

VMB-611

151
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Report # 81

II C (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. 81
 (d) Take off: Date 25 April 1945 Time (LZT) 2130 I (Zone); Lat 55° N Long 122° 04' E
 (e) Mission Night Recon - Sayre Highway North of Kabacan (f) Time of Return 0100 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)		
<u>FBJ</u>	<u>VMB 611</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8x250 GP</u> <u>8x5" Rockets</u>	<u>M 112 4-5 sec. delay</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>			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			
			<u>(ZONE)</u>			

(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		
<u>None</u>					

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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) **Sayre Highway North of Kabacan** (b) Time Over Target(s) **2200-2400 I** (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target **Scat CU Base 2000' .5 Cover**
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target **Hazy** (e) Visibility **Limited by darkness**
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type **Level** Bomb Sight Used **M: 15 Mod 7**
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run **Varied** Spacing **Varied** Altitude of Bomb Release **4000'**
(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 Night beakle	•	1 VMB 611	8x250 GP	Unobs.	Unobserved
2 Sayre Highway N. of Kabacan.			1400 rds. .50 cal.		
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
MB- 7	Bennett	2130	2200-2400	0100

This night's heckle contacted Caveman, ground radio at Pikit, and was assigned the highway north to Malaybalay from Kabacan for patrol, with orders not to make any attacks within 15 miles of Kabacan. The a/c took up the patrol and at Kibase saw lights which were truck headlights. Trucks spread along the road in units of ones, twos and fours from 5 to 10 miles apart. The first truck was attacked by strafing did not turn off his lights until the tracers started to fly. Tracers appeared to head into the truck. The second section of trucks was then attacked in the same manner, and it also did not seem to see or hear the plane until it was almost upon them. The a/c was firing from an altitude of 1500' and range of 1200 yards. The plane circled over the section and dropped aflame. Every light on the highway went out immediately. The road was strafed and a small amount of 12.7 MM tracer, about 12 rounds, was seen coming from the road. The plane climbed back up to 4000' and made a bombing run, dropping all bombs. The road at this point went through a forest and bomb bursts could not be seen. This was 45 miles north of Kabacan. At this time the a/c took a south heading and contacted Caveman again, giving him the information regarding the sweep, and then returned to the base by direct route.

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

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