

VMB611

181
②

Report # 49

Hc (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. 49
 (d) Take off: Date 6 April 1945 Time (LZT) 0440 I (Zone); Lat. 6° 55' N Long 122° 04' E
 (e) Mission Low Level Strike on Del Monte A/D's (f) Time of Return 0920 I (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	VMB611	5	None	5	8x250 GP	8-11 sec. delay
PBJ	VMB611	1	None	1	14x250 GP	8-11 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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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				
2	VMB 611	Enemy AA possible 12.7MM Shell	Coming from below port engine passing through pilot's comp. out through windshield.	Slight repairable damage.
3				
4				
5				
6	VMB 611	Enemy AA possible 25 MM	Top of starboard rudder	Topmost part of rudder blown off. Repairable damage.
7				
8	VMB 611	Enemy AA possible 25MM	Starboard wing at leading edge.	Slight structural damage.
9				
10	VMB 611	Enemy AA possible 12.7MM	Port wing- outboard of nacelle.	Punctured- repairable.
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
	None			

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	
PBJ	175	175	4.7	974	850	None	10000	None	None	6

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				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) **Tagoloan-Diklom A/D's at Del Monte** (b) Time Over Target(s) **0730-0840 I** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **Heavy O'Cast at 7000'** **.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 8 Gunner's Sight**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **Varied** Spacing **Varied** Altitude of Bomb Release **Treetop**
(NUMBER) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed **None** Probably Destroyed **None** Damaged **One (1)**

(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)
Tagoloan - Diklom A/D's 2	•	6 VMB 611	44x250 GP 10000 rds. .50 cal.	44	Serious damage
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.)

Ref: XI (g):

A seemingly serviceable Japanese NICK was seen in a revetment and bombed.

Later observation showed the a/c was definitely damaged by the bombs.

(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 BLUE

A/C NO.	PILOT	T.O.	T.O.T.	T.O.R.
MB-2	Fagan	0440	0730 - 0840	0920
MB-10	Lollasters	"	" "	"
MB-14	Good	"	" "	"
MB-8	Hamilton	"	" "	"
MB-9	Chelgren	"	" "	"
MB-15	Hollamara	"	" "	"

over

The ships orbited ~~BEHIND~~ the ocean until the weather, which was heavy o'cast at 7000', cleared and good target observation was accessible. Bombing and strafing runs were made in a general south to north direction around the two strips and return runs as necessary, hitting supply areas, revetments, gun positions, personnel areas south of the A/D's, trucks along the Sayre Road, installations in ravines, the town, and any other targets that could be seen. Camouflaged supply dumps and trucks concealed by tree branches were also bombed and strafed. A Japanese NICK in serviceable condition was bombed, later observation showing it to be severely damaged. There were many signs of activity over the entire area. Buildings appeared to be in good repair, while revetments seemed to be well built and well concealed. These, too, were bombed and strafed with good results. Return fire from well manned guns damaged 4 of the attacking a/c. One plane was holed by a projectile, estimated to be a 12.7 MM, coming forward from below the port engine, passing through the pilot's compartment and out through the pilot's windshield. The top of the starboard rudder of another a/c was torn away by estimated 25 MM fire. The starboard wing of still another a/c at the leading edge was hit by 12.7 MM fire and the wing, outboard of the port nacelle, was punctured by enemy AA of the fourth a/c. The results of this strike were considered excellent.

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

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