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3 B-29s CRASH: 20 DIE: 18 SURVIVE

A tragic week in U.S. aviation. In a fog-shrouded coast in California lies the twisted debris of a Superfort. One of 13 on a training flight, it collided with a sister ship in mid-air. Both giants crashed - their wreckage spread four miles apart. Eighteen died - only three parachuted to safety. Ending a week of air disasters the Canadian destroyer HAIDA brings to Bermuda eighteen survivors of another Superfort crash - this one ditched in mid-Atlantic. Their rescue from seas 40 feet high, ends one of the most dramatic air-sea rescues in history. Spotted by the Canadian destroyer, the 18, spent three terrifying days and nights, cramped in a rubber raft, intended for half their number. Two crew members died. In hospital, the survivors (exhausted from shock and exposure) say little about their ordeal. Their Commander - Colonel John Grable - says:-

"The time the decision was made to ditch the B-29, the crew was signalled that we would ditch. The crew was very calm and collected. I am very proud of them."