

# AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED  
(Reclassify when filled out)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## I. GENERAL

(a) Unit Reporting VMF-251 (b) Based on or at SAMAR, PHILIPPINE IS (c) Report No. 81  
 (d) Take off: Date 23 February, 1945 Time (LZT) 1. 1810 I  
2. 1310 I (Zone); Lat. 11°2'N Long. 125°44'E  
1. 1130 I  
 (e) Mission Bomb KABAGAN, MINDANAO (f) Time of Return 2. 1620 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>F4U-1D</u>	<u>VMF 251</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2x500 lb.</u>	<u>Inst.</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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (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		
<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).**

**0950 I**  
**1510 I**

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) **KABACAN, MINDANAO** (b) Time Over Target(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zone) \_\_\_\_\_  
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target **None** \_\_\_\_\_  
(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 **10,000 70° wheels.** Bomb Sight Used \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run **Two** Spacing \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude of Bomb Release **2500-3000**  
(NUMBER) (FEET) (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 Edges. south of junction of KABACAN AND PULANGI RIVER, MINDANAO		16 VMF-251	32x500 lb.	None	Slight.
2					
3 Same as 1		16 VMF-251	"	"	Unobserved.
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).

- Saw one fire with a big column of white smoke.
- Two damaging hits seen by EVANS. No fires started. No specific damage could be seen.

(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

**No comment.**

**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

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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

## MISSION LOG

**These pilot flew both missions:**

**BACHELER**

**HARRIS**

**PIRAGES**

**IRWIN** One hung and ret. to base. Fell off on strip  
when landing. Another on afternoon. Jett.

**SCHROEDER**

**EVANS**

**DAIGLE**

**JERNIGAN**

**SMITH**

**BEATTIE**

**ROSELLEN**

**ROBINSON**

**JENNINGS**

**ERDMANN**

**WARREN**

**WOLF**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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

**W. L. BACHELER, Major, 23 February, 1945.**  
**Commanding Officer.**

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

DATE

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