

Cause Of Crash Revealed By Government Detectives

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government sleuths say they've pinned down the cause of the North Carolina plane crash that killed 34 persons Jan. 6: It was a dynamite bomb.

They say furthermore that the bomb, set off by a dry cell battery, exploded near the seat of Julian Frank, a young Westport, Conn., attorney who carried a million dollars in life insurance.

There was a hint the tragedy might have been the result of a conspiracy by two or more persons.

The theory that Frank committed suicide and carried everyone else aboard to death with him had been voiced unofficially before, but some doubt later was expressed that a bomb had caused the crash.

James R. Durfee, chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board, told the Senate Aviation subcommittee Tuesday it has now been definitely established that a dynamite bomb caused the wreck. The CAB and the FBI are continuing their investigations, he said.

Frank's body was found on Kure Beach, N.C., along with interior cabin parts and part of the plane's fuselage skin. The plane itself traveled 20 miles further before crashing near Bolivia, N.C., where all the rest of the victims were found.

Durfee said "Foreign bodies were found deeply imbedded in Mr. Frank's body—small pieces of steel wire, cloth fibers and black deposits which were later determined to be manganese dioxide, a substance found in dry cell batteries."

Durfee noted that Frank, 32, had taken out his insurance policies within a year preceding the accident. The beneficiary was his wife, a former magazine model and mother of their two children. She has said she'll never believe that Frank killed himself by bombing the plane.

The conspiracy hint came when Durfee said questions "which relate to possible criminal charges are still under investigation."

Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) told a reporter Durfee's remark about criminal charges indicated to him the explosion might have been plotted by two or more persons. It was obvious no criminal charges could be brought against anyone on the plane, since all aboard died.

Durfee was asked what is being done to find the wreckage of another plane operated by National Airlines which plunged into the Gulf of Mexico Nov. 18, killing 42.

Robert Vernon Spears, a Dallas, Tex., native doctor, was listed as a passenger on this plane, but later turned up alive in Phoenix, Ariz. The possibility of a bomb was raised in this case too.

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Age, described as the nation's oldest continuously published Negro newspaper, has published its last edition.

Editor Charles Stone said Tuesday the 80-year-old weekly newspaper is suspending publication because of financial difficulties.

Stone said the action was necessary despite a recent increase in circulation from 8,000 to 11,000 and a reduction in the paper's losses.

He said the paper's 20 staff members would receive two weeks severance pay.

HONOLULU (AP) — The Army Tripler Army Hospital by a helicopter which hadn't been able to get at him because of his steep perch.

His companion, Pfc. Burr C. Osbonlighter, 29, of Albany, N.Y., said they started down the cliff to retrieve a cartridge belt, hanging on a small tree which broke and prevented their climbing back up. So they started down the crevice which ended at the 600-foot level at an overhang.

Osbonlighter fought his way back out and went for help.

"I still don't see how they got into that niche," said one of the Army rescue team.

Money Problems; Paper To Quit

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Army Saves Leatherneck

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APOLGUY NOT ACCEPTED

PUEBLO, Colo. (UPI) — David A. Rains, a 54-year-old sheepherder, was in poor condition today with bullet wounds of the forehead, chest, hand, cheek, groin and back.

Rains told police he apologized to a man he stabbed several months ago. He said the six-bullet answer to his apology struck home.

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