





AIROPLANE ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. VBF85#34

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

(a) Target (s) and Location (s) 1406 Tokorozawa airfield. (b) Time Over Target (s) 1200-1230 (Zone) I  
2760 Irumagawa airfield.

(c) Clouds Over Target 5000 cumulus 3

(d) Visibility of Target Hazy (e) Visibility 15 mi.

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

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing Altitude of Bomb Release 4500

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed 5 Probably Destroyed ? Damaged Undetermined number.

(b) AIMING POINT	(c) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(d) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE
1 Tokorozawa Hangar, SW corner of field.	1000' dia.	11 VBF-85	10 - 260# Frag. 42 - 5" HVAR	8 obs. bal. in area.	Not specifically determined.
2. Tokorozawa NW dispersal area.	500' dia.	1 VBF-85	1 - 260# Frag. 3 - 5" HVAR	All in area.	Not specifically determined.
3. Irumagawa - Apron area.	200' x 700'	11 VBF-85	900 rounds, .50cal.	Not determined.	5 planes destroyed. 4-5 damaged.
4. Revetment northeast of Tokorozawa	?	12 VBF-85	700 rounds, .50cal.	All in area.	Not determined.

(o) RESULTS:

- 1 - 2. High release prevented observation of aircraft present or damage from fragmentation bombs and rockets. Damage to an undetermined number of aircraft is assumed. One bomb would not release.
3. Planes did not burn but were thoroughly strafed. Destruction and damage is assumed.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No.

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## XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

This Task Group fighter sweep was led by Lieutenant Commander S. B. STRONG, Commander, VBF-85.

The flight of sixty to seventy miles across the Tokyo plain skirted the city to the east and north in an effort to avoid its antiaircraft defenses so far as possible. Evasive tactics were taken and while substantial heavy antiaircraft fire was encountered across the plain, damage was avoided on the flight in to the target.

Dive bombing and rocket attack was on the hangar and revetment areas at Tokorozawa by the VBF-85 element, except for one plane which joined the other air group element in its attack on the northern revetment area. Damage to aircraft is believed to have resulted to a substantial number of aircraft which were there.

A strafing attack was then made on planes observed at Irumagawa. The planes were not observed to burn but were so thoroughly strafed that they are believed to have been destroyed or damaged as noted in XI.

The sweep then returned for a strafing attack on the eastern revetment area at Tokorozawa.

Following the attack, even evasive tactics failed to prevent damage from heavy antiaircraft fire noted in VI, but no damage was suffered from intense antiaircraft fire from automatic weapons found to be present particularly at Tokorozawa.

An incident bearing mention for purposes of education or entertainment occurred to Lieutenant (jg) John D. LOEFFLER. His engine quit after recovering from the strafing attack on Tokorozawa. He picked up what he thought was the Tone River leading to the coast. After finding the river led to Tokyo and that he was entering the city, he located a grassy field on the river bank on which to land and, then at 400 feet discovered that an engine will not run in idle cut-off, and by a close margin his imminent visit to the Japanese capitol was averted.

## XIII. MATERIAL DATA.

AA holes (VI-1) penetrated self sealing tank so that gas was leaking from plane on deck after return. Pressure appeared to hold in flight.

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APPROVED BY:

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Commanding. (Date)