

## BLACK SUNDAY



Lieutenant Royce Harms' 20<sup>th</sup> CMS F-7A as it came to rest at Saidor.



A-20G *Powerful Katrinka* as she came to rest at Saidor. The commander of the 13<sup>th</sup> BS, Richard Walker, had his approach interrupted when his wingman flew underneath him on finals. Ambulances can be seen in the background.

F-7A appeared in the circuit area. With two engines flak damaged over Hollandia, pilot Royce Harms was unable to hold the wandering cripple steady on the slippery runway as it skewed sideways left, collapsing the main gears, and shuddering to rest against an embankment. One gunner was injured. Another airman, who had just exited from a nearby crack-up, was likely spared his life when the F-7A's snout drove into a muddy ditch into which he had just leapt.

The next to enter Saidor's circuit was a gaggle of 13<sup>th</sup> BS A-20Gs, led by Major Richard Walker in *Powerful Katrinka*:

When we arrived at Saidor at first I thought I saw an ocean wave sweeping over the airfield. A wave of green would surge to the runway and then recede and surge again.