

An Air Force officer watches the burning wreckage of a B-52 bomber that crashed just after take-off at March Air Force Base, Calif. Five of the six crew members aboard the plane died when the plane went down in an open area at the end of the runway. The tail piece was the only piece of wreckage intact. Other pieces of the plane disintegrated on impact.

B-52 goes down after take-off

MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (UPI) — A B-52D bomber on a Strategic Air Command training mission crashed and exploded in flames with an earth-shaking impact yesterday just after take-off from March Field Air Force Base. Five of its six crew members were killed.

Harry Durbin, 50, who raises game birds on a farm near the base, saw the eight-engine intercontinental bomber crash and said he feared there might be a bomb aboard that "was going to blow half of this county clean off the map."

The huge plane had the capability of carrying nuclear bombs, but there was no weaponry aboard when it plunged into a farming area about 7:30 a.m. after an apparent engine failure, an Air Force spokesman said.

Some wreckage landed in the yard of a farmhouse but no one on the ground was hurt.

The B-52, which became the Air Force's main strategic plane in the mid-1950s, has a wing span of 185 feet, is 40

feet high and cruises at 650 mph. Each plane is valued at \$9.4 million.

The lone survivor was taken to the base hospital with unspecified injuries and was reported in stable condition. He was not immediately identified.

Don Russell, an employee of the Riverside City Fire Department, was on his way to work when he saw the plane go down into a ground fog. "A couple of seconds after that," he said, "there was a tremendous big ball of fire coming up out of the fog."

Russell said he stopped, got out of his car and found the survivor, whom he said was the tailgunner, wandering around. He had some facial injuries, Russell said.

The tail section was the only part of the plane intact after the crash. It landed in the middle of a rural street. Most of the plane disintegrated when it hit the ground between the base and the community of Sunnymead to the north.

Durbin said the plane crashed with "a tremendous explosion, a tremendous

fire, a tremendous noise . . . I thank God I'm still here."

He continued: "It became obvious to me from the sound of the engines that it was in trouble. The pilot realized it and he started a sharp bank and crashed."

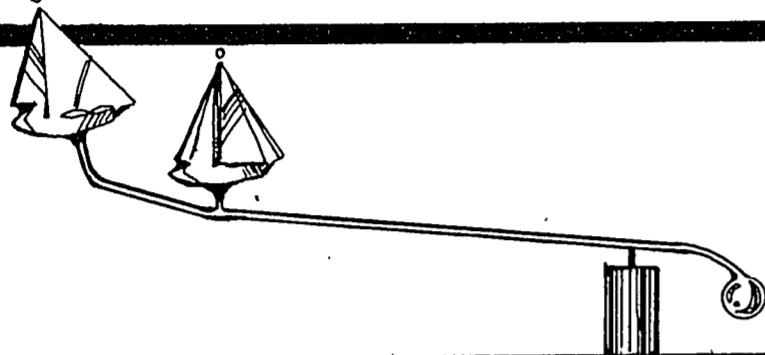
Durbin said he ran away from the crash scene "as fast as I could" and took cover in a culvert.

"After the first tremendous explosion," he said, "there were a number of explosions and I hid in the culvert and I stayed there until I was sure there wasn't some weapon on that plane that was going to blow half of this county clean off the map."

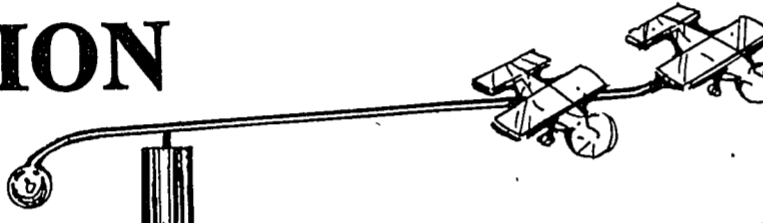
"There was no nuclear weaponry aboard, no weapons at all," Maj. Eric Solander, the base public information officer, said.

The Air Force immediately started an investigation of the crash.

A base security force of some 100 men, armed with rifles and machine guns, cordoned the crash site, to keep any unauthorized persons away from the wreckage.



ACTION



MOTION

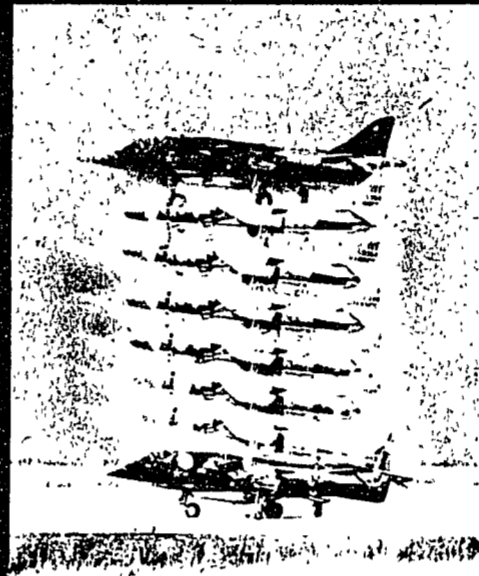
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ΑΤΩ&ΓΦΒ thank the following for their help with the FALL FLING:

W. R. Hickey	The Trophy Room
Jay Storch	Ryder Olds

— Winners in Competition —

Tails — Kappa Sigma
 Individual Chug — Gary Wagner, 7.3 seconds
 Team Chug — Theta Chi, 12.1 seconds
 Bike Race — Men* Paul Cajka
 Women* Tina Ricci
 ¼ Keg Chug — Alpha Sigma Phi, 15:55
And thanks to all who participated

U-031

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

Friday-Sunday, October 20-22

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 20
 Sports: J.V. football, vs. Rutgers, 2 p.m., IM Field; international women's volleyball, U.S. National Team vs. National Team of Japan, 7:30 p.m., Rec. Bldg.
 Nelson W. Taylor Lecture, Edward Teller, Lawrence Livermore Lab and University of California, on "Progress in Controlled Fusion," 3:50 p.m., Room 117 Osmond.
 Student Alumni Reception, 5-7 p.m., HUB North Lounge.
 Homecoming Activities, Parade, 6 p.m., College Ave.; candlelight ceremony and Glee Club concert (weather permitting), immediately following parade, Old Main Steps; fireworks and bonfire, 9 p.m., area south of Beaver Stadium; radio station WQWK all night broadcast, midnight-dawn, Nittany Lion shrine.
 SFO film, Dark Star, 7, 9 and 11 p.m., Room 102 Forum.
 Glee Club rehearsal, 7 p.m., HUB Gallery Lounge.
 Iranian Student Assn. meeting, 7 p.m., Room 324 HUB.
 Interlandia Folkdance class, 7:30 p.m., HUB Ballroom.
 Commonsplace Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., Room 102 Kern.
 Un-Common Theatre, Dames at Sea, 8 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
 Artists Series, Martha Graham Dance Company, 8:30 p.m., Eisenhower Auditorium.

Saturday, Oct. 21
 Wargamers meeting, 1 p.m., Room 101 EE East. Sunday also.
 Sports: football, vs. Syracuse (Homecoming), 1:30 p.m., Beaver Stadium.
 Un-Common Dinner Theatre, dinner, 6:30 p.m., Dames at Sea, 8 p.m., Kern Bldg.
 Comp. Lit. GSA film series, R. Allen Kirkpatrick, underground film maker, shows and discusses some of his latest films, 7 p.m., Room 112 Chambers.
 UCC, Van Morrison, and introducing Dave Edmonds' Rockpile, 8 p.m., Rec Bldg.
 Artists Series, Martha Graham Dance Company, 8:30 p.m., Eisenhower Auditorium.
 Schwab Auditorium Rededication Ceremony and Penn State Glee Club 90th Anniversary Concert, 8:30 p.m., Schwab.
 Black Caucus Dance, 9 p.m., HUB Ballroom.

Sunday, Oct. 22
 Pre-Vet Club/Nita-Nee Kennel Club, Fun Match Dog Show, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., fields south of Beaver Stadium.
 ACF, 9:15 a.m., Room 324 HUB; 10:45 a.m., HUB Assembly Hall.
 SIMS, 10 a.m., Room 319 HUB.
 University Chapel Service, Luther Harshbarger, humanities and religious studies, 11 a.m., Music Bldg. Recital Hall.
 Lamb Fellowship, 12:30 p.m., Room 301 HUB.
 Blood tests to identify carriers of Tay-Sacks disease, 1-4 p.m., HUB Ballroom.
 Shaver's Creek, history walk, "Reading the Landscape," 2 p.m., Stone Valley.
 Artists Series, Martha Graham Dance Company, 3 p.m., Eisenhower Auditorium.
 Un-Common Dinner Theatre, dinner, 6:30 p.m., Dames at Sea, 8 p.m., Kern Bldg.
 Moslem Student Assn. Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 322 HUB.
 IFC Awards Ceremony 8 p.m., Room 301 HUB.



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