

Cloverdale Flyer Escapes Death In Crash

Lt. Colonel Kenneth L. Reusser, a former Cloverdale boy and a graduate of Nestucca High school, has just come through a perilous experience, according to navy releases. He is probably the most decorated marine in Oregon.

He has survived a crash in his plane December 13 in the Mediterranean. He was preparing to land his AD Skyraider on the deck of the U. S. S. Champlain about 10 p.m. when he was warned that a Jet was in his vicinity. In order to avoid a collision, he landed on the choppy sea but when he tried to evacuate his sinking plane, he was delayed by a sinking canopy. He was able to correct this, then inflate his raft and attracted attention by a flashlight, flares and whistle. He was picked up by the U. S. S. Goodrich and returned to the Lake Champlain in a boatswain chair.

Other Escapes Recalled

The escape from a disabled plane was not Colonel Reusser's first. During the battles for Guadalcanal and Okinawa in World War II he parachuted from burning aircraft. He abandoned two others during the Korean conflict. He holds two navy crosses, the bronze star medal with combat "V", 14 air medals, four distinguished flying crosses and the purple heart.

Colonel Reusser is commanding officer of marine attack squadron 324. He is the son of Mrs. and the late Rev. Fred C. Reusser of Portland and Cloverdale. His wife, formerly Patricia Taylor of Miami, Florida, and their three children are living in Naples, Italy, where the children attend an American school.