

# 9 Rescued, 2 Feared Drowned As Plane Ditches in Caribbean

SAN JUAN, P.R. (AP) — A twin-engine commuter plane carrying 11 persons including five mainland Americans ditched in the Caribbean Friday. Authorities said nine were rescued from the shark-infested sea by Coast Guard aircraft.

A search continued for two persons identified on an airline passenger list as Hipolito Castro and Julio Ortiz, whose hometowns were not given.

A Coast Guard spokesman said a survivor told of seeing two persons drown.

A Navy source said the plane's pilot, George Hubschman, was in serious condition at

the Roosevelt Roads Naval Base hospital in Puerto Rico. His hometown was not given.

(Morning Call files indicate that a George Hubschman had been the first manager of the 2 Guys From Harrison store in Whitehall Township. Friends in Allentown added that Hubschman, a pilot, has been associated with a Caribbean charter flight service.)

Other survivors, listed in satisfactory condition at the hospital were:

Marlene Kaufman of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Sidney and Tinker Steiner of New Orleans; Dr. Richard and Atthea Patt of Bos-

ton; Fred Ruben of San Lorenzo, P.R.; Jose Velazquez of Humacao, P.R., and Vasilio Caballero Montan, also of Humacao.

The Navy source said the cause of the accident had not been determined.

Officials of Antilles Air Boats, operators of the Grumman "Goose" that went down, said the plane was carrying a capacity load from Charlotte Amalie, V.I., to Fajardo on the northeastern tip of Puerto Rico.

When the plane was overdue, two Coast Guard planes and a helicopter and private planes began a search. Pilots spotted an oil slick and then the survivors floating in an area one mile northeast of Culebra Island and 15 miles east of Puerto Rico.

He said the helicopter first picked up six survivors. Three others were rescued later, and one of those said he saw two persons drown.