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SWIMMING IN THE OPEN SEA

1. Hundreds of casualties have already been suffered by Air Force personnel in this war through lack of swimming ability and through lack of knowledge concerning safety methods under adverse swimming conditions.

2. All personnel of all units, particularly those about to go overseas and those combat units now operating over water, should be instructed in the material contained in this Bulletin.

3. Where swimming facilities exist on or near the base, unit commanders should insure that all non-swimmers be given elementary swimming instruction. All personnel should have actual practice and instruction, or least verbal instruction, in open sea swimming methods and precautions.

4. The following material was extracted from a Memorandum issued by the United States Naval Training Station, Great Lake, Illinois, and was written by Roger C. Larson, Sp 1/c, after a comprehensive study of the subject:

"THE DANGEROUS SEA ANIMALS

In tropical waters there are sharks, barracuda and physalia ('Portugese Man-of-War') that are a danger to a man forced to take to the open sea to save his life.

Of the many types of sharks only one is recognized as voracious (a man-eater). That is the tiger or leopard shark. His method of attack depends upon his degree of hunger and the amount of visible blood, if any.

If a ship is torpedoed, the commotion of the explosion will attract shark in the vicinity and thus increase the danger.

A man's first aim upon being forced to abandon ship or being thrown into the water should be to get at least 50 yards away from the ship to make certain he will not be drawn down by suction as the ship makes its final plunge. After this he must determine: (1) how long he is going to have to remain afloat; (2) what sea animals are around; (3) how close his shipmates are; and (4) what is floating nearby that can be used to hang on to.

"SHARKS

Because the action of the shark and barracuda are alike, this menace can be taken up first. Swim quietly and slowly to avoid being spotted by these