

Soldiers Remove Bodies of 11 Crash Victims

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Wading knee-deep two miles down rocky Wildcat Creek, soldiers carrying stretchers in relays late yesterday completed removal of bodies of 11 persons killed in the wreck of an Army Air Transport Command plane when it crashed Saturday night against Strawberry Peak in Angeles National Forest.

Identity of all persons aboard the transport, from which only two passengers—a sailor and a Negro soldier—survived, was announced by the Army shortly before the two-day job of recovering the bodies was completed.

Rig Stretchers

Hampered by a shortage of stretchers, soldiers from the 6th Ferrying Group rigged emergency stretchers from one of the plane's doors and from overcoats and jackets.

So steep was the down trail, particularly at the head of Wildcat Canyon, that the soldiers often were forced to stop and rest every 50 feet between relay stations. Several crews earlier had made the trip unassisted when relay reinforcements failed to arrive.

Two Survivors

The airplane crashed in a snowstorm during a flight here from St. Joseph, Mo., by way of Hamilton Field, California. Location of the wreck, which was reached only Monday morning because of a near-blizzard over the treacherous terrain, is in Wildcat Canyon, three miles from the nearest trail and 11 miles from Angeles Crest Highway.

The two survivors, Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class Beuford V. Chism, of a naval base at San Bruno, and Cpl. Kenneth C. Bedford, are in the Pasadena Area Army Hospital. Chism is recovering rapidly from minor injuries and exposure, while Bedford is still in serious condition.

Dead Listed

The dead are: Capt. Rae C. Kelley, pilot of the plane, St. Joseph, Mo.; 2nd Lt. Carl Hankle, copilot, same address; Maj. John C. Anderson III, Tampa, Fla.; 1st Lt. Hugh G. Cramer, San Jose, Cal.; 1st Lt. Van B. Field Jr., San Antonio, Tex.; 2nd Lt. Gertrude L. Maschoff, Kirkwood, Mo.; Master-Sgt. Harold Petersen Jr., Brooklyn, N.Y.; Staff-Sgt. Francis E. Ward, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Cpl. Manuel C. Garcia, 467 Solano St.; Lt. Alva Eickmeyer, Spokane, Wash., and Maj. Thomas W. Mackey, Richmond, Cal.

Lt. Maschoff was on emergency leave to attend the funeral of her father, a minister, in her Missouri home town.

Lt. Eickmeyer was en route here after overseas service to report at the Santa Monica A.A.F. Redistribution Center.

March Field Plane Crash Dead Listed

Identities of six men killed when their two-engined medium bomber crashed in the barracks area at March Field, Riverside, Monday, were released yesterday by Col. Leroy A. Walthall, base commandant.

At the same time it was learned flight personnel quartered in two dormitory buildings narrowly escaped injury when the plane crashed in a rainstorm. Two buildings were damaged by fire.

The dead were 2nd Lt. George F. Tabola, 23, pilot, San Antonio, Tex.; 2nd Lt. Duane J. Hardy, 22, copilot, Midland, Mich.; 2nd Lt. James H. Mercier, Cranston, R.I.; Cpl. Joseph Koss, 21, Greenville, Pa.; Cpl. Harry R. Kough, Harrisburg, Pa., and Pvt. Frederick A. Severt, 21, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.