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All 14 Aboard Are Safe After Plane Is Ditched

SCITUATE, Mass. (AP) — calm water 200 yards off a beach 20 miles south of Boston. Some swam, others clung to the wing until boats arrived, but within minutes all 14 persons aboard a commercial airliner which ditched Sunday night in the Atlantic stood wet but safe on shore.

The two-engine Lockheed Electra owned by Provincetown-Boston Airlines Inc. was en route from Provincetown, at the tip of Cape Cod, to Boston, 40 miles away, when trouble developed in the right engine.

Pilot Elwood Hallowell, 38, of Naples, Fla., said he ditched the plane after repeated attempts to prevent it from losing altitude. It came down in about 20 feet of

'The pilot really did a hell of a job,' said eyewitness Curtis Schermerhorn, 46, a summer resident of Humarock Beach and police chief in Port Dickinson, N.Y.

"I was in the Army Air Force during World War II," he said, "and 'I've seen a lot of crashes. This pilot did things perfectly — he cut his power seconds before he hit the water and made a fine crash landing."

The plane stayed afloat for

about eight minutes, giving summer residents with small boats enough time to pluck five nonswimming passengers from the left wing before it sank.

Five others were picked up in the water as they swam toward shore and four others reached the beach without help.

Only one person, John Munro, 49, of Mountain Lakes, N.J., required hospital treatment.

A psychiatrist aboard the plane, Dr. Calvin F. Settlege, 36, of Ardmore, Pa., who was sitting in the copilot's seat, said there was no panic among the passengers. He said the loss of altitude was so gradual that some of them were unaware until the last moment that a crash was imminent.

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