

Carrier Fire Lists 42 Dead

NEW YORK (AP)—The world's newest, largest aircraft carrier, Constellation, nearing completion at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, was swept by an inferno of raging flames yesterday. Forty-two persons were known dead, and a police official said the toll could exceed 100.

Investigation Finds Jet Off Course

NEW YORK (AP) — The United Air Lines DC8 jetliner involved in history's worst aviation disaster Friday was 11 miles from where it should have been when it collided with a Trans World Airlines Constellation, the administrator of the Federal Aviation Agency said yesterday.

The collision, with the DC8 jetliner falling in Brooklyn and the Constellation on Staten Island, resulted in the deaths of at least 135 persons.

In Washington, Gen. E. P. Quesada, FAA head, said he had advised President Eisenhower that one of two electronic navigation aids aboard the DC8 was out of commission at the time.

However, he said, this should not have caused the plane to stray from its course and it should not have been over Staten Island where the collision occurred.

Meanwhile, Time magazine published recorded conversations between the traffic controller and the TWA pilot.

The magazine said that at 10:35 a.m. an unidentified blip showed up on the LaGuardia controller's radar as he nursed TWA's flight 268 through the falling snow and overcast to a landing.

"Unidentified target approaching you at four miles, 3 o'clock" (a 90-degree angle), Time quoted the controller as saying.

The pilot, David Woolman, acknowledged.

Seconds later, the tower again warned the pilot and again he acknowledged.

Time said the LaGuardia tower checked Idlewild which reported there should be no aircraft in the TWA plane's path. Then the controller watched as the two blips merged and became one.

Quesada and Chairman Whitney Gilliland of the Civil Aeronautics Board met with Eisenhower and White House aides for an hour and 10 minutes to relay an interim report on the investigation of the accident.

Later, Quesada met reporters in the office of press secretary James C. Hagerly to relate "the facts as we know them."

The fire started in the main deck when a small hoisting truck sheared off a plug on a tank of volatile jet aviation fuel. No planes were aboard but the fuel was being used to flush the ship's piping system.

The liquid gushed along the deck and into a well where a welder's torch ignited it. At first there seemed some hope of controlling the flames, but the fire suddenly exploded out of hand and ravaged the sleek, missile-carrying carrier from stern to stern.

The blaze raged out of control from mid-morning until long after dark as firefighters, in a slow and agonizing battle, gradually confined it to narrowing sections of the huge ship.

The report of 42 known dead came from the Navy. Most of the victims were civilian workers aboard the \$250-million carrier.

Police placed the number of injured at more than 200. Hospitals in the area were clogged to overflowing with choking, burnt survivors.

More ominously, of the 4200 persons aboard when the fire broke out, an uncounted number were trapped below red-hot deck plating, at the mercy of flames and deadly fumes, their fate uncertain.

JFK Begins Legislation Conference

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President-elect John F. Kennedy gathered a triumvirate of top Democratic congressional leaders around him yesterday and began a round of vital conferences on legislative strategy for the new administration.

In addition, Kennedy picked a deputy budget director and set up an all-day conference Wednesday on the government's massive spending program. The deputy director will be career man Elmer B. Staats, now holding the post in the Eisenhower administration.

For the legislative huddle, Vice President-elect Lyndon B. Johnson and House Speaker Sam Rayburn flew in separately from Texas. Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana, ticketed to succeed Johnson as Senate majority leader, drove up from Miami.

And against the background of lengthy House and Senate service of all the others present, Rayburn dropped a crisp one-word remark that made it clear he expects no interference from them in running the House.

Rayburn — who has served 16 years as speaker, more than any other man in history — told reporters at the airport that the way the House Rules Committee operates is "utterly" a matter for the House to handle.

Cuba, USSR Sign New Trade Pact

MOSCOW (AP)—Proclaiming their solidarity in foreign affairs, the Soviet Union and Cuba signed yesterday a new and bigger trade agreement that promises Soviet aid to build Cuban industry.

The Soviet Union also announced it is ready to buy 2.7 million tons of Cuban sugar — roughly half the crop — if the United States persists in refusing to buy sugar from its Caribbean neighbor. The Soviets now buy a million tons annually under a pact signed Feb. 13.

Returning from a bout with the flu, Premier Khrushchev met Ernesto Guevara, Cuba's economic chief in the Kremlin. Then Guevara and Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan signed a communique. Looking, fit, Khrushchev showed up later at a reception for Guevara.

The pact goes beyond the one signed in Havana by Mikoyan under which Soviet oil began flowing to Cuba in the deal to

buy Cuban sugar to help replace lost U.S. markets.

A communique distributed by the official news agency Tass said the Soviet Union will build an iron and steel mill and power plants and send technicians to aid in the exploration for iron and other minerals. No over-all figures on the size of the trade pact were given.

There are indications that cave-dwelling Indians lived in Utah as long ago as 1500 B.C.

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