

*(In 1965, pilot Ed Lumsdaine experienced engine failure and landed the 185 BVY on a sandbar in the Leonard Schultze River without a scratch to him or his plane. This is documented in the book "Balus" by James Sinclair. Following is Jim Lindsay's account of the rescue of the pilot and plane):*

"Albie (Waters) and I spent 5 days on dugout canoes retrieving that aeroplane from the upper reaches of the April river. We had to take a Kiap and native police as the folk up there had never seen a white man before and their reaction was wonderful. We headed up the Sepik for a couple of days before turning up the April. We found the aircraft around mid afternoon on the third day high and dry on a sand bar just above a set of rapids.

Backing up a little, Ed (Lumsdaine) and I were scheduled to spend the day working out of Telefomin. Because there was no fuel there, I had a load of goods and Ed had 6 drums of petrol for the intended flying. I left first and reached Telefomin where I unloaded, picked up a nurse, and headed for an overdue in my other outstation for a baby weighing morning. Whilst airborne I heard Ed's mayday. I dropped the nurse and headed back to find Ed in one piece and the aircraft looked OK. I dropped him my lunch box and headed back to Ambunti where a helicopter was parked. The chopper went in and picked up Ed and I took him back to Wewak where we put together some ropes and tools and headed back to Ambunti.

There we hired 3 huge dugout canoes with outboard motors and, after a few hours sleep, headed up the river at daybreak next day. We found the aircraft high and dry on the third afternoon and proceeded to load it onto a platform between the canoes. We got the aircraft on but then the platform collapsed and we had to issue the work boys with axes and send them off into the bush to cut some planks to make a new one. Finally got it secured on our new platform and set about manhandling the whole contraption around the rapids. Next challenge was to get the aircraft off the platform and up the cliff. Fortunately, there was a lot of folk in the calaboose who were issued with shovels and forks and they proceeded to cut a road into the cliff. A tractor finished the job by pulling the aircraft up the cliff and onto the strip.