

Commercial Air Crash Off Biak Recalls Tragic Incident During World War II

By DOC GUIGG
United Press Correspondent
New York.—The tragedy of a commercial air crash off Biak brought the name of that coral-fringed bit of equatorial island back into the news for the first time since the spring

of 1944, when it was a World War II battleground. It was, during the war, a place of bitter fighting for a time between American and Japanese troops. I remember it particularly for a tiny-scale tragedy

during the U.S. invasion because it was there I could have saved a human life and did not.

Biak is a steamy-hot concentration of jungle, brush, cliffs, and swamp just 50 miles south of the equator near the northwest end of New Guinea. At first gray of dawn on May 27 our shelling and bombing of the shore began. Its intensity soon obscured the coastline with a curtain of smoke and dust.

Coastline Not Visible

Perhaps because the coastline was not visible, our troop-hauling ships mistakenly took position two miles west of the designated landing beaches. The first wave of tracked landing vehicles that crawled across the green coral through the smoke discovered the error when they found themselves in a mangrove swamp.

Our ships were ordered to move to the proper position. The ship on which I was riding as a reporter got underway with one soldier still hanging at the bottom of the rope landing net from which he had been about to drop into a waiting landing vehicle. The landing craft itself swung out along our side, trying to keep abreast of us.

The soldier was weighted with a heavy pack, his gun, and ammunition. The strength in his hands gave out. When I first saw him, he was dropping into the water. He came slowly down the length of the ship, pawing the rolling, slick green water desperately against the weight that kept pulling his head back and down under.

Victim Goes Unseen

Those of us at the rail on deck presumed the landing craft which was almost at his side would pick him up quickly. Any one of us could have vaulted over the side of the ship and helped him keep afloat.

But somehow the two-man crew of the landing craft failed to see him. While scores of men shouted frantically at the craft through the bombardment noise, he bobbed quickly astern.

The craft suddenly spotted him and raced after him. As his head started under, it reached

Cairo Building Cave-in Kills 40

Cairo.—More than 40 persons, including a bride in her white wedding dress, were killed Thursday night when the top floor of an old house caved in and sent the walls crashing down on more than 200 guests.

Police said early today another 45 persons had been taken to hospitals with serious injuries and that they feared rescue crews would find additional bodies in the debris.

Fire and police brigades were still hauling dead and injured from the rubble early today and police said they feared additional victims were still in the ruins.

The building, situated off an alley in the Darb El Ahmar quarter near Saladin's Citadel, collapsed shortly before midnight while the bride and bridegroom were gaily celebrating their marriage.

The walls buckled without warning, the top floor caved in and the house collapsed as if it were made of cards.

Dulles on Official Visit To Canada

Washington.—Secretary of State John Foster Dulles flew to Canada today for a week end get-acquainted visit with John G. Diefenbaker, its new prime minister.

The visit to Ottawa will be Dulles' first official trip to Canada in almost two years. However, he has vacationed several times at his private Duck Island hideaway on the Canadian side of Lake Ontario.

Dulles, a yachting enthusiast, plans to stop off en route to Ottawa at Kingston, Ontario, to watch the annual sailing race for the Secretary of State Trophy which he presents. Dulles put the trophy in competition a few years ago to encourage sailing in the waters of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence river.

him. A crewman swung out quickly with a hook pole—missed—and then dived in frantically after the vanishing head. It was too late. The crewman came up. The soldier was gone.

Sex Determination Algebraic Summation Of Several Factors

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York.—A scientific view on sex follows.

"Sex is the overall state of body and mind by which the individual conforms to the male or the female standards of normality in the named sex—determining factors."

"It is an algebraic summation of these factors in which no one factor supercedes the others. In other words there is no single conclusive factor."

"Every individual we know is a mixture of characteristics of the male and female, and it is the algebraic sum or preponderance of all these factors that determines sex, and not any one of them."

The speaker was Dr. Joseph H. Kiefer of the University of Illinois, who was lecturing a medical audience.

Names Sex Factors

The "sex-determining factors" he named were:

"First and most basic" is the pattern of the chromosomes in all body cells. These patterns are either "XX" and female or "XY" and male. It used to be thought that these patterns always were of the sex the individual appeared to be. Recently it has been shown that this is not always so."

Next in importance is the nature of sexual glands. "For many years," continued Dr. Kiefer, "this was considered the best indicator of the true sex, but is now found unreliable."

Then come the chemical patterns of the hormones of the other glands of internal secretion. He pointed out that hormones from glands other than the sexual "can drastically alter the development of sex features."

Next in his list was "the most obvious."

Finally is the mind "pattern." This pattern "is influenced by the hormonal pattern as well as by the upbringing and experience of the individual, but is an uncertain guide as to true sex."

He was concerned for the few in whom, at birth, there was uncertainty. With the "inter-sexed," the determination of "true sex" should be done as early in life as possible. This would seem axiomatic, yet not everyone agrees with this idea."

He advocated "through and comprehensive study" to establish the status of the inter-sexed in the five "sex-determining factors." This study would establish true sex; "medical, surgical, and social corrective measures" would follow.

"This," he said, "will allow the patient to develop normally or very near normally physically, socially, and psychologically, and will prevent the lifetime maladjustments and tragedies that fill the historical works on the subject."

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