The Dallas Morning News

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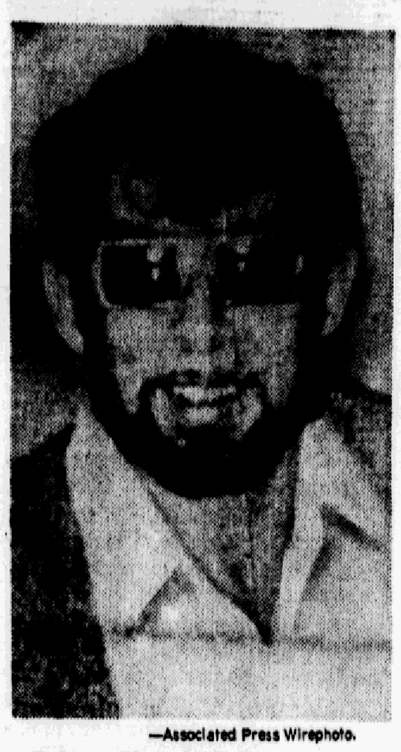

—Associated Press Wirephoto.

Robert Lee Jackson . . . a peaceful conclusion.

Jet Hijacker Surrenders in Buenos Aires

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Hijacker Robert Lee Jackson, his commandeered jetliner turned into an earthbound prison by squads of armed police, gave up his 2-day marathon flight Sunday and surrendered. He raised his fingers in a V sign as he left the aircraft.

Police, backed by President Alejandro Lanusse, refused to refuel the Braniff International 707 or send food aboard, flattened the tires and massed assault vehicles in the aircraft's path. Jackson's female companion gave herself up several hours earlier.

The U.S. Navy deserter's 43-hour hop, skip and jump escapade covered 7,500 miles from Texas to this Argentine capital — a record hijacking journey. It ended in his failure to obtain the political asylum he wanted in Algeria.

Jackson, 36, who was a trusty when he fled the Charleston (S.C.) Navy Base correctional center in May, wanted to fly to Algeria with $100,000 in ransom money. He received the ransom for release of a passenger he held hostage on Friday in Monterrey, Mexico.

IN SAN ANTONIO, the aircraft's destination before it was hijacked on Friday, the FBI said Jackson had been charged with air piracy and assault with a deadly weapon.

John Wachter, legal counsel of the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, had said the United States would seek Jackson's extradition.

But Argentine officials said this would not be possible because of the seriousness of Argentina's charges against him: kidnaping and theft of an aircraft.

Wachter then said the United States would seek Jackson's "informal deportation."

Police had quoted Jackson as saying before his surrender that he wanted to remain in Argentina.

He left the aircraft at Ezeiza International Airport with the ransom money in a suitcase, police said.

Jackson had been without sleep for two days. Before his surrender he permitted the six Braniff crew members to leave the plane and he remained aboard for an hour.

HOURS BEFORE, his woman companion—Guatemalan-born Lydia Lucrezia Sanchez, a resident of Mexico—had walked off the aircraft and was taken into custody.

Police said Jackson had changed to fresh clothes—a green sports shirt and sweater and brown slacks—before giving up.

"He was rather benevolent in the end," Wachter said.

Jackson and the woman who had accompanied him on his hijack adventure were held most of the day at the airport where they were questioned by the police. A psychiatrist also spoke with Jackson, police said.

Miss Sanchez, 23, apparently was someone Jackson met only a few days ago in Mexico, Wachter said.

POLICE DECLINED to discuss her role in the hijacking beyond saying that she had a pistol in her purse and slept frequently during the 21 hours the plane was in Buenos Aires, with Jackson holding out inside.

Jackson, who is divorced and has two children, seized the jet at midday Friday on a flight from Acapulco, Mexico, to San Antonio.

U.S. Embassy officials said Jackson's motives were unclear, but were not political.

—Dallas News Staff Photo by Joe Laird.

Home from hijacking, from left, are Miss Harris, Wallace (in rear), Bessant, Wray and Miss Garcia.

—Dallas News Staff Photo by Joe Laird.

Wray gets a welcome-home kiss Sunday from daughter Patty.

Paul Crume's

Big D

THE EVIL machinations of the military-industrial complex become ever more evident. Have you noticed recently that someone is trying to get a monopoly on the time of day?

The time of day, like the air, used to be free to every human being. A man could walk from the city hall to the courthouse and never be out of touch with the exact time. Every jeweler had in his window a clock, making it unnecessary for the common penniless man on the street to buy a watch. City halls had clocks. Soda fountains had clocks.

There were three clocks at the corner of Main and Lamar alone. True, no two showed the same time, but there was a certain advantage to this.

You could pick the correct time which best suited your convenience.

THE CLOCKS have all but disappeared. Time is no longer free. If you go into a jewelry store and ask the time of day, you are asked, "What price range did you have in mind?"

Certain other sinister things are happening. If you buy an electronic clock, you are likely to find that it shifts every hour or two from London time to Utah time and back again.

A giant combine is apparently building tall buildings around the Mercantile Bank so that people can't see the Mercantile clock, one of the few free sources of time left.

I had thought to foil this by taking a people-to-people approach. I tried it out on a man in the street.

"Sir," I asked him, "could you please give me the time of day?"

"Hell, I don't know," he told me.

The only stable source of free time now seems to be Time Audichron, and you have to have a paid-up telephone bill to use this. If you need the time, you dial its number, provided you know it or have a telephone directory, and it gives you the exact time plus some weather information.

I'll bet, though, that if Time Audichron checked its telephone lines, it would find that they are bugged.

"THE PEOPLE have a right to know," said some clever journalist a few years ago when he was trying to wiggle out of a sticky situation. Well, if the people have a right to know anything, they have a right to know the exact time by the minute as quitting time approaches.

A conspiracy is getting a stranglehold on time in a sneaky, stealthy way rather like the way the Texas insurance board raises fire insurance rates. A clever detective like myself can spot them, however. Who needs time the most? The airlines, of course. They need to control time so that a plane which is an hour late can still be on time.

Who furnishes the planes? The plane manufacturers furnish them from prototypes financed by the military. If this isn't the military industrial complex, I never saw it.

I wish Attorney General Mitchell would look into this. He doesn't seem to have much to do lately.

'I Knew We Were Going'

Braniff Crew Tells Harrowing Story of Hijacking

By DOUG DOMEIER

Capt. Dale Bessant reached a quick decision when told last Friday a hijacker held a hostess at gunpoint in a Dallas-bound Braniff International jetliner.

"I knew we were going," Bessant said upon returning here Sunday from Lima, Peru. "That was it; that decision was made. Then it became a matter of how far we could go."

Bessant and four other crew members briefly greeted family and friends on arrival back at Dallas Love Field, then put together a human and harrowing story of the 707 hijacking.

"You don't make a wrong move," Bessant said in Braniff's 707 Room.

HE DESCRIBED HIJACKER Robert Lee Jackson, 36, as "a handsome, intelligent man — nice, considerate, but I wouldn't want him for a friend; he's a hardened criminal."

Bessant, a Grapevine resident, was flanked by first officer William R. Wallace, flight engineer Phillip Wray, and hostesses Ernestina Garcia and Margaret Susan Harris, all based in Dallas.

"The first thing we knew was Tina (Ernestina) came up to the cockpit saying we were hijacked," Bessant recalled shortly before noon Friday as the plane was descending into San Antonio after flight from Mexico City.

"At first he (Jackson) was shaking; he was very scared," Miss Garcia said. "Sue said, 'Listen, listen; we're being hijacked.' We were nervous. We couldn't get the pilot on the public address system."

Jackson had told the hostesses, "I want you to do what I tell you. I don't want any foolishness."

Braniff maintained plane watch, Page 6A.

After Miss Garcia told Bessant, three written messages were carried between the cockpit and Jackson (who held a gun on Miss Harris in the coach compartment).

"IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE (because of fuel limitations) to go to Trinidad as he wanted," Bessant said. "We finally decided on Monterrey."

During flight Jackson gave Miss Garcia some clues as to his motives: "He said he hates the United States and that it'll be a fine country when you can't find a dozen cops on every corner."

The hijacker "basically had a bad life with his family and children," Miss Harris quoted Jackson.

But "he was a gentleman to the full extent of the word," Miss Garcia said.

Bessant said the crew was able to communicate with Jackson and "establish a sort of trust" and confidence "both ways."

"We laid down some ground rules — what was technically not feasible to do," the pilot explained. "I said I would not go across the South Atlantic (to Algeria) without a navigator. I also told him I would not go beyond one fuel reloading before a crew rest.

"He (Jackson) didn't question it. He felt I was telling the truth and I was. He didn't lie to me and I didn't lie to him."

Jackson apparently thought Algeria offered his best chance for asylum and told Miss Harris "he would buy me an Arabian horse when he got there."

BESSANT LEFT THE COCKPIT to meet Jackson face to face when the plane landed at Monterrey shortly before 1 p.m. Friday.

"I walked back and he indicated I had come far enough (four rows away). I kept my hands in sight. I don't think any of us at any time were truly afraid of the man."

While on the ground at Monterrey, Jackson obtained the $100,000 cash payment he had demanded, brought to the plane in a see-through bag.

"He held the bag up and said, 'I asked for the money and I got it,' " Miss Garcia recalled Sunday. "But then he dropped it in a seat. He said, 'I really don't care about the money.' "

Jackson apparently wanted the money to see if the airline was following his demands, the crew felt.

The 102 passengers, who all deplaned at Monterrey (with three of the five hostesses), were frightened but cooperative, Miss Harris said. All the men earlier were forced to move into the first-class cabin and the women into the coach section.

At 6:25 p.m. Friday the plane took off for Lima, Peru, where it arrived early Saturday. Bessant and his crew were allowed to get off and a volunteer Braniff crew (based in Lima) took over to take Jackson and his traveling companian, Ligia Lucrecia Sanchez Archilla of Guatemala, on to Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, where the two surrendered Sunday when the Argentine government refused to allow the refueling necessary to continue the flight to Algeria.

FLIGHT ENGINEER WRAY recalled Jackson once "pointed a gun at me and said he didn't want any heroes."

Waiting for her husband Sunday, Mrs. Wray said, "I never thought it would happen but I always knew there was a possibility. My husband doesn't say much. But he said (on the phone), 'Be there (at the airport Sunday). Have my children there.' "

Peter Falk and Janet Leigh star in "Dear Deductible" at 7 on Ch. 5. (Adv.)

July 4th Hot as Firecracker

By the Associated Press

Texas sizzled in the sun on July the Fourth with the highest temperatures of the year in many places as thermometers jumped to 100 or above in nearly every section of the state.

Wichita Falls' smoking 107 degrees was the highest reading reported, but by early afternoon a score or more of points had temperatures above 100.

Some of the hottest places included Childress, Wink and Lubbock with 104 degrees; Midland, Mineral Wells and San Angelo with 103 degrees, Waco 101 and Dallas 100.

Forecasts indicated the burning heat levels would continue through most of the week.

Isolated thunderstorms, bearing little rain, broke out in the late afternoon, hitting 20 miles east of Vernon, 50 miles southeast of Childress, northwest of Sweetwater and in the Texarkana vicinity.

But Texans kept right on with their Independence Day celebrations despite the heat.

Allies Map Reply

Enemy Peace Proposal Studied

SAIGON (AP) — Presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger and President Nguyen Van Thieu mapped out an allied reply to the new Communist peace proposal Sunday and explored ways of speeding U.S. troop withdrawals from Vietnam, informed sources reported.

The 2½-hour strategy meeting at Independence Palace was one of the most significant of the Indochina war, the informants said. Although details of the session were kept secret, aides to Kissinger described the conference as "fruitful."

The importance of the meeting was underscored by its length. The sources said they could not recall Thieu spending as much time with any other visiting dignitary.

THE GOVERNMENT-OPERATED national television network, in a newscast Sunday night, said Thieu and Kissinger discussed three main subjects: the peace negotiations, the war situation in Vietnam and South Vietnam's national economy. It gave no details.

The war faded for the time being, with only a series of patrol skirmishes reported, none of them significant.

Just the same, U.S. B52 bombers kept the pressure on North Vietnamese forces massed in the northern quarter of South Vietnam below the demilitarized zone and along the Laotian border.

UP TO A SCORE of the giant Stratofortresses dropped 600 tons of bombs on suspected North Vietnamese troop concentrations, bunkers, ammunition and food storage depots, and rocket, mortar and antiaircraft sites. Some of the raids were within a mile and a half of the DMZ.

In Phnom Penh, the Cambodian high command reported that Cambodian forces sweeping vast marshlands northeast of the capital killed 38 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese in the first significant clash there in two weeks.

Command spokesman Am Rong said one government soldier was killed and two wounded in the encounter across the Mekong River from the capital, where heavy fighting raged for three weeks in June.

The situation is generally calm elsewhere in the country, Am Rong added.

The Index

Supermex Does It Again

Lee Trevino pushed his year's money winnings to more than $195,000 as he won his second playoff in the last three weeks. This time he beat Art Wall on the first hole of sudden death in the Canadian Open.

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National Weather Service forecast:

Dallas and vicinity — Fair and hot Monday with the high around 100. Low early Tuesday in the upper 70s. Sunday's high: 100.

Complete Weather on Page 10A

Celebrating Fourth

Folks Take to Water

By GEORGE PROCTOR

As temperatures skyrocketed Sunday—100 degrees from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. — Dallas residents abandoned traditional 4th of July fireworks and took to the water.

"There's a mad rush out here," said Rex Boyd, Army Corps of Engineers manager of Lake Grapevine. "I can't believe how crowded some of the areas are. I would estimate we have about 150,000 people out here today.

"We've got less water (more than 6 feet below normal level), but more shoreline than usual," he said. "Everywhere you look there's people."

J. K. Hundley, ower of the Hundley Boat Co., reported a "regular firecracker hot 4th of July" with bumper to bumper traffic coming and going around Lake Dallas.

"There's really a big crowd out here," he said. "Gas docks around the lake are reporting continuous heavy traffic."

Hundley said many people had turned out at Lake Dallas to participate in the 4th of July outboard and inboard motorboat races.

As the sun set and temperatures dropped slowly, thousands of people flocked to the various fireworks displays across the city. Some of the more heavily attended were the annual fireworks display in the Cotton Bowl at Fair Park and the Kiest Park display sponsored by the Oak Cliff Jaycees.

Fireworks also kept local firemen busy Sunday answering numerous fires started by overzealous celebrators.

Dallas firemen attributed four roof fires and three grass fires to fireworks by late Sunday evening. County officials reported heavy grass fire calls during the afternoon, 10 between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Dallas police also answered 100 fireworks disturbance calls over the holiday weekend.

Celebration of the 195th Independence Day will continue Monday with a 10:30 a.m. parade in Downtown Dallas. It will feature Boy Scout troops, military bands and drill teams, civic and patriotic organizations, riding clubs, fire department equipment and clowns.

The estimated hour-long procession will begin in front of the Scottish Rite Temple, Harwood and Young, proceed north on Harwood to Main, then west on Main to Akard and south on Akard to Dallas Memorial Auditorium where it will disband.

Other activities scheduled for Monday include a bicycle parade at 10 a.m. sponsored by the Park Cities Jaycees, traveling from Highland Park Village to Goar Park.

The Duncanville Chamber of Commerce will hold a parade at 10 a.m. Monday from Fair Meadows Shopping Center to Lakeside Park. A chicken dinner will be served at noon followed by afternoon activities and fireworks at dark.