

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(a) Unit Reporting VFP-251 (b) Based on or at MANILA, PHILIPPINE IS. (c) Report No. 73
 (d) Take off: Date 18 February, 1945 Time (LZT) 1300 Z (Zone); Lat. 11° 2' N Long. 125° 44' E
 (e) Mission BOMB LIGANAN, HINDI (f) Time of Return _____ (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)		
251-10	251	13	1000	13	21000 lb.	Incl.
(10 planes were ordered but three failed to takeoff because of blowouts in their landing gear tires.)						

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

TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE	TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	BASE
251							

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
251			(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		
251						

3 03078

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT No. **73**

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				
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) NO.	(b) SQUADRON	(c) NAME, RANK OR RATING	(d) CAUSE	(e) CONDITION OR STATUS

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	
240-10	240	240	4.0	405	290		4,000		13

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

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS

DIVES

CEILINGS

RANGE

PROTECTION

ARMAMENT

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
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CONFIDENTIAL

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 73

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

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) LIGAYAN A/D MINDANAO (b) Time Over Target(s) 1545 (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target Solid e' east at 2500 feet
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target _____ (e) Visibility Unlimited.
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type 30-40° glide Bomb Sight Used Gunsight.
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run Two Spacing _____ Altitude of Bomb Release 1500
(NUMBER) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed _____ Probably Destroyed _____ Damaged _____

(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 Bldgs. to east of air-field,		13 VMP-251	26x1000 lb. GP	Many	See (o) below
2					
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).

None observed, though many of bombs appeared to hit well within the assigned area.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

38

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED
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REPORT No **73**

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

Saw tracers coming from South end of East runway, and from point near the road 2500 feet NE of bridge. Mediums firing from position at north of east runway.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA.

(Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

ARMAMENT

Guns, Gunsights
Turrets
Ammunition
Bombs, Torpedoes
Bomb Sights
Bomb Releases

COMMUNICATIONS

Radio, Radar
Homing Devices
Visual Signals
Codes, Ciphers

RECOGNITION

IFF
Signals
Battle Lights
Procedures

PROTECTION

Armor; Points and Angles
of Fire Needing Further
Protection
Leak Proofing

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Parachutes
Life Belts, Life Rafts
Safety Belts
Emergency Kits
Rations, First Aid

NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT

Compasses
Driftsights
Octants
Automatic Pilots
Charts
Field Lighting

INSTRUMENTS

Flight
Power Plant

OXYGEN SYSTEM

CAMOUFLAGE AND DECEPTION DEVICES

STRUCTURE

Airframe
Control Surfaces
Control System
Dive Flaps
Landing Gear
Heating System
Flight Characteristics
At Various Loadings

POWER PLANT

Engines
Engine Accessories
Propellers
Lubricating System
Starters
Exhaust Dampers

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Auxiliary Plant
Lights

FUEL SYSTEM

FLIGHT CLOTHING

MAINTENANCE

BASE FACILITIES

Plane Servicing Equipment
Personnel Facilities

Three planes failed to takeoff because of having run over rocks and blown out a tire. It has therefore been decided by this squadron and the group that as long as there are stray coral rocks on the taxiways it is inadvisable to put more than a 2000 lb. total external load on the F4U-1D.

MISSION LOG

Furlow	1 hit in area.
Seoville	Did not takeoff. (Flat tire.)
Frank	Overshot bridge.
Rhodes	2 in area. Cratered road.
Hart	2 in area.
Wyatt	"
Garrett	Flat tire.
Poor	"
Henley	Jettisoned over land east of target.
Barton	Overshot.
Schoetz	2 in area.
Ward	"
Inglehart	Flat.
Scott	2 in area.
Kammeyer	1 in area. 1 jett. because of fin came off.
Lingenfelter	2 in area.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. B. WELCH, 2nd Lt., A.C.I.O.

W. L. BACHELER, Major 18 February, 1945.

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

70