

Form ACA-1

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

I. GENERAL

VBF-85#48

(a) Unit Reporting VBF-85 (b) Based on or at U.S.S. SHANGRI LA (c) Report No. CVG # 38
 (d) Take off: Date 24 July 1945 Time (LZT) 1400 I (Zone); Lat. 31-27 N Long. 135-11 E
 (e) Mission Strike Enemy Fleet Units, Kure. (f) Time of Return 1900 I (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	12		11	1-1000 # G.P.	Water discriminating nose, .24 tail

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
SB2C-4E	VB-85	11	U.S.S. SHANGRI LA	VF and VT from			U.S.S. INDEPENDENT
TEM-3	VT-85		"				U.S.S. COMPENS
Similar group from U.S.S. 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) TYPE ENEMY A/C	(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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VBF-85 #48
 REPORT No. CVG#38

CONFIDENTIAL

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 FG-1D	VBF-85	Mid-air collision	Fuselage out up forward of tail section	Tail section torn off on landing. Not repairable aboard. Buno 88440
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	240	240	5	387	330		3000			12

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.

Form ACA-1

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VBF-85#48
REPORT No CVG#38

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

(a) Target (s) and Location (s) CA Tone
BB, Ise class (b) Time Over Target (s) 1615 I (Zone)

(c) Clouds Over Target 4000 cumulus 3

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

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

Bombs Dropped per Run 1 Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release 1700-2000

(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 CA Tone	14,500	6 VBF-85	6-1000 # G.P.	4 2-probable	4 Serious
2 BB-XCV Ise class	32,000	4 VBF-85	3-1000 # G.P.	3-probable	3-probable Not determin
3 Kure air station		1 VBF-85	1-1000 # G.P.	Not determined	Not determined
4 6 luggers	600	10 VBF-85	Strafing	?	6 burning.
5					
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS:

- 2. Target identified as No. 10 on Interpron Two 186.599B.
- 2-4. Ammunition expended on these targets. Amount on each not determined.

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XII.

The CVG-85 group participating in this coordinated task group strike was led by Lt. Comdr. S. B. Strong, Commander VBF-85.

In spite of the intense antiaircraft fire present approach, attack and retirement were made without damage to the three Bomber Fighter divisions. The numerous bursts from this fire were described as being all colors of the rainbow.

Dive bombing attacks were made from 13,000-15,000 feet, releasing at 1700-2000 feet.

In leading his division in its attack on an Ise class BB, Lieut. D. M. Martin discovered his bomb would not release. He continued his attack, strafing AA positions on the ship.

In approaching the target another plane collided with that flown by Lt. (jg) R. L. Reed, severely damaging the fuselage near the tail section. His division leader, Lieut. W. H. Edwards broke off from the attack to accompany him, dropping his bomb at the Kure air station enroute. Reed's plane was so severely damaged the entire tail section pulled out on landing.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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A. C. I. Officer.

APPROVED BY:

S. B. Strong
S. B. STRONG, Lt. Cdr., USN, 3-20-45
Commanding.