

SQ-RESC-3-H1
DECEMBER 1947

3RD EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON
DECEMBER 1947

P.R.C.

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MICROFILMED

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DESIGNATION SHEET

Fifth Air Force
3rd Emergency Rescue Squadron
APO 328

UNIT HISTORY

For the month of December 1947

The security classification has been checked.

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00067249

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Squadron History
Section A

Key Personnel Report

Lt Col W. H. VERNON.....Commanding
Capt A.O. UNGSTAD.....Adjutant
Major E. A. McDONALD.....Operations
Capt J. B. CHESSINGTON.....Engineering
Major E. OLSON.....Supply
Capt A. L. BLONDIN.....Boat Section

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Squadron History
Section A-1

During December three navigators were transferred to the 1st Air Division on Okinawa. Lt William S. Roegels and Lt George M. Delk were transferred from Flight C-2, Lt Frank Doben was transferred from Flight B.

Major Earl B. Olson was transferred to the Squadron, arriving at Yokota from Kimpo, Korea on the 1st of December. Major Olson is taking up his new duties as supply officer for the Squadron, and his knowledge and experience should be of much help in smoothing out the supply problem.

The Squadron was assigned a number of enlisted men during the month of December, in turn the Squadron assigned them to the various flights.

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Squadron History
Section B

STRENGTH REPORT

BEGINNING OF PERIOD
1 Dec 1947

	<u>Flying Personnel</u>	<u>Non-Rated Personnel</u>	<u>Total</u>
Officers	17	1	18
Enlisted Men	33	59	92
Total	50	60	110

END OF PERIOD
31 Dec 1947

	<u>Flying Personnel</u>	<u>Non-Rated Personnel</u>	<u>Total</u>
Officers	15	1	16
Enlisted Men	30	59	89
Total	45	60	105

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*Restricted*Squadron History
Section C

TYPE AND NUMBER ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT

BEGINNING OF PERIOD

1 Dec 1947

B-17.....12

R-6.....2

L-5.....8

END OF PERIOD

31 Dec 1947

B-17.....11

R-6.....2

L-5.....8

Squadron History
Section D

BOATS ASSIGNED, SIZE AND TYPE

BEGINNING OF PERIOD

1 Dec 1947

Type	II	III	IV	V	Total
Size	85'	63'	42'	38'	
Assigned	6	9	0	0	15

END OF PERIOD

31 Dec 1947

Type	II	III	IV	V	Total
Size	85'	63'	42'	38'	
Assigned	6	9	0	0	15

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Section E

Operations during December started with the search on 1st and 2nd of December for a C-47, reported missing enroute from Haneda to Itami. All available rescue craft in the Tokyo-Itami area were called into the search, and 32 P-51s entered the search, along with several A-26 type aircraft. Wreckage was spotted on the southeast slope of Mt. Fuji at about the 6000' level, after a Japanese reported seeing an aircraft crash there the afternoon of 30 November. A ground party from the 1st Cavalry reached the wreckage on the afternoon of 3 December and reported both pilots were killed in the crash. Extreme turbulence was encountered by the search aircraft in the immediate vicinity of Mt. Fuji, and it is believed that this turbulence was a contributing factor to the accident.

The boat section made practice searches for a life raft dropped in Tokyo Bay, and much training was accomplished in this manner.

An alert crew made up of volunteers from Headquarters and Flight A took over the Kimpo alert duty from 23 December 1947 to 2 January 1948, allowing the regular Kimpo crews to be with their families for the holidays.

The R-6 helicopter, flown by Lt Charles Cover, was used on 23 Dec 47 to deliver Santa Claus to anxiously awaiting children at parties held at Yokota and Johnson Fields.

On 23 December, Yokota Air Base was subjected to a General's Inspection by Major General K. B. Wolfe and Staff. The results of the inspection of the Squadron were generally satisfactory.

On 6 December crews were dispatched to search for a missing Russian boat. The search was carried on for three (3) days but results were negative.

On 7 December 1947, ERB-17 43-39363 was damaged beyond repair when the hydraulic pressure failed while the aircraft was being taxied. This aircraft was assigned to Flight B, and a replacement was made with an aircraft from Flight C-1.

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Squadron History
Section F

SUMMARY OF TRAINING

During the month of December, emphasis was placed on completion of requirements of AAF Reg 130-2. Crews received training in code, blinker and the 50 cal machine gun.

On the job training continued in all departments, and the arrival in December of several new men is expected to place further emphasis on this type of training. Much of this type of training is needed, due to the impending return of some of our more experienced personnel to the ZI.

SPECIFIC PROBLEMS

No Specific Problems for the month of December were reported.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF ORGANIZATION

Flight B furnished 9 men per week for base interior guard. No other additional duties were assigned.

Section I

INFORMATION ON RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND STATION LIFE

Recreational facilities remained about the same during the month of December with the exception of golf, which suffered due to the cold weather. The Yokota basketball team showed promise of a successful season, the Squadron being represented on the team by Lt Charles Cover.

Several families arrived during December, but as housing is not available, they are temporarily quartered in rest hotels. It is hoped that the housing situation will be relieved in the near future, completion of the first ninety (90) units in the Yokota Housing area scheduled for the 31st of March 1948.

Vehicles for recreational facilities are very few, and no betterment of the situation is expected.

The Christmas Holidays were the occasion for many parties and social events. A Christmas party, complete with tree and trimmings, ice cream and cake was served and a fine time had by all, especially by the younger dependents.

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