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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.

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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

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definite word about him within 5 days. (note: These men are in need of arms, ammunition and food so we told the Col we would be back and bring as much as we could get. They also need clothing very badly). Rescued men are assigned to 23rd Bomb Sq, 5th Bomb Gp and were downed Nov 1 (B-24 #382). The following were rescued: S/Sgt John M Davies, Armorer Gunner, S/Sgt Adolph L Desmarais, Tail gunner, S/Sgt William A Gillissio Engineer, 1st Lt John W Emig, Pilot. Lt Emig and Sgt Gillissio are wounded and need medical care. The following men are missing or killed by Japs. 2nd Lt Ralph Lankford, CP, 2nd Lt Eugene Haglo, Bomb (both killed by strafing.) 2nd Lt Harris, Nav; T/Sgt Robert H Mahanes, Radio Opr; T/Sgt Frank W Brown, Eng; S/Sgt John Duarbo Asst Radio Opr. These men were last heard from Nov 3 when they separated from the 4 survivors and headed for Gabilon Is. They left 2 at a time, 2 to a boat and never returned from the island. The survivors were dropped supplies on Nov 1, 23, 29 and 30. Guerrillas finally rescued men Dec 4 and took them to Languyan Pt. Lt Emig has all information on Jalo Is and surrounding territory and will turn it into S-2. Wounded man who was evacuated is Sgt Juaini Mohammad (USFIP).

- 1340: Fighters left us - unable contact them as we were on the water and our batteries were weak.
- 1400: Take - off.
- 1500: Sent message as follows: "Return to base, ETA 1915, have 4 survivors and 1 wounded Filipino aboard. Have ambulance waiting.
- NOTE: At 1200 we received a call from Devil 3 notifying us that the P-47 at Bongoa Is was covered with leaves and it looked like the engine was missing. Col Suarez also told us that there are 200 Japs near strip and they have 3 anti-aircraft positions there. Col Suarez is moving his Hq as of Dec 20 to the N tip of Tawitawi is. right across from Basbas Is in the Basbas Channel. His house is a square one and has a white sheet metal roof. Landings cannot be made in boats. We gave Col Suarez 500 rds of .45 ammunition and 6 Thompson machine gun clips each holding 25 rds. We gave the Guerrilla doc tor all the medicine and surg tools and bandages we had aboard. Capt Bailey has a list of medicines the need badly.
- 1520: Sighted yellow mine or buoy at 4°30'N, 121°05'E.
- 1530: Message which was sent to base receipted for.
- 1635: Received message: "What is your destination? Are you a land Cat?"
- 1640: Answered: "Destination Morotai. Yes."
- 1735: Sent in position report, 2°50'N, 125°25' E.
- 1915: Lande d.

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PLAYMATE 41: OA-10A #874, Capt Wientjes P; 2nd Lt Carothers CP; F/O Siperstein Nav; S/Sgt L Rose Eng; Sgt Frank RadioOpr; Sgt Collins Radar; Pvt Murphy ST.

Mission: Cover Negroes strike.

1000: Take-off:

1120: Position: 03°35'N, 126°45'E. Weather: scattered towering cumulus with high cirrus winds from the NE at 4000 ft. Sea, moderate. Slight haze reducing visibility to 15 miles.

1300: Received message from Adam that 3 men were at 17 Gilmore.