

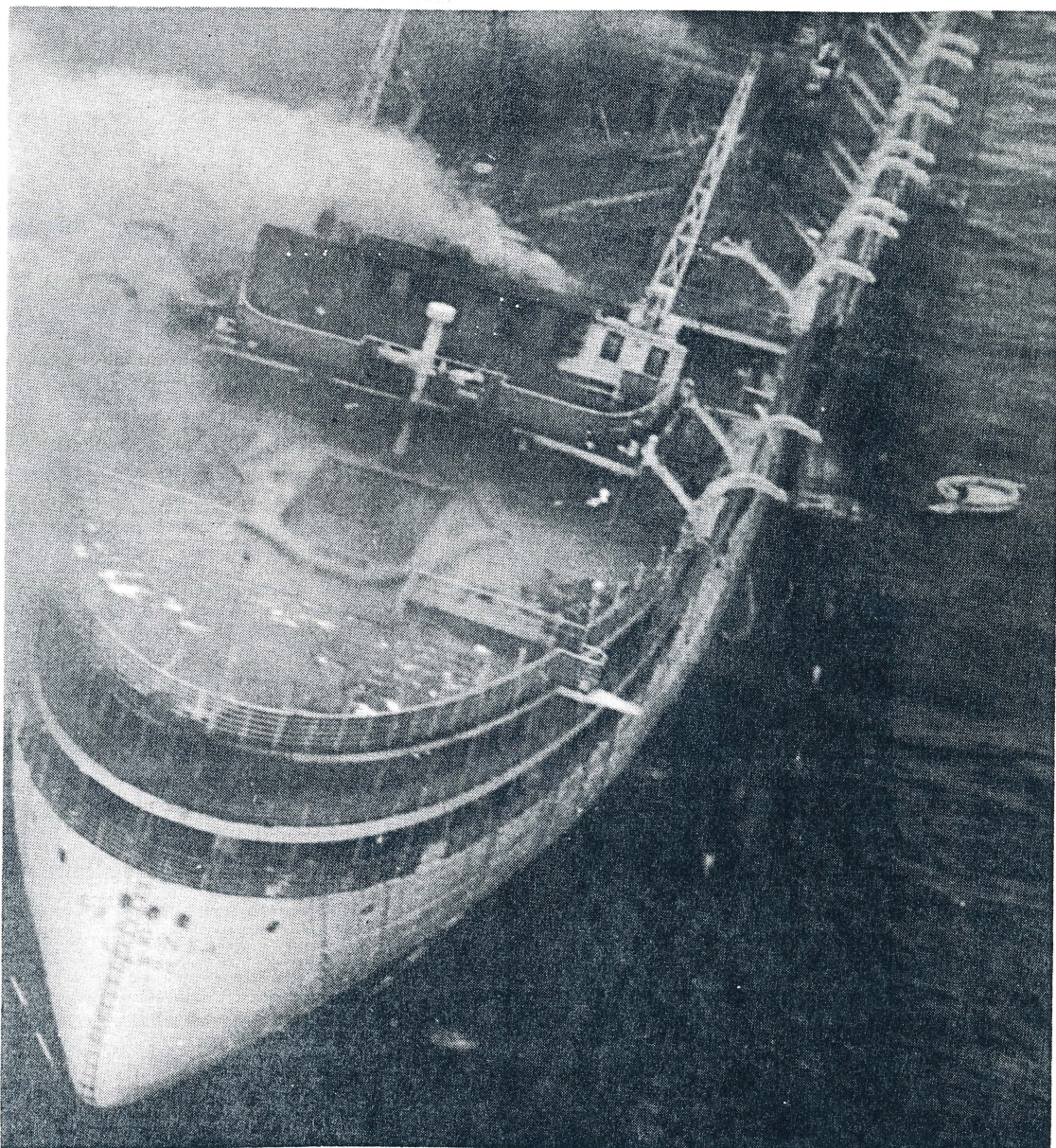


AIRESCUE

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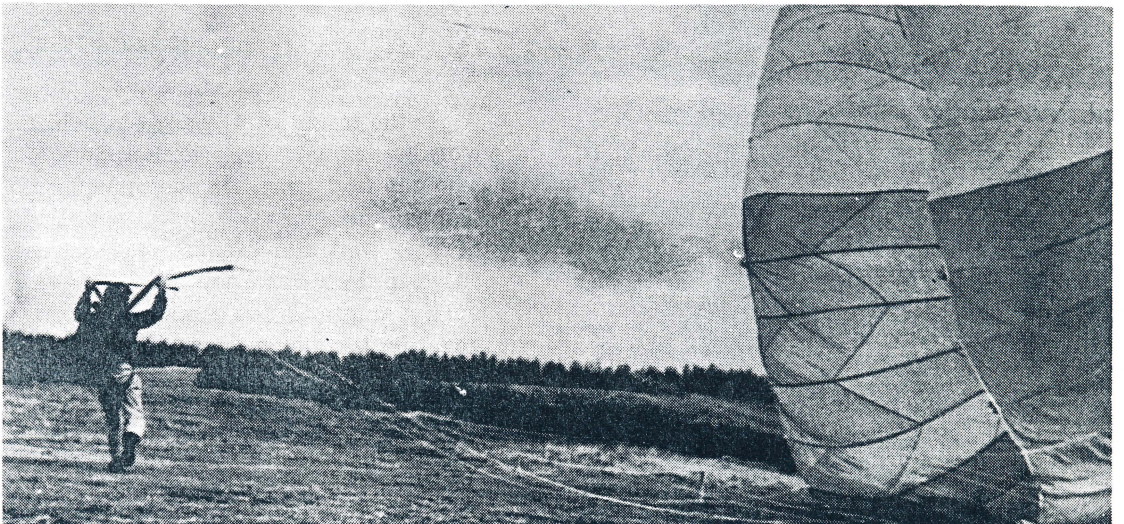


RESCUEMEN DROP LIFE RAFTS TO THE FIRE-STRICKEN GREEK LINER LAKONIA

Lajes Newspaper Covers 57th



PARARESCUEMAN OF THE 57TH ARSQ LANDS AND COLLAPSES CHUTE AT LAJES



"That Others May Live"

By A1C Milton E. Lyon

The young man crouches in the doorway of the jolting C-54 and looks down at the choppy seas 1,200 feet below. Quickly he checks his equipment -- rubber suit, swimming flippers, air tanks and most important, parachute -- then leaps out.

One-two-three-four, his chute opens with a muscle-straining jolt, and his heart drops back into normal position. Below, the smoke marker makes a white cloud over water at the point he is to land. Swiftly he maneuvers his chute to guide it and a few seconds later splashes into the sea only a few feet from the target.

Who is this parachutist in the SCUBA gear, and what is he doing in the Azores? He is a member of the 57th ARSq's newly activated eight-man pararescue team, participating in SCUBA training operations.

THE MEN

The team -- Lajes Field's first -- set up operations here in late September 1963.

Heading the team is MSgt Lionel O. Yaw, a veteran of Project Mercury, Project Discoverer and nose cone recovery operations, plus rescue operations dating back to 1950.



RECOVERY -- Two pararescuemen clad in SCUBA equipment rendezvous for a recovery maneuver during training operations in Praia Bay near Lajes Field, Azores.

* * *

With more than 175 jumps to his credit, the sergeant has seen rescue action in such far north outposts as Greenland, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Two other team members, SSgt Henry H. Kirksey and A1C Raymond S. Weddell are pararescue veterans and have participated in numerous rescue missions and capsule recovery projects.

Rounding out the team are five students in transitional training status: Airmen Third Class Donald R. Dowell, Jessie A. Hill, Howard L. Powell Jr., Gordon C. Thayer

Commendations . . . & Recommendations

As an example of the kind of help we need in telling the Rescue story, this story and these pictures are reprinted here. The writer, editor of the Lajes Field CROSSROADS COURIER, obviously put special effort into researching and publicizing the operation of the 57th Air Rescue Squadron.

This kind of recognition for ARS activities would also seem to reflect some efficient cooperation on the part of the 57th Information officer, who in turn must appreciate having the cooperation of such an able editor and writer. The Information Office at Hq USAF also thinks well of Airman Lyon's work, as his newspaper won first place in its class in the annual Air Force-wide newspaper contest, for the second consecutive year.

On the subject of information -- readers may notice that some persons in the photographs adorning this issue are not fully identified. That's the way we got them, and some of them were of enough interest that it seemed proper to use them anyway, but it would be nice to know. Who is the man in the foreground identified as, "one of the crew,"? The "Sergeant Jones" in the picture -- does he have a first name? If so, it's important -- to Jones certainly, and to the Information people who want to get the job done all the way.

Also, concerning pictures -- there is a vast difference in quality in the way some of your pictures reproduce in this newsletter. The photo lab here says the quality can be improved if they can have the negatives to work with. It is understood that this will not be possible in many cases, but when it is possible to send a negative or copy negative with prints intended for the newsletter, the chances will be better that Sgt Jones will be able to recognize himself in the finished product. Thanks.



PARACHUTE PACKING -- Two students, members of the pararescue team at Lajes Field -- A3C Gordon C. Thayer (left) and A3C Howard L. Powell Jr. -- pack a chute.

* * *

and Nicky A. Randall.

The team's OIC and assistant OIC are two officers of the 57th ARSq, Captain Robert D. Vespico, a helicopter pilot, and 1st Lt Larry A. Dishon, an HC-54 pilot.

THE MOTTO

"So that others may live."

To this Air Rescue Service motto, the Air Force pararescueman dedicates his career. His job is not glamorous; it embraces far more than the glamorous-sounding role of retrieving astronauts from space capsules. The pararescueman is a highly skilled specialist. He's proud of his job and the esprit-de-corps of the fraternity to which he belongs. He worked hard for 18 whirlwind weeks at four schools, plus intensive on-job-training. At these schools it's "old Army Basic" (and a lot more), all over again, pararescuemen point out. The instructors are lean and tough; they separate the men from the boys.

Lajes' five-man student team -- in OJT status -- is rapidly approaching full capability, having undergone extensive OJT to supplement basic pararescue instruction at the Airborne Course (parachute jump school), Aviation Medical School, Underwater Swimmers School and Survival School.

By January 1964, the team is slated to be fully qualified for virtually any rescue operation or space capsule recovery program now planned.

Under the supervision of Capt Vespico,

Lt Dishon, Sgts Yaw and Kirksey and Airman Weddel, the students thus far have completed a series of open-field parachute drops over the Terceira Island golf course and water jumps at 1,200 feet over Praia Bay, about four miles from Lajes Field.

Planned between now and January are a night drop (over a continental Europe drop zone) and an additional water jump from 3,000 feet.

Along with practice jumps, the students are undergoing medical instruction, physical training, mountain climbing and survival technique and a jump master course.

Objective of this diversified training, Sgt Yaw said, is to produce a special breed physically, mentally and emotionally qualified to jump under almost any condition if a possibility exists a life might be saved.

The medical phase features classroom OJT and lectures in the 1605th USAF Hospital flight surgeon's office. The students are studying the latest techniques in advanced first aid, minor surgery and the use of new life-saving drugs.

The always vital physical training calls for 40 hours by each team member every three months. The 5BX approach is utilized along with other PT conditioning devices.

The jumpmaster course, a new phase, requires each student to be experienced in the critical exit-timing over drop zones and the technique of supply air-drops in support of rescue operations.

Lajes Field's pararescue team reflects world-wide pararescue concepts which have gradually emerged since the pararescue program was launched in 1947, less than a year after the organization of Air Rescue Service.

Since 1947 some training procedures have changed but the basic pararescue philosophy remains the same: produce men who are trained to "jump anywhere, anytime, so that others may live."

So . . . how's that for full coverage? Maybe we could declare a National Co-operate With Newspaper Editors Week, and let everybody know what's going on in the Rescue department at all other bases. It can't hurt to try.



DRAMATIC CHARCOAL DRAWING of ARS pararescue experts, SMSgt Nicholas Klimis and Captain Rodney E. Houghton, was presented by distinguished young artist William Orr of Maitland, Florida, to Brigadier General Joseph A. Cunningham