

Yoo, Rose M.

## Pfc. Rose M. Yoo Rescued From Drowning In Pacific

Once again the fact has been borne out that all the hair-raising adventures to service people do not occur in the combat area. This theory is enthusiastically subscribed to by a Bethlehem WAC who narrowly escaped death in the waters of the South Pacific recently when she and some friends tried a swim in the surf.

Pfc. Rose M. Yoo of 1127 Main Street, Bethlehem, and Pfc. Marie Vigil of Toas, N. M., together with two Navy enlisted men, were rescued a mile off a Pacific naval base by Coast Guardsmen after they had become nearly exhausted from trying to cling to an oil-cov-

ered, air inflated, raft for over an hour.

**FEB 19 1945**

The quartet started their swim in what looked to be pleasant, safe surf but a strong current a short distance from shore swept them out to sea. When they were found they were covered with grease and oil in an area filled with waste and flotsam. The oil had made hanging to the raft a particularly precarious affair, and had made their appearance unrecognizable.

Their rescue was pretty much like a movie serial. First some Coast Guard officers in a small boat, headed for a sandy beach some distance from their ship to enjoy a recreational period, sighted some black objects in the water resembling seals. The black objects turned out to be the bobbing heads of three Navy enlisted men clinging to a partly submerged log.

The exhausted men were hauled aboard and explained that they had sighted a party including two girls in distress off the shore. They had attempted to swim to their rescue but the current proved too strong and they had to give up to save themselves. Unable to make shore they were clinging to the log until help came.

A search of the area for the first party was begun, but before sighting them two more would-be rescuers who were clinging to floating debris were picked up.

The thrilling rescue of the two girls and their companions was supervised by Commander James R. Hinnant, commanding officer of a Coast Guard cutter.

Pfc. Yoo's mother, Mrs. Rose Yoo, resides at 207 South Front Street, Copley. Pfc. Yoo is a graduate of Copley High School and previous to her enlistment in the WAC was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company.

February 19, 1945