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2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON
APO 719

MISSION REPORTS - RESCUES

November 1944

2 November 1944

D AYLIGHT: 23 Take-off 0610, arrived at Rz point 0740, contacted Bubble special, who sighted Snafu pilot about 5 minutes later, Alt 500 ft, visibility good. Landed and effected rescue. Snafu pilot was in life raft, with sea marker visible. Position 03°48'N, 126°55'E about 2 miles West of South tip of Kaboeroeang Island. Landed 0925. Pilot Lt Lakes.

5 November 1944

DAYLIGHT 21: OA-10A #875 with the following crew: Lt Kathman P; Lt Borman C P; Lt Reeves Nav; Cpl Paris Eng; Sgt Collins Radar; S/Sgt Zewert Radio; Pvt Clark Asst Eng; Sgt Baughman Photo. The purpose of the mission was to cover Negros and Panay strikes in the Philippines. Take-off 0430. 2nd Lt Gerald B Lowrey, 8th Fighter Group, 36th Fighter Sq (Pilot P-38) was rescued at a position 10°25'N, 122°50'E. When rescued the pilot was extremely fatigued but was in good physical condition. The photographer took several pictures of the rescued pilot. The weather was good with scattered clouds and the state of the sea was calm to moderately choppy.

8 November 1944

DAYLIGHT 22: OA-10A #884. Crew: P 1st Lt Holbrook, CP 1st Lt Rohlfing, N 2nd Lt Booth, E Pfc Rainone, R S/Sgt Coss, V S/Sgt Roach, Medic Capt Goldber.

Take-off: 0615, Rz with Deadeye 1 and 2, two miles, at Iligan Bay at 1120. Proceeded to Murcielagos Bay, where we searched for B-24 parachuted crew members. Deadeye 1 and 2 were very efficient in helping us search and in providing cover. at 1200 the crew members were sighted at 08°38'N, 123°30'E on the shore, just before they sent up a flare. We made a water landing and the 8 members were rowed out to the plane by Filipinos. All were in good condition except 1, S/Sgt Frank Eades, who had been wounded in the leg in flight. At 1235, we took off and returned to base with the men. The Mikes provided excellent cover and did not return until released by us at 1420. The names of the rescued men were as follows :

P 2nd Lt G E Taylor,
CP 2nd Lt J J Jöhovich
N 2nd Lt M C Hayes
R S/Sgt F Eades
E Cpl E E Tipton
F S/Sgt R E Davis
AR S/Sgt T D Covert
G S/Sgt L H Cardwell

All of the above men are members of the 5th Bomb Gp, 72nd Bomb Sq. Valuable assistance to the rescued men was provided by: Gakino Saavedra, Municipal Sec, Dapitan, Zamboanga, PI; Quirino P Elumba, Chief of Police, Dr Santiago S Calo (or Cald) Dipolog, Zamboanga, PI, "A" Corps Hq. Dr Calo dressed Sgt Eades' wound.
On 10 Nov, 5 more B-24 crew men will be at same place.

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November 1944 Mission Reports - Rescues

11 November 1944

DAYLIGHT: 23: OA-10A #885, take-off 0615, Nov 11, 1944. Crew members were 2nd Lt Schandelmeir P, Lt Col Ford CP; 2nd Lt Booth Nav; Sgt Fernow Eng; S/Sgt Coss Radio; S/Sgt Roach Radar; Capt Goldber ST. Arrived where rz point should have been (Illigan Reef) at 1105. No fighter cover (Rainbow 3) was seen and radio contact was soon lost. Apparently the position of Illigan Reef, given as 08°50'N, 123°50'E was incorrect. Proceeded to Murcielagos Bay to complete mission without cover. 21 landed at S ilia Pt at 1150 but were informed there by the natives that the 5 Mike crew members for whom search was being made were at Naburos Is, in Murcielagos Bay. We took off and landed there at 1215. The 5 men were rowed to the plane and we distributed pamphlets and weapons with ammunition. Receipt for 15 machine guns and ammunition was received. The pamphlets were given to the natives to distribute. We took off at 1300 and returned to home base. The following men, all members of the 5th Bomb Gp were rescued: 2nd Lt William C Patterson, 1st Lt John E McFarland; F/O Peter Trbocich; 2nd Lt Edwin P Monteverde, S/Sgt Kenneth H Ories. Hq Filipino army is on N tip of Naburos Is. 08°38'N, 123°34½'E. Future business will be transacted at this point. Good water landing facilities at Casul Bay which is within Murcielagos Bay.

12 November 1944

DAYLIGHT 14 departed 0924 12 Nov44. Scheduled mission to cover strikes on Ambon and Ceram. No ship was available here for the mission until 0915. It was then impossible to make orbit until after the strikers were on their return. At 0945 an Uncle contacted us and is leading us to a snafu. Spotted man on beach 00°43'S, 131°43'E at 1055. Landed and picked up Lt Dan L Shaw, 67th Fighter Sq, 347th Fighter Gp, Middleburg. Pilot was downed 1430, 11 Nov/44 and swam ashore, condition perfect. Departed rescue scene at 1030 headed for base. Landed at Middleburg at 1055.

DAYLIGHT 15 departed 0025, 12 Nov/44 on mission to pick up downed pilot in Southern Celebes. Scheduled Rz with Rainbow Special at 0620 at Wowoni Is. VHF was out, had no voice contact with escort. Called Auto at 1240, and received no reply. Arrived at rz pt at 0510. Waited until 0620 for escort. Proceeded with escort through Tiworo Strait and searched island in vicinity designated by Lt Ledoux who rode as passenger in the Cat. At 0730 pilot was sighted on a reef at 05°S 122°10'E. A landing was made and C apt Robert R Scott, 67th Fighter Sq, 347th Fighter Gp was picked up. Condition of rescued pilot was excellent. At 0745 takeoff was made at Cat returned to base landing at 1310.

17 November 1944

DAYLIGHT 22: OA-10A #875, P C apt Solander; CP Lt Col Ford; Nav 2nd Lt C arver; Flt Surg Maj Corlett; Eng T/Sgt Cunningham; Radio T/Sgt Gordy; Radar S/Sgt Smith.

0545: Take-off, Pitoe strip.

0550: Received instructions to call Atom.

0600: Received message "Fighter cover D aylight 21 cancelled, proceed on special search."

0615: Heard Eggnog attempting to contact Martini.

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November 1944 Mission Reports - Rescues (contd)

17 November 1944 (contd)

- 0800: Searched around islands NW of Talaud, a white man was thought to have been seen.
- 0900: Searched SW coast of Mindanao. No sightings.
- 1000: Circled contact pt, dropped a message proceeded Contact Pt 2.
- 1100: Followed the coast of Negros until we located our party standing on shore waving American flag. We landed just off shore and the survivors were taken out the ship by natives in canoes. The Survivors were T/Sgt Robert H Mahanes, 23rd Bomb Sq, S/Sgt John Duarte, 23rd Bomb Sq, Ensign John W Brex USNR VF15-CV9.
- 1130: Were airborne and returning to contact point #1, where we landed, unloaded supplies and took off again.
- 1745: Landed at Morotai.
- DAYLIGHT 23: OA-10A #876, P 1st Lt Remington, CP 1st Lt Holbrook, Nav 2nd Lt Booth; Eng T/Sgt Hundley; Radio Sgt Bean; Radar Cpl Spaulding; ST S/Sgt Besse
- 0750: Took off, Pitoe strip.
- 0920: Arrived Sangihe Is Grp and instituted a search of the islands and waterarea around them.
- 0945: Sighted 1 man in a single life raft.
- 0950: Landed and picked up survivor, 1st Lt Edwin C Buchanan, 8th Fighter Gp, 80th Fighter Sq (P-38) who was apparently in very good condition. The rescued man was sighted and rescued at 03°52'N, 125°20'E. East of Lipang Island.
- 1005: Took off for home base.
- 1210: Landed at Pitoe strip.

18 November 1944

- DAYLIGHT 21: OA-10A #885, P 1st Lt Kathman, CP 2nd Lt Kissel; Nav 2nd Lt Naylor; Eng Pfc Rowe; Radio Sgt Bean; Radar Cpl Holley; ST S/Sgt Lobdell.
- 0800: Took off Pitoe strip, with purpose of rear guard for fighter and bomber strike. Orbit place to be Sangihe Is from 1500 to 1800.
- 1115: Arrived at and searched area from 4°10'N, 123°30'E to 3°50'N, 123°57'E. Found no traces of missing crew.
- 1430: Proceeded to Siaoe Island to search for B-24 crew and to keep our orbit date.
- 1500: Circled orbit point until a P-47 waved his wings, indicating that we should follow him. Followed P-47 to Biaro Island.
- 1645: Landed at Biaro Island where we rescued 1st Lt Henry E Storino, 0748831 of the 44th Fighter Sq, 18th Fighter Grp. He had bailed out of his P-38 on Nov 15. He was in good shape and said the natives were very friendly. He also mentioned the fact that the natives said there were Japs on Taboelandang Is. but none on Biaro (sighted 3 barges on SW side) We found no trace of 6 B-24 crew members who bailed out on the 16th.
- 1830: Landed at Pitoe strip.

22 November 1944

- PLAYMATE 21: OA-10A #880, 1st Lt Remington, Pilot.
- 0435: Take-off, to cover strike on Negros.
- 0900: Arrived search area, around Tagolo Pt.
- 0905: Sighted mirror flashes from beach at Baylimango.
- 0907: Sighted 5 men on beach 4 miles west of Baylimango.
- 0925: Landed. Picked up 2 men at Baylimango, then taxied to the other beach for 5 men. All brought to plane by natives.

November 1944 Mission Reports - Rescues (contd)

22 November 1944 (contd)

- 1020: Took off and headed for home base.
1035: Sighted two more men on beach waving to us 4 miles east of Baylimango.
1040: Landed and picked up the two survivors.
1110: Took off and headed for home base.
1540: Zorina 1 B called: 5 men in water at 03°05'N, 127°25'E.
1550: Zorina 3 A called: 11 men Goodyear 31 Preston.
1555: Landed, Morotai.

Remark: No contact on radio was made with Rainbow 1. At 1000, a PVI buzzed us twice and left at 1010, a P-38 hovered over us at about 3000' and left. Original mission was to cover strike on Negros but we were unable to carry through because of rescues. All survivors rescued were members of the 5th Bomb Gp, 72nd Bomb Sq (B-24) and were in good physical condition when rescued. Names of the rescued are: 2nd Lt Luther Dew, Jr, 0813674, Co-Pilot; 2nd Lt Norman O. Saarheim, 0706277, Navigator; S/Sgt Nolan S Hughes, 19172936, Asst Engineer; T/Sgt George K. Knight, 37661197, Engineer; S/Sgt Robert J. Mitchell, 11103665, Gunner; 2nd Lt Duncan G. Ingraham, 0709385, Navigator; T/Sgt Joseph P. Iaria, Radio Operator; S/Sgt J. C. Hooker, 38541481, Gunner; S/Sgt P. J. Van Dyke, 17147175, Gunner. The rescued men mentioned the fact that four men (2 P-38 Pilots, one Captain, one enlisted man) are in the town of Dipolog, awaiting rescue. Natives say no Japs left in Dipolog. Special aid in effecting the rescue was given by Artemir C. Adasa, Special agent, Rep. to Mayor, Baylimango, Dapitan and Lt Cesar Montebon, 101st Division, 102nd Infantry, USAFFE. Members of this organization making the rescue were: 1st Lt H. C. Remington, Pilot; 1st Lt W.C. Holbrook, Co-pilot; 2nd Lt R.A. Booth, Navigator; T/Sgt R. H. Hundley, Engineer; Sgt R. B. Bean, Radio Opr; Cpl G. L. Spaulding, Radar; Captain Nicholas Bailey, Flight Surgeon.

PLAYMATE 22: OA-10A #884, 1st Lt Bormann, Pilot.

- 1450: Take-off to pick up survivor at East Borneo.
1700: Position, 02°20'N, 124°30'E. Weather: Rainqualls, overcast with strata cumulus, wind 320°8K, visibility 10 miles.
1800: Weather improving. Position, 02°20'N, 122°37'E.
1020: Contacted Rainbow Special.
1030: Met Rainbow Special 30 miles NW of rendezvous.
1045: Landed 02°33½'N, 118°52'E. The survivor was brought out by 4 natives in a canoe. The natives seemed very friendly. The survivor, 1st Lt Joe K. Owens (P-38) 0754181 of the 68th Fighter Squadron (Middleburg), was in good condition when rescued.
1100: Left above position for base.
1125: Dismissed Rainbow Special.
1300: Weather clear, sea calm.
1400: Weather: rain squalls, visibility 10 to 12 miles, wind 140°8K, low stratus 2000 to 4000 ft.
1500: Weather: Clear, visibility restricted to 10 miles, haze.
1545: Received call from Zorina 1 Baker: 5 men bailing out 310° and 60' from Raco Island, Zorina 1 B circling with emergency IFF on, and have picked him up on radar and proceeding to his position.
1600: Met Zorina 1 B, saw 2 life rafts and some sea dye.
1605: Landed. 2 life rafts were empty but spotted one with 1 survivor. Could see no more so took off again after picking up the one survivor. Then spotted 2 survivors in liferaft. Picked them up and then spotted 1 more survivor in another life raft. Picked him up and took off for base at 1725. We had only 200 gallons of gas left. Approximate position of rescue was 03°9'N, 127°21'E. All survivors were in good physical condition. They had bailed out at 1530 so were only in the water 1 to 2 hours. Rescued men were all members of 394th Bomb Sqdn (H), APO 719. Names of the rescued men were Lt John E.

November 1944 Mission Reports - Rescues (contd)

22 November 1944 (contd)

Frost, 0707259; Sgt Nathan Chusid, 32238900; Cpl George C. Spitznek, 33808981; Cpl J. C. Davis, 18183096; Pvt Lee O. Hansen, 39912260. Members of this organization making the rescue were: 1st Lt L.E. Bormann, Pilot; 1st Lt R. L. Rohlfing, Co-pilot; 2nd Lt C. E. Carver, Jr., Nav.; T/Sgt Donald W. Brown, Engr; Cpl Carl J. Sisco, Radio Opr.; S/Sgt J. T. Smith, Jr. Radar; S/Sgt August V. Roznovsky, Surgical Technician. Lt Love of the Fighter Command was an observer to aid in the location of Lt Owens, who was rescued.

1800: Called Bloomer for transportation for survivors.

1810: Landed.

23 November 1944

PLAYMATE 21: OA-10A #874, Pilot, Capt. Wientjes; Co-pilot, 2nd Lt Carothers; Navigator, 2nd Lt Lester; Engr, T/Sgt Cunningham; Radio Operator, Sgt Friestad; Radar, Sgt Bock; Flight Surgeon, Capt., Goldberg.

0620: Take-off, Pitoe Strip, Morotai.

1050: Arrived at rendezvous point.

1135: Devil 1 arrived at rendezvous point.

1200: Over orbit point.

1250: Sighted B-25 crew which had been forced down after raid.

1300: Landed at 9°55'N, 123°48'E and picked up the following survivors:

Lt John Butler (P); Lt G. B. Kennedy (CP); S/Sgt J. Fortes; Sgt J. N. DeSpencer. All survivors were members of the 71st Bombardment Sq, 38th Bombardment Gp. The B-25 crew had been forced to land when the left wing was shot off in action. Three men, two of whom were wounded, went down with ship. The rescue was effected approximately seven minutes after the ship was forced down. The survivors were clinging to the raft which hadn't been inflated. S/Sgt Fortes had been wounded by shrapnel in the hip and leg.

1305: Took off, searching area for survivors. Negative.

1400: Landed at Murcielagos Bay. 2 survivors from crew rescued 3 days ago in Dipolog. Told Australian that we would be back in three days for them. Closest Japs in fort at Misamis.

1450: Took off, Murcielagos Bay.

1500: Received message to go to 7°18'N, 119°50'E, where a raft had been sighted. Replied we were proceeding.

1741: Arrived at reported point, position of raft, and started search. We searched 100 square miles using visibility as 1 mile.

1819: Departed for home base.

2200: Radioed position at 2000 and ETA.

0010: Landed, Morotai.

24 November 1944:

PLAYMATE 22: OA-10A #880, 2nd Lt Lakes, Pilot; 1st Lt Holbrook, Co-pilot; 2nd Lt Naylor, Navigator; T/Sgt Hundley, Engineer; S/Sgt Roberge, Radio Operator; S/Sgt Yates, Surgical Technician. Received report of 2 men in life raft at coordinates 1°10'N, 125°20'E at 1520.

1620: Took off, Pitoe strip. Tower advised us that men in the raft had a "Gibson Girl".

1750: Contacted "Gibson Girl".

1752: Sighted raft.

1755: Landed and picked up two RAAF officers, F/O F.K. Carrick and F/L L. H. Kirkman, 77th Wing, 10th Operational Group, 30th Squadron, who had crash landed their Beaufighter after having both engines shot out over Lagoon Strip. They also reported some fighters on strip. Both survivors were in good physical condition.

1805: Took off for home base after dumping 600 gallons of gas. The sea was very calm with a few small swells.

November 1944 Mission Reports - Rescues (contd)

24 November 1944 (contd)

1945: Landed, Morotai. The two survivors were turned over to a RAAF Flight Surgeon.

PLAYMATE 13 Took off from Middleburg Island at 0200 with 1750 gallons gas. It flew through thunderstorms for the first hour, then ran into good weather. At 0510, ten miles north of Namlea clusters of lights were seen in Waperan and Waeplaoe villages, a fire was seen at $03^{\circ}09'S$ $126^{\circ}53'E$, and large numbers of lights, some quite large, at $03^{\circ}05'S$ $126^{\circ}49'E$. At 0700 10 single masted boats and 3 schooners were seen at Wantji on Wantji Island. None were under way.

At 0815 three ships estimated 150 feet long were seen under way in a bay at $05^{\circ}11'S$ $122^{\circ}45'E$. Due to distance, an accurate estimate of size could not be made. These were not seen in the bay at 1400, on return.

Due to tail wind, Cat arrived at RZ point at 0915: Rainbow 7 arrived at 0950. The VHF set was turned on at intervals for communication. Orbit point was reached at 1015 and Cat orbited until 1115, when Ballot while relayed through Rainbow 7 a report that a life raft was seen at 56 Foxy. Cat proceeded to this position and sighted a P-38 circling the raft which was seven miles West of Makassar. Raft was showing sea marker and pilot was flashing a mirror. Landing was made at 1145 and Lt Strader was taken aboard, apparently in good condition. Position was $05^{\circ}07'S$ $119^{\circ}18'E$. Landing gear was lowered to assist in taxiing and the hinge on the strut well door broke, jamming the gear. The well door was removed and take-off was made at 1205. Escort was dispersed at about 1245, east of the orbit point after having been with the Cat almost three hours.

At 1445 the Auxiliary Power Unit was coaxed to run for a few minutes and a position report and ETA were sent in. From 1830 to 1900 unsuccessful attempts were made to charge the batteries with the APU. Atlantic was called on voice at 1845 and informed that the IFF was inoperative and that ETA was 1945. Orders were received to land at the Mar Strip. Cat reached Middleburg Island at 1945 at 9000 feet and landed at Mar at 2005. There were 40 gallons of gas left in the tanks. Lt Strader was placed in an ambulance for routine check at the Hospital, and the Cat returned to Middleburg. Rescued pilot was: 1st Lt Charles R. Strader, Jr., ASN 0758249, 339th Fighter Sqdn., 347th Fighter Group, APO 159. Crew of Cat: 1st Lt J. R. Dickinson, Pilot; 1st Lt F. Rauschkolb, Pilot; 1st Lt F. W. Abele, Navigator; S/Sgt O. M. Lawson, Engr; Sgt W. D. Craighead, Radio Opr; S/Sgt R. J. Jennings, Radar Opr; Sgt J. W. Gutmann, Surgical Tech;

28 November 1944

PLAYMATE 21: PBV-5A #E-74 (Navy). 1st Lt Denison, Pilot; F/O Siperstein, Nav; Cpl Sisco, Radio Opr; Pfc Shorette, Surgical Tech; additional navy crew members. 0545: Take-off (Cover Cebu Strike).

1045: Rendezvous at Baliango Point with fighter cover. No fighters appeared. Could contact no one on merry go round or cake. VHF shorted when on.

1125: Landed to let Philippine Lieutenant off.

1145: Took off.

1220: Fighter cover appeared. We could not contact them. It consisted of 4 P-47's.

1245: Landed at Dipolog.

1300: Took off. Four survivors were picked up at Dipolog. The rescued men were: 2nd Lt Arthur R. Schell, 0756412, 8th Fighter Group, 5th Air Force,

November 1944 Mission Reports - Rescues (contd)

26 November 1944 (contd)

who had belly landed a P-38 in a rice pattie at Dapatan, November 15; Capt. Richard L. West, 0667125, 8th Fighter Group, 5th Air Force, who had also belly landed a P-38 in a pattie at Dapatan, November 15; 2nd Lt William H. Wise 0772913, 72nd Bomb Sq., 13th Air Force and Sgt Robert M. Presnell, 14014842, of the same organization. The two men had parachuted from B-24 #345, into the water off Salinog Island, November 7 and were taken to Dipolog by natives. One survivor who was to be picked up, Lt Rainey of 72nd Bomb Sq. left Dipolog on November 28 by boat for Baliango Point. He had parachuted out of B-24 #347 about November 21.

750: Landed, Morotai.

30 November 1944

WINGMATE 21: OA-10A #884, Pilot, Capt Wientjes; Co-pilot, 1st Lt Denison; Navigator; Engineer, S/Sgt Rose; Radio Operator, T/Sgt Gordy; Radar, Sgt Pawne; Surgical Tech., Pfc Shorette. Mission: Cover Negro strikes.

535: Take-off.

720: Picked up fighter escort on way to target area.

045: Call from Rainbow 1-C-47 down at Baliango Point. People at beach near plane. Will investigate on return from target area at 1200.

110: Call from Rainbow 1 - Survivors of C-47 positively identified. Location: 5 miles north Tagolo Point off Mindanao.

200: Returning to Tagolo Point for C-47 survivors.

245: Sighted survivors, dropped message informing them will return on completion of own mission.

710: Landed at Baliango to drop off ammunition to Guerilla forces.

715: Took off Baliango and returned to pick up survivors of C-47.

730: Landed to pick up survivors. The survivors were David C. Gantz, 1st Lt 0807833; Jack B. Abraham, F/O, T3602; Richard Bednarski, Pfc, 15133603; Jose A. Deang, Cpl., 10647022; Clifford Mackey, S/Sgt, 18085356; Anthony Barse, Cpl., 12029755. All survivors assigned to Hq Sq., FEAF. The crew (C-47 #43-316342) had been attacked by enemy fighters (Zekes) probably from Panay at 1145. Bullets punctured gas tank and aileron and the elevator was damaged. 23 bullet holes counted in plane. Finally were forced to land at Silino, 5 miles north Lologo Point off Mindanao at 1330. All men were in good physical condition.

750: Picked up survivors and took off for Dipolog.

740: Landed at Dipolog and picked up Governor of Zamboanga Province and 2nd Lt Gerardo Almendras, Philippino Signal Corps. Governor Madias to be taken to Morotai for official reasons.

745: Took off for Morotai from Dipolog. Spent two hours at Dipolog.

715: Landed, Morotai.