

GLOBEMASTER'S ENGINES FAIL

Scores of Servicemen Injured As C-124 Crash Lands in Korea

SEOUL, Korea (UP) — A U.S. Air Force C-124 Globemaster, with 159 persons aboard, crash landed tonight on a tiny island in the Han River near Seoul, injuring scores of persons.

There were no immediate reports of fatalities but many passengers were reported seriously injured.

By midnight, more than four hours after the crash, 56 injured

had been evacuated by Army helicopters to a hospital 20 miles away. A hospital spokesman said most of them suffered burns and fractures.

Far East Air Headquarters said the big transport was carrying 10 crewmen and 149 passengers — most of them servicemen flying to Japan for rest and recreation leaves.

The Air Force said the plane crashed at 7:45 p.m. (5:45 a.m.

EST) on a small island some 11 miles northwest of Kimpo Air Base, south of Seoul.

The C-124 apparently skidded across the island after belly crashing and ended up partially submerged in the freezing waters of the Han River.

Officials said the plane apparently developed engine trouble and made the emergency landing about 20 miles after taking off from Kimpo Air Base.

5 Known Dead, 17 Are Missing In Plane Crash

SEOUL (AP) — Search crews scoured the banks of the muddy Han river today for 17 or more Americans unaccounted for in the crash of a double-deck Globemaster transport. Five of the 195 persons listed on the big plane's manifest were known dead.

The 90-ton C124 — the U. S. Air Force's biggest type transport plane — fell and burned on an island in the Han's mouth last

night just after taking off from Kimpo Airfield for Tokyo.

The Army and Air Force, cooperating on the search and rescue operations, gave conflicting reports on the number of casualties.

U.S. 8TH Army headquarters here listed 5 dead, 17 missed and 143 rescued. It said 43 of the survivors were injured seriously enough to require hospitalization.

Air Force headquarters in Tokyo said there were 5 dead, 20 missing and 134 rescued.

The plane's manifest listed 10 crew members and 149 passengers, mostly servicemen en route to Japan for rest leaves. One civilian was among the passengers.

However, an Air Force spokesman in Korea said it was possible there were more passengers not included on the manifest. The big Globemasters can carry more than 200 troops, in canvas seats on each of their two decks.

TIDES FROM the Yellow Sea swept over the charred skeleton of the plane today, forcing the rescue crews to leave the wreckage until late afternoon.

The Globemaster crash landed on the tiny island just minutes after taking off.

The pilot radioed that the no. 3 engine had failed and that he was turning back to Kimpo. Seconds later the plane pancaked into the mud and burst into flames. All except the tail section was reported destroyed.

The tide was low, and survivors waded ashore. Some may have gone back to their units without reporting to airport officials, military spokesmen said.

Death Toll May Hit 25 In Korea Plane Crash

SEOUL, Korea, Feb. 24 (Sunday) (AP).—U. S. Army divers and engineers sought today to lift a shattered Air Force transport from the icy Han River and determine finally how many of the 159 men believed aboard were killed in its death plunge Friday.

With 134 accounted for as survivors, the toll may reach 25. Five bodies have been recovered. From 17 to 20 men are missing and feared dead.

"It is very doubtful they will be found alive," said an Air Force information officer who visited the crash site, at the Han's mouth on the Yellow Sea only 1½ miles south of the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea.

Of the survivors, 28 still were hospitalized for treatment.

Tides from the Yellow Sea washed in and out over the wreck of the 90-ton transport, a C124 Globemaster.

SEARCH CREWS hurried to the island. Helicopters ferried more than 60 survivors to Army hospitals.

At daylight, a 200-man ground party, seven helicopters and several small Air Force rescue planes began scouring the area. The first body was not recovered until almost noon. Then flooding tides washed over the wreckage, forcing the searchers to leave.

Photo. Inquirer