

# Hubschman Recovering From Crash

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Special to The Morning Call  
SAN JUAN, P.R. — George Hubschman, a former Emmaus R. 1 resident and pilot of a twin-engine amphibian plane that crashed nearly two weeks ago off the coast of Puerto Rico, is reported in satisfactory condition and "in fine spirits" at the Roosevelt Roads U.S. Naval Hospital. He is expected to undergo treatment for several months.

Hubschman, the first manager of the Two Guys From Harrison store in Whitehall Township, received a broken leg, a broken ankle on the other leg and "mysterious" leg and facial wounds believed caused by some type of fish.

The Grumman "Goose" seaplane, owned by the Antilles Air Boats, went down on a flight from Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, V.I., to Fajardo, P.R., when both engines failed simultaneously.

The plane reportedly was carrying 11 persons when it went down in the Atlantic near Culebra Island, but only nine persons were rescued. The other two were believed drowned in the wreckage.

In recalling the crash, Ruben Fred, 20, of Culebra, explained how another survivor helped save Hubschman's life.

"When we landed," Fred said, "Jose (Manuel Velazquez, the aiding survivor) got a firm hold on the captain and stayed with him and helped him swim toward Culebra."

Capt. Charles Blair, president of the airline, noted it was a "one-in-a-million" coincidence that the plane's both engines failed at the same time. It was even more unusual, he said, that the crash area happened to be "so unsuitable."

"At least 95 per cent of the time these planes can land in the open sea without any problems and remain afloat indefinitely if they have not hit an obstruction which would open the hull"

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