

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(a) Unit Reporting VBF-85 (b) Based on or at USS SHANGRI-LA (c) Report No. VBF85#45  
 (CV-38) (VF-47)  
 (d) Take off: Date 24 July 1945 Time (LZT) 0545 I (Zone); Lat. 31-27 N Long 135-11 E  
 (e) Mission Blanket airfields, Osaka area. (f) Time of Return 1000 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 ATTACKING ENEMY A/C TARGET (d) (e)		
FG-1D	VBF-85	7	7	1-260# Frag. VT Nose, non-del. tail 4-5" HVAR Inst. nose, .015 tail	
F4U-1D	VBF-85	1	1	"	"

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
F4U-1C	VF-85	2	USS SHANGRI-LA	VF	CVG88	8	USS YORKTOWN
F6F-5(P)	VF-85	2	USS SHANGRI-LA				

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:			(c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE	(d) DAMAGE CLAIMED
TYPE A/C	SQUADRON	PILOT OR GUNNER	GUNS USED		



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XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II C. (VBF-47))

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) 2853 HANSHIN AIRFIELD 2656 Itami (b) Time Over Target(s) 0700-0745 (One)

(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 \_\_\_\_\_ Probably Destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ Damaged 5 plus

(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
SE corner Han-shin	200' dia.	2 VBF-85	2-260# Frag.	0	Not determined.
SW perimeter Han-shin	100' x	6 VBF-85	6-260# Frag.	6	Not determined.
Hangar area, Itami	3000' x 500' square	8 VBF-85	28 5" HVAR	25	in Hangar and area possible fuel
SCL and 7 SD	2700	3 VBF-85	4-5" HVAR plus strafe	4	dump burning. SCL Destroyed; Luger burning.
5, 6 trains east or southeast of Osaka.		5 VBF-85	Strafe	?	3 locomotives exploded, 2 trains burning and fuel car or warehouse near track burning
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(o) RESULTS:

1. Bombs overshot - 4-5 parked planes 50-75 feet.

1-5. All targets strafed. Not possible to determine ammunition expended at each.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? Yes, of Hanshin & Itami. Do not show damage.

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## XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA.

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(VF-47)

The VBF-85 element of this fighter sweep was led by Lieutenant Bayard WEBSTER. Approach to target was over weak overcast extending to about 10,000 feet. It was felt that some time was lost by the task group strike leader in attempting to circle the overcast rather than making a steady climb from base.

Conventional dive bomb attack was made at Hanshin except for higher release at 4500 detached by fusing. At Itami rocket attack was made on airfield installations with damage noted in XI.

On return from the airfield area trains and shipping were located and successfully strafed.

## XIII. MATERIAL DATA.

None.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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A.C.I. Officer.

APPROVED BY:

*S. B. Strong*  
S. B. STRONG, Lt. Cdr., USN 8-20-45  
Commanding. (Date)