

Capt. Delos Burks Helps Rescue 25 Men Lost At Sea

**Former Industrial Teacher
Navigator on Catalina Flying Boat**

Headquarters, 13th AAF, Philippines—Captain Delos H. Burks, Picayune, was navigator of a 13th AAF rescue Catalina flying boat that recently rescued 25 men lost at sea.

The rescue pushed the number of men saved by Captain Burks' squadron past the 500 mark in eight months of operation with the Jungle Air Force.

The Catalina was covering a B-24 Liberator strike against Borneo airdromes when the crew spotted 14 men adrift in a native out-rigger canoe. The rescue plane made a water landing and packed the men into crowded quarters. On the way to its Netherlands East Indies base a distress call was received from a 13th AAF Liberator making a crash-landing at sea.

Captain Burks plotted a course to be followed and two hours after receiving the distress call, the 11 men of the B-24s crew were sighted in life rafts. It took a lot of crowding to pack them into the Catalina, and Capt. Lloyd Humphreys, of Washington, D. C., the pilot, was worried until he got his ship airborne with 32 men aboard.

"That 13th AAF Netherlands East Indies base looked good to us," said Capt. Burks. "The gas supply was getting dangerously low, with a few gallons remaining in our tanks as we flew in."

Captain Burks was formerly a member of the faculty of Industrial Consolidated High School, Picayune, where he was also athletic coach. His wife, Mrs. Melva R. Burks and two children, Michael and Marsha, reside at 703 First Street. His parents Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Burks, also reside in Picayune and have four other sons in the armed services, all overseas.