

25 fishing boats as well as three lighthouses, a radio and radar station, and warehouses and locomotives. We ~~we~~ operated approximately 130 miles east of <sup>area</sup> the Mito area of Honshu on 17 July, but again bad weather restricted our offensives to a single strike which being unable to reach its assigned targets, airfield in the Mito area, bomber Mura Matsu town, starting fires. This strike also made rocket and strafing runs on a radio station, and gun emplacements just north of Iso Saki, and started an oil fire at Kuji. The following day, with continued bad weather, one of our strikes destroyed one hangar and damaged another at Hokoda airfield, then hit Hysaurigahara airfield where hangars were damaged, eight planes hit on the ground, one other being completely destroyed. The big strike of the day hit naval shipping at the Yokosuka Naval Base, with the Jap battleship Nagato as its main target. Despite intense anti-aircraft flak, our planes scored one near miss off the port beam and another just off the stern of the big Nip BB. In addition, several destroyer died up at the dock were damaged by hits and left smoking. On the 24th and 25th of July, we operated approximately 100 miles south of Honshu conducting strikes against airfields, factories, railroads, and enemy shipping. The AA fire was intense and accurate over the targets, One Jap "Frank" was shot down on the return trip from the morning Jure strike on the 24th. There were several bogies during the day, but none came near enough for our gunfire. There were also numerous bogies in the late afternoon of the 25th, and three enemy planes were shot down over the Task Force.

During this period, while Air Group One was offensively showing its high mettle in spreading ruin and demolation among the Japanese airfields and installations of a military character, the ship's company carried on the Bennington's battle routine in strict and unflinching fashion. Such routine was by now ingrained and semi automatic; and the days were filled within the narrow confines of our