

# 5 EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUADRON



## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

5 Emergency Rescue Squadron activated, 26 Jan 1945

## **STATIONS**

Halesworth, England, 26 Jan 1945

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-47, 1945

OA-10A, 1945

B-17, 1945

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj E. L. Larson, 26 Jan 1945-May 1945

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

5th Emergency Rescue Squadron was assigned to Halesworth. The rescue squadron arrived with experienced staff and established procedures. This fact — and the squadron's unique mission (unrelated to pilot training) — allowed the squadron to function with a high degree of autonomy.

The 5th Emergency Rescue Squadron quickly became the dominant unit at Halesworth in terms of assigned personnel, aircraft inventory, and operations tempo. By 31 January it operated with nine officers and 122 enlisted men, many of these reassigned from the 555th FTS. The squadron used three types of aircraft to perform search and rescue for aircrews forced down over water. War-weary P-47 Thunderbolts modified to carry smoke markers and air-drop dinghy packs were used as spotters. Twin-engine OA-10A Catalina amphibians could land in water to pick up downed crews. Several B-17G airborne lifeboats were assigned in March. The B-17s carried a provisioned, sea-worthy, rigid lifeboat that could be dropped by parachute to seaborne aircrews. The rescue squadron remained extremely active while assigned to Halesworth, flying over 300 sorties per month and executing scores of successful rescues. 90 One P-47 and two OA-10 Catalinas were lost during this period.

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### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.