

Identify Cleveland Flier's Body

One of nine men found dead in the wreckage of a crashed C-124 Globemaster near Seoul, Korea, last Friday was positively identified as Capt. Andrew L. Opiela, 44, of 3404 Library Avenue S. W. He leaves his widow, Verna, and son, Michael, 10 months old.

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Clevelander Dead in Crash

SEOUL—(UP)—Capt. Andrew L. Opiela, 44, of 3404 Library Ave., Cleveland, was listed as dead today by the Army in last Friday's crash of a C-124 Globemaster.

The giant transport, loaded with 159 persons, crashed in

Korea shortly after taking off from Kimpo Air Base en route to Japan.

Six bodies, including Opiela's, have been recovered

so far, and 12 other men are missing and presumed dead.

5 More Bodies Found In C-124

SEOUL (APFE/8thArmy)—Five more bodies were recovered Saturday from the wrecked hull of the C-124 Globemaster that crashed and burned Feb. 22 on a Han River sand bar.

Casualty figures from the crash now stand at 16 dead and six still unaccounted for, presumably dead.

The plane carried 159 passengers and crew members.

LT. GEN. Charles D. Palmer, AFPE/Eighth Army deputy commander, cited the "instantaneous response of members of this command and the U.S. Air Force in the rescue and evacuation operations" as "materially minimizing the sufferings and loss of life."

In a letter of appreciation given command-wide distribution, Palmer also praised the assistance given search crews by Korean police and neighboring farmers.

Memorial services for the crash victims were scheduled to be held during regular church services at all 24th Div. chapels Sunday. The division listed its toll in the tragedy as 12 killed or missing.

Find More Dead in Globemaster

SEOUL—(UP)—Four more bodies were recovered today from the wreckage of a crashed U. S. Air Force C-124 Globemaster. This brought the official death toll to nine in Friday's crash.

Thirteen persons still were missing and presumed dead for a total of 22 dead and missing.

A Clevelander, Capt. Andrew L. Opiela, 44, of 3404 Library Ave., was one of those reported missing. Mrs. Verna Opiela received word from the Army Friday night that her husband was missing. The Opielas have a 10-month-old son, Michael.

The huge plane crashed Friday night on a Han River sandbar with 159 passengers and crewmen aboard.

Air Force investigators said they had determined that a big hole was ripped through the plane before the crash. Apparently the No. 3 propeller had ripped off and cut into the plane. The propeller fragments apparently severed other controls.

In Korea Air Crash

SEOUL (AP)—A burning U.S. transport plane crashed on an islet in the Han River last night. At least 134 of the 159 Americans aboard were saved, but 5 bodies were found and it was feared tonight the death toll might reach 25.

The pilot said an engine of the big C124 Globemaster ran wild, burst into flame and spewed chunks of metal into the two-story fuselage, tearing holes big enough for a man to walk through.

As the tide ebbed at the Han's mouth today, permitting resumption of the search for bodies at the crash scene, Air Force officials listed 20 persons missing and Army officials listed 17. An Air Force spokesman said:

"It is very doubtful if they will be found alive."

149 Passengers

The Air Force listed 134 rescued and the Army 137.

The troop transport—the Air Force's largest—took off from Kimpo Airfield for Tokyo with 10 crewmen and 149 passengers, most of them servicemen looking forward to rest leaves in Japan.

Lying on a stretcher at Tachikawa Air Base in Japan the injured pilot, Capt. James Cartwright, 37, of Elkton, Ky., related what happened next:

"We lost power on No. 3 engine . . .

"It caught fire and started to throw chunks of metal through the fuselage. They hit . . . No. 4 engine and it started to lose power.

"Pieces of metal were coming through the fuselage, cutting holes big enough for a man to walk through.

Landed on Belly

"The metal cut the aileron cables . . . We couldn't turn around so I decided on the Han River . . . It all happened in four or five minutes . . .

"We landed on our belly. The first impact was smooth, but the second was a lulu. The next thing I knew I was . . . in the water.

"I crawled on an ice floe and I like to froze. People were pouring out of the plane and struggling onto a sand bar 50 yards from shore."

Washed Downstream

The landing on the tiny island, above the water only at low tide, was described by another Air Force officer as a "one in a million" shot that saved most of the lives. The scene was only 1½ miles south of the demilitarized zone sepa-