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December 1944 Mission Reports - Rescues (contd)

18 December 1944: OA-10A, #880, Pilot, Capt Soldander, CP Lt Finn; Nav Lt Haas; Eng Pfc Forney; Radio Sgt Hymowitz; Radar Sgt Littlefield; ST S/Sgt Hibbard.

- 0600: Take-off, 1 hour late due to mechanical trouble. Mission to cover Tarakan strikes.
- 0630: Checked VHF in flight with Playmate 41, reception and transmission OK
- 0750: Searched all native boats SW Roeang Is. Spotted 4 P-38 Angels, 5000'. Tried radio contact, negative results.
- 0800: Continued on course.
- 0805: Floating tree stumps 5 miles SW Roeng Is. There is a lot of floating debris in that area that look like life rafts.
- 1015: Hear Peacock white leader calling a Playmate.
- 1030: Finally made audible contact and received report of Snafu at 70 Empire. After further conversation pinpointed him near Tawao A D (in water off the strip) Changed course and proceeded to Snafu. 4 P-38s circled the pilot.
- 1245: Arrived at Snafu and effected rescue. Pilot, Capt Roger W Nordquist 0737214, 12th Fighter Sq, 18th Fighter Fp, APO 719-Detach. The Captain was wet but unhurt except for minor bruises. He had been in the water for 2 hours. The water was fairly smooth and no difficulty was encountered. We entered the bay, circled and made the landing toward the open sea away from the A/D, 2 miles away. Black smoke was noticed coming from the target area.
- 1305: Peacock White leader left for home, after shooting up the life raft. Sent hourly position reports until we circled Saioe Is., then made radio contact with Adam at 1730.
- 1910: Landed, Morotai.

19 December 1944

PLAYMATE 42: OA-10A #880, P 1st Lt Hunter; CP F/O Fintinell, Nav 1st Lt Naylor; Flt Surg Capt Bailey; Eng T/Sgt Brown; Radio Cpl Sisco; Radar S/Sgt Smith; ST Sgt Renner.

Mission: Rz Kanapasan Is (05°11'N, 120°38'E) 1100 with Devil 2. Pick up 4 survivors at Languyan Pt, Tawitawi (05°15'N, 120°05'E) 4 survivors are in Col Suarez's guerrilla Hq. 2 men are wounded. Devil 3 will meet Playmate 42 at Bongoa Is at 1200 and will look over P-47 down on Jap strip. Devil 2 will remain with Devil 3 as long as possible to safe gun positions if pilot of downed P-47 is near. If time permits pick up 4 prisoners of war at Padada River in North Borneo.

- 0545: Take-off.
- 1025: Arrived at rz so circled until Devil 2 arrived.
- 1100: Have contact with Devil 2 but cannot see them.
- 1115: Found Devil 2 and proceeded to Languyan Point.
- 1130: Arrived Languyan Pt. We see natives but no one is waving or signaling to us. Circled 5 times and turned south to search coast. 1 mile down natives waved wildly to us from shore. Decided to land and contact them.
- 1155: Devil 3 relieved Devil 2.
- 1200: Landed. Natives informed us that Col Suarez's Hq were at Languyan Pt. up the river about 1/2 mile. Taxied there and found Col Suarez. They did not signal because they were up in the hills and didn't see us or expect us. We rescued the 4 men and have a badly wounded Filipino aboard the ship we are bring into our hospital. Col Suarez sent 2 men to Bongoa Is to find out about the P-47 pilot who went down on Dec 18. He said he would have