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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 I 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. Garrick 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.