

Korea Crash Toll 22 Dead Or Missing

5 Bodies Recovered From Big Transport

SEOUL, Korea — (AP)—U.S. authorities fixed at 22 Sunday the toll of dead and presumed dead in Friday's crash of a big Air Force transport plane. The craft, carrying 159 men, slammed down on a Han River sandbar while carrying a big contingent on a leave trip to Japan.

Army and Air Force officials resolved their conflicting figures and announced that 137 survivors have been accounted for. Twenty-eight of these still are hospitalized and two are reported in serious condition. Five bodies have been recovered.

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MILITARY officials say privately they have little hope any of the 17 missing are alive. Officially, the Army and Air Force say they are "continuing to search for the 17 still unaccounted for."

An Army spokesman said salvage crews will try to move a large tank retriever, equipped with a powerful derrick, onto the sandbar Monday to pull the wreckage of the upper deck off the lower.

Low flying aircraft and ground crews, meanwhile, continued their search of the Han and its ice-caked banks in the belief that the flow of the 18-foot tides from the Yellow Sea may have washed bodies up or downstream from the crash site.

FOUR MORE BODIES RECOVERED FROM KOREAN AIR CRASH

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SEOUL, Feb. 25 (AP)—Search crews today found four more bodies in the wreckage of a United States Air Force Globemaster that crashed and burned Friday night on a Han river sandbar. This raised the lost of known dead to nine, leaving 13 still missing and presumed dead.

One of the missing was Sgt. Ralph E. Myers, husband of Mrs. Betty J. Myers of Lebanon, Mo.

Injured included Specialist Third Class Donald L. Hocher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hocher, Rural Route 1, Collinsville, Ill.

The big C-124 transport was en route to Japan with 159 Americans aboard — 10 Air Force crewmen, 147 Army men and 2 Army civilian employes. Most were on leave. Twenty-eight of the 137 survivors accounted for are still hospitalized, two of them in serious condition.

Army and Air Force officials said the search was continuing for the missing. Many officers said privately they had little hope any of them would be found alive.

LIST 22 DEAD OR MISSING IN CRASH OF C-124

Army and Air Force Men Are Victims

Washington, Feb. 24 (P)—The defense department today made public the names of 22 army and air force men killed or missing in Friday's crash of an air force transport plane near the South Korean capital of Seoul.

Listed as killed in the crash were: Army 2d Lt. Bruce E. Barstow, Long Beach, Cal., and air force M. Sgt. Joe N. White, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Army personnel listed here as missing were:

Pfc. Stephen A. Bowcock, British Columbia, Canada; Capt. Andrew L. Opiela, Cleveland; 2d Lt. Edwin H. Glass, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Glass, Denver; 1st Lt. Jack G. Stone, Roseburg, Ore.; SP2c Caldwell Brown Jr., Bay City, Tex.

SP3C Francisco Aguilar, brother of Rudi Aguilar, Corpus Christi, Tex.; Lt. Frederick L. Boudreau, Philadelphia; SP3C Eugene T. Arold, Staten Island, N. Y.; Lt. Paul B. Warner, Bellwood, Pa.; Pfc. George A. Hills, Raymond, N. H.; Pfc. Jose L. Colazo-Gonzalez, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Pfc. Merle J. Brown, Blooming Prairie, Minn.

Pfc. Gerald E. Junkroski, Douglas, Ariz.; SP3C Avery L. Meeker, Pryor, Okla.; Sgt. 1C Harry E. Witherell, East Lansing, Mich.; Sgt. Ralph E. Myers, Lebanon, Mo.; Sgt. 1C Lewis P. Partin, Petersburg, Va.; Pfc. Jan M. Wallis, Sacramento, Cal.

Air force personnel listed as missing were:

Maj. Ansel L. Bolter, aircraft commander, Honea Path, S. C.; Capt. Robert L. North, pilot, North Hollywood, Cal.

Listed as seriously ill were:

Army SP3C Donald L. Hocher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hocher, (R. R. 11, Collinsville, Ill.; Air Force Staff Sgt. Allen F. Hill, radio operator, Harrisburg, Pa.

The air force also listed these survivors [addresses and next of kin unavailable]:

Capt. James W. Cartwright, instructor pilot; 1st Lt. Robert R. Combs, co-pilot; S-Sgt. Robert J. Forrest, engineer, A1C Charles F. Kelly, radio operator; S-Sgt. Robert L. Cantrell, load master; 1st Lt. Harold S. Hutton, co-pilot, A3C Stephen McKenzie, load master.

The 90-ton C-124, an engine afire, came down on a Han river sandbar less than five minutes after takeoff from Seoul's Kimpo airport.

An army spokesman said salvage crews will try to move a large tank retriever, equipped with a powerful derrick, onto the sandbar tomorrow to pull the wreckage of the upper deck off the lower.

INJURED IN CRASH

Washington, Feb. 25 (AP) — A Collinsville, Ill., Army man is listed among the serious ill survivors of the crash of an Air Force C124 transport plane Friday near Seoul, Korea. He is Donald L. Hocher, an Army specialist third class. Hocher is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hocher of Rural Rte. 1, Collinsville.

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COLLINSVILLE MAN HURT IN CRASH, IS IMPROVED

Washington, Feb. 28 (AP) — The Army said today Specialist 1. C. Donald M. Hocher of Collinsville has been removed from the list of those seriously injured in the crash of a transport plane in Korea last week.

A total of 159 persons, mostly army troops, were aboard the C124 when it crashed into a river shortly after takeoff. Five have been listed as killed, 14 missing and a number injured.

PLANE BEARING 159 CRASHES; NONE IS KILLED

SEOUL, South Korea, Feb. 22 (P) — An air force C-124 carrying 159 American service men crash-landed on an island in the Han river tonight. Not a man was killed but 10 to 15 were seriously injured.

The plane was carrying 149 men headed for furloughs in Japan. It had a crew of 10.

Engine trouble forced the craft, which has four engines and carries passengers on two decks, to land about 10 miles from Seoul's Kimpo airport just after taking off for Japan, 800 miles distant.

50 to Hospital

Fifty or 60 servicemen, including the 10 or 15 seriously injured, were taken to an army hospital nearby.

Col. John Regan, commander of the hospital, said most

AGO SUN-TIMES, SATURDAY, FEB 25

Korea Crash Of GI Plane

SEOUL, South Korea, (AP) — An Air Force C-124 carrying 159 American servicemen crash-landed on an island in the Han River Friday night. Not a man was killed but 10 to 15 suffered serious injuries.

The big ship was carrying 149 men from leave in Japan. She had a crew of 10.

Engine trouble forced the big plane, which carries passengers on two floors of its cavernous interior, to crash-land about 10 miles from Seoul's Kimpo Airport. Fifty or 60 servicemen, including the seriously injured, were admitted to a nearby Army hospital. Col. John Regan, commander of the hospital, said most of the seriously injured had broken bones.



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An air force spokesman said that a fire started in the right wing of the plane after the landing but lasted only a few minutes.

A Korean policeman, a witness, said a fuel explosion was heard as the plane went down.

Tide Rises

A tide was rising and by midnight had submerged all except the tail of the plane. Passengers were able to wade to safety, however, thru the river.

The Globemaster was assigned to the 274th troop carrier wing stationed at Tachikawa air base, near Tokyo.

A record 138 persons were killed when a Globemaster crashed after take-off from

Donald Hocher Injured In Korean Crash

Corporal, Specialist Third Class Donald L. Hocher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hocher of Rural Route 1, Collinsville was reported to be one of the survivors of a disastrous air crash which took place just out of Seoul, Korea on Friday evening, February 22.

The telegram received by his parents informed them that he was "seriously ill with burns about his face and hands." Don, who is 21 years old, entered the United States Army in September of 1955 and was due to be released from active duty in approximately five months.

He graduated from the O'Fallon Public High School before entering the service. After completion of basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., he left for overseas duty in the spring of last year.

The Globemaster C-14 transport plane which crashed in the icy waters of the Han River shortly after take-off from the Kimpo airfield near Seoul, Korea carried 159 Americans. At this time thirteen are still missing and feared dead, and nine of the passengers are known dead as a result of the crash.

Corporal Hocher, US 55-510-686 is now at the 121 Evacuation Hospital in care of APO 971, San Francisco, Calif., being treated for his injuries.



DONALD HOCHER