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Contributed by LCol Bart Howard, USA, Ret.
for his father Thomas B. Howard MM1 USS LSM 250

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CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

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LSM-250, USS

Serial: 64
Aug. 14, 1945

USS LSM-250

SERIAL 64

14 AUGUST 1945

AIR/SEA RESCUE

REPORT OF RESCUE OF SURVIVORS OF
DITCHED B-29 OFF SAIPAN.

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

U. S. S. LSM-250
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

14 August 1945

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations.
Via: The Commander LSM Group TWENTY-SIX.
Via: The Commander LSM Flotilla NINE.
Via: The Commander, Administrative Command, Amphibious Force,
U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Survivors, Rescue of.

1. While enroute to Saipan, at about 1030(K) on 6 August 1945, the survivors of a ditched B-29 bomber were rescued by this command.

2. The following is the report of the Executive Officer regarding the incident: "At 1000 on 6 August 1945, this vessel was enroute to Saipan on course 145°(T) at full speed, approximate position 115°31'N, Long. 145° 26'E. A low flying B-29 bomber circled the ship at 1000 and fired a red and a green flare to starboard and a red and a yellow flare to port. The plane then flew off on course 030°(T). The signals were interpreted as meaning that assistance was desired so the ship's course was changed to 030°(T) and ship's speed was changed to flank. The Commanding Officer was notified and relieved the Executive Officer on the Conn to allow him to make rescue preparations. Special sea detail was set at 1005.

At 1025 wreckage, believed to be that of a B-29 bomber, was sighted dead ahead at a distance of 4 1/2 miles. 5 Aircraft were circling the wreck. At 1030 radio contact was established with CTU 94.11.10 who was informed that we were proceeding to give assistance.

At 1035 signalling believed to be from a life raft was sighted. At 1042 speed was changed to 1/3 and preparations were made to open bow doors and lower ramp. This was accomplished at 1047 and a line was passed to the survivors in the life rafts. The survivors were brought aboard at 1050, the number being 12. CTU 94.11.10 was notified and instructions were requested. At 1115 orders were received to photograph the wreckage and sink it. Firing with 40MM and 20MM guns was commenced at 1135 and the wreckage sank at 1141. 160 rounds 40MM and 120 rounds 20MM were expended. The ship got underway for Saipan at 1143 after requesting that medical aid be sent out to meet us and that docking space be made available at pier C-4.

The list of survivors is as follows: Major C.L. Phillips, 2nd Lt. F.H. Hoffman, 2nd Lt. C.E. Atchley, 2nd Lt. J.H. Hindle, 2nd Lt. L.B. Margraff, F/O J.C. Clark, Sgt. C.N. Johnson, Sgt. C.E. Melvin, Sgt. E.C. Henn, Sgt. H.M. Laverick, Sgt. N.B. Sharteer, and Cpl. F.E. Martin. Upon being taken aboard it was discovered that one man had serious injuries while others had minor contusions and lacerations. Brooks, E.W., Jr., PhMlc, administered first aid to the injured man and then to the other casualties. All survivors, with the exception of the serious casualty, were given a 2oz bottle of brandy.

LSM-250
Op 26
USS LSM-250

U. S. S. LSM-250
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

14 August 1945

Subject: Survivors, Rescue of.

At 1252 a small boat came alongside with Lt. Comdr. K.E. Barnes, (MC), USNR, aboard. He came aboard and examined F/O Clark, the injured man. The diagnosis was that the man had a compound fracture of the right leg, a simple fracture of the left leg, and internal injuries. He was given blood plasma and 1/4 grain of morphine.

At 1325 Course was again set for Saipan. The ship docked at Pier C-4 at 1545 and the B-29 personnel were put ashore at 1555. The B-29 personnel were attached to the 873rd Bombardment Squadron".

3. There were no casualties to this vessel involved in the incident.

FERDINAND H. HODDE,
Commanding.

~~SECRET~~

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to C.O., USS LSM 250 ltr.
to C.N.O., Ser. 64-45, dated 14 August 1945.
LSMGrp26/(LSM250)/(ho)

31 August 1945.

From: Commander, LSM Group TWENTY-SIX, Flotilla NINE.
To: Chief of Naval Operations.
Via: (1) Commander, LSM Flotilla NINE.
(2) Commander, Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces,
U. S. Pacific Fleet.
Subject: Survivors, Rescue of by U.S.S. LSM 250.

1. Forwarded.

L. BROUWER.