

VMB-611

152
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Report # 89

Ic(12)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
 (Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VB 611** (b) Based on or **Moret Field, Zamboanga, P.I.** (c) Report No. **89**
 (d) Take off: Date **30 April 1945** Time (LZT) **Varied** (Zone); Lat. **6° 55' N** Long. **122° 04' E**
 (e) Mission **Combat Air Patrol - Davao Gulf** (f) Time of Return **Varied** (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 ENEMY A/C (d)	ATTACKING TARGET (e)		
PBJ	VB 611	4	None	1	6x500 GP	AN-M 103 Inst. AN-M 101 .025 sec. delay

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
None							

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(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
None			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			
			(ZONE)			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (k) Visibility _____
(NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON, DAY, OVERCAST, ETC.) (MILES)

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(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		
None						

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Davao Gulf Area (b) Time Over Target(s) Varied (Zone) 3
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Heavy CU Base 1500' - 10000' .10 Cover
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Obscured by smoke and clouds (e) Visibility 5-10 miles
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBTURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used Mk 15 Mod 7
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run Varied Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 2500'
(NUMBER) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

(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 (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 <u>Matina A/D</u>	•	<u>1</u> <u>VMS 611</u>	<u>6x500 Gp</u>	<u>Unobs.</u>	<u>Unobserved</u>
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

Unobserved

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely, following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY

OWN AIRCRAFT

- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Deception
- Angles of Attack and Their Effectiveness
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defense Tactics and Their Effectiveness

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

- Method of Locating, Distance
- Disposition
- Altitudes
- Speeds
- Approach Tactics
- Use of Cover, Deception
- Angles of Attack
- Distance of Opening Fire
- Defense Tactics

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Own Weaknesses
- Enemy Weaknesses
- Offensive Tactics, Own
- Offensive Tactics, Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- Defensive Tactics, Enemy
- Flexible Gunnery, Own
- Escort Tactics
- Fighter Direction
- Use of Radar
- Night Fighting
- Recognition, Aircraft

ATTACK

OWN TACTICS

- Method of Locating Target
- Approach to Target
- Altitudes, Speeds
- Approach
- Dive
- Pull-Out
- Dive Angle
- Strafing
- Retirement
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Jamming

DEFENSE, ENEMY

- Evasive Tactics, Ships
- Concealment
- Searchlights
- Night Fighter Tactics
- Use of Jamming

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bombing Tactics
- Torpedo Tactics
- Effectiveness of Bombs, Torpedoes
- Selection of Targets
- Fuzing
- Strafing Tactics
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Radar
- Reconnaissance
- Photography
- Briefing

OPERATIONAL

- Navigation
- Homing
- Rendezvous
- Recognition, Ships
- Communications
- Flight Operations
- Search and Tracking
- Base Operations
- Maintenance

<u>A/c No.</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>TOI</u>	<u>TOR</u>
CALL: SEAHORSE BROWN				
MB-3	Hurley	2010	2255	2340
This a/c could not make a visual contact over target area as the radar was inoperative. The overcast being solid, the pilot was reluctant to let down, not knowing his exact position. After an hour of trying to orient themselves, the pilot decided to return to the base and the bombs were jettisoned 20 miles west of Cotobato.				

CALL: SEAHORSE BLACK				
MB-15	Griffith	1830	-	1900
This plane took off and immediately developed engine trouble, forcing it to return to the base.				

CALL: SEAHORSE PURPLE				
MB-14	McRobert	2230	2355	0245
This plane found the weather very poor with smoke and buildups making conditions very undesirable. The plane could not raise anyone on the radio, so finally decided to hit the assigned target, which was Matina A/D. On the first run, a visual run was made and one bomb was dropped, landing on the runway. Several dry runs were made and then a radar run was made from 2500', dropping the remaining bombs. Hits were unobserved. When the a/c began its attacks, there was a large building burning in the center of town. Smoke from this fire covered the entire area. About 20 minutes after arriving, two more fires were seen in the vicinity of the first fire. By the time the plane went off station, about seven fires could be seen. It seemed as though the fires were being deliberately set or that the town was being shelled, although no gun flashes or burst were seen. The plane was relieved and returned to the base.				

CALL: SEAHORSE GREEN				
MB-8	Davis, R.	0030	0130	0420
(May 45)				
This a/c was unable to make radio contact and since no authority had been given to drop its bombs, the plane returned to base after circling the area for almost two hours.				

A.S. BODRERO
1st Lt.-USMCR
Squadron Int. Officer

G.A. SARLES
Lt. Col.-USMC
Commanding Officer