

Milton's Eagle
**Lt. Frank Rauschkolb Co-Pilot of Catalina
Flying Boat in Scrap With Japanese Plane**

HEADQUARTERS, 13TH AAF, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC — The odds were against them, but crew members of a 13th AAF rescue flying boat emerged the victors in a one-sided scrap with a Jap plane off Ceram Island, Netherland East Indies.

Altitude and bullets were on the side of the Jap, while the "Fightin' 13th" fliers could rely only on the skill of the pilot, First Lieutenant James P. Scott, 644 Melville Street, Rochester, New York.

Scott did it.

His Catalina flying boat, built for extended cruising range and passenger capacity, rather than combat, had been set down in the water off Jap-held Ceram to rescue an American pilot floating on a raft. The pilot, shot down in a strafing attack on Ambon Town, attracted the rescue plane's attention by signalling with a hand mirror as it passed overhead, searching for him.

As the "passenger" was helped aboard and Scott prepared to race the plane's husky engines for the

water take-off, a Jap zero dived out of the clouds and strafed the plane.

"We sat there like helpless ducks," Lieutenant Scott said later. "Hatches must be closed when the ship takes off, and our gunners couldn't fire at the Zero."

Lieutenant Scott began his take-off when the Jap pilot came in for a second strafing run. Bullets spattered the water around the "Cat." Then, in a sudden surprise maneuver, Scott and his co-pilot, Second Lieutenant Frank Rauschkolb, Route 1, Freewater, Oregon, twisted the big, awkward ship into the air.

The sharp turn, made only a few feet above the water, threw the Jap plane off the target and allowed the Catalina to escape. Lieutenant Scott brought her back to an advance American base in the Netherland East Indies, where the rescued pilot was fed and taken to a hospital to recuperate.

With Scott and Rauschkolb in the Catalina crew were: First Lieutenant Frank W. Able, navi-

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man, gunner, Route 2, Tiffin, Ohio; Private First Class Needham B. Stuart Jr., gunner, Route 1, Cary, N. C.