

Two Impacts Cited In Crash That Claimed MU Team, Fans



Impact speed of an estimated 160 miles an hour resulted in this scattering of wreckage over a wide area in a hollow west of Tri-State Airport

Last Of 75 Bodies Are Recovered As 'Inquiry' Unfolds

By RUSSELL SCOTT

Initial impact through treetops on a tall ridge west of Tri-State Airport preceded by a scant three seconds the fiery crash Saturday night of a chartered Marshall University jetliner in which 75 persons perished.

The cockpit recorder of the Southern Airways DC-9 carrying the Marshall football team, its coaches and others revealed "three seconds of continuous noise before the mechanism shut off."

John H. Reed, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said at a news conference Sunday night.

Earlier in the day, the grim task of recovering the remains of the crash victims was completed and the task of making identifications of victims was assumed by a special Federal Bureau of Investigation disaster team.

And Sunday night, while federal authorities were announcing their findings to date in the tragedy, 7,000 persons gathered at Memorial Field House for a memorial service for the 37 Marshall gridirers, the nine coaches and assistants, the 24 fans and prominent Huntingtonians and the five crew members who lost their lives.

Cause of the crash remained unknown. Mr. Reed told some 15 newsmen at the conference there was "no evidence of any particular problem" encountered by the twin-engine DC-9 as it approached Runway 11 at Tri-State.

He said the craft had passed over the port's outer marker 1 1/2 minutes prior to skimming through the tops of trees approximately 65 feet beyond the brow of a hill and leaving a trail of debris for about 200 yards to where it smashed to the ground and exploded.

"The airplane was shedding parts from the first impact," said Mr. Reed, who headed up a full team of federal investigators to first conduct a field investigation and then prepare a final report, which probably will not be completed for "a number of months."

The field probe is expected to take about three to four weeks, after which Mr. Reed said a public hearing with several days of testimony will be arranged. He said the hearing probably will be held in the Huntington area.

The chairman said he had seen "the swath cut through the trees" and the "final path of the plane until it crashed into the hillside" about two miles south of Kenova and just east of W. Va. 75.

"We pledge to learn the cause of the accident," said Mr. Reed, adding that "all aircraft accidents are very sad. This is rated as one of the most tragic crashes in domestic aviation history."

The plane, bringing the Marshall players back home from a game with East Carolina University at Greenville, N. C., picked up the crew which perished at Atlanta.

Mr. Reed said the jetliner clipped the first tree 66 feet above the ground on a ridge immediately to the west of W. Va. 75 and then tumbled while cutting a 65-foot swath through that hillside and crashing on the other side of the highway.

"Obviously the aircraft was lower than it should have been, but we don't know why," he said. "Our job is to find the reason."

Mr. Reed reported no evidence has been found of mechanical failure, that sequence lights were operating normally during the localizer approach to the runway, that all handling appeared to be routine, and that there was no indication at this time of pilot error.

The transportation board head said Tri-State Airport has

(See TOO, Page 3)

AN EDITORIAL

We All Mourn Our Tragic Loss

NATURE HAS A WAY of shielding us from the full force of a shattering blow. When disaster is greater than the mind can tolerate in full consciousness, it penetrates slowly. Successive shocks produce a state of shock.

It was in this state of shock—a condition of suspended consciousness—that this stricken community struggled through the first 24 hours after the warning alarm of a possible DC-9 plane crash near Tri-State Airport broke the comparative calm of a rain-spattered Saturday night.

IT BEGAN AS A RUMOR. Then word went around that it could be the plane carrying the Marshall University football team, along with coaches and some of the more ardent fans. From that point, the catastrophe deepened and widened with the inevitability of a Greek tragedy.

"It's another Wichita," we whispered fearfully to one another remembering the crash in early October of one of the planes carrying the University of Wichita football team that killed 31 persons.

But it was worse than that. Not one of the fine young athletes who made the trip to East Carolina University was spared. The coaching staff perished almost totally. Some of the community's leading physicians, surgeons and business men, with their wives, were among the victims.

YESTERDAY WAS SPENT in a daze of grief and continued shock. Those closely involved in the tragedy—perhaps mercifully—were too busy with the necessities which the living must perform for the dead, to contemplate the full extent of their loss. When death takes such a giant swing with his scythe, everybody is involved.

We have all been numb and distraught. It has been much like that terrible time when young John Kennedy lay dead and we looked at one another without total recognition.

(See A TIME, Page 3)

Here Is Official List Of 75 Victims

Following is a complete list of the 75 football players, coaches, passengers and crew reported by Marshall University to have been killed when a chartered jetliner crashed Saturday night at nearby Kenova:

PLAYERS

1. James Adams, Mansfield, Ohio
2. Mark Andrews, Cincinnati, Ohio
3. Mike Blake, Huntington, W. Va.
4. Dennis Blevins, Bluefield, W. Va.
5. Willie Bluford, Greenwood, S. C.
6. Larry Brown, Atlanta, Ga.
7. Tom Brown, Richmond, Va.
8. Roger Childers, St. Albans, W. Va.
9. Stuart Cottrill, Eustis, Fla.
10. Rick Dardinger, Mount Vernon, Ohio
11. David DeBord, Quincy, Fla.

12. Kevin Gilmore, Harrison, N.J.
13. Dave Griffith, Clarksville, Va.
14. Arthur Harris Jr., Passaic, N.J.
15. Bob Harris, Cincinnati, Ohio
16. Bob Hill, Dallas, Tex.
17. Joe Hood, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
18. Tom Howard, Milton, W. Va.
19. Marcello Lajterman, Lyndhurst, N. J.
20. Richard Lech, Columbus, Ohio
21. Barry Nash, Manassas, Va.
22. Pat Norrell, Hartsdale, N.Y.
23. James Robert Patterson, Louisville, N.C.
24. Scotty Reese, Waco, Tex.
25. Jack Repasy, Cincinnati, Ohio
26. Larry Sanders, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
27. Al Saylor, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

28. Art Shannon, Greensboro, N.C.
29. Ted Shoebridge, Lyndhurst, N. J.
30. Allen Skeens, Ravenswood, W. Va.
31. Jerry Stainback, Newport News, Va.
32. Donald Tackett, Padon City, W. Va.
33. Bob Van Horn, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
34. Roger Vanover, Russell, Ky.
35. Fred Wilson, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
36. John Young, Buckhannon, W. Va.
37. Tom Zorill, Richmond, Va.

COACHES

38. Deke Brackett, Huntington physician
39. Al Carelli Jr., director
40. Charles Kautz, athletic director
41. Frank Loria, information director
42. Gene Morchouse, sports information director
43. Jim "Shorty" Moss
44. Jim Schorer, trainer.

45. Rick Tolley, head football coach
46. Gary George, Beckley W. Va., student assistant to the sports information director
47. Dr. Ray Hagley, Huntington physician
48. Dr. Hagley's wife
49. Arthur L. Harris Sr., father of player Art Harris Jr., Passaic, N. J.
50. Dr. Brian O'Connor, Huntington, Marshall admissions director
51. Dr. H. D. Proctor, Huntington physician
52. Dr. Proctor's wife
53. Dr. Glenn H. Preston, Huntington dentist
54. Dr. Preston's wife
55. Dr. Joseph Chambers, Huntington physician
56. Dr. Chambers' wife
57. Michael Prestera, Huntington
58. E. O. Heath, Huntington
59. Mrs. E. O. Heath
60. James Jarrell, Huntington

61. Mrs. James Jarrell
62. Murrill Halsten, Huntington city councilman
63. Mrs. Murrill Halsten
64. Parker Ward, Huntington
65. Ken Jones, WHTN-TV sports director, Huntington
66. Jeff Nathan, Parkersburg, sports editor of Marshall's student newspaper
67. Charles Arnold Huntington
68. Mrs. Charles Arnold
69. Donald Booth, address believed to be Huntington
70. Norman Whisman, address believed to be Huntington

CREW

71. Capt. Frank Abbot, College Park, Ga., the pilot
72. 1st Officer Jerry Smith, Stone Mountain, Ga.
73. Charlene Post, College Park, Ga., stewardess
74. Patricia Vaughn, East Point, Ga., stewardess
75. Danny Deese, Atlanta, Ga., charter coordinator

Photographs on this page and on Pages 3, 13, 14 and 17 are by Chief Photographer Maurice Kaplan, Frank Altier, Lee Bernard, Jack Burnett and Haver Summers of the Huntington Publishing Company, and by Associated Press photographers Harry Cahulik and Harvey Georges.

A Test Of Faith

By BOYD JARRELL

Faith says death is swallowed up in victory, but faith when confronted with overwhelming, sudden multiple death faith needs a reminder. That reminder that God, our help in ages past, is our eternal home was reaffirmed last night as nearly 7,000 persons poured into Huntington's Memorial Field House to pay tribute to the Marshall University football squad members, coaches and townspeople killed in Saturday night's plane crash.

The spoken faith did not preclude stunned grief and among the early arrivals to the memorial service were many students, silent and subdued; some wearing black arm bands and many red-eyed from weeping.

The first few rows of chairs set up on the field house playing floor were reserved for members of the families of the crash victims. These sat silently with heads bowed. The speakers' platform before them contained a simple Marshall University seal on a black background. Uniformed nurses were on hand.

The governor of West Virginia, student spokesmen and visiting dignitaries joined in a communal mourning, a shared grief. Prayers for the departed were coupled with the binding up of wounds.

The tenor of the whole program Sunday night was that those present not forget and become themselves living memorials. The picture was one of tightly controlled grief with no one present untouched by the tragedy.

Although the program was 15 minutes late in starting, there was no restiveness. The throng shared a common silence.

The Rev. Robert D. Cook, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, set the tone for the memorial in his invocation which found as its theme a sorrow measured by the compassion of God, in whose keeping was commended the departed. The mourning community was asked to walk in trust.

When the Rev. Charles E. Smith, pastor of the First Baptist Church, read from Ecclesiastes the familiar "for everything there is a season," there was visible weeping.

7,000 Mourners Crowd Field House For Memorial

(See WE ALL, Page 3)