

HEADQUARTERS 5230TH RESCUE GROUP
APO 719

9 December 1944.

AG 201 - Yagla, Jarvis T. (O)
X 200.6

SUBJECT: Recommendation for the award of the Silver Star.

TO : Commanding General, Far East Air Forces.
(Thru: Commanding General, Thirteenth 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:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------|
| JARVIS T. YAGLA | 1st Lieutenant | 0-739871 |
| (Name) | (Rank) | (ASN) |

2nd Emergency Rescue Squadron

Flight Leader, Pilot

(Assignment and Aeronautical rating)

be awarded the Silver Star for heroism displayed in the performance of a rescue operation on 16 September 1944.

HOME ADDRESS: Waterloo, Iowa.

Nearest relative: Mrs. Jarvis T. Yagla (Wife)
222 Randall St.,
Waterloo, Iowa.

2. Lt Yagla was 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 Yagla was proceeding to relieve another plane which had been patrolling the area. Upon reaching his orbit point, Lt Yagla 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 Yagla 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 afloat in the water without 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 Yagla 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 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 Yagla 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 landing his PBV within 100 feet of the down pilot. Lt Yagla did not cut his engines because of the need of a quick takeoff. Throughout the entire rescue operation from the moment of the approach for landing until takeoff Lt Yagla 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 Yagla effected this rescue. His actions in risking his life to save that of another under the direct fire of enemy guns is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Air Forces.

3. Lt Yagla has been awarded or has recommendations pending for the following:

| Record of Awards | | | | | |
|---|------|------|-----|----|----|
| Medal | G.O. | Date | Sec | Pg | Hq |
| Ltr, 2nd Emergency Rescue Sq., recommendation for award of the Air Medal, dated 1 Nov 1944. 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 Yagla 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.

GERARD F. WIJNTJES,
Captain, Air Corps,
Commanding.