

FEB/MARCH 1946

S.O.S. Interrupts Air-Sea Rescue Exercise

Yesterday's air-sea rescue exercise, the first to be carried out in the East, was interrupted by a real S.O.S. from a Sunderland which got into difficulties near Singapore.

Fortunately, the Sunderland did not require the airborne lifeboat, and the giant Lancaster which carried it, finally dropped it as an exercise instead of the real thing.

Airmen, who may be forced to ditch their craft in Eastern waters in future, can be sure of a much speedier rescue since the arrival in South-East Asia of a flight of air-sea rescue Lancasters equipped with airborne lifeboats.

For the first demonstration of the launching of an airborne lifeboat, three airmen were sent adrift in a rubber dinghy off Katong. Shortly after, a Lancaster roared overhead evidently locating the dinghy. Smoke floats were then dropped ahead and to the rear of the dinghy.

The dinghy is inflated automatically by gas from a cylinder while the smoke floats enable the pilot of the Lancaster to judge the direction and speed of the wind.

Having secured this information, the pilot of the aircraft travelling against the wind released the mechanism holding the lifeboat to the body of the Lancaster, and it came floating down to the sea suspended by four parachutes. The lifeboat landed on the sea about 60 yards from the dinghy.

3750 LB. LIFEBOAT

Weighing 3,750 lb., the lifeboat was first noticed to detach itself with a backward movement. Then out blew a small parachute which when fully distended in the wind released the four big chutes which enabled the lifeboat to reach the water right side up.

The boat itself is self-righting and unsinkable with buoyancy chambers fore and aft. It carries equipment for 10 men, including drinking water, rations, medical kit, clothing, trans-

mitting and receiving sets and visual distress signals.

A collapsible mast can carry a Bermudan-rigged mainsail and foresail which, in a fresh breeze, will take the boat along at more than six knots. The lifeboats now in service are fitted with a 8 h.p. engine and carry fuel sufficient to cruise for 650 miles at a speed of five knots.

The lifeboat is dropped from a height of about 800 feet. It is dropped against the direction of the prevailing wind and ahead of the dinghy so that it can drift onto it.

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TODAY'S RADIO From Singapore

RED NETWORK from noon to 2 p.m. and 6.30 to 11 p.m. on 225 metres from noon to 2 p.m. on 4.825 mcs/sec. in 61 metre band and from 7.45 to 9.30 p.m. on 4.78 mcs/sec. in 61 metre band.

Chinese noon to 1.15 p.m. (news in Hokkien at 1 p.m. in Cantonese at 1.10 p.m.), and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (news in Cantonese at 7.45 p.m. and in Hokkien at 8.45 p.m.)

Indian 1.15 p.m. to 2 p.m. (news in Hindustani at 1.25 p.m. and in Tamil at 1.45 p.m.), and from 9 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. (news in Tamil 9.15 p.m.) 6.30 to 7 p.m. Indian Forces Programmes.

BLUE NETWORK from noon to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on 300 metres; from noon to 2 p.m.; 6 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. to 11 p.m. on 4.78 mcs/sec in 61 metre band.

Malay noon to 1 p.m. (news at 12.45 p.m.) and from 6 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. (news in Malay at 7.30 p.m.)

English 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (news at 1.30 p.m.) and 8.15 p.m. to 11 p.m. except on Sundays when the afternoon session opens at 5 p.m. (news headlines at 8.30 p.m. and news at 9.30 p.m.)

8.32 to 9 p.m. Light music by Radio Orchestra;
9 p.m. Tommy Handley's Half-hour (Variety programme).

SCHOOLS BROADCASTS

Every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, Blue Network carries a programme for schools on 61 and 300 metres. The programme is: from 9 to 10 a.m. for Chinese schools, 10 to 11 a.m. for English schools, and from 11 a.m. to noon for Malay schools.

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