

# Marshall Team, Coaches, Fans Die In Plane Crash



## 75 Believed Aboard Plane; Airline Silent

A chartered jet airliner carrying the Marshall University football team, coaches and a number of prominent Huntington residents crashed in flames on its approach to Tri-State Airport Saturday evening.

There were no survivors.

Southern Airways of Atlanta, Ga., said its two-engine DC-9 was carrying 70 passengers and five crewmen.

The plane was returning the Marshall football players, most of the coaching staff and a group of supporters from Greenville, N. C., where East Carolina University defeated the Marshall team Saturday afternoon.

The crash occurred about 7:45 p. m. less than a mile west of Tri-State Airport. Weather conditions were poor and light rain was falling.

The Herald-Advertiser's Jack Hardin, the first reporter at the scene some 250 yards east of W. Va. 75 south of Kenova, said:

"It's nothing here but charred bodies. There's terrible."

Bodies and wreckage were scattered over a wide area.

Gov. Arch A. Moore Jr. and Dr. Donald N. Dedmon, Marshall's acting president, rushed to the scene.

Hardin reported a piece of the plane was found on a hillside about a half-mile from the principal crash site. He said sections of bodies also were reported found there, too. Searchers were combing the hillside early this morning with the aid of flares.

At 12:10 a. m., the first bodies were placed on National Guard trucks. They were being taken to the National Guard Armory at the airport, where a temporary morgue was established. Hardin said recovery crews were running short of bags to hold the bodies.

Southern Airways at Atlanta said it did not have a passenger list, and refused to identify the crewmen pending notification of next of kin.

The tragedy was "the worst domestic air crash this year," a Federal Aviation Agency spokesman in Washington said, and it was described as one of the worst in history involving an athletic team.

The crash also was the worst in West Virginia air travel history.

Charles Dordrill, president of Tri-State Airport Authority, said if the plane were in its normal approach pattern coming into the airport, it would have had its nose slightly up, traveling at a speed of about 160 miles an hour at the point where it crashed.

A nearby resident, Mrs. Larry Bailey of 1926 Coal Branch Road, told Hardin she saw the jet coming down. She said she heard an explosion and "the plane seemed to come down flat."

The Herald-Advertiser's David A. Peyton reported by radio-telephone that he had walked completely around the scene and "everything is charred beyond belief."

Peyton said it appeared an area about 200 feet in diameter had been leveled and small fires were still burning. He said only the plane's two jet engines and a section of wing were recognizable. "Wreckage is scattered over the place. People who were here



## ...Of Chartered Airliner

it happened said they heard one big 'thud' and that was all."

The heat from the wreckage was hampering recovery efforts. The scene was described as chaotic. Great numbers of people swarmed through thick underbrush to reach the scene during the first two hours. State police were clearing everybody, including newsmen, from the area by 10 p. m.

A Tri-State Airport employee returning from the scene said, "Bodies are stacked in a big heap, all of them charred. There can't be anyone alive."

Police said every ambulance within a 10-mile radius was alerted. Cabell - Huntington Hospital asked visitors to leave, and sealed off its entrances in gearing for the emergency, but it soon became apparent there would be no survivors.

Hardin and Peyton described the scene as horrifying. "There are charred pieces of bodies all over the place," Hardin said. Peyton said he had counted 12 forms that were recognizable as bodies, but that he saw pieces of bodies, bones and limbs scattered throughout the area.

Many of the bodies had been covered with white plastic by firemen and other emergency authorities at the scene.

Gov. Moore arrived at the scene shortly after 10 p. m.

A ten-man investigative team from the National Transportation Safety Board was dispatched from Washington late Saturday night, according to board chairman John H. Reed.

Less than two months ago, on Oct. 3, one of two chartered planes carrying the Wichita University football team, coaches, boosters and others, crashed in the mountains of Colorado, killing 31 persons, including 13 football players.

Traffic was being turned away from the airport at the foot of the road leading up the hill to the terminal.

Southern Airways released a statement at 10:20 p. m. indicating there were 70 passengers aboard. Southern said it was the first crash in its 21 years of operation.

Fifteen bodies were found near a section (Please Turn To Page 13)

## Flaming Debris All That Remains...

### Gov. Moore Declares At Scene:

## 'Tragedy Of Highest Degree'

By JACK HARDIN

"A tragedy of the highest degree."

Gov. Arch A. Moore, Jr. stood at the scene and listened to names of non-team members were read to him.

can't be happening. Why do these things have to happen? These people are our friends."

The state's chief executive, after leaving the scene, said it would probably be eight or nine hours before the bodies can be taken, not until day-

break can a thorough search be conducted.

Special identification teams from the State Police at Charleston are en route to the scene, the governor said, and they will conduct investigation processes on the bodies.

"All that have been found are buried beyond recognition," he said. The bodies will be removed to an airport hanger, and National Guard trucks and other emergency vehicles were available to transfer the bodies.

The governor said some re-

ports indicated the plane hit a hillside west of the runway, bounced off and exploded in mid-air before crashing.

Other reports said the plane first exploded, then hit the hillside, bounced into the air, and then crashed.

Harry Halton, who owns a farm on the other side of the hill, and his family were out in the barnyard at the time of the crash and saw the plane, and remarked, "He's flying too low."

They then saw a flash of fire.

## List Of Players Believed Aboard

This is a travel list of players and coaches for Marshall University's football game Saturday with East Carolina University at Greenville, N.C., released by the university:

Jim Adams, Mansfield, Ohio; Tom Howard, Culloden, W. Va.; Bobby Hill, Dallas, Texas; Scotty Reese, Waco, Texas; Kevin Gilmore, Harrison, N. J.; Ted Shoehridge, Lyndhurst, N. J.

Stuart Cottrell, Eustis, Fla.; Al Saylor, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Mark Andrews, Cincinnati, Ohio; Rick Dardinger, Mt. Vernon, Ohio; Robert Vanjora, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Freddy Wilson, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Dennis Blevins, Bluefield, W. Va.

Larry Brown, Atlanta, Ga.; Willy Bluford, Greenwood, S.C.; Larry Sanders, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Tom Brown, Richmond, Va.; Tom Zhorill, Richmond, Va.; Art Harris, Passaic, N.J. Joe Hood, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Bob Harris, Cincinnati, Ohio; Allen Skeens, Ravenswood, W. Va.; Mike Blake, Huntington; Marcello Lajterman, Lyndhurst, N.J.; Pat Norrell, Elmira, N.Y.; Bob Patterson, Louisville, N.C.; Art Shannon, Greensboro, N.C.; David De-Bord, Quincy, Fla.

Roger Vanover, Russell, Ky.; John Young, Buckhannon, W. Va.; Rick Lech, Columbus, Ohio; Gary George, Charleston, W. Va.; Dave Griffith, Clarksville, Va.; Jerry Stainback, Newport News, Va.; Roger Childers, St. Albans; Donald Tackett, Faden City; Bairy Nash, address unknown.

## Coaches

Black Tolley, Jim "Shorty" Moss, Al Carelli, Frank Loria, Deke Brackett, Jim Schroer and Dave Byrd.



GOV. ARCH A. MOORE AT SCENE

## 25 Fans, Officials On List

Some 25 persons not on the official Marshall University football team travel list were believed to have been among the victims of Saturday night's tragic crash. These reportedly included:

Charles E. Kautz, the MU athletic director.

Michael R. Prestera, 208 Forest Road, a former president of the Big Green Club and a delegate-elect to the West Virginia Legislature.

Dr. Herbert D. (Pete) Proctor and his wife Courtney, 206 Miller Road.

Dr. Ray R. Hagley and his wife, Shirley, 2980 Slaughter Road.

Dr. Joseph E. Chambers and his wife, Peggy, 1781 Woodward Terrace.

E. O. (Happy) Heath and his wife, Elaine, 301 W. 11th Ave.

Dr. Glenn H. Preston and his wife, Phyllis, 116 Woodland Drive.

City Councilman Merrill Ralston and his wife, Helen, 1510 Washington Blvd.

James R. Jarrill and