

2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON

SQUADRON HISTORY

1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944 incl.

On the 1 October 1944, "B" Flight was transferred from APO 565 to APO 159. This move was completed by air. On the 4 October 1944 the advance echelon for the flights at APO 920 departed by air for their new station at APO 926. This party consisted of 2 Officers and 13 Enlisted Men. The balance of personnel at APO 920 joined this group on the 16 October 1944. The advance group had already cleared an area and had started putting up tent frames so there was no hitch in the flying schedule. This area was located approximately a half mile from Pitoe Strip which was to be used by the ships of this organization.

The first combat casualties experienced by this squadron occurred on the 26 October 1944. One plane, type OA-10A, No. 44-33877, departed on a routine courier mission to the Philippines. Enemy action prevented the completion of this mission and caused the plane to exhaust its fuel supply. This plane was forced to crash land in the open sea 30 minutes North by North-West of Morotai at 1970. The members of the crew who were lost are as follows: Captain Robert D. McKenzie, ASN 0-333534, Flight Surgeon; First Lieutenant Fredric F. Hoss Jr., ASN 0-739785, Pilot; Staff Sergeant Theodore Mikosh, ASN 15041231, Engineer; Sergeant Fredrick W. Fritz, ASN 36816456, Radio Operator; Sergeant Anthony J. Sadonis, ASN 33318939, Radar Operator. Also Second Lieutenant Nielson, the courier was lost in this Crash. Survivors were Second Lieutenant Richard F. Finn, ASN 0-814276, Co-Pilot; and Second Lieutenant Alvin H. Haas, ASN 0-744129, Navigator. These two men were picked up at 2345 by a PT Boat.

During this period the squadron lost 19 officers and gained 1 enlisted man. This left the squadron strength stand at 57 officers and 226 enlisted men.

A total of 184 missions totaling 1,127:10 hours were flown during this period and the rescues were made as follows:

1 October - picked up fighter pilot in Wasilile Bay area, picked up 10 men while covering Balikpapan strike.

- 3 October - rescued 1 fighter pilot near Waigeo Island area.
- 4 October - rescued 2 fighter pilots while covering Ambon strikes.
- 7 October - rescue 1 P-38 pilot at Salababoa Island.
rescued 1 P-40 pilot at Zeben Island.
- 12 October - rescued 1 P-40 pilot at Misool Island.
- 14 October - rescued 3 P-47 pilots near Paloe Bay.
- 16 October - evacuated 12 Dutch natives from Waigeo Island.
- 20 October - rescued P-47 pilot in Menipa Island area.
- 22 October - rescued A-20 pilot at Amboaina Bay under fire from
single engine plane.
rescued 5 P-47 pilots from among small un-named islands.
in Waigeo Island sector.
- 27 October - rescued 10 members of B-24 crew while covering Mindanao
strike.
rescued 3 Japs on Misool Island. Mistaked for Australian
pilots.