

AIRPLANE FROM U.S. DOWNED OVER CUBA

TP 119168
Pilot Reported Caught
After Arms Drop

By FENTON WHEELER

HAVANA (AP) — The Interior Ministry belatedly announced Thursday it shot down a small plane and captured its ex-paratrooper U.S. pilot Dec. 29 after he dropped some arms over central Cuba.

He was identified as Everett Jackson, 27, of Los Angeles, who had been living in Miami, Fla. The ministry said he admitted trying "to infiltrate national territory."

There was no mention of a second American. Rudy Wanderon, Port Authority supervisor at Homestead, Fla., airport, said Jackson and another man were aboard the last time the plane left there. He said both men wore parachutes.

In Miami, a man described by others as Jackson's closest friend said the pilot "went alone. I can't prove it, but I know it. I would have known if any one had gone with him."

"We talked about it (the trip) and he told me he was going to ditch after he dropped the supplies. He didn't plan to use the plane on the trip back," the man—who asked not to be identified — told The Associated Press.

The friend said Jackson was a devout foe of communism and last summer spent a month in Guatemala, financed by the friend, studying the Guatemalan army's anti-guerrilla tactics. The man said Jackson hoped to write some magazine articles about the Central American country's tactics, but could attract no buyers.

GEAR DROPPED

The ministry announcement said Jackson dropped packages by parachute and a haversack containing an M1 carbine, two hundred rounds of ammunition for the carbine, two cameras and a telephoto lens, a telescopic sight for the carbine and a note book.

Cuban anti-aircraft guns



—AP WIREPHOTO.
EVERETT D. JACKSON
Shot down in Cuba.

opened up on the plane over the central Cuban city of Rancho Velez and it fell on Falcon Key, on the north coast in the province of Las Villas, the ministry said.

"The pilot was captured by forces of the interior minister," the announcement said.

No reason was given for a delay in the announcement. The Cubans may have suspected he had a confederate, in view of the parachute drop, and was trying to run him down before making an announcement.

The ministry reported Jackson told them he was married, and had served with the 82nd Airborne and 101st Airborne divisions in the United States and with the 11th Division in West Germany.

The plane was an old two-seated, single-engine Taylorcraft. But Federal Aviation Administration officials in Oklahoma City said the plane had a new engine good enough to make a round-trip flight to Cuba. The old Taylorcraft en-

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ine would not have been able to make a round trip. Falcon Key is about 180 miles south of Homestead Airport.

Beyond saying that Jackson had been questioned, the ministry did not disclose where Jackson is held now or if he was injured. The announcement was carried on the front pages of the Communist party newspaper Granna and the semiofficial El Mundo. But contrary to usual practice, there were no sensational headlines.

In Miami, Robert M. Cheatwood said he sold the plane to Jackson for \$1,200 last Nov. 18 and "I got the impression when I sold him the airplane that he had something in mind."

STOCKY MAN

Jackson, described as a stocky, black-haired man with a moustache, began keeping the small red plane at Homestead in November.

Fay Lanahan, FAA supervising inspector in Miami, said Jackson wanted to take pictures of Cuban rocket bases and sell them to news media.

"He was running around here trying to get different people who were known revolutionists to try to take him down there," Lanahan added.

Jackson was a student pilot and sports parachutist. He got

his student license Aug. 24.

In Garden Grove, Calif., his mother, Azlaie Timmerman, said he went to Florida three years ago "to fight against Castro."

Mrs. Jim Holland, operator of a flight service office at Homestead Airport, reported Jackson bought gasoline Dec. 28.

"He said he would leave early the next morning to go up north," said Mrs. Holland. "He owes me \$26.98."