



Return from Mission

NEVADA'S colorful Civil Air Patrol Mounted Squadron returns from a wartime rescue mission at a remote mountain location. This 1942 scene was reenacted many times during the career of this unique search and rescue team. In one crash this team removed 11 victims from a high mountain ridge accessible only to saddle and pack horses.

Nevada's Mounted Squadron Compiled Enviably Record

HQ. NEVADA WING—Nevada's famed mounted squadron was formed in Reno in February, 1942. The unit was organized under the command of Capt. Jack Layland, a retired British cavalryman.

The group was composed of men and women ranchers, business people and farmers. All were experienced horsemen, many owning their own horses and equipment vital to the needs of a search and rescue unit.

The "mounties" were given CAP basic training courses, plus cavalry drill, mounted extended order and guard duty. Special courses were given in the packing of horses and map reading.

Riders carried sidearms, compasses, pack saddles, picket lines and bed rolls in addition to food and water for extended treks into the desert and mountain areas. They wore U.S. Army Cavalry uniforms with Civil Air Patrol insignia and patch.

THE mounted squadron worked both alone and in co-operation with search aircraft. They were particularly valuable in rocky and mountainous terrain where they guarded wrecked aircraft, gave first-aid to survivors and packed out injured personnel.

The ingenuity of the unit was demonstrated when squadron members designed and utilized two special types of horse-borne litters: one a litter suspended between two horses and the other mounted atop a pack saddle.

Also, homing pigeons were often carried on rescue missions in remote areas, and were used when other communication methods were not available.

In wintertime forage for the horses was often dropped by aircraft where food was not available for them.

At the end of the war the

mounted squadron disbanded and regrouped with the famed Nevada State Rangers acting as an emergency unit capable of a wide assortment of services.