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3D AIR RESCUE SQUADRON CLAIMS
NUMBER OF "FIRSTS" IN KOREA

The 3D ARS has claimed the greatest number of records in the Korean Conflict in addition to the largest number of rescues and airlifts of UN troops, which now stands at more than 2900, including 745 behind-the-line pickups.

Among the firsts to be acclaimed by the squadron is the record for the largest air-borne airlift from enemy territory in combat history. In a two day period, 3D ARS helicopters airlifted 169 injured UN soldiers from behind enemy lines, following a para-drop by the 187th Regimental Combat Team.

The 3D ARS was the first unit to employ the Sikorsky H-5 helicopter under actual combat conditions and enemy fire. The squadron was also the first to use the huge Sikorsky H-19 helicopter under combat conditions.

When the squadron helicopters flew the conferees to Kaesong for the cease-fire talks, it was considered to be the most historical mission of the present war.

The 3D also flew the most spectacular rescue mission of the war when Capt John J. Najarian landed his Grumman SA-16 amphibian at night on the narrow, shallow, Taedong River under intense enemy fire to rescue a downed fighter pilot. For this mission, Capt Najarian was awarded the distinguished Service Cross.

The Sq claims that Capt Lynden B. Thomason and 1st Lt Elmer L. Barnes, both helicopter pilots and former members of the squadron, established a record for the number of rescues in Korea to be made by two men. Their combined total was 420 men rescued and airlifted from front lines and deep behind enemy lines.

(MORE)

first to the 3D-6
in combat

8--RESCUE ALERT

Nations personnel. Of the more than 9,000 saved since hostilities started, more than 1,000 have been rescued from behind enemy lines. I recently made a personal visit to the combat area to observe my personnel in action and I can truthfully say they are doing an excellent job.

Roughly speaking, the Air Rescue Service has rescued and evacuated almost one-tenth of United Nations personnel wounded in Korea. In other words, ARS can be credited with having aided the recovery of almost one-tenth of the wounded who might otherwise have died for lack of rescue or failure to reach a hospital in time for medical treatment. The officers and airmen of the 3rd Group have risked their own lives to save others, and many of the rescue missions read like fiction.

Capt. Daniel J. Miller, a helicopter pilot with the 3rd Group in Korea, flew three consecutive missions through heavy enemy fire one day in May 1951 to rescue six of eight wounded soldiers who were trapped on a hill in enemy territory, cut off from their unit. Lt. Ernest L. MacQuarrie, also of the 3rd Group, rescued the other two.

Captain Miller and his medical technician, A/2C John T. Lowe, landed on a rocky ridge in North Korea and carried the wounded men through deep snow to the helicopter and flew them to an aid station in friendly territory. The enemy was on all sides, firing at will. Three times the ARS helicopter crew made the landing and picked up wounded men who might have died without their help.

For this mission, Captain Miller was presented the coveted Cheney Award.