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2nd Emerg Res Sq, History April 45, Mission Reports, Rescues (contd)

18 April 1945

PLAYMATE 46: OA-10A #880, Pilot Lt Hutchings.

Mission: Cover strikes at Cotabato.

0624: Take-off Zamboanga.

0725: Over orbit point.

0825: Received message that an LC M was missing between Malaband and Zamboanga. Contacted Magpie who informed us that LCM had been located.

0855: Magpie requested us to pick up 2 men aboard destroyer located 15 mi SW of Bongo Island.

0900: Circling destroyer.

0915: Contacted Magpie who said we should proceed to another destroyer and that we should proceed on course of 240° from present orbit to reach that destroyer which had the 2 men aboard

0928: Landed in rough sea near destroyer USSS Robinson. Small boat came alongside with 2 men. Picked them up.

0940: Took off and proceeded to original orbit point.

1220: Landed on water near orbit point to conserve gas.

1355: Took off again and proceeded to orbit point about Bongo Is. per instructions from Magpie.

1620: Departed orbit point for base.

1645: Received report that 2 P-38s from 347th Fighter Grp, APO 719-1 were lost. Magpie located them SW of Malabang. 1 bailed out, other landed safely. Proceeded on reciprocal course to original orbit point at Bongo Island.

1730: Finally contacted Magpie who informed us that pilot that bailed out went down about 10 miles due North of Southern most tip of Bongo Island, off west side of island.

1735: While searching on northerly course from southern end of Bongo Island, Magpie informed us the correct position was 200° from southern tip of Island and about 20 miles.

1740: While proceeding to new location, Magpie again informed us that the most probable position of bail out was due West of southern tip of Bongo Island. Patrolled that area.

1755: Contacted destroyer who stated they had 1 pilot aboard.

1756: Magpie informed us that another pilot had gone down about 23 miles from southern most tip of Bongo Island, bearing 220° from that point. Proceeded in that direction.

1830: Departed for Base after search proved futile and gas was running low. Instructed by Magpie to return to Base.

1929: Landed, Zamboanga. Personnel picked up: McKey, Thomas H MAG 32 VMSB243; S/Sgt D N Glave MAG 32.

20 April 1945

PLAYMATE 47: OA-10A #880, Pilot Capt Barnes.

Mission: Evacuated at Jolo Island.

1210: Take-off Zamboanga.

1255: Landed in water off Jolo Island.

1330: 1 patient taken aboard. S/Sgt Bean, radio, inflated life raft and took patient from landing barge and brought patient aboard.

1408: Took off and departed for base with patient being cared for by the 2 doctors aboard.

1500: Landed, Zamboanga. Rescued: T/5 Fink Ernest L, Serv Co 163rd In