

HEADQUARTERS
2ND EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON
APO 74

3 December 1946

SUBJECT: Unit Citation

TO : All Personnel

1. War Department General Order 15, 1946 authorized this squadron to wear the Unit Citation Ribbon.

2. A requisition has been made for these ribbons and all members of the squadron are authorized to wear it while a member of this organization.

3. The citation is as follows:

"The Second Emergency Rescue Squadron is cited for outstanding performance of duty from 1 April 1945 to 15 April 1945 in conducting extensive search, evacuation, and ferry missions throughout the vast area comprising the Celebes and Molucca Islands in the Netherlands East Indies, the Southern Philippines and the China Coast. Flying in adverse weather in low speed, vulnerable, and practically unarmed aircraft, frequently without fighter escort, crews of the squadron landed in dangerously heavy seas, often under direct enemy shore fire to pick up flyers in distress. From a rescue station had previously established at Labo, Mindanao, deep within enemy territory, they furnished several thousand gallons of gasoline, stocks of arms and ammunition, food, medical and other supplies to guerrilla forces, who were thereby enabled to maintain and expand their activities and to provide valuable information and material aid to American ground forces in that area. The effectiveness of the operations of the Squadron depending vitally upon the ground personnel who devoted long hours of determined and tireless effort toward keeping all air-craft in excellent condition for flight, despite frequent damage from enemy action and from water landings and take-offs. In 7 hazardous open sea rescues in this 15 day period of intense and heightened naval and air activity, crews of the Squadron saved 23 lives, while activities of rescue stations on Mindanao enabled 53 men to be evacuated from enemy territory. The exceptional courage, skill, and selfless devotion to duty of the personnel of the 2nd Emergency Rescue Squadron contributed directly to the success of the Borneo and southern Philippines operations."

JAMES L. JARNAGIN
Major, Air Corps
Commanding Officer