

## 2D EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON

### "General's Request" by Captain Bill Harves

Our Supply Sergeant and I were loading our C-47 at Biak when an Army General, with several of his staff, arrived beside us in his Jeep. He approached us and wanted to know if I could have our pilot take him and his men to Hollandia where he was to meet General MacArthur's planning staff to plan the Philippine invasion. He said it was important and I told him that we were operational at base and that I could stay over and return the next day. The next day when I boarded our C-47, I was told about the Japanese bombing of Morotai the night I stayed over at Biak. I was shocked when I heard that Lt. Harold B. Smith, our Engineering Officer and Lieutenant Richard Finn were killed and nine other officers were injured. Lieutenant Smith was my tent-mate. I would have been with him standing outside our tent watching the bombing, as we always did. We got into our dingy foxhole only when the shrapnel from our anti-aircraft guns showered on us. These bombing raids occurred from the Halmahera Islands, separated from Morotai by only a few miles across water. The official record of the 13th Air Force noted that Morotai was the most bombed island in the Southwest Pacific: 82 raids!

The General's request for assistance saved my life