

~~TOP SECRET~~

2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON  
APO 926

31 May 1945

MISSION REPORTS - RESCUES

3 May 1945

PLAYMATE #1: PBV-5A #0401, Pilot, Capt Humphreys; Co-Pilot, Lt Colonel Ford; Navigator, Capt Burks; Flight Surgeon, Major Corlett; Engineer, Cpl Chieca; Radio, Sgt Sisco; Radar, S/Sgt Kurto.

Mission: Cover for B-24 strikes on Borneo.

0615: Take-off, Morotai.

1245: Arrived Cape Bajor, Borneo, orbit point.

1315: Watched bombing of Mangarr, headed for base at 1320.

1400: Sighted personnel aboard native boat, made landing and picked up personnel, 00°45'S 118°18'E.

1445: Picked up message of crash landing at 00°30'S 121°50'E.

1510: Sent message to dispatch another Catalina because we were low on fuel.

1535: Message from base as to personnel that were first picked up.

1605: Informed base who first survivors were.

1635: Sighted eleven (11) men in life rafts, B-24 crew.

1640: Landed to pick up survivors, all aboard and take-off at 1707.

1750: Radioed ETA and notified base of pick-up of SNAFU.

2105: Landed, Morotai.

Rescued Personnel: Lt Robert Morton (NZEF); Lt W Dwyer (AIF); Sgt B Dooland (AIF); Sgt B Horrocas (NZEF); Sgt B Dey (NEF); Pfc Sabu Kondoy (NEF); Pfc Dus Kondoy (NEF); Natives from Senipah area; Saak; Oesop; Keri; Keap; Salab; Solomon. B-24 #033, 370th Bomb Sqdn, 307th Bomb Group, down 00°25'S 122°00'E.

P-Lt H H Etheridge; Co-P, Lt R W Harmsen; Nav-Lt J L Chamberlain; Bomb-Lt T F Helms; E-Cpl R E Dixon; AE-Cpl J B Ancona, R-Sgt J R Conder; AR-Cpl P H Collins; G-Pvt W E Thomas; G-Pvt N M Willigette; F-S/Sgt J L Hewett.

10 May 1945

PLAYMATE #11: OA-10A #3928, Pilot, Capt Humphreys; Co-Pilot, Lt Brockett; Nav, Lt Warner; Eng Cpl Stuart; Radio Pfc Mason; Radar Sgt Therrien; Flt Surg Cap Fields.

Mission: Cover strike on Celebes and search for survivors of B-24 in area of Togian Islands.

0443: Take-off Morotai.

0730: Searched Togian Islands for B-24 survivors.

0817: Saw parachute and two flares.

0910: Landed in water and taxied up a lagoon to middle of island. Three crew members went ashore to hunt for survivors, while landing party was ashore. Capt Humphreys interrogated two natives and brought two aboard for interrogation by AIB at Morotai.

1200: Landing party returned with pilot of crashed plane who showed us possible position of other survivors.

1253: Take-off and started search for others.

1300: Spotted mirror flashes and at 1305 received incomplete urgent message from Morotai. Spotted four more survivors.

1307: Landed on north edge of Bateadak Island and picked up five more survivors of same plane. Unloaded natives because of weight.

1330: Take-off, continued search of islands.

1410: Saw mirror flash at 00°25'S 121°55'E.

1425: Dropped message to proceed to west coast and we would pick him up in morning.