

Air Force Investigates Pair of Plane Collisions Over Florida

Panama City, Fla. (U.P.)—The Air Force began an intense investigation today into a pair of separate air collisions between two B47s and another involving a B29 and an F86, which left all 14 airmen aboard the aircraft dead or missing.

Eight of the known dead were the crew members aboard the two big jet B47 bombers, which crashed in the air with a thunderous explosion near Tampa, spraying fiery bits of wreckage over a wide area.

Three other airmen were known dead and three others were listed as missing in the air collision of a propeller-driven B29 and an F86 all-weather jet interceptor about 14 miles east of Tyndall Air Force Base in the vicinity of Mexico Beach just outside Port St. Joe.

One of the B47s was from MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, and the other was from Pinecastle AFB, Orlando. Each carried four airmen.

Landing Gear Trouble

Lt. Robert E. Johnson, public information officer at MacDill, said a preliminary investigation indicated that the jet bomber from MacDill had landing gear trouble.

He said the Pinecastle plane apparently flew underneath the other bomber to check its landing gear and "must have hit a downdraft and collided."

They slammed into each other over a wooded area between a factory and a railroad yard, but

there were no ground casualties. The propeller-driven B29 and the F86 jet were believed to have collided in the air while the fighter was making a gunnery run on a target towed by the World War II type bomber only a few hours after the B47s collided.

No One Hurt

The B29s nose landed on U.S. Highway 98 close to a tourist court where some 50 people were staying but none of the tourists were hurt. The falling debris missed by only 20 yards a man and his family in a car on the highway.

Witnesses said the F86 crashed inland about a mile from the Gulf of Mexico but Air Force helicopters and search planes were not able to locate the wreckage of the smaller craft immediately.

The bodies of three of the B29s crew were recovered and identified and two others of the crew and the F86 pilot were listed as missing.

No Plane Misuse By Governors Found

Washington (U.P.)—Maj. Gen. Winston P. Wilson said today that in three years as Air National Guard chief he has found no "gross misuse" of Guard planes by junketeering governors.

There have been repeated charges that governors use the government owned planes for personal pleasure, he said. But in each case such charges have proved to be "completely false" upon investigation.

The use of Guard planes by governors has drawn attention recently as a result of flights made by Alabama Gov. James E. Folsom. Folsom threatened to make what he termed a reconnaissance and inspection flight to Jacksonville, Fla., in a Guard plane Jan. 1, the day Auburn is to play in the Gator bowl.

Folsom already is under investigation by the Air Force inspector general on charges that he has been using National Guard planes for other than official use. The report on the investigation is not expected until next month.

Grange

Griffin Creek Grange

Griffin Creek Grange will have its Christmas party at regular meeting Thursday, Dec. 22. Program will begin at 8 p.m. Bring gifts not to exceed 50 cents, marked for man, lady, girl or boy, or with your child's name on it, as you prefer. Also bring treats of candy, cake, cookies, etc. Coffee will be made for refreshments. A short meeting will follow the party.

HEC met last Thursday with Mrs. W. Werner on Stewart ave. for their Christmas party. Gift exchange was enjoyed by all. Mrs. Pearl Farnsworth was elected treasurer for the following year. Officers will be installed at the next HEC meeting.

Gold Hill Grange

The Gold Hill Grange met in regular session Dec. 15 with Brother Alva Walker presiding in the absence of Master Herman Kamping, who is vacationing in Kansas.

After the business meeting, the large crowd took part in the Christmas festivities, and every one enjoyed the exchange of gifts.

The program was put on by the juveniles.

This program showed the wonderful progress being made in the Juvenile Grange, by their worthy Patron, Harold Densmore.

The lunch served in the dining room was enjoyed by every one present.

The next regular serving committee will be the HEC.

STOMACH TROUBLE

Hartford, Conn. (U.P.)—Eleven-year-old Kevin Thomas set out to set a still-walking record, but he quit after taking 4,701 steps because "I was starved, and supper was a half hour late as it was." Next time said Kevin, "I'll carry a sandwich."

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Disagreement on Prosperity Boom

Washington (U.P.)—Rival captains in next year's battle for control of Congress disagreed today on whether voters will credit the Eisenhower administration or the Democrats for booming prosperity.

Forecasting a Republican victory in the fight for Congress, Rep. Richard M. Simpson (R-Pa.) chairman of the GOP Congressional committee said:

"The thinking voter is going to vote to keep the party of peace and prosperity in power. Why would they vote to go back to Trumanism and waste and high taxes?"

But Rep. Michael J. Kirwan (D-O.), chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign committee, maintained in a separate interview that Democrats will not only capture and strengthen their control over congress in 1956 but will capture the presidency, too.

"Every bit of legislation that has promoted prosperity was put on the statute books by the Democratic party," Kirwan said. "Name one act the Eisenhower administration sponsored that helped promote prosperity. Prosperity will continue because of Democratic legislation."

Huk Field Commander Slain by Army Troops

Manila, P.I. (U.P.)—Philippine troops pressing an all-out campaign against remnants of the Communist Huk rebels hunted down and killed Tomas Calma, a brother-in-law of jailed rebel chieftain Luis Taruc, it was announced today.

Calma, labeled by Army intelligence as one of the "most ruthless field commanders" of the rebels, was trapped in the village of Santa Ana in Pampanga Province some 50 miles north of here Monday.

Woman Teacher Ban Defended in Tokyo

Tokyo (U.P.)—A spokesman for the Tokyo metropolitan school board today defended against newspaper criticism its policy of barring the hiring of women teachers who are less than five feet tall.

"There are many difficulties involving teachers less than five feet in height," the spokesman said. "In outdoor activities it is difficult to locate her, and in the classrooms she will not be able to reach the top of the blackboard."

A Nichol's Worth of... Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington (U.P.)—The year coming up, 1956, is the leapin' kind, and you



Harman Nichols

eligible male young fry had best head for the barn and hide out for 12 months or so.

I got snared in a leap year deal in the long back there, although neither mama nor I will admit any blame. I'm kidding, sort of. But as philosopher and inventor Benjamin Franklin once advised the young man: "By all means get married."

I may shock you a mite, but the month of February was named after Febulius, the Roman festival of purification. Historians tell us that this month is sort of an assistant cousin in the family of months.

That is because the Roman Senate robbed "Feb" of a couple of days to make up a month which now we like to call "August."

And getting away from February for a moment, "August" was named after August Caesar who was disinclined to play second cello to his uncle Julius. Julius, already had it made because "July" had been named for him.

Calendar Problem

Anyhow, research at the Library of Congress should ease the minds of folks born on Feb. 29. The idea of these people getting presents only on every fourth birthday is nothing but a calendar problem, according to one student of leap year.

"In reality," once wrote the late author George Stimpson who used to toil down the hall from me, "there is no problem at all, because none of us observe our birthdays on exactly the proper 24 hours—owing to imperfections of the calendar."

"Every four years, the calendar is about 24 hours behind the astronomical or true solar year. This difference is made up by adding an extra day to February every four years."

Another historian would like us to write it down that the Gregorian calendar, introduced by Pope Gregory in 1582 A.D. put it this way:

Every year divisible by four is a leap year, "with the exception of those years whose numbers are divisible by 100 and not by 400."

If you are still with me and can divide, maybe we can wind up with the same results:

The years 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not leap years. The year 1600 was of course.

And if you can add and figure to stick around until 2000 (you swains) you can look for another year that will not be a good one for the man-chasing Sadie Hawkins clan.

According to history, the Gregorian calendar was a modification of the Julian calendar. That one was introduced by the above mentioned J. Caesar in 46 B.C. The high minds of the Roman astronomical society at that early date fixed the solar year at 365 days and six hours. The six extra hours added up to a slop over. But it was discovered to the amazement of a lot of people that the extra hours added up to too much to make the calendar year come out even. Clear thinking knocked off Feb. 29—except once every four

Housewife's Influence Cited by Brazil Official

Rio De Janeiro (U.P.)—A Brazilian government official said Monday that American housewives exert a powerful influence in the struggle against high prices in the United States.

Vicente Ouro Preto, Brazilian treasury delegate in New York here on leave, said American housewives have the ear of Congress. He said this was shown when coffee prices rose to levels they thought excessive last year.

years, give or take a few minutes. And 1956, upcoming, will be one of those years. And if the swains are smart, as I said, they will do a swan dive.

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EMOTION PACKED REUNION—Overcome by emotion, former German prisoner of war Fritz Merten and his sister, Margarete, break down in tears as they meet in Friedland, Germany. Merten, one of 600 former German soldiers freed by the Russians, hadn't seen his sister since 1935. Sadness marred his homecoming. His wife, who hadn't heard from him, had declared him dead in 1949 and remarried. The 600 war prisoners were the first released by Russia since repatriations suddenly stopped in October.

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