

HEADQUARTERS  
5230th COMPOSITE RESCUE GROUP  
APO 719

WSF/trp

13 December 1944

AG 201 - Barnes, George A. (Off)  
X200.6

SUBJECT: Recommendation for the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

TO : Commanding General, 13th Air Force, APO 719.

1. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and USAFFE Regulation 10-50, it is recommended that:

<u>GEORGE A. BARNES</u>	<u>1st Lieutenant</u>	<u>0739704</u>
(Name)	(Rank)	(ASN)

2d Emergency Rescue Squadron

Pilot

(Assignment and Aeronautical rating)

be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism displayed in the performance of a rescue operation on 16 September 1944.

Home address: Maricora, California  
Nearest relative: Mrs Johnette Barnes (Wife)  
Box 781  
Maricora, California

2. Lt Barnes was co-pilot of an OA-10A whose mission was to support as an air-sea rescue unit, United States forces in their landing operations on Morotai Island in the Halmaheras. Lt Barnes was proceeding to relieve another plane which had been patrolling the area. Upon reaching his orbit point, Lt Barnes received instructions from the Navy control carrier to assist two PT boats in a rescue operation. He proceeded to Lolobata Cape in order to effect this rescue. When Lt Barnes arrived at the rescue point, he discovered the situation to be as follows: one fighter pilot had been shot down, a second F6F fighter pilot had been covering this downed officer. The officer was aflost in the water in a life raft and was being subjected to enemy fire from shore, from barges, and from two enemy fighters who were repeatedly making passes at him. The airborne F6F fighter was attempting to drive away the enemy fighter planes but in the process was himself shot down. When Lt Barnes arrived on the scene, the airborne F6F pilot had been shot down and the pilot was floating in the water. He was within 200 yards of enemy positions on shore. On

Ltr, 5230th Composite Rescue Group, APO 719, dtd 13 December 1944, subj:  
"Recommendation for the Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross", Cont'd.

the other side of the downed pilot there were two Jap barges and the pilot was subjected to the cross fire from both enemy positions. The enemy fighter planes at this time had left.

Lt Barnes despite the fact that he was operating without friendly fighter cover and in the face of the intense fire from both anti-aircraft and machine guns from both shore positions and barges, skillfully landed his PBV within 100 feet of the downed pilot. The engines were not cut because of the need of a quick take-off. Throughout the entire rescue operation from the moment of the approach for landing until take-off Lt Barnes was subjected to fierce enemy fire, shell bursts and machine guns, which came dangerously close. His plane was holed in many places.

Upon landing, the first fighter pilot in the raft was found to be dead but the second fighter pilot who was in the water was successfully taken aboard and rescued.

By his supreme courage and instantaneous actions in the face of most extreme danger, by his determination and excellent flying skill, Lt Barnes was instrumental in the success of the mission. His actions in risking his life to save that of another under the direct fire of enemy guns is in keeping with the highest tradition of the Air Forces.

3. Lt Barnes has recommendations pending for the following:  
Ltr, 2d Emergency Rescue Squadron, recommendation for award of the Air Medal, dtd 1 Nov 44., Ltr, 2d Emergency Rescue Squadron, recommendation for award of the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal, dtd 1 Dec 44. (Action Pending).

4. I certify that no portion of this service or action has been used as the basis for any previous recommendation for the award of a decoration nor will it be used as the basis of a future award.

5. The services of Lt Barnes subsequent to this service or action have been entirely honorable.

6. During the period covered by this recommendation the recommended individual was an officer in the armed forces of the United States.

7. The undersigned has personal knowledge of the above facts; facts stated are substantiated by certified official flight records of this organization and such other records personally examined by the undersigned.

8. All other crew members of Lt Yagla's crew have been recommended for awards.

WALLACE S. FORD,  
Lt. Col., Air Corps,  
Commanding.