

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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