

# Pilot Tells Of Crash, Evacuation

TACHIKAWA AB, Japan (AP)—Minutes after Capt. James Cartwright lifted his huge C-124 Globemaster off the runway at Korea's Kimpo Airport Friday night the No. 3 engine began running wild, hurling chunks of metal which ripped man-size holes in the fuselage, he said Saturday.

Cartwright and five other crewmen, all injured in the crash, were evacuated here from Korea.

Lying on a stretcher in the hospital here, Cartwright described graphically the five harrowing minutes during which he fought to keep his giant four-engine transport aloft.

"WE LOST power on No. 3 engine three minutes after taking off," the Elkton, Ky., pilot said. "It caught fire and started to throw chunks of metal through the fuselage. They hit the carburetor or throttle linkage on the No. 4 engine and it started to lose power.

"Pieces of metal were coming through the fuselage, cutting holes big enough for a man to walk through. The metal cut the air-eron cables. It was obvious we couldn't turn around so I decided on the Han river.

"It all happened in four or five  
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## Capt. Andrew L. Opiela

Funeral services for Capt. Andrew L. Opiela, who was killed in a plane crash in Korea Feb. 22, will be held at 9 a. m. tomorrow in St. Barbara's Catholic Church.

Capt. Opiela was 44 and had been in the Army 15 years, including nine years overseas. He was a chemist with Harshaw Chemical Co. and the Ravenna Arsenal before joining the service.

Surviving are his wife, Verna, of 3404 Library Ave.; a son, Michael; a brother, Michael J., and four sisters, Mrs. Catherine Wikowski, Mrs. Victoria Jezior, Mrs. Magdaline Colle and Mrs. Gean Borling.

Friends may call at Tomon Funeral Home, 4772 Pearl

# Pilot—

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minutes. It was a starlight night and I could see the outline of the river ahead. I went straight for it, radioing (the situation) all the time.

"I rang the alarm bell, but there was no panic. Everyone was very orderly.

"A light fire was burning in the No. 3 engine.

"THE RIVER was straight ahead. We landed on our belly. The first impact was very smooth . . . but the second was a lulu. The next thing I knew I was unbuckling my safety belt in the water outside the plane.

"I crawled on an ice floe and I like to freeze. I'll be all right when I get warm. That's the coldest place I ever was.

"People were pouring out of the plane and struggling onto a sand bar 50 yards from shore.

"Forty-five minutes after we hit helicopters were picking people off the bar."

CARTWRIGHT had high words of praise for his crew—"a crew as fine as I've ever seen, ideal."

He said the evacuation was carried out in "a perfect manner."

As the 37-year-old airman with 15 years of Air Force flying experience was carried into the hospital his wife was waiting calmly to greet him.

## Capt. Andrew L. Opiela

Services for Capt. Andrew L. Opiela, 44, who was one of nine men killed in a crash of a transport plane in Korea Feb. 22, will be at 9 a.m. Wednesday in St. Barbara's Catholic Church, 1505 Denison Avenue S.W.

He is survived by his wife, Verna, 3404 Library Avenue S.W.; a son, Michael; five sisters, and a brother.

The Tomon funeral home, 4772 Pearl Road S.W., is handling arrangements.

# Crash—

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crashed, and a survivor reported seeing two men disappear through the plane's side when the starboard engine exploded and tore a gaping hole in the fuselage.

AFFE/Eighth Army engineers and salvage divers from Inchon Port went to work in the early ebb-tide hours of Sunday to try to lift the plane from the water.

THEY PLAN to build a pontoon bridge out into the Han River to move cranes alongside the wreck. At the point where the Globemaster hit, the river is more than a mile wide.

A spokesman said some bodies may be found in the debris. Others, it is feared, may have been washed downstream in the freezing river water.

An Air Force information officer at the crash scene said, "It is very doubtful the missing passengers will be found alive." But the Air Force still holds out hope that some survivors, acting under shock, may have wandered off in the night to nearby Korean villages.

At Ascom City Army Replacement Center, 200 men have volunteered as blood donors for the injured.

NAMES OF the dead are being withheld pending notification of next of kin, but a breakdown identified two as airmen and one as a soldier. Of the 17 missing men, the Army said 15 were soldiers and two were airmen.

Best available information on the survivors gives this picture:

At the 121st Evac. Hospital about 20 miles from the crash scene, 103 men have been treated and released. Between 25 and 31 patients are still held there.

Nine survivors taken to Kimpo AB have been released.

CAPT. JAMES Cartwright, the pilot, and five injured crewmen have been flown to Tachikawa AB Hospital.