

1 November 1944:

Total strength of the organization today is 168 enlisted men and 43 officers.

Plenty of promotions among the enlisted men today, with 'Shack stripes' going to the following: Sgts Charles A Dill, Jack Feinsinger, Raymond H Fry, Jess L Brooks, Louis A Hendrix, Pat J Hughes, and Allen Wort. Men who became three stripers are Cpls Norman K Babcock, Harold a Bols, Charles Denton, Charles W Richardson, and Gordon H Wortz. Pvts Hoyle B Birkhead and Warren F Berg got their first stripe.

Lt Mork on patrol with his crew. Not much excietment-- made his landing at the base at 1755.

Colonel Pardue and his crew received a fix, and taking off at 1350 upon arriving at the fix point the ceiling was low (700 ft) and darkness prevailed so that the search had to be abandoned. Seven more Air Medal Clusters were awarded to our personnel today.

2 November 1944:

With light rains Captain Ruckman and his crew took off for some survivors of a B-24 that bailed out the day before. The positions were very indefinite and after seven hours of searching the mission was closed.

Sgt Billy H Utley received a Soldier's Medal today for his part of a rescue on 12 Sept 1944. This is the first of the higher awards given in this unit.

3 November 1944:

No missions or patrols today. Under GO 222, Hq 12 AF, forty-five more Air Medals and clusters were awarded to flying personnel of this squadron.

One patrol in B Flight today. Captain Ruckman and his crew flew a four and one-half hour patrol with no results.

Lt Walker and his A Flight crew flew a mission which had four fixes for position, but nothing was seen except a dinghy which was empty. The crew, now on temporary with B Flight, sank the dinghy by machine gun fire after searching thoroughly.

4 November 1944:

No missions or patrols. Lt Eisman received a Distinguished Flying Cross for his participation of the mission of 12 Sept 44. Lt Haynie for missions on the 26 and 29 August 1944, Lt Mork for his work as pilot on the mission of 22 Sept 44. Lt Milburn

received a cluster to his Distinguished Flying Cross for outstanding work on 26 and 29 August 1944 which brought pilots who had bailed out in enemy territory from behind enemy lines.

Lt Busby at B Flight flew an alert patrol with his crew, with nothing eventful occurring.

5 November 1944:

Captain Gray, Flight Commander of A Flight, answered an early morning call with his crew, to a fix at 42 50'N 07 30'E. After searching for over three hours they returned to Cuers, having seen nothing but debris.

B Flight's 'big shot operator' in the Squadron continues in status. One patrol and one mission, neither of which resulted in a rescue, were made.

Lt Walker flew a fix mission with his crew and all sighted was a life raft from a ship. No human life was visible.

Captain Ruckman and crew flew a routine mission with no events.

6 November 1944:

Lt Bilsland and crew flew a mission in which life raft was spotted and upon reaching the fix no life could be found. After five hours in the air he returned to the base.

Two missions in B Flight today. Neither one materialized; at 1045 Lt Walker and crew took off and the mission was cancelled after six hours in the air. At 1150 Lt Millard and crew took off and in an hour this mission was cancelled also.

7 November 1944:

Lt Bilsland and his crew again pulled the mission for A Flight, taking off on a fix given as 43 18'N 05 11'E. In thirty minutes they reached the area where wreckage was found but no survivors. A surface vessel was probing the wreckage so the PBV left the area to the boat.

Two patrols in B Flight. Lt Busby and crew took off at 1310 and Lt Mork at 1400. Neither one spotted any unusual incidents.

8 November 1944:

The first replacement crews reported yesterday to this outfit. Two crews trained at A/S OTU at Keesler Field in Mississippi. The new men who reported are:

2nd Lt George G Harris
2nd Lt Henry P Petek
2ndLt Shearen D Elebash
2nd Lt James W Onesi
F/O Edward J Kaminski
F/O Daniel B Priest III
Sgt Raymond E Boyer
Sgt Robert B Corke#t
Cpl Joseph P Kraft Jr
Cpl Marion F Beil
Cpl Arlo C Martin
Pvt George J Shiprak

Some of these new men were ordered to their permanent duties. The men assigned to B Flight Are Lt Onesi, F/O's Kaminski and Priest, Sgt Boyer, Sgt Corke#t and Cpl Martin. They left Ajaccio, Corsica for Foggia, Italy at 1300.

9 November 1944:

Lts Harris, Petek and Elebash, with Cpls Kraft and Beil and Pvt Shiprak left at 1400 today for assignment with A Flight in Cuers, France.

10 November 1944:

No patrols, missions or unusual events today.

11 November 1944:

Armistice Day. "A" Flight sent a group of officers to participate in a parade in Cuers, France. After the parade honor was paid to French and American personnel buried in the local cemetery. After much speech making, the Mayor of Cuers invited the officers to a party in the evening.

T Sgt Collins and his 11th AAF Emergency Rescue Boat Crew received his orders for transfer. They are going to Bastia and then to AAF/MTO.

B Flight had two missions today. Captain Ruckman and Lt Mork with their crews each pulled a trip in the Catalinas. Capt Ruckman had no sighting and Lt Mork sighted a parachute with a dead flyer in the harness. Lt Mork reported his finding to sector control and returned to Foggia Main.

12 November 1944:

Only activity again in B Flight. Lt Busby flew three and a half hours with his crew on patrol mission, and Captain Ruckman had one fix mission although no sightings were made. Both pilots returned to the base for supper.

13 November 1944:

Lt Millard and his crew flew a six hour mission in search
- 2 - 12 No sightings were made

14 November 1944:

Things are slowing down. The weather has been bad and today a very high wind was blowing with plenty of rain. No missions or patrols today.

15 November 1944:

Lt Mork and T Sgt Allen B Cox received their orders from Hq 12 AF to return to the United States for 300 days detached service. They visited Ajaccio to straighten up the records and then left for the 7th Replacement Depot from which they will depart for good old U.S.A.

B Flight had one patrol today, flown by Lt Burns and crew. The weather was very stormy and an extremely high wind prevailed. No sightings were made.

More decorations today. Sixty-two Air Medals and clusters to various men and officers of the flying crews. Lt Millard received his seventh Oak Leaf Cluster--the highest number of clusters any one man has yet received in this unit to date.

16 November 1944:

Sgt Gentile, our first cook of A Flight, has been transferred to the 26th General Hospital. Sgt Gentile has been ill with jaundice and treatment has been taken; he will likely return to our unit as soon as the Medics say he is fit for duty.

Lt Busby and crew flew a patrol from noon until 1800 hours with nothing materializing.

Lt Eisman and crew lost their plane today and are floating around somewhere in the Adriatic tonight. Lt Eisman took off at 1135 for a tail gunner who bailed out of a B-17. Upon sighting the survivor preparations were made to make a sea landing, then the enemy ack-ack opened up and the 'Duck' was hit by flack. The landing was accomplished, but the plane started to sink immediately. At daylight tomorrow attempts will be made to find the ditched PBV crew, as the incident happened too near dusk today for rescue.

17 November 1944:

Lt Busby and crew took off at 0630 today to try and locate Lt Eisman's crew who ditched yesterday when hit by flack. At 0800 the crew was sighted in two dinghys and the Catalina landed on the water. Eleven men were picked up--nine from the sunken PBV and one combat camera man who was along to make photos for the 15th AF, and lost all his equipment, and the survivor from the B-17 picked up the day before. The eleven men rescued were:

1st Lt Eisman
Captain Haskins

1st Lt Colnon
F/O Kaminski
T Sgt Birard
S Sgt Brown
S Sgt Rhodes
S Sgt Pettle
Sgt Corkett

The above men all from our own organization; and S Sgt Felix Czaj of 1 CCu, and S Sgt Emil B Barney, Tail Gunner from 772 Bomb Sq, 463 Bomb Group.

The enemy still hurl shells at the air-sea rescue planes of this outfit. Lt Burns and his crew had an early morning mission around the island of Dugi--Jerry started throwing steel but this time the Catalina escaped damage.

Captain Walton, Flight Commander of C Flight, had a late afternoon mission. Taking his crew and a B-25 with emergency equipment he dropped the necessary materials to the search fix area, since it was too near dark for a PBY to make a sea landing. He patrolled the fix area but no sightings were made.

Lt Walker and his crew had a 400 square mile patrol off the coast of France. No sightings were made and he returned to Cuers at noon.

At 1300 hours Captain Gray resumed the search,- Lt Walker had started in the morning, and he too returned with a negative report.

18 November 1944:

S Sgt Simmons, one of the men transferred in to us as a replacement, received his rotation orders to go home. Sgt Simmons has 28 months overseas service.

Lt Jarman and crew were off on an early morning mission to continue the search Captain Walton started last evening. Nothing but a ration box in sight.

Lt Burns off from Foggia on routine patrol; no events.

19 November 1944:

Lt Millard and crew on mission fix at 44 58'N 14 30'E. A white life raft spotted, evidently from a surface vessel, but otherwise uneventful. Returned to Foggia at 1105.

20 November 1944:

Lt Burns and crew answered a call to 42 08N 16 09'E today. Just as Lt Burns was ready to land an HSL appeared and six men of a B-24 that ditched were taken aboard it. After the men were aboard Lt Burns continued search for more survivors but only two bodies under water were sighted.

21 November 1944:

Lt Lasher with his crew had a mission from Cuers, France. They searched for two hours and returned to base on account of darkness. Lt Cummins and S Sgt Wargo went from Flight C to B Flight for a period of temporary duty.

22 November 1944:

Lt Burns and his crew flew from Foggia on a four hour search but the entire search was indefinite and no sightings were made.

Lt Haynie received his 6th cluster to the Air Medal for his participation in the rescue of the 17th of November.

Lts Colnon and Nonnenmacher, Sgts Schoenberger and Raiford and Cpl Haapanen left Ajaccio for Foggia today in a transfer from C to B Flight, since B Flight's activities have been so much greater than the other flights.

Sgt Holzer left for a period of temp duty in Port Layautey French Morrocco today.

Lt Busby, Sgts Hendrix, Paulo and Bols, arrived at Ajaccio from Foggia today, preparatory to going on home for rotation.

23 November 1944:

Captain Walton and Lt Busby were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Captain Walton received his for the mission on 25 August 44 when he landed his 'Cat' and couldn't take off again. Lt Busby received his award for rescuing his buddies on the 17th of November.

The 12th AAF Emergency Rescue Boat Crew received their orders to leave for AAF/MTO; this crew did not stay with us long, but the activity at Ajaccio doesn't warrant the boat crews now.

Three missions today. Lt Lasher and crew flew one from Cuers with no results. Lt Nonnenmacher searched for a disabled Walrus which was located and towed to the Italian mainland by an HSL. The last mission of the day was flown by Lt Millard and a burned-out hull was spotted but no survivors.

24 November 1944:

Lt Nonnenmacher and crew flying out of Foggia Main today picked up Sgt Plteo Anis of the BAF who was floating in a dinghy at the fix given by the sector control.

Lt Harris flew the mission A Flight drew today in search of a merchant vessel in di stress off southern France. Several ships were spotted at the fix, but none were in distress.

25 November 1944:

Sgt Waves, our Mess Sergeant, was sent to the 40th Station Hospital.

Lt Nonnenmachers, still flying B Flight missions, again flew for a search with his crew, but no sightings were made. A parachute was reported seen, but no trace of it when the 'Cat' arrived at the fix.

26 November 1944:

Lt Burns and crew took off at Foggia for a fix given by 323 Wing (British). A Beaufighter reported a dinghy at 45 38'N 13 10'E, but the search by the Catalina revealed nothing.

Lt Murray spent a night away from Ajaccio unexpectedly. Taking off at 1020 he started the search with his crew twenty minutes later, and was called back after a few minutes of search. Upon returning to Ajaccio, the base was closed in so he proceeded to Maddalena, Sicily, and remained there overnight.

27 November 1944:

Very quiet today; no missions or patrols.

28 November 1944:

Lt Murray received a Distinguished Flying Cross for the mission on 27 October 44, when his plane was damaged and he could not take off after the rescue had been effected.

29 November 1944:

Six men left today for the United States. All were crew members who have served their tour of duty. Lts Haynie and Busby, Sgts Hendrix, Paulo, Bols and Cpl Stahl. They left by B-25 for Naples to await water shipment to the land of liberty.

Lt Bilslund had a 'hot' mission today, off southern France. Proceeding to the given fix a dinghy was sighted--the PBY landed but the dinghy was empty.

30 November 1944:

But Schintz went to the 40th Station Hospital today.

Two missions today; one from Foggia and one from Cuers.
Lt Walker flew the A Flight mission and Lt Burns flew the one
for B Flight. Neither crew spotted any sightings.