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Manchester Evening News

LATE FINAL

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UNITED CRASH: "28 DIE"

Plunged into houses at Munich, exploded

SURVIVORS SAVED in BLAZING WRECKAGE

ONE of the greatest disasters to befall British football struck Manchester United this afternoon when the plane carrying the £350,000 wonder team crashed at Munich. At least 28 of the 40 aboard were killed; some reports said higher casualties were feared.

The "Elizabethan" airliner.

The plane, a B.E.A. Elizabethan, had just taken off and climbed to 60ft. when it crashed on the outskirts of the city.

The team was returning from Belgrade, where yesterday United drew 3-3 with Red Star, the Yugoslav champions, and so qualified for the semi-final of the European Cup.

The plane came down in the suburb of Kirchtrudering, exploding as it hit the ground. Several houses were set on fire.

Confirmation of fears that 28 had died seemed to come in a B.E.A. statement at Munich that there were 12 survivors.

But the position was confused when another report said the number on board was not 40 but 38 passengers and six crew.

Pulled from blazing wreck

It was also stated that the scene of the crash was Riem, a village near Munich airport.

THEN a B.E.A. spokesman said at least 10 to 15 people were pulled alive from the blazing wreckage.

The plane had landed at Munich from Belgrade for refuelling.

It is not yet known whether any local inhabitants were injured in the crash.

The plane had been due to reach Ringway, Manchester, at 5 p.m. to-day.

Ministry inspector flies out

The crash had happened at 3 10 p.m. Within an hour the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation in London said Mr. G. M. Kelly, an inspector of accidents, was leaving immediately for Munich.

As he prepared to leave, it was learned that the crash had occurred in a snowstorm.

One unconfirmed eye-witness report said 16 badly-burned bodies were recovered from the wrecked airliner.

The Munich B.E.A. office promised a full statement on the accident with an hour.

On hearing of the crash, Mr. Alan Hardaker, Football League secretary, contacted League president Joe Richards, of Barnsley, and the Wolverhampton club, who are due to play United on Saturday.

Manchester's Lord Mayor, Alderman Leslie Lever, said: "I am very deeply grieved to hear about this tragic accident, and I am sure that everyone in Manchester and beyond will feel the same."

Football officials were trying to notify Sir Stanley Rous, F.A. secretary. They hoped to reach him in Edinburgh before he flew back to London to-night.

And **BACK IN MUNICH** fire brigades which had sped to the scene were battling with flames which had fired two buildings.

United players and other members of the party boarding the ill-fated airliner at Ringway on Monday. In the group are Walter Crickmer (secretary), Frank Swift, Scanlon, Wood, Viollet, Archie Ledbrooke, Bent, Whelan, Jones, Gregg, and Morgans.

WAS V.I.P. BABY ON THE PLANE?

Mrs. Vera Ludie (pictured here) wife of the Yugoslav air attache in London, and her 22-month-old daughter, may have been on the plane.

When the United party left Manchester Airport, Mrs. Lukic, aged 24, went with them.

She was going to collect her daughter from her parents home in Belgrade and also to watch the European Cup match.

Then she and the child were to fly home with United.

Sport's biggest tragedy

THIS air crash is the greatest blow British sport has ever suffered.

Because when that plane crashed on take-off from Munich airport it wrecked the lives of so many members of a team which had been flying the flag for our soccer.

From the ashes of the old prewar poverty-stricken Manchester United they had lifted the team sky-high to world fame and were cruising towards the greatest soccer treble history has known.

But Fate stepped in with all its unexpectedness and viciousness. And struck the greatest blow at what the world has become to recognise the greatest club.

It was a team which carried transfer market value of more than £250,000, according to present-day values.

CUP THREAT

And, furthermore, this unfortunate crash could also wreck the European Cup competition and turn the heads of all clubs against flying to and from matches.

League champions and Cup runners-up, United were on their way home from their great Cup triumph against Red Star, Yugoslavia, in Belgrade yesterday. They had halled at Munich for a break. Then took off again and misfortune stepped in. . . .

Stepped in with dramatic suddenness to throw up a doubt also about the staging of Saturday's First Division game with Wolves at Old Trafford.

Matt Busby, the man who built this United from a struggling pre-war unit into such a terrific monument to soccer was with them. So also was Tom Curry the trainer, and Bert Whalley the coach.

MATT BUSBY

The Busby genius

MATT BUSBY started his career in a quiet way with Denny Hibernians, a little-known Scottish club. When Manchester City brought him south he was struggling until suddenly switched to wing-half. Then he blossomed, won a Scottish "cap," and was transferred to Liverpool.

Came the war. He went into khaki, became a sergeant, and travelled Europe with Army teams. On his return, Manchester United invited him to take over their vacant post of manager, and he began his long job of building up the fortunes of the Old Trafford club.

He took them to three League championships, a winning Cup-final in 1948, and to Wembley again last May.

Twelve months ago they reached the semi-final of the European Cup, as they had done by beating Yugoslavia Red Star in Belgrade 24 hours ago.

Of firm, but quiet disposition, Matt was a slow-speaking Scot with a delightfully warm character.

EDUCATION MAN DIES

Former senior official in Manchester's education department, Mr. James Henry Torbitt, has died in his Mansfield, Notts, home, aged 82.

A killer's plea

Albert Edward Matheson, aged 52, sentenced to death for murdering a 15-year-old boy at Newcastle, is appealing against the sentence.

Man drops 20ft.—glass saves him

EVENING NEWS REPORTER

WINDOW cleaner Edward Clayton, aged 23, of College Buildings, Collyhurst, Manchester, escaped death by inches when he fell from the top floor of the All Saints' Register Office building, Manchester.

After plunging 20ft. he crashed through the glass roof of a corridor over a courtyard.

Witnesses said: "If it hadn't broken his fall the window cleaner almost certainly would have been killed."

A few inches either way and he would have carried on falling another 20 or 30 feet to the concrete well below.

FLYING BAN LIFTED LAST YEAR

THE Football League banned teams flying to and from matches after the whole Turin team was wiped out on March 4, 1949, when their plane hit Turin Cathedral in a storm.

THE LEAGUE LIFTED THE BAN ON CLUBS FLYING ONLY LAST MARCH.

The F.A. has never banned teams flying abroad, but last March gave permission for clubs to fly only for League matches in England and Wales.

At Llandow, South Wales, in March, 1950, 80 died when a plane bringing supporters from the Ireland v. Wales Rugby International crashed.

Missing boy is in Ireland

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD Anthony Haslam, missing from Macclesfield for a week, has been found in County Cavan, Ireland.

Anthony, of Willwick Lane, was found with a friend, Michael Wadsworth, aged 17, of Western Avenue, Macclesfield. They were staying with Wadsworth's grandmother.

Eoka's threat

Greek Cypriots to-day gave notice to Sir Hugh Foot that they would continue the Cyprus struggle. "Our patience is exhausted," said Eoka leaflets.—Reuter.

ON HIS WAY

Disturbed by the occupants after breaking into a house called By the Way, in Yew Tree Lane, Northenden, Manchester, a raider fled empty-handed.

Two painters dangle 30ft. up

EVENING NEWS REPORTER

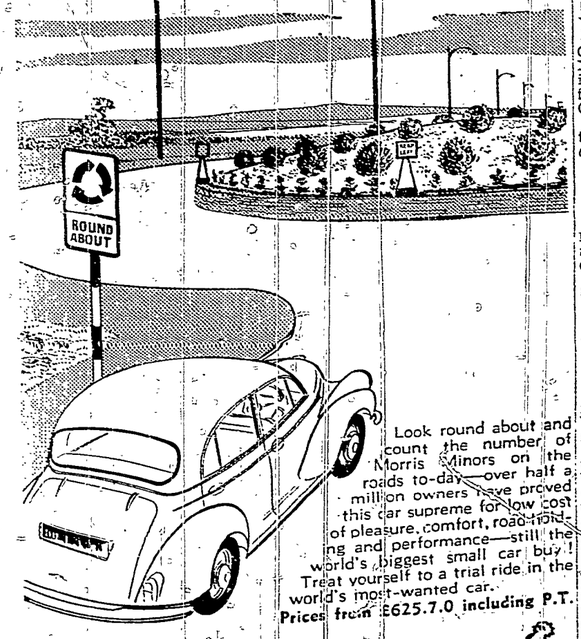
TWO painters clung to ropes 30ft. up when the safety hooks of their cradle failed while they worked on a warehouse wall in Brazil-street, in Manchester's centre, this afternoon.

A fire engine rescued the men.

A spokesman of the men's employers said: "They were never in any danger. They grasped the ropes as a precaution and were soon lowered to the ground."

One of the painters said: "Please don't print my name. My wife would be worried stiff. She thinks I work on the ground."

ROUND ABOUT



Look round about and count the number of Morris Minors on the roads to-day—over half a million owners have proved this car supreme for low cost of pleasure, comfort, road-holding and performance—still the world's biggest small car buy! Treat yourself to a trial ride in the world's most-wanted car.
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BRIGHTON CONSPIRACY TRIAL

Bennett shouts: I didn't swindle tax

DRAMA mounted in the Brighton conspiracy trial at the Old Bailey to-day as witness Allan Roy Bennett, immaculately dressed, with a big cigar sticking from his breast pocket, shouted replies at defence counsel.

Barristers, public, and judge listened in silence to exchanges between Bennett and Mr. Geoffrey Lawrence, Q.C., who defended the suspended chief constable.

Mr. Lawrence, his hands sometimes resting on the ledge in front of him, sometimes on his hips, put every question in the same quiet, even, measured tones.

Bennett sometimes answered him in a shout, flinging his arms about, but Mr. Lawrence's next question would be put as quietly and calmly as the one which preceded it.

In cross-examination Bennett, who has admitted reporting alleged bribes to Scotland Yard . . .

- **CLAIMED** he now mixed with big people.
- **DENIED** that while owner of the Astor ("Bucket of Blood") Club at Brighton he was engaged on an income tax swindle.
- **ADMITTED** his first conviction was at **Salford** in 1931 when he was 13 and that he had been jailed at **Manchester.**
- **DISCLOSED** that one of the two names he had written on a piece of paper as those who had informed him that Brighton police had been crooked was Tony Lyons.

The piece of paper was Exhibit 48 in the drama.

Six hours

Bennett ended his evidence after being in the box six hours.

Accused are: Charles Fold Williams Ridge, aged 58, of Bavant Road, Brighton, suspended chief constable of the town; Detec.-Inspec. John Richard Hammersley, of Brighton (aged 40) (second-in-command of C.I.D. until he was suspended), of Glen Rise, Withdean, Brighton; Detec.-Sgt. Trevor Ernest Heath, aged 38, of Bramble Rise, Withdean, also suspended; Anthony John Lyons, aged 59, licensee, of Marine Gate, Brighton, and Samuel Edison, aged 42, commission agent, of The Drive, Hove.

They have pleaded not guilty to conspiring together and with persons unknown to obstruct the course of public justice.

Bennett was to-day first questioned by **Mr. David Peck** (for Hammersley) about an interview in Hammersley's office when Heath was present.

He said he was indignant when Heath inquired about a "job" at Bournemouth. "I told him it was all nonsense."

He did not know whether he said: "If I am called in every time a screwing job is done something will have to be done about it."

Cash book

Bennett was then cross-examined by **Mr. Stanley Rees** (for Lyons) about the cash book relating to the Astor Club.

Q: When you were living a honest and upright life you took £60 a week out of the club takings and omitted it from the books?—**YES.**

Bennett, waving his arms, said: "Could I declare £20 a week to Bidge on the books? Could I put down: Chief Constable, £20 a week?"

Q.: I am not permitted to answer questions. I realise you are perhaps having a difficult time.—**I am not having a difficult time. I admit I took £60 a week, £20 for Bidge and £40 for me, and I admit I did not pay tax on it.**

Mr. Rees: You may make any admission you are moved to do, but for the moment will you just answer these questions.

'Another fraud'

Bennett said he had made an income-tax return at the end of 1955 and for all the years prior to that, but had not made out one since.

He agreed, therefore, that he had never returned his income for 1955.

Mr. Rees: Because of course, you were engaged in a swindle.

★ TURN TO BACK PAGE

Fuchs—Serious trouble

DR. FUCHS was reported to-night to be in serious trouble about 28 miles south of Depot 700 on his trek from the South Pole.

Two Snocats in Dr. Fuchs's party were reported to have dropped into crevasses. Both were recovered, but the steering of one was broken.

Dr. Fuchs was off the course made by Sir Edmund Hillary on his trek to the Pole late last year and was trying to find his way back.

CHEERS

Building of a new Hale public-house, the Moss Hotel, may start this summer.

Dentists: 'Pay is down one third'

SINCE 1948, dentists' earnings have dropped by about one-third, the Royal Commission on doctors' and dentists' pay was told in London to-day.

Dentists blamed scales of charges and administration for "restricting work to a stereotyped pattern and cutting down fees."

12 buses join ice-skid toll

EVENING NEWS REPORTER

SNOW dusted the North-West with danger to-day when light showers froze over roads, causing dozens of skid-and-bump accidents.

Many people were late for work through road hold-ups which delayed some buses up to half an hour.

And with more snow or sleet showers on the way and the temperature not expected to rise much over freezing point, motorists were urged to take great care when going home to-night.

Manchester Corporation Transport Department had about 12 buses in minor accidents. There were delays averaging 15 minutes on many services.

Most rail services were not affected and air traffic from Manchester Airport was trouble-free. But those roads. . .

One of the worst crawls was on the Stockport-Manchester road. Long queues formed and it took some buses 25 minutes to get from Ardwick Green to Deansgate.

FREAK FREEZE-UPS

Loads of salt were tipped on the ice-bound junction of Prince's Bridge and Water-street, Salford—but not until after there had been three crashes and several cases of skidding.

Passengers dodged flying glass when a lorry side skidded in Medlock-street, Hulme. One passenger was treated for shock.

In Chester Road a bus and car bumped together—and 100 yards away a car and motor-cyclist crashed at the same time.

Freak freeze-ups made some roads more dangerous than others.

LORRIES CRASH

There was a heavy snow shower in Ashton-under-Lyne this afternoon and a flurry of big flakes in Manchester.

CIRCLED.—A lorry in Hyde Road, West Gorton, Manchester, went round in a circle and cut a telephone pole in half.

LAST WORDS.—And there's a silver lining. There will be another frost to-night, but to-morrow should be a little warmer.

31 strike at pit over pay

LATE FLASH.—Over a pay dispute 31 colliers at Bradford Pit, Manchester, struck to-day.

PIT union secretary Mr. Jack Collins is to "defend not condemn" miners summoned to the first "absentee court" at Dairy Colliery, Haigh, near Wigan, next week.

He said to-day: "A lot of people are getting it into their heads that union members are going to condemn their own men.

Mr. Collins said the 250 miners at the pit had "their backs up a bit" at being called a "guinea-pig" in the new drive to cut absentism. "Courts" had already been held in some collieries.

Two pit strikes ended to-day. They were at:

- **Wheatsheaf**, Pendlebury, near Manchester, where 170 night-shift men wanted to swap with day workers;
- **Wigan Junction**, Platt Bridge, near Wigan, where hauliers staged a revenge strike after colliers struck. Talks have started to try to settle both these disputes.

Jockey Joe Childs dies

OLD-TIME jockey Joe Childs, who for 10 years was first jockey to King George V, has died at Portsmouth, aged 73.

Born in France, he joined the British Army in World War I—and so made his name in England.

In 1916, while on leave, he won the substitute Derby and Oaks—run at Newmarket, on Fifeshal.

Two years later, on Gainsborough, he won the 2,000 Guineas, the substitute Derby, and the St. Leger.

He was, perhaps, the finest exponent of waiting tactics. He retired in 1935.

Other classic successes were: Coronach (1926) and Scuttle (1928) in the Derby; Coronach (1926) and Brown Betty (1933) in the 2,000 Guineas; Coronach (1926) and Cameronian (1931) in the 1,000 Guineas; Coronach (1926) and Bayuda (1919) and Ure (1921) in the Oaks; and four winners in the St. Leger: Hurry On (1916), Polemarch (1921), Solario (1925), and Coronach (1926).

"Evil of teenage girls drinking . . ."

Police action was threatened to-day to clamp down on after-time drinking at Oldham clubs.

And the "evil" of teenage girls drinking could be removed by the vigilance of licensees, said Police Chief Mr. W. Schofield.

ORGANIST MOVES

After 10 years as organist and choirmaster at St. Alban's Church, Offerton, Stockport, Mr. N. B. Hunter moves to Sacred Trinity Church, Salford.

PEOPLE KILLED IN HOMES

(See This Page)

Latest reports: 28 dead counted. There were 44 people on board, including six Germans. Nine of these may be people killed on the ground by the plane.

Of the 17 players in the United party, 10 are dead. Five, including Wood, Foulkes, Byrne, Colman, Berry, Taylor, and Jones, are injured: Crickmer, Swift, Blackmore, Fleet, Scanlon, Flower for Northern Ireland, and Whelan for Eire.

ON BOARD

The party was made up of the six players, the party including Matt Busby and Tom Curry.

Many famous Northern sports journalists, including those from England and Manchester, were aboard: Frank Swift and Tom Jackson.

Yesterday's team was: Gregg, Foulkes, Byrne, Colman, Jones, Edwards, Morgans, Charlton, Taylor, Viollet, Scanlon.

The reserves were: Bent, Whelan, Wood, Berry, Pegg and Bianchi (Italy).

Pressmen on board also included: D. Howard, L. Allsopp, Eric Thompson (Daily Mail), H. D. Davies (Manchester Guardian), Frank Taylor ("News Chronicle") and A. Clarke ("Evening Chronicle").

Among those rescued were: Bobby Rose ("Daily Express") and Ken Ledbrooke ("Mirror"). Also on board were Alan Wheatley ("Daily Herald") and Ken Gillow ("Daily Express").

Also on board was Captain Henry Rimmer, millionaire racehorse owner, Willie Stephen.

Previous air crashes in which football team was involved were: in May, 1949, when Torino team from Turin, Italy, were all killed when plane crashed into Turin cathedral.

Councillor Edward Reid, Mayor of Stretford, and lifelong United supporter, said: "Millions of sport lovers throughout world will mourn."

None of the United directors was in the plane. They did not go on the trip to Belgrade.

Mr. Harold Hardman, the chairman, said: "This is awful tragedy—knock-out blow for us all."

COMMONS REPORT

SUICIDE.—No change in law on suicide.—Mr. Butler.

POOLS.—No legislation to permit subscriptions to football pools in cash.

TROOPING.—Trooping Colour rehearsals on Saturdays.

MURDERS.—In November and December, 1957, 30 murders in England and Wales compared with 33 same period 1956.—Mr. Butler.

WITHDRAWN.—Metropolitan Police withdrawn order finger-prints be taken of all Irishmen charged with minor offences.—Mr. Butler.

ARMED ROBBERY.—No authority to give direction to courts on nature of sentences they imposed.—Mr. Butler.

Condition of the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. John Hare, who has bronchitis, "about same."

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