

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

14 April 1945

PLAYMATE 47: OA-10A #880, P Lt Hutchings.
Mission: Evacuation of wounded men from Jolo Island to Zamboanga.
1030: Take-off, Zamboanga.
1130: Landed, Jolo Is. Loaded 16 patients.
1345: Take-off, Jolo Islands.
1430: Landed, Zamboanga. Rescued personnel, 41st Div, US Army, Jolo Is Operations; 1st Lt Coogan, Orville R; Cpl Hogan, Joseph J; Cpl Bell, Joseph T; T/5 Newmark, Mandell; Pfc Dewitt, Myron; Pfc Lee, Edward T; Pfc Graeber, Otto D; Pfc Kafer, Laverne R; Pfc Walters, Joseph A; Pfc Smith, Lawrence; Pfc Cobb, Stowe B; Pvt Garfield, Earl V. Guerillas: Duiksoy, Ange; Mullam, Sahibad; Sawari, Enno; Jaafar, Izno.

15 April 1945

PLAYMATE 37: OA-10A #876, Lt Davis P, F/O Leonard CP, Lt Craig N, Capt Jones FS, Cpl Baumgartner R, Sgt Troyer R, Sgt Riggs V.
Mission: To evacuate 4 US soldiers from Balabac lighthouse.
1710: Airborne, set course for Balabac.
1820: Arrived Balabac lighthouse.
1840: Sighted 6 men in courtyard of lighthouse.
1850: Radio contact made with lighthouse. Evacuees instructed to go northeast through jungle for 1 and 1/4 miles to Clarendon Bay (where they had a 6 man dinghy) and to fire a flare upon arrival.
1853: Playmate 37 commences orbit at Clarendon Bay.
1920: Sunset.
1935: Flare sighted on beach at Clarendon Bay.
1945: Landed 500 yds from mouth of bay in darkness; turned on navigation lights and circled on water; waiting for dinghy, could not enter bay because of shoal water. Strong current toward shore, progress of dinghy followed by occasional flashlight signals.
2040: The dinghy was approached, but 5 of the 6 men dove overboard, 1 of whom was a poor swimmer. Lt Craig threw a line to the remaining man in the dinghy who could not hold it. Sgt Riggs climbed to the top of the fuselage between the blisters with an Aldis lamp to use as a searchlight. The starboard landing light burned out. Lt Craig prepared another heaving line and rigged two sea anchors. The engines could not be stopped because of surrounding reefs and the strong onshore current. As Lt Davis circled back to the men, narrowly missing a reef, the searchlight disclosed that the 6 men had drifted apart and were floundering in the water, the poorest swimmer was exhausted and crying for help. The light picked him up once, but he soon disappeared beneath the surface. 2 other men were in imminent danger of drowning through exhaustion when Capt Jones dived overboard carrying a 1 man life raft. Despite the darkness and the current he succeeded in reaching 1 man who held to the dinghy. Capt Jones then went overboard again to aid the other man who had begun to sink. Although the drowning man fought violently Capt Jones subdued him and dragged him back to the dinghy. He then made his way to the 6 man dinghy which still held 1 man. He made the 2 dinghies fast

~~SECRET~~

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

15 April 1945 PLAYMATE 37 (contd)

- and waited till Playmate 37 picked them up. They were brought aboard in a state of near collapse. The searchlight picked up the 2 remaining men and as the aircraft passed, Capt Jones and Lt Craig threw them inflated life vests. Capt Jones went immediately to the aid of the man already picked up and carried out artificial respiration administered shock treatment. Sgt Troyer went overside to the port wing float with a line. He fastened his end of the line to the float while Lt Craig in the port blister held the other end. F/O Leonard sighted the 2 remaining men and while directing Lt Davis to them had the index finger of his right hand nicked by the starboard airscrew. Lt Davis approached the men, now clinging to the life vests. Lt Craig and Sgt Troyer shouted to the man to pick up the line. The men could not see the line but it struck them as the aircraft went by. They poised the line and held on till Lt Craig and Cpl Baumgartner hauled them aboard. Cpl Baumgartner sank the 6 man dinghy with his pistol. The 1 man dinghy drifted away and was lost. Lt Craig hauled in the marine gear and made the aircraft ready for take-off.
- 2116: Lt Davis took off on instruments and set course for Puerto Pinessa.
- 2130: Radio operator reports all radios inoperative. Commences work on command set.
- 2210: Radio repaired and contact made with Mailman. Ambulance ordered. Capt Jones continues treatment of survivors.
- 2255: Arrived at Puerto Princessa.
- 2310: Landed, Puerto Princessa, Survivors were: Swedarsky, Isadore, Pfc; Harsell, Virgil W, Pfc; Buchan, Andrew, T/5; all of the 597 S.A.W. Bn, Co B, Precardio, Baxcipo and Orlino, Colpez, guerrillas. The man lost was Vaughn, George 597 S.A.W. Bn Co D.

16 April 1945

PLAYMATE 46, OA-10A #885, P Lt Yelvington.

Mission: Special mission to Tawi Tawi (Evacuation of wounded.)

- 0830: Take-off Zamboanga. Carried 2 passengers for Tawi Tawi.
- 1005: Arrived at Sanga Sanga.
- 1015: Landed in the bay.
- 1035: Took off from bay to land on the strip. Could not get nose wheel down.
- 1115: Landed in the bay again.
- 1530: Took off for Zamboanga with 8 wounded men and the 2 original passengers.
- 1715: Landed in the bay Zamboanga. Rescued: from 41st Div: Pvt Quattrock, T E; Pfc Stites, H E; Pfc Brady, R E; Pfc Warner, G A; Guerillas: Pvt Abanawas, Pvt Ladiabasol, M; Pvt Malabong, M; Pvt Durdin, U.

17 April 1945

PLAYMATE 47: OA-10A #885, Pilot Lt Yelvington.

Mission: Test Hop.

- 1500: Received call that there was a Snafu down 12 mi. E of Zamboanga.
- 1530: Picked up 2 Lt Robt M Gowinoyer, VMF211, MAG12, Uninjured.
- 1630: Landed, Zamboanga.