

SQ-RESC-1-HI

Feb 45

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1ST EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON

UNIT HISTORY:

FEBRUARY 1945

NOV 1945

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6325-1328

1 February 1945 : Total strength as of this date, 91 EM and 34 Officers.

Plenty of activity today. Three missions resulting in the rescue of four men. At 1025 Lt Milburn and his crew took off on a hot mission with a fix given as 42°24' N 16°50' E where a B-24 was in trouble. Arriving at the fix, sea marker was sighted with a dinghy and four men in it. Sea was ideal for a landing and permission was given to land. The B-24 was wrecked in the ditching operation; the four men were the only survivors as five more were killed in the crash and another drowned. Take off was without incident.

The men picked up were all from 461st Bomb Group, 767 Bomb Squadron, and were Corporals Robert C Neal, Wallace D Olsen, Carl B Peterson, and William F Nourse.

Lt Yunick and crew took off at 1130 in a B-17 for patrol after 6 hours flying time returned to base without sighting anything but usual debris.

Colonel Pardue and crew flew a PBY mission for over four hours; no unusual sightings or incidents.

Lt Millard awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for a rescue effected 26 December 1944. With an extremely rough sea Lt Millard picked up a P-57 pilot and made a take off with seven foot swells to hinder him.

2 February 1945

Morris Herman, one of the Headquarters' cooks was promoted to PFC today.

No missions or patrols.

3 February 1945

Very quiet today with no missions or patrols.

4 February 1945

Another dull day operationally--nothing stirring.

5 February 1945

Two patrols today; one B-17 with Lt Cyphers and his crew and Major Wells and his PBY crew. Neither mission resulting in anything unusual.

6 February 1945

Sergeant McDonough to hospital today with some difficulty with his eye.

Lt Hicks and crew out on a short mission with no sightings.

7 February 1945

Three missions today; Lt Milburn received a fix at 42 06 N 15 09 E for a B-17 in distress. After for more than five hours of search, nothing was sighted.

8 February 1945

Lt Milburn in a PB4Y with his crew and Lt Whedbee in a B-17 with his crewmen flew a search for a P-51 pilot. Lt Whedbee spotted the man in Mae West and dropped smoke floats. The PB4Y sighted the floats and landed to pick the survivors up. A fishing boat had arrived as the floats were dropped and picked the man up, but he was then transferred to the PB4Y. After he was taken aboard, another fix was given the B-17 and PB4Y and as the survivor wasn't injured, the two aircraft proceeded to the new fix. Arriving at this second fix one man in a Mae West was spotted by Lt Whedbee and smoke flares were dropped, and an attempt was made to drop life rafts from the bomb bay but this was not successful. A boat came by and picked the survivor up. Although a second man was reported to be near the scene of the second rescue, he could not be located after a careful search of the area.

Sgt Wargo back on duty today after a short stay at the 61st Station hospital.

Two navigators reported in today; due to the transfer of the two flights we have been short of navigators and these men were welcome. AAF/MTO today placed Lts Cecil W Harris and Harry H Moore on temporary duty with us until some replacements arrive from the United States.

9 February 1945

No activity today. Still no word of any activities of our crews in Malta. No word from Pilots in Basablanca. Rumor still persists that we will have new aircraft when the pilots return from there.

10 February 1945

Very quiet.

11 February 1945

One mission today. Lt Milburn and PB4Y crew took off at 1015, ran into rain and bad weather which hindered the search. Had three fixes but only debris could be found at the first two and the aircraft was forced to return before search could be made in the last fix given.

12 February 1945

Lincoln's Birthday. Colonel Pardue flew a mission in search of a P-51 pilot. Arriving at the fix an area filled with debris was found but the body was completely submerged.

13 February 1945

Pfc Morris Herman and Sergeant Stephen J Femino to hospital in Foggia.

Three missions today. Lts Cyphers and Whedbee and their crews went on patrol in the B-17s with no unusual happenings. Major Wells and his PB4Y crew on patrol with no sightings.

14 February 1945

Col Pardue and his crew went on a search mission lasting four and a half hours.

but no sightings were made. Lt Yunick and his B-17 crew were on a patrol with no unusual events.

Word was received that droppable lifeboats for our unit were in Naples and tomorrow our B-17s start for Naples to be fitted. It is rumored that upon completion the B-17s and the crews will leave us.

15 February 1945

It is now known that our crews were at Malta to perform airsea rescue duty for the 'Big Three'. During the time our crews were in Malta, President Roosevelt, Mr Churchill, and Russia's Joseph Stalin met at Yalta for the purpose of discussing procedure after VE day. All during this stay our crews had no aircraft to use in case any emergency did arise. However, Lt Millard and Lt Onesi and Ward did manage to pick up our old craft at Port Lyautey and went to Athens, Greece, to stand by there for any eventually.

The crews started to come back from Malta today; first to arrive were Lt Colnon Flight Officer Priest, Sergeants Lasater and Pettie. All looked well fed and had nothing but praise for the British who took care of them during the stay on the much bombed Island.

Pvt Donald G Schirtz was promoted to PFC today.

Two patrols today on B-17 with Lt Hicks and his crew, and a PBV with Major Wells at the controls. Neither craft had any excitement.

16 February 1945

Two patrols today; one PBV with Lt Milburn and a B-17 crew with Lt Whedbee in charge. Weather was very bad most of the time and the visibility was one-half mile.

17 February 1945

More men in from Malta today, leaving just a few there now. Three missing planes reported today--giving us three missions. Two B-17's on patrol with no events. Lt Hicks and Lt Yunick with their crews did the honors. Col Pardue in PBV on a mission also, arriving at the fix a man in a parachute was sighted submerged completely. A second fix was given the Colonel but no sightings were made.

18 February 1945

The last men from Malta arrived. Lt Moore left for his own unit; Captain Jack Haskins left for the 7th Replacement Depot for 30 days detached service in the States.

Lt Millard and his crew out on a patrol today in a Catalina with no unusual events.

19 February 1945

Sgt Carter to hospital for observation. Lt Milburn on a PBV patrol with no sightings.

More men to Falconara to 287th Wing, RAF, They were:

Capt Thomas M Ruckman	Sgt Boyer
2nd Lt Kaminski	Sgt Corkett
F/O Prieste	Sgt Miccile
2nd Lt Onesi	Sgt Posterli
S Sgt P A Lasater	Cpl Beil
S Sgt J L Brooks	Cpl Lenn
	Cpl Martin

This will be the nucleus for a new operations flight to be organized. The flight will operate from Falconara six miles from Ancona.

#### 20 February 1945

A letter was received today reorganizing the First Emergency Rescue Squadron and organizing the Seventh Emergency Rescue Squadron. This unit will retain its original name-designation and will consist of two operational flights plus headquarters with a total of 51 officers and 174 enlisted men. The two flights which left here in January will become the cadre for the 7th E.R.S.

The reorganization will be under TO/E 1-987 which was revised 28 November 1944. The Headquarters Flights will consist of 9 officers and 20 enlisted men; "A" and "B" flights will have 21 officers and 77 enlisted men each.

Flight Officer Kaminski became a shavetail today. His date of rank is effective the 15th of February.

Two missions today; one in a B-17 with Lt Whedbee in charge took off at 0650 for an area near some island off Yugoslavia. At 1130 a man was sighted with parachutes nearby. A part of a B-24 was also seen. Lt Whedbee notified the sector control and asked for an HSL to be sent to pick the man up. His B-17 dropped 'K' rations and medical supplies as the man seemed to be wounded. Fuel was low and the aircraft left to refuel; after taking gas on the B-17 started back and overtook the HSL and led the boat to the island circling it until the men were all picked up safely.

Lt Millard and crew flew a four hour patrol with no results.

#### 21 February 1945

Sgt Donald Godwin went to the hospital today with a bad appendix.

On a patrol lasting five and a half hours Lt Eisman and crew returned without sighting anything.

#### 22 February 1945

Washington's Birthday. Sgts Leland Carter and Severino Femino back on duty after a brief stay in the hospital.

HEADQUARTERS FLIGHT

Lt Col	Littleton J. Pardue	Squadron Commander
Major	Waldo A. Regnier	Squadron Surgeon
Major	Robert M. Wells	Operations Officer
Captain	Philip H. Dwyer	Sq Engineering Officer
Captain	Jack D. Ogle	Sq Mess, Supply and Transportation O.
Captain	Walter W. Searfoss	Sq Adjutant
1st Lt.	J. P. HART	Sq Communications O.
1st Lt.	William B. Welling, Jr.	Sq Navigator
1st Sgt.	Manuel J. Loeffler	
M Sgt.	Edwin Moore	
M Sgt	Culver A. Wightman	
S Sgt	Willie J. Bourque	
S Sgt	Rolland D. Connell	
S Sgt	Ralph W. Currier	
S Sgt	John J. Fay	
S Sgt	Robert R. Humphreys	
Sgt	Richard R. Heilman	
Sgt	Joseph F. Miccile	
Sgt	Clifford J. Muir	
Sgt	Carroll E. Naves	
Cpl	Charles W. Cooksey	
Cpl	Olin D. Eberlin	
Cpl	George L. Finney	
Cpl	Jerry A. Melcher	
Pfc	Morris Herman	
Pvt	Eliot Gambet	

FLIGHT "A"

Captain	Thomas M. Ruckman	Flight Commander
1st Lt.	Truman L. Baldrige	Flight Mess, Supply & Transportation O.
1st Lt.	Redmond W. Colnon	Navigator
1st Lt.	Charles D. Millard	Pilot
1st Lt.	John H. Mork	Operations & Intel. O.
1st Lt.	James B. Stansifer, Jr.	Flight Engineering O.
2nd Lt.	Edward J. Kaminski	Pilot
2nd Lt.	James W. Onesi	Navigator
F/O	Daniel B. Priest II	Pilot

T Sgt	Dan C. Brown
T Sgt	Allen B. Cox
S Sgt	Theodore J. Barlund
S Sgt	Marshall F. Fagg, Jr.
S Sgt	Paul A. Lasater
S Sgt	Kenneth E. Pettie
S Sgt	Elmer C. Rhodes

FLIGHT "A" (CONT'D)

Sgt	Raymond E. Boyer
Sgt	Robert B. Corkett
Sgt	Louis A. Cyr
Sgt	Donald H. Godwin
Sgt	H Craig Hutchinson
Sgt	Joseph Kansa
Sgt	Mort Kiser
Sgt	Henry McDonough
Sgt	Geno G. Posterli
Cpl	Edward C. Costello
Cpl	Edwin R. Lenn
Cpl	Arlo C. Martin
Cpl	Joseph C.C.E. Messier
Cpl	George H. Wehrlin
Pfc	Albert E. Weber
Pvt	Pasquale Festinese
Pvt	Howey B. McMullen

FLIGHT "B"

Captain	Walter B. Milburn, Jr.	Flight Commander
Captain	Jack T. Haskins	Flight Surgeon
1st Lt.	Charles F. Eisman, Jr.	Pilot
2nd Lt.	Frederick C. Lanz	Pilot
2nd Lt.	Charles Luger	Navigator
2nd Lt.	Joseph D. Murphy	Pilot
2nd Lt.	David F. Shiphorst	Pilot

M Sgt	Paul H. Kutz
T Sgt	Gordon R. Schultz
T Sgt	Gaither E. White
S Sgt	Jess L. Brooks
S Sgt	Stanley F. Giza
S Sgt	Charles H. Gorrell
S Sgt	Pat J. Hughes
S Sgt	Gus H. Kieschnick
S Sgt	Joseph F. Tessa
S Sgt	John Wargo Jr.
S Sgt	Allen J. Wort
Sgt	Arthur M. Beason
Sgt	Paul E. Bradley
Sgt	Emerson K. Mitchell
Sgt	Robert A. Nelson
Sgt	John J. O'Brien
Sgt	Billy H. Utley
Sgt	Gordon H. Wortz
Cpl	Marion F. Beil
Cpl	George D. Bragg
Cpl	Winn D. Currie
Cpl	John A. Russell
Cpl	John F. Schneider

FLIGHT "B" (CON'D)

Cpl	Salvador Villarreal
Pfc	Tydes W. Alley, Sr.
Pfc	James M. Foster
Pfc	Donald G. Schirtz
Pfc	Antonio A. Teixeira



Finally a new crew arrived as replacements, bringing a new PBY. These are the first replacements we have had in five months--the new men will be assigned to "B" Flight and are:

2nd Lt	FREDERICK C LANZ	01285959
2nd Lt	DAVID F SHIPHORST	0818957
2nd Lt	CHARLES LUGER	0736876
Sgt	Emerson K Mitchell	16044624
Sgt	Robert A Nelson	13156174
Cpl	George D Bragg	15171282

23 February 1945

Personnel are beginning to arrive under the new reorganization program. All personnel have been requisitioned through the 12th Air Force and the first men to arrive are Private Marion H Graskeqicz and Pvt John B Moore--both replacements from the United States.

Colonel Pardue and crew on patrol today for four hours with no results.

24 February 1945

Lt Milburn and crew on patrol today; spotted a crashed B-24 but turned out to be an old wreck. No other events.

Today the first mission from our detachment at Falcanara was flown. Captain Ruckman and crew flew an afternoon mission. Landing was made in the dark.

General Charles Meyers, Colonel Woodruff and Major Harrison today visited us for the purpose of presenting awards. Among those decorated personally by the General were: Lt William B Welling Jr., with Distinguished Flying Cross and Legion of Merit, Lt Charles F Eisman with Distinguished Flying Cross and Silver Star, Sergeants Dan C Brown and Billy H Utley received Soldier's Medals, Major Robert M Wells and Lt Redmond W Cobnon the Air Medal, Sergeants John J O'Brien and Elmer C Rhodes the Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal. The squadron stood the first Formal formation since leaving the States and everything looked good. Everyone was well satisfied.

25 February 1945

Plenty of change in personnel between flights; quite a few men from "B" flight have been assigned to the new "A" flight. Squadron Order No. 15 cs has assigned members of this organization to their flights as follows:

Two missions today; one from Ancona and one from Foggia. Lt Kaminski and crew flew a four hour patrol with no sightings but belly tanks. Lt Eisman and his crew flew the "B" flight patrol and he drew a zero for his efforts too.

26 February 1945

Three missions today. Lt Milburn and his crew flew a patrol from Foggia without incident. Captain Ruckman flew two missions from Falconara; on the first a mine was spotted floating free and was reported to the sector control. On the second hop a P-51 pilot was reported in distress. Upon reaching the fix Captain Ruckman located seven men on an island with a dinghy and red flag. The aircraft sent a code for the men to come out into the bay in the dinghy but the men wandered into the island hills. It could not be determined if they were Germans or Yugoslavian partisans.

Another new PBV aircraft arrived, flown in from Africa by an ATC crew. We have two new aircraft now. These new planes are white, in contrast to the speckled blue that we originally expected. Also, these new planes are Canadian-Vickers. There is a slight variation in construction and as they are shipped from Canada to the States, modification is made before they become operational. The modifications are made at Rome, New York, Depot. These new planes also have a new-type radar which is reported to far surpass the radar we have used in the past.

27 February 1945

Another new PBV and crew in today; arriving from Naples. The new crew consists of:

2nd Lt JACKSON S DUNN	0484223
2nd Lt GEORGE W FOX	0829452
F/O JAMES H GOODLET	TL29413
Sgt Severino T Andreatta	38103254
Sgt Walter J Davitt	16036827
Sgt Albert E Feliksa	16151494

Slowly but surely we are getting enough planes to operate efficiently. While actual pick-ups have fallen off, the slow steady patrols are becoming an everyday affair when the weather permits.

Private Donald G Schirtz put on his first stripe today.

Two patrols today; Colonel Pardue flying a three hour and twenty-five minute search with his crew and no sightings. At Falconara Captain Ruckman hit the blue for four hours and twenty minutes with a thick hazy sky--no incidents.

28 February 1945

Lt Mork back from temporary duty in the States today. He flew from New York to Naples in a C-54 and came to Foggia the next day in our B-25.

Private Carl McClintock reported in as a cook.

Two patrols today. Lt Milburn flew the "B" flight hop while Lt Kaminski and his crew pulled the five hour job from "A" flight.