

VMB-611

151  
⑫

Report #54

IC(12)

4

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting **VIB 611** (b) Based on or at **Moret Field, Zamboanga, PI.** (c) Report No. **54**  
 (d) Take off: Date **9 April 1945** Time (LZT) **0520 I** (Zone); Lat. **6° 55' N** Long **122° 04' E**  
 (e) Mission **Low Level Bombing and Strafing - Buayan A/D Area** (f) Time of Return **0830 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)		
<b>F4U</b>	<b>VIB 611</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8x250 GP</b>	<b>8-15 sec. delay</b>

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

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

## 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
<b>None</b>			(ZONE)			
<b>None</b>			(ZONE)			
<b>None</b>			(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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(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		
<b>None</b>						



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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No **54**

## XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) **Coconut Palm Grove - Busyan A/D Area** Time Over Target(s) **0700 I** (Zone)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **Sect. CU .2 Cover**  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Clear** (e) Visibility **10-12 miles**  
(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 **75'**  
(NUMBER) (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. HIT ON Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 <b>Coconut grove -</b>	•	<b>2</b> <b>VMS 611</b>	<b>16x250 GP</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Unobserved</b>
2 <b>Busyan Area</b>			<b>1800 rds. .50 cal.</b>		
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.)

**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 BLACK**

A/C NO.	PILOT	TO	TOT	TOR
SB- 3	Chapman	0520	0700	0830
SB- 1	Hurley	"	"	"

This two plane section proceeded directly to the Buayan A/D area, where a coconut palm grove had been briefed as containing a 3-plane revetment. However, no revetment was seen. One plane made one run, the other made two runs. Both planes dropped all bombs carried on their respective runs. The bombing was excellent, as all bombs dropped in the assigned target area. One plane strafed the area thoroughly. What appeared to be oil drums were seen east of the grove. One burned truck was observed 1/4 mile east of the target. Lots of cattle were observed in the edge of the mountains west of Sarangani Bay, as were natives and houses on the coast south. No worthwhile targets were seen in the area. The strip had not been used for a long time. Revetments were empty and no buildings were there. One truck was seen going south at Koronadal. At this time the planes returned to the base.

**A. SBODRERO**  
**1st Lt.-USMC**  
**Squadron Int. Officer**

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