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Manchester Evening News

LATE FINAL

27,655 TV & RADIO—PAGE 2 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1958 PRICE 3d.

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GROUND FLOOR

United star may never play again—Tragic families fly out

ROGER BYRNE GEOFF BENT MARK JONES BILLY WHELAN EDDIE COLMAN TOMMY TAYLOR DAVID PEGG

BOBBIE CHARLTON RAY WOOD DUNCAN EDWARDS JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER DENNIS VIOLLET JOHNNY BERRY

ABOVE: Those who died. RIGHT: Some of those who escaped.

MATT 50-50: EDWARDS 'GRAVE': BERRY COMA

50 doctors battle to save their lives

FIVE German surgeons fought desperately to-day to save the life of MATT BUSBY, Manchester United's famous manager critically injured in the disastrous Elizabethan air crash at Munich. First dramatic message from the Rechts Der Isar Hospital said: "He is lying between life and death." Then came brighter news—"He is somewhat improved," but to-night it was still "touch and go."

One surgeon commented: "We are pleased with the progress he is making, but he is still very ill.

And a doctor who spoke to Mr. Busby this afternoon said afterwards: "He is still very critical, but a bit better than yesterday."

Another doctor said: "His chances are now 50-50.

"One lung apparently has collapsed completely. His fractured ribs apparently punctured the lung."

Still later came the bulletin: "Mr. Busby is in no acute danger."

Back in Manchester, the city was flooded with false rumours that Mr. Busby was dead.

Inquiries and telegrams from all parts of the country poured into the "Manchester Evening News" asking the dreaded question, "Is it true?"

The Munich hospital commented: "The reports are entirely false. They did not come from us."

MORALE AT ITS HIGHEST

TO-NIGHT the four most critical cases apart from Mr. Busby were United players **JOHN BERRY** and **DUNCAN EDWARDS,** sports writer **FRANK TAYLOR,** and pilot Kenneth Rayment.

"All five are still not out of danger," said a hospital official.

Berry and Rayment were "very serious indeed." Edwards was easier. Frank Taylor was sleeping, but critical.

Still seriously ill were Viollet, Blanchflower, Scanlon, and Mrs. Eleanor Miklos (wife of the flight organiser).

Although in pain Blanchflower told Canadian Dr. Michael Newhouse: "Don't make me laugh—it hurts."

Dr. Newhouse added: "The morale is at its highest. Some are even cracking jokes, although they are rather weak, the jokes I mean."

Morgans and Wood were "very cheery" and Charlton should leave hospital within the next day or two.

Mrs. VERA LUKIC was transferred to nearby Terlach Hospital with internal injuries. Her baby daughter with facial burns was sent to Munich Eye Hospital.

An army of 50 doctors are working without sleep to save their lives.

"I don't think Edwards will be able to play football any more," said one doctor.

Four doctors are at Mr. Busby's bedside all the time.

Professor Georg Maurer, chief of the surgical section, said:

"It will be necessary for Mr. Busby to remain here for three or four weeks.

"He is conscious part of the time and responds somewhat to questions with a nod.

Mr. Busby has a tube running through his throat to help his breathing.

He has extremely serious chest injuries in addition to several fractures.

Twenty-one of the 44 aboard the plane perished.

Mr. D. Ballantine, British Consul in Munich accompanied by his wife, visited British patients in the hospital to-day.

He looked into the oxygen tent covering Mr. Busby and tried to talk with him. Mr. Busby had difficulty in talking because of the pipe in his throat.

HOSPITAL STAFF WONDERFUL

ALBERT SCANLON, United outside-left, who has head and leg injuries, said in hospital:

"They have all been wonderful here. I have no idea what happened in the accident.

"The first thing I knew I was in the hospital."

KEN MORGANS, Manchester's outside-right, who had been unconscious since the crash, said: "I just woke up about five minutes ago. I don't remember anything."

Luckiest players in the United party—goalkeeper **HARRY GREGG** and right-back **BILLY FOULKES**—went to-day from their hotel to the hospital.

Still stunned with the shock of the accident, Gregg, in a telephone interview at the hospital, said:

"Billy and I tried to get some sleep for about two hours. But it was no good.

"We are waiting for news about Mr. Busby and the players. Nobody has told us anything yet.

"It's dreadful having to wait—but everyone has been terribly kind."

MEANWHILE the first of two groups of relatives of the injured United players left Manchester Airport to-day at 10 50 a.m. It included Mrs. Jean Busby, wife of Mr. Busby; his 22-year-old son, Sandy Busby; his daughter, Mrs. Sheena Gibson, and his son-in-law, Don Gibson, ex-United player; and Mr. James Murphy, United assistant manager.

FLYING FROM BELFAST

The rest of the party which was flying from Manchester to Paris in a B.E.A. plane were Mrs. Taylor, wife of sports-writer Frank Taylor; a brother, Mr. William Taylor; Mr. W. Gregory, and Mr. F. Palmer, "Daily Express" representatives.

Over an hour before the first flight left, Duncan Edwards's girl friend Miss Leach, her eyes red rimmed and looking tired.

Half an hour later assistant United manager Mr. Jimmy Murphy arrived. Chain smoking, pacing up and down, he said: "I am too grief-stricken for words. I cannot get to Munich quick enough to check on the boss and the boys."

The next group out—five people—left Manchester before noon, 39 minutes late, for Amsterdam to connect with a K.L.M. plane for Munich.

The party is: Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Viollet, Mrs. Blanchflower, and Mrs. Scanlon.

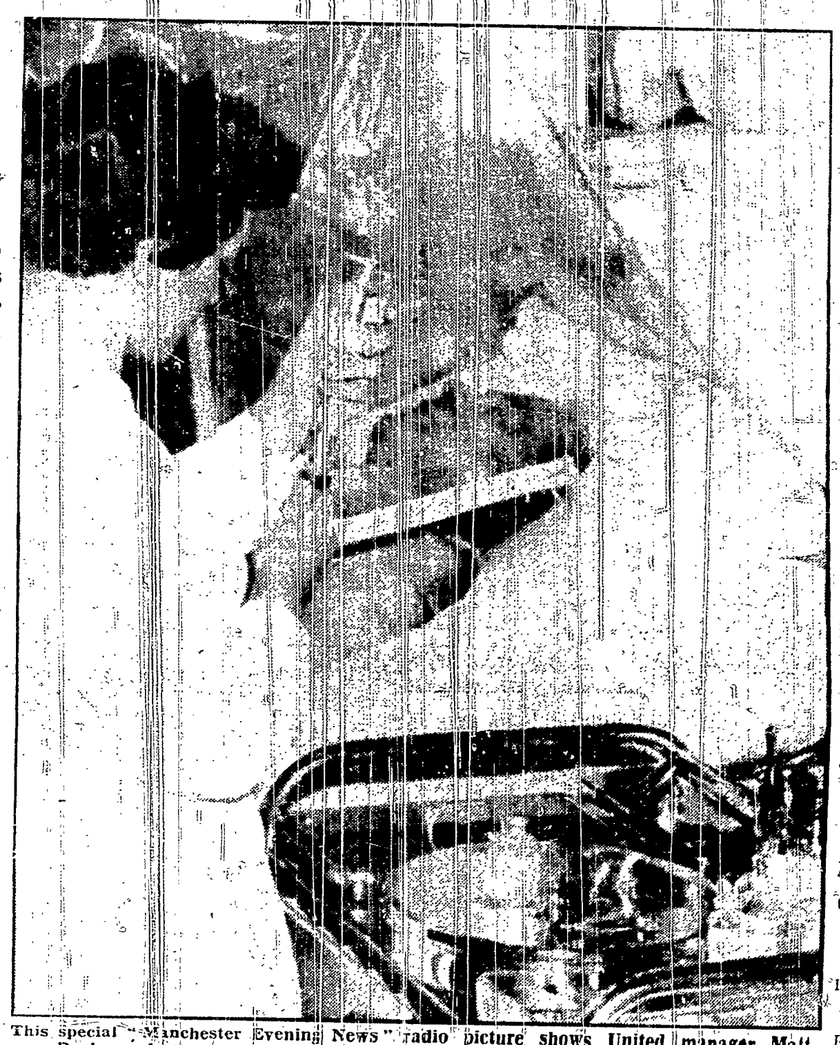
Mrs. Hilda Berry, mother of three children, led the party to the plane. Leaning heavily on the arm of a stewardess, Mrs. Scanlon is expecting a second child shortly.

TO-NIGHT it was learned that the "mercy" planes had been diverted to other airfields because of weather conditions at Munich.

Blanchflower's mother and father were flying from Belfast to-day at 3 10 p.m. arriving in London at 4 35 p.m. and then completing the journey by a B.E.A. plane to Munich.

Hopeful news of Matt Busby was rushed by the

TURN TO BACK PAGE



This special "Manchester Evening News" radio picture shows United manager Matt Busby under an oxygen tent in Munich Hospital. At left is a German nurse.

To-night's bulletins

INJURED IN HOSPITAL

Matt Busby (manager—shock and chest and leg injuries.—Still very critical. Condition very bad, but a bit better. Not in acute danger.

John Berry (right-winger—shock, concussion, and eye injury).—Very serious. Unconscious but no worse than this morning.

Duncan Edwards (left-half—shock, broken ribs, fractured right leg).—Still in pretty bad shape.

Frank Taylor (News Chronicle sportswriter—multiple fractures).—Satisfactory.

Kenneth Rayment (plane's chief office—broken leg and thigh, concussion, head and internal injuries).—Took a turn for the worse, but now holding his own.

Dennis Viollet (inside-left—shock and head injuries).—Still seriously ill. No change.

Jackie Blanchflower (centre-half—fractured pelvis, arm fractures, broken ribs, internal injuries, shock).—Seriously ill. No change.

Albert Scanlon (left-winger—shock and head injuries).—Fairly good.

Ken Morgans (right-winger—concussion and suspected fractures).—Making good progress. Not serious.

Ray Wood (goalkeeper—bruises and flesh wounds).—Making good progress.

Bobby Charlton (inside right—slight head injuries).—No change, good condition. Not serious.

Mr. Nebojsha Tomasevic (Yugoslav diplomat—flesh wounds).—No change. Not badly hurt.

Mrs. Eleanor Miklos (wife of the flight organiser—flesh wounds, concussion and shock).—Fair.

Mrs. Vera Lukic (Yugoslav diplomat's wife—injuries not disclosed).—Doing well.

Mrs. Lukic's baby daughter (cut eyelid).—Good.

THE DEAD

Roger Byrne (captain, left back), **Eddie Colman** (right half), **Mark Jones** (centre half), **Bill Whelan** (inside right), **Bert Whalley** (chief coach), **Tom Curry** (trainer), **Tom Jackson** (Manchester Evening News), **Henry Rose** (Daily Express), **George Follows** (Daily Herald), **Eric Thompson** (Daily Mail), **H. D. Davies** (Manchester Guardian), **Archie Ledbrooke** (Daily Mirror), **Frank Swift** (News of the World), **P. B. Miklos** (travel agent), **W. T. Cable** (steward).

UNACCOUNTED FOR

Tommy Taylor (centre forward), **Geoff Bent** (left back), **David Pegg** (outside left), **Walter Crickmer** (club secretary), **Alf Clarke** (Manchester Evening Chronicle), **W. Satinoff** (racehorse owner).

OUT OF HOSPITAL

Harry Gregg (goalkeeper), **Bill Foulkes** (right back), **Peter Howard** (Daily Mail), **Ted Ellyard** (Daily Mail), **James Thain** (plane skipper), **Rosemary Cheverton** (stewardess), **Margaret Bellis** (stewardess).

Disaster fund

AFTER receiving the news of United's tragedy, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Alderman Leslie Lever, immediately opened a "Manchester United Disaster Fund."

Early this morning the first donation was received. It was 1,000 guineas from Great Universal Stores.

The "Manchester Evening News" and the "Manchester Guardian" have given £1,000.

Alderman Lever said: "It is proposed to establish a suitable permanent memorial, the form of which has not yet been decided, but it will be in accordance with the feelings of public opinion.

AMBASSADORS

"It will also be in accordance with the part the team played in the world of sport."

Readers are asked to suggest what they think is the best form of memorial to honour the dead players.

Alderman Lever, who was up all night taking messages of sympathy, said: "I have never known in the whole of my life public opinion so stirred and I am sure that all sections of the city, the country, and the world will be anxious to join in the establishment of such a worthy memorial."

The Lord Mayor also referred to the reporters who lost their lives.

"We mourn these talented journalists who served their country no less than the team in giving strength to their efforts."

SUBSCRIPTION LIST

M/c Evening News and M/c Guardian	£1,000
Great Universal Stores	£1,050
M/c Evening Chronicle	£1,000
Harry Vos, gown maker, of Spear-street, M/c	£100

More might have died . . .

EVENING NEWS REPORTER

TO-DAY'S day-light examination by B.E.A. experts of the wreckage of the flying football special brought a reversal of their first version of the disaster.

The plane did not in fact burn out, as B.E.A. top executives said in Munich shortly after arrival from London last night.

To-day I found the whole of the starboard wing was intact, complete with engine, and was still attached to the main fuselage.

The pilot's cabin was crushed. The floor of the main passenger compartment was split and wrenched from the sides by the force of the impact. The seats were forced upwards close to the roof.

But only two people were killed here and 23 survivors escaped through two gaps in the fuselage.

Had the petrol tanks in the starboard wing or the inner tanks in the port wing caught fire, it is certain the death roll would have been much higher.

Premier's message

Mr. Macmillan, the Premier, who is in Melbourne, Australia, sent this message to the Lord Mayor of Manchester: "I was deeply grieved to hear of the disaster. Please accept my sincere sympathy."

ON OTHER PAGES . . .
Page 5: Story of the crash
Pages 10 and 11: Two pages of tribute
Back Page: United's plans for the future

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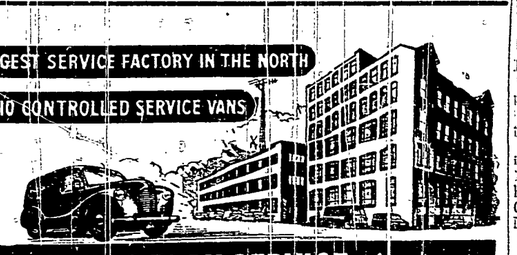

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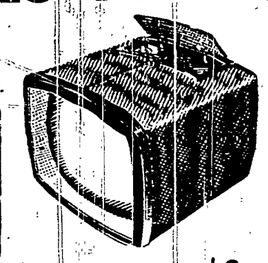

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1 F

MRS. BUSBY IN AIRPORT HITCH

(See This Page)

Munich-bound plane with ten relatives, including Mrs. Busby, took off from Paris after delay because six members of party had no passports. Were given safe-conduct passes to cross Paris.

Medical bulletin from B.E.A. to-night said Captain Rayment "dangerously ill. Condition deteriorating."

Mrs. Miklos and Johnny Berry also "dangerously ill."

Duncan Edwards also seriously ill with internal injuries."

MATCH OFF.—Aberdeen v. Hearts postponed (snow).

TEST MATCH (Back Page).—Australia 217 for 4. Close.

2 F

CAFE MANAGER CLEARED

Summons against James Ramsden, manager of Market-street (Manchester) branch of Lyons Cafe, alleging assault, dismissed by Manchester magistrates.

Summons brought by Michael Shemberg, Grafton-street, Hightown, Manchester, who said he was "frog-marched" out of cafe. Ramsden said Shemberg had been nuisance in cafe, and counter-summons against Shemberg found proved. Shemberg given conditional discharge.

"NO ALI BABA'S CAVE" (Page 9).—Sherriff and Bryce acquitted.

Give United the cup—Madrid

REAL MADRID—holders of the European Cup, who beat Manchester United last year in the semi-final—to-day backed the plea to award this year's European Cup to United. Red Star, the Yugoslav team who United knocked out of the cup on Wednesday, first suggested awarding the cup to United.

Senor Santiago Bernabeu, president of Real Madrid, said they would support the move.

In hospital where they fight for life

Manchester Evening News

greeting cheers Busby

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUNICH, Friday.

IN the hospital early this afternoon I saw the three most dangerously ill crash survivors. They are in one room together. They are manager Matt Busby, Kenneth Rayment, a pilot, and journalist Frank Taylor.

All three were unconscious.

Busby's face was working, his head was jerking from side to side, and his hands were jerking up and down. He seemed to be muttering words on and off.

Frank Taylor's left arm was stretched up and suspended on a wire.

Several operations

IN the next room were Edwards and Berry. The two were only semi-conscious, and though a doctor described their condition as being better than that of the other three men, I heard Edwards saying: "I am dying, I am dying."

All five had been operated on several times.

In the next room were Bobby Charlton, Ray Wood, Jackie Blanchflower, Albert Scanlon, and Dennis Viollet. These five were in a much better condition.

I spoke to Charlton and Wood, who were very glad to hear that their families had been told about their condition.

Ray Wood grinned and said: "I still feel pretty lousy. . . . I finished up in the crash hanging out of the aircraft with part of a wheel on top of me."

A smile

BUT Matt Busby's mind is quite clear at times. For instance, the doctor conveyed to him my greetings from the *Manchester Evening News*. Busby smiled.

This was during one of the brief moments of consciousness. Another doctor said Mr. Busby does not know, and certainly cannot realise in his present condition, the enormity of the tragedy which has befallen his team.

Best of the lot

IN another room was young Ken Morgans, who seemed to be in the best condition of the lot.

He spoke quite freely and cheerfully. In the same room was Mr. Tomasevic, from the Yugoslav Embassy in London. He too seemed not too badly hurt.

Mr. Busby was in an oxygen tent. His condition is still described as "very serious" and "very critical."

50 doctors

DR. ALBERT KRESSER, one of the 50 surgeons, said: "Berry is very, very ill indeed. He is not conscious and cannot speak."

Each of the five most dangerously ill have doctors at their side every second.

Ever since the airport first flashed news of the accident, all hospital staff have been on constant duty. Neither Dr. Kresser nor many of his colleagues have had any sleep. But they were ordered to rest—"sleep is impossible at such a time," added the doctor.

'Barrel of death' hunt

EVENING NEWS REPORTER

POLICE throughout the North hunted to-day for a barrel of deadly-poisonous potassium cyanide, lost between Middlesbrough and Liverpool—perhaps in the Manchester area.

A spokesman said the barrel was missed from a British Road Services lorry when it reached Liverpool docks.

The barrel was one of four that were lost. Three were recovered near Bury. It is believed someone deliberately cut the rope holding the load," said an I.C.I. spokesman.

Said the spokesman: "The barrel is silver-coloured, with red and yellow shipping labels. It measures 18in. by 12in. On no account should anybody touch it. Police should be called by anyone who sees it."

More miners in pay strike

ANNOYED about "too slim" pay-packets, 142 morning-shift miners at Bradford Colliery, Manchester, were to-day on strike.

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