

VMF-115

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Report # 3-7

LIC(18)

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when filled out)

I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-115 (b) Based on or at ZANBOANGA, P.I. (c) Report No. 3-7
 (d) Take off: Date 2 April 1945. Time (LZT) See Log. (Zone); Lat. 6°35' N. Long. 122°1' E.
 (e) Mission See Mission Log Report. (f) Time of Return See Log. (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>Corsair</u>	<u>VMF-115</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>None</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>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>	<u>NO ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED.</u>		
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) NO ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED.
 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		

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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) See Mission Log. (b) Time Over Target(s) See Log. (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target See Mission Log.
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target See Mission Log. (e) Visibility See Log.
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type NONE. Bomb Sight Used _____
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run _____ Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release _____
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 West shore of BONGAO		4 Planes, VNF-115	No Bombs. 3000 rnds. ammo.	Straf- ing.	Slight.
2 Jap installations on BONGAO		4 Planes, VNF-115	No Bombs. 3000 rnds. ammo.	Straf- ing.	Slight.
3 Jap installations in vicinity of BONGAO		4 Planes, VNF-115	No Bombs. 4000 rnds. ammo.	Straf- ing.	Slight.
4 Jap installations in vicinity of BONGAO		4 Planes, VNF-115	No Bombs. 5000 rnds. ammo.	Straf- ing.	Serious.
5 COTABATO Fighter Sweep		2 Planes, VNF-115	No Bombs. 3600 rnds. ammo.	Straf- ing.	Slight.
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).

NO ENEMY SHIPPING ENCOUNTERED.

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

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

ARMAMENT

- Guns, Gunsights
- Turrets
- Ammunition
- Bombs, Torpedoes
- Bomb Sights
- Bomb Releases

COMMUNICATIONS

- Radio, Radar
- Homing Devices
- Visual Signals
- Codes, Ciphers

RECOGNITION

- IFF
- Signals
- Battle Lights
- Procedures

PROTECTION

- Armor; Points and Angles of Fire Needing Further Protection
- Leak Proofing

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

- Parachutes
- Life Belts, Life Rafts
- Safety Belts
- Emergency Kits
- Rations, First Aid

NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Compasses
- Driftsights
- Octants
- Automatic Pilots
- Charts
- Field Lighting

INSTRUMENTS

- Flight
- Power Plant

OXYGEN SYSTEM

CAMOUFLAGE AND DECEPTION DEVICES

STRUCTURE

- Airframe
- Control Surfaces
- Control System
- Dive Flaps
- Landing Gear
- Heating System
- Flight Characteristics At Various Loadings

POWER PLANT

- Engines
- Engine Accessories
- Propellers
- Lubricating System
- Starters
- Exhaust Dampers

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

- Auxiliary Plant
- Lights

FUEL SYSTEM

FLIGHT CLOTHING

MAINTENANCE

BASE FACILITIES

- Plane Servicing Equipment
- Personnel Facilities

REPORT PREPARED BY:

MISSION LOG REPORT

2 April 1945.

REPORT NO. 3

MISSION: Combat Air Patrol over BONGAO.

FLIGHT COMPOSITION: Blanchard, Browning, Robinson, Dixon.

TIME: TIO:0630. ATA:1010.

WEATHER: Cumulus 2000-6000 feet in two layers, 8-9/10 coverage. Visibility 3-5 miles.

SIGHTINGS: One bogey, unidentifiable, about 30 miles south of BASILAN, flying at 12,000 feet on a heading of 230°.

COMMENTS: Army landed north of SANGA SANGA airstrip while pilots patrolled the area. At 0900 one LST and several smaller craft had sent ashore their personnel. At Fighter Director's request pilots made two strafing runs on the west shore of BONGAO ISLAND. Target represented machine gun nest, but foliage obscured it and strafing results.

REPORT NO. 4

MISSION: Combat Air Patrol over BONGAO.

FLIGHT COMPOSITION: Cathcart, Gates, Becker, Butts.

TIME: TIO:0750. ATA:1212.

WEATHER: Cumulus clouds from 2500-5000 feet. 4/10 coverage. Front seemed to be moving east from target area.

COMMENTS: Becker returned at 0600 because of engine trouble. Fighter Director requested pilots to strafe radar station on southwest side of a hill in northwest corner of BONGAO. Planes shot up house and tower and started a fire 50 yards south of house in a clump of trees. Fire gave off white smoke. LST and about 8 landing craft were on beach above strip on SANGA SANGA. Two DD's patrolled landing area. One of the DD's was firing into southern part of BONGAO. SBD's hit target our pilots strafed, setting two fires. Pilots could NOT observe ground activity because of low-lying clouds.

REPORT NO. 5

MISSION: Combat Air Patrol over BONGAO.

FLIGHT COMPOSITION: Sharpe, Eastman, Banckert, Dake.

TIME: TIO:0930. ATA:1340.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility unlimited.

SIGHTINGS: Fire and white smoke on ridge on BONGAO ISLAND. Also warehouses were on fire. Float plane, probably a PETE was sunken in harbor. White smoke bomb over center of Island.

COMMENTS: Pilots strafed islands off west coast of BONGAO on two passes. Except for Dake, who creamed a runner with one burst, pilots could not see results of strafing.

APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

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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

**MISSION LOG REPORT
REPORT NO. 6**

2 April 1945.

MISSION: Combat Air Patrol over BONGAO.

FLIGHT COMPOSITION: Innes, Guder, McDonald, Foster.

TIME: TIO:1245. ATA:1815.

WEATHER: Visibility ten miles. Hazy.

COMMENTS: On request from fighter director, strafed across island. Three passes made by each plane. Shot up buildings, groves, and structures on Northeastern peninsula. Strafing through area set afire by previous bombing hop.

McDonald, possibly hit by anti-aircraft, made a water landing on the way back to base about one-half mile off the southern tip of GREAT SANTA CRUZ ISLAND. Pilots circled position until a patrol boat picked him up. The plane's tail stayed above water for a minute or a minute and half while McDonald got out. Apparently all his apparatus worked. He stood up in the boat and waved to pilots. He landed about 1730 and was picked up about 1805.

REPORT NO. 7

MISSION: COTOBATO Fighter Sweep.

FLIGHT COMPOSITION: Hoops and Chellson.

TIME: TIO:1530. ATA:1910.

WEATHER: Hazy up to 7,000 feet. Visibility about 15 miles.

COMMENTS: Strafing truck southwest of KABAKAN. It blew up. One other truck was set afire by strafing. A third probably was destroyed.

PATRICK H. MC GRADY
First Lieutenant, USMC
ACI, Officer.