

VMB-611

151  
⑫

Report # 87

IIC (12)

4

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**I. GENERAL**

(a) Unit Reporting VMB 611 (b) Based on or at Moret Field, Zamboanga, P.I. (c) Report No 87  
 (d) Take off: Date 29 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<br>(a) | SQUADRON<br>(b) | NUMBER            |                           |                         | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE)<br>(f) | FUZE, SETTING<br>(g)                 |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
|             |                 | TAKING OFF<br>(c) | ENGAGING ENEMY A/C<br>(d) | ATTACKING TARGET<br>(e) |  |                                      |
| PBJ         | VMB 611         | 2                 | None                      | 2                       | 6x500 GP<br>8x5" Rockets                       | AN-M 103 Inst.<br>AN-M 101 .025 sec. |
| PBJ         | VMB 611         | 4                 | None                      | 4                       | 6x500 GP                                       | M 113 4-5 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)  
 Time of Day and Brilliance \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) of Sun or Moon \_\_\_\_\_ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ (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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|                    |                              |          |                 |           |                      |                    |
|                    |                              |          |                 |           |                      |                    |

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

| (a)<br>TYPE OWN A/C | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C<br>TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE | (d)<br>WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor,<br>self-sealing tanks, equipment hit) | (e)<br>EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE<br>(Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed) |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| 1                   | None            |  |  |  |
| 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)<br>NO. | (b)<br>SQUADRON | (c)<br>NAME, RANK OR RATING | (d)<br>CAUSE | (e)<br>CONDITION OR STATUS |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|            | None            |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |
|            |                 |                             |              |                            |

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

| (a)<br>TYPE<br>A/C | (b)<br>MILES<br>OUT | (c)<br>MILES<br>RETURN | (d)<br>AV. HOURS<br>IN AIR | (e)<br>AV. FUEL<br>LOADED | (f)<br>AV. FUEL<br>CONSUMED | (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED |      |      |    | (h)<br>NO. OF PLANES<br>RETURNING |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|----|-----------------------------------|
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             | .30                           | .50  | 20MM | MM |                                   |
| PBJ                | 230                 | 230                    | 4.5                        | 974                       | 760                         | X                             | 3400 | X    | X  | 6                                 |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |      |      |    |                                   |
|                    |                     |                        |                            |                           |                             |                               |      |      |    |                                   |

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

| CALIBER                                   | NONE | MEAGER | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|------|--------|----------|---------|
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over  | X    |        |          |         |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm   | X    |        |          |         |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm | X    |        |          |         |

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,  
at various altitudes

TURNS

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 2500' - 3500' 7 Cover  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Clear (e) Visibility Unlimited  
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED 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 1000' - 8000'  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

| (h)<br>AIMING POINT       | (i)<br>DIMENSIONS OR<br>TONNAGE | (j) NO. A/C ATTACKING<br>(k) SQUADRON | (l)<br>BOMBS AND AMMUNITION<br>EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT | (m)<br>NO. HITS ON<br>AIMING POINT | (n)<br>DAMAGE (None, serious, destroyed, or sunk) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 <b>Targets assigned</b> | •                               | <b>6</b><br><b>VMB 611</b>            | <b>36x500 GP</b>  | <b>Unobs.</b>                      | <b>Unobserved</b>                                 |
| 2 <b>by PT boats.</b>     |                                 |                                       | <b>10x5" Rockets</b>                                      |                                    |   |
| 3                         |                                 |                                       | <b>3400 rds. .50 cal.</b>                                 |                                    |   |
| 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 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 RED  
A/C NO. PILOT T.O. T.O.T. T.O.R.  
MB-9 Chapman 1320 1455 1820

This plane flew south along the coast from Cotobato, where it picked up the PT boats in Sarangani Bay. They were circled by this a/c until they arrived off the Sarangani Islands. The pilot was due to return to the base, so he requested that he be assigned a target. A hulk was so designated, lying on a reef offshore of Bukid Point. All bombs were dropped in four runs scoring four hits. The plane then returned to the base.

CALL: SEAHORSE WHITE  
MB-12 Bennett 1815 1645 1900

This a/c arrived over Davao Gulf and contacted Accident, who advised the plane to contact Uncle 10, as Accident did not know anything about Toddy leader and did not know where the PT boats were. The plane being unable to contact the PT boats, and Uncle 10 having no targets, contacted Flossie, a six plane SBD section, and at their request struck their secondary target, an personnel and bivouac area about 3/4 miles northeast of the south end of Libby A/B on the bank of the Toluna River. One run was made dropping all bombs and two rockets were made, firing four rockets, all of which landed in the target area and demolished a building 40'x100'. The last four rockets were fired into a camouflaged revetment on Matina A/D with unobserved results. The planes on the strip, although none were serviceable, were strafed as well. Results were considered good as the entire target area was covered well. The a/c then returned to the base.

CALL: SEAHORSE BLACK  
MB-15 Pollan 1820 2000 2315

This plane checked in with Peacock and proceeded to Toddy leader. The a/c was instructed to drop two bombs on Matina A/B. The runway was hit with unobserved results. Toddy leader then requested that the a/c drop the remaining bombs on Talikud Island Southwest of Samal Island, where 400-500 Japanese were reported to be by guerrillas. Two bombs were dropped on the bivouac area on the first run. The PT boats then requested flares to be dropped, whereupon two flares were released, and a second run was made. The remaining two bombs were dropped with unobserved results. Assigned targets were all hit with accuracy it is believed. The planes then returned to the base.

CALL: SEAHORSE BROWN  
MB-10 Morten 2030 2200 0100

After checking in with Peacock, this a/c then proceeded to Toddy leader just south of Samal Island. It was then requested to search the gulf area from there north for any small surface craft. An hour was spent on an unfruitful search, and as directed, the plane made a bombing run over Matina A/D. The bombs fell across the runway with unobserved results. The plane then returned to the base after checking in with Toddy.

(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  
Release  
Pull-Out  
Dive Angle  
Strafing  
Retirement  
Defensive Tactics

#### DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships  
Concealment  
Anti-aircraft  
Searchlights  
Night Fighter Tactics

#### 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 PURPLE  
MB- 8 Petersen

2220

0050

0200

This plane contacted the PF boats just offshore the northern tip of Sanaul Island. They had no target for the a/c and directed them to make a reconnaissance flight of Pakiputan Strait. Permission was given to strike Lanang. Four strafing passes and one bombing run were made, dropping two bombs, which hit between two buildings 40' x 100' believed to be warehouses and completely destroyed them. A second run was made, but bombs were away early and they fell into a coconut grove north of the target. The plane then returned to the north of Sanaul Island and was told by the PF boats that they were securing and to drop the remaining bombs on Matina A/D. The first run was made on a heading of 170° and 1000' of altitude, dropping two bombs which fell on the edge of a revetment area. The last bomb was dropped in the same area. After contacting Peacock, the a/c returned to the base. Coverage of the assigned area was excellent.

CALL: SEAHORSE GREEN  
MB- 7 Kronick

0050

0145

0430

(1845)

Flying direct to Davao, this a/c contacted Seahorse Purple "8" as it was leaving the station. It was impossible to reach the ground station or the PF boats, so the plane hit Matina strip. On the first run and the third, two of the bombs landed across the northern end of the strip and the last two fell on the south end of the runway. On the second run, sparks and fire were seen as the bombs hit in the supply area between the strip and the Davao River. Good coverage was observed, as all hits were on the aiming points.

A.S. BODRERO

1st Lt.-USMC  
Squadron Int. Officer

G.A. SARLES

Lt. Col.-USMC  
Commanding Officer