

VMB-611

152  
(12)

Report # 93

HC(12)

4



# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when  
filled out)

## I. GENERAL

- (a) Unit Reporting VMS 611 (b) Based on or at Moret Field, Zamboanga, P.I. (c) Report No. 83
- (d) Take off: Date 4 May 1945 Time (LZT) Varied (Zone); Lat. 6° 55' N Long 122° 04' E
- (e) Mission Medium Altitude and Low Level Bombing - Del Monte A/D's (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>PBJ</u>	<u>VMS 611</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3x1000 GP</u> <u>8x5" Rockets</u>	<u>AN-M 103 .1 sec.</u> <u>M 148 INST.</u>
<u>PBJ</u>	<u>VMS 611</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3x1000 GP</u> <u>8x5" Rockets</u>	<u>M 114 4-5 sec.</u> <u>M 148 INST.</u>
<u>PBJ</u>	<u>VMS 611</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4x500 GP</u>	<u>M 113 4-5 sec.</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 \_\_\_\_\_ (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		
<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	PBJ	YMB 611	Possible 12.7 mm enemy AA.	Windshield on port side shattered - unsalvageable.
2				in front of pilot.
3				Bulkhead on port side
4				of pilot.
5	PBJ	YMB 611	Possible enemy AA	Starboard wing.
6				10" hole - small structural damage - repairable
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
	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	180	180	3.5	974	590	x	5500	x	x	7

**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) Del Monte A/D's (b) Time Over Target(s) Varied (Zone)  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target Scat. CU, Base 2000' - 4000', 3 Cover  
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Partially obscured by clouds (e) Visibility 25 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 Min. 9500'  
(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	-	7			
2		VIB 611	14x1000 GP	Unobs.	Unobserved
3			4x5" Rockets		
4			8300 rds. .50 cal.		
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

<b>CALL: SEAHORSE RED</b>			
<b>A/C NO.</b>	<b>PILOT</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>TOF</b>
MB-1	Sarles	0900	1015 - 1115
MB-0	Schmillen	"	"

The flight proceeded to the target area and upon arriving S/H Red "1" dropped its three one thousand pounders, which hit about 300 yards east of the target. Rocket and strafing runs were then made, hitting gun positions in the target area. S/H Red "0" released its bombs and all hit in the target area. Eight rockets were fired into a building just east of Tagoloan strip. Results, however, were unobserved.

<b>CALL: SEAHORSE WHITE</b>			
<b>A/C NO.</b>	<b>PILOT</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>TOF</b>
MB-3	Headley	0945	1115
MB-10	Fish	"	"

The first plane made one dry run on the target and then dropped 2x1000 lb. bombs on the second run. The bombsight was out, but the bombs hit within 100 yards of the target. The rockets were all in the target area with at least one hitting in the mouth of a cave. The area was also strafed on the rocket run. The second plane also had difficulty with the bombsight and bombs fell about 300 yards long. Eight rockets were fired at the field tower, destroying it completely. The target area was then thoroughly strafed by .50 caliber fire.

<b>CALL: SEAHORSE GREEN</b>			
<b>A/C NO.</b>	<b>PILOT</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>TOF</b>
MB-15	Sarles	1415	1530 - 1630

This a/c flew to Del Monte village and dropped two five hundred pounders and strafed the village. Two shacks were blown up and the area was smoking when another bomb was released. The fourth and last bomb was placed in front of the cave door in the storage and underground area south of the Tagoloan strip. A strafing run was made on either an armored car or a camouflaged tank. A total of 2500 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition were expended on the target area.

<b>CALL: SEAHORSE BLUE</b>			
<b>A/C NO.</b>	<b>PILOT</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>TOF</b>
MB-7	Peterson	1000	1115
MB-14	Kronick	"	"

The first a/c made its bombing run at an altitude of 50' with an intervalometer reading of 50'. Three one thousand pound bombs were dropped, but observation was difficult due to the dust and dirt from the explosions. However, one bomb is believed to have hit in the cave and another just above the cave. It is certain that all three stuck to the mountain, as none were seen to slip out. Rocket runs were made on a tree east of Tagoloan A/D which was suspected of marking a gun position. Fifteen hundred rounds of .50 caliber were expended on the bombing and rocket runs. The second a/c's first bomb was right on target, while the other two hit just to the right of the first bomb. The bombing run was made at 9500'. Rocket runs were then made on the tree target, but only four of the eight would fire. Strafing runs were then made, covering the entire target area.

**A.S. BODRERO**  
1st Lt.-USMC  
Squadron Int. Officer

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

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