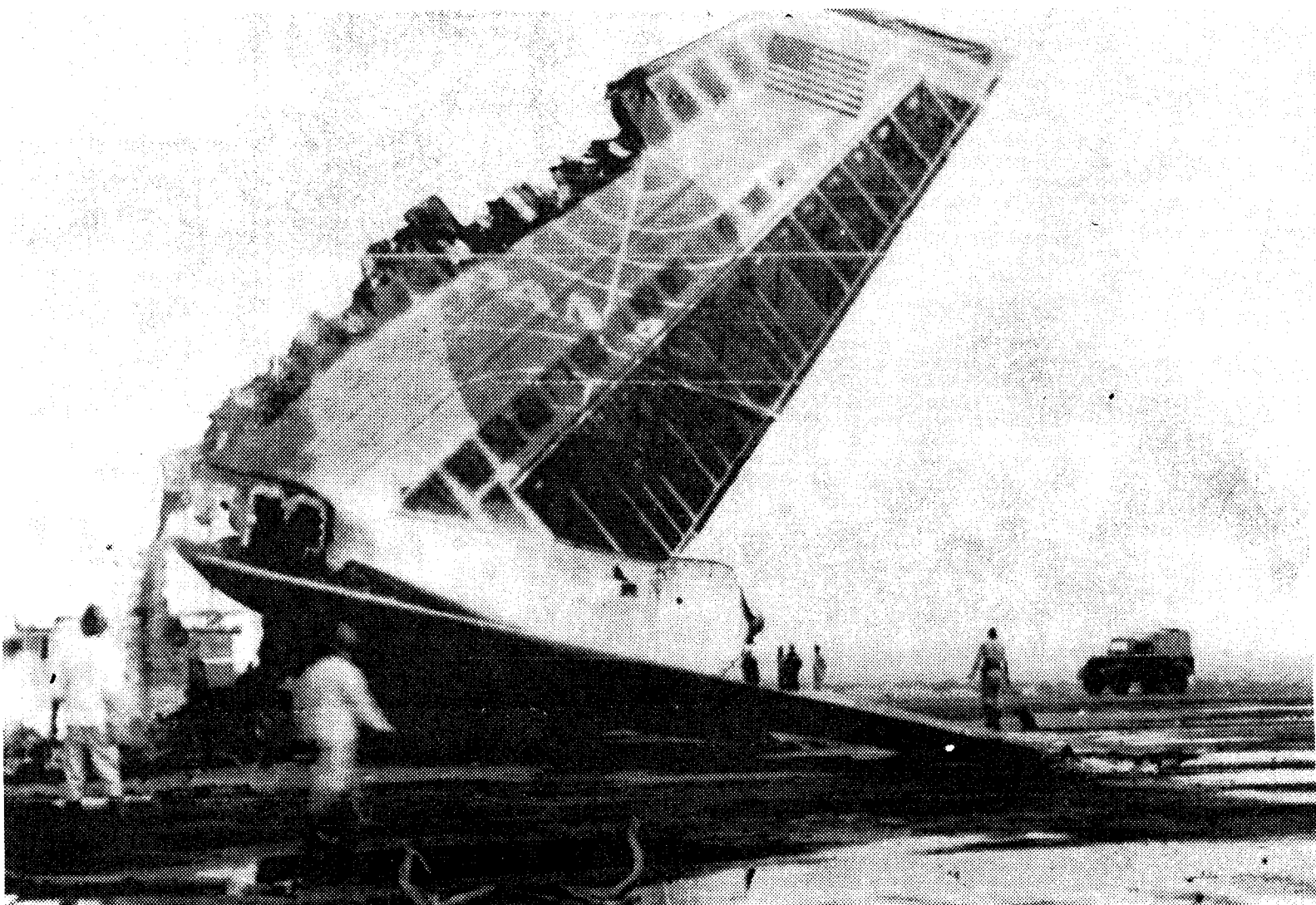


Hijackers Seek Sirhan Release



—United Press Inter

Fireman surround the tail section of a Pan American 747 after it was blown up by guerrillas in Cairo.

'DID PASSENGERS GET OUT?'

Blast Turns the Night Into Day

Hijacking of 747 Was Cool, Calm

By **RAYMOND WILKINSON**

United Press International Writer

CAIRO —The Pan American 747 jet circled Cairo airport in the early morning darkness today before touching down on the main runway, its landing lights blazing.

Only authorities and a handful of newsmen gathered on the observation deck knew the drama in the aircraft where Palestinian guerrillas held the 171 passengers and crew member captive.

The newsmen rushed to try to get a view of the plane as ambulances, military vehicles and fire engines roared to its side.

Suddenly an explosion ripped through the plane, turning night into day and illuminating the craft's blue and white fuselage and tail.

"Oh my God," someone said. "Did the passengers get out?"

Flames Consume Plane

A burst of machine gun fire echoed through the night as the flames flared along the length of the shiny, \$23 million plane and up its six-story tall tail. The huge plane disintegrated. Firemen sprayed arcs of foam on the wreckage.

Moments later, the newsmen learned the passengers were safe. They had been taken from the craft and put aboard buses for the short drive to the airport lounge.

There they told a harrowing tale of confusion and fear in the darkness.

The three guerrillas, who told police they put nine time bombs in various sections of the aircraft, appeared calm.

They were smartly dressed—one in a sports jacket and slacks, another with a shirt and tie and the third with a polo shirt. They did not smile.

Flight Directors Story

John Ferruggio, 47, of Boston, flight director of the 747, recounted what happened.

"Just as we left Brussels, two very smartly dressed youths who said they were from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) walked up to the cockpit. They were both armed with grenades and a gun.

"While one went into the cockpit, the other stayed below with passengers and said they were taking over the aircraft. They told everyone to stay still and that the plane was going to Beirut.

"As soon as it arrived in Beirut, we picked up nine PFLP men with .45-caliber pistols and a suitcase full of grenades. Then the guerrillas started to wire up explosives in the first class cabin as the plane waited at Beirut airport.

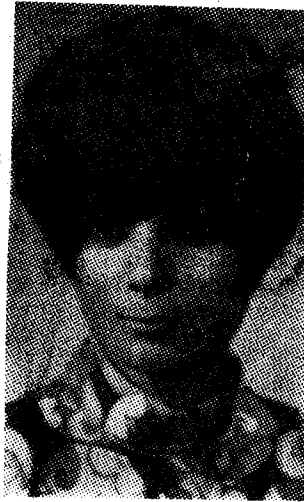
'Cool and Calm'

"All along the hijackers were cool and calm and we could converse with them at all times. The passengers were clam throughout the trip.

"As soon as we left Beirut with only one of the nine who had gotten on there—making a total of three guerrillas aboard—they said we were going to Cairo and told us we would have eight minutes to evacuate the aircraft.

"We briefed the passengers in the evacuation procedure and lined them up at the emer-

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—AP

LEILA KHALED
Held in Foiled Hijacking

SCENE

Escape From 747 Recounted

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agency exits. We instructed them to take off their shoes and then as soon as we touched down, we shot through the chutes.

"We all ran like hell. Everywhere bullets—tracer bullets—were zinging through the air and we didn't know who was friend or foe."

As Ferruggio spoke, the glow of the burning plane, the first 747 jet to land at Cairo Airport, still could be seen in the distance.

Ilene Longergan, a stewardess from New York City, said, "as soon as the plane stopped in Cairo we let the chutes down as fast as possible and scrambled out. We began running and running. We got into a bus.

"One of the hijackers was trying to get on the bus too and someone knocked him off. We were sitting on the floor of the bus because we could see tracer bullets and we were afraid they were shooting at us I've never been so scared in my whole life. I thought it was all over."

Telling of the situation on the plane, she said.

"They'd come back to us and say things like if their demands weren't met, they were going to blow up the plane in two hours. They were going on with their philosophy and everything and really scaring people.

"It wasn't until we were nearly in Cairo that they promised they wouldn't hurt anyone. They were saying America had hostages of theirs and they were going to hold the plane until their demands were met.

"They had guns and grenades. They were pointing guns in your face and I know they had guns at the backs of the other stewardesses.

"They were really pretty nice but it made you nervous because they had their fingers on the trigger.

"We served the passengers meals and drinks and tried to keep it as calm and as normal as we could. But the passengers were fantastic."

Mr. and Mrs George DuPont

of Miami, Fla., said they got away from the plane as soon as they could.

"Within moments we heard machine gun fire," DuPont said. "We kept moving. This was followed by four explosions. On board, the Palestinians wanted to know who we were and took our passports. It was actually almost like a comedy—a black comedy."

Jan Schriber of Albuquerque, N.M., said, "As soon as the plane landed and the doors opened, the passengers began to slide down the emergency chutes and began running. They did not stop.

"I took a child out with me. The passengers were calm and remained seated throughout until they left the aircraft.

"As soon as we got out of the plane, there was gunfire. But everyone kept running and crew members with flashlights turned them off and kept running."

Scores of the passengers and crew were bruised during the evacuation but there were no reports of serious injuries.

Airline Security Under Attack

By ANDREW BOROWIEC
Star Staff Writer

GENEVA—Shaken by the spectacular airliner hijackings by Palestinian commandos, Western European governments today tightened airport security measures and hastily studied ways of preventing further disasters.

A barrage of bitter editorials denounced the hitherto inadequate security precautions that resulted in yesterday's hijackings of three aircraft and one abortive attempt.

Said London's Daily Telegraph:

Pessimism On Talks

"This situation is entirely due to the failure of the international community at all levels to concert and enforce preventive and punitive measures. . . . Countries that encourage or harbor hijackers must be completely ostracized, their airlines banned from all other airports, their airports prohibited to all other airlines. They have left the comity of civilized nations. All its privileges should be denied them."

Coupled with the indignation and fear of further air terror was growing pessimism about

the turn of events in the Middle East after the Israeli decision to boycott the peace talks.

"The signs of decay are multiplying in the Middle East," said the respected Paris daily *Le Figaro*. "The fragile truce is directly threatened."

But the attention focused mainly on the hijackings which have impressed a number of European newspapers as a highly skilled performance, implying more sophisticated methods and consequently more threat to air travel.

"Those who acted were not amateurs," said Switzerland's *Gazette de Lausanne*, referring to the coordinated operation which affected four aircraft within two hours. The Amman-based extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) claimed responsibility for the hijackings.

Swiss Unprepared

One of the aircraft involved was the Swissair DC8 en route to New York and feelings ran high in this Alpine country which realize more and more that its traditional neutrality

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REACTION

European Press Hits Security of Airlines

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cannot bar the terror war spreading from the Middle East.

The hijacking caught the Swiss authorities unprepared despite consistent rumors that the guerrillas had been contemplating an attack to obtain the release of three Arab commandos sentenced to 12 years in prison for the February 1969 attack at Zurich Airport.

Geneva's *La Suisse* also blamed the powers involved in Middle East peace-seeking for failure to recognize the strength of the PFLP. Georges Habbash, the leader of the movement, "chose the right time to strike," said *La Suisse*, "because after the ear-

ly hopes caused by the ceasefire and the start of the talks . . . the situation has been deteriorating steadily."

The Swiss newspapers were unanimous in demanding the release of the three commandos held in a Zurich jail in exchange for the plane and its passengers, held in Jordan.

"The human aspects of the problem should be paramount," said the *Gazette de Lausanne*. "To adhere to the demands of the guerrillas would be morally and legally monstrous. But is there any other solution except this violation of the law?"

Extraordinary situations require extraordinary solutions."



—United Press International

Israeli soldiers aboard halftracks cross back into Israel Saturday after a 40-hour operation inside Lebanon.

El Al Passengers Praise the Crew

NEW YORK (AP) — Amid cheers and screams of joy and relief, almost 500 waiting friends and relatives embraced loved ones early today as they debarked from a hijacked El Al jetliner at Kennedy Airport.

As the first of the 148 passengers cleared customs, they joined a group of waiting youths to form a circle and dance the hora while singing Israeli folk songs.

Within minutes, almost everyone in the International Arrivals Building joined in the singing—celebrating the happy end to a tension-packed flight.

The 707 jetliner, one of four New York-bound planes hijacked yesterday, avoided being divert-

ed to the Middle East when one hijacker was killed and his female companion wounded in a gun battle over England.

Bravery Extolled

Many passengers praised the bravery of Shlomo Vider, a steward, who was wounded in the clash. They also cited the stewardesses who kept up spirits by leading them in songs.

The hijack attempt occurred as the plane took off from Amsterdam after an intermediate stop. In interviews at Kennedy and at London's Heathrow Airport, where the plane landed after the emergency, passengers gave this account of the flight.

May Shark, 60, of New York, said the hijackers boarded the plane in Amsterdam and sat next to her.

"Suddenly, right out of the blue, they stood up and rushed headlong through the dividing curtain toward the pilot's cabin," Mrs. Shark said. "All the time they were screaming.

"Beat On Pilot's Door"

"They had with them three hand grenades and what looked like a black shiny cap gun. They beat with the gun on the pilot's door.

"They carried on screaming. But before they could make their entry an El Al steward stepped in. Immediately he was smashed across the face with the butt of the gun and knocked out."

Another passenger, Harry Hamel, a hotel keeper from Massachusetts, gave this version:

"I was sitting in the front seat when these two rushed up. For a moment I was transfixed and then one of the passengers got up from his seat and attacked the girl hijacker. He held her by the wrists from behind so that she could not move. I think he saved us all."

A man who many passengers said was the hero declined to give his name but he recounted, "All of a sudden two shots rang out and we all thought that the pilot had had it. Nevertheless, after what seemed 10 years the aircraft seemed to correct its flight and head down for Heathrow."

Scotland Yard's special branch detectives met the plane in London and FBI agents were on hand in New York.

Jumbo Jetliner Blown Up, Two Others Held

BULLETIN

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Palestinian guerrillas today demanded the release of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the convicted assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, in exchange for the release of 300 passengers aboard two hijacked jetliners held on a desert airstrip near Amman.

BERN, Switzerland (AP)—The Swiss government decided today to release three imprisoned Arab commandos as part of an exchange deal for 300 passengers and crews of Swissair and TWA airliners hijacked to Jordan.

CAIRO (AP)—Arab guerrillas blew up a hijacked Pan American World Airways 747 jumbo jet here early today eight minutes after the plane landed. A spokesman for the airline said all 133 persons aboard had disembarked safely.

A Pan American Boeing 707 relief plane landed later at Cairo airport to pick up the passengers stranded by the hijackers.

It was one of four planes involved in hijacking plots yesterday all apparently by Arab commandos. One of the attempts failed. Two other jetliners were forced to land in Jordan where their 300 passengers were being held.

United Press International reported the passengers were being held under guard inside the planes and the guerrillas were threatening to destroy the planes and passengers. It quoted a guerrilla spokesman as saying boxes of explosives had been placed inside the two aircraft and they would be detonated if guerrilla demands are not met.

Release Promised

The relief plane, flown here from London, was expected to remove most of the passengers of the destroyed 747.

The jumbo jet was engulfed in flames after the passengers and crew had been removed.

Witnesses said four persons were injured fleeing the plane through its emergency exits. They said one appeared to have a broken leg and two others had back injuries. A pregnant woman just barely escaped with an injured ankle, the witnesses said.

The Egyptian government had

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HIJACKINGS

Jumbo Jet Blown Up, Arabs Hold 2 Planes

Continued From Page A-1
announced that all the passengers would be released as soon as Pan Am sent another plane to pick them up. Cairo's Middle East News Agency said 85 Americans were among those stranded.

The guerrillas said they would blow up the other two hijacked planes unless a set of demands were met. The Swiss Red Cross said a representative had been allowed to see the planes at Zerqa, 15 miles northwest of Amman, Jordan, and had reported the passengers and crew were safe.

The lives of more than 640 persons hung in the balance during the three hijackings and a fourth attempt that was thwarted in a gun battle over England.

The Marxist-oriented Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, based in Amman, claimed responsibility for all four incidents.

Passengers, crew, 7 hijackers and 18 guerrillas picked up during a refueling at Beirut began disembarking as soon as the plane hijacked to Cairo landed at the airport. Witnesses said the hijacker had ordered everyone off the plane at gunpoint, then set a time bomb with nine sticks of dynamite that went off eight minutes after the landing.

All that remained of the huge plane after the flames were brought under control was the six-story-high tail section emblazoned with the Pan Am insignia. The jet engines were blown apart, and an engineer said: "Not one single screw in the aircraft is intact."

The 747, valued at more than \$20 million and in service less than a year, was seized by the hijackers after it took off from Amsterdam on a New York-bound flight. It landed in Beirut, the first time ever for an aircraft of its type, and airport officials there met the guerrillas' demand for fuel.

Other Hijackings

Also hijacked yesterday were a Trans World Airlines Boeing 707 with 145 persons aboard and a Swissair DC8 with more than 155 aboard.

In Amman, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine threatened to blow up the TWA and Swissair planes unless authorities in London released a young woman held for an unsuccessful attempt to hijack a fourth plane, an Israeli El Al

jetliner with 148 passengers and 9 crew members aboard.

Passengers said they captured the raven-haired, attractive young woman as she struggled with a grenade in each hand during the hijacking attempt after takeoff from Amsterdam on a flight to New York. Her male companion was killed in a gun battle with Israeli security agents.

The Israeli plane landed in London, where Scotland Yard detectives took the woman into custody. The plane then continued to New York, where it arrived safely early today.

Timetable Found

The young woman was tentatively identified as Leila Khaled, 24, who helped hijack a Trans World Airlines jet to Damascus last September. Police said they found a written timetable for the hijack attempt in the young woman's underwear.

The TWA plane was seized after a stopover at Frankfurt on the way from Israel to New York.

The Swissair plane was hijacked shortly after it took off from Zurich for New York.

A spokesman for the guerrilla front put a 72-hour deadline on the woman's release. The front also demanded the release of three of its guerrillas who have been imprisoned in Switzerland for attacking an El Al airliner at Zurich in 1969.

The guerrillas further demanded the release of three Palestinian commandos held in West German jails since an attack on an El Al tourist bus in Frankfurt last year.

In Bern, the Swiss government called an emergency cabinet meeting last night, and informed sources said the government would agree to release the three jailed Palestinian commandos in exchange for the safe return of the plane, its passengers and crew.

British sources in London said unofficially that the government feared it would be dragged into the dispute because it was holding the woman guerrilla.

In Bonn, West German officials reacted with dismay when they learned of the demands. Some officials called them "pure blackmail," and others said that to give in to them would encourage other acts of air piracy.

A delegate for the Swiss Red Cross brought the guerrillas' ultimatum to the government. A representative of the Red Cross was allowed to visit the site

where both the TWA and the Swissair planes were held at Zerqa, a spokesman said.

The spokesman said the only injury among the passengers held in Jordan was a broken thumb accidentally suffered by an American passenger aboard one of the planes. He was taken to a hospital in Amman, the spokesman said.