

RCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Unit Reporting VBF-85 (b) Based on or at USS SHANGRI-LA (CV-38) (c) Report No. VBF85#32
 (d) Take off: Date 10 July 1945 Time (LZT) 0500 (Zone); Lat. 33-57 N Long. 142-40 E
 (e) Mission Strike on Airfields, Tokyo vicinity (f) Time of Return 0930 (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)		
FG-1D	VBF-85	9	0	9	1 - 260 # Frag.	VT Nose Non delay tail Inst. Nose
F4U-1D	"	3	0	3	4 - 5" HVAR	.015 Tail

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
VF	CVG88	12	USS YORKTOWN				

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED.

(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

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR.

(a) ENEMY A/C TYPE	(b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY:			GUNS USED	(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
	TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER			

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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
TYPE OWN A/C	SQUADRON	CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	WHERE HIT, ANGLE	EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE
1 FG-1D	VBF-85	.50 Cal.	Top of windshield from 12 o'clock.	Repairable aboard.
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES, (identified with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
NO.	SQUADRON	NAME, RANK OR RATING	CAUSE	CONDITION OR STATUS

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(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				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
FG-1D	180	180	4.5	387	320	4390				9
F4U-1D	"	"	"	"	"	1580				3

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY-				X
MEDIUM-				X
LIGHT-				X

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

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XL ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target (s) and Location (s) 2783 Narimazu, Honshu (b) Time Over Target (s) 0645 I (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target .2 cirrus - 20,000

(d) Visibility of Target Slight haze (e) Visibility 20 mi

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Dive Bomb Sight Used Mk. 8

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing Undetermined Number Altitude of Bomb Release 4500-5000

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed ? Probably Destroyed ? Damaged Undet. Number

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE
1 Revetment area and AA positions south-west of field.	3000' diameter	12 VBF-85	11 - 260# Frag.	3	Not determined.
2. "	"	12 VBF-85	37 - 5" HVAR	Not determined.	Not determined.
3. Railroad or highway bridge	?	1 VBF-85	4 - 5" HVAR	0	None
4. Radio building north of field.		1 VBF-85	2 - 5" HVAR	1-2	Not observed

(o) RESULTS:

Three VT fused bombs were observed to explode in or over southwest revetment area. One was observed to explode in landing area adjacent to surfaced runway. Three were observed at southeast corner of field. Four were not observed but assumed to be in target area. Damage could not be observed. No planes were seen to burn, but damage to an undetermined number of planes is assumed. Rockets and ammunition hit in revetment area but precise hits were not observed.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes, by VF-88 - VF(P).

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XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

The CVG-85 element of this sweep consisting of 12 bomber fighters was led by Lieutenant Commander J. T. O'NEILL.

Approach to the target, some sixty to seventy miles over the heavily defended heart of the Empire, transitted the plain east of the City of Tokyo on a northwesterly course until north of the city, then on a westerly course in an effort to avoid the antiaircraft defenses of the city itself. In spite of periodic intense, heavy antiaircraft fire including barrage fire of 25 - 30 bursts which was sweated out, the planes were not damaged on the approach or retirement.

Dive bombing tactics were employed with pushover at 10,000 and release (dictated by fusing) at 4500 - 5000 feet. All types of antiaircraft fire were encountered but fortunately the only damage sustained was a .50 caliber hole in the windshield of one plane.

Twenty one planes were observed by photographic reconnaissance to have been present in the target area, but were not observed visually during the attack. Absence of fire indicated the planes were degassed. While damage to an undetermined number of planes is assured, it could not be observed.

Rockets were fired on the second attack during which AA was observed to be more accurate and intense.

Effective dispersal made planes as specific individual targets most difficult to find, and damage difficult to assess.

XIII. MATERIAL DATA.

None.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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APPROVED BY:

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Commanding. (Date)