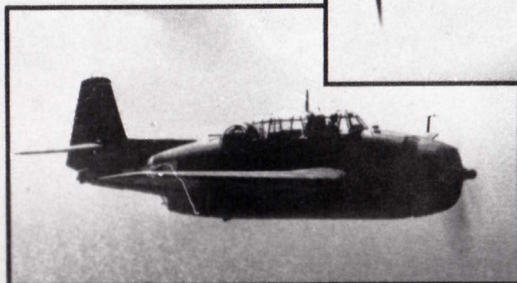


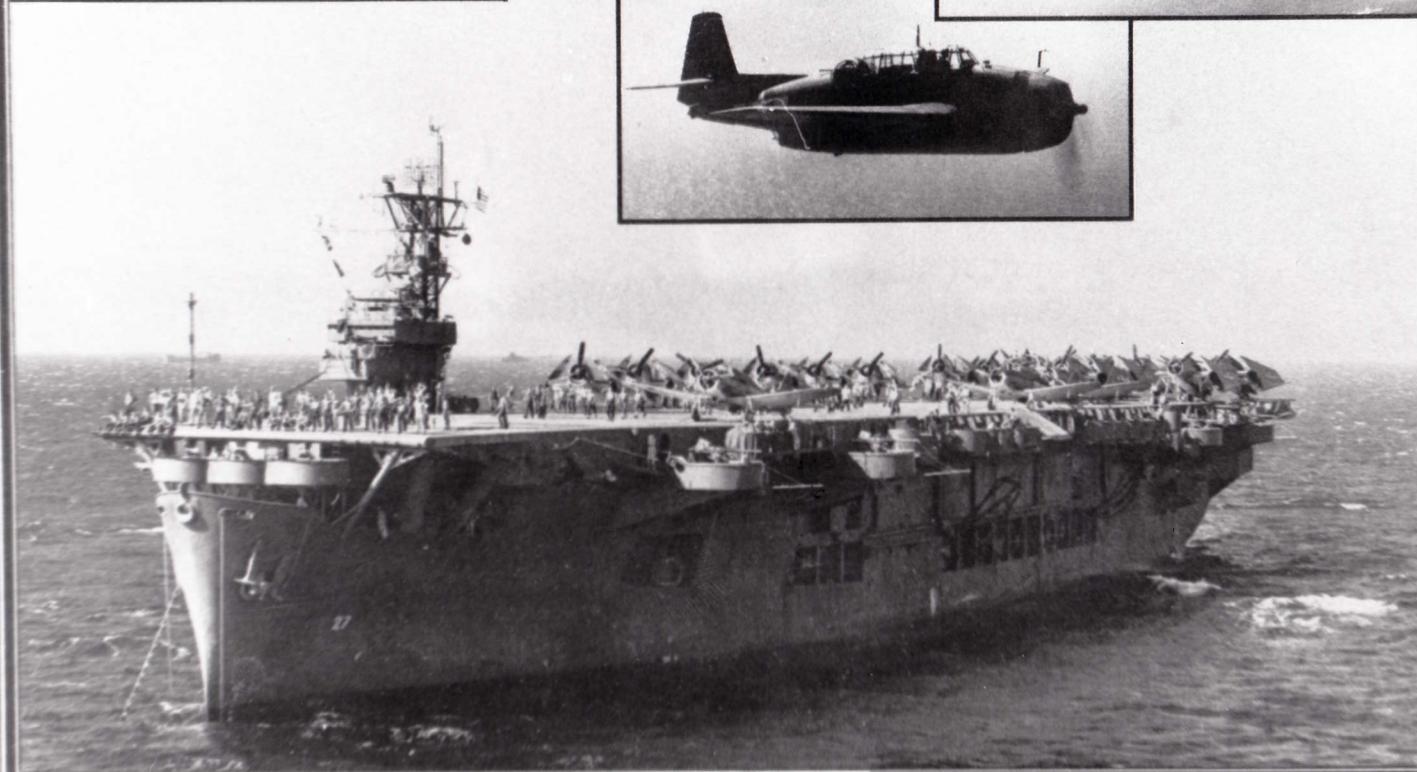
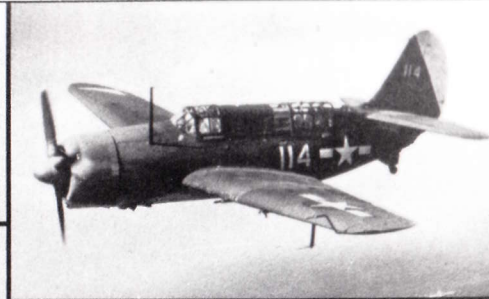
F6F HELLCAT FIGHTER



TBF/TBM AVENGER TORPEDO BOMBER



SB2-C HELLDIVER DIVE BOMBER



USS SUWANNEE CVE-27

Length: 533 feet; Beam: 75 feet
 Armament: 2 5-inch guns, 2 quad 40mm, 10 twin 40mm

Complement: 1,080 men; Aircraft: F6F, TBM, SB2-C - Total: 30
 Class: Sangamon

Early in the war the U.S., seeing the need for smaller carriers began converting some support ships to Escort Aircraft Carriers (CVEs). The CVEs proved extremely effective in protecting U.S. convoys against submarines, as well as providing air cover for amphibious landings. Because the U.S. Navy kept its anti-submarine warfare program secret, the little carriers didn't get the public recognition many felt they deserved. By war's end, over one hundred were in service, fighting all over the world. The Suwannee, converted from a Cimarron Class Oiler (AO-33), was commissioned in September 1942. After supporting the invasion of North Africa she was assigned to the Pacific. Beginning in January 1943 her string of battles included Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Kwajalein, Saipan and Guam. As part of Taffy-1 the Suwannee was fighting in the Leyte Gulf in October 1944. In the first kamikaze attacks of the war she suffered heavy damage and casualties from two suicide plane hits. Ordered back to the U.S. for repair, the Suwannee was back in the war by April 1945 fighting at Okinawa. The Suwannee earned 13 battle stars for WWII service. She was decommissioned in 1947.

