

2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON

SQUADRON HISTORY

1 August 1944 to 31 August 1944, inclusive

On the 2 August 1944, the destination of flight "C" was changed from APO 322 to APO 713 #1 and the advance echelon of this flight departed from APO 503. The balance of personnel left at APO 503 were not fully disposed of until the 27 August 1944, at which time the rear echelon of Flight "C" departed. All members of this Squadron were transported by air. Due to the lack of aircraft in the immediate area this movement required several weeks to be completed.

At APO 920, operations were in full swing. On the 10 August 1944, Major Dwight F. Lewis, ASN 0-373823, enroute from the United States, rejoined the organization and resumed command. Planes operating from station were flying on strikes over the Halmahera Island's, the Celebes and the Philippines. One hundred and six (106) missions totaling Eight Hundred and thirty-seven (837) hours were flown by the six (6) planes assigned to the two (2) flight's at this station. The average length of time required for a mission was eight (8) hours. No combat losses were experienced during this period. A roster of Air Crews and assigned aircraft is attached. On the 19 August 1944, Major Lewis, commanding officer, was placed on Temporary Duty and Captain Benjamin B. Mathis, ASN 0-412178, assumed command of the organization. On the 22 August 1944 1st Lt. Eugene J. Regan, ASN 0-576017, Adjutant, was relieved from assignment to this organization and 1st Lt. Kenneth O. Eddins, ASN 0-576988, was appointed Adjutant.

On the ground, building the squadron area and improving The conditions for work on the line became a full time job. During

the day when the ships were flying, all of the men worked with a will towards having the best area at this station. In the evening when the ships had returned from their missions, maintenance work was completed. Due to the lack of OA-10A aircraft in this area, parts that were worn or defective had to be requisitioned from the Navy or replaced by sending the ship to the depot in Australia. Ships that were sent to the depot were a loss for from two (2) to six (6) weeks and placed an added burden on the ships left flying.

On the 23 August 1944, this Squadron was relieved from assignment to the Fifth Air Force and assigned to the V Bomber Command per Paragraph 2, General Order #420, dated 23 August 1944, Headquarters, Fifth Air Force. This order was classified "Secret" and is not available, at the present time, for transmittal with this history.

The total gain for this period was thirty-three (33) Enlisted Men and twenty-one Officers. This gain was due mainly to the transfer of personnel from the Air-Sea Rescue organization that was already in operation in this area. Four (4) aircraft were also assigned through this transfer bringing the total number of aircraft in this squadron to sixteen (16).