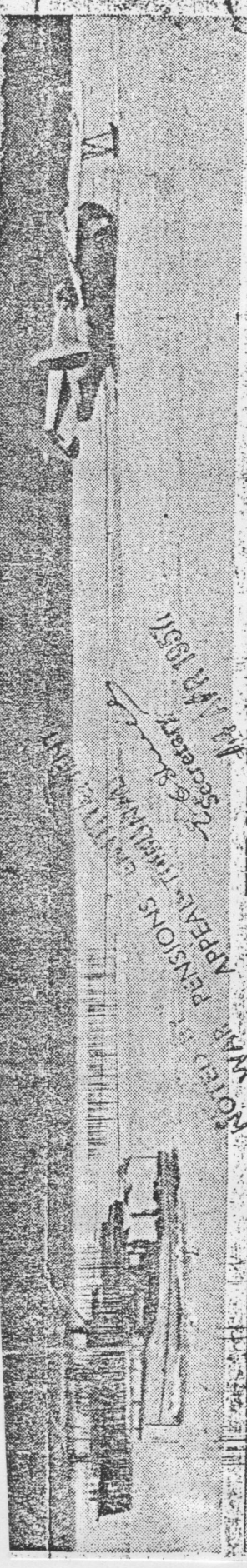


THE TELEGRAPH
(BRISBANE) P. 1.
FRIDAY 21.12.45

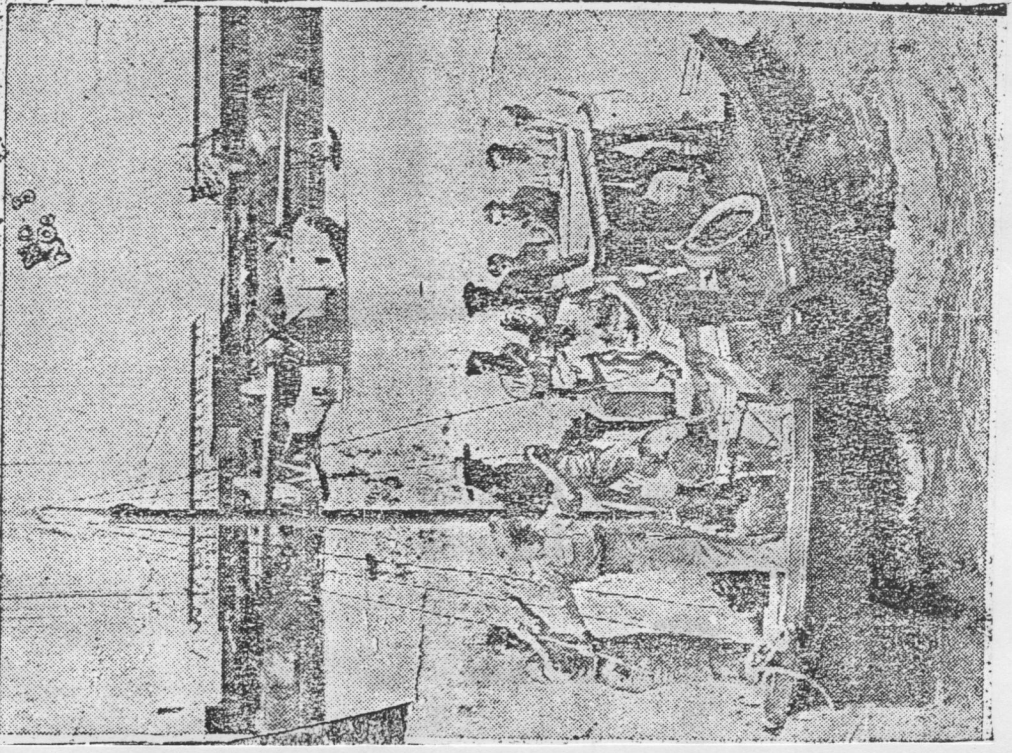


FIRST PICTURES OF FLYING BOAT RESCUE

THESE pictures, the first to be published in Brisbane, show the safe arrival at Bundaberg of the Martin Mariner flying boat which was forced down into the sea on Wednesday afternoon.

TOP: The RAAF air-sea rescue comprising RAAF, RAN and AIF long-service men returning from the islands for discharge, being taken from the plane (in the tea and smokes provided by Dutch personnel from the Bundaberg aerodrome, Bundaberg by a local launch.

LEFT: Some of the rescued men, LOWER: Grateful to have their feet



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Stories of Ordeal In Flying Boat

The hospitality of the people of Bundaberg and the Dutch authorities at the Air Force station were praised by passengers of the rescued Martin Mariner flying boat who reached Brisbane by train from Bundaberg today.

Half the party of the flying boat, which was forced down into the sea south of Bundaberg on Wednesday, will leave for their homes in the southern States today.

The remainder will board the Rockhampton mail train at Bundaberg tonight.

Sergeant Harry Samuels, of Melbourne, said he had never been more sick and scared in all his life. He praised the skill of the pilot (Flight Lieutenant N. F. McKnight) and the calm courage of his fellow passengers.

Another passenger said he was so grateful to be safe he wanted to kiss the soil of Bundaberg when he stepped off the wharf.

The Dutch authorities and the people of Bundaberg had lavished the passengers with kindness and refused to accept money for food and accommodation.

LAC Alf Kimber, of Mascot, Sydney, said he never heard one passenger voice any fears about their fate even in the worst moments of their ordeal when heavy seas lashed the stricken flying boat in the darkest hours of the night.

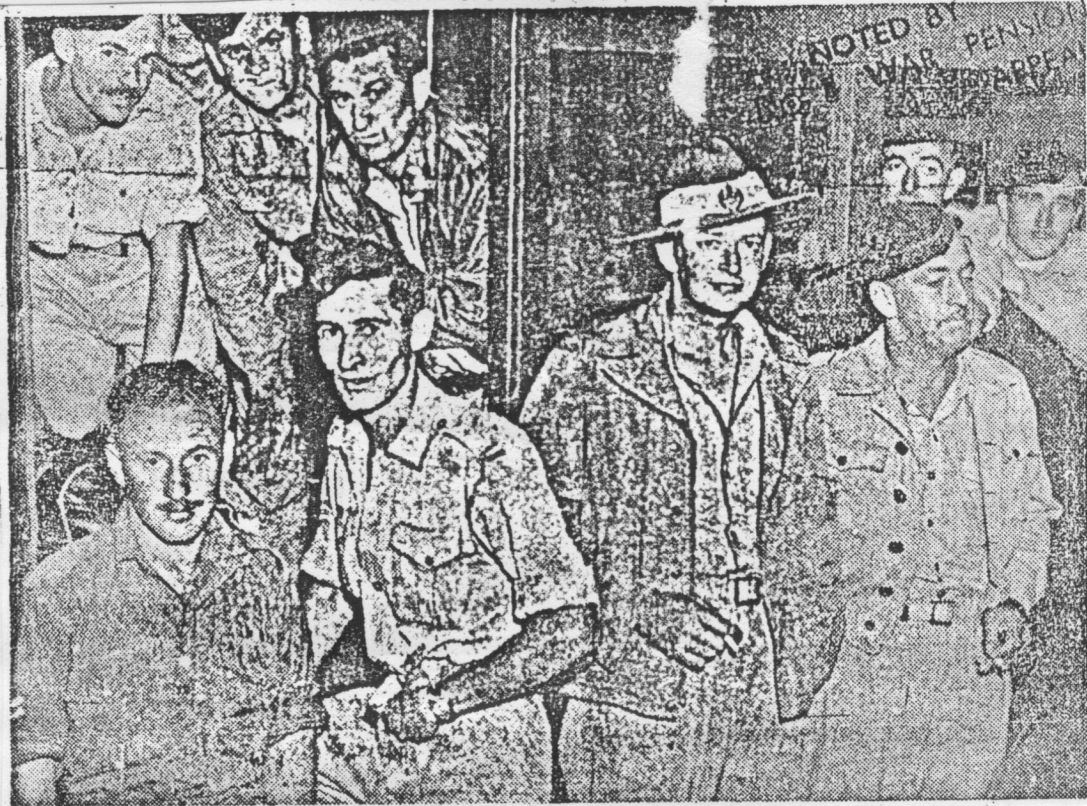
Warrant Officer E. Davis, of St Kilda, described his experience as a diversion from ordinary routine flying that he wouldn't care to repeat too often.

Another passenger, LAC Eastwood, of Sydney, said he had been as scared as anyone else aboard but never admitted it until he reached Bundaberg.

"Some tried to sing, some prayed between bouts of sickness, but mostly we kept quiet until our rescue," he said.

After Train Journey

Some of the 30 servicemen from the Martin Mariner flying boat forced down in the sea near Bundaberg, photographed on their arrival in Brisbane by train this morning. One of the rescued men made the trip south from New Guinea by plane, train and ship.



30 ADRIFT CLOSE TO BU

Heavy Seas Bar Rescue Effort

A DISABLED R.A.A.F. flying boat with 30 people on board is adrift in heavy seas off the coast south of Bundaberg.

Early to-day the plane was drifting slowly out to sea, and was being kept afloat by careful taxiing on the one engine still functioning.



The plane was forced on to the sea yesterday off the coast at Woodgate, 37 miles south of Bundaberg.

A R.A.A.F. rescue launch which sped from Bundaberg at 4 p.m. yesterday was forced to return after nightfall because of heavy south-easterly weather and bad visibility.

TOSSED IN WAVES

A handful of people anxiously watched the navigation lights of a disabled, and drifting machine—a twin-engined Martin Mariner—last night.

The plane was being tossed about in heavy seas.

Until 9 p.m. it had been moored, but the heavy seas broke it adrift, and it was being carried further from the shore and away from the breakers that were pounding the beach.

Foul weather forced back rescue launches and search planes which tried to establish contact with the flying boat. Only a few small boats were available at Woodgate, a small seaside resort, and the weather made it almost impossible to launch these through the surf.

R.A.A.F. rescue launches and planes will make further efforts at daylight to establish contact with the machine and take off the passengers.

The Weather Bureau reports that the south-easterly wind is expected to be fresh to strong today with heavy squalls which might again hamper rescue attempts.

Call For Help

An SOS was received at Townsville yesterday afternoon from a plane which said that it was being forced to land. It calculated its position as being near the Burum River, which is between Bundaberg and Maryborough.

A search plane was sent from Townsville, and residents of Pialba, on the coast near Maryborough, reported last night that they had seen a plane flying low about 7 o'clock. It appeared to be in difficulties.

When it struck the water the plane radioed for help, stating that one engine was out of commission, and asking for an outboard motor to be sent out to keep one side of the machine up.

The seas were so rough that no

outboard motor could reach the plane.

Unconfirmed reports say everyone on board escaped injury, because there was no mention of casualties in the radio message.

At 10.30 p.m. two members of the Bundaberg police and a party of R.A.A.F. who had travelled from Bundaberg by truck were preparing to man a small boat in an attempt to reach the plane.

Two planes left Bundaberg aerodrome after news of the mishap to contact the disabled flying boat, but darkness prevented them doing so.

Besides the party from Bundaberg a party was hurried from Childers to Woodgate.

The chairman of the Isis Shire Council (Cr. E. P. Noakes) drove a utility with helpers and provisions to the scene. Childers police also left for Woodgate with supplies.

The plane, which was on its way South, is reported to be in radio contact with the R.A.A.F. aerodrome at Bundaberg, but aerodrome authorities last night could not reveal any details of the forced landing nor of the plane's passengers.

SEASICKNESS WORST OF ORDEAL IN PLANE

TOSSED about by mountainous seas, occupants of the Martin Mariner flying boat, which was forced down 30 miles south of Bundaberg on Wednesday, suffered from nothing more than bad seasickness. 1945

The boat's complement included 30 R.A.A.F. men, mostly ground staff, on their way to their homes in southern States. Yesterday it was towed back to Bundaberg by R.A.A.F. launches.

BRISBANE PAPER 12.45

Towing was begun soon after daylight, and Bundaberg was reached at 2 p.m.

Sandwiches, hot tea, and coffee were provided for the men at the wharf. It was the first hot drink the men had had since 3 a.m. on Wednesday at Port Moresby. Cigarettes also were given to them.

Corporal R. D. Byrnes, of Nynan, New South Wales, said that when passing over Bundaberg in boisterous weather the starboard propeller feathered and failed to right itself.

The pilot—Flight-Lieutenant N. McKnight—had to make a forced landing into the sea.

"The wind was blowing with gale force, lashing the sea into mountainous waves," said Corporal Byrnes, "but the pilot manoeuvred his ship with great skill. It came down magnificently. It tilted as it struck a huge wave, but righted itself, and we chorused: 'Great job, pilot.'"

"The landing took place about 70 miles out from shore, off Woodgate. The weather was boisterous throughout the night, causing the plane to rock considerably. Many of us suffered from seasickness."

'Sickest Man On Board'

Lieut. J. D. Adams, R.A.N., who has been away from his home at Gordon, Brisbane, for 10 months, and who is to be married at the end of this month, was one of the passengers.

"I was only an hour away from home when it happened," he said. "Now I have lost two days."

W/O. C. A. Brown, of Williamsown, Victoria, who was the first to climb the steps at the wharf, laughingly said that he deserved pride of place, because he had been the sickest man on board.

Padre D. Thomas, formerly of St. Barnabas Church of England, Port Pirie, was another of the passengers. Fortunately, he said, he was not seasick.

Towline Broke

While an R.A.A.F. rescue boat was towing the flying boat off Burnett Heads the towline broke, but by excellent seamanship another line was made fast.

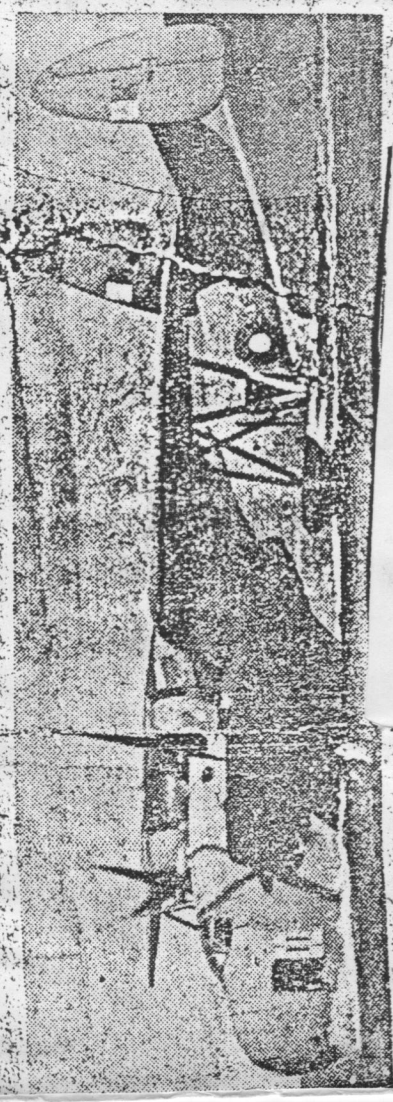
Police and R.A.A.F. and Dutch officials went out to the disabled raft early in the morning in a fisherman's boat, accompanied by Dr. D. Barry, to attend to any of the men who might be badly seasick.

Special transport arrangements were made at Bundaberg yesterday for passengers bound for the most southern points.

Nearly half the party left for Brisbane last night by the mail train from Townsville. The remainder will leave to-night.

Crew of the flying boat comprised Flight-Lt. N. F. McKnight, of Yarrowonga, W/O. G. J. Beaton, of Perth, W/O. L. V. Ellis, of Brisbane, W/O. W. R. McLean, of Boulburn, F/O. A. F. Stratford, of Melbourne, F/O. D. A. Harris, of Melbourne, and L.A.C. R. G. Mitchell, of Melbourne.

RESCUERS REACH FLYING BOAT 30 On Board Safe: Tow To Bundaberg



A Martin Mariner flying by Bundaberg

sea near

An RAAF rescue launch at 6.30 am. today reached the RAAF flying boat which was forced down on the sea between Bundaberg and Maryborough yesterday!

The crew and passengers, totalling 30, escaped injury, and the aircraft is undamaged.

The tow back to Bundaberg of about 40 miles was expected to be completed by about noon.

The seas in the area are still fairly rough, although conditions improved during the night.

It is understood that the passengers include servicemen and nurses returning from the Islands.

The plane landed off Woodgate, 37 miles south of Bundaberg, about 3.15 pm yesterday, after radioing that it was being forced down by engine trouble.

A fisherman in the vicinity said that the machine made a perfect landing.

Five minutes after the plane's SOS was received at the Bundaberg RAAF station an air-sea rescue

launch left its base to go to the aid of the plane.

The launch was forced to return six hours later because of the heavy seas and bad visibility.

When the seas abated the launch set out a second time at 2 am today and reached the plane about 6.30 am.

A tow line was thrown to the aircraft and the journey back to Bundaberg began.

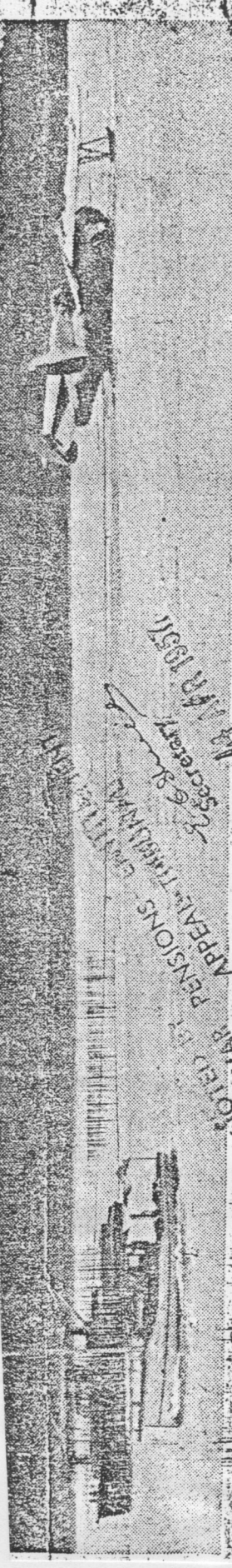
Searching planes also were hampered by the bad weather. A Kittyhawk which left Bundaberg at 3.45 am today, in threatening weather failed to locate the drifting plane, as heavy rain was falling in the vicinity where it had landed.

The commanding officer of the Bundaberg RAAF station was one of the watchers on the coast at Woodgate who maintained an all-night vigil.

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THESE pictures, the first to be published in Brisbane, show the safe arrival at Bundaberg of the Martin Mariner flying boat which was forced down into the sea on Wednesday afternoon.

TOP: The RAAF air-sea rescue launch (left background) towing the flying boat tail first up the Burnett River. The aircraft was towed 40 miles from the vicinity of Woodgate.

LEFT: Some of the rescued men, Bundaberg by a local launch. PHOTO BY POST OFFICE BUREAU.

