

2-104P20

T; Flight Commander
Bg:
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Meltzer
Abbott
Non
#21

November 7, 1944

1. TITLE: AIR-SEA RESCUE: AIRBORNE LIFEBOAT
2. San Francisco--A sensational new wrinkle in air-sea rescue! The flying lifeboat--carried anywhere by B-17, then dropped to airmen stranded on the ocean. Twenty-seven feet long it weighs a ton and a half. But it's streamlined to fit right under the bomb-bay, and has no appreciable effect on the plane's speed or maneuverability. As soon as the airborne lifeboats are in full production, a bomber, like this one, will go along on all raids over water. In an emergency it can drop its unsinkable lifeboat....as shown by Army slow-motion cameras....
13. Three heavy-duty parachutes send it down gently, but accurately. And watertight compartments keep it upright and afloat, no matter how it lands.
17. For these make-believe "victims" there's a pleasant surprise -- aboard the lifeboat they find water and food for 60 days, two gasoline engines to carry them up to 500 miles, and sails to take them farther. Dramatic new help from the sky for men against the sea!

FLASHES

English girls married to Canadians are off to their new country. By special train they left London for an unnamed seaport on the first stage of the big journey to the far west. There was a kitchen on the train to make sure they had a hot meal and babies got warm milk.

A liner on war service was waiting to take them across the Atlantic. May the day not be far distant when the young wives will be joined by their husbands in their homes over the sea.

Air sea rescue technique is improved by a newly designed lifeboat to fit under the bomb-bay of a flying fortress. Arrived over the spot where airmen have bailed out the boat is released and as shown here in slow motion is let fall by three large parachutes.

Watertight compartments keep the lifeboat on even keel in any sea. When rescued men clamber aboard ^{they find} a petrol engine with fuel for 500 miles, food and water for two months. A great idea for the Pacific war.

Off Leyte, in the Philippines, that war is being desperately fought out. Brought down by anti-aircraft that Japanese plane death-dived on to an American landing craft.

Casualties were quickly taken ashore. Meanwhile, on the construction of the vitally needed airfield, liberated natives helped the U.S. engineers, General Macarthur looking on.

Mac's foothold in the Philippines is now secure.