

HEADQUARTERS  
2D EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON  
APO 719-2

20 October 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

TO : Commanding General, Thirteenth Air Force, APO 719  
Attn: Historical Section

Transmitted herewith is history for this organization for month of  
September 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

DONALD R. MOBERG  
1st Lt., Air Corps  
Asst Adjutant.

6 Incls:  
#1-Outline Facts  
#2-Narrative  
#3-Mission Report-Rescues  
#4-GO#2042, FEAF  
#5-Table of Rescues  
#6-Table of Locations

2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON  
APO 719-2

SQUADRON HISTORY MONTH SEPTEMBER 1945

OUTLINE FACTS

a. Organization of Unit:

- (1) Original destination, or change in designation of unit: as previously reported.
- (2) Mission, or alteration of mission: as previously reported with this addition: Unit Cessation of hostilities with the enemy, the mission of the Squadron primarily became that of patrol, search, and rescues.
- (3) Date and place of activation of unit: as previously reported.
- (4) Sources from which personnel are drawn, original cadre and fillers: as previously reported.
- (5) Activation, assignment, attachment, transfer, reorganization of unit, changes caused by T/O, etc: as previously reported.
- (6) Strength, personnel:

	FLYING		GROUND	
	<u>EM</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>O</u>
(a) At beginning of period:	138	87	231	10
(b) Net increase or decrease (Decrease)-	12	4	-121	6
(c) At end of period:	126	83	110	4
(d) Total (EM/O):	236 enlisted men, and 87 officers.			

(7) Strength, Airplanes:

(a) No. at beginning of period by types:	<u>OA-10</u>	<u>C-47</u>	<u>B-25</u>	<u>P-38</u>	<u>B-17</u>
	15	4	1	1	9
(b) Net increase or decrease during period by types: (Decrease)				-1	-1
1. Through combat by types:			None		
2. On ground through enemy action:			None		
3. Through accident, wear, age, or transfers:			None		
(c) Number at end of period by types:	15	4	1	0	0

- (8) Names of key personnel, and changes during period: as previously reported, with this change:  
CAPT. JAMES L. JARNAGIN, 0437618, assumed command of Squadron on 16 September 1945 vice Maj. Gerard F. Wientjes, 0374107, relieved.

b. Command relationships, including changes with:

- (1) Next higher command: as previously reported.

2ND EMERG RESCUE SQ - HISTORY SEPTEMBER 1945, Outline Facts (contd)

- (2) Subordinate units: none.
  - (3) Other services, such as Navy or Marine Corps: none.
- c. Resume of movements:
- (1) Date of arrival at and departure from each station: see supporting document (Breakdown of Squadron)
  - (2) As previously reported with this change:  
Headquarters moved from Morotai to Clark Field, Luzon in order to carry out assigned duties from a more centrally located place.
- d. Names of campaigns (or battles) participated in: as previously reported.
- e. Chief military missions, sorties, engagements, with dates, places and name of commander participating: see narrative and supporting documents.
- f. Losses in action (killed) Lt Hannigan, Lt. Bliss F/O Steen, S/Sgt Grajeda, Sgts Kupferschmid, Gerbracht, Eldridge, Paratore and Dennison.
- g. Awards and decorations to members of unit: see supporting documents.

S E C R E T

2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON

APO 719-2

SQUADRON HISTORY

1 September 1945 to 30 September 1945, inclusive

A rumor that was first heard at Morotai in May 1945 by the men of the 2nd Emergency Rescue Squadron finally became a reality in September 1945 when on September 17th, Headquarters was moved to Clark Field, Luzon. For all but 50 men (who were left as a rear echelon at Morotai) the move meant the long awaited jump from "jungle living "to" civilized living." Over 15 months in the jungles from May 29, 1944 to September 17, 1945 made the original members of the Squadron wonder if they would know how to react to life among civilians. Of course, it was known that no New York city would be found on Luzon but we felt life in the Philippines would take us one step nearer to our homes in the U.S.A.

But before our departure tragedy struck our Squadron. On September 1st a B-17 crew consisting of Lt Hannigan, Lt Bliss, F/O Steen, S/Sgt Grajeda, Sgt Kupferschmid, Sgt Gerbracht, Sgt Eldridge, Sgt Paratore, and Sgt Dennison took off from Morotai on an operational flight to Merauke, New Guinea. The plane never reached its destination. It crashed near Okaba, Dutch New Guinea and not one of the crew of nine members escaped death. Just what caused the crash will always remain a mystery. The natives of the area recovered 8 of the 9 bodies and burial services conducted by the natives were held for the men.

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2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON, HISTORY SEPTEMBER 1945 NARATIVE (Cont)

On September 15th 25 enlisted men with over 85 points, departed on the first leg of the long return trip to the good ole U.S.A. A majority of these men had been with the Squadron when it landed at Oro Bay, New Guinea on May 29, 1944.

On September 16th Captain James L. Jarnagin became Squadron Commander, relieving Major Gerard F. Wientjes , who was returning to U.S.A. Captain Jarnagin came to the organization from Headquarters, Thirteenth Air Force.

On 22 September we lost 35 more enlisted men who had 80 or more points. They were transferred to a Replacement Depot and from there would head for their homes in U.S.A.

And then, on 27 September, they took our enlisted men with 70 or more points and our Officers with over 85 points. This meant a loss of 59 EM and 8 Officers. Soon it seemed, all of the original members of the Squadron would be saying good-bye to the SWPA, for the announcement of the War Department that men with 60 or more points would become eligible for release on November 1st meant that every one of the original members would be in that transfer.

Replacements began to arrive during the later part of the month and operations of the Squadron proceeded as usual. Missions were being flown out of Clark Field in full force by the end of the month. Each department was in full swing and "open for Business" as usual.

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2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON, HISTORY SEPTEMBER 1945,  
NARATIVE (CONTD)

By the end of the month our area at Clark Field had begun to take shape. The big Mess Hall was just about completed and it promised to be the best the Squadron had seen since its foreign service beginning at Oro Bay. Plans were being formulated for daily improvements of the area and good showers and latrines were taking shape. All this, in addition to good food, promised a bright future for the Organization. Yes, as the month drew to a close all in the Squadron could well say that September had been an eventful month. Those who wondered at Morotai about fitting into the Clark Field pictures had appeared on the scene and had readily become a part of the picture. The 2nd Emergency Rescue Squadron was at the end of the month, fully ready to carry on its ASSIGNED MISSION.

*Donald R. Moberg*  
Supervised by 1st Lt DONALD R. MOBERG

*Robert E. Roult*  
Prepared by S Sgt Robert E Roult

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2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON  
Office of the Operations Officer  
APO 719-2

30 September 1945

SUBJECT: Mission Report for 10 September 1945

TO: : A-2, Thirteenth Air Force, APO 719

10 September 1945

PLAYMATE 61: OA-10A #3928, Pilot, Lt. Guess; Co-Pilot, Lt  
Widlersheim; Nav., Lt Keller; Eng., Sgt Chieca;  
Radio Op, Sgt Settinert

Mission: Search for C-47 reported ditching at Talaud Is.  
(03°45' E-126°50'E).

1040: Take off, Morotai.

1200: Began search of Talaud Is.

1230: Sighted flare and located survivors at 04°07N-125°47'E.

1400: Took aboard twenty-nine (29) survivors. Jettisoned gas  
and equipment in order to takeoff. After four (4)  
attempts got off water and departed Talaud Is. for Morotai

1630: Landed at Morotai.

SURVIVORS: CREW: C-47 #3455

1st Lt R J Macore,	0887147,	382d Troop Carrier Wing	APO 74
2nd Lt Merkirck,	02038227	"	"
Cpl Wall,	18117827	"	"
Pfc Stiller,	19140632	"	"
Pfc Cassandra,	39202900	"	"

PASSENGERS:

Sgt Carr	19151992
Sgt Jordan	38468700
Pvt Gurtsinger	18037451
Pvt Peterson	02078784
Lt Chalaan	08076606
Lt Hamilton	0838137
Lt Leztehn	08077741
Sgt Rolston	17112014
Sgt Brown	11002249
Maj Elenger	0412923
Lt Bear	0562489
Sgt Cadera	38460792

PASSENGERS:

Sgt Thomas	32418436
Sgt Critebhom	19172523
Sgt Mosa	19200084
F/O Wilson	T7949
Sgt Klopotomaski	33398080
F/O Graber	T68127
Sgt Thomas	33634191
S/Sgt Sullivan	18014201
Pvt Alanis	39399078
Capt Mitchel	064333
Sgt Bass	32340961
Lt Flavion	01546606

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GENERAL ORDERS )  
                  :  
                  NO. 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 1, Bulletin 22, WD, 1943), as superseding Executive Order No. 9075 (Section 111, Bulletin 2, WD 1942), and section IV, Circular No. 333, WD, 1943, the following units are cited by the Commanding General, Far East Air Forces:

\* \* \* \* \*

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 ferrying missions through 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 cover, 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 has 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 able to maintain and expand their activities and to provide valuable information and material aid to American ground forces, who were 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 activity, 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

A CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY

KENNETH O. EDDINS, Capt., AC

DISTRIBUTION: "G"

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