

Wilmington Jap Rescue

By DUANE HENNESSY

TOKYO, Oct. 12.- (AP) —Japan's radar defense was so ineffective that it could not tell whether approaching planes were its own or American, Fifth Air Force experts reported today after, inspecting the, Tokyo fighter control center.

Neither could the radar indicate the height or number of planes.

Americans" watched Japanese headed by Col. H. Saso, staff officer in charge of the center, give a demonstration of battle conditions. The information was funnelled to the center from 1,600 observation posts and radar

Expert Discloses Setup Ineffective

stations in the Tokyo area.

Garland said that was several times too many.

"After Iwo Jima fell, plane "warnings first came from naval radar stations on Chichi Jima and, Haha Jima," Saso said "That usually was about four hours before your planes reached the (Honshu) coast. They were very meager, reporting "merely that enemy planes were headed in the general direction of the Japanese homeland. Japanese radar could not tell the number, height or direction with any degree of accuracy."

Once the planes crossed the Japanese coast, they broke a

photo-electric line that stretched along a good portion of the Japanese homeland. Once planes had been spotted by ground observers in the Tokyo area, they dropped completely from the radar board.

"What kind of a rescue system did you have for pilots shot down at sea?" asked Lt. Col. Henry C. Byrd, Jr., Wilmington, N. C., radar expert.

"At first we asked the navy to pick up our pilots," Saso said. Then spreading his hands in a helpless gesture, he added "—later on, there was no navy."

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