

C-O-P-Y

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
PATROL BOMBING SQUADRON 152

VPB152/AL6-3
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Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

9 August 1945.

S-E-C-R-E-T

From: Commanding Officer, Patrol Bombing Squadron 152.
To: Commander Western Carolines Sub Area.
Subject: Sighting and Air-Sea Rescue of INDIANAPOLIS Survivors,
Report of Participation in.
Enclosure: (A) Subject report.

1. Enclosure (A) is submitted herewith pursuant to instructions.

/s/ G. C. Atteberry

G. C. ATTEBERRY.

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ENCLOSURE (K)

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SECRET

ENCLOSURE (A)

SIGHTING OF SURVISORS OF U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS; PARTIDIPATION
IN AIR-SEA RESCUE AND SUBSEQUENT SEARCH FOR BODIES AND DEBRIS
2-7 AUGUST 1945

In the following account, all times are King (-10) except date-time groups of despatches. Where orders were received from the Commander Western Carolines Sub Area by despatch or by telephone to the squadron duty officer (so that receipt of orders was logged), exact time of receipt is stated. In most instances, however, orders were given orally to the squadron commander or by telephone to the flight officer. In such cases, the best estimate of the time of receipt is stated.

2 August 1945

Lieut.(jg) W. C. GWINN, with squadron voice call Gambler 17, was on patrol of sector 19V258, on the outbound leg, when an oil slick was sighted. Following it, and reducing altitude to investigate, Gwinn discovered 30 survivors at 1120. He immediately dropped his life raft and a sonobuoy, turned on his emergency IFF, and sent his despatch 020125 (so monitored by squadron duty radioman, though later copy by the teletype read 021125). This despatch gave the position of the survivors at 11-30N, 133-30E, a dead reckoning position used in the interest of speedy transmission.

Gwinn continued to examine the oil slick, which ran in a northeasterly direction from the position of the first sighting. Another group of approximately 150 survivors was found at 11-54N, 133-47E, this being a position determined by a Loran fix. Gwinn dropped another sonobuoy and sent his despatch 020245, requesting that a rescue ship be sent to the scene.

Meanwhile, Lt.Comdr. G. C. ATTEBERRY, squadron commander (Gambler Leader-70V258) had taken off at 1244 to relieve Gwinn, and a despatch to that effect had been sent to Gwinn. The squadron relayed the new position and number of survivors to 70V and to the Dumbo which was also en route (020321). Gwinn left the scene when relieved by Gambler Leader, landing at the base at 1630.

Gwinn's co-pilot is Lieut.(jg) E. W. COLWELL; the other members of the crew are:

JOHNSON, J. K., AMK2c(T)
NICKMAN, H. H., AOM3c
HARTMAN, W. I., ACRM(T)

A PBM en route to the Philippines, call sign K9244, reached the scene at about 1345, sighted additional survivors, dropped three life rafts, and sent three despatches (020430, 020445 and 020540) before continuing on course.

Arriving at the second position given by Gwinn, Lt.Comdr. Atteberry continued the search for additional survivors. Upon the arrival of the Dumbo continued the search for additional survivors. Upon the arrival of the Dumbo from VFB-23, at about 1520, Lt. Comdr. Atteberry guided it to the four separate groups of survivors which had been located. The Dumbo decided to attempt an open sea landing, to afford support for some of the survivors who were not in life rafts. The landing was made successfully (despatch 020715 from 70V258). Lt. Comdr. Atteberry then guided the Dumbo by voice to individuals and groups

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without rafts.

By despatch 020700, Lt. Comdr. Atteberry had requested that a relief plane be sent immediately.

Sub Area, during the afternoon, had organized a flight of planes loaded with all available life rafts. Two PV's of this command were assigned to this mission, Lt.(jg) J. W. SCHULTE (Gambler 11, 40V258) and Lt.(jg) W. R. LUNDGREN (Gambler 13, 37V258). They took off at 1738 and 1749 respectively. However, Schulte's plane developed engine trouble, and he was forced to return to base, landing at 1830. Lundgren continued to the position of the survivors, circled dropping smoke lights and flares, and directed the first surface vessel at the scene to the survivors. He landed at the base at 0130 on the 3rd.

Upon the arrival of the B-17 with an air-borne motor rescue boat, and the B-17, RAD and PV with additional life rafts, Lt. Comdr. Atteberry directed them to the various groups of survivors to obtain the best possible distribution among them.

Lt. Comdr. Atteberry was in constant communication with Bird Dog 1 after 1545, and kept it informed of developments. He departed at 1950 and was on the deck at 2135.

First information that the survivors were from the INDIANAPOLIS was received during the night by despatch 021645 from APD 73, the BASSETT.

3 AUGUST 1945

During the evening of the 2nd, Sub Area ordered this command to maintain two PVs at the scene on the 3rd to assist the surface vessels in air-sea rescue beginning at dawn. It was specified that the two PVs use the voice calls "Gambler 5" and "Gambler 6".

The first two planes were Lt. M. V. CRITES (Gambler 5, 33V258) who took off at 0454 and Lt. J. J. WIGMORE (Gambler 6, 38V258) at 0514. Crites proceeded to the position of the larger group of survivors, cooperating with the surface ships in the location of survivors and life rafts. He landed at the base at 1300.

Wigmore, en route to the same position, discovered another group of survivors at a point about 52 miles southwest of the ships. He reported this fact to the SOFA, and remained at that position until a surface vessel had arrived to pick up the survivors. He landed at the base at 1310.

Crites and Wigmore were relieved by Lt. C. D. KEPHART (Gambler 5, 42V258), and Lt. J. F. HUNTER (Gambler 6, 36V258). Hunter took off at 0819 and Kephart at 0837. Both went to the position of the survivors located by Wigmore and remained there, assisting in the location of survivors, until departure for the base. Additional rafts with survivors were located. Kephart landed at 1625 and Hunter at 1645.

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Pilots of the next two planes on the scene were Lt. D. R. JEFFRIES (Gambler 5 39V258) and Lt. Comdr. V. J. COLEY, Jr. USN (Gambler 6, 18V258). (Lt. Comdr. Coley, Executive Officer of VPB-133, was SOP of a three plane detachment from that squadron temporarily detailed to work with this command to insure the constant availability of three planes for special weather flights ordered by CincPac).

Jeffries was off at 1230 and Coley at 1240. They went to the second position originally reported by Gwinn, where they conducted 30 mile square searches to the southwest. They located one group of rafts containing bodies. The position was marked with dye marker and smoke lights. Rain squalls hid these from view before a surface vessel arrived. Jeffries and Coley landed at 2009 and 2020 respectively.

4 AUGUST 1945

The plan for operations on the 4th was set up by Sub Area's despatch 030810. The plan instructed the SOPA to take daylight position at 11-42N, 133-20E, with four ships forming a square around that position, distance 35 miles, bearing 315, 045, 135 and 225 degrees respectively. Two PVs were to continue search of the central area. Use of voice calls Gambler 5 and 6 was continued on this date.

Lt.(jg) J. A. BURTON (Gambler 5, 71V258) took off at 0447 and Gwinn (Gambler 6, 73V258) took off at 0445. Gwinn conducted 15 and 30 mile square searches with the square. Burton conducted a criss-cross search in the same area. Both planes sighted debris which they orbited until a ship arrived at the position. Burton was on the deck at 1235 and Gwinn at 1236.

Their reliefs were Lt.(jg) R. J. GREENEBAUM (Gambler 5, 33V258) and Lt. P. D. COLBERTSON (Gambler 6, 08V258) who were airborne at 0848 and 0849 respectively. Both of them conducted searches within the square of ships returning to base and landing at 1727 and 1730.

KEPHART (Gambler 5, 42V258) and Lt.(jg) C. ROYER (Gambler 6, 53V258), took off at 1323 and 1330 respectively, and were over the center ship at 1500. After they had searched the area within the square for about half an hour, they were informed that the ship at the southeast corner had a possible submarine contact, and were ordered to conduct anti-submarine operations with that ship (Bird Dog 3). For approximately two hours Kephart orbited the ship at a distance of two miles, and Royer at 3 miles. The distances were then extended, Kephart to orbit at a maximum distance of 6 miles, and Royer at 6 to 10 miles. This was continued for another two hours, after which the two planes departed for base, Kephart landing at 2129 and Royer at 2131. Their search was negative.

5 AUGUST 1945

On the afternoon of the 4th this command received by hand a copy of a despatch addressed for action to the ships conducting the search. This directed the formation of a scouting line at dawn of the fifth along a bearing of 108 degrees from point of origin 11-01N, 132-55E, to advance at 14 knots on a course of 018 degrees. The mission had become the recovery and identification of bodies, and the sinking of or picking up of debris. Two PVs and one Dumbo were to assist. Use of the Squadron's regular voice calls was resumed.

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The first two PVs were piloted by Lt. Comdr. Atteberry (Gambler Leader, 70V258) and Lt. (jg) R. H. LUNDBERG, (Gambler 9, 38V258), and took off at 0425 and 0428 respectively.

Lundberg was on station at 0609. For about half an hour he searched along a line 10 miles ahead of the scouting line. He was then ordered to search west of the line for a distance of 50 miles. On the return leg of that search he sighted about 8 bodies, 4 empty life rafts and debris 20 to 30 miles distance from the scouting line, to which he coached one of the surface ships. He departed for base at 1110, landing at 1250.

Lt. Comdr. Atteberry was on station at 0615 and located the ships at 0700. He was requested to search back and forth on an advancing line 20 miles ahead of the ships. He departed at 1105 and was on the deck at 1300.

Schulte (Gambler 11, 41V258) and Greenebaum (Gambler 16, 08V258) were airborne at 0854 and 0917 respectively. Schulte was over the scouting line at position 11-50N, 133-10E, at 1150. He continued the search 20 miles ahead of the scouting line until 1550. He sighted one small boat, which was destroyed by a surface vessel. He landed at 1745.

Greenebaum was on station at 1100, when he was directed to search the area west of the scouting line for a distance of 50 miles. Two floating buoys were sighted 30 miles to the west. One of the ships ("Wigvam") sank them. He departed at 1630 and landed at 1827.

Hunter (Gambler 1, 36V258) and Wignore (Gambler 5, 34V258) departed the base at 1322 and 1344 respectively. Hunter, over the ships at 1515, continued the search of the area west of the scouting line to a distance of 50 miles. When he left the ships at 1945, their position was 11-44N, 133-16E. He was on deck at 2130.

Wignore was on station at 1552. He conducted two 50 mile sweeps northwest and northeast of the scouting line, followed by one search west for a distance of 100 miles and return. Departing at 1940, he landed at 2140.

Pursuant to order of Sub Area, a third plane was added to the search in the afternoon. Crites (Gambler 8, 42V258) was airborne at 1400 and on station at 1530. While on a 50 mile search to the southwest of the scouting line, he found four ships' rafts lashed together at 10-54N, 132-40E. No signs of life were visible. He remained at that position until the arrival of a surface vessel. He departed at 1905 and was on the deck at 2055.

6 AUGUST 1945

The first two flights, scheduled to take off at 0430, were cancelled by telephone call from Sub Area at 0235. At 0455 Sub Area ordered two planes to continue the search for bodies and debris.

Lt. L. B. BROWN (Gambler 3, 73V258) and Royer (Gambler 10, 53V258) took off at 0616 and 0626 respectively, both arriving over the ships at 0830, position 11-30N, 132-30E.

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Brown searched the area within a radius of 15 miles of that position, directing the ships to three groups of rafts and a number of bodies. He departed for base at 1320 and was on the deck at 1510.

Roye orbited DEs which covered the area to the north and south of the above position, between 11-40W and 11-00N. He sighted one large life raft and 14 bodies, to which he coached surface vessels. He also assisted Brown with the rafts mentioned above. At 1245 he departed the ships at the original position, landing at 1430.

Burton (Gambler 15) and Jeffries (Gambler 2) (71V and 34V258 respectively) took off at 1147 and 1148. Burton arrived over the ships, at 11-19N, 132-19E, at 1410. He searched an area approximately 10 by 20 miles to the west and south sighting and coaching surface ships to about nine bodies. The ships were at the original position when he return to base, where he landed at 2100.

Jeffries arrived over ships at the position 11-32N, 132-21E, at 1400. He circled them within a radius of 10 miles until 1835, when they were still at that position. During that time he guided ships to about nine bodies. He landed at 2040.

7 AUGUST 1945

At 2050 on the 6th, Sub Area requested by telephone that one of our planes arrive at dawn, to work with the ships and one Dumbo in continuing the search for bodies and debris. It was arranged by telephone at 2105 that no relief plane would be sent without further direction by Sub Area. At 2210 Sub Area directed the first plane to instruct the SOPA to give Sub Area an estimate prior to 0900 whether air support would be required beyond 1200.

At 0540, Lt.(jg) C. R. DRYDEN (Gambler 14, 37V258) was airborne. He proceeded to the last known position of the ships, as reported by Jeffries, and was examining an oil slick there when contacted by the SOPA. The ships' position was given as 11-30N, 131-41E, where Dryden arrived at 0800. He found two ships on a course of about 070 degrees, and was instructed to conduct search to port and 20 miles ahead of the ships. He returned to the ships at 1015. About 1030 a number of bodies were sighted by the plane which orbited and assisted. He departed the ships at their original position at 1135, landing at the base at 1320.

Meanwhile, Sub Area, having received a message from the SOPA, directed about 0845 that a second plane be sent out to relieve Dryden. Accordingly, Greenebaum (Gambler 16, 53V258) departed at 0949. At 1130 he was over the ships at position 11-10N, 132-20E. He remained in that area, except for one sweep on a bearing of 225 degrees to a distance of 40 miles. He directed the ship to four bodies, an oil drum and a group of seven rafts. At the time of his return to base (1510) the ships were still at the same position. He was on the deck at 1655.

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At 1145 further instructions had been received from Sub Area to continue the assistance of one PV at the scene. Colbenson (Gambler 7, 34V258) was airborne at 1315. He found the ships at 1512, giving their position as 11-11N, 132-12E. They were then on a course of about 200 degrees. Colbenson was sent on a 20 mile sweep to starboard, during which he found and orbited a raft until it was picked up by a surface vessel. Upon his return to the ships, they were on a course of about 180 degrees. He conducted another 20 mile search to starboard, followed by a 50 mile sweep on a heading of 230 degrees from the ships. After that he ran another sweep to starboard, the ships being on a course of about 210 degrees.

At 1800 the ships were at 10-47N, 131-48E. Colbenson left them at that position, taking a course of 180 degrees for a sweep of 50 miles. That search being negative, he returned to base, landing at 1950.

Further search for bodies and debris, scheduled to be conducted on 8 August, was secured by Sub Area during the evening.

Plane maintenance required the cancellation of night ASP on the nights of 2-6 August. However, all patrols of V258 sectors were flown during the period of this report, with the single exception of 19V on 3 August.

Respectfully Submitted:

/s/ Malcolm S. Langford

M. S. LANGFORD, Lieut. USNR.
Air Combat Intelligence Officer.

Approved:

/s/ G. C. Atteberry

G. C. ATTEBERRY, Lieut. Comdr. USNR.
Commanding Officer.

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7 AUGUST 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR OPERATIONS OFFICER, SUB AREA

EXTRACTS FROM VPD-23 DUTY OFFICER'S LOG, SUPPLEMENTED
TO GIVE FULLER PICTURE OF OPERATIONS

THURSDAY, 2 AUGUST, 1945.

- 1150 VPD-152 D.C. CALLED, REPORTING THEY HAVE SIGHTED SURVIVORS APPROXIMATELY 275 MILES OUT, LAT. 11-30 N. LONG. 133-30 E. PV WILL STAY ON STATION UNTIL DUMCO ARRIVES.
DUTY OFFICER CALLED THE GAS TRUCK AND OIL FOR LT. MARK'S PLANE, NOTIFIED LT. MARKS, GASED PLANE TO 1400 GALS.
LT. MARKS AND LT. BLACKMAN, THE ACIO, MADE TRIP TO GROUP OPNS FOR INFO., FOUND THEY HAD NONE, GAVE THEM WHAT WE HAD FROM VPD-152 AND HAD THEM CALL SUB AREA WITH OUR INFO. ALSO.
ADDITIONAL ASR GEAR WAS PUT IN LT. MARK'S PLANE.
- 1245 LT. MARKS AIRBORNE IN E-72, CALL PLAYMATE 2. GROUP OPNS D.O. NOTIFIED OF DEPARTURE.
- 1300 ARMY ERS-H SQUADRON REPORTS ONE CREW READY FOR DUMCO ALERT, REPLACING LT. MARKS.
- 1350 OPERATIONS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL DUMCO TO CONTACT RE DOYLE NORTH OF PELELIU.
1355 REQUEST CANCELLED--DOYLE HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY SHORE RADIO AND IS ENROUTE TO SCENE.
- 1410 OPERATIONS NOTIFIED US OF CHANGE IN POSIT OF SURVIVORS TO 11-54 N. 133-47E. NO. OF SURVIVORS NOW ESTIMATED AT 150.
- 1450 MAJ. CHAMBERLIN GIVES 2400 AS ETA FOR DOYLE (DE-368) ON SCENE OF SURVIVORS. INFORMS US TWO OTHER SHIPS BEING SENT FROM ULITHI, APPROX, ETA SOMETIME EARLY TOMORROW MORNING.
- 1605 SUB AREA TELEPHONES THAT AS MANY LIFE RAFTS AS POSSIBLE ARE DESIRED AT SCENE. PREPARATIONS BEGUN TO PUT TWO MORE DUMCOS INTO AIR.
- 1655 LT. ALCOCK, ARMY PILOT, AIRBORNE, CALL PLAYMATE 4. IS CARRYING 5 EXTRA MARK VII LIFERAFTS, 6 EXTRA MARK IV RAFTS, JUST TAKEN ABOARD.
- 1710 LATEST POSIT OF SURVIVORS REPORTED AS 11-45 N. 133-35 E.
- 1720 LT. LEBLANC AIRBORNE IN B-62, CALL PLAYMATE 3. GASED AND EQUIPPED TO STAY ALL NIGHT ON SCENE. CARRIES 8 EXTRA MARK VII RAFTS AND 3 EXTRA IV RAFTS. OPERATIONS NOTIFIED.
- 1730 CALLED COMMANDER ANDERSON, GIVING DEPARTURES AND NUMBER OF RAFTS.
2400 COMMANDER ANDERSON CALLED: GAVE THE NAMES OF SURFACE CRAFT TAKING PART IN SEARCH. THEY ARE: DOYLE (DE-368), BASSETT (APD-73), DUFILHO (DE-423), RALPH TALBOT (DD-390), MADISON (DD-425), LCI 990. WE ARE TO KEEP ONE PLANE ON SEARCH CONTINUOUSLY, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, IS CALL TO BE PLAYMATE 3, WITH NO CHANGE IN THAT CALL, I.E., THE PV IN THE AIR OVER SEARCH AREA WILL USE PLAYMATE 3. VPD-152 WILL HAVE TWO PV'S ON STATION CONTINUOUSLY WHOSE CALLS WILL BE GANDLER 5 AND 6 RESPECTIVELY. THESE CALLS WERE ASSIGNED BY SUB AREA. ASR FREQUENCIES 4475 AND 140.58 ARE IN EFFECT.

FRIDAY, 3 AUGUST, 1945

- 0105 LT. (JG) LANDERS AIRBORNE TO RELIEVE LT. LE BLANC. CALL PLAYMATE 6.
0525 LT. LE BLANC, PLAYMATE 3 PANCAKED.
0730 LT. CDR. RICKETTS AIRBORNE TO RELIEVE LT (JG) LANDERS. CALL IS PLAYMATE 7 BUT WILL ASSUME THE CALL OF PLAYMATE 3 WHILE ON STATION

CONTINUED

ENCLOSURE (1)

PAGE 2 OF SUB AREA MEMO FOR 7 AUGUST 1945.

COPY

- 0940 LT. ALCORN, OF ARMY, PANCAKED AFTER SPENDING NIGHT ON OPEN SEA ACCORDING TO WORD FROM LT. ALCORN, LT. MARKS SCUTTLED B-72 (PLAYMATE 2) ON THE WATER AT 0700. (ACTUAL TIME WAS SAID LATER BY LT. MARKS TO HAVE BEEN 0800).
- 1225 LT. (jg) LANDERS PANCAKED.
- 1355 PLAYMATE 7, LT. CDR. RICKETTS, REPORTS HE IS RETURNING TO BASE WITH ENGINE TROUBLE IN B-62. WORD PASSED TO US BY JCC.
- 1530 LT. CDR. RICKETTS, PLAYMATE 7, LANDED.
- 1630 PLANS FOR SEARCHES ON 4 AUG. ANNOUNCED BY LT. CDR. MAMER, WHO HAD MADE TRIP TO SUB AREA TO CONFER ON PLANS. FOUR 50-MILE SQUARE SECTORS ARE TO BE SEARCHED, EACH BY A DIFFERENT PLY, AND EACH WITH ITS OWN SURFACE VESSEL. LT. TURNER TO TAKE 0430 HOP IN SECTOR #4; ARMY PLANE TO TAKE SECTOR #3; AND TWO PLY6A'S FROM VPL-53 IN SAMAR TO TAKE SECTORS #1 AND #2.
- 1900 ALL FOUR PILOTS ASSEMBLED AT VPL-23 HUT AND WERE BRIEFED ON SEARCH PLAN FOR TOMORROW (I.E. THE FOUR SECTORS).
- 2130 WORD RECEIVED THAT LT. MARKS DUE IN ON USS DOYLE AT 0200.
- 2140 VPL-53'S PLANES HAVE BEEN FURNISHED WITH ADDITIONAL FLOAT LIGHTS: 15 MARK IV'S AND 18 MARK V'S.
- 2150 PBY FROM ULITHI DETACHMENT OF VPL-23 LANDED HERE AFTER BRIEF SEARCH BEFORE DARK.
- 2200 LT. CURRY, OF SUB AREA CALLED TO INFORM US THEY HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM TU 75.1.3 (VPL-53) FOR THE TWO PLY-6A'S TO RETURN TO SAMAR IMMEDIATELY. SUB AREA IS SENDING A DESPATCH TO 75.13 THAT THEIR TWO PLY-6A'S WILL GO OUT ON ASSIGNED SEARCH AND LEAVE FOR SAMAR UPON COMPLETION OF SEARCH. LT. (jg) KENNEDY (VPL-53) NOTIFIED.
- 2335 RECEIVED WORD IN DESPATCH THAT POSSIBLE FIRDDGS ON SEARCH TOMORROW MAY BE: HELM (DD-388), AYLWIN (DD-375), FROM PELELIU AND PATTISON (APD-104) FROM ULITHI.

SATURDAY, 4 AUGUST, 1945

- 0340 LT. (jg) KENNEDY, PLAYMATE 1, IN R-64033.
LT. (jg) MACDONALD, PLAYMATE 2, IN R-64006
LT. ALCORN, PLAYMATE 3, IN 914
LT. TURNER, PLAYMATE 4, IN B-74.
ALL OF THE ABOVE SCHEDULE TO TAKE OFF AT 0430. ALCORN AND TURNER TO RETURN TO BASE, ETA 1630; KENNEDY & MACDONALD TO RETURN TO SAMAR, AT END OF SEARCH, ETA 1830. CLEARANCE FOR ALCORN & TURNER OBTAINED FROM BASE OPS. KENNEDY & MACDONALD HAD TO FILE A FLIGHT PLAN.
- 0438 LT. TURNER AIRBORNE
- 0440 1ST LT. ALCORN AIRBORNE
- 0450 LT. (jg) KENNEDY AIRBORNE
- 0455 LT. (jg) MACDONALD AIRBORNE. PV'S HELD UP TAKE-OFFS OF 6A'S.
- 1200 1ST LT. ALCORN PANCAKED FROM SEARCH, RETURNING EARLY DUE TO ENGINE TROUBLE.
- 1720 RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM LT. TURNER (4V256) THROUGH JCC THAT HIS STARBOARD ENGINE WAS OUT AT POSIT 9-32 N. 133-27 E. AT 1630 K. A SECOND MESSAGE FROM THE SAME PLANE, FILED 20 MINUTES LATER, WAS GIVEN TO US SIMULTANEOUSLY, THAT HE WAS THEN 132 MILES AWAY ON A BEARING OF 350.
- 1727 LT. LE BLANC, PLAYMATE 7, AIRBORNE TO INTERCEPT LT. TURNER AND ESCORT HIM TO BASE.
- 1730 LT. CDR. MAMER MADE TRIP TO SUB AREA TO CONFER ON PLANS FOR SEARCHES FOR 5 AUG. BROUGHT BACK WORD OF AN 8-SHIP SCOUTING LINE TO SLEP 90 MILES OUT AND BACK, WHILE PLANES SLEP IN PERPENDICULAR TRACK AHEAD OF ADVANCING VESSELS.

PAGE 3 OF SUB AREA MEMO DATED 7 AUGUST 1945

CCPY

- 1827 LT. TURNER, PLAYMATE 4, PANCAKED ON ONE ENGINE AFTER FLYING LAST 170 MILES ON SINGLE ENGINE.
1835 LT. LE BLANC, PLAYMATE 7, ON DECK.
1845 LT. MARION, WHO HAD TAKEN OFF FROM VPD-23'S ULITHI BASE, PANCAKED AFTER PARTICIPATING IN SEARCH.
1913 LT. WALLACE, ALSO FROM VPD-23'S ULITHI DETACHMENT, PANCAKED AFTER SEARCH.
1930 TWO BAY PILOTS WHO WERE TO TAKE PART IN TOMORROW'S SEARCH AHEAD OF SCOUTING LINE WERE BRIEFED BY ACI OFFICER.

SUNDAY, 5 AUGUST, 1945

- 0421 LT. (JG) GILLOU, PLAYMATE 1, AIRBORNE ON SEARCH AS ASSIGNED
1005 1ST LT. ALCORN AIRBORNE, PLAYMATE 2, TO RELIEVE LT. (JG) GILLOU ON SEARCH
1245 WORD RECEIVED TO ALERT LT. MARION FOR ADDITIONAL SEARCH. THIS WAS DONE. PLANE R-632 WAS GASSED FROM 800 TO 1400 GALS.
1342 LT. MARION AIRBORNE, PLAYMATE 3
1625 LT. (JG) GUILLOU PANCAKED
2030 RECEIVED ETA'S FROM PLAYMATES 2 OF 2143 AND FROM PLAYMATE 3 OF 2200; ALSO WORD FROM PLAYMATE 2 THAT THE WORK IN VICINITY OF THE HELM WAS TOO MUCH TO FINISH TODAY.
2140 LT. MARION PANCAKED
2150 1ST LT. ALCORN PANCAKED

MONDAY, 6 AUGUST, 1945

- 0220 RECEIVED CALL FROM LT. MC MANN OF SUB AREA TO SEND OUT TWO PLANES TO BE ON STATION BY 0700.
0230 D.C. MAKING NECESSARY CHECKUPS IN B-62 AND B-71. PLANES GASSED TO 1400 GALS. AND OIL CHECKED OKAY. CREWS AWAKENED.
0330 AFTER INTENSIVE ATTEMPTS TO HAVE PLANES CHECKED UP, FOUND IT COMPULSORY TO DOWN BOTH PLANES. B-71 NEEDS A SOLENOID SWITCH FOR THE STARTER ON THE STARBOARD ENGINE. ALSO UNABLE TO START IT MANUALLY. B-62 DROPS OFF 150-175 RPM'S ON STARBOARD MAGNETO OF PORT ENGINE. D.C. NOTIFIED LT. CDR. MAMMER, WHO NOTIFIED SUB AREA.
0415 LT. CDR. MAMMER CALLED DUTY OFFICER TO SECURE FLIGHTS. CASU WAS NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY AND THEY HAD MEN WORKING ON THE TWO DOWNED PLANES AT 0430.
0630 PLANE AVAILABILITY:- B-71 OUT, B-62 OUT, B-74 OUT, R-632 GASSED TO 800 GALS., OIL OK, READY FOR RETURN FLIGHT TO ULITHI.
0835 B-71 NOW IN COMMISSION
1225 SUB AREA ASKED IF OUR PLANES COULD GO OUT AT ANY TIME.
1230 SUB AREA WAS NOTIFIED THAT WE HAVE ONE PLANE AVAILABLE, B-71.
1235 COLDR. ANDERSON FROM SUB AREA CALLED AND REQUESTED A COPY OF ALL LOGS CONCERNING PLANES ORDERED OUT BY HIM, AND ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING SURVIVORS. (THIS REPORT IS THE LOG: SURVIVOR INFORMATION WAS CONTAINED IN DAILY REPORTS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED).
1356 LT. MARION AIRBORNE IN R-632 FOR FLIGHT TO ULITHI
1415 B-62 NOW IN COMMISSION
1630 B-74 DOWN INDEFINITELY--NO HYDRAULIC PRESSURE.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CCPY

/s/ J. L. Blackman,
J.L. BLACKMAN,
LT. USNR.
AIR COMBAT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

SECRET

4TH EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON
FLIGHT D DETACHMENT
APO 265

COPY

6 AUGUST 1945

Subject: Rescue operations 2 Aug. 45 through 5 Aug.

To: Sub Area Operations.

The following is the complete story of the work done by a crew on an Army CA-10A during the period of 2 August 1945 through 5 August 1945. The men of the crew are members of the 4TH Emergency Rescue Squadron stationed in the Palau Islands.

The crew was airborne at 1650 on August 2, 1945 to aid in rescue for the survivors of the CA Indianapolis which had been sunk on July 29, 1945.

The Army rescue plane arrived in the vicinity of the survivors at 1915 only to find a Navy Cat already on the water picking up survivors. After dropping 3 life rafts to survivors it was discovered that the survivors were too weak to make any use of them. The Pilot, Lt. R. C. Alcorn decided to attempt a water landing in order to be of more assistance to the drowning men. A safe landing was effected at 1940 with no damage whatsoever to the aircraft or crew. Although it was already nearly dark one survivor was spotted by himself so the crew immediately set about to rescue him. He was brought aboard at 1955 and put under the care of Surgical Technician Sgt. Roy T. Sutrov. The pilot continued to taxi in the darkness stopping every few feet for floating objects only to find them to be dead bodies and debris. Finally after considerable taxiing the pilot decided there was far too much debris to continue after dark so the engines were cut. Immediately upon cutting the engines were cut. Immediately upon cutting the engines many cries for help were heard seemingly in one group. The crew members informed the survivors to hold on as help was on the way. T/Sgt. L. U. Needham, engineer and S/Sgt. W. H. Higbee, radar operator decided to attempt to get to the survivors in a life raft. The swells were so high though that the pilot decided that they should not take the raft beyond the limits of the rope aboard the plane. The two crew members went out as far as possible but were unable to get to the survivors.

Aircraft circled the area all night and the crew members of the Army rescue plane kept them informed of the location of the survivors by signalling with lights. The Navy plane had landed much earlier and its batteries were too dead to signal. Finally at about 0230 on August 3, 45, a DE arrived in the vicinity and started picking up survivors. After taking the survivors from the Navy "Cat" and the DE proceeded to the Army "Cat". The DE took the one survivor aboard and the crew members informed the vessel of the group of survivors that had been calling to them. The vessel then proceeded over to the area and picked up the survivors.

The next morning it was found that the Navy Cat had suffered damage from picking up so many survivors and it was scuttled. Although the sea was very rough and the wind had picked up considerably from the time of landing the night before the pilot of the Army plane decided to attempt a take off. The aircraft was airborne at 0730 with little trouble and with no damage to the plane or crew.

SECRET

CCFY

The crew flew a total of forty hours during the four days of August 2 through August 5, 1945. Their missions were to help surface vessels spot survivors, bodies and debris from the wreckage. Members of the crew were: Pilot, 1ST Lt. R. C. Alcorn, 430 Kimball Turn, Westfield N.J.; Co-Pilot, 1ST Lt. M. H. Smith, Route 3, Charlotte, N.C.; Navigator, 1ST Lt. F. C. Ethridge, 107 W. Grove, Rantoul, Ill.; Engineer, T/Sgt. F. U. Needham, 906 Fourth St., Marietta, Ohio; Radio Operator, S/Sgt. V. F. Duchscherer, 2332 Payne St. Louisville, Ky.; Radar Operator, S/Sgt. H. H. Higbee, Route 3, Ashtabula, Ohio; and Surgical Technician sgt. R. T. Sutrev, 197 Arlington Ave., Oakland, Calif.

/s/ Lt. Richard C. Alcorn,
RICHARD C. ALCORN,
1ST LT. AC
COMMANDING.

C-C-P-Y

4TH EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON
FLIGHT D DETACHMENT
AFC 265

C-C-P-Y

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8 AUGUST 1945

Subject: Search Operations Of 7 Aug. 45

To: Sub Area Operations

Aircraft #914, radio call playmate 1, was airborne 0427 King 7 Aug. 45. Mission orders were to proceed to 11° 32'N - 132° 21'E and contact DE French, radio call "Avacado" for instructions concerning search for bodies.

Playmate 1 arrived at the given coordinates at 0651 King and was ordered by Avacado to fly heading of 260° for 62 miles. While on the course of 260° for the DE the crew spotted some bodies at 0658 and informed Avacado. Avacado noted the coordinates and ordered 914 to proceed to her coordinates. Playmate 1 was over the DE French and DE-----at 0731. At this time a PV aircraft, call Gambler 14, joined the search and Playmate 1 searched to the south of the DE's while Gambler 14 searched to the north. The search was to proceed 20 miles to the north and 20 miles to the south of the DE in a course of 80°, direction of the bodies spotted at 0658 by Playmate 1. Nothing was sighted by any of the vessels or planes until 1015 when both the PV and OA-10A arrived in the vicinity of the OA-10A's 0658 position, 11° 28'N - 132° 15'E. In an area of approximately 10 miles square several bodies were spotted by both planes. The two DE's proceeded full speed ahead to the point and had picked up and buried 8 bodies by 1315 when Playmate 1 was relieved by Playmate 3.

Playmate 1 arrived safely back at base at 1540 King.

Total flying time for the crew of #914 from 2 Aug 45 through 7 Aug. is as follows:

2 Aug. 45.....	11:00
3 Aug. 45.....	9:40
4 Aug. 45.....	7:25
5 Aug. 45.....	11:55
7 Aug. 45.....	<u>11:10</u>
TOTAL.....	51:10

/s/ Lt. Richard C. Alcorn
RICHARD C. ALCORN
1ST LT. AC
COMMANDING

C-C-P-Y

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EXTRACTS FROM OPERATIONS WATCH OFFICERS LOG COVERING RESCUE OF SURVIVORS
FROM INDIANAPOLIS (CA 35). PERIOD 1205 K 2 AUGUST TO 0030 K 8 AUGUST.

2 August

- 1205 - Following info received from Group Operations: PV from VPB 152 (19V258) sighted survivors in water at 11-30 N 133-30 E. PV dropped life raft and transmitter. PV can be on station until 021530 K. No further details available at present. Dumbo plane to take off from Peleliu as soon as possible. - Info passed to Comdr. Anderson.
- 1240 - DOYLE directed to scene of survivors - 11-30 N 133-30 E.
- 1250 - Dumbo plane off at 021242 K to scene of survivors - 11-30 N 133-30 E.
- 1330 - Lt. Hunter (VPB 152 duty officer) phoned following info: Message received by VPB 152 from 19V152: Send rescue ship to 11-54 N 133-47 E. 150 survivors in life boat and jackets. Dropped red ramrod (expendable Sono Buoy).
- 1400 - DOYLE advised of new position - 11-54 N 133-47 E; DOYLE advised estimated number of survivors 150. DOYLE is to report ETA new position.
- 1415 - DOYLE rogered for CWCSA 020245 at 021407 K.
- 1430 - Message received from ComMarianas directing that 2 DD's be sent on survivor mission - message sent to CTU 94.6.2 for compliance.
- 1500 - Phone Group Operations: ETA of Dumbo (survivor mission) is 021515 K.
- 1520 - Received message from DOYLE stating she is proceeding at maximum speed and has established contact with Dumbo.
- 1600 - 19 V from VPB 152 returning to base; relieved 70 V from VPB 152; 70 V estimates 75-150 scattered survivors.
- 1601 - R4D (Lt. Baker) to augment search; to carry all available life rafts.
- 1650 - Phoned Air Base: B-17 No. 9496 - voice call Jukebox 9496 - off 1550 K. B-17 No. 9488 airborne at 1725 (Jukebox 9488).
- 1655 - Phoned Group Operations: One Dumbo on station now. 2 Dumbos (Playmate 3 and Playmate 4) took off at 1655 K and 1725 K respectively. Admiral's R4D off at 1620.
- 1720 - 1 PV on station - voice call Gambler Leader - due at Base Peleliu at 022100 K. 2 other PV's standing by to carry life rafts - info on takeoffs not available at present.
- 1721 - DOYLE's ETA area is 030030 K.

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- 1730 - Phoned Group Operations asking for ETA at Base Peleliu of Dumbo (Playmate 2) - approx 022300 K.
Note to OWO: Special check should be made with Group Operations so that OWO will know ETA's of dumbos far enough ahead of time to notify Base 20 hospital to have ambulance on field for those dumbos picking up survivors. The first dumbo (Playmate 2) landed at sea and should have survivors.
- 1747 - Group Operations phoned that first B-17 off had no life rafts, one life-boat (capacity 10 men) and that second B-17 carried 18 life rafts (capacity 2-3), no life boats.
- 1758 - ETA DOYLE at scene is 0040 K 3 August.
- 1759 - Plane 70 VPB 152 reports dumbo landed okay.
- 1805 - Playmate 2 to ASR vessel (DOYLE) intercept indicates survivors in bad condition, and that Dumbo cannot take off.
- 1845 - Corrected position reported by planes through DOYLE is 11-45 N 133-35 E (25 miles from position to which DD's from Ulithi directed.) informed Major Chamberlain.
- 1920 - Talked with CO VPB-23. Playmate 6 will be off at 0100, Playmate at 0630. Requested no action be taken to take Playmate 2 under tow. Requested further info on condition Playmate 2.
- 1930 - Gambler 13 has relieved Gambler Leader.
- 2000 - Air Base Operations phoned that Baker, in Admiral's R4D, had completed mission, returning to base. No ETA yet.
- 2055 - Called VPB-152 to arrange for transfer of 6 life rafts which were originally to be dropped by Gambler 11 to VPB-23, to be used, if needed, by Playmate 6, whose takeoff time is 0100. Gambler 11 had returned to base without reaching destination due to engine trouble.
- 2115 - Received telephone report from Lt. Baker, who just landed from mission. Lt. Baker estimates about 150 men strung out over a distance of about 20 miles. The great majority, at this time, appeared to be supplied with life rafts or jackets. Our R4D dropped 5 rafts, and a large number of life jackets, attempting to distribute them around the outer edges where stragglers without equipment could use them. A large portion of the life rafts that have been dropped are equipped with pyrotechnics. Requested Lt. Baker give this info directly to Comdr. Anderson at camp.
- 2220 - Lt. Comdr. Attebury reported back from area. Advises second Dumbo (Playmate 4) is now on surface. Considers it impossible for them to take to air. Also reports plenty of rafts and life jackets in area.

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2220 (Cont'd.) - Plans for future activity formulated by Comdr. Anderson, Capt. Oates: One Dumbo (call while on scene will be Playmate 3) will be over area continuously. At dawn two PV's (calls while on scene Gamblers 5 and 6) will be overhead. Reliefs will assume calls as they take over. 2 DD's from Ulithi ETA 0500 K. APD and DE from ComPhilSeaFron should arrive in morning. LCI-990 has been directed to scene. ETA not known.

Two (2) FAirWing 2 Dumbos will examine area enroute Guam about dawn tomorrow, dropping rafts if needed (they have 2 7-man rafts each). See our 021320 and 021404 for details. When DD's from Ulithi (RALPH TALBOT and MADISON) arrive, DOYLE will return Peleliu. Capt. Oates emphasized that Operations Watch Officer must notify Base 20, the Air Base, JOC, and Port Director, as relevant, of the ETA of any survivors, their condition and number of them, so that proper medical and ambulance facilities will be ready. This is the OWO's responsibility.

3 August

- 0102 - PBY took off to relieve Playmate 3, now circling area.
- 0210 - Received message 021500 from the DOYLE identifying survivors as those of (CA 35) INDIANAPOLIS, torpedoed and sunk night of 29 July. Tried to contact Comdr. Anderson on direct line but failed. Called Security Officer for Camp (Mr. Blake) and asked him to relay information to Comdr. Anderson.
- 0300 - Had above message(021500) passed to ComPhilSeaFron for info, as directed by Staff Duty Officer. This info will provide ComPhilSeaFron with material prior to the arrival of the BASSETT and the DUFILHO. Her dispatch 021342 gave instructions to her two ships to advise her of said info.
- 0510 - Air Base reports the two PBY's who were enroute to Guam and who were covering scene to assist if needed took off as follows: Voice Call K6502 took off at 0500K, and K8286 (Voice call) took off at 0502K.
- 0511 - Air Base reports PBY who was relieved as Playmate 3 has landed and Lt. LeBlanc makes the following info available: There were three ships on scene, and picking up of personnel was taking place as rapidly as possible. The two PBY's on water were okay, were planning take off in morning wind if not over 5 knots and swells are not bad. Planes in area during night dropped flares as needed. Radius of survivors was estimated as 10 miles, have tried to stay in groups of around 25, conditions of survivors are quite critical.
- 0520 - VPB-152 called giving departure time for the two PV who have voice calls of Gambler 5 and 6 took off from here for location at 0454K and 0514K.

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- 0625 - Air Base reports arrival of one PBY from scene of rescue. This PBY is one of the three sent out from Samar by ComPhilSeaFron. The other two are to arrive around 0800K. These planes have been in air 13 hours. After re-laying info to Staff Duty Officer, and Comdr. Anderson, called Air Base and told them to have men stand by (after eating chow) for further instructions.
- 0730 - PBY takes off for relief of Playmate 3. His call on way out is Playmate 7 but will assume Playmate 3 on relieving plane. This flight was one hour late as their original plane scheduled for this trip was grounded, and it was necessary to gas plane that came in at 0511K.
- 0733 - Second plane (PBY) from Samar pancaked for refuel and orders. Air Base says first plane landing at 0625 is ready for take off for return to scene. Told them to stand by for orders from Operations Officer.
- 1409 - VPB 23 Duty Officer called to report that no Dumbo will be on rescue mission in area of survivors. Playmate 7 is returning because of engine trouble and no other is available until morning.
- 1930 - Phoned Base Hospital No. 20. Following info passed: DOYLE ETA Orange Beach 040200K - 93 survivors aboard - 50 of which are stretcher cases. Dr. Haking, Duty Officer, said he would have 8 ambulances at Orange Beach at 040130K, each ambulance can accomodate 4 stretcher cases.
- 1946 - Phoned Port Director concerning arrangements made for handling survivors from DOYLE. LCT-773, ST-569, one LCVP (to handle lines at buoy), and as many LCM's as needed will be on hand. The Port Director's office has 102 stretchers on hand (Base No. 20 advised of this).
- 2055 - Air Base Duty Officer phoned reporting receipt of messages from CTU 75.1.3 asking that Catalinas be returned to Samar. Told Duty Officer to hold up delivery of these messages to the pilots of the Catalinas until I contacted Comdr. Anderson.
- 2135 - Comdr. Anderson directed that a message be sent to ComPhilSeaFron, info CTU 75.1.3 and VPB-23, stating one of Catalinas returned to Samar (left Peleliu at 031410K, arrived Samar at 031914K); The other 2 Catalinas are scheduled for searches tomorrow (4th) morning, to return Samar from searches (ref ComWesCarSubArea 031147).
- 2140 - Notified Air Base Duty Officer to send messages from CTU 75.1.3 to VPB-23.
- 2141 - Phoned VPB-23. Advised Duty Officer to send Catalinas on scheduled mission tomorrow. Planes to leave area when deemed expedient. To return Samar. To advise ComWesCarSubArea when planes plan to leave area. Also called attention of duty officer to ComWesCarSubArea 031147.

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2228 - Phoned Port Director Duty Officer that ambulance situation is as follows:
8 from Base 20; 3 from MAG 11; 1 from CASU 49; all to be at Orange Beach
to handle DOYLE survivors.

Situation as of 032300K:

DOYLE ETA Orange 040200; 93 survivors; 50 of which are stretcher cases;
12 ambulances to be on hand; Port Director has arranged for small craft,
mooring, and lights. Base 20 to receive patients; 102 stretchers at Orange
Beach; DOYLE to relieve PC-1600 as ComScreen.

REGISTER and RINGNESS ETA Orange 041200K. RINGNESS has 37 survivors and
CO of INDIANAPOLIS. REGISTER has 25 survivors.

ComWesCarSubArea has sent message (ref. 030705) to MADISON directing all
vessels with survivors to bring them to Peleliu.

BASSETT and RALPH TALBOT have survivors aboard, no info as yet as to their
ETA Peleliu.

TRANQUILLITY (AH 14) to report to Ulithi for routing to Peleliu for loading
care of, etc., of survivors, thence Guan.

HELM (DD 388) and AYLWIN (DD 355) proceeding from Ulithi to area.

COCKRELL (DE 366) arrives area 040630K.

Base 20, JOC, Air Base, and Port Director have been advised on: Info on
TRANQUILLIFY, ETA of DOYLE and survivors (including stretcher cases), ETA
of REGISTER and RINGNESS and survivors aboard.

2 PV's and 4 Dumbos scheduled depart in morning on searches - attention
invited to "Chronological flight" sheet.

4 August

0055 - Port Director relayed by phone to Operations Watch Officer message received
from DOYLE, requesting info as to when CO of that vessel could be of most
help to this command in making report. Asked Port Director to relay answer
requesting that he report these headquarters as convenient after 0800
morning 4th.

0059 - Received copy of voice 031434 from DOYLE to Port Director requesting cloth-
ing for 75 men and oxygen tent be available on first LCM alongside.
Checked and discovered Base 20 will furnish clothing and jury-rig oxygen
tent, the best available in the area.

0145 - Checked with Port Director to ascertain that all ambulances had been con-
tacted, and facilities ready.

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- 0230 - Port Director reported DOYLE at Orange and first LCM alongside.
- 0330 - Unloading and transfer of patients proceeding very smoothly, no mishaps, reports Beachmaster. Transfer to ambulances proceeding very efficiently.
- 0515 - Checks with Dumbo (VPB-23) and VPB-152 indicated following takeoff times for their mornings area coverage: PV's Gambler 17 and 15, off at 0445 and 0447 respectively; Dumbos as follows: Baker 74 (Playmate 4) off at 0438; OA-10 (Playmate 3) off at 0440; PEY6A (Playmate 1) off at 0450; and PEY6A (Playmate 2) off at 0455.
- 0630 - Received info through Base 20 that 93 patients had been transferred from the DOYLE into Base 20 Hospital, with no deaths in the process of transfer. The first patient was logged in at 0310, the last patient at 0430.
- 0645 - Discovered from Communications Watch Officer at JCC that our 030810 (today's search plan and instructions) had never been passed to AYLWIN and HELM DD's from Ulithi, as Comdr. Anderson had instructed. Told CWO to raise precedence to OP and deliver to these two ships as info addeds at top speed.
- 1000 - Checked with Port Director and Base 20 and find everything is in readiness for receiving patients who will arrive at 1200K.
- 1200 - Received report from Port Director that ETA for REGISTER and RINGNESS is 1230K. Informed Lt. Olds in order that Admiral and party would have correct ETA.
- 1530 - Called Base Hospital 20, final count on survivors was 37 from REGISTER, 39 from RINGNESS. Total 76. First group arrived at hospital at 1410K and last man was in at 1520K.
- 1630 - Port Director (Lt. Nelson) reports RINGNESS and REGISTER are having difficulty in fueling, and will not be able to depart at 2100K, will report ETD later.
- 1740 - Call from Group Operations: Playmate 4 returning from air sea rescue of survivors has one motor conked out, is out approximately 140 miles. A PEY has been sent out to escort him in, has an ETA of 1830K. Group is in contact with him.
- 1812 - Port Director called says latest info on fueling is that both RINGNESS (APD 100) and REGISTER (APD 92) are down to 15% capacity. It is planned to refuel both simultaneously from CHARLES JONES (XAK) with one connection to each. It will require an estimated five hours to fill to capacity. Best ETD now is 2400.
- 1830 - VPB-23 report that Playmate 4 arrived safely at 1825.

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- 6 -

/s/ H. M. Blake
Ens., USNR.

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- 2245 - Port Director called to say Capt. B. W. Hogan, S.M.O. and Capt. M. D. Mullen, CO of TRANQUILLITY (AH 14) will call on Capt. Oates about 0915K tomorrow. Then go to Base 20 Hospital for conference.
- 2317 - Duty Officer VPB-152 reports that Gambler 4 and Gambler 10 were taken off search for survivors at scene by SOPA and ordered to assist Birdog 3 on Anti-submarine search. Full report will be made in morning. Result of contact was negative.
- 2345 - Called Port Director to check on RINGNESS and REGISTER (APD's). Fueling is slow they do not yet have 75% capacity. Port Director has ordered them to depart as soon as they do have 75% capacity. This is in agreement with verbal orders passed to Port Director by Operations Watch Officer after talking with Commander Anderson at 2145.
- 5 August
- 0130 - REGISTER and RINGNESS underway at 050100K with 75% fuel on board (ref 041510).
- 0320 - Received message from MADISON (ref. 041101) recommending center of search be moved to position 11-30N 133-00E. Also MADISON requested fueling instructions. MADISON reported only 17% burnable fuel remaining. RALPH TALBOT (next senior) 40%. Other ships higher percentage.
- 0325 - Consulted staff duty officer concerning MADISON's message (041101). Staff duty officer directed OWO to phone Comdr. Anderson.
- 0330 - Phoned Comdr. Anderson. As a result of call, message 041823 sent, which directs MADISON to send vessels requiring fuel to Peleliu or Ulithi. MADISON directed to conduct search as outlined in ComWesCarSubArea 040720.
- 0430 - Phoned VPB-152: Gambler Leader (PV) off at 050425K; Gambler 9 (PV) off at 050428; Gambler 11 (PV) due off at 050900; Gambler 16 (PV) due off at 050900; Gambler 1 (PV) due off at 051330K; Gambler 5 (PV) due off at 051330K.
- 0435 - Phoned VPB-23: Dumbo - Playmate 1, off at 050421; Dumbo - Playmate 2 due off at 051000.
- 1300 - Received 042350 from MADISON recommending line be moved 75 miles to west. Our 050245 okayed plan.
- 1308 - Called VPB-152 requesting that they contact MADISON to discover if LCI-990 is operating with them. Also requested takeoff times on 2 PV's.
- 1310 - Called Dumbo to pass latest position to extra Dumbo flight leaving.
- 1410 - Received call from VPB-152 informing us that PV call Gambler 8 was off on special hop at 051400 K.

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9 538
/s/ H. M. Blake
Ens., USNR.

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- 1420 - Checked with Dumbo who had special Dumbo in air at 051335.
- 1640 - Called PV squadron to check on second PV's takeoff time. Was informed that second PV was unavailable but Gamblers 1, 5 and 8 were already on scene. Gave Maj. Chamberlain takeoff times on PV and Dumbo.
- 2130 - JCC does not have plan from COCKRELL, tried to raise them on voice, unable at this time. Comdr. Sweeny says attempt to raise them through AYLWIN, HELM or DUFILHO.

6 August

- 0120 - Received search plan from ALVIN C. COCKRELL in dispatch 050931. Notified Staff Duty Officer who gave instructions for preparing dispatch answer to COCKRELL.
- 0155 - Staff Duty Officer approved answer to COCKRELL. Message given to CWO for transmission.
- 0200 - Called VPB-23. Asked for two planes to fly search tomorrow. Duty Officer said he would call back after checking with CO.
- 0225 - Lt. Comdr. Namur of VPB-23 says they will have two Dumbos off between 0400 and 0430 but does not believe they will be able to supply relief for them.
- 0235 - Called VPB-152 who have copy of COCKRELL dispatch giving plan for search. Advise them that dumbos will fly first search mission.
- 0435 - Lt. Comdr. Namur called to report that Dumbos will not be able to get two planes in air for search. Army plane in at 2230 is in commission but has one crew only. Ulithi PBY632 in at 2230 not in commission. Peleliu PBY71 in at 1700 not in commission. Peleliu PBY62 magneto trouble, CASU working on it. Peleliu PBY74 came in on 4th on one engine, one not in commission.
- 0440 - Notified Staff Duty Officer who said Call VPB-152 and get 2 PV's to take over.
- 0445 - Called VPB-152 and duty officer says he will get two off as soon as possible.
- 0450 - Notified Lt. Comdr. Namur that PV's will take over. He says they will continue to work on dumbos and have them in commission as soon as possible.
- 0530 - Schedule for PV's on search given as: Gambler 10 off at 0615, return 1430; Gambler 3 off at 0615, return 1430.
- 0630 - Duty Officer VPB-152 reports that Gambler 3 was airborne 0616K and Gambler 10 at 0626K.

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- 1212 - Phoned VPB-152: Gambler 2 off at 1148K; Gambler 15 off at 1147K.
- 1420 - TRANQUILLITY departed Orange Beach at 061300K, speed 15 knots. Routed Apple - Skip, to Guam (ref. 060329). Ship embarked 166 survivors; 80 stretcher cases, 86 ambulatory cases. One survivor remained at hospital for further treatment.
- 1506 - Phoned VPB-152: Gambler 10 in at 1430K; Gambler 3 in at 1500K.
- 1530 - RINGNESS and REGISTER released from search; ETA Leyte 070700K.
- 1630 - Received COCKRELL's 060317: FRENCH (SOPA) and DOYLE remain on scene to dispose of bodies. COCKRELL due Orange at 070200K.
- 1945 - Received FRENCH's 060651. In Duty Officer's absence, attempted to contact Comdr. Anderson. Capt. Oates received call, and directed that OWO answer 060651 approving recommendation and arrange for 1 PV and 1 Dumbo to provide air support.
- 2015 - Called VPB-23 and arranged for one Dumbo to be at position 11-32N 132-21E at dawn tomorrow. Voice call is Playmate 1. A second Dumbo will be on alert status at 1030K to relieve first Dumbo if search not secured, and when so directed by this command.
- 2025 - Called VPB-152 and arranged for 1 PV (voice call Gambler 14) to be at FRENCH's position at dawn. A PV will be on alert status at 0930 to take off to relieve Gambler 14, if so directed by this command.
- 2050 - Sent out our 061101 approving FRENCH's suggestion and reporting voice calls of planes to be in area tomorrow, as directed by Chief of Staff. Note: To be on scene to relieve first flights, second Dumbo must leave here at 1030, second PV must leave at 0930. Have requested both VPB 23 and VPB 152 have first planes to scene request that FRENCH evaluate whether or not afternoon search should continue, to this command, if possible, by 0900, so that we know whether or not to send off second PV and Dumbo. Both planes will be ready to go, at 0930 and 1030 respectively, but will NOT take off unless so ordered by us. Info should be in our hands in time for Comdr. Anderson to make decision.

7 August

- 0430 - Received COCKRELL's message 061715. We did not have ComPhilSeaFron message 060815 to which he referred in his message, checked with JCC, who have message but can't break it. They have requested repeat but have not received it as yet. We have to have that message in order to know what COCKRELL is talking about. CWO asked them to hurry it up if possible, and make another try at breaking.

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- 0435 - VPB-23 reports Dumbo off to location of rescue of survivors with FRENCH and DOYLE. Call Playmate 1.
- 0540 - VPB-152 reports PV off for search with FRENCH and DOYLE. Voice call Gambler 14.
- 1006 - COCKRELL refueled and reporting to Orange Beach, says Port Director.
- 1710 - Called VPB-23 and VPB-152 to have each squadron have one plane over CECIL J. DOYLE (DE) and FRENCH (DE) for continued search tomorrow at dawn.
- 1855 - Lt. Comdr. Richardson of VPB-23 phoned: Only 2 Dumbos available. If 1 Dumbo is sent on mission to INDIANAPOLIS search and 1 Dumbo sent on new search, no Dumbos will be available to cover strikes.
- 1927 - Phoned VPB-23: 1 Dumbo to be sent to scene of old search (INDIANAPOLIS) to arrive by daylight.

8 August

- 0030 - Received FRENCH's 071232, and checked with Dumbo Squadron to insure that they had received it and would divert their morning coverage from INDIANAPOLIS position to new position designated in outgoing 070825.

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/s/ H. M. Blake
Ens., USNR.

Record of Flight Operations
in
Search for Survivors from USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA 35)
2 August 1945

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Plane</u>	<u>Pilot & Call</u>	<u>Takeoff Landing</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	PV-538	GWINN 19V258 Gambler 2	020852K 021517K	Searched 3.0 hours around 11-54N, 133-47E. Dropped 1 Mk. VII raft.
3	PBM	Unknown K9244	Unknown Unknown	Searched immediate area for 1.2 hours and dropped 2 or more rafts, type unknown.
	PV-570	ATTEBERRY 70V258 Gambler Ldr.	021242K 022132K	Searched area around 11-54N, 133-47E for 4.0 hours.
4	PBY-5A 46472	MARKS Playmate 2	021242K 021705K	Searched 10 mile square around 11-54N, 133-47E. Dropped 2 Mk. VII and 1 Mk. IV rafts. Landed at scene (scuttled next day).
5	*B-17 9496	CARLEY Jukebox	021550K 022124K	At scene for 1.5 hours. Dropped 1 air- borne lifeboat, type A-1.
6	*B-17 9488	MEYERS Jukebox	021725K 022137K	At scene for 0.5 hours. Dropped 17 Mk. VII rafts.
7	R4D	BAKER 41X158	021620K 022102K	At scene for 0.6 hours. Dropped 3 Mk. VII, 2 Mk. IV rafts, and 17 life jackets.
8	OA-10A 3914	ALCORN Playmate 4	021654K 030940K	Dropped 2 Mk. VII and 1 Mk. IV rafts. Landed on water at dusk. Took off 0730. Recovered 1 Survivor during night.
9	PBY-5A	LE BLANC Playmate 3	021725K 030525K	Had 5 Mk. VII and 2 Mk. IV rafts aboard. Over scene for 6.0 hours during night.
10	PV-537	LUNDBERG 37V258 Gambler 13	021749K 030145K	Over area for 4.0 hours.
11	#PBY-6A	KENNEDY Creeper Roger	Samar 030559K	Left Samar for search. Remained over scene for 5.5 hours during the night.
12	#PBY-6A	MC DONALD Creeper Sugar	Samar 030733K	Left Samar for search. Remained over scene for 6.5 hours during the night.
13	#PBY-6A	WATSON Creeper Tare	Samar 030746K	Left Samar for search. Remained over scene for 6.5 hrs. during the night. Left for Samar next day due mechanical failure.

*Transient U.S. Army planes dispatched from Peleliu, where they had landed on
routine flight.

#Rescue planes furnished by Philippine Sea Frontier to assist in search.

Record of Flight Operations
in
Search for Survivors from USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA 35)
3 August 1945

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Plane</u>	<u>Pilot & Call</u>	<u>Takeoff Landing</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
	PBY-5A 46537	LANDUS Playmate 6	030105K 031225K	Searched 25 square mile area around 11-45N, 133-35E for 6.8 hours.
2	PV-538	WICMORE Gambler 5	030454K 031302K	Searched area 50 miles SSW of 11-45N, 133-35E for 4.0 hours.
	PV-533	CRITES Gambler 6	030514K 031312K	Searched area around 11-45N, 133-35E for 4.0 hours.
4	**PBY	CARR K6502	030500K Guam	Searched and assisted rescue in nearby area for 5.0 hours, landing at Guam.
5	**PBY	OTEY K8286	030502K Guam	Searched and assisted rescue in nearby area for 5.0 hours, landing at Guam.
6	PBY-5A 46462	RICKETTS Playmate 3	030727K 031530K	Searched a 20x30 mile area for 4.0 hours from positions 12-00N, 133-20E; and 12-20N, 132-50E.
7	PV-542	KEPHART Gambler 4	030838K 031612K	Searched area around 11-11N, 133-16E for 4.0 hours.
8	PV-536	HUNTER Gambler 1	030819K 031637K	Searched area around 11-11N, 133-16E for 4.0 hours.
9	*B-17	CARLEY A9496	031218K Tacloban	Briefed to search 100 miles north of area and 100 miles west of area to limit of endurance, landing at Tacloban.
10	*B-17	MEYERS A9488	031219K Tacloban	Briefed to search 100 miles north of area and 100 miles west of area to limit of endurance, landing at Tacloban.
11	PV-539	JEFFRIES Gambler 2	031227K 032003K	Searched 40 mile moving square from 11-11N, 133-16E on course 180° for 4.2 hours with ship.
12	PV-418	COLEY Hepcat 1	031240K 032015K	Searched 40 mile moving square from 11-11N, 133-16E on course 180° for 4.2 hours with ship.
13	PBY-5A	MYKLAND 2V700 Playmate 1	Ulithi 032146K	Briefed to search an expanding square search, origin 11-45N, 133-35E, beginning outside the center ten mile square. Searched for 1 hour before dark.

*U.S. Army planes utilized to extent of endurance in connection with routine flight Peleliu to Tacloban.

**Transient planes passing through Peleliu - requested to assist.

Record of Flight Operations
in
Search for Survivors from USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA 35)
4 August 1945

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Plane</u>	<u>Pilot & Call</u>	<u>Takeoff Landing</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	OA-10A 33914	ALCORN Playmate 3	040437K 041158K	Searched for 3.0 hours in sector 3 of search plan for the day.
2	PBY-5A 46474	TURNER Playmate 4	040437K 041825K	Searched for 8.0 hours in sector 4 of search plan for the day.
3	PBY-6A	KENNEDY Playmate 1	040453K Samar	Searched for approximately 7.0 hours in sector 1 of search plan, landing at Samar.
4	PBY-6A	MacDONALD Playmate 2	040455K Samar	Searched for approximately 7.0 hours in sector 2 of search plan, landing at Samar.
5	PV-573	GWINN Gambler 17	040446K 041231K	Searched for 4.0 hours a 15 mile square around 11-42N, 133-20E.
6	PV-571	BURTON Gambler 15	040446K 041232K	Searched area within radius of 35 miles of 11-42N, 133-20E for 4.0 hours.
7	PBY-5A 46632	MARMON Playmate 5	040640K 041843K	Relieved Playmate 3 in sector 3; continued search for 6.7 hours.
8	PBY-5A 46469	WALLACE Playmate 6	040625K 041911K	Searched area from 11-43N to 12-35N; 132-35E to 133-20E at 4-mile interval for 7.0 hours.
9	PV-533	GREENEBAUM Gambler 16	040848K 041727K	Searched 30-mile square from 11-42N, 133-20E for 4.0 hours.
10	PV-408	COLBENSON Gambler 7	040849K 041725K	Searched 40-mile square around 11-37N, 133-30E for 4.0 hours.
11	PV-542	KEPHART Gambler 4	041330K 042108K	Searched area around Birdog 3 for submarine for 4.0 hours.
12	PV-535	ROYER Gambler 10	041334K 042113K	Searched within ten-mile circle of Birdog 3 for 4.0 hours.

Record of Flight Operations
in
Search for Survivors from USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA 35)
5 August 1945

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Plane</u>	<u>Pilot & Call</u>	<u>Takeoff Landing</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	PBY-5A 46537	GILLOU Playmate 1	050420K 051622K	Searched near area 11-27N, 132-40E for 7.5 hours. Bodies and debris found.
	PV-570	ATTEBERRY Gambler Ldr.	050430K 051258K	Swept area ahead of ships for 4.5 hours.
3	PV-538	LUNDBERG Gambler 9	050431K 051246K	Swept area ahead of ships, also searched 50 miles west for 5.0 hours. Discovered debris.
4	PV-541	SCHULTE Gambler 11	050854K 051745K	Searched an area 20 miles from ship sweep at 11-50N, 133-10E for 5.0 hours.
5	PV-408	GREENEBAUM Gambler 16	050917K 051827K	Searched an area 50 miles south and west of ships for 5.5 hours.
6	OA-10A 3914	ALCORN Playmate 2	050954K 052146K	Searched an area near 11-25N, 132-45E for 7.0 hours. Found many bodies.
7	PV-536	HUNTER Gambler 1	051322K 052120K	Searched an area 50 miles west of scouting line starting at 11-44N, 133-16E for 4.5 hours.
8	PV-534	WIGMORE Gambler 5	051344K 052130K	Searched two sweeps of 50 miles NW and NE one sweep of 100 miles from ships for 4.0 hours.
9	PV-538	CRITES Gambler 8	051400K 052043K	Searched 50 miles SW of scouting line (10-15N, 132-40E) for 3.5 hours. Rafts located.
10	PBY-5A 46632	MARMON Playmate 3	051343K 052139K	Searched an area 100 miles west of 12-28N, 133-35E for 2.5 hours. Found scattered debris.

Record of Flight Operations
in
Search for Survivors from USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA 35)
6 August 1945

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Plane</u>	<u>Pilot & Call</u>	<u>Takeoff Landing</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	PV-535	ROYER Gambler 10	060626K 061427K	Started search at 11-10N, 132-30E, covered area north and south between 11-00 and 11-40N for 4.2 hours.
2	PV-573	BROWN Gambler 3	060616K 061501K	Searched area for 15 miles around 11-30N, 132-30E for 4.8 hours.
3	PV-534	JEFFRIES Gambler 2	061148K 062027K	Searched area for 10 miles around 11-32N, 132-21E for 5.0 hours.
4	PV-571	BURTON Gambler 15	061147K 062050K	Searched an area 10x20 miles west and south of 11-19N, 132-19E for 5.8 hours.

Record of Flight Operations
in
Search for Survivors from USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA 35)
7 August 1945

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Plane</u>	<u>Pilot & Call</u>	<u>Takeoff Landing</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	OA-10A 3914	ALCORN Playmate 1	070428K 071532K	Searched area bounded by 11-30N, 132-25E; 11-22N, 131-22E; 11-04N, 131-26E; 11-15N, 132-24E for 6.0 hours.
2	PV-537	DRYDEN Gambler 14	070540K 071315K	Searched 20 miles to port and ahead of ships on course 070° at 11-30N, 131-41E for 3.5 hours.
3	PV-535	GREENEBAUM Gambler 16	070949K 071648K	Covered ships at 11-10N, 132-20E; scouted for distance of 40 miles, bearing 225° from ships for 3.8 hours.
4	PBY-5A 46537	MARKS Playmate 3	070955K 071950K	Searched near 11-02N, 132-19E; also searched for 20 miles on 120° from line 11-02N, 133-19E and 10-45N, 131-55E at ½ mile interval for 5.0 hours.
5	PV-534	COLBENSON Gambler 7	071312K 071945K	Ships at 11-11N, 132-12E, made two sweeps on 290° from ships to 20 miles; one sweep on 300° for 20 miles; and one sweep on 180° for 20 miles which took 3.2 hours.

Record of Flight Operations
in
Search for Survivors from USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA 35)
8 August 1945

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Plane</u>	<u>Pilot & Call</u>	<u>Takeoff Landing</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	OA-10A 3914	ALCORN Playmate 2	080427K 081622K	Made parallel sweeps at $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile interval covering area bounded by 11-25N, 135-52E; 11-17N, 136-13E; 12-32N, 136-18E; 12-26N, 136-38E for 6.5 hours. Debris found.
2	PV-536	HUNTER Gambler 1	080437K 081307K	Searched sector from ship of 070° for 25 miles to 180° for 20 miles and return to ship. Began search at 11-50N, 135-40E and finished at 12-05N, 136-00E for 4.5 hours.
3	PV-538	LUNDBERG Gambler 9	080848K 081746K	Continued above search until 1210 K. Made parallel sweeps across bow for 20 miles on either side of ship for 4.6 hours. Mine sighted at 12-07N, 135-36E.
4	PBY-5A 46462	TURNER Playmate 3	081011K 081858K	On station at 11-25N, 135-52E; found ships at 12-00N, 136-38E. Made parallel sweeps at $2\frac{1}{2}$ mile interval covering area bounded by 12-05N, 136-30E; 11-50N, 137-10E; 11-30N, 137-00E; 11-38N, 136-20E, for 3.3 hrs
5	PV-553	ZAMMAN Gambler 12	081309K 081927K	Made parallel search across bow at 4 mile interval for 20 miles on either side starting at 12-04N, 135-20E and departing at 11-40N, 135-16E for 2.2 hours. Only debris found.
6	PBY-5A 46537	ACHBERGER Playmate 1	081127K 081525K	Searched area around 08-20N, 134-10E for 0.5 hours. Found only oil slick and debris

NOTE: After arrival of surface ships in the area all flights worked directly with the surface ships. The ships expressed excellent cooperation of the aircraft on the search.

On the first day, 1 10-man boat, 32 Mk. VII rafts, 6 Mk. IV rafts and 21 life jackets were dropped with a total raft capacity of 258 men. During the search 63 flights were dispatched with a total of 260.1 hours spent in the actual search area.