

STATEMENT

I also vividly recall the mission on October 21st (1944) over the Vogelkop to near Ceram when Powell, Brown, Taylor, Crepeau, Murrie, Benrier and I were weathered out of all friendly bases on the return trip and we all ditched our planes in the sea. On the return leg back to Noemfoor we were in radio contact with friendly threes, who were well aware of our predicament. We discussed our plight and since fuel was running low, we agreed the best solution was to ditch near an island and hopefully get to shore, so we could all be rescued. Unfortunately when we landed in the water it was dark, the tide was going out, and only Benner, Crepeau and, I believe, Murrie made it to shore. Powell, Brown and Taylor spent the night in lifejackets, and I was fortunate to get into my dinghy and waited until the next day when I was picked up in the PM by a Duckbutt' (a PBY Catalina rescue plane). All of us were rescued and returned to the hospital or our home unit, and a big party. Some of the pilots were evacuated to the States (Brown and Taylor). Others, including me were returned to our units and back to flying missions.

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