

Hunt Huge French Ocean Airliner Off Africa Carrying 52

U. S. Ships Aid In Search for 6 Engine Craft

Sky Giant Missing Since Saturday Night

PARIS, Aug. 2 (UPI)—Sea and air units searched the mid-Atlantic some 1400 miles west of the African coast today for a huge, six-engined French flying boat, missing with 52 persons aboard.

The plane, a Latécoère 631, the largest commercial airliner in the world, was last heard from at 7 p.m. (Indianapolis time) Saturday.

It disappeared over the sea on a flight from Port De France, Martinique, in the French West Indies, to Port Entienne, French West Africa. Port Entienne is north of Dakar.

Air France said the missing plane carried 40 passengers and a crew of 12. No passenger list was available in Paris. It was not known if any notables were aboard.

Authorities here reported that American long-range planes and regular cargo ships had joined the search, and that the French submarine Creole was dispatched to the area.

Warship Joins Hunt

French naval authorities ordered a warship and naval planes from Dakar to search for the missing airliner. Ships at sea were also notified to be on the lookout.

Air France sent two long range planes to join the search.

The U. S. Coast Guard cutter Campbell, on patrol duty in the mid-Atlantic, notified the U. S. Embassy that it was steaming to the last known position of the giant sky Queen.

Air France said the missing plane left Martinique at 9:30 a.m. Indianapolis Time, Saturday and was scheduled to arrive at Port Entienne at 8 p.m. Indianapolis Time. It was last heard from at 7 p.m. Indianapolis Time, when it gave its position and said all was well.

Position Is Given

The position given by the plane was about 3400 miles short of its destination in an area some 850 to 900 nautical miles northwest of the Cape Verde Islands.

The U. S. Coast Guard said away from the last reported position of the missing airliner and was expected to arrive in the general area of the search at 5 p.m. Indianapolis Time, today.

Should all aboard be lost, it would be the worst disaster on the Transatlantic run and the third worst aviation disaster in history.

Fatalities in 1947

Fifty-three persons were killed in each of two air crashes last year, a Douglas DC-4 crash in Maryland in May and another DC-4 crash in the mountains of Columbia, South America, last February.

Although the French airliner is the largest in commercial use, it is not the largest transport plane. The American C-99, built for the U. S. Air Force by Consolidated-Vultee, has a takeoff weight of 335 tons. It is the world's largest land-based plane.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hewitt Dies Here at 84

Mrs. Elizabeth Hewitt died today at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. L. Kaelin, 2108 N. Madison St. She was 84.

Mrs. Hewitt, a native of Vigo County, resided in West Terre Haute before moving to Indianapolis four years ago. She was a member of Vigo Congregational Church.

Services and burial will be in West Terre Haute.

Survivors, besides Mrs. Kaelin, include two other daughters, Mrs. G. T. Gossman, Chicago, and Mrs. Harry Swett, Marshall; a son, Edwin E. Hewitt, West Terre Haute, and seven grandchildren.

Set Examinations To Fill Welfare Spot

The Indiana State Personnel Board today announced it will give examinations to fill the vacant director's post in the Marion County Welfare Department on Aug. 28.

Both written and oral interviews will be given to establish an eligibility list from which the Marion County Welfare Board will select a successor to Arthur E. Wooden, who resigned under fire.

Persons who wish to take the test must register and establish eligibility. Candidates must pass certain educational and experience qualifications.

Gates to Be Guest At Railroad Fare

Gates headed for Chicago today where he will be an honor guest for Indiana Day at the national Railroad Fair.

The governor will be accompanied by fair officials on a tour of exhibits and tonight will attend the "Wheels a-Rolling" pageant of transportation.

The Indiana Day observance will be informal and no official party will accompany the governor.

Butler Senior Wins \$500 Scholarship

Fritz A. Sondermann, 2832 Park Ave., Butler University senior, has received a \$500 Johnson Foundation scholarship with which to complete his college work. Mr. Sondermann is majoring in political science.

The Johnson Foundation, supported by the Johnson Wax Co., Racine, Wis., awards grants on the basis of need, scholastic standing, activities and future plans of applicants.



Report \$1000 Ring Marine Fighter Pilots Show Zip in Mock War

Reserves Brush Up on Latest Tactics in Full Dress Maneuvers

Burglars Take \$230 From S. Side Pharmacy

A two-stone diamond ring valued at \$1000 today was reported stolen from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack C. Carr, 7206 N. Pennsylvania St.

Meanwhile burglars operating on the South Side took \$230 from a drug store on Shelby St.

Mrs. Carr told deputy sheriffs that the ring was taken from a money box in her dressing table drawer.

The house had been unoccupied several days while members of the family were vacationing in Michigan.

The loss was discovered on their return home.

Find Ladder

The ring contained two stones of three-quarters carat each. Mrs. Carr told officers she found one window in the house unlocked on her return. It was assumed the burglar entered through it since there were no other signs of entrance.

Burglars entered the Gee Pharmacy, 2645 Shelby St., last night by breaking in a side door. They took \$10 in bills and \$130 in coins from boxes in the store.

In a field next to the store, police found a step ladder which the thieves had used to cut wires of the burglar alarm system. The store is owned by Edward L. Gee.

AVC TO DINE TOMORROW

Indianapolis members of American Veterans' Committee will hold their weekly luncheon at noon tomorrow in Central YMCA. Sanford Ramsey, chairman of Indianapolis Chapter 1, will preside.

WITH THE U. S. MARINES ON MANEUVERS IN NORTH CAROLINA, Aug. 2—The Corsair fighters came down in long, snarling dives that swept below the treeline just ahead of marine-filled amphibious craft approaching "enemy held" shores.

Watching the beautiful precision of their attack, it was hard to imagine that at their controls were just a bunch of businessmen.

"At what altitude did you pull out?"

"Five feet," said Maj. Bercik.

The intelligence officer made unbelieving sounds.

"We were below the level of the landing craft decks," calmly intoned the major.

Some of their operations may have sounded dangerous, but pilots and ground crewmen were engaged here in no devil-may-care shenanigans.

There was not one serious accident during the whole period.

"We have stressed safety above everything else," commented Brig. Gen. Christian F. Schilt, commanding general of the Marine Reserve air training command.

"There are more planes in that strike taking on now than we had to defend Guadalcanal during the tough days there," commented one pilot, watching a 36-plane formation take the air.

For two weeks pilots here for training were drawn from 50 states. For many, it was their first taste of the Marine Corps.

SEER RAIL FAY HIKES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2 (UPI)—Three railroad unions hoped to day to clear the last obstacle blocking the start of third-round pay raise negotiations. Heads of the engineers, fremen and switchmen unions were due to return here for joint conference with the railroads and Presidential Assistant John R. Steelman.

"At what altitude did you start your dive?" queried intelligence.

"At 3000 feet," responded Maj. Bercik.

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