

S E C R E T

2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON
APO 926

4 March 1945

SUBJECT: Mission Report for 4 March 1945.

TO : A-3 Thirteenth Air Force, APO 719.

PLAYMATE 42: OA-10A #875, Mission, cover B-25 strikes on Zamboanga.

Crew:

P 1st Lt Frank Rauschkolb, 0753244
CP Captain Willis L Helmantoler, 0665020
N 1st Lt. John M Reeves, 0426335
E T/Sgt Robert S Jones, 17014707
R S/Sgt Clarence E Friestad, 19143373
AR Pfc Robert W Logan, 19111044
V S/Sgt James B Standridge, Jr., 19127316
FS Captain Nicholas E Bailey, 0419154

0515: Take off, Morotai.

0930: Arrived orbit point, Malanipa Island, received radio report that 3 B-25's down south of Zamboanga.

0940: Located one crew down and landed one mile off shore, string of Jap Barges SE of Zamboanga began firing at us as we taxied up to raft. Barges headed in our direction firing machine gun and probably 20mm shells. Large bursts off our tail. Contacted 4 circling B-25's to keep the barges off. They strafed the string of barges repeatedly and they came no closer. Picked up five men of the six man crew.

0950: Second crew located under circling guide of B-25's.

1010: Picked up second crew B-25 #660. Six men, about 500 yards off shore of Zamboanga. They had landed on a reef just off shore and were strafed from shore batteries as they crashed, got out of plane and as the paddled away in raft. Shore batteries still firing as we taxied up, several close misses. During taxing, left engine cut-out for fifteen minutes. Also as we taxied up to raft received radio call from Ramblers in area that a Jap plane was in the area. The gun positions were alerted and ready to fire. Held fire as last minute recognition proved plane to PV-1. He made two close passes at us on the water. The B-25 crew was hurriedly taken aboard and the plane circled to steer clear of reef just ahead.

1020: Received radio call that a third crew was down 15-20miles from our position. Pilot deemed it inadvisable to take-off and land again with 19 men aboard and too much gas. Decided to taxi to the spot. Hurried away from shore and guided by two circling B-25's, taxied 15 miles to two miles off south tip of Zamboanga, near Malaipa Island. Two B-25's stayed entire 1 1/2 hours as guide and cover, and to see if we got off the water safely. Water leaked in thru flare holes and funnel hatch flooding blister and rear compartments. Navigator and radioman formed a bucket brigade bailing furiously.

1130: Located third B-25 crew of six men, picked them up. Jettisoned 400 gallons of gas and all ammunition. Bailed as much water out as possible.

1140: Took off water in a perfect take off with 25 men aboard. Two B-25's left for base.

1200: Radioed Morotai that we were coming in with 17 survivors.

1615: Landed Morotai.

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MISSION REPORTS-RESCUES

11 March 1945

PLAYMATE SPECIAL: OA-10A #883, Pilot, Captain Wientjes.

MISSION: Search for snafu's near Major Is.

1310: Take off.

1400: Sighted men.

1405: Landed, sea was extremely rough. Swells were running about 10 to 12 feet high with a fifteen to twenty knot wind. The swells were breaking over the nose and water was pouring in fast. Take off was impossible so it was decided to taxi to Majoe Is. and gain the lee side of the island, the natives came out in canoes, we asked them if there were any Nips on the Island and they replied "no". Take off was made with comparative ease. Weather on course back to base was very bad, heavy rain. We got a radio bearing from fighter sector and came in OK.

1410: Picked survivor up.

1435: Picked survivor up.

1450: Took off.

2020: Landed at Morotai and delivered survivors to ambulance.

25 March 1945

PLAYMATE 42: OA-10 #881, Pilot, Lt Knowlton.

MISSION: Search for snafu down in Kaeo Bay, Halmaheras and another pilot down north of Lolobata.

1140: Take off.

1215: Sighted Snafu in Kaeo bay, Cat was led to scene by fighters.

1225: Landed to pick up Snafu; Fighter pilot.

1235: Take off. Search was made of Galela Bay and of sea between Lolobata. and line running from Tobelo Island to Cape Hapoehapa, no sightings.

1520: Landed Morotai.

30 March 1945

PLAYMATE 42: PBY-5A, A24, #109, F/L Mills, RAAF, Pilot

MISSION: Pick up P-40 pilot down at Baho.

1215: Take off - Morotai.

1550: Sighted dinghy 5 miles east of Babo.

1555: Landed, picked up pilot.

1605: Airborne.

1705: Landed Noemfoor.

0700: Take off

0900: Contacted Snafu Beaufighter, maintained radio contact with him until he landed safely at base.

1140: Landed Morotai.

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Mission Reports-Rescue's cont'd.

31 March 1945

PLAYMATE 41: #109 RAAF PBV-5A, F/L Mills, Pilot.

MISSION: Cover Liberator strike on SE Borneo.

0545: Take off - Morotai.

0800: Intercepted report of Snafu Beaufighter. Received orders from base to divert and pick up two survivors in dinghy.

1045: Arrived off Liang Airstrip, located dinghy in Haroeke strait approximately 300 yards off shore from Waal Village. Flew at zero altitude subjected to fairly heavy fire from approximately eight A/A positions on both sides of strait. Survivors under fire from Waal village were wimming beside dinghy. Aircraft under A/A fire from Waal village gun positions on approach to landing on water. Protected from heavy fire but came under rifle fire, returned fire from blister guns. While returning fire one member of the crew at gun station in blister was hit with rifle bullet, he was shit in back while aircraft holed in many places.

1110: Took off in water rather rough, heavy swell caused some structural damage.

1120: Received message from covering Beaufighter that he had lost one engine through enemy action while covering us on the water. Covered Snafu aircraft on return to base.

1355: Landed, Morotai.

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