

INQUEST IN 15-DEATH ACCIDENT

Jet Crash Still Mystery

OTTAWA (CP)—No reason for the cause of a 15-death jet plane crash near here May 15 was advanced Tuesday at the inquest.

The five-man jury, after deliberating 35 minutes, returned this verdict:

"In view of the destruction caused by this unfortunate occurrence the jury believes that the RCAF will do everything humanly possible to avoid a similar accident in the future and we feel that any recommendations are not necessary at this time."

Eleven nuns, a priest, lay cook and two airmen were killed when a rocket-armed RCAF CF-100 jet fighter plunged from 33,000 feet into the rest home of the Roman Catholic Order of Grey Nuns of the Cross seven miles east of the capital.

SQUADRON HEAD TESTIFIES

Air force officials testified they did not know what might have caused the plane to crash.

Coroner Dr. J.S. Cross said after two hours of evidence that it appeared that only the pilot and navigator of the ill-fated fighter could supply the answer and they were both dead. Perhaps the oxygen system had failed. "But who knows?" he concluded.

Wing Cmdr. Richard Halton, DFC, commander of 445 squadron at nearby Uplands, where the CF-100 was based, said: "I don't know what happened to them while they were in the air."

He was referring to the two-man crew of the CF-100, FO William Schmidt of Medicine Hat, Alta., and Creston, B.C., the pilot, and FO Kenneth Thomas of Niagara Falls, Ont., the navigator.

FO Ernest Anthony, fighter controller at the ground radar control centre at Foymount, 70 air miles west of Ottawa, said the plane's call sign was "ukelele 8"—at no time gave any indication that it was in trouble.

Radio voice transmission between plane and radar control was "loud and clear." Schmidt had asked if there was "anyone to play with," that is, was there another interceptor in the area with which he could practice fighter tactics.

When told there was no "further business," Schmidt had radioed that he would remain in the vicinity of Ottawa at 33,000 feet. The plane had an ample supply of fuel and was on a normal mission.

The CF-100 had disappeared from the ground radar screen at 10:16 p.m.

This, other witnesses testified, was about 15 minutes after Rev. Richard Ward, 42, of Toronto, the convent chaplain and one of those killed, had returned to the home from the Holy Rosary scholasticate about a mile away.

Sister Leon, one of three sisters who testified, said: "I was awakened by what I thought was thunder and heard Father Ward say, 'Sisters, Sisters!' His call seemed to be coming from outside. . . . When I got out I saw Father Ward. His shirt was torn and probably burned. He was going on his hands and feet. He would get up and then plunge forward again on his hands. I saw him do that probably two or three times."



MINIATURES PRESENTED HARRIS GALLERY

Alhambra, has received many honours in recognition of her artistic achievements, including an annual listing since 1928 in "Who's Who in American Art." The paintings will go on display in the gallery today.

ished miniature painter and poetess of Alhambra, Calif. These miniature pictures, attractively framed, range over a wide period in the artist's career. Miss Mitchell, who with her family, left the island in 1909 to reside in

Picture above are six miniature paintings presented to the Harris Memorial Gallery by the artist through Mr. Robert Cotton, the work of a former island woman, Laura D. Mitchell, (Mrs. Arthur A. Tenynson, accomp-)

Believes West Still Tops Russia In Atomic Field

By DAVE MCINTOSH
Canadian Press Staff Writer
OTTAWA (CP)—Canada's top defence scientist said Tuesday he believes the West still has the edge over Russia in military aviation and atomic energy.

But if the Soviet Union maintains its present pace in producing num-

YORK

Mrs. Sproule, York Manse, spent the weekend in Sackville, N.B.

The many friends of Mr. Milton Vessey are glad to see him out around again, after being sick at his home in York.

Mr. Edisson Hardy, York, left for England. He intends to be away till August.

Miss Rose Watts, Sackville, is spending her holidays at her home in York, the guest of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Harold Watts.

Miss Margaret Watts, York, is spending a short time at the home of her brother Mr. Jack Watts, Tracadie, and Mrs. Watts.

Quite a number of gardens were frozen by last week's frost, and a lot will have to be planted over again.

Mr. Irving MacDonald has purchased the potato warehouse at York Station from Mr. James Allen Covehead.

Mrs. Horace Vessey, City, was a weekend visitor to York Manse.

Mr. Blair, City, was the weekend guest of Mr. Hubert Sproule, York Manse.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave MacDonald were recent visitors to York the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Crockett.

IN MEMORIAM

MRS. KENNETH GILLIS
There passed peacefully away at Thistle and Shamrock on April 5, 1956, Mrs. Kenneth Gillis at the age of eighty-nine. She was the daughter of the late Bartholomew Edwards and Elizabeth Todd.

In the death of Mrs. Gillis this community has lost one of its most beloved and highly respected citizens. Her passing brought deep grief to her many friends and neighbors. A person of quiet disposition and Christian character, she will always be remembered with affection by those who knew her best, and especially in the home will her presence and kindness be most sadly missed.

There are left to cherish her memory, besides her husband, four sons and five daughters: Edward, Portland, Maine; Robert, Weyburn, Saskatchewan; William, Sarnia, Ontario; Donald at home; Katie, Mrs. Earl Warren; Alberta, Mrs. Johnson Heskett; Eliza, Mrs. Arthur Trus, Portland, Maine; Louisa, Mrs. Truman Walsh and Margaret, Mrs. Roderick Nicholson, Shamrock.

The funeral service was held from her home and was conducted by Rev. H. S. Raynor assisted by Rev. W. B. MacPhail of Wellington. Hymns sung were "The Lord Is My Shepherd"; "Safe In The Arms of Jesus"; and "Abide With Me". The pallbearers were: William Matheson, Angus M. MacDonald, Leslie Edwards, David Edwards, Daniel Matheson and Frank Newsome. The funeral was under the direction of Chisholm and Son, North Tryon. Interment took place in Springton Cemetery.

CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Mrs. Kenneth Gillis wish to thank the clergy, their neighbours and friends, and all who helped in any way in their sad bereavement; also those who sent flowers and cards and letters of sympathy.

JET KILLS WOMAN, GIRL

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A Minneapolis mother and her five-year-old daughter died Tuesday night when an air force jet loaded with 104 rockets failed on takeoff, slammed into their car and caught fire. The pilot and his radar observer leaped to safety. Neither was seriously hurt.

ber and quality of scientists, it may surge ahead. A. H. Zimmerman, chairman of the Defence Research Board, said in an interview.

"If the Russians develop the intercontinental ballistic missile before we (the West) do, then I think we will be in deadly peril," he said.

However, it appeared an operational intercontinental ballistic missile would be developed by both the United States and Russia at the same time—in the mid-1960s. Another dangerous period would follow before a counter-missile was developed.

Mr. Zimmerman, 54, who took over March 1 as board chief from Dr. O. M. Solandt, said it is therefore essential that the Western nations train more scientists. This was a critical problem.

The native of Hamilton sat relaxed in an armchair in his defence headquarters office as he replied frankly to questions about Canada's present and future research program for defence.

RESEARCH SELECTIVE

He said that because the field is becoming more and more complex Canadian research must be more selective. Canada could not afford to do everything in weapons systems research. It had to concentrate on the most essential things.

He listed some of them as:

1. More research into the air defence system, that is, early warning radar, aircraft and communications.
2. He said he believes that the manned fighter plane will continue to be used for about another 15 years. It would not suddenly go out of service when effective missiles appeared on the weapons scene.

Ground-to-air anti-aircraft missiles would supplement interceptor planes. Like the air-to-air missiles to be used by RCAF fighters, they would probably be adaptations of American-designed weapons.

The CF-108 fighter, now being designed for the RCAF, would have longer range than the CF-100 now in squadron service.

The DEW (Distant Early Warning) radar line in the Canadian Arctic would probably become a counter-missile line as the range and accuracy of radar increased. Anti-aircraft missile stations would not necessarily have to be based along the DEW line.

ARMY TRANSPORTS

2. The defence department is agreed, Mr. Zimmerman said, that the army must have transport planes to make it more mobile.

Therefore, one of the main objectives of Canada's defence research program in future would be development of a plane able to take off and land in short distances. The U.S. Air Force already had a lot of experience with the Canadian-designed and produced Otter plane. Armies in the field had to be able to concentrate and disperse quickly to avoid being decimated by atomic attack.

3. In war, one of the armed forces' main objectives would be to keep the North Atlantic sea lanes open.

Therefore, more research was going into development of better sonar—a form of underwater radar—for the navy. As sonar improved, Canadian destroyers and planes would be able to detect submarines at longer range and with more accuracy.

ATTENTION ALL NAVAL VETERANS

There will be a meeting of all Naval Veterans at the L. P. U. Hall, 48 Water Street on Saturday, June 16th, 1956 at 7:30 P.M. for the purpose of forming a Main Branch Naval Veterans Association for Charlottetown.

There will be in attendance several members of the National Council Main Branch Naval Veterans Association of Canada.

All who are interested are urged to attend.

(Sgd.) R. A. M. MacKENZIE,
Secretary,
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