

PRESS REPORTS • MAJOR DALE RICHARDSON, USAF

2 From Nearby Virginia Killed in Alaska Crash

Two of the 11 men killed in an Air Force weather observation B-50 plane crash in Alaska Friday were listed yesterday by the Pentagon as nearby Virginians. They were:

Maj. Dale Richardson, whose wife lived at 3126 North First street, Arlington.

Airman 2/c Melvin O. Lindsay, whose mother, Mrs. Thedessa Weaver, lives at 421 Gibbon street, Alexandria.

Neighbors said Maj. Richardson drove his wife and daughters, Andrea, 8, and Janet Lee, 6, to Alaska about six weeks ago after renting their Arlington home.

They added that the major had served in the Korean war.

Mrs. Richardson's sister is Mrs. Paul R. Seese, 4918 Freepoint avenue, Oxon Hill, Md.

Airman Lindsay enlisted in the Air Force in October 1953 in Alexandria, after dropping out of his senior year at Parker Gray High School, according to his mother. The mother, Mrs. Thedessa Weaver, operates a beauty parlor in Alexandria.

Airman Lindsay's stepfather is Sgt. William L. Weaver, stationed at Fort Belvoir.

Mrs. Weaver said her son was due to come home on leave next month.

The Air Force said 10 bodies had been recovered, but did not identify them by name. It

added that there was an unverified report that the 11 crewmen had not been able to use their parachutes.

The B-50 crashed on a sandy island in the Susitna River, and military spokesmen at Anchorage said it was feared that all 11 men aboard were killed. The crash site is about 50 miles northwest of Anchorage, and the Pentagon report said that the usual search and recovery operations were being conducted.

Washington Star
9/2/56

Weather Plane Crash Kills 11 in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Sept. 1 (AP).—A four-engine Air Force weather plane plowed unexplainedly into a tiny island in the Susitna River yesterday and burst into flames, apparently killing all 11 men aboard.

An Air Force rescue team which went to the crash scene 50 miles northwest of here reported 10 of the crewmen perished and the other is believed dead.

All that remained when helicopters landed at the crash scene was a smoking pile of rubble, the B-50 broken into bits.

The island into which it plunged was too small to permit Air Force helicopters to land there and they were forced to land on a mud bank a quarter-mile away.

The weather plane had checked in at 3:02 a.m. while over Talkeetna, a check station 50 miles north of the crash scene. Five-and-a-half hours later the smoking wreckage was spotted by a rescue service flyer.

The plane belonged to the 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at Eielson Air Force Base, 26 miles from Fairbanks. The squadron makes regular flights over the North Pole, the Aleutian Islands and the Bering Sea.

Names of the crewmen have not been released.

Washington Star
9/1/56



CRASH VICTIM—Maj. Dale Richardson of 3126 North First street, Arlington, was one of 11 men killed in a crash of an Air Force plane Friday in Alaska. Another area man, Airman 2/c Melvin O. Lindsay of Alexandria, also was killed.

Washington Star
9/3/56

2 With Area Links Lost In Alaska Plane Crash

An Air Force major who moved from this area recently and the son of an Alexandria resident were two of the 11 men reported "missing" in the crash Friday of a B-50 weather plane in Alaska.

The plane apparently pancaked onto an island during a routine weather flight. The Air Force said it had recovered 10 bodies but listed all the men as missing pending identification and notification of relatives.

Maj. Dale Richardson, the plane's pilot, had moved his family from 3126 N. 1st st., Arlington, to Alaska less than two months ago. He had lived in Arlington for the past four years.

In addition to his wife, Maj. Richardson is survived by three daughters, Andrea, 8; Janet, 6, and Mrs. Barbara J. Whiteman of Salt Lake City.

A member of the crew was Airman 2/c Melvin O. Lindsay, the only son of Mrs. Thedessa Jones Weaver of 421 Gibbon st., Alexandria. Lindsay, 20, had been in the Air Force for more than two years and had spent the last year in Alaska.

He attended school in Alexandria previous to entering the Air Force. His father, O'Dell M. Lindsay, lives in Brooklyn. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones of 311 Princess st., Alexandria, are his grandparents.

The other men listed as missing in the crash were:

Capt. Leonard N. Chapman Jr., of Charleston, S. C.; Capt. Everett Dyson, Tadara; M. Sgt. Fred T. Gregg; Angles; Airman 3/c Douglas Maxon, Park Falls, Wis.

Also S. Sgt. Ronald R. F. land, Little Rock, Ark.; Airman 2/c Elijah Spencer, Goulds, Fla.; 1st Lt. William J. Wolters, Jr., Merrick N. Y.; T. Sgt. Richard K. Brown, Denver, Colo., and 1st Lt. William W. Faustline, Jr., St. Joseph, Mo.

NAVY LISTS VICTIMS IN ALASKA AIR CRASH

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Sept. 1 (UP)—Nine of the eleven men killed in the crash of a B-50 weather plane fifty miles north of Anchorage yesterday have been identified.

Maj. John Orr, public information officer at Eielson Air Force Base, said today the plane was on a routine weather flight from Eielson when it crashed. However, officials at Eielson said the craft was on a special mission for the fifty-eighth Weather Reconnaissance Squadron.

Yesterday's crash was the second in less than thirty hours in Alaska. A Canadian Pacific airliner with twenty-two persons aboard crashed at Cold Bay on the Alaskan peninsula Thursday, killing fifteen persons.

Earlier this week eight men bailed out of a tanker plane near here. Seven of them were still missing and feared to have perished in the icy waters of Cook Inlet.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 (UP)—The Air Force today identified the following as missing in the crash of the B-50 weather plane: Capt. Leonard N. Chapman Jr., Capt. Everett Dyson, First Lieut. William W. Faustline Jr., M/Sgt. Fred T. Gregg Jr., Maj. Dale Richardson, Airman 2/c Melvin O. Lindsay; father: Odell M. Lindsay, 1796 Dean Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. mother: Mrs. Phedessa Weaver, 420 Gibbons Street, Alexandria, Va. Airman 3/c Douglas W. Maxon, S/Sgt. Ronald R. Ragland, Airman 2/c Elijah Spencer, First Lieut. William J. Wolters, Sr., Merrick, N. Y. T/Sgt. Richard K. Brown.

New York Times
9/2/56

Washington Post
9/3/56