

TABLE XXI

EFFECT OF DAMAGE ON FLEET AND LIGHT CARRIERS

Source	Percent of hits requiring repair	Weeks in yard per hit	Weeks out of operation per hit
Kamikaze	70	1.8	4.3
Bomb	40	0.3	0.7
Aerial torpedo	100	10.0*	17.5
Submarine torpedo	100	10.0*	12.4

* Estimate

Source: WSEG Study 4, p. 8.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

The overall effectiveness of the kamikazes in attacks on carriers can be estimated from the data in tables XVIII, XX, and XXI by multiplying together the following probabilities. Using the Okinawa data:

0.90 - probability of not having to return to base;

0.50 - probability of not being splashed by CAP;

0.32 - probability of not being splashed by anti-aircraft and not missing the target; and

0.70 - probability that a hit will cause the carrier to be out of action.

Thus the overall probability of putting a carrier out of action for a month, given that the kamikaze can correctly locate the carrier, would be about

$$(0.90) \times (0.50) \times (0.32) \times (0.70) = 0.10 .$$

(That this figure is lower than the 14.7 percent of kamikaze sorties which were effective in hitting ships, quoted by USSBS, is due to incorporation of the carrier-out-of-action probability.)

Only about 3 percent of the kamikazes at Okinawa selected a carrier target. But carriers were not always the preferred targets; see discussion of target selection policy in chapter X.

Overall, analysis showed that kamikazes were 7 to 10 times as effective per sortie as conventional attackers.¹⁷ In terms of the probabilities of the preceding paragraph, a bomb hit was only half as likely to put a ship out of action, so only one in 10 to 20 bombing sorties that released bombs could have hit the target. Thus, with high attrition of both kamikaze and conventional attacks (over 50 percent), neither was likely to make many attacks, and the kamikaze was clearly the more effective weapon.