

and against airfields in the ~~(SATO) area, this time~~ area was reported nearby in the forenoon, and many bogies were reported in the area later in the day. During the afternoon, RABCAP 3 downed a "Judy". Bad weather dampened the full effect of the day's strikes, but factories, locomotives, airfields, and warehouse areas were among the targets damaged or destroyed.

TOP SECRET

More than eight weeks had now passed since we began this operation, and its toil in the long, constant routine had already begun to wear on our nerves. We were getting a little "sea happy", and wishing for a break in the monotony; perhaps a movie or two on the hangar deck; mail from home, which lately had been non-existent, would have cheered us no end. Our constant source of "scuttlebutt" speculation on how long the Japs would hold out against increasing Allied power and poundings - had ceased to provide us with its usual stimulant. Little did any of us dream that this was destined to be our last combat offensive.

Then things came almost too quickly for our equilibrium. First was the news that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics finally had declared war against the Empire of Japan, and had quickly taken the offensive. This profound bit of news reached us on the morning of 9 August. While we were digesting this good news, first inklings of the amazing and incredible new weapon reach our ears. Atomic bombs!

Surrender rumors began to fill the air on 10 August, at which time our ship was off the coast of northern Honshu, and as previously outlined, hitting airfields and shipping. On the 15th of August we were in a position approximately 150 miles off Tokyo, scheduled to launch strikes against airfields in the Mito area. The first strike, a fighter sweep, was launched at 0427, and went to the Hyakuri-gahara airfield and damaged planes on the ground at that air center. The second strike, with the Tokyo Shibaura Electric Plant as its target was launched, but