Newspapers.com

The Daily Chronicle (Centralia, Lewis, Washington) · 11 Dec 1946, Wed · Page 1

Downloaded on Oct 30, 2018

Loss of 32 Marines In Lewis County Air Disaster Is Feared

Search Made By Air and Ground for Ship Last Heard From Tuesday Evening on Flight From San Diego to Sand Point Station In Seattle

A coast guard officer, flying in search for a Marine Corps plane missing with 32 men aboard, was forced down at the Toledo airport, southern Lewis county, Wednesday, but immediately began a ground hop with other coast guardsmen to investigate reports of a "plane crash" near there.

The flier, Lieut. (J.G.) Ralph E. Osterberg, relayed a message to Seattle the reported crash was 3½ miles southeast of the airport. He had been forced down by bad weather.

Earlier, the coast guard at Seattle had announced Osterberg had reported actually sighting the downed plane.

Search Centers in Toledo Area

Search for the missing ship, last heard from at 4:13 p.m. Tuesday in a contact with the Toledo range station near the end of a non-stop flight north from San Diego, centered in the Toledo area. Several persons in the vicinity had telephoned in of hearing a plane late Tuesday. P. E. Pratt, a farmer, saying he and his wife heard a large crash after dark, at 6 o'clock.

The state patrol had searching parties in the area Wednesday, and Police Chief W. J. Helligoss, of Toledo, said he and his men would aid them.

Helligoss said his report was that the wreckage was sighted 3½ miles south of Toledo. The[illegible] men is heavily wounded.

Mrs. Pratt, reached by telephone, said they had heard what sounded like an airplane going through trees shortly after dinner time Tuesday night.

Plane's Radio Silenced

In the last radio message from the plane, the pilot told the Toledo range station he was about 50 miles south of there, and another normal contact was made with the Sand Point Naval air station equipment officer at Seattle, said he would have managed again about eight minutes later when he passed over the Toledo station.

"The flight was one of six planes considering a marine contingent," Lieut. Tom Sim said. One got mixed up in the usual flight plan and was forced back and landed at Portland.

Aboard were a crew of three, 29 enlisted men and a military police detail as passengers.

The crew at the Marchant field base must up all available planes to search for the missing ship, the Sand Point base, but heavy weather delayed their efforts Wednesday morning.

Heavy Plane Taken Off

The Naval Public Naval air station got its first plane into the air with doctors and pharmacists mates aboard at 11:30 a.m. to fly to the Toledo area to drop medical supplies and "all interests." The Port Angeles coast guard station, three miles west, reporting took off, also expected when the weather all morning that the plane would be ready to get through to Toledo.

Eight army planes took off from Gowen field, Boise, Idaho, Sunday, but were unable to search the country south of Toledo and were ordered back to their base, Capt. R. H. Hutchinson, acting commanding officer, said. Weather was too bad for them, said. They were to attempt more flights Wednesday afternoon.

The Naval Public naval air station said it was also several reports of airplane crashes in the area of the western Washington Tuesday night but none definite enough to link with the missing ship.

The missing plane had was reporting to the Sand Point station and Toledo range station and was directed to next communicate with the Sand Point naval aeronautic radio station at Everett.

The Toledo range station reported it cleared the place to fly high, due to icing conditions. It was snowing at Toledo Tuesday.

Thereafter it was silent, despite frantic efforts of navy, army and CAA radio stations.

Public's Aid Refused

The plane was expected in Seattle at 6:00 p.m. when it finally became apparent the ship could be listed as "missing" rather than merely "overdue." Thereafter, the coast guard, navy, army, airlines and radio stations to act clear from the public.

The plane had fuel sufficient to keep her in the air some 4½ hours, the last report from the ship said.

In the last radio message, the pilot told the Toledo range station he estimated he was about 30 miles south of the range. Under normal circumstances, Lieutenant Duke said, he would have called Toledo again when he was over the station, approximately eight minutes later, but failed to do so.

In the search, Chief Duke said, "If this plane has crashed, some people may be alive. Every minute counts in a situation like this."

It was reported from Toledo Wednesday afternoon the search was concentrated in the area between the Pell farm and Silver Lake, in Cowlitz county, about 3½ miles from the Rightwood or Kopiah Pass. It was were killed when the bomber crashed in bad weather in November, 1944.

The state patrol and civilian investigating experts from the Cowlitz area indicating an explosion of gasoline fumes was heard there Tues-

(Continued on Page 6, Column 5)

River Roars Out of Banks

Flash Flood near Estonville Washes Out Bridge and 60 Feet of Mountain Road

SEATTLE, Dec. 11—(AP)—Farmers in the lower Snoqualmie valley were forced to move livestock and identify dwellings below which be passed Tuesday night.

The flood waters rushed down the Snoqualmie river, further to overspill their banks [illegible] and Duvall to higher ground as the Snoqualmie river, further upstream, was two feet above its banks.

The Puget Sound Power and Light company cold water power over Snoqualmie Falls was [illegible] to a rate of 1,000 cubic seconds, and rising six inches an hour.

TACOMA, Dec. 11—(AP)—A flash flood that left property damaged to at least one hundred thousand in its wake rechristed the Mashall river [illegible] to Starks bridge, knocked the [illegible] bridge near Estonville [illegible] the Mountain highway, washed out [illegible] feet of the mountain highway, according to reports received here.

The Mashall river at Buckley and the Puyallup river at Sherman were also at flood stage.

The Mountain highway was blocked by the collapse of the bridge and [illegible] traffic, and traffic to the mountain was detoured through the town.

Cabins Knocked from Foundations

The Fred Pierzol family of eight returned their two cabins near the bridge detached of foundations when a wall of water roared down the river at 2:30 a.m. and knocked the cabins from their foundations.

Mrs. Pierzol and two of her six children were inside when the water hit. She and her husband, an unemployed logger, who had been laid off because of the loss of the bridge when the wall of water struck the cabins, carried the children to safety through knee deep though the flooded yard.

Ordinarily the river at that point is 20 feet wide. When the Pierzol family waded to safety the river was 200 feet wide, the Estonville tavern manager declared.

(Continued on Page 5, Column 3)

Find Bodies of Three Children

WAGRAM, N. Y., Dec. 11—(AP)—The bodies of three children were dragged to the wooded swamplands near Week Mountain late yesterday were recovered from the waters of Ten Mile river shortly after 5 o'clock today.

Sheriff's deputies and state troopers, using ice hooks to drag the river found two of the bodies together, and a third a short distance away.

The children were almost within sight of their farm home, from which they set out yesterday with their Collie puppy to meet their mother who was returning from the south to rail Christmas trees.

The bodies of David Murray, 12, Clarence, 10, and Mary, 5, were found the spot in the river where the dog had been last seen. Every found the body of the puppy in the river.

School Strike Ends

PAWTUCKET, R. I., Dec. 11—(AP)—Pending recognition of gal-rater [illegible] union, 1,000 [illegible] school teachers returned today to classrooms which had been closed for two days after the teachers [illegible] such a strike vote last week.

The teachers agreed to a new salary schedule with $1,800 minimum and $4,000 maximum which would bring net annual increases of $200 to $600.

Clipped By:

jamespcarrion
Tue, Oct 30, 2018

Copyright © 2018 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

Powered by Newspapers.com