

FBI Kills Man About
To Hijack 2nd Plane

Hostess Hostage Unhurt

TWA Plane Commandeered

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SFXaminer

NEW YORK — (AP) — A gunman was shot and killed today after forcing a transcontinental jetliner to land at LaGuardia Field and commandeering a truck to Kennedy Airport, where he demanded a plane to fly him to Italy.

Two rifle shots fired by an FBI agent felled the hijacker, who was using a Trans World Airlines stewardess as a hostage.

The man was dead on arrival at Jamaica Hospital, the hospital reported.

The hijacker forced the TWA jet back to New York after it was en route to Chicago. At Laguardia Field, he and two hostages boarded a maintenance truck for a nine-mile dash to Kennedy Airport.

From Burbank

The stewardess was identified as Ida Concepcion, 21, of Burbank, California. The truck driver was Jake Merrick.

Agent Kenneth W. Lovin shot the unidentified hijacker as the man held Miss Concepcion hostage in a panel truck on Runway 22 at Kennedy.

It was believed to be the first time in the history of jet in hijackings that a single individual had attempted to commandeer planes from separate airports.

On the hijacker's command, a Boeing 707 had been prepared for the trans-Atlantic flight at Kennedy.

Two Shots

Police followed the action through various stages of mounting drama — on the ground in cars, by air in helicopters. But they withheld any showdown with the hijacker for the safety of the stewardess.

But FBI agent Lovin ended the crisis by firing two shots

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into the hijacker. The stewardess was not injured.

Although the FHA said the hijacker was headed for Rome, an airport official said he had demanded a larger plane to fly him to Milan, Italy.

He was described as white, about 5 feet, 8 inches tall, wearing chino pants and an orange shirt.

The hostess he held hostage in the truck was described as "very very calm."

The hijacker had commandeered TWA flight 335 shortly after it took off for Chicago. The plane was to have continued to Los Angeles, with stops at Wichita, Kan., and Albuquerque, N.M.

Surrounded

After the plane returned to LaGuardia, it was immediately surrounded by official cars.

The hijacker would not let the passengers or crew get off until the cars left.

Once everyone was off the plane safely, the hijacker came out with the stewardess. He had a gun in one hand and a blue bag in the other, observers said. He

stood with the stewardess under the tail of the jet until the truck arrived to take him to Kennedy.

As they drove off, the stewardess was seated between the TWA driver and the hijacker.

The hijacker released the truck driver at Kennedy's Runway 22, police said.

Negotiations

According to police, he apparently entered into negotiations with FBI and other law enforcement officers on the scene.

Meanwhile, two police helicopters circled overhead while the talks were going on.

A TWA jet regularly used for trans-Atlantic service was being readied at Kennedy Airport for a flight to Milan, a TWA spokesman said. A crew for the flight was also being organized just before the hijacker was shot.

See this file, 18 Aug 71.