

VMF-115

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Report #38

C(18)

4

VMF-115.

26 May 1945.

DAVAO ALERT-NAPALM

ZAMBOANGA, P.I.

See Log.

6° 55' N.

39.

122° 01' E.

See Log.

Corsairs. VMF-115. 5 None. 5 5 Napalmbombs. Instantaneous.

NO ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED.

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NO ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED.

Corsair. VMF-115. Possible AA fire. Unknown 82237--Loss.

1. VMF-115. Richard F. Harrison, Major, USMC (07188) Crash Missing in Action.

Corsairs. 280 280 18 1500 1000 3500 4

Possible AA Fire.

NO ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED.

DAVAO AREA.

See Log.

See Log.

See Log.

See Log.

None.

See Log.

None.

None.

None.

CALINAN

5 Planes.
VHF-115.

5 Napalm bombs.
3000 rnds.

4

Destroyed.

NO ENEMY SHIPPING ENCOUNTERED.

MISSION LOG REPORT
REPORT NO. 39

26 May 1945.

MISSION: DAVAO ALERT-NAPALM.FLIGHT COMPOSITION: R. Harrison, Watts, Dixon, Lane, Danckaert.TIME: TTO:0900. ATA:1345.WEATHER: Visibility unlimited.COMMENTS: ATA MALABANG at 1145. TTO MALABANG 1248.

The target comprised three large buildings on south side of main road through CALINAN, 10 miles northwest of MINTAL. Major Harrison's Napalm, the first released, dropped a little short and burned over a bivouac area. Watts did not release on the first run, but on the second run, his bomb landed on a building and was exploded by Dixon's strafing. Dixon's--the third--landed on a large building, and Major Harrison strafed it, setting it afire. Lane's bomb landed 60 yards long, burning in a field. Danckaert's bomb exploded north of the road among a string of houses, starting a grass fire. The pilots made two strafing passes over the buildings in the area. The first run was done singly, the second five abreast. Major Harrison's engine emitted a puff of white smoke on the second run, when he was 100 ft. or lower off the deck, at a speed of about 250 knots about 50 yards beyond (West North West) of the burning buildings. He seemed to pull up--but he did not gain altitude--and he started to turn to the right. That was the last that three of the pilots saw of him. They did not see his crash or his plane burn. He was headed for a lightly wooded area about 600 yards from the target. Dixon and Watts circled the area but could not sight the plane. Dixon saw the plane strike the tree tops about 600 yards northwest of the target. Dixon said that the plane had slowed down to a little more than 100 knots. The engine and left wing-tip hit, and Dixon then lost sight of the plane. They circled for 10 minutes but saw no smoke. Fighter director said that there were Japanese troops only in the area. Pilots said that they saw two artillery smoke shells explode at about 2-3000 feet about 8 miles southwest of the target. Fighter director said that Allied forces had ceased artillery fire, but he added that there was Japanese artillery fire. The pilots themselves saw no ground fire over the area. Harrison's last call came after the Napalm's were released. He called fighter director and asked if he wanted them to strafe. He said that there were no friendly troops in the area, and gave permission to strafe. Harrison told the pilots to join up and strafe. Just before the second strafing pass, Major Harrison said he'd give them a long straight away and Lane said he'd lead his section in, making it five-abreast.

PATRICK M. MC GRADY
First Lieutenant, USMC
ACIC Officer.