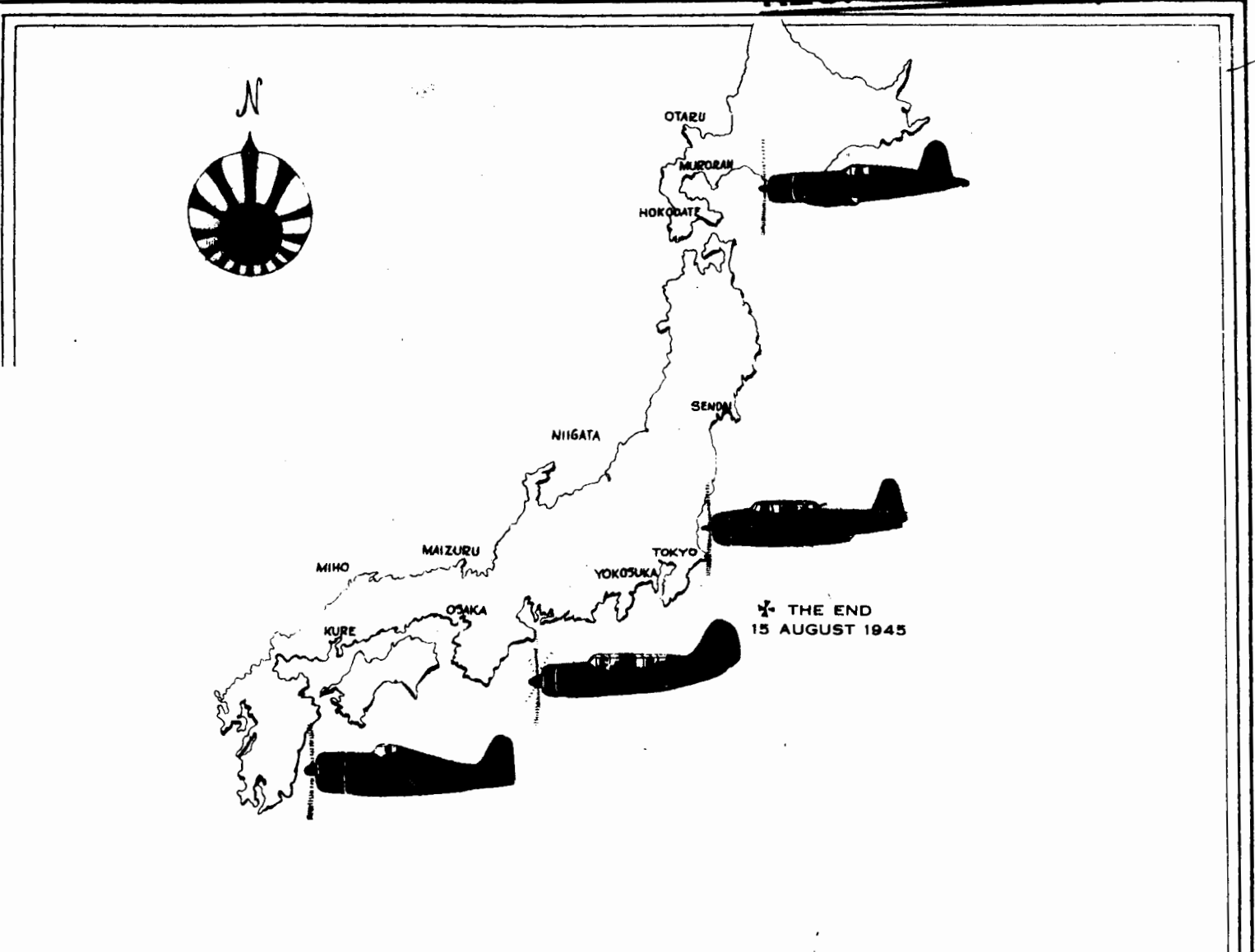


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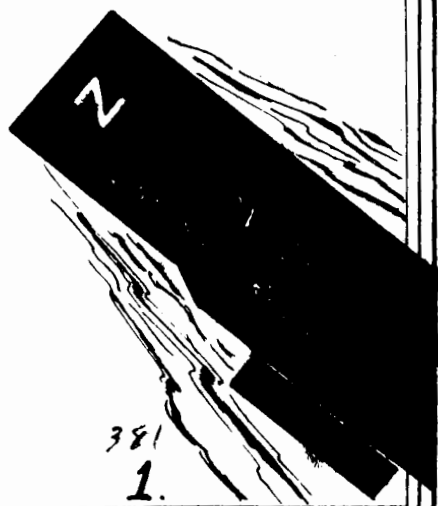
ACTION REPORT

U.S.S. SHANGRI-LA (CV-38)
2 JULY 1945
TO
15 AUGUST 1945. INCL.

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19 JULY 1945

Sunrise 0421, Sunset 1810.

Steaming as before toward rendezvous. At 1430 our CAP was vectored to a bogey which developed to be a Jap free balloon similar to the bomb carrying variety found on the west coast. The balloon had a box kite type antenna suspended and was shot down over the force, but not recovered.

SORTIES: DCAP 4.

20 JULY 1945

Sunrise 0402, Sunset 1754.

At 0430 rendezvoused with logistics support group fueled, and replenished gasoline and planes. One replacement plane was lost operationally.

SORTIES: None.

21 JULY 1945

Sunrise 0418, Sunset 1814.

The force steamed in the replenishment area, rearmed and provisioned ship.

SORTIES: None.

22 JULY 1945

Sunrise 0433, Sunset 1826.

The force steamed to westward toward the target area. Exercises were conducted in coordinated attacks on towed sleds and then a rehearsal was conducted on emergency limited visibility approach procedure.

SORTIES: CAP 12, OTHER 48, TOTAL 60.

23 JULY 1945

Sunrise 0449, Sunset 1850.

Steaming as before, gunnery exercises were conducted and routine patrols were flown.

SORTIES CAP 8, OTHER 2, TOTAL 10.

24 JULY 1945

Sunrise 0512, Sunset 1905.

The mission of the day was sweeps of airfields and the primary target for the strikes was naval combatant ships at Kurc.

PART 3 (A)

CONFIDENTIAL24 JULY 1945 (Continued)

<u>Launch Time</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
0445	12 VF	Sweep A-1 Miho Area	Original target of Miho was closed in by weather. The sweep on return trip to ship set afire a small freighter and two small craft in the Okayama Area. One roundhouse was burned and 5 locomotives were destroyed.
0545	8 VBF	Sweep B-2	One small freighter was left burning in Wakayama Area. Eleven planes were damaged by VT bombing at 2653 Hanshin. Work shops were burned at 2556 Itami.
0745	12 VBF	Strike C-3	Attack was to be on the BB Haruna; however scattered clouds left holes wherein attacks were made on combatant vessels as per ship damage section of this report. One Helldiver was lost operationally.
0945	12 VF	Sweep A-4 of Airfield	A sweep was made on 2654 Himeji and 2671 Miki which was bombed with VT fuses. Seven unidentified planes were destroyed and 12 damaged.
1145	8 VBF	Sweep B-5 Miho Area	More planes were seen at 2626 Yonago than on any field to date, these were rocketed and strafed. Much activity was in evidence on the field. One Zeke was damaged while taking off, two Topsyys were destroyed, and a building burned. Planes on the ground were strafed and rocketed, resulting in ten damaged.

CONFIDENTIAL24 JULY 1945 (Continued)

<u>Launch Time</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1400	12 VBF	Strike on Kure Combatant Ships	A follow up was made on the morning strike at Kure. Combatant vessels were bombed and damaged, but none were sunk. Luggers were strafed, sunk or damaged on return to force. The activity at the target caused a late return of the group with many landings after dark.

The score for the day was:

- (a) Sunk; three small freighters and 21 luggers.
- (b) Damage was inflicted on the Ise, Haruna, Fuji, Tone, Hosho and Oyodo and 9 smaller craft.
- (c) One Oscar was splashed and one Tony damaged in the air.
- (d) On the ground 9 planes were destroyed and 33 damaged.
- (e) Seven locomotives were destroyed and other small ground targets damaged.
- (f) Five planes, two pilots and two aircrewmembers were lost.

SORTIES: Sweep 40, Strike 75, Graphic 8, SubCap 16, DCAP 16, RapCap 16, Weather Recco 6, DumboCap 6, TOTAL 183.

25 JULY 1945

Sunrise 0506, Sunset 1856.

The lucrative targets of the 24th called for a repeat performance on the same area.

<u>Launch Time</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
0430	11 VF	Sweep A-1 Miho Area	The Miho Area on the north shores of Honshu offered one of the best targets of our operations. One freighter was destroyed and one damaged, 3 aircraft were splashed, 23 damaged and 9 destroyed.