

Final Survival Course Test Passed Successfully By Pair

By JIM WHELLY
EDMONTON (CP) — Ralph Flores and He'n Klaben passed the final test of every survival course—they faced the wilderness unprepared and came back alive and raised new questions about survival.

Medical experts were amazed by their 50-day ordeal of pain, severe cold, hunger and isolation. Some refused to comment without knowing more details. Eskimos from the harsh environment of the Arctic said the feat was incredible.

Flores, 42, and Miss Klaben, 21, had been given up for dead when an S O S tramped in the snow led rescuers to them Sunday. They were near the mountain-side spot where the small plane, 2100 feet was piloting, crashed Feb. 4, about 75 miles south of Watson Lake, Yukon, in northern British Columbia.

They said they had only two tins of sardines, two cans of fruit salad and a box of crackers and they also ate two tubes of toothpaste. The food lasted one week.

"After that," said Miss Klaben, "it was water for breakfast, water for lunch and water for supper."

Dr. J. F. McCreary, dean of medicine at the University of British Columbia, said in Vancouver that Flores and Miss Klaben never would have survived if they had not been on the pump side.

"Lots of water and a little carbohydrate made it possible for them to live on the fat and protein in their bodies," the nutrition expert said.

INJURIES A FACTOR
Lloyd Ronfo, a bush pilot at Whitehorse, Y.T., said the injuries Flores and Miss Klaben sustained probably helped them survive through temperatures as harsh as 42 degrees below zero. He said the injuries would help them to conserve energy by not moving around.

Flores, an electrician from Whitehorse, Calif., who had been working on the DEW line, suffered a broken nose and broken jaw in the crash and frostbite to two toes on his right foot.

Miss Klaben, of Brooklyn, N.Y., who was hitching a ride home after working in an office in Fairbanks, Alaska, suffered a fracture of the left arm and frostbite of both feet.

Flores dropped to 127 pounds through temperatures as low as 100 pounds from 140.

Medical bulletins from the hospital say the pair are making a satisfactory recovery.

EATON'S ...



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