

MEMO TO: Bob Weaver
OM: Jack Demmons
RE: Rescue Teams Trained by the Smokejumpers
DATE: June 2, 1993

1. 1943 was a big year in smokejumper training of rescue personnel.
 - a. 2nd Air Force--6 doctors (Army Air Force)
 - b. 2nd and 3rd Arctic Rescue Sqds and 7th Air Trans Cmd--6 doctors
 - c. A French National--1 doctor

These doctors took jump training at Seeley Lake from Nov. 3 - Dec. 21, 1943. From Seeley Lake they went to Fort Benning, Georgia and underwent airborne training.

2. 1945--14 officers and enlisted men from various Alaskan and Canadian stations of the Air Transport Command trained as parachutists at Camp Menard at Seeley Lake. (The dates were March and June of that year.) The purpose was to provide additional personnel to jump with paradoctors on search and rescue missions. U.S.F.S. History of Smokejumping, May 1, 1972.
3. 1943 again--There was parachute training of rescue units from the military services, involving about 25 individuals of the U.S. Coast Guard, Canadian Air Observer Schools, and U. S. Army Air Forces. The rescue training began shortly after the close of the regular season and extended until December 10. About one-half of those trained were flight surgeons of the Second Army Air Force and the Second and Third Arctic Rescue Squadrons. U.S.F.S. History of Smokejumping, May 1, 1972.
4. Missoula Sentinel. 10/26/46--Aerial Search and Rescue Organization is All Ready to Begin Operation. Dr. Amos Little was appointed as forest service consulting physician. There is more to this article. The paper is available at both the U of M and Msl City City Libraries.
5. The Billings Gazette. 11/24/46. Montana Aerial Search-Rescue Unit Planned by Ex-Army Men. (Information obtained from Helena Oct. 23, 1946.) This is similar to the article in item "4" above, but more complete. This news clipping is on hand at the Missoula City-City Library in the vertical file under AERONAUTICS - Accidents Montana File.
6. There were 37 jumps on rescue missions by Region 1 jumpers in 1947. These jumps involved 5 separate cases and Dr. Amos Little took part in one of them. U.S.F.S. History of Smokejumping, May 1, 1972.
7. In 1964 Air Force personnel, connected with the X-15 Rocket Recovery program attended a 2 week training session at the Missoula base. The course was designed to qualify men to parachute into rough terrain and timber on rescue missions.
8. Missoula Sentinel. 10/24/47. Air Rescue Unit Training in Missoula, Based on Smokejumper Procedure. Article available at the U of M and Msl City-City Libraries.
9. Missoula Sentinel. 9/22/45. Derry Slotted Parachute is Patented. This article mentions the use of these parachutes by paradoctors & other jumping personnel assigned to the various search and rescue units of both U. S. and Canadian military services. This paper is on hand at both of the libraries mentioned previously.
10. Missoula Sentinel. 9/1/43. Parachute Center of Nation is Established Here. The article mentions that Alaska sent a Coast Guard detachment to serve as a Forest Service auxiliary parachute squadron while learning the basics of jumping in all of its phases, and that it would return to Alaska ready for rescue work through the north. Article also available at both libraries mentioned previously.

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11. Missoula Sentinel. 9/20/43. Coast Guardsmen, Now Jumpers, Back to Alaska. Art Cook and his crew of ten. . . had jumped in the Blackfoot country (at Seeley Lake). More information is given about this group by the paper. It is available at both of the libraries mentioned previously.
12. Missoula Sentinel. 12/2/43. Arctic Squadron Completes Training Here. The squadron was to return to its headquarters at Buckley Field, Cal. The Second Air Force Command detachment was remaining to complete its parachute jump training. There is more to this article, which is available at both libraries mentioned previously.
13. Missoula Sentinel. 12/8/43. Jumpers End Course Minus Hurts. Major John Reardon, second in command of this work for the Second Air Corps, is remaining for a few days. . . There is more to this article, which is available at both libraries.
14. Missoula Sentinel. 11/15/43. Air Corps Rescue Men Train Near Here Now. This is a good article about the Second Air Force Search and Rescue section, headquartered at Colorado Springs, Col, and training with the smokejumpers out of Missoula. The article is available at both libraries.
15. Missoula Sentinel. 12/11/43. Heavy Winter Work for Parachuters. Brief mention about the the Second Air Force command search and rescue crews that had been at Missoula; also the Alaska and Canadian rescue units. Article is available at both libraries.
16. Missoula Sentinel. 7/30/43. Rescue Squad to Inaugurate Chute Training. The Coast Guard rescue squad...is to train at Seeley Lake as parachute jumpers under the Forest Service... Article available at both libraries.