

Moses Lake Crash Scene Of Heroism

(Story also on page one.)
MOSES LAKE, Wash. (AP)—A C-124 just taking off from Larson Air Base here Saturday crashed and burned leaving 84 out of its 115 passengers and crew dead. At the wreck scene there was confusion, terror — and heroism.

S. Sgt. Charles B. Welker of Clarksville, Tenn., a survivor, said "We all tried to help the fellows inside."
Welker, seated near the tail of the \$1,800,000 transport, said: "The first I knew anything was wrong, the plane started waving up and then back down."
"I passed out for a minute. Then I saw the fire. I was strapped in and I tried to get out."
"After I got out somebody yelled 'Let's get in there and get 'em out.' We started back in to get them. I was all scared up."
Airman 3rd Class Raymond K. Ferguson of Statesville, Ark., said he was sitting near the parachute door.

Helped Others
"When I came to," he said, "my parachute was hanging up and Welker was all hung up too. I helped him and some others get out. Then we tried to get back to the fellows inside."

In the crash the Globemaster was demolished and wreckage and bodies widely scattered. Flames charred many bodies beyond recognition.

Air Force men walked through the snow, carrying bodies to a truck. Rescue crews, who arrived too late to help, poked about in the snow and recovered an occasional broken Christmas package. Some one found two Bibles in the personal effects.

"They were a happy-go-lucky lot," said an officer. "Anxious to be on their way. When their names were called to get on the plane, all was confusion."
Some missed the plane, and the disaster.

Passed Up Trip
Sgt. Bobby J. Wilbanks of West Monroe, La., was on the passenger list, but had to pass up the trip at the last minute.
"I kept hoping I'd be able to go," he said, "but couldn't get away from my work."

The Air Force, explaining the trip, said it was a training flight of which service men took advantage "to obtain visits to various points in the United States."

It made clear it was not a part of the "Operation Sleight of Hand" in which some Korean veterans are being flown home for Christmas.
What caused the crash?
Air Force officials, who began an immediate probe, said the reason was undetermined.

There was the light snow, but officials said it was not considered a hazard. The Air Force said the ceiling was 500 feet with visibility two miles.

Cut Wide Swath
A Washington State Patrol sergeant, A. R. Baker, said the plane "hit awful hard and cut a swath a quarter of a mile along the ground."
"It must have come down sideways," Baker commented. "Maybe a wing tip hit the ground while making a left turn."

There was no dangerous terrain, as in the case of several of the recent Alaska plane crashes. The land beyond the base runway lay flat and clear.
"There was no question of overloading, the Air Force said, for the plane could carry 200."

Back at base operations, another group of airmen sat talking quietly as each new detail came in from the wreck scene.
They were waiting for a chance to catch another plane — to "hitch hike" home for Christmas.

Truman to Give Yule Message

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Truman will deliver his last official Christmas message to the nation Wednesday at the 30th annual lighting of the living Christmas tree on the White House grounds.
The program will be carried by radio networks (1:30 p. m. PST). It will feature Christmas music by the United States Marine band and the Washington community chorus. Climax will be the President's address.

East Germans Sent to Prison

BERLIN (AP)—Communist-controlled East Germany, where a widespread purge is under way, sentenced seven Christian Democratic Party members Saturday to prison terms ranging from eight to 15 years on charges of spying for the West.
The Christian Democrats have been collaborating with the Communist-controlled government and have members in the East German Cabinet.

General Clark Warns Red PW Leaders

TOKYO (AP)—Gen. Mark Clark said Sunday the United Nations Command will not tolerate terrorism, rioting or mutiny inspired by fanatical Communist leaders in Allied prisoners of war camps.
The Army said the supreme Far Eastern commander made the statement "in view of recently published newspaper accounts of statements attributed to the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, concerning the possible non-observance by the UNC of the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war."

Clark also released the text of his letter June 12 (correct) to Dr. Otto Lehner, senior representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in reply to a specific complaint of mishandling of prisoners.
Clark said in his statement: "The United Nations command has respected, and will continue to respect, the principles of the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war. It has afforded, and will continue to afford, prisoners of war decent and humane treatment."

"At the same time, it will require that prisoners of war respect their obligations under the Geneva Convention. It will not tolerate terrorism, rioting, or mutiny inspired by fanatical Communist leaders and it will take adequate measures to prevent mass breakouts of those being interned."

In his letter to Lehner, dated last June 12, Clark answered Red Cross assertions that the U. N. Command had violated the Geneva Convention by using force and withholding food and water from hospitalized prisoners at Camp No. 10 in Pusan, Korea.

The Red Cross letter, dated May 24, had said: "Withholding food and water from prisoners in three hospital compounds of UN POW enclosure No. 10 is all the more serious as this measure applied to hospital patients, post-operative cases, tubercular cases, mental cases and amputees."
The Pusan troubles broke out when the Army ordered a small group of Reds who served as hospital attendants to leave three compounds for transfer elsewhere. The Reds refused and U. S. infantrymen entered with clubs.

One Red was killed and 85 were injured in a three-hour melee. One soldier also was injured.
Clark, in his reply made public Sunday, recalled that Red Cross delegates at Pusan "witnessed the prisoners' flagrant disregard of lawful orders and 'agreed that uncontested control had to be established.'"

He stressed that food and water were available in the new compound for the Reds if they had left as ordered.

Charlie Chaplin Feted in Italy

ROME (AP)—Charlie Chaplin was made a grand officer of the Legion of Merit of the Italian Republic at a dinner in his honor here Saturday night.
The award was presented by Giulio Andreotti, under secretary of the presidency of the council in charge of Italy's entertainment industry.
Chaplin, who is in Rome with his wife Oona, said the award marked the apex of his career. The comedian will greet about 1,500 school children Sunday after they see some of his films.
The Chaplins will leave by plane Tuesday to join their children in Switzerland for Christmas.

D.M. Connelly Dies in Wreck; Rites Tuesday

Statesman News Service
(Story also on Page 1)
HUBBARD — Funeral services for Dwight Marcus Connelly, 16, killed Friday night in a grade-crossing accident, will be held at 2 p. m. at Canby Funeral Home.
The Rev. John Stone of Canby Christian Church will officiate. Interment will be at Zion Cemetery, Canby.

Connelly was born July 21, 1936, at Gracewith, Minn., and attended schools in Virginia and Minnesota before entering seventh grade at Canby. He had lived east of Hubbard since last March.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Connelly, two sisters, Mrs. Gloria McEwen, Canby, and Mrs. Virgilla Hanson, Corvallis; and a brother, Harold, at home.

Parents Meet Christine in Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Christine Jorgensen, the ex-GI converted sexually by surgery, had a happy, tearful Yuletide reunion Saturday night with the parents who last saw her as their son George.

Mr. and Mrs. George Jorgensen of The Bronx, New York, arrived by plane to spend Christmas with Christine, an attractive, 26-year-old blonde who has launched a new career as a color photographer.

They embraced each other several minutes in the customs office of the Kastrup Airport, then moved to a closed room for privacy.
Jorgensen, a small, thickset carpenter, and Mrs. Jorgensen showed signs of bewilderment as they talked with their daughter.

Stalin Prize Recommended For Robeson

LONDON (AP)—International Stalin peace prizes Saturday were recommended for seven men and women, including American Negro singer Paul Robeson, Moscow Radio announced Saturday.

Others are Yves Farge of France; Saifuddin Kichlew, chairman of the Indian Council of Peace; Elise Franco, member of the Federation of Brazilian Women; Johannes Eecker, German writer; Dr. James G. Endicott, Canadian clergyman, and Ilya Ehrenburg, Russian writer.

\$1,000 BILL IN KETTLE

MONTREAL (AP)—When they opened the Salvation Army Christmas kettle on St. Catherine Street last night they found a \$1,000 bill.

It is believed that the Tower of London is moving away from the River Thames at the rate of about 1 1/4 inches every 30 years.

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Wreck Involves Cars, Pedestrian

A two-car and pedestrian accident at North Capitol and Hunt Streets Saturday resulted in minor injury to one of the drivers.
The two cars were driven by Stanley Marne Zeeb, 2025 Fisher Rd., and David Henry Turner, 3083 Silverton Rd. A pedestrian, Wallace Strand, 2005 Market St., walking across the street in front of the rear-end collision, was struck but not injured. Turner was treated by Salem first aid for minor abrasions.
Licorice is widely used in cough medicines.

Today Stalin's 73rd Birthday

By The Associated Press
Today (Sunday) is Joseph Stalin's 73rd birthday.
As the Soviet prime minister enters his 74th year, there are no reliable reports on his health, a closely guarded state secret.
AMALFI, Italy (AP)—A small fireworks factory blew up here Saturday, killing four workers and injuring two.

However, there is ground for speculation that he is ailing, greatly slowed down and less active in the government over which he has wielded dictatorial powers.
Less fuss has been made about the birthday this year than in any since the bang-up celebration when he reached 70 in 1949.
Last year, when he was 72, a few statues of him were unveiled here and there in satellite Communist countries, and in Hungary there was a report that the celebration of the day would replace that of Christmas.
This year East Germany is presenting its praises with the unveiling of a Berlin-based television system. There will be speech-making to Stalin in the dedicatory exercises. As yet, only the top Communist officials have receiving sets.

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