

DELHI-BOUND B.O.A.C. COMET WITH 42 PERSONS ABOARD MISSING

"The Times of India" News Service.

A DELHI-BOUND B.O.A.C. Comet with 36 passengers and six crew aboard was missing on Saturday after it had left Calcutta at 4.30 p.m. It was due to arrive at Delhi at 6.30 p.m.

The plane left Singapore at 8 a.m. on Saturday and after calling at Singapore and Rangoon, arrived two hours late in Calcutta at 2.25 p.m. Among the passengers 25 were men, 10 women and one child.

All aerodromes, railway stations and police stations which had been alerted to look out for the plane, reported "no news".

The BOAC office in Delhi, in a statement issued late in the night, said: "The Comet left Calcutta at 4.30 p.m. I.S.T. Few minutes afterwards it passed a routine message saying it was climbing on track. Since then we have received no further news."

Joint search for the missing plane will be undertaken on Sunday by the I.A.F. and B.O.A.C. at 5 a.m.

According to the B.O.A.C. office in Calcutta there were 10 passengers from Calcutta aboard the plane.

A U.P.A. and The Times of India News Service message from London said: The British Overseas Airways said on Saturday night that a Comet jet airliner was more than six hours over-due at New Delhi from Calcutta.

The airliner, on the Singapore-London service, left Calcutta at 16-29 I.S.T. for Delhi on its way to London, it was due at Delhi at 18-54 I.S.T.

A B.O.A.C. spokesman said: "We have not posted it as missing yet. We are still regarding it as over-due. We hope that the liner has come down at one of the emergency landing grounds between Calcutta and Delhi."

P.T.I. adds: Today (May 2) was the first anniversary of the first regular Comet flight to Johannesburg from London.

The London-Tokyo Comet flight started a month ago, cutting the time of that service by two days.

Since they first took the air, Comets have shattered records on all long-distance flights.

.....	CAMERA MAN
.....	STORY COVERED
.....	PLACE OF EVENT
.....	STOCK USED
V	
	SCENE NUMBER

WHICH OTHER SOUND NEWS REELS COVERED STORY

SILENT

India

ALL 43 ABOARD B.O.A.C. COMET

DEAD

EN ROUTE TO LONDON FROM SINGAPORE

WRECK NEAR CALCUTTA

FROM OUR CALCUTTA OFFICE

MAY 3.—The wreckage of the B.O.A.C. Comet with 37 passengers and six crew aboard, which crashed on Saturday afternoon, six minutes after taking off from Dum Dum, was found in the bed of a dried up nullah near Jugalgari village, Serampore sub-division, Hooghly district, about 30 miles from here.

THE aircraft, which had caught fire while forcing its way through a nor'wester, was a total wreck. All the passengers and the crew perished in the disaster. The mangled bodies of some of them were thrown out, while the remains of others were either burned or were buried in the wreckage.

The debris of the wrecked plane was strewn over an area within a radius of 200 yards of the main portion, which was lying in the nullah. The tail end of the fuselage in which a man was trapped in a mass of wire was about 150 yards away. The wings, which disintegrated shortly before the plane exploded in flight, were found in pieces over a wide area.

The wreckage in the nullah was still smouldering when a Statesman Staff Reporter arrived about 11 a.m. today, 18 hours after the crash.

FOUR ON COMET WERE BOUND FOR DELHI

By A Staff Reporter

Mr Y. R. Malhotra, Inspector of Accidents in the Civil Aviation Directorate, flew to Calcutta from New Delhi on Sunday evening to inquire into the BOAC Comet crash.

He was accompanied by Commander B. W. Galpin, Manager of BOAC in India.

According to the list of passengers released by BOAC in New Delhi, the plane carried four Delhi-bound passengers. They were Mr J. J. A. Rozas of 2, Lloyd Road, Singapore, Mr F. Snead, a Methodist Missionary belonging to the Anglo-Chinese School, Ipoh, and Miss Jean S. Cohen and Miss Anita Whistler of the U.S. Embassy in Singapore. No information was available in Delhi regarding the purpose of their visits.

"MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT"

Travelling to Rome were Mr T. D. Oldham, described in the list as a "Member of Parliament", and Mrs K. M. Oldham. Their passage was booked at Melbourne.

Five passengers were travelling to London in connexion with the meeting of the International Rubber Study Group at Copenhagen. Their names are Mr Nasaruddin bin Abdul Rais, Mr Mohd Aris bin Ahmed Fathil, Mr and Mrs Khoo Teck and Mr F. J. Kemlo. Mr Kemlo was Managing Director of Harrisons and Crossfield, Singapore.

Other passengers on the plane were Mr M. B. Collins of 6, Thomson Road, Singapore, Mr F. Mitchell care of the Secretary, Overseas Missionary Fellowship, Singapore, Mr E. W. Bateman care of C. Dee, Ministry of Supply, Porton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, Mr J. T. Cartwright care of Harrison and Crossfield, Kuala Lumpur, Mrs K. M. Smythe care of Mr H. N. Smythe, Mansfield and Co. Ltd., Penang, Mr F. F. L. Leonard of 6, St Nicholas Flats, Singapore, Mr R. ...

A police party from Jangipara with the help of villagers collected 18 bodies which were found at different places. Limbs of three others were found later.

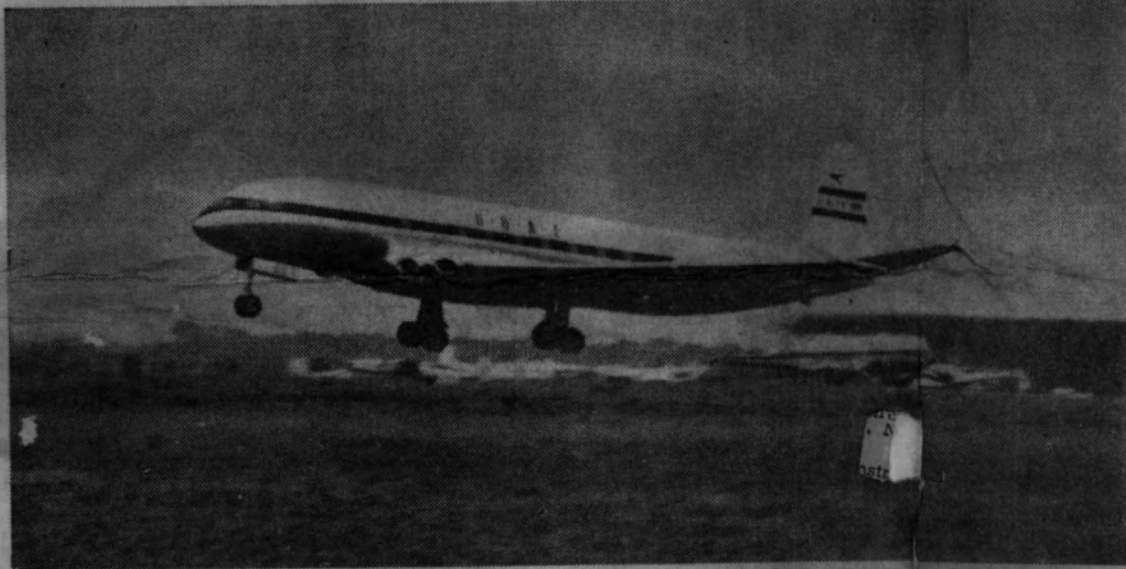
The bodies were handed over to BOAC at Jangipara police station in the evening after an inquest by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Serampore. Of the 18 bodies, 10 were women, seven men and one a girl. They were brought at night by special train to Howrah and kept in the morgue. The joint funeral has provisionally been fixed for Tuesday.

A party of workers organized by BOAC from Calcutta will visit the scene tomorrow to carry out further searches for other bodies under the wreckage.

It is feared that a certain amount of looting took place in the night even though some village chowkidars stood guard over the wreckage. Mail bags appeared to have been rifled and opened letters, which were otherwise undamaged, were scattered all over the area. Some of the letters were for the U.K.

It cannot be definitely said how the disaster occurred. A 14-year-old boy who lives with his parents in a village about half a mile away said

(Continued on back page column 5)



A recent photograph of the ill-fated Comet jet airliner which crashed near Calcutta on Saturday.

COMET CRASH

(Continued from page 1 column 2)

that the crash took place shortly after 4.30 p.m. during a severe nor'wester which was sweeping the countryside at the time. He was out in his garden collecting mangoes that had been blown down by the storm when there was a blinding flash of lightning followed by thunder.

Simultaneously the sky over the area was lit up by a bright red flash. He ran for his home and looking up saw what appeared to him like a wingless aircraft flying very low over some trees in an eastward direction. Flashes of light followed by explosions were coming from the aircraft. The aircraft then turned right and nose-dived into the nullah in what looked like a big ball of fire.

Others spoke of "a huge boulder of fire" which came at terrific speed through the black clouds and dived earthward "like a meteor." It was the wingless, blazing main body of the Comet. It fell in a ditch, which in spite of the rain became a raging inferno. A series of explosions and human screams were heard, a villager who lives near the ditch said, but the heat was so intense that no one could approach.

About 6 p.m. a sub-inspector of the Jangipara police station, who had been out on an inquiry in a neighbouring village, asked villagers to help put out the fire which was still raging despite the rain. They threw basketfuls of earth on the aircraft, but this had little effect and the fire continued for several hours.

The scene of the disaster was almost inaccessible by car from Haripal Bazar through which the seven-mile village cart road to Jugalgari runs.

CONFUSED REPORTS

PTI adds that first reports of the disaster were confusing. The police station at Jangipara received three reports of the crash from different villages, and accordingly recorded that three planes had crashed in that area the same evening. The communication lines being dislocated by the storm, the report could not be sent to Calcutta until morning, and the preliminary report did not say whether it was the missing Comet that had crashed.

Early this morning a BOAC York plane left Dum Dum, and after a brief cruise along the Comet's Delhi route the wreckage was sighted.

The Howrah fire brigade was informed and three fire engines were rushed. But the rain had rendered the "kutchra" road across the fields impassable, and the engines had to be left near Jugalgari. The firemen reached the scene on foot, but found they could be of no help except for salvaging part of the mail.

Hospital vans and first aid units were similarly held up, and police called for large trucks for the bodies instead of ambulance cars.

BOAC officials in Calcutta and Indian civil aviation officials at the spot after midnight, after a distance of 25 miles by rail and on foot. Police were first to reach the wreckage to arrange salvaging of the mail.

Only after the wreckage was located at Calcutta, ...

Mr W. J. London care of Ever Brothers Ltd, Bungsar Road, Kuala Lumpur, and Miss A. A. Hamilton (aged 13) daughter of Mrs A. M. Studd, 97, Whitely Road, Singapore.

No address was given of Mr Featherstone, Mr H. A. Morton and Mrs H. P. Morton.

FLYING TO SEE SICK WIFE

Miss Hamilton was returning to her school in England while Mr Brown was flying to see his wife who was reported seriously ill. Accompanying Mrs Smythe was a baby.

Ten persons boarded the plane at Calcutta and were all bound for London. They were Mr J. E. Milne, Mr H. G. Pearson, Mrs Pearson, Mr P. Storey, Mr R. Landsman, Mrs B. H. Maltman, Miss M. G. Maltman, Mr G. H. Farquahson, Mrs P. Farquahson and Miss A. B. Avila.

The crew consisted of Capt M. Haddon, First Officer Strange, Engineer Officer Gilmore, Radio Officer Woods, Steward Irwin and Hostess Miss Rowlinson.

WHICH OTHER SOUND NEWS REFLECTS

.. .. SILENT

36 VICTIMS OF CRASH BURIED

From Our Calcutta Office
MAY 5.—Thirty-six of the 43 victims of Saturday's BOAC Comet crash near Calcutta were buried at the Tollygunge cemetery today. The remaining bodies, including five found beneath the wreckage today which could not be brought to Calcutta in time for the funeral, will be buried tomorrow.

Of the bodies buried today, all except one were interred in a common grave. The exception was Mr P. R. Brown, a passenger from Singapore whose body was identified by his brother who lives in Calcutta. He was buried separately.

The all-denominational funeral service, presided over by six clergymen, was a simple but impressive affair and was attended by a large gathering. Fixed originally for 8 a.m., it had to be postponed till noon because of difficulty in bringing all the bodies to Calcutta in time. Owing to heavy rain yesterday the road from Jangipara to Jugalgari, the scene of the disaster, became a morass and nothing could be transported except by bullock cart.

Twenty-seven bodies were interred at midday, the other eight victims being buried in the same grave later in the afternoon after a second service.

FUNERAL SERVICES

The funeral services were conducted jointly by the Rev C. J. Alchil and the Rev H. Hopper of the Church of England, the Rev R. W. Matheson and the Rev W. S. Reid of the Church of Scotland, the Rev H. Griffiths of the Baptist Mission and Dr W. G. Griffiths of the American Methodist Mission.

A large number of people attended, including Mr G. B. Shannon, U.K. Deputy High Commissioner in Calcutta, U. Nyun, Consul-General for Burma in Calcutta, Dr Shwe Phwin, Deputy Director of the Child Welfare Service, Burma Government, who was sent from Rangoon to identify the Burmese victims. Mr Alan Campbell and Mr John Turner, U.S. Vice-Consuls in Calcutta, Mrs Evan Wilson, wife of the U.S. Consul-General, BOAC officials, representatives of the Bri-

(Continued on back page column 6)

COMET CRASH

(Continued from page 1 column 8)
 British and American communities in Calcutta and members of the staffs of firms to which some of the victims belonged. A number of BOAC flying crew were also present.

Hundreds of wreaths were placed on the common grave on behalf of relatives, friends, business associates, and the diplomatic representatives of those countries to which the victims belonged.

The search for the bodies of the remaining victims and technical investigation of the wreckage by BOAC and other officials continued throughout today. Five bodies were found under the wreckage. Photographs of the wreck were taken for use in connexion with the inquiry.

More technical experts from the U.K. have arrived in Calcutta to investigate the crash and to attend the official inquiry. Among them are two representatives of the de Havilland aircraft company, manufacturers of the Comet, Mr R. M. Har and Mr P. E. Halsey. Mr J. H. Lett, a technical accident inspector of the U.K. Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Mr W. L. Bennett, Engineer Officer of the BOAC Comet fleet, also arrived.

Mr G. Hill, Civil Air Adviser to the U.K. High Commissioner in India arrived from New Delhi. BOAC'S Meteorological Superintendent, Mr A. E. Chambers, is expected on Thursday. Mr J. Pardoe, Design Surveyor with the U.K. Air Registration Board, is also expected.

The report that the aircraft was carrying mail from Calcutta is incorrect. Though the plane was carrying mail, none was Indian.

x-FOE440

DATE MAILED

FORM NO. 2.

BOX NUMBER

OLYMP
 BRITI

CAMERA MAN

STORY COVERED

PLACE OF EVENT

STOCK USED

VERY IMPORTANT!

SCENE
 NUMBER

WHICH OTHER SOUND NEWS REELS COVERED STORY

SILENT