

LORAN STATION BATTLE HARBOR

Battle Harbor Special Logistics Flight News Release 23 APR 1950

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BATTLE HARBOR SPECIAL LOGISTICS FLIGHT

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From:
Public Information Division
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Washington 25, D. C.
Captain S. F. Gray
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and thereafter

BATTLE HARBOR SPECIAL LOGISTICS FLIGHT

A good example of the U. S. Coast Guard's ingenuity and speed in times of emergency is the recent special logistics flight made to Battle Harbor, Labrador, when vital equipment was needed to restore the Coast Guard Loran Station to the air with the least possible delay, after a fire February 26, 1950, destroyed the equipment.

The prompt action resulted in restoration of limited service within three days after the last of the equipment was brought in.

Parachute drops were the only immediate means of servicing the station, since Battle Harbor is inaccessible during the winter months except by parachute drop, ski plane or dog sled.

Within one week after the station went off the air, replacements were assembled and packed, ready to be flown to the isolated spot so that the vital long range navigational aid supplied by the station would again be available to air and surface shipping lanes in the Northwest Atlantic.

On the first leg of the flight, which began at Washington, D. C., a Coast Guard R5D plane put down at the Beverly, Mass., airport to take on a load of approximately 8,200 pounds of air transportable Loran and power equipment, including a 1,500 pound generator, which was dropped, in part, by parachute to the crew of the station. Pieces of equipment too delicate or too heavy for such a drop were unloaded at Gander, Newfoundland, to be flown to the station later by ski plane.

Battle Harbor Special Logistics Flight
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In all, 15 parachute drops were made on March 10. The ski plane made its final delivery of parts on March 16, and the station was back in commission and test operated on March 19.

Coast Guard personnel at the lonely installation and natives of the tiny village, about 2 miles from the station, were on hand at a designated "target" area to retrieve the cargo and transport it via dog sled to the station. High winds made more difficult the task of accurate dropping and rapid recovery.

Ships are able to get to the station during the brief summer period, but during the winter months when it is inaccessible, contact is maintained by the Coast Guard Air Facility at Argentia, Newfoundland, by parachute drop and aerial hook pick-up.

During a typical month, the Air Facility dropped 160 pounds of mail and 3,100 pounds of cargo, including commissary supplies of fresh meat and vegetables.