

1 December 1944:

Total strength 168 enlisted men and 47 officers. No missions or patrols today; very quiet in all flights.

2 December 1944:

At B Flight, Lt Burns and his crew flew a mission in hazy weather with high swells on the sea. Survivors were picked up by K-48; while being taken aboard the vessel the Catalina searched the area for additional survivors then returned to base in Foggia.

3 December 1944:

While Lt Nonnenmacher was on a routine patrol at fix given by sector control to investigate an aircraft on the water, complete search failed to turn up any trace of the craft.

4 December 1944:

Sergeant Trinca returned from Port Lyautey today where he had been on temporary duty to have his aircraft repaired.

5 December 1944:

Three men have been upped a grade today by orders published 1 December 44, promoting Cpls Wildhack and James A Edwards, and Edgar A Diel to Sergeant. Pfc Robert D Narber, our new medical technician, was promoted to Corporal.

Operationally this was another quiet day.

6 December 1944:

B Flight on patrol today with Lt Burn's drew doing the work. Twenty-six more Air Medals and clusters were awarded members of the flying crews today.

7 December 1944:

A crew headed by Lt Harris flew a flight in search of a C-47. The weather was very bad with a zero ceiling, forcing the crew back to Cuers after a three hour unsuccessful search.

8 December 1944:

Great news today. This unit was awarded the Presidential Citation for the operations carried on during the invasion of southern France. GO 263, Hq 12 AF carried the great news.

Have a new name, but not a new man, in the Squadron. Sgt Barnard now carries the name of Sgt Currier, by court decree

Sgt Doyle D Jones, one of the few men to receive a 'bust' in the organization today became Private Doyle D Jones as the result of a little misconduct.

10 December 1944:

B Flight had two jobs today. One patrol and one 'hot' mission. Lt Millard pulled the four hour patrol and Lt Lasher and crew flew the search, picking up one of a B-24 crew. The first rescue in a long time. The rescued man was 2nd Lt Thomas W Borden, 454 Bomb Group, 738 Bomb Squadron. The weather was bad and the survivor wasn't in too good shape and the rescue was made under difficult conditions. However, everything worked out all right.

Sgt Gentile was finally released from the hospital and is once more a member in good standing in this organization. He is at present staying at Foggia until he can join his flight in Cuers.

Three missions today; one from Ancona, one from Foggia, and the third from Cuers. Lt Lasher and crew flew a mission from Ancona to locate a Walrus forced down on the water. Found the plane but couldn't land on account of rough water so circled the craft until a destroyer reached the fix and picked up the crew of the stricken plane. Lt Millard flew a four hour patrol with his crew from Foggia with no unusual incidents. Lt Burns and crew flew a search from France to Corsica for a missing C-47, but nothing was sighted.

11 December 1944:

Lt Harris was an unexpected visitor to Headquarters from A Flight. The Lieutenant started out on a search for a four-engine French plane and weather became bad--making it impossible to return to France, so the PBY landed at Ajaccio where the French plane was also landed due to the weather.

Lt Lasher and crew searched for a B-17 two miles north of Pianosa, with no results.

12 December 1944:

No missions or patrols today. Sgt Naves returned from the hospital today.

In a very high wind and rough weather Lt Millard and crew flew a parallel search with no results.

13 December 1944:

Nine more Air Medals and clusters were awarded to the
members of the unit today

14 December 1944:

The first Silver Star award made in this organization was made today when Lt Eisman received orders of that award from Hq 12 AF.

Moving Day today. Headquarters and C Flight started this trek to new base. Headquarters and C Flight left Ajaccio for Bastia by motor convoy; 22 enlisted men and one officer. Captain Searfoss and S Sgt Willie J Bourque were in charge of the Water Echelon. Upon arriving at Bastia the equipment and men boarded the U. S. Navy LST 140.

15 December 1944:

Water Echelon departed Bastia for Naples today.

One mission in B Flight; Lt Millard and crew flew a five hour search, but nothing except wreckage was found.

16 December 1944:

Water Echelon of headquarters and C flights arrived at Naples, Italy, today. All personnel were sent to 1st Staging Area. 12 AFSC informed Capt Searfoss that orders had been changed during the water voyage, and that all equipment would be stored--all personnel to assemble at Foggia Main for re-deployment.

Captain Ruckman flew a false mission today. Controller gave the crew wrong fix and after five hours of search were informed a convoy had picked up the survivors twelve miles from the search area.

12 AF GO's announced eight more Air Medals and clusters. Sgts White and Wortz are now men with nine clusters each--tops in this organization.

17 December 1944:

At Foggia, Major Wells and Lt Lasher each had a mission. The Major searched for a B-17 crew and Lt Lasher looked for a P-38 pilot--both returned without rescues.

The ground echelon of Headquarters and C flights are still in Naples, awaiting motor convoy to Foggia.

18 December 1944:

Lt Jarman of C Flight, the advance party sent to Ancona a few days ago to set up operations for that flight at Falconara, picked up a P-47 pilot, Lt Harold W West of 87 Fighter Squadron, 79 Fighter Group.

18 December 1944:

Lt Walker and his crew out from Foggia Main on a search for a P-38 pilot, but no sightings were made.

19 December 1944:

Ground Echelon of Hq and C Flight departed Naples for Foggia, arriving at 1700 hours. Movement was made in good time without incident.

Lt Walker sneaked into the island of Bruc and brought ten men from a B-24 crew out safely. The bomber crew was forced down in Yugoslavia--all were injured but able to be brought back to Italy.

The men were:

- 1st Lt Henry F Curry
- 1st Lt Hollis Sisk
- 2nd Lt Edward D Jenkins
- 2nd Lt Howard K Athey
- S Sgt Joseph E Weber
- S Sgt Alvan G Flodine
- S Sgt George C Holum
- S Sgt Charles W McCann
- S Sgt Thomas W Wynne
- S Sgt E. Miller

All were from the 757 Bomb Sq of the 304 Bomb Group.

Lt Murray out from Falconara on a mission looking for a Spitfire pilot, but no sighting.

20 December 1944:

The flight echelon of Hq and C flights arrived in Foggia today. Only Major Regnier and Lt Hart with twenty enlisted men remain in Ajaccio now. Officially we are all stationed at Foggia, Italy.

Capt Ruckman flew on a mission today with his crew through plenty of bad weather. After a four hour search, the hunt was called off on account of that bad weather.

21 December 1944:

Rumors came true today--four B-17's and crews were assigned to the organization. For the present time these crews will operate under control of Headquarters flight. The new crew members are:

- 1st Lt John G Whedbee
- 2nd Lt James T Borsch
- 2nd Lt John R Cyphers
- 2nd Lt Eugene R Fox
- 2nd Lt Hugh W Graham

2nd Lt William Hicks
2nd Lt Stanley J Rajnisz
2nd Lt Clifford Reckling
2nd Lt James W Walker
2nd Lt Robert R Ward
2nd Lt Henry M Yunick
2nd Lt Robert A Zollinger
T Sgt Marshall B Cochran
T Sgt Jack L Rindt
S Sgt David R Bisgyer
S Sgt Harold J Blough
S Sgt Mack R Byrd
S Sgt Louis B Coronado, Jr
S Sgt Philip M Dunham
S Sgt Cecil L Flint
S Sgt Roy A Speier
Sgt Robert E Anderson
Sgt Eugene J Baumchen
Sgt Louis W Burpee
Sgt Leland R Carter
Sgt Harry Creathbaum
Sgt Stephen J Femino
Sgt Joseph M Gaubard
Sgt William E Hammer
Sgt John E Hawkins
Sgt Jean M Logan
Sgt Franklin M Schall
Sgt Francis W Seiler
Sgt Robert G Stienstra
Sgt Ernest J Stonecipher
Sgt Willie R Whitehead

All these men came to us from the 15th Air Force.

Captain Haskins was the recipient of the Silver Star today, for gallant devotion to duty during the episode of 16 Nov 1944.

Sgt Dan C Brown was awarded the Soldier's Medal for his courageous acts on that same mission.

22 December 1944:

Sgt McMullen, who was injured while the unit was moving was admitted to the 61st Station Hospital.

23 December 1944:

Flight A received orders today to move from Cuers, France, to Foggia, Italy.

Lt Walker out on a mission with his crew today from Foggia Main sighted part of an aircraft but no life--called HSL to sink remainder of the floating craft and returned to base.

24 December 1944:

Water echelon of A Flight departed from France today, aboard an American Liberty Ship after working all night to pack and load.

Operationally very dull today.

25 December 1944:

Christmas. Plenty of mail last night and today. The Post office is really coming through in good time with Christmas packages.

Swell dinner--even though the organization is all mixed up due to the new consolidated plans of having all flights stationed here at Foggia.

Lt Lasher and crew out on a seven hour search, sighting nothing but a belly tank.

Lt Millard also out for four hours and not in thing in sight. Returned to base after four hours.

Pvts Gagliardo, Cosimo J, and Eliot Gambet joined the organization today from the 87th Fighter Wing. Gagliardo assigned to Mess Section of C Flight, and Gambet to headquarter

26 December 1944:

One rescue and one assist today. Lt Millard picked up Lt William H Bunn--a P-51 pilot at 43 31'N 14 58'E. Lt Bunn member of the 307th Fighter Sq, 305th Fighter Group.

Captain Ruckman flew a mission and spotted a fighter pilot in a dinghy. The water was rough and a landing could not be made. A signal was sent and a surface craft was dispatched to pick the downed flyer up. Lt Millard flew the third mission of the day without any results.

27 December 1944:

Capt Ruckman and Lt Lasher each flew one mission today. Neither pilot sighted anything however.

28 December 1944:

Two more men rotated. Lt Charles O Cummins, navigator of C Flight, and T Sgt Louis Birard, crew chief of B Flight--they departed for Naples where they will go by boat back to the States.

Capt Ruckman out on a fix today without incident after six hours in the air--and returned to base.

29 December 1944:

Lt Lasher out on a mission for a ditched B-24 crew, and spotted one survivor and an HSL. The HSL picked the downed airman up, upon reaching of destination of the crew of the PBV, whereupon the Catalina and crew returned to base.

30 December 1944: .

No missions, no patrols, no rescues.

31 December 1944:

Last day of the year. In less than nine months of operations we have rescued 244 men from the sea.

No missions or patrols today.

All members are speculating as to whether the war will end in 1945. Everyone who is free tonight is all set to see the New Year in.