

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THREE PUERTO RICANS DISMISSED FROM HOSPITAL MORNING 6/19/71

Ruben Fred - Age 20 Basilio Caballero Montanez - Age 36
Cariso Hata Grande Calle la Fe #24
Def. 15 Apt. 90 Barrio Patagonia
(Humacao, PR) Humacao, PR

Jose Manuel Velazquez - Age 21

Cariso Padre Riveria #95
Humacao, PR

All three work for Nola Construction Company, Box 1914 V 1, St. Thomas, V. I.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF ONE INDIVIDUAL MISSING AND RELATIVES

Julio Sesa Orti Vasquez Age 25-26 Also worked for Nola Construction
Casadio Dr. Paulo #4
Humacao

Brother: Pablo Cintron - same address

Wife: Carmen one baby 6-7 months old - same address

Mother: Paulita Cintron - same address

Entire group at hospital agreed that there was no telephone in Humacao that could be used to reach any of them. Must be personal visit for contact.

Age 20
Cariso Hata Grande
Def. 15 Apt. 90

Basilio Catallero Montanez - 36
Calle la Fe #24
Barrio Patagonia
Humacao, PR

Age 21
Jose Manuel Velazquez
Carsio Padre Riveria
#95
Humaco, PR

Nola Construction Company - St. Thomas
Bos 1914 V1

We took off at 3:30 and then everything was going fine. About 10 or 15 minutes away from St. Thomas one engine went put-putput. The plane started wiggling back and forth. The captain started pumping the pump on top, pumping and pumping. The engine started up again.....~~Just~~ Just one engine went off. The engine started. For a few seconds he pumped some more and both went out...started wiggling and then went out. The captain said to get the life preservers. He started to take it down slow, slow, slowly. We bounced three times, hit one big wave and the plane went over and knocked the whole front end out. There were 3-4 foot waves going every which way. They were going all different ways.

Most of the people ~~went out the front~~ went out the front. Some went out the back. The door opened by itself. Everybody had life preservers except two fellows and they stayed on the plane.

(Why didn't they have life preservers?) They didn't understand the pilot. They were panicking - when they saw the others, they were looking everywhere and couldn't find them.

The two fellows stayed on the plane until it went down.

(What did the captain do?)

He was all smashed up. He was 100 ~~xxax~~ yards away. That was how far it knocked him away.

(Why couldn't the two fellows find the life preservers?)

They were all upset. I don't know if they looked.

(What happened after the plane was in the water?)

Everybody had life preservers and were getting organized on top of the boat. Four or five got life preservers and inflated them. The boat started going down. The boat went down in a good 5 to 10 minutes.

The boat was laying on its back. The whole front end was out. Then the boat went nose first straight down. Everybody started floating.

The pilot and the woman and Jose stayed together all the time.

The two married couples stayed together.

Basilio and I stayed together.

We just floated and try staying alive. Waves were coming in pretty high.

(How high were the waves?)

Three or four feet. When I was in the water, I was floating hoping to get to the island, but nothing. I went to sleep. I keep swallowing salt water.

Two or three hours later the planes were circling around. We saw a whole bunch that kept going back and forth, but didn't see us. Then the helicopter come.

The planes kept circling. There was an air boat from the Navy, from the base.

It was something like a goose, but bigger.

(You mentioned something about the pilot going on the radio, what did he say?)

He got on the radio and started saying "Allied Airboats calling in, we're going down" then he dropped the speaker and held on to the (he used hand motions to describe the holding of the yoke.)

When the helicopters came they dropped some kind of a steel basket. They picked up the couples first, then me and him (Basilio) and then the pilot.

No fish came near us.

I saw him (the pilot) in the water. He was all cut up. On his face, it wasn't blood, but thick stuff - like liver not fried yet - whole side of his face - I didn't see his legs.

The doctor got a finger cut up, a few bruises and scratches.

end