

**DECLASSIFIED**

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**U.S.S. BELLEAU WOOD  
FINAL ACTION REPORT  
OPERATIONS INCIDENT TO THE OCCUPATION  
of the  
JAPANESE HOME ISLANDS**

16 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER 1945

139658

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Serial:

0359

U.S.S. BELLEAU WOOD (CVL24)  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California

13 SEP 1945

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From: Commanding Officer.  
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.

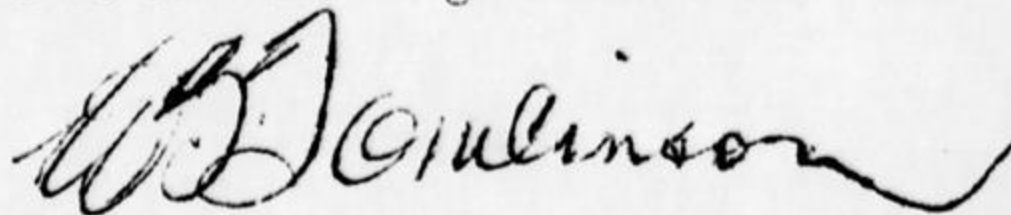
Via : (1) Commander Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE.  
(2) Commander SECOND Carrier Task Force.  
(3) Commander THIRD Fleet.  
(4) Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Report - Operations incident to the occupation of the Japanese HOME ISLANDS, 16 August through 2 September 1945.

References: (a) PacFlt. Conf. Ltr. 1CL-45 of 1 January 1945.  
(b) ComTHIRDFlt. Standard Instructions 1-45, Para. 802.  
(c) TFI-2, Paragraph 5400.  
(d) ComSECONDCarTaskForce OpOrder Nos. 2-45 and 3-45.  
(e) ComTaskGroup 38.1 OpPlan 1-45.

Enclosures: ✓ (A) Part I. Brief Summary. *P. 3*  
✓ (B) Part III. Chronological Account. *P. 4*  
✓ (C) Part IV. Ordnance. *P. 10*  
✓ (D) Part VI. Special Comments and Information. *P. 11*  
✓ (E) Part VII. Personnel Casualties. *P. 16*

1. The Action Report of U.S.S. BELLEAU WOOD for the period 16 August through 2 September 1945 is contained in the enclosures. Operations as part of Task Group THIRTY EIGHT POINT ONE (Rear Admiral T.L. SPRAGUE, flagship, U.S.S. BENNINGTON) were conducted in waters off Eastern HONSHU. Air Group THIRTY ONE was embarked. All dates are East Longitude and all times are Minus Nine (Item) zone time.



W. G. TOMLINSON

DISTRIBUTION:

ComTaskGroup 38.1 (Original and 4 copies).  
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PART I - BRIEF SUMMARY

1. This report covers the operations of the U.S.S. BELLEAU WOOD for the period 16 August 1945 to 2 September 1945. Offensive operations were terminated on 15 August 1945 and the formal surrender took place on 2 September 1945. In general flight operations consisted of (a) CAP's over own forces (b) Patrols over Japan to insure compliance with armistice agreement and (c) Flights to locate and drop supplies to P.O.W. Camps.

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PART III - CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT

1. 16-24 August 1945 Location: Operating in an area 200 miles southeast of TOKYO.

Task Group 38.1 spent the above period in replenishing and conducting gunnery exercises while awaiting the outcome of surrender negotiations. Accordingly aircraft operations were limited to routine combat air patrols and the towing of sleeve targets for group anti-aircraft training. As well as refueling, this ship replenished its ammunition and took on fresh provisions.

Concurrently a landing party consisting of the marine detachment and two platoons of bluejackets was organized for possible use in the occupation of TOKYO BAY and the YOKOSUKA Naval Base preliminary to the formal surrender of the enemy. The landing party was this ship's portion of three battalions organized within the Task Group which were to be made available to the Commander TOKYO BAY Emergency Naval Occupation Forces (Commander Task Force 31). Personnel for the beach landing force were equipped in accordance with instructions from the task group commander and such shipboard training as was practicable was conducted.

On 19 August the Marine Detachment was transferred to the Attack Transport GARRARD. The bluejacket battalion was kept in readiness but was not activated.

On 22 August the entire air group participated in a mass flight of all the carrier air groups for the purpose of taking historical photographs of both aircraft and surface forces.

On the night of 24 August the Task Group steamed northward toward an operating area off Northern Honshu.

2. 25 August 1945 Location: 85 miles east of Northern HONSHU.

Weather: Broken high clouds and a few low cumulus. Wind from SSE, at 14 knots. Temp. 78°. Visibility 3-6 miles, due to light fog and haze. Flying conditions undesirable to average.

Task Group 38.1 searched for POW camps in northern HONSHU.

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- 0645 Launched DCAP #1 - (8 VF). Routine patrol. No interceptions.
- 1100 Launched Patrol C - (12 VF). The mission of this flight was primarily to locate prisoner of war camps in assigned areas in northern HONSHU. IWAKE Coal mine camp (SENDAI #2) was located three miles west of TAIRA. Approximately 250 white prisoners were observed in the encampment and on the roof waving wildly. A photograph of this camp is included with the report. In addition photographic coverage was obtained of five airfields including KORIYAMA, IWAKI, KORIYAMA WEST, YABUKI and MASUDA all of which had planes lined up on the aprons.

1336 Launched DCAP #3 - (8 VF). Routine patrol. No interceptions.

The Task Group proceeded during the night north to an operating area south of HOKKAIDO.

3. 26 August 1945 Location: 100 miles south of HOKKAIDO.

Weather: Broken high and scattered low clouds with light rain and haze. Wind from SE, at 15 knots. Temp. 75°. Visibility 6 miles. Flying conditions average to occasionally undesirable due to haze.

Task Group 38.1 searched for POW camps in HOKKAIDO.

- 0430 Launched DCAP #1 (8 VF). Routine patrol. No interceptions.
- 0728 Launched Patrol C - (8 VF, 4 VT). This patrol was intended primarily to locate prisoner of war camps in assigned areas in HOKKAIDO. Though the flight reached the objective, there was considerable haze beneath a 500 foot ceiling and no prisoner of war camps could be observed.
- 1129 Launched DCAP #3 - (8 VF). After this flight became airborne, it was instructed by the Task Group Commander to assist in the search for POW camps. FUKUSHIMA camp was located but only a few POW's were observed. Two unlisted camps within two miles of each other were found at what was believed to be NAKA MINE (latitude 40° 15': longitude 140° 57'). A total of about 150 persons were observed on the ground waving joyously.

The Task Group proceeded during the night to a refueling rendezvous.

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4. 27 August 1945 Location: 195 miles east of northern HONSHU.

Weather: Overcast, high and low scattered clouds. Wind from SSW, at 16 knots. Temp. 81°. Visibility 12 miles. Flying conditions good.

Task Group 38.1 replenished and conducted POW camp searches in the same areas previously covered in northern HONSHU.

0453 Went alongside U.S.S. NANTAHALA and commenced fueling.

0622 Cast off from tanker.

0849 Launched POW Mission #2 - (16 VF, 8 VT). This patrol was assigned to search for POW camps in the same area covered by our planes on 25 August 1945. They located the OHASHI Camp and dropped by parachute four bundles of food and medical supplies. Two more camps were located at NIIGATA, with four more supply drops made at the northern most camp. Returning from this mission, our planes spotted and reported to the Task Group Commander a surface Japanese submarine of the I-15 class, flying both a black flag and a Japanese flag. They kept the submarine under surveillance until relieved by planes from U.S.S. BENNINGTON.

1011 Went alongside U.S.S. VIRGO and commenced replenishing.

1414 Cast off from supply ship.

5. 28 August 1945 Location: 160 miles east of northern HONSHU.

Weather: Broken high and broken low clouds. Wind from SW, at 20 knots. Temp. 81°. Visibility 12 miles. Flying conditions average.

Task Group 38.1 searched for POW camps in northern HONSHU.

0501 Launched DCAP #1 - (4 VF). Routine patrol. No interceptions.

0528 Launched POW Mission #1 - (4 VF, 4 VT). Returning to the same general area in northern HONSHU this POW mission dropped 12 packages of food at SENDAI #1 camp, and discovered signs at SENDAI #2 camp indicating that the POW's there needed cigarettes and food. On the return flight to the ship our planes assisted U.S.S. BANGUST and U.S.S. HADDO in locating a Japanese I-15 class submarine which the ships were to escort alongside. The submarine which was the same submarine which our planes had discovered the preceding day, was located sixty miles east of SHIOYASAKI, HONSHU.

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The Task Force proceeded southward during the night to an operating area east of TOKYO.

6. 29 August 1945 Location: 100 miles east of TOKYO.

Weather: Overcast high and scattered low clouds.  
Wind from SW, at 16 knots. Temp. 80°. Visibility 10 miles.  
Flying conditions excellent.

Task Group 38.1 furnished aerial cover for the naval occupation of YOKOSUKA Naval Base.

- 0430, Launched THIRDFleet CAP - (8 VF) and ATSUGI CAP - (7 VF). While on station these flights observed approximately 90 friendly ships in SAGAMI Bay including some of our old battleships. Extensive mine sweeping operations were observed in the channel and off of YOKOSUKA, and three of our new battleships were steaming between the SAGAMI Bay anchorage and OSHIMA. No enemy airborne aircraft were seen but more than 35 twin-engine planes were parked on the YOKOSUKA Field.
- 0645 Launched A/F POW Mission #2 - (4 VF, 4 VT). This flight searched for POW camps and airfields in the TOYAMA Bay Area. Three unlisted POW camps were located north of the city of TOYAMA, and food was dropped at two of the camps. Prisoners of war at all camps seemed jubilant upon seeing our planes. While making a food drop at the eastern-most POW camp in the factory district on the northern outskirts of TOYAMA, one of our VT planes crashed, killing the pilot, seriously injuring the observer and slightly injuring the radioman. The condition of these men was reported the following day to our pilots who dropped a message giving improvised ground signals. An unlisted airfield was discovered near the coast twelve miles north of KANAZAWA, with three twin-engine and five single-engine planes parked on one of the strips.
- 0644 Launched Channel CAP #3 - (4 VF). Routine patrol. No interceptions.
- 1059 Launched THIRDFleet CAP #4 - (8 VF). Routine patrol. No interceptions.
- 1315 Launched A/F POW Mission #5 - (4 VF, 4 VT) and DCAP #3 - (4 VF). Poor weather prevented the search mission from searching its assigned area. Routine DCAP. No interceptions.

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The Task Group remained during the night in the same operating area.

7. 30 August 1945 Location: 150 miles east of TOKYO.

Weather: Scattered high and broken low clouds.  
Wind from SSW, at 22 knots. Temp 82°. Visibility 12 miles.  
Flying conditions average to good.

Task Group 38.1 continued to furnish aerial cover for the Allied occupation of YOKOSUKA Naval Base and ATSUGI Airfield.

0429 Launched THIRDFleet CAP #1 - (7 VF) and ATSUGI CAP #1 - (7 VF). This flight observed an almost continuous line of auxiliaries and transports entering TOKYO BAY. The Japanese battleship NAGATO was seen at anchor at YOKOSUKA with apparently no serious damage.

0645 Launched A/F POW Mission #2 - (4 VF, 4 VT). Continuing the POW camp search in the assigned TOYAMA Area, this patrol succeeded in locating two additional unlisted camps nine miles northwest of the city of TOYAMA, and made food drops on the three camps located the preceding day. Photographic coverage was made of all POW camps in the TOYAMA Area. Parked planes were observed on the airfields at MATSUYAMA, KUMUGAYA, and KASHIWA.

0846 Launched Observer Mission #3 - (2 VT). Flying over TOKYO BAY these planes observed the initial landings of the occupation forces at YOKOSUKA Naval Base. The official flag raising ceremonies signifying the formal occupation of the base occurred at 1111.

1100 Launched THIRDFleet CAP - (8 VF). Routine patrol. No interceptions.

1319 Launched A/F POW Mission #5 - (4 VF, 3 VT) and DCAP #3 - (4 VF). The A/F POW flight proceeded to the two new camps located during the morning and made three food drops. Poor weather halted further search in the assigned area. Routine DCAP. No interceptions.

The Task Group retired during the night to a refueling rendezvous.

8. 31 August 1945 Location: 160 miles east of northern HONSHU.

Weather: Overcast low clouds with rain. Wind shifting from WSW, at 18 knots to N, at 12 knots. Temp. 70°. Visibility  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 miles. Flying condition bad.

Task Group 38.1 refueled.



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0827 Went alongside U.S.S. CHICOPEE and commenced fueling.

0957 Cast off from tanker.

The Task Group remained with the replenishment group during the night.

9. 1 September 1945 Location: 100 miles east of HONSHU.

Weather: Overcast to broken low clouds with light rain. Wind from NE, at 10 knots. Temp. 70°. Visibility 6-10 miles. Flying conditions undesirable.

Task Group 38.1 replenished and conducted AA gunnery exercises.

0515 Went alongside U.S.S. VIRGO and commenced reprovisioning.

0850 Cast off from supply ship.

1059 Launched DCAP #3 - (8 VF). Routine patrol. No interceptions.

1311 Conducted AA exercises against towed sleeve target.

The Task Group proceeded during the night to an operating area southeast of TOKYO.

10. 2 September 1945 Location: 100 miles southeast of TOKYO.

Weather: Overcast high and broken low clouds, Wind from NE, at 18 knots. Temp. 74°. Visibility 15 miles. Flying conditions average.

Task Group 38.1 participated in the mass flight over TOKYO during the surrender ceremonies.

0700 Launched TOKYO Flight - (15 VF, 7 VT). After joining up with the other air groups of Task Group 38.1 planes proceeded to the Imperial Palace at TOKYO, where rendezvous was made with the flights from Task Groups 38.3 and 38.4. Then during the signing of the surrender documents, the mass flight proceeded southward over the U.S.S. MISSOURI to MISAKI and then out to sea.

0750 Launched DCAP #2 - (8 VF). Routine patrol. No interceptions.

The Task Group remained during the night in the same operating area.

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PART IV - ORDNANCE

A. Performance of ordnance material and equipment.

(1) Ammunition expenditures in anti-aircraft gunnery exercises.

(a) During the period covered by this report the ships' guns were not fired in action against the enemy, but only in anti-aircraft gunnery exercises against towed target sleeves. All material and equipment functioned satisfactorily. Ammunition expenditures in these exercises were as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>40 MM Rds.</u>	<u>20 MM Rds.</u>
16 August	1000	0
17 August	977	0
1 September	923	0

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PART VI - SPECIAL COMMENT AND INFORMATION

1. TABLE OF PLANE AVAILABILITY AND DAILY TOTAL OF SORTIES (omits planes not reaching target).

Date	Availability		At target Strikes & Sweeps		CAP	Search		Ships CAP	SNASP		Others	
	VF	VT	VF	VT		VF	VT		VF	VT	VF	VT
16 Aug.	23	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3 towplanes
17 Aug.	24	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3 towplanes
18 Aug.	25	8	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	4	0	0
19 Aug.	24	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 Aug.	24	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 Aug.	25	8	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0
22 Aug.	23	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24%	8%
23 Aug.	24	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24 Aug.	25	9	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
25 Aug.	24	9	0	0	0	28*	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 Aug.	24	9	0	0	0	24*	4*	0	0	0	0	0
27 Aug.	24	8	0	0	0	16*	8*	0	0	0	0	0
28 Aug.	24	9	0	0	0	4*	4*	4	0	0	0	0
29 Aug.	23	9	0	0	27¢	8*	8*	4	0	0	0	0
30 Aug.	23	8	0	0	26¢	8*	7*	4	0	0	0	2 Observer Mission
31 Aug.	25	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 Sept.	25	9	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	3 towplanes
2 Sept.	23	7	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	15	7 Tokyo Flight

¢ Planes participated in Task Force Operation "Tin Type" (photographing of Task Force aircraft).

\* POW CAMP MISSIONS.

¢ Patrols over TOKYO Bay area during occupation.

ENCLOSURE D

- 1 -

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PART VI - SPECIAL COMMENTS AND INFORMATION (con't)

2. Own Losses and Rescue Operations.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time of Launch</u>	<u>Type A/C</u>	<u>Circumstances, Place &amp; Cause</u>	<u>No. Pilots Lost</u>	<u>No. Crew Lost</u>	<u>No. Pilots Saved</u>	<u>No. Crew Saved</u>
29 Aug.	1154	TBM-3	Crashed, making low level slow speed package drop on POW camp at TOYAMA, HONSHU.	1	2	0	0

(1) POW's at the camp immediately rushed to the crashed plane. Limited remaining fuel made it necessary for the flight to leave the area before the condition of the personnel could be determined. The afternoon flight was weathered out of this area, but on the following morning, our pilots dropped a set of signals and learned from the POW's that the pilot was killed, the officer observer was seriously injured, and the gunner was slightly injured. This same information was confirmed several days later by dispatch via the Swiss Legation. Attempts were made by ComTHIRDFleet to arrange an Army ambulance plane flight to a nearby airfield. Results have not been received.

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AIR OPERATIONS

16 August 1945

1229-1231  
Launch 3 VT towplanes.

1550-1553  
Land 3 VT towplanes.

17 August 1945

1314-1315  
Launch 3 VT towplanes.

1632-1634  
Land 3 VT towplanes.

18 August 1945

1050-1100  
Launch 4 VT for ASP #2.  
Launch 12 VF for DCAP #2.

1420-1437  
Land 12 VF from DCAP #2.  
Land 4 VT from ASP #2.

19 August 1945

No Flight Operations.

20 August 1945

No Flight Operations.

21 August 1945

0419-1428  
Launch 16 VF for DCAP #1.

0836-0851  
Land 16 VF from DCAP #1.

22 August 1945

1132-1146  
Launch 8 VT for Tin Type.  
Launch 24 VF for Tin Type.

1526-1538  
Land 8 VF from Tin Type.  
Land 8 VT from Tin Type.

1558-1613  
Land 16 VF from Tin Type.

23 August 1945

No Flight Operations.

24 August 1945

0744-0748  
Launch 8 VF for DCAP #2.

1153-1156  
Land 8 VF from DCAP #2.

25 August 1945

0645-0648  
Launch 8 VF for DCAP #1.

1100-1109  
Launch 12 VF for Patrol C.

1122-1128  
Land 8 VF from DCAP #1.

1336-1339  
Launch 8 VF for DCAP #3.

1533-1545  
Land 12 VF from Patrol C.

1752-1800  
Land 8 VF from DCAP #3.

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26 August 1945

0430-0434  
Launch 8 VF for DCAP #1.

0728-0737  
Launch 4 VT for Patrol C.  
Launch 8 VF for Patrol C.

0856-0903  
Land 8 VF from DCAP #1.

1129-1133  
Launch 8 VF for DCAP #3.

1150-1202  
Land 8 VF from Patrol C.  
Land 4 VT from Patrol C.

1457-1507  
Land 8 VF from DCAP #3.

27 August 1945

0849-0908  
Launch 8 VT for POW Patrol #2.  
Launch 16 VF for POW Patrol #2.

1441-1511  
Land 12 VF from POW Patrol #2.  
Land 8 VT from POW Patrol #2.

1556-1559  
Land 4 VF from POW Patrol #2.

28 August 1945

0501-0503  
Launch 4 VF for DCAP #1.

0528-0532  
Launch 4 VT for POW Mission #1.  
Launch 4 VF for POW Mission #1.

0944-0946  
Land 4 VF from DCAP #1.

1029-1034  
Land 4 VF from POW Mission #1.  
Land 4 VT from POW Mission #1.

29 August 1945

0430-0437  
Launch 8 VF for B. J. CAP #1.  
Launch 7 VF for ATSUGI CAP.

0616-1617  
Land 2 VF from ATSUGI CAP.

0645-0648  
Launch 4 VT for POW #2.  
Launch 4 VF for POW #2.

0844-0845  
Launch 4 VF for Channel CAP #3.

0859-0903  
Land 7 VF from B. J. CAP #1.

0910-0917  
Land 1 VF from B. J. CAP #1.  
Land 5 VF from ATSUGI CAP.

1059-1102  
Launch 8 VF for B. J. CAP #4.

1154-1159  
Land 4 VF from POW #2.  
Land 3 VT from POW #2.\*

1315-1321  
Launch 4 VT for POW #5.  
Launch 4 VF for POW #5.  
Launch 4 VF for DCAP #3.

1326-1328  
Land 4 VF from Channel Patrol #3.

1525-1536  
Land 8 VF from B. J. CAP #4.

1729-1739  
Land 4 VF from DCAP #3.  
Land 4 VF from POW #5.  
Land 4 VT from POW #5.

30 August 1945

0429-0435  
Launch 7 VF for B. J. CAP #1.  
Launch 7 VF for ATSUGI CAP #1.

\* 1 VT crashed at POW Camp.

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30 August 1945 (con't)

0645-0648

Launch 4 VT for POW Mission.  
Launch 4 VF for POW Mission.

0846-0848

Launch 2 VT for Observer #3.  
Launch 4 VF for Patrol #3.

0857-0908

Land 7 VF from B. J. CAP #1.  
Land 7 VF from ATSUGI CAP #1.

1100-1104

Launch 8 VF for B. J. CAP #4.

1118-1122

Land 4 VF from POW Mission.  
Land 4 VT from POW Mission.

1319-1325

Launch 3 VT for POW Mission.  
Launch 4 VF for POW Mission.  
Launch 4 VF for DCAP #3.

1330-1333

Land 4 VF from Patrol #3.  
Land 2 VT from Observer #3.

1547

Land 1 VF from B. J. CAP #4.

1556-1606

Land 7 VF from B. J. CAP #4.

1732-1733

Land 4 VF from DCAP #3.

1755-1759

Land 4 VF from POW Mission.

1816-1818

Land 3 VT from POW Mission.

31 August 1945

No Flight Operations.

1 September 1945

1059-1102

Launch 8 VF for DCAP #3.

1311-1313

Launch 3 VT towplanes.

1447-1454

Land 8 VF from DCAP #3.  
Land 1 VT towplane.

1552-1553

Land 2 VT towplanes.

2 September 1945

0700-0711

Launch 7 VT for Tokyo Flight.  
Launch 15 VF for Tokyo Flight.

0750-0753

Launch 8 VF for DCAP #2.

1025-1027

Land 5 VF from Tokyo Flight.

1044-1055

Land 4 VF from Tokyo Flight.  
Land 7 VT from Tokyo Flight.

1106-1108

Land 4 VF from Tokyo Flight.

1121-1134

Land 2 VF from Tokyo Flight.  
Land 8 VF from DCAP #2.

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PART VII - PERSONNEL CASUALTIES

1. Personnel Casualties

There were two serious casualties during the period covered by this report. The names and circumstances were as follows:

(a) Paul Herbert HENDERSON, Ensign, (A1), 408082, USNR, was killed when his plane crashed near the POW camp at TOYAMA, HONSHU as he was making a food and medical supply drop.

(b) James Smith FEREBEE, (A5), 131709, USNR, was seriously injured while riding as observer in the turret of the TBM-3 piloted by Ensign HENDERSON. The exact extent of his injuries are not yet known.

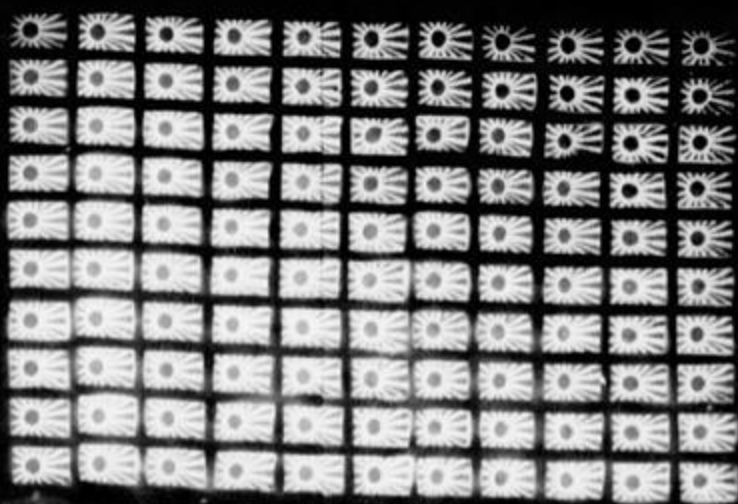




AG 24



AG 30



AG 21



AG 31



TOTAL PLANES SHOT DOWN  
208

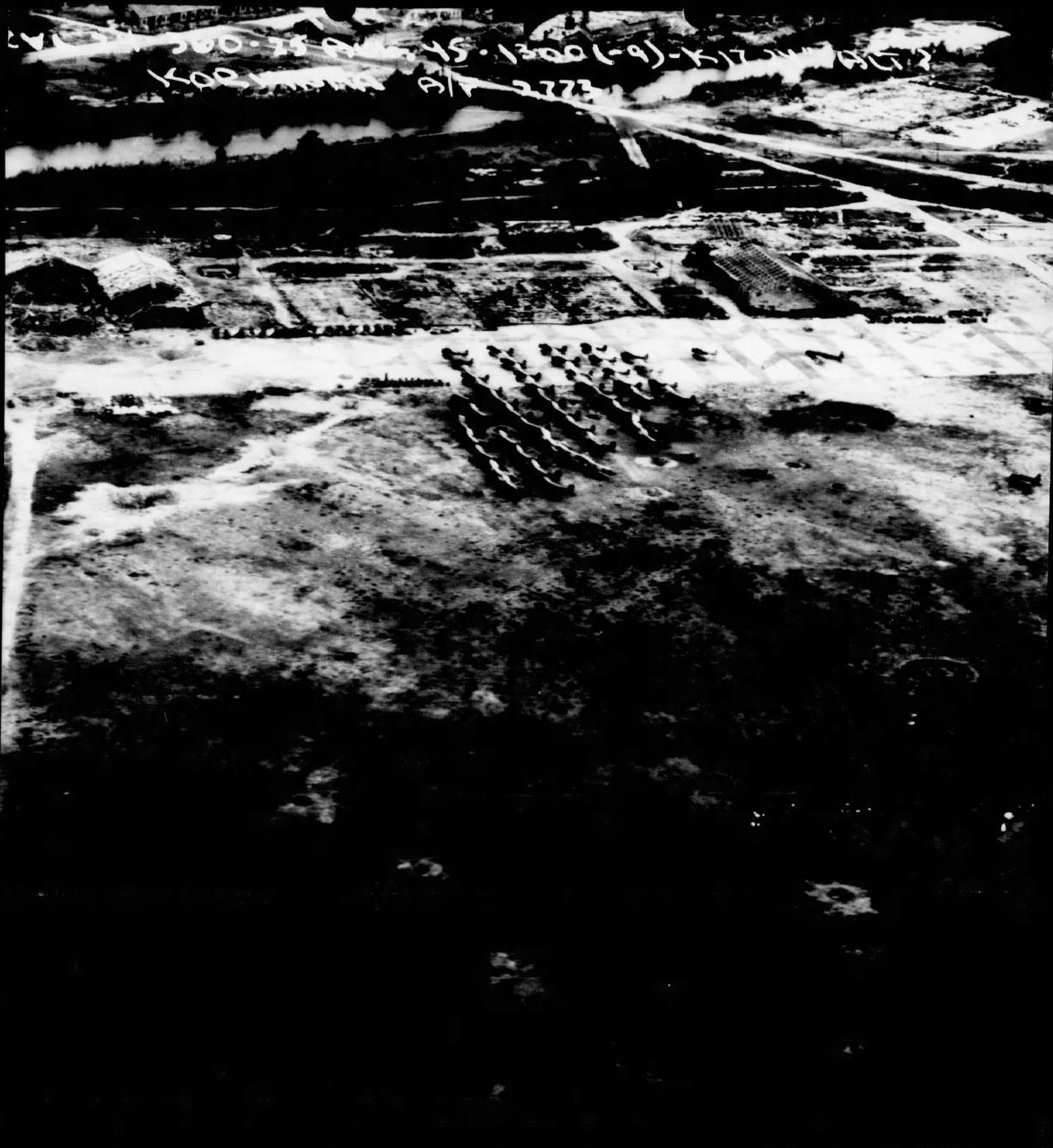


AG 24-88  
AG 21-22  
AG 30-52  
AG 31-142

DESTROYED (BR) - 285  
DESTROYED (AIR) - 208  
TOTAL PLANES = 493  
SHOT DOWN BY SHIP - 9  
GRAND TOTAL = 502



FINAL BOX SCORE



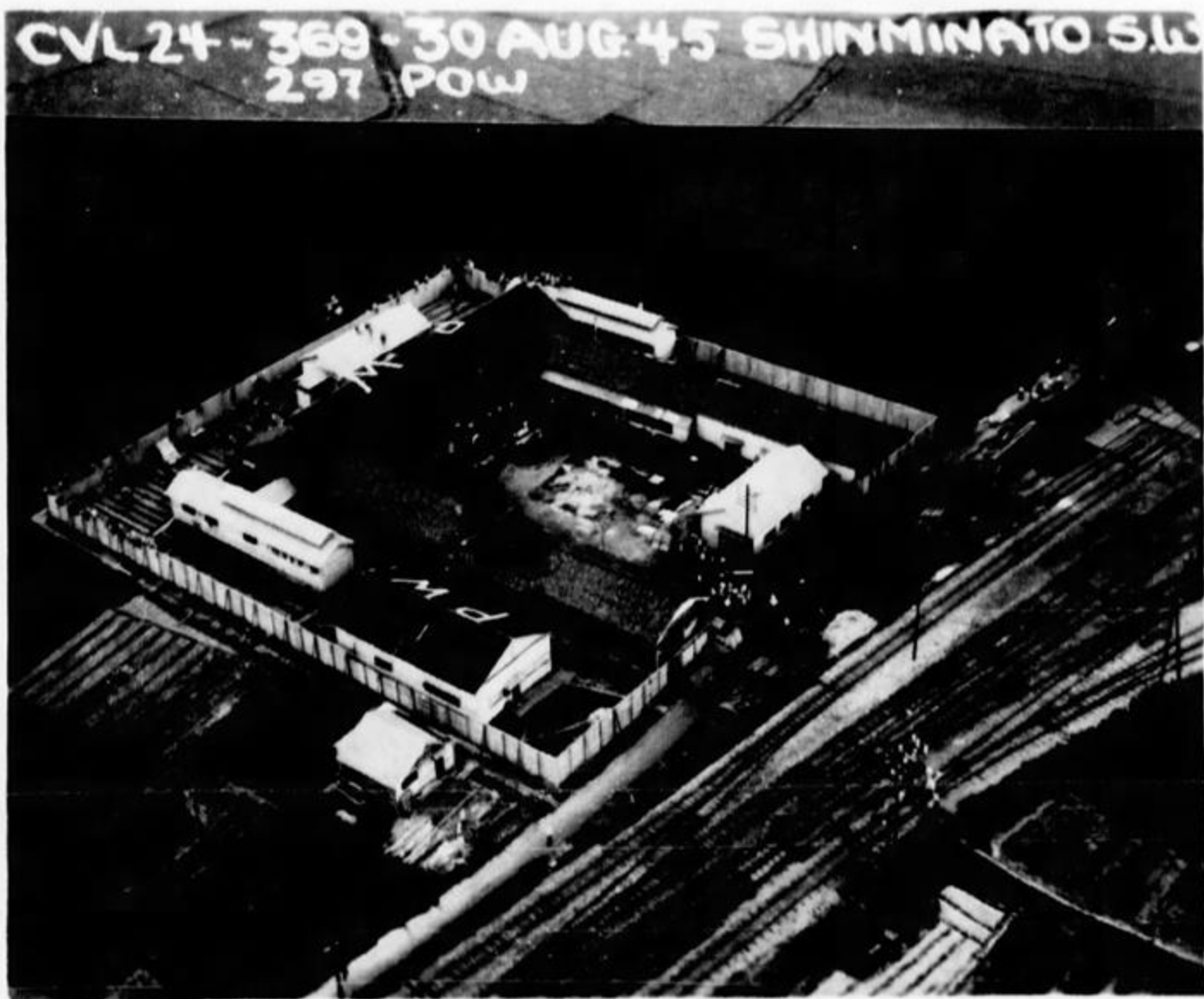
## KORIYAMA AIRFIELD - NORTHERN HONSHU

This photograph was taken on 25 August 1945, the first day that THIRD FLEET planes flew over northern HONSHU following the cessation of hostilities. At many of the airfields, pilots observed trainers, as well as twin-engine and single-engine planes brought from their camouflaged positions and lined up on the strips.

CVL 24-360-25 AUG. 45-1300(-9) K17 24" ALT.  
IWAKE COAL MINE P.O.W. CAMP 37-02N 140-50E



Prisoner of war camp at IWAKE Coal Mine (SENDAI #2 camp), Eastern HONSHU. This photograph was taken by a BELLEAU WOOD pilot on 25 August, 1945, the first day flights were sent out to locate and make supply drops at Northern HONSHU POW camps. Approximately 250 jubilant white men were observed crowded on the barracks roofs and within this compound. Many of them can be seen in this picture.



SHINMINATO SOUTH PRISONER OF WAR CAMP NO. 297

This was one of five unlisted camps discovered by BELLEAU WOOD pilots in the TOYAMA BAY area, western HONSHU. Note the unguarded open gates and allied prisoners of war enjoying their first freedom.