

With bullet holes in its fuselage, a Lockheed Constellation, similar to the type the Haitian government says bombed the city —

Canadian arrested after Haiti bombing

MONTREAL STAR
9 JUNE 1969

Associated Press

FREEPORT, Bahamas — A Canadian, William Dempsey, was being held in Freeport for Canadian authorities on the weekend after a "very, very old" Lockheed landed here last Wednesday — soon after the Haitian capital of Port au Prince was bombed — riddled with rifle bullets and scarred by anti-aircraft fire. Nine other men — seven Americans and two Haitians — have been turned over to authorities in Miami.

A spokesman at the U.S. missile tracking base on Grand Bahama Island where the plane landed, said: "If I had been the pilot, I would have been very frightened."

"There were two bullet holes very near his seat," the spokesman said. "They could have missed him only by inches."

Found in the plane's cargo compartment were eight rifles, two sub-machine-guns, automatic revolvers and hand grenades.

The superstructure of the plane was riddled with holes and there were flak holes in the undercarriage.

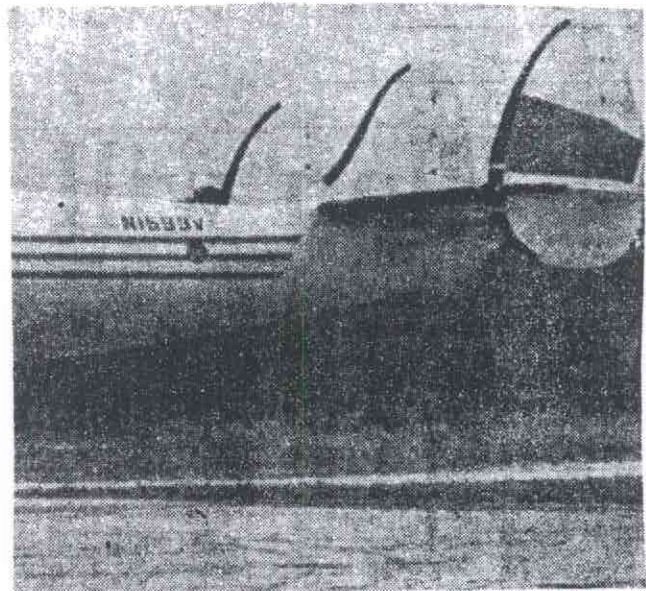
It was described as off-white in color, stripped down and all seats removed.

One source said: "There also was a survival kit."

The plane arrived here almost out of fuel after six gasoline drums with burning fuses were dropped in the area of Haitian President François Duvalier's palace in Port au Prince.

The Haitian government said only one exploded.

Two men, dressed in flying suits, left the plane immediately after landing and took taxis to Freeport.



AP Wirephoto
of Port-au-Prince, is grounded at Freeport, Grand Bahama.

TORONTO DAILY STAR
5 JULY 1969

Tor. Star 5 July 69

Haitian exiles in Quebec say CIA backs plots to overthrow Duvalier

By EARL McRAE
Star staff writer

MONTREAL—Several Canadian businesses have given about \$80,000 in the past year to an underground group of Haitian exiles living in Montreal and plotting the overthrow of Haitian dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

The group is called Mouvement Democratique des Patriotes Haitiens (MDPH) and claims it was responsible for the June 4 bombing of Duvalier's palace, when a dozen drums of oil with lighted fuses were dropped from a plane. A Canadian, William Dempsey of London, Ont., was arrested along with seven Americans and two Haitians in Freeport, Grand Bahama, where the plane landed.

A second group of Haitian exiles scheming to topple Duvalier, but operating independently of the MDPH, is the Haitian Exile Coalition, based in New York. It was responsible for the unsuccessful invasion of Haiti in May of 1968. A leader in the Montreal branch of HEC told The Star that a number of Haitian exiles in Montreal took part in the invasion. He also said that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency lends cautious support to HEC.

The Canadian businesses financing the MDPH are all located in the province of Quebec. They include a shoe manufacturer, a clothing manufacturer and a hotel. They provide about 75 per cent of the MDPH's finances. The money is used chiefly by the movement's military wing in the U.S. to buy arms, ammunition and to cover training expenses in the Florida Everglades.

The overall administration and political wing of the MDPH is in Montreal. It has drafted a program of social and economic reform for Haiti and lined up

The last financial contribution from the Canadian firms was made Dec. 24 last year, when \$30,000 in U.S. funds was transferred from a Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce branch in Dollard des Ormeaux, Que. to the bank's branch on William Street in New York city.

The money was made out to "Mr. Rene J. Leon."

Rene J. Leon was a Haitian army colonel during the regime of Paul Magloire, Duvalier's predecessor, and is now head of the MDPH's military wing. He captained the June 4 bombing raid. He was deported to the U.S. from the Bahamas, with his U.S. and Haitian colleagues.

Napalm intended

He is now in a Miami jail charged, along with the others, with violating the U.S. Neutrality Act which, in effect, forbids hostile acts of aggression against countries with which the U.S. is at peace. Leon's bail is \$50,000 cash. Leon has been to Montreal several times. His last visit was in April.

The \$30,000 from Canadian firms apparently helped finance the bombing operation. One of the biggest expenses was rental—for about \$5,000—of the Lockheed Constellation aircraft used.

An MDPH spokesman in Montreal told The Star the bombing, which killed one person and injured several more, was the first military act of the MDPH, formed in March 1965. He said it was not an isolated act, but part of a well-planned comprehensive plan against the Duvalier regime. Nevertheless, he is upset it failed.

"The original plan was to use napalm," he told The Star. "It was the plan even the day before the attack. I don't know what happened. The oil drums

were very amateurish. As soon as Leon is out of jail, I will find out what went wrong."

And, he's confident that Leon will be out, along with his colleagues, soon—despite the fact the offence they're charged with carries a five-year sentence.

What he's saying is that, although the MDPH denies any CIA connection, the U.S. government—of which the CIA is a branch—quietly tolerates these acts of aggression against Haiti and soft-pedals prosecution when someone gets caught.

William Dempsey, 27, who says he was "camp commandant" of a Haitian exile training operation in the Everglades earlier this year, refuses to discuss the bombing raid and explains his reasons this way:

"My buddies are all in jail down there. They are going to go to court. If I start talking publicly about this thing, the American government will have no alternative than to prosecute hard down the line."

(continued)
over

Lone airplane bombs Duvalier's palace

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti (AP-UPI-Reuters) — One central committee, in a gun battle.

personnel to form a new government, should it succeed in ousting Papa Doc.

The Canadian businesses—one of which had to close down its branch in Haiti after Duvalier increased its corporation taxes 300 per cent—would be rewarded for their financial assistance setting up operations in Haiti and receiving tax and tariff concessions.

Dempsey, the son of a federal civil servant, was arrested in 1962 along with several Americans and two Cubans, and charged with training 500 Cubans for an invasion of Cuba. A federal judge released them, saying the government had "more than ample time" to decide whether to prosecute them formally. It never did.

Their release came four days after their lawyer said the U.S. government "assisted, activated and encouraged over a two-year period" the training program.

Dempsey spent 11 days in a Miami jail this spring after being arrested training Haitian exiles in the Everglades. He was ordered deported, but the order wasn't carried out.

Lawrence Katz, a Miami lawyer representing the jailed adventurers, is convinced there is CIA involvement in the anti-Duvalier groups.

"There was a case two years ago involving two of these same guys. They were charged with planning to invade Haiti from Florida. It looked as if the deck was stacked against them. But, it became apparent that the government witnesses were holding back. The trial judge even precluded government cross-examination. My men got two and nine months when they should have got five years. Then they were released pending an appeal, and it's still pending. Sure, I'm convinced the CIA's involved or if it isn't them, somebody up there likes these guys."

"Any CIA involvement," says the Montreal HEC official with a smile, "is extremely cautious and indirect, more one of tolerance than actual encouragement."

Death sentences

The MDPH has resisted efforts by HEC in Montreal to merge with the latter. The MDPH, with about 50 Haitian members and a dozen Canadians is comprised primarily of young professionals who feel Duvalier's seizure of power can be blamed, to a large degree, on the apathy of many of the older HEC members, who were politicians in Haiti before Papa Doc.

Most of the MDPH members are lawyers, teachers or doctors. Some have been sentenced to death in absentia by Duvalier, most have relatives in Haiti, and, for this reason alone, live in deep fear of being exposed.

While Bill Dempsey's colleagues stew in a Miami jail, Dempsey spends his days lounging around his parent's home or playing basketball with a sister. Being Canadian, he was deported to this country and has not faced prosecution. The Justice Department and Department of External Affairs have both searched their statutes to see if he violated Canadian law.

They found nothing.

John Scollin, director of the criminal law section of the justice department, says the most pertinent statute it has is The Foreign Enlistment Act, chapter 124, section 10. It reads:

"Any person who, within Canada, prepares or fits out any army, naval or air expedition to precede against the dominions of any friendly state is guilty of an offence under this act." The penalty is two years in jail, a \$2,000 fine or both.

Said Scollin: "Since Dempsey carried this out from outside Canada, we can't touch him."

Scollin was asked if that means a small army of Canadians can cross the U.S. border tomorrow, attack a third country, escape to the Bahamas, get deported to Canada and not face prosecution?

"It looks that way, unfortunately," said Scollin.

MONTREAL STAR

6 JUNE 1969

Montreal Star

6 June 1969

Bahamas may hold bomber

Reuters

NASSAU — Police last night questioned 10 men who landed on Grand Bahama Island in a four-engine Constellation, but police sources could not confirm reports the men carried out Wednesday's bombing raid on the Haitian capital of Port au Prince.

The police sources said the aircraft landed at Gold Rock Creek, a U.S. missile tracking station, late Wednesday afternoon after the pilot requested landing facilities because he was running out of fuel.

Most, if not all of the 10 men aboard were believed to be Americans.

They were being held in Freeport, Grand Bahama, by the Royal Bahamas Police. The aircraft also was being held pending further investigation, the police sources said.

The sources said the men were not armed and were wearing civilian clothes.

In Washington, U.S. officials said yesterday a plane with a three-man crew, two of them probably U.S. citizens, had been detained somewhere in the British West Indies.

The Haitian Government said an unidentified four-engined plane dropped six barrels containing oil and kerosene on Port au Prince, one of which fell on the presidential palace grounds.

Haiti charged the plane came from Cuba and requested U.S. air protection against further attacks.

MONTREAL STAR

10 JUNE 1969

Montreal Star 10 June 1969



CP Wirephoto

CANADIAN RELEASED: William Dempsey of London, Ontario, who had been detained in the Bahamas shortly after a plane had bombed the president's palace in Haiti, shown arriving home last night. Dempsey refused to comment on the raid.

Canadian took part in Haiti bombing

JUN 9 1969

FREETOWN, Bahamas (AP) — The plane which was first arrested in Florida was reported in the group, has identified Dempsey as being a resident of London, in March after the fatal shooting of Haitian exile Gerard D. Baker while on guerrilla training manoeuvres 50 miles into the Everglades swamp.

The Canadian, William Dempsey, was held in Freeport for Canadian authorities. The newspaper says he was reported in the group, has identified Dempsey as being a resident of London, in March after the fatal shooting of Haitian exile Gerard D. Baker while on guerrilla training manoeuvres 50 miles into the Everglades swamp.

Seven Americans, the Canadian and two Haitians were reported in the group, has identified Dempsey as being a resident of London, in March after the fatal shooting of Haitian exile Gerard D. Baker while on guerrilla training manoeuvres 50 miles into the Everglades swamp.

Officials said Saturday. "If I had been the pilot, I would have been very frightened," said a spokesman at the U.S. missile tracking base on Grand Bahama Island where the plane landed after the raid.

One Canadian was aboard. The plane arrived here almost out of fuel after six gasoline drums with burning fuses were dropped in the area of Haitian President Francois Duvalier's palace in Port au Prince. The Haitian

Haiti-bound

MAR 13 1969

Canadian among 12 'commandos' captured in Everglades camp

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — Following a dead man's trail, police slogged into the Everglades Wednesday and arrested 12 heavily-armed men they say were training at a jungle camp for an invasion of Haiti.

One of those arrested is said to be a Canadian citizen and the group was said to be financed by a Haitian exile in Montreal.

The men dressed in camouflage uniforms included 10 Haitian exiles and two men identified as North Americans in charge of the camp.

Munroe County Sheriff Robert Brown said the raiding party of deputies was told of the existence of the camp by Florida Highway Patrol troopers.

A patrol spokesman said troopers answering a telephoned report of shooting in the area stopped a car carrying a wounded man. Whoever was with the wounded man apparently told the police about the camp, said the spokesman.

Gerald D. Baker, who had been shot in the chest, was dead on arrival at a Miami hospital.

Brown said the former Special Forces members were identified as Edward Koldy, 33, and William J. Dempsey, 26. Although both were listed as Americans, Haitian consul-general in Miami Eugene Maximilian said Dempsey was a Canadian citizen.

Mystery plane bombs palace of Haiti boss

JUN 05 1969

PORT AU PRINCE (Haiti) (AP) — A four-engine Constellation aircraft, supposedly flown from Cuba, dropped incendiary bombs Wednesday over President Francois Duvalier's presidential palace.

At least one of six bombs landed in the palace courtyard, but caused little damage. Elsewhere, one person was killed when a bomb landed on a hut about a half mile from the palace.

The plane, described as having black and red markings with no national insignia, was driven off by the Haitian defence force, authorities said.

U.S. protection asked

After the brief attack, a crowd formed at Duvalier's palace in what was described as a show of support for him.

The attack came about 48 hours after the central committee of the Haitian Communist party was broken up.

The Haitian embassy in Washington yesterday asked the United States for aerial protection for Port au Prince following the bombing, because Haiti has no air force. Protection is being claimed under inter-American treaties. The embassy said the attacking plane had taken off from Cuba.

Sorry: but we do not have a photograph of Mr. Dempsey

Compliments of
The Ottawa Citizen

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO
BE ADDRESSED:
THE COMMISSIONER
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OTTAWA 7, CANADA



HEADQUARTERS - DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE

TOUTE CORRESPONDANCE DOIT
ÊTRE ADRESSÉE COMME SUIT:
LE COMMISSAIRE
GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA
OTTAWA 7, CANADA

OTTAWA 7, CANADA

YOUR NO. _____
VOTRE N° _____

OUR NO. 69HQ-700-Q-69
NOTRE N° _____

July 31, 1969.

Mr. Richard Bernabei,
Department of Classics,
Queen's University,
KINGSTON, Ontario.

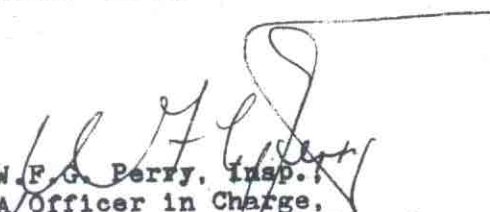
Dear Sir:

Re: Mr. William Dempsey

This will acknowledge receipt of your
letter dated July 25, 1969, wherein you request
information concerning one Mr. William Dempsey.

2. A search of our Criminal Indices has
proved negative and we have no record of this incident.
No doubt your enquiry will be answered satisfactorily
by some newspaper who have covered this story. I regret
that we cannot be of assistance to you.

Yours truly,


W.F.G. Perry, Insp.
A/Officer in Charge,
Criminal Investigation Branch.

address of Dempsey's parents:

MR. & MRS. JOHN H. DEMPSEY
103 BISCAY RD.
LONDON, ONT.

phone 471-0181