. - - - (x) Camouflage - - - (y) Cloud cover used - - -

(z) Crew

STATION	NAME
Radioman & Gunner	SIMPSON, T.E., 634 50 19, ARM3c, USN.

(aa) Bombs carried

NUMBER	TYPE	FUSE AND SETTINGS
1	500# GP	.61 Sec. delay nose fuse
		4-5 Sec. delay Tail fuse

II. SIGHTING

(a) Time 1900 GCT (b) Bearing 195° T (c) Own Course 285° (d) Own speed 110
Knots
(e) Altitude 1800' (f) Range 5 miles (g) Sub course 100° (h) Sub speed ?
(i) Sub trim - - - (j) How contact first made Sighted Periscope Wake
(k) By whom Pilot (l) Type Radar - - - (m) Antennas - - -
(n) Radar contact: Bearing None (o) Range - - - (p) Altitude - - -
(q) Why Radar not used - - -
(r) What first attracted attention to enemy Periscope Wake

Encl. (H)

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

111. APPROACH AND ATTACK

(a) Narrative: Ensign Sackrider was flying the 180° - 210° sector of an A.S.P. south of Tarawa Atoll. About 35 miles south of Tarawa Atoll and just West of the North end of Maiana Atoll he saw a periscope wake about "4 or 5 miles away", and turned to make contact. The sub was heading about 100° when sighted then turned to about 245° and later turned to about 130° at which time Ensign Sackrider was above and behind the sub at 1300'. The attack was from directly astern, the angle of dive about 50°, 1 X 500 # G.P. bomb being dropped from an altitude of 400', 50' ahead of where the periscope was last seen and directly in the path of the sub. Bubbles were observed rising to the surface but no oil nor other debris.

(b) During approach: Plane darkened No (c) Flares used None

(d) Searchlight used None

(e) What recognition signal did U/B make None

(f) At bomb release: Altitude 400' (g) Own speed 160 Knots (h) Own course 130°

(i) Sub speed ? (j) Sub course 130° (k) Stop watch used No

(l) By whom --- (m) Reason not used ---

(n) Seconds after sighting: U/B started dive 3 (o) Conn. tower disappeared 3

(p) Bombs released 1 (q) Bombs struck water 1 (r) Bombs exploded 1

(s) Portion of sub visible when bombs released None

(t) Bombs released by Pilot (u) Station ---

ACK	NUMBER	TYPE	SPACING	FUSE
FIRST	1	500# GP	---	.01 Sec. delay Nose 4-5 Sec. Delay Tail

(v) Duds --- (w) Reason ---

(x) Malfunction of racks --- (y) Reason ---

(z) Observed position of bomb explosions relative to U/B or swirl 50 feet ahead of
where periscope last seen directly in path of sub.

111. APPROACH AND ATTACK (CONTINUED)

(aa) Own gunfire None

(bb) Photographs obtained None (cc) Why not No facilities

(dd) Bombs spaced by --- (ee) Enemy action None

(ff) Enemy aircraft encountered None

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

111. APPROACH AND ATTACK (CONTINUED)

(gg) Other ships or aircraft present None

(hh) Position of sub relative to these units: Bearing - - - (ii) Range - - -

1V. RESULTS, ETC.

(a) Evidence of damage to U/B No damage observed

(b) Moving oil slick: Course - - - (c) Speed - - - (d) Est. U/B depth - -

(e) Time in vicinity after attack 10 minutes (f) Why left To report back to base

(g) Reports made to Air Plot, USS SUWANNEE (h) Time 2100 GCT

(i) Relieving planes or surface craft None (j) Time - - -

(k) Description of sub Not on surface at any time

(l) Own casualties None

(m) Communication difficulties None

(n) Coordinated action of other units None

(o) Gambit or trapping tactics Tracked by periscope wake and outline of sub under water for 15 minutes.

(p) Surface indications left by sub Air bubbles

VI. SIGNATURES AND COMMENT

I have examined the above report. It is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Ens. H. T. Lockman
(Signature of Pilot)

This report prepared by the undersigned interrogating officer on USS SUWANNEE AT SEA
from interview of pilot and plane crew held at 0930 AT on 20 NOV. 1943
(Time) (Date)

LT. William H. G61 USNR
(Signature of interrogating Officer)
ACI off. VC 60

Comment of Squadron or Unit Commander:

A. C. Edmonds
A.C. EDMANDS,
Lieut. Comdr., U.S. Navy,
Commanding Officer, Composite Squadron SIXTY.

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

REPORT OF ANTI-SUBMARINE ACTION BY AIRCRAFT

1. GENERAL

(a) Report No. 2 (b) Date 13 December 1943 (c) Unit Composite Squadron SIXTY
BuNo.28960
(d) Base USS SUWANNEE (e) Squadron No. 0-31 (f) Command Task Force 53
(g) Pilot Lieutenant W.C. VINCENT, A-V(N), USNR. (h) Type Plane SBD-5
22 Nov.
(i) Time Zone + 12 (j) Time Take-off 0115 GCT (k) Time attack 0615 GCT 22 Nov.
(l) Date attack 22 Nov. 1943 (m) Lat. 1° 20' N Approx. (n) Long. 172° 40' E
(o) Weather Clear (p) Visibility Excellent
(q) Ceiling Unlimited (r) Clouds Scattered 2000' (s) Wind Approx. 5 Knots
(t) Relative position sun or moon Sun down - Moon down (u) Sea Light swell
Tarawa Atoll.
(v) Mission ASP 330°-360° Sector from Bititu(Helen)Is. (w) Convoy No. - - -
(x) Camouflage - - - (y) Cloud cover used - - -

(z) Crew

Station	Name
Radioman & Gunner	TURNER, T.J., 262-80-73, ARMLC, USN

(aa) BOMBS carried

NUMBER	TYPE	FUSE AND SETTINGS
1	500 # GP	45 sec. delay Tail Fuse
2	100 # GP	45 sec. delay Tail Fuse

11. SIGHTING

(a) Time 0613 (b) Bearing 235° from Bititu (c) Own Course ? (d) Own Speed 110 Knots
(e) Altitude 1200' (f) Range 1 mile (g) Sub course Approx. 90° (h) Sub speed ?
DD's
(i) Sub trim - - - (j) How contact first made Saw Depth Charge Swirls from
(k) By whom Pilot (l) Type Radar - - (m) Antennas - - -
(n) Radar contact: Bearing - - (o) Range - - - (p) Altitude - -
(q) Why Radar not used - - -
(r) What first attracted attention to enemy Saw depth charge swirls on surface.

Encl. (I)

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

111. APPROACH AND ATTACK

(a) Narrative: Lieut. Vincent had just completed flying the 330° sector A.S.P. from Bititu (Helen) Island, Tarawa Atoll and was attempting to establish communication with Lemon Base. His VHF Antenna was out, ZB unoperative, and was unable to transmit from the front cockpit and it was during this period he spotted depth charge swirls and the three (3) DD's. Investigating while circling for altitude, Lieut. Vincent saw what appeared to be a periscope on a course of approximately 90°. Lieut. Vincent then approached at 1200' at a speed of 110 Knots and saw what appeared to be a conning tower, rolled over and attacked from astern dropping 1 X 500# GP bomb which fell about 8 feet to starboard of the conning tower and exploding directly underneath. Lieut. Vincent then pulled up in a steep left wing-over at which time a DD opened fire on him from about 500 yards. Taking violent evasive action, emergency I.F.F. on, Lieut. Vincent retired out of gun range, established communication with Lemon Base on 3355 Kc and returned to base. Damage consisted of one (1) small caliber bullet hole in left wing tip about 3" forward of outer tip of aileron. The DD which fired on Lieut. Vincent was identified later as No. 602, USS MEADE.

(b) During approach: Plane darkened - - - (c) Flares used - - -
(d) Searchlight used _____
(e) What recognition signal did U/B make None
(f) At bomb release: Altitude 500' (g) Own speed ? (h) Own course 235°
(i) Sub speed ? (j) Sub course 090° (k) Stop watch used - - -
(l) By whom - - - (m) Reason not used None
(n) Seconds after sighting: U/B started dive - - (o) Conn. tower disappeared No
(p) Bombs released 1 X 500# (q) Bombs struck water 1 (r) Bombs exploded 1
(s) Portion sub visible when bombs released Apparently conning tower
(t) Bombs released by Lieut. Vincent (u) Station Pilot

ATTACK	NUMBER	TYPE	SPACING	FUSE
FIRST	1	500# GP	- - -	4-5 sec. delay tail
SECOND				

(v) Duds - - - (w) Reason - - -
(x) Malfunction of racks - - - (y) Reason - - -
(z) Observed position of bomb explosions relative to U/B or swirl 8' to stbd. of conning tower.