

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT NO. VBF 85#46
(CVG 85#37)

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

(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
1				
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) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) 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	220	220	4.5	387	285		6450		6
FAU-1C	"	"	"	"	"		980		2
FAU-1D	"	"	"	"	"		7500		4

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

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) AA positions, Kure anchorage. Time Over Target(s) 1015.1 (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 7000 cumulus 7

(d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 20 mi

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

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing Altitude of Bomb Release 5000

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

(b) AIMING POINT	(d) 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 AA position south of Kure	300' x 200'	3 VBF-85	3-260# Frag.	2	AA silenced
2 AA batteries CA Aoba	?	3 VBF-85	3-260# Frag.	3	AA silenced
3 AA batteries Ise Class BB	?	3 VBF-85	3-260# Frag.	3	AA silenced
4 Small dock area	?	2 VBF-85	2-260# Frag.	2	Not determined
5 CA Tone	14,500	1 VBF-85	1-500# G.P. 2-5" HVAR	1 2	Ship burning
6 Small dock area	?	5 VBF-85	20-5" HVAR	All in	Not determined
7 Approx. 20 luggers. 1 PF	2000	12 VBF-85	26-5" HVAR Undetermined amount ammunition.	Not determined.	6 luggers destroyed. 8 damaged.
8				determined.	PF slight damage.

(o) RESULTS:

1-7. All targets were also strafed. It is not possible to allocate number of rounds to each target.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Not by reporting unit.

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XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

This coordinated task group strike was led by Commander W. A. SHERRILL, C.A.G. - 85. It was a part of a coordinated task force strike on heavy units of the enemy fleet in and about the Kure anchorage.

The VBF-85 element of the flight consisting of three divisions was assigned the task of neutralizing antiaircraft fire in the area with one exception, carrying VT fused fragmentation bombs for that purpose.

The cloud cover made it difficult to locate targets at an altitude from which an effective dive could be initiated. Neither was the intense antiaircraft fire in the target area conducive to a long deliberated attack. In spite of these difficulties successful five bombing attacks were made by all but two of the planes which ultimately dropped on a small dock area near one of the ships. Dives were initiated at 12,000-15,000 feet releasing at 4500-5000 feet as required by bomb fusing.

Portions indicated in XI of the large concentration of antiaircraft batteries in the area were silenced, permitting more effective attacks on the fleet units by other planes in the strike group.

On retirement toward Bungo Suido merchant shipping along the route was thoroughly strafed.

XIII. MATERIAL DATA.

None.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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APPROVED BY:

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Commanding. (Date)