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Plane With U.S. Marks Shot Down Over Cuba; Two Americans Captured

HAVANA (UPI) — A light plane with U.S. markings was shot down today by Cuban revolutionary troops near Matanzas and its American pilot and co-pilot captured. A Cuban army officer said the plane came from Florida.

The pilot was identified as Leonard Howard, of Miami. He was wounded in the leg. His co-pilot refused to identify himself, telling his captors: "First I want to talk to Fidel Castro."

The plane was shot down around 7 a.m. while apparently on a mission to smuggle out Cubans classified by the revolutionary government as "war criminals." Four Cubans including a former police official and an army officer were captured near where the plane came down.

The plane was attempting to land on Cuba's northern coastal highway known as "La Via Blanca" when shot down. It crashed in a field near La Carbonera, about 12 miles from Matanzas. Matanzas, capital of the province of the same name, is about 50 miles east of Havana.

Howard was given first aid treatment for his wound before being taken with the others to 4th Regiment headquarters at Matanzas for questioning.

The co-pilot, in addition to his request to talk to Premier Castro, asked also to see Castro's personal secretary, Dr. Juan Orta, and a Captain Guerra of the rebel army.

His request raised speculation that he may have been acting as an agent for the Castro regime to foil the escape.

Maj. Universo Sanchez, who commanded the troops in the operation, said the plane came from Florida. The plane was a red-and-white Piper Comanche.

The other persons arrested were identified as Lazaro Damaso Montesinos, a police major during the Batista regime; Gladys Montesinos, believed to be his daughter; her husband, former Maj. Santiago Rodriguez and Miguel Sanchez.

All were taken to Matanzas under armed guard.

The plane carried the registration "M 6137 P" and sources here said it apparently had been rented.

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Reduce Speed For Electra Airliners

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The government has put a strict speed limit on Electra airliners pending completion of an investigation into the Tell City, Ind., crash in which 63 persons were killed.

The action Sunday night by the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) was endorsed by Lockheed Aircraft, manufacturer of the four-engine, turbo-prop plane which is used by four major airlines.

FAA Administrator E. R. Quessada, in a "safety precautionary measure," ordered Electra pilots to limit their speed to 275 knots (about 315 miles per hour) at or

below 15,000 feet, and slightly less at higher altitudes. They normally cruise at about 415 miles per hour.

Two Accidents Similar

The FAA linked the investigation of the Northwest Airlines tragedy at Tell City last Thursday with its inquiry into a Braniff Airlines Electra crash at Buffalo, Tex., Sept. 29 in which 34 persons perished.

It said there appeared to be sufficient similarity between the two accidents to justify restrictions on all Electra flights "pending further investigation."

This was the first major action taken by the government since 1948 when the Civil Aeronautics Board grounded the twin-engine Martin 202 after one operated by Northwest lost a wing in a thunderstorm near Winona, Minn., killing all 37 aboard.

Developed Metal Fatigue

The CAB found that a wing flange on the plane developed metal fatigue quickly because of its design and ordered all Martin 202's grounded until a new and improved flange was installed.

Two other previous actions involved the grounding of Constellations in 1948 to correct a faulty metal electrical conductor and the grounding of DC-6B's in 1947 to correct a misplaced air intake.

The action indicated that FAA investigators suspect clear weather turbulence (severe up or down drafts) caused the in-air disintegration of both planes.

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The air was filled with the wailing cries of women who had found their menfolk among the dead. Ambulances carried away the dead and wounded.

An African Salvation Army officer broke down in tears, sobbing when he saw one body: "It's my brother."

After the shooting, heavily armed police moved cautiously among the crowd looking for weapons. A constable spotted a hatchet in the hand of one African standing next to this correspondent.

Then he told me: "For your own sake, leave this place. It's very dangerous."

Africans in the crowd milling around the corpses on the ground dotted with pools of blood charged that the shooting was entirely unprovoked.

"They (the police) came here to kill us and that's what they did," one said.

A constant stream of ambulances brought the injured to Vereeniging Hospital.

One hospital official said he did not know how many injured had been brought in, but he said it was "well over 60."

After the incident, Sharpville and the township of Bophelong were sealed off by armored cars and armed civilians and police.

INDIANA WEATHER

Partly cloudy, not so cold central and north tonight. Tuesday mostly cloudy, turning colder with brief snow flurries extreme north in morning and central portion afternoon or evening. Low tonight 18 to 26. High Tuesday 30s north to 35 to 42 south. Sunday today 6:58 p. m. e.d.t. Sunrise Tuesday 6:46 a. m. e.d.t. Outlook for Wednesday: Considerable cloudiness, below normal temperatures, snow flurries likely. Lows 15 to 27. Highs in the 30s.

Panel Of Americans At Rotary Thursday

Four college students and a faculty member from Purdue university comprising a group known as "Panel of Americans" will present the ladies' night program for the Rotary club at 6:15 o'clock Thursday evening at the Youth and Community Center.

The panel will consist of a Jew, a Catholic, a Negro and a Protestant. It will present a frank and open discussion of American society among students who have learned that differences are important and can be discussed intelligently. The purpose of the group, which is sponsored by the student religious council, is to develop mutual respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, religious and cultural backgrounds.

Altogether approximately 30 students and seven moderators participate in the panel program which made 75 different appearances during the past school year.

In recent years they have made presentations to groups at Ohio State University, University of Minnesota, Wabash College, Ball State Teachers College and Northwestern University, in addition to many high schools, churches, labor unions and service clubs.

The panel coming to Decatur will be led by William Stielstra, assistant dean of men as moderator. Other members are Eunice Piet, a Catholic, a sophomore in pharmacy; Lynn Hirschman, Jewish, freshman in the school of education; Betty Ryan, Protestant, or Jill Lewis, Protestant, juniors in sociology; Malone Zimmerman, Negro, civil engineering or Golden Richmond, Negro, junior in sociology.

Seventeen colleges in America are now sponsoring the Panel of Americans which originated at the University of California in 1942.

One of the most interesting features of the presentation comes from audience participation in sincere and constructive discussion and the students welcome questions of all kinds.

Police opened fire.

"It all started when hordes of natives surrounded the police station," Colonel Pierna, the police commander, said. "My car was struck by a stone. If they do these things, they must earn their lesson the hard way."

Other incidents and demonstrations were reported in Capetown, at the African township of Bophelong and its city of Vanderbijlpark, at Evertson and at Orlando.

The Sharpville riot broke out about 1 p.m. when shouting, stone-throwing Africans completely surrounded the township police station.

Other officials refused to give detailed figures of the casualties.

This correspondent was ordered to leave the location immediately. Corpses still littered the ground near the Sharpville police station at the time.

The Sharpville riot was the most serious of a group of incidents which broke out today in a cluster

of locations about 40 miles south of Johannesburg.

The riots came in the wake of demonstrations called by the Pan-African Congress against laws requiring identification passes. Many Africans, some of them women, were killed.

This correspondent personally counted 34 bodies, including those of eight women.

There was no way to estimate the number of wounded.

"I don't know yet how many we shot," said the police commander in the nearby African township of Sharpville where the shooting took place.

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