

SHIP CRASHES; 3 FEARED DEAD

No Cause Revealed In Crash of C-124

MOSES LAKE, Wash. (AP) — As the death list in Saturday's C-124 crash here rose to 87 Tuesday, the Air Force announced that a preliminary inquiry had failed to disclose the cause of history's worst aviation disaster.

The Air Force announcement, made in Washington, D. C., also said the preliminary probe at the scene failed to show any reason why an order for grounding the big C-124 Globemaster transports should be issued.

There has been such a suggestion from at least one congressional critic of the series of recent military transport crashes in the Pacific Northwest, Alaska and Korea.

The C-124 crashed during a pre-dawn takeoff Saturday as a "Christmas special." Out of the 116 aboard, 104 were servicemen on their way home for holiday leaves. Some were just back from Korea.

Memorial services for the victims being held here today.

The 7th man to die, and the only injured man to succumb since the day of the crash, was the only member of the 12-man crew who

Mercury Dips Below Zero

Moscow was one of the coldest spots in the nation this morning with a below and the mercury dipped below zero in Klamath Falls for the first time this season.

At about 8:15 this morning, the red line on the big Herald and News recording thermometer curved below the zero mark briefly.

At Municipal Airport, the Civil Aeronautics Administration had a low reading of even zero, Tulelake had 1 above and Chemult 4 below.

The winter chill gripped wide areas of Eastern Oregon, according to an Associated Press weather roundup. Baker and LaGrande both had 3 below.

Previous low this season for Klamath Falls was 6 above on the morning of Nov. 28.

The weatherman today forecast another frigid night for the Klamath Country with a predicted low of zero.

Elsewhere in the nation last night, it was chilly but mild compared to this area. Seattle and Chicago had lows of 38, Los Angeles 45 and New York 34.

Although the weatherman predicted fair weather for Klamath through tomorrow barometers here began easing downward late last night and were still gradually falling this morning.

Phone Dialed With Tongue

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A cafe owner, his hands and feet bound, summoned aid by dialing a telephone with his tongue after an attractive brunette and her male companion robbed him of \$4,000.

Gisbatta Perrazo, 49, was closing his Lucky Ace Cafe when a tall young woman asked to use the phone Monday night.

Then, Perrazo told police, an armed, masked man entered, struck him and bound him.

He said the woman reappeared and held the pistol as the man rifled a cash box.

Perrazo struggled to the phone, knocked the receiver from the hook, dialed operator with his tongue and shouted for help. The operator notified police.

Late Shopping

Additional hours of hectic last-minute shopping will be afforded tonight by member stores of the Klamath Merchants Association and others. The stores will remain open until 9 o'clock this evening.

came out of the crash alive.

He was Master Sgt. Wendell L. Burton of Temple, Okla. He was the engineer aboard the big transport. He died during the night at Brooke Army Hospital at San Antonio, Texas, a few hours after he arrived there with eight other survivors of the tragedy.

Before he lapsed into unconsciousness after the crash, Burton had told officers at the scene that the C-124's instruments indicated the plane's operation was normal in the takeoff.

The interim report to the Pentagon was made by Maj. Gen. Victor E. Bertrandias, deputy inspector general of the Air Force. He was one of five generals participating in the preliminary inquiry that ran far into last night.

The report said the inquiry showed all regular maintenance checks had been made before the takeoff. It had been test-flown the day before the accident. The chief pilot, Lt. William N. O'Connell of Portland, Me., was cited as highly competent.

Weather conditions, too, were given an O.K. There was a light snow at the time.

The first memorial service held at Larson Air Force Base here, where a pall hung heavily over the approaching Christmas holiday, was a Catholic rite in the base theater.

A Protestant memorial service was to follow.

Meanwhile, the grim task of identifying other burned victims of the crash continued. Much of the checking had to be done through dental records.

The number of names of identified dead released stood at 85.

The latest congressional suggestion for a full-scale inquiry into the recent series of military crashes that have claimed close to 300 lives around the Pacific rim came from Sen. Hiram (D-Wyo.). He said in Washington he would ask the Air Force to consider establishing a corps of career master mechanics to maintain Air Force planes.

Some of the 29 survivors continued in serious condition at three widely scattered military hospitals from Puget Sound to Texas.

At Madigan General Hospital at Fort Lewis, Wash., it was disclosed that seven of the crash survivors was back in the institution after being out only long enough to come to Moses Lake and board the ill-fated plane.

He was Master Sgt. Hoyt Green of Columbus, Ga. He had spent a month in Madigan.

"I'm alive," he commented, "and that's luck enough."

At present the plating of the five additional jumped under the Eldorado Heights calls primarily for 25-foot frontage lots and a grid system of streets, which doesn't take into consideration the contour of the ground. The general plan is to lay out contour streets with a minimum of 50-foot frontage.

A preliminary plat already has been drawn to accomplish that, and the city has spent (through Planning Commission) around \$4,000 on it.

One other land proposal came before the City Council last night, that concerning the 16.43 acres in Hillside Addition now owned by the Veterans Administration. The land was acquired in 1948 as a VA hospital site.

Recently the Veterans Administration announced the land is surplus, that a hospital won't be constructed here, then reversed itself in a day or two and decided to hold on to the property to let the incoming Republican administration decide what to do with it.

However, VA's San Francisco office notified Mayor Bob Thompson the property might be acquired by the city for park and recreation use if no other federal agency wants it.

Thompson has written for particulars. VA has a value of \$16,000 invested in the property.

Engle Protests Power Switch

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Engle (D-Calif.) Monday protested a proposal to deliver Shasta Dam power to Nevada consumers through exchanges with private companies.

Engle said he was informed a meeting to consider the proposal will be held soon by the Colorado River Commission of Nevada.

He wrote to the California Public Utilities Commission requesting the right to appear as a protest witness at any hearing held on the matter of the commission, which presumably would have to approve the proposal.

"The transfer of Central Valley Project power from Northern California where power reserves are short and moving it across state lines a distance of about 700 miles will be seriously detrimental, not only to California, but to the district I represent," he wrote.

"If the negotiations with the Nevada interests are completed, there will be no public power left for preference customers under the very shadow of Shasta Dam itself. Redding in particular, and the irrigation districts and municipalities in the Northern Sacramento Valley.

Engle said Northern California communities should be given first right to buy Shasta Dam power.

"Those cities and other preference customers should not be blacklisted into undesirable contracts by a political conspiracy between Nevada politicians and the representatives of the Interior Department," Engle said.

Realtors Try To Revive Heights Plan

An effort to breathe new life into the Eldorado residential development proposed to the City by real estate men and Al Schneck, the late member of the City Planning Commission which has financial preliminary work toward replating the proposed restricted residential section.

A week ago Henry Perkins, city attorney and a leading property owner in the so-called Eldorado Heights district, declared that the project is dead. A few property owners, he said, hadn't agreed to come into the plan for replating and developing the district, and in return someone would have to take the lead in getting six estates probated and a guardianship established to continue the project.

It is necessary to get all the property in one technical ownership order to replat, lay out desirable building lots and contour streets, as planned.

The logical ownership is that of the city, and Perkins, owning a considerable amount of the property, put his hand in the city's name over a year ago.

42 OTHERS

He also attempted to get all of the other 42 owners to do the same. Most agreed. But some didn't. Those, plus the complicated heirships of other property, apparently have stymied the development.

Last night Sloan and Schneck asked if there isn't some way in which the elaborate plan can't be revived, but Perkins didn't give them much encouragement.

The city's residential future, Sloan said, lies in that part of town, and he said he had talked to several other real estate men junked. Perkins said he shouldn't feel like putting any more money and effort into the Eldorado Heights, but that he might be willing to sell his lots as a whole or individually to anyone wanting to try to make a go of the development.

Schneck said he might be able to find a buyer.

At present the plating of the five additional jumped under the Eldorado Heights calls primarily for 25-foot frontage lots and a grid system of streets, which doesn't take into consideration the contour of the ground. The general plan is to lay out contour streets with a minimum of 50-foot frontage.

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Churches Plan Eve Services

Several churches plan special Christmas Eve services tomorrow evening.

Among those which have announced such services are the First Congregational, First Methodist, First Presbyterian, St. Paul's Episcopal and Zion Lutheran.

First Congregational is to have a candlelight and carol service, 11 p.m.; First Methodist has programmed a similar service to begin at 8 p.m.; First Presbyterian is to present its choir at 11 p.m., directed by Andrew Loney Jr., in a program of eight anthems, a solo and carols with the congregation; St. Paul's Episcopal is to have a candlelight and carol service with choral Eucharist at 11 p.m.; Zion Lutheran plans a candlelight and carol service for 7:30 p.m.

Armored Vest Saves Soldier

SEOUL (AP) — The Army said today a soldier's armored vest fended off 10 Communist automatic rifle bullets and a closely exploding red grenade.

The soldier, Pfc. Tom Miles of Decatur, Ill., was helping a wounded buddy during a recent action when a Red infantryman ran up and began firing.

"The impact of 10 slugs across his chest at close range knocked Miles down, but they didn't penetrate his armored vest," the Army said.

Miles was still on the ground when a hand grenade exploded just a few feet away. In spite of this he "recovered himself" and killed his Red assailant with a burst from his carbine, the Army added.



THE NEWEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT to be put to work at snow-clearing on city streets is this Hough Payloader rig with snowplow attached, shown being demonstrated by Frank Steele, city street superintendent.

Sportsmen To Feed Birds

The Klamath Sportsmen's Association began today its annual "Operation Birdfeed," with which in cooperation with other local winterers it hopes to provide winter feed for thousands of game birds in the Klamath area.

Under Chairman Virgil Davis a committee began today to put out "small change" portions, properly tagged, to gather up as much outside financial support as possible.

But more than money is needed for the sportsmen, according to Pres. John Hobson.

A lot of clover screenings, feed-rum sweepings and other appropriate bird feed is being tossed away each day. Hobson thinks, and he would like to see some of it under proper direction for birds to consume.

"If they will only call to us," he said, "we'll come and get it."

Distribution is under the direction of Jim O'Donahue, and persons wishing to participate in the program are asked to call him at 9693 nights or 4197 days. O'Donahue is a recognized expert on bird life in this region.

The feedings must be done properly so that birds will learn where to find food without fail. Intermittent feedings are sometimes can cause serious harm to birds under certain conditions.

Consequently, in some areas where feeding is already under way, O'Donahue may not wish to have another feeder starting to work, and may turn some persons away.

The results of last year's feeding plan appeared fairly obvious this year, association officers noted today. Despite a fair take in the fields this past pheasant and quail season, a heavy population of upland game birds is easily noticed on local fields since heavy snows have driven them down from cover.

Local merchants were being asked today to cooperate in the venture by merely placing coin cartons in convenient locations.

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Former KF Man Dies

Word has been received here of the death in Oakland, Dec. 20, of a former Klamath Falls man, Frank E. Fish.

While here he was connected with the Big Basin Lumber Co., leaving here in 1910 to become affiliated with the lumber business in Westwood. In more recent years he has been with the Joe Kent Lumber Company, San Francisco, as a lumber broker.

Mrs. Fish, the former Winnie Wampler McLemore will accompany the body to Fish's former home in Racine, Wis. Wampler and two brothers Paul Wampler, Port Klamath; and Albert (Mickey) Wampler, live elsewhere.

Weather

FORECAST—Klamath Falls and vicinity and Northern California: Fair except night and morning fog through Wednesday. High 35, low tonight 6.

Six Escapees At Large; One Taken In Portland

WALLA WALLA, Wash. (AP) — Six tough, patient convicts who scooped out 12 tons of dirt in boring a 200-foot tunnel under the Washington State Prison walls were hunted throughout the Pacific Northwest today.

Seven made the spectacular escape early yesterday morning. One, Ralph Courser, 45, sentenced in Seattle on a robbery charge last July, was wounded and captured in Portland, Ore., six hours later.

The hunt centered in the Portland area, where police believed at least three other escapees headed with Courser in a car stolen from Walla Walla. Courser was alone when he was spotted by Portland police, who shot him in the back as he tried to flee on foot.

The six convicts still at large were described by prison officials as "dangerous" and "maximum security" prisoners.

Authorities at the penitentiary said the escapees must have worked for months digging out the dirt a cupful or handful at a time.

The tunnel, about 15 inches in diameter, began in an ash pit near the prison powerhouse and came out near a guards' tower on the north wall.

The dirt was scattered each day with the ashes and carted away. The entrance was beneath steel plates used in the ash pit.

Postoffice Service Up

A smooth, steady flow of mail has speeded up local postal service tremendously this year, according to Postmaster Chet Langseth, a small increase in mail volume over a year ago.

The main clog in local mail service isn't the inside-postoffice service at all, but the parking problem of thousands of patrons trying to find an area to put their autos while hauling their mail into the postal windows.

But by the time the month is out this year, Langseth figures his office will have handled 1,200,000 (M) letters.

The highest day's local outgoing mail so far this season has been 82,409. Last year the biggest day was 112,000. But this year the daily count has been consistent, running between 60,000 and 80,000 each day, and hence the increased overall volume so far.

The counts do not include parcels, which are more difficult to count because of sub-mailing offices in the suburban area.

Ship Due From Korea

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The last troop ship due here from Korea before Christmas arrives Tuesday with 2,856 soldiers—including the only quadruplets ever drafted into the Army.

The troops are aboard the transport Gen. William F. Hase. The Army said all will be bound for discharge or reassignment centers near their homes by Wednesday.

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Truck Tax Retroactive To Nov. 4

SALEM (AP) — Trucking companies that operate in Oregon were saved an estimated two million dollars when a Circuit Court decision here Monday set Nov. 4 as the date for higher taxes.

The state had contended last Jan. 1 was the date.

The decision, by Judge Rex Kimmell, was that Oregon's weight-mile truck tax is retroactive until Nov. 4 of this year—election day.

The tax, a license fee based on weight and the number of miles traveled on Oregon highways, will increase highway department revenues by an estimated \$1,900,000 annually.

If the tax had been retroactive to Jan. 1, penalties and interest would have brought the truckers' back tax bill to about two million, Moe Tonkon, attorney for the truckers, said.

The Portland-Pendleton Transport Company, representing many of the truckers, brought the case into court, contending that the tax should go into effect Dec. 1, the day the results of the Nov. 4 election were certified.

RULED

But Judge Kimmell ruled that the effective date was Nov. 4, the day Oregon voters rejected the truckers' referendum measure which would have abolished the weight-mile tax program.

The weight-mile formula was made law at the last session of the State Legislature. It was to go into effect Jan. 1. But the truckers succeeded in delaying the effective date by referring the law to the voters in the general election.

Their measures, designed to abolish the tax and prevent future weight-mile tax programs, were defeated by large margins.

Then Charles H. Heitzel, public utilities commissioner, acting on the advice of Attorney General George Neuner, ruled that the tax was retroactive to the first of the year. Neuner based his opinion, he said, on the wording of the law.

Judge Kimmell, in his ruling, cited the State Constitution, which says that referendum measures "shall take effect and become law when it is approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon."

A spokesman for the attorney general's office said it had not yet been decided whether Judge Kimmell's decision would be appealed.

The Legislative Highway Interim Committee has recommended however, that the effective date be set as Nov. 4.

Illness Fatal To Mary Kirk

Mrs. Mary Hill Kirk, 65, lifelong resident of Klamath County died early this morning at Hillside Hospital following an illness of long duration. She had been suffering from heart trouble.

Mrs. Kirk, whose family has been actively associated with interests of the Klamath Tribal Council and with civil service work was born on the family ranch at Williamson River.

Surviving are her widower Seldon Kirk, a daughter, Lella Kirk of Klamath Agency; a son, Friedman Kirk, Chiloquin and two grandchildren, Frieda and Orin Kirk, Chiloquin.

The body is at Ward's Funeral Home. Arrangements will be announced later.

Hysterical Passengers Leap in Sea

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Hours of horror aboard the stricken liner Champlain ended late Tuesday with removal of the last passenger and crewman.

There was no official estimate of how many died, but the reports ranged from at least 14 to perhaps 30.

Captain Bataji, the Beirut harbor pilot, announced that all persons had been taken off by 5 p.m. Lebanon time—about 40 hours after the 12,546-ton liner grounded on a reef off the Lebanese coast about four miles from Beirut.

The ship carried 328 persons, including a crew of 220.

Many of the passengers were pilgrims en route to the Holy Land for the Christmas observances.

In the confusion there was no way of determining the precise number who drowned or were beaten to death by the heavy waves.

There were reports that 70 fear-crazed persons leaped into the sea and 20 drowned.

Thousands of persons who lined the shore watched as a number of the passengers were battered to death by heavy waves against a shoal only five yards from safety.

Captain Bataji's launch was the last craft to leave the Champlain, carrying 40 passengers and crewmen.

But before that a small lighter that had made two successful trips overturned on a third journey only a hundred yards from the shore.

Rescue squads dived into the frothing surf and saved as many persons as they could. There was no way of determining how many died.

A heavy wave caught the lighter, carried it straight up and flipped it over in a complete somersault.

Many occupants clutched at empty air. A dozen heads bobbed in the water around the small craft.

There appeared to be no central organization directing or coordinating the rescue work.

One report said panic broke out on the ship Tuesday morning and about 50 persons leaped overboard.

At least ten bodies were washed up on shore. They were blackened with the oil that spewed out when the ship split apart with a crack of six feet or more appearing atop the listing hull.

Some of the passengers were hysterical as they were brought ashore.

FAINTED

One woman, asked what happened aboard the liner, cried out "don't ask that" and fainted.

The liner went aground only 500 yards off shore. A heavy storm and misinterpretation of shore signals were believed responsible.

Crewmen said a new beacon at Beirut's International Airport had been mistaken for a light at the entrance of Beirut harbor.

The British cruiser Kenya was among vessels that were present at the scene of operations.

The British Admiralty in London was advised by the Kenya that the rescue operations had been completed.

(The Kenya said "all passengers and crew of the SS Champlain have now been landed. The Kenya anchored four cables (almost a half mile) to seaward of the wreck and acted as a communications link while pilot boats and surfboats took off passengers and crew with great skill in heavy surf.")



BRUSHIN' UP before going out to sell tickets to the Suburban Fire Department's New Year's Dance, slated for Dec. 31 at the Army, is Walter Schreiber. He's getting help from Lloyd Mudder (left) and Norman Rupert. Benefit from the dance will go for first aid wagon equipment.

CASUALTY LIST

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Defense Department today identified 89 casualties of the Korean War. A new list (No. 717) included 10 killed, 43 wounded, 3 injured accidentally and 3 missing.

SHOOTING HOURS

DECEMBER 24

Open 7:04 A.M.

Close 3:39 P.M.



PHIL NESLIN, (left), brother of Sam (right), the Oregon Woolen tycoon, is here from Ashland for the holidays with Sam and his family and Phil is a bit fed up with being mistaken for his brother Sam. So they pinned a tag on Phil: "Please spare the insults. I'm not Sam, I'm Phil."

SHOPPING DAY LEFT

BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS