

Storms Threaten To Bury Last Trace Of Crashed Airliner On Alaskan Peak

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, March 15 (AP)—Storms threatened today to bury the last trace of a crashed Northwest Orient Airlines DC-4 which carried 30 persons to their death high up on towering Mount Sanford.

The forecast of bad weather increased the probability that the bodies of the 30 victims will remain entombed on the 16,208-foot peak.

The four-engine airliner, en route from Shanghai to St. Paul, crashed Friday night on a glacier of the mountain 190 miles northeast of here.

Aboard the chartered plane were a crew of six and 24 seamen flying from Shanghai to New York. They were crewmen of the tanker Sun-sei, of the overseas tankship corps.

The worst disaster in Alaska's aviation history, it was also the airlines' first since it began Far East service more than a year ago.

Several flights planned to determine the feasibility of sending ground parties to the scene were cancelled yesterday when clouds obscured the mountain. There was no indication of a let-up in the weather today.

A Northwest Airlines meteorologist said a storm front would reach the area early today bringing increased cloudiness and storm conditions. Similar weather probably would prevail for another 48 hours, he said.

Even after brief glimpses of the crash scene Saturday, authorities were generally agreed that the danger of slides probably would make it impossible to reach the wreckage.

The ill-fated plane, piloted by Capt. James Van Cleet of Minneapolis, crashed into a horseshoe-shaped pocket of the mountain less than half an hour after it passed over the Gulkana CNA ranger station, apparently on course and at 11,000 feet altitude.

The big ship tore into a sheer ice and rock cliff at the same elevation, then slid 2500 feet down the glacier. Only bits of the plane were visible at the bottom of a fire-blackened trail left by the blazing wreckage.

Whether efforts will be made to recover the victims will be decided after NWA officials and members of the air forces' 10th rescue squadron scan the mountainside.

Jim Gale, civilian expert with the rescue squadron, said "it isn't impossible to get to the wreckage but there is little hope of reaching it."

"I'm afraid that if a group went in," he explained, "they might start slides, bringing down tons of ice upon them."

Belief that rescue operations would be "too foolhardy to attempt," was expressed by R. J. Wells of the Anchorage radio station KENI. After flying over the wreck scene he described "solid ice blocks so high it was impossible to estimate their height."

Costa Rican Revolt Grows

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, March 15 (AP)—A desperate Costa Rican government tried today to stem a revolution sweeping the nation. The opposition has virtually isolated the capital.

Seventy-five per cent of San Jose's power plants have been blown up and opposition forces said they were trying to cut the remainder last night. The city's industry is at a virtual standstill. A general sit-down strike has been called for today.

Underground sources say the government has appealed to General Anastasio Somoza, former president and now strongman of Nicaragua, to send help as soon as possible.

Three Nicaraguan planes are

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here at the Sabana airport with their wing insignia painted out with yellow paint.

Jose Figueres, leader of the revolutionary forces, said over the underground radio he had wiped out half of the mobile unit sent to force him from his hidden mountain stronghold south of Cartago. This unit had been trained by the U. S. army.

Government troops earlier reported the capture of 11 men at Figueres' stronghold.

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INTERFERENCE THEORY
According to a theory of two English scientists, magnetic storms that interfere with telegraph and cable service are due to a ring of electrical current that surrounds the earth like Saturn's rings.

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