

VMB-611

152  
⑫

Report # 115

IIC(12)

5

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VIB 611 (b) Based on or at Moret Field, Zamboanga, P.I. (c) Report No. 115  
 (d) Take off: Date 15 May 1945 Time (LZT) Varied (Zone); Lat 6° 55' N Long 122° 04' E  
 (e) Mission PI Support - Davao Gulf Area (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)		
<u>FBJ</u>	<u>VIB 611</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8x250 GP</u>	<u>M 113 4-5 sec. delay</u>
<u>M</u>					<u>8x5" Rockets</u>	<u>Mk 148 INST.</u>

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
<u>None</u>							

## 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
<u>None</u>			(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		
<u>None</u>						

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## VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only).

(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	(c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1	<b>None</b>			
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

## VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

(a) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS
	<b>None</b>			

## VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE A/C	(b) MILES OUT	(c) MILES RETURN	(d) AV. HOURS IN AIR	(e) AV. FUEL LOADED	(f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED	(g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED				(h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
						.30	.50	20MM	MM	
<b>PBJ</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>8200</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>5</b>

## IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over				
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm	<b>x</b>			
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm	<b>x</b>			
	<b>x</b>			

## X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

URNS  
DIVES  
CEILINGS  
RANGE  
PROTECTION  
ARMAMENT

**No enemy a/c encountered.**

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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)
- (c) Clouds Over Target CU Base 2000' 3-7 Cover
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility 25 miles
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Level Bomb Sight Used Mk 8 Gunnar's Sight
- Bombs Dropped per Run Varied Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release Minimum
- (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 Targets assigned by	-	5 VF-611	32x250 GP	Unobs.	Unobserved
2 FF Bombs.			3x5" Rockets		
3			8200 rds. .50 cal.		
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? **Yes** 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 Cover, 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
- Defensive Tactics

#### COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Own Weaknesses
- Enemy Weaknesses
- Offensive Tactics, Own
- " " " " Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- " " " " 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

A/C NO.	PILOT	TO	TOT	TOR
CALL: SEAHORSE RED				
MB-9	Davis, R.	0720	0900	1200

When S/H Red "9" arrived within ten miles south of Davao, Accident was contacted, but had no targets. Toddy Leader was then raised and the a/c was cleared to attack targets in Piso Bay. Upon arrival over the bay, smoke was seen rising from two small fires, which the PT boats said were caused by the Japs destroying their own supplies. A bombing and strafing run was made from south to north on the smoke columns. Four bombs were dropped on this run with a 50' intervalometer setting. The area was strafed during the run. No results were observed on the bomb hits. The a/c circled for about thirty minutes, while a Destroyer Escort shelled the area. The plane was then cleared in to make four more runs on the target. On the first run, one bomb was dropped and two rockets fired; on the second run, two bombs and four rockets were expended; the a/c released one bomb and two rockets on the following run; the fourth run was strafing only. No enemy installations, boats, houses or personnel were seen during the strike. The a/c was relieved on station by Seahorse White "15" and returned to the base, clearing through Accident. It is considered that this target is useless and of no value. All of this a/c's bombs fell along the shoreline, although the targets could not be seen.

CALL: SEAHORSE WHITE				
MB-15	Davis, S.	0900	1030-1200	1330

S/H White "15" checked in with Toddy Leader at Piso Point. The a/c circled until a Destroyer Escort ceased firing. The target was an inlet containing boats that had been knocked out and fuel dumps. This target was strafed on eight runs. The DE had started two fires and the a/c started a third. Two rocket runs were made, firing four on the first and two on the second run. Trees made it impossible to see the specifically assigned targets in the area. At the time the a/c left, the target area seemed thoroughly worked over. Upon being relieved by S/H Blue "0", the plane returned to the base.

CALL: SEAHORSE BLUE				
MB-0	Chapman	1020	1200-1240	1415

S/H Blue "0" checked in with Toddy Leader at Piso Point. There was one good PT boat in the inlet next to a PT boat destroyed by Lt. Horton. It was hit and destroyed by rockets and strafing. Eight bombs were dropped on a previously sunk PT boat and a pipe line. Spaced at 15', the bombs blew the pipe line in two. A run was made on three barges along the coast and they were hit also by rockets and .50 caliber fire. This was confirmed by our PT's. A fuel dump was also strafed. There may well be more boats and barges in this area. The a/c was relieved by S/H Green "14" and returned to the base.

CALL: SEAHORSE GREEN				
MB-14	Bennett	1150	1315-1500	1630

After checking in with Toddy Leader, the a/c circled at 2000' as directed, while the PT's went in close to shore and fired fuel dumps. Three explosions were seen resulting from PT fire. They apparently had hit the fuel dumps. The a/c circled the area until 1430, observing PT operations and was then assigned two targets. The a/c made one run

(CONTINUED)

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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 Cover, 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
- Defensive Tactics

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Own Weaknesses
- Enemy Weaknesses
- Offensive Tactics, Own
- " " Enemy
- Defensive Tactics, Own
- " " 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

**CALL: SEAHORSE GREEN (CONTINUATION)**

on Target Area #1, strafing and dropping four bombs on camouflaged shacks. Two runs were made on Target #2, dropping two bombs and thoroughly strafing the area on each run. The PI said the bombs all hit directly in the target areas. Two rocket and strafing runs were made on Target #2, with two rockets being fired on the first run and three rockets on the second. Trees and fires obscured results in both target areas. At 1530 S/H Yellow "4" called and said they were on the way to station, so the a/c returned to the base.

**CALL: SEAHORSE YELLOW**

<b>MB- 4</b>	<b>Samuels</b>	<b>1330</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>1720</b>
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This a/c relieved S/H Green "14" over Davao Gulf and contacted Toddy Leader, who told the plane to circle a target which a DD was shelling, an area on Piso Point. The a/c orbited over this area for an hour and a half. The DD then moved south, clearing the a/c to the same target it had been shelling. There were two MIB's burning where the DD had shelled, as were several houses on the beach. The DD requested bombing of a wooded area on the point, as there was a storage dump concealed among the trees. Two Bombing runs were made. The bombs released on the first run were short, but the six bombs dropped on the second run all landed in the target area. The heavy woods prevented damage assessment, but coverage was excellent. While circling, another MIB was spotted lying about 100' up a small inlet near the burning MIB's. It appeared to be serviceable. Two rocket runs were made, three being fired the first run and four the second run. The rockets on the second run hit the MIB, but did not burn it. Due to its position, it could not be determined how badly it was damaged, as it was hidden by foliage. Toddy Leader said that any planes returning to Piso Point could bomb and strafe anywhere on the point. The a/c then checked out with Toddy Leader, Mainmast, and the DD, and proceeded back to the base.

**R.R. DAVIS**  
Major-USMC  
Acting

**A.S. BOHNERO**  
1st Lt.-USMCR  
Squadron Int. Officer

**G.A. SARRIS**  
Lt. Col.-USMC  
Commanding Officer