

ROLLIN P. BALL WAS RESCUED IN NORTH SEA

Fought Off German Fighters
For Seventy-Seven Min-
utes On Thursday

THREE OF THE FOUR PLANE ENGINES FAILED

Lieut. Rollin P. Ball, son of Lester Ball, Clerk of the Court, met with a mishap in the North Sea on Thursday of last week while engaging the Germans after bombing Hamm, Germany. The plane, which Lieutenant Ball was in, had fought off German fighters for seventy-seven minutes, when three of the four engines failed and the plane went down. For eight hours young Ball, with others, clung to two rubber rafts, joking to keep their minds from their predicament.

The fortress was forced into the sea and sank almost immediately. Three of the crew were drowned. The crew had no time to release life rafts, but two rafts popped up to the surface after the plane sank. Icy winds froze their water-soaked flying suits and giant waves broke over their heads.

The survivors said the fortress broke in two when it crashed. They clung to the life rafts for half an hour, trying to get them inflated. Numb with cold and exhausted by the battle against heavy seas, they finally got aboard the rafts and lashed them together.

An emergency radio also floated to the surface, the men sent a box kite with an aerial attached and started radioing distress signals. As night drew near, R. A. F. patrol planes swooped down over them. One plane dropped a large lift raft with water, food, and flares.

Among the seven men rescued was Lieutenant Ball. The other six were from various sections of the United States. When rescued they were so cold, weak, and cramped they could not stand up.

This is the second mishap Lieutenant Ball has been in. Some weeks ago he was navigator in a plane which had most of its fuselage shot away by the enemy, but this time he managed to bring the ship to a safe landing and all were saved.