

GENERAL ORDERS)

N o. 2042)

HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST AIR FORCES
APO 925 - 28 September 1945

UNIT CITATIONS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9396 (Section I, Bulletin 22, WD, 1943), superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (Section III, Bulletin 2, WD 1942), and of Section IV, Circular No. 333, WD, 1943, the following units are cited by the Commanding General, Far East Air Forces:

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2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON

The 2nd Emergency Rescue Squadron is cited for outstanding performance of duty from 1 April 1945 to 15 April 1945 in conducting extensive search, evacuation, and ferry missions throughout the vast area comprising the Celebes and Molucca Islands in the Netherlands East Indies, the Southern Philippines, and the China coast. Flying through adverse weather in low-speed, vulnerable, and practically unarmed aircraft, frequently without fighter escort, crews of the squadron landed in dangerously heavy seas, often under direct enemy shore fire, to pick up flyers in distress. From a rescue station which the squadron had previously established at Labo, Mindanao, deep within enemy territory, they furnished several thousand gallons of gasoline, stocks of arms and ammunition, food, medical and other supplies to guerilla forces, who were thereby enabled to maintain and expand their activities and to provide valuable information and material aid to American ground forces in that area. The effectiveness of the operations of the squadron depended vitally upon the ground personnel who devoted long hours of determined and tireless effort toward keeping all aircraft in excellent condition for flight, despite frequent damage from enemy action and from water landings and take-offs. In 7 hazardous open sea rescues in this 15-day period of intense and heightened naval and air activities, crews of the squadron saved 23 lives, while the activities of the rescue station on Mindanao enabled 53 men to be evacuated from enemy territory. The exceptional courage, skill, and selfless devotion to duty of the personnel of the 2nd Emergency Rescue Squadron contributed directly to the success of the Borneo and Southern Philippines operations.

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A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

Albert J. Ciardello
ALBERT J. CIARDELLO,
Capt., Air Corps.

/s/ GEORGE C. KENNEY
/t/ GEORGE C. KENNEY
General, United States
Army
Commanding.