



The Battalion

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X15, Pilot Lost In Desert Crash

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — An X15 rocket plane, one of three black darts that have repeatedly probed the heavens helping man learn how to maneuver in space, crashed Wednesday.

The pilot, Air Force Maj. Michael J. Adams, 37, was killed—first victim since the X15s began flying in 1959.

Adams, on his 11th flight, was dropped from a B52 at 10:30 a.m. and shot more than 50 miles high, to about 265,000 feet, on a routine research flight.

Re-entering thicker air from the fringes of space, he encountered trouble.

"THERE apparently was some sort of control malfunction as the pilot attempted to pull out of his descent," said a spokesman for

the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Adams did not eject.

The plane crashed on the desert near the mining town of Johannesburg 20 miles north.

Thus, on flight No. 191 of a highly hazardous eight years of X15 explorations, came a fatal crash such as had long been feared.

The three tough little birds had survived ground fires and explosions, aerial mishaps and emergency landings, including two hard enough to cause serious damage. But until Wednesday pilots had escaped with injuries.

THE TINY planes — just 50 feet long, nearly wingless but powered with mighty engines producing 60,000 pounds of thrust — have amassed impressive records:

Speed and altitude records for winged craft of 4,534 miles per hour and 354,000 feet; research into problems of re-entering the earth's atmosphere from space, including heating problems and control problems; tests of new propulsion systems; photographs of stars made from above most of the earth's air. They have survived 3,000 degrees and tremendous stresses as they pancaked into the atmosphere from space.

ADAMS' FLIGHT had a typical goal — testing a heat-resistant paint for the second stage of the Saturn moon rocket.

Adams, one of five X15 pilots, was in the program by request. He originally was assigned to the Air Force's Manned Orbiting Laboratory, but put in for a transfer to X15s after graduating with honors from the Aerospace Research Pilots School here.

Born in Sacramento, Calif., he studied at Oklahoma University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He won an air medal for his 49 combat missions during the Korean war. He is survived by his widow, Freida, and three children.

Corps Trip, Bonfire Work Will Dominate Weekend

Cadets To March Through Houston

Saturday's Texas A&M Corps Trip to Houston has all the earmarks of a true holiday, as Aggies drop axes, saws and other bonfire building gear for a day.

The A&M Corps of Cadets, which makes an official trip to Houston every other year, will parade on Main and Fannin Streets at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Students move on Rice Stadium at 2 p.m., for the Aggie-Owl Southwest Conference game.

The parade and game will be a one-day diversion for the cadets, who started bonfire construction seven days early due to the four-day week between the Rice and Thanksgiving Day University of Texas games.

Head yell leader Neal Adams of Tyler said special guard detail will remain on campus Saturday to protect the week of work.

MAJ. GEN. George P. Munson Jr., U.S. Army Reserves (Ret.), will review the 18-block parade. He is chairman of the Houston Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

Corps Staff, headed by Cadet Colonel of the Corps Lonnie C. Minze of Houston, and the Texas Aggie Band will lead the parade north on Main, right on Texas and south on Fannin to the assembly and dismount area on Clay and Bell Streets.

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Oceanography Profs To Go To Big Confab

The heads of all the major oceanography schools in the United States will be in Houston Monday and Tuesday.

Area students considering studying oceanography will be interested to know the U.S.'s major oceanography institutions will be represented at the "Manpower for Oceanography" symposium," noted Dr. Dale F. Leipper of Texas A&M.

Leipper is president of the American Society for Oceanography, which is sponsoring the educational symposium with the Gulf Universities Research Corp.

Speaking at the two-day symposium at the Shamrock Hilton will be Dr. Richard H. Fleming, recent oceanography head at the University of Washington; Dr. William A. Nierenberg, director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California; Geosciences Dean Dr. Horace Byers and oceanography head Dr. Richard A. Geyer, A&M;

Also, Allyn C. Vine and Paul M. Fye, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Dr. Herbert F. Frolander, biological oceanography professor, Oregon State; Dr. Charles R. Stephan, ocean engineering head at the new Florida Atlantic University, and the former Scripps dean, Norris W. Rakestraw, now retired.

Leipper, the first A&M oceanography head, said numerous A&M graduate students plan to attend the symposium. Industrial and government representatives and educators will pool ideas on how properly-trained scientists and engineers can be provided for the rapidly-expanding field of oceanography.

Leabo To Speak At NSPA Meet

C. J. Leabo, Journalism Department head at Texas A&M will be a speaker for the National Scholastic Press Association convention Nov. 24-25 in Chicago.

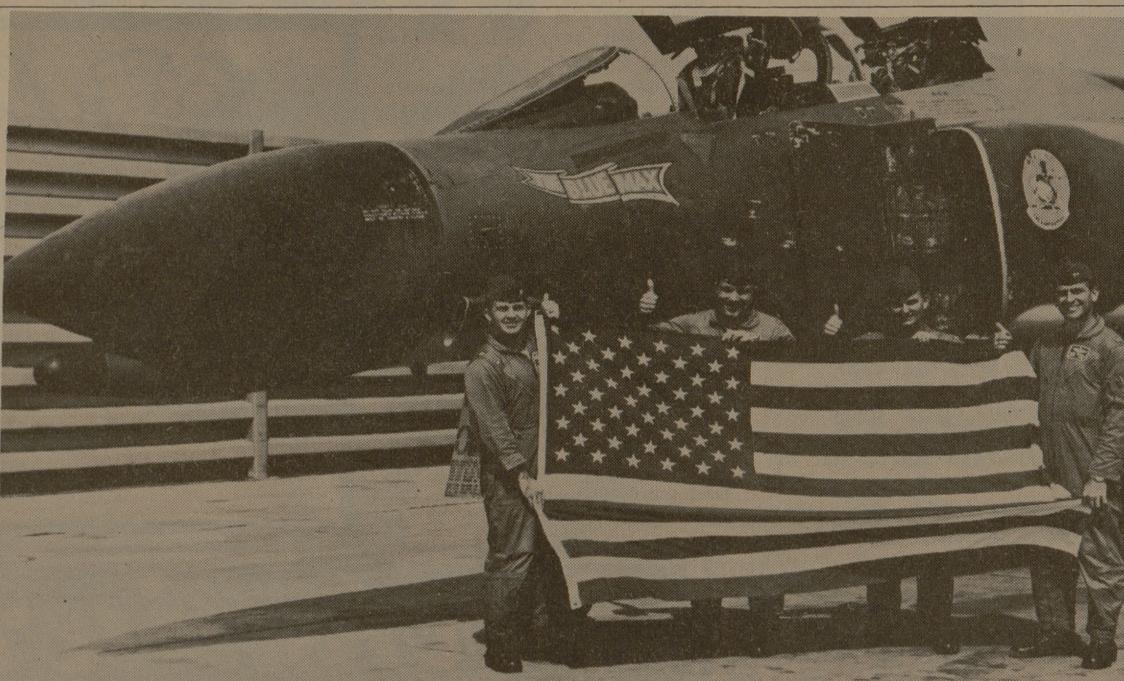
University lecturers spend at least a day on the campus visiting classes and speaking informally during afternoon seminars.

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Friday — Clear, wind south 10-15 m.p.h. High 74, low 56.

Saturday Rice—Cloudy, rain showers, wind south 10-15, 66°.



"GIG 'EM AGGIES"

Four former Texas A&M students give the university's traditional thumbs-up sign while displaying the flag they took on combat missions over North Vietnam. They returned the flag to A&M for ceremonies before the Thanksgiving Day football game with the University of Texas. The Aggies, all members of the 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Da Nang, are (from left) Maj. Robbie Robinette of El Paso, 1st Lt. Jim Schnabel of San Antonio, 1st Lt. Tom Cardwell of Dallas and Capt. Bob Noack of San Antonio.

Kyle Field's American Flag Back From Viet Missions

The U.S. flag which will fly over Texas A&M's Kyle Field for the Thanksgiving Day football game with the University of Texas is back home after a quick trip to Vietnam where it was taken on four combat missions by former A&M students.

Lt. Col. Fred A. Haeffner, commander of the 390th Tactical

Fighter Squadron in which the four Aggies serve at Da Nang, recently wrote A&M President Earl Rudder requesting loan of the flag after the game.

Rudder went the colonel one better and sent the flag prior to the game, so it could be flown "even more proudly than usual" during the annual classic.

THE FLAG was returned this week with a letter of thanks from Haeffner and a picture of the four fliers posing beside an F-4C "Phantom II" jet. The picture shows them displaying the flag and giving the traditional thumbs-up "Gig 'em Aggies" symbol.

The former A&M students are Maj. Robbie Robinette, El Paso; Capt. Bob R. Noack and 1st Lt. Jim Schnabel, both of San Antonio, and 1st Lt. Tom Cardwell, Dallas.

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Opening the series Tuesday evening at A&M's Memorial Student Center will be Dr. John Lenihan, physicist for the Western Regional Hospital Board at Glasgow, Scotland.

The public-free lectures, Dr. Monroe noted, are designed to bring scholars to supplement other campus speaker series.

"These men have the breadth and depth necessary to interest everyone in the academic community in hearing them," Monroe added.

ROLAND MOUSNIER, a Danforth Visiting Lecturer, will speak Feb. 29. A specialist in social and institutional history, Mousnier directs Paris' Center for Research in Modern European Civilization.

Another Danforth Visiting Lecturer, Dr. Harold Cassidy, chemistry professor at Yale, is slated for a March 12 visit. Interested in science and the humanities, Dr. Cassidy contends that cybernetics may be the tool which will lead to understanding and cooperation between humanists and scientists.

Dr. Oskar Morgenstern, economist at Princeton University, is due at A&M April 17. Morgenstern has served often as an ad-

visor to the government on economic policy. He was a White House advisor during President Eisenhower's administration.

SCHEDULED for an April 30 lecture is Dr. Alfred S. Romer, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology, emeritus, at Harvard. Recognized as an authority in his discipline, Dr. Romer is noted for contributions to man's knowledge of the evolution of vertebrate animals.

A research scholar at Rice University, George Williams, will lecture May 9. Although famed as a teacher of creative writing and English literature, Williams is a well known author. His "Some of My Best Friends are Professors" relates his experiences as a faculty member and teacher of undergraduates.

MEMBERS of the University Lecture Committee, in addition to Monroe, are R. W. Barzak in English, Melvin C. Rotsch in architecture, B. J. Zwolinski in chemistry, W. H. Thamess Jr. in plant sciences, and E. B. Doran Jr. in geography.

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104-Foot Center Pole Up; Bonfire Stacking Underway

The focal point of a Nov. 22 fire went into the ground at Texas A&M Wednesday and stacking began for the annual Thanksgiving Day bonfire.

The bonfire center pole—a 104-foot tall pole shipped from Navasota—was erected by Company D-1, commanded by David J. Boethel of Weimar.

Wayne Porter of Dalhart, yell leader who is stacking area chief, said more than 3,000 logs will be stacked against the pole by twilight Nov. 22. Yell leaders put the match to the stack at 7:30 p.m. that night.

The stacking area chief said 1,100 logs were cut, trimmed and trucked in from the cutting area

north of Bryan last weekend. Porter added that 2,000 more logs will be deposited on the Duncan drill field Sunday and Monday.

THE CORPS of Cadets will take a day off from bonfire building Saturday for a corps trip to Houston. A&M and Rice play a SWC game at Rice Stadium at 2 p.m. Saturday. A civilian student guard detail will remain on campus to protect bonfire work.

Unknown persons made attempts Monday to burn wood stacked on the drill field for guard fires. Cadets of "Spider D" salvaged the wood, Porter said.

Boethel and his company worked until 2 a.m. Wednesday preparing the centerpole. Two poles—88 and 30 feet long—were spliced together for the centerpiece. Boethel and D-2 seniors George Isleib of Rosenberg, Jim Budde of Cologne, N.J., and Walt Dabney of Dallas supervised centerpole work.

A TRUCK with a 52-foot power boom was used to set the pole at 10:40 a.m. Wednesday. The pole is buried 10 feet. Cross braces were attached to the lower section early Wednesday afternoon and stacking began shortly afterward.

Stacking chiefs Bill Bellomy of Channelview, Charles McCall, Lufkin; John Fry, Austin, and Ron McElroy, Dallas, are supervising placement of logs against the stack.

Bellomy said the 1,100 logs on hand could be stacked in six hours. The operations will employ cranes loaned by Albritton Alenco and Corbusier Chevrolet of Bryan.

The annual bonfire is symbolic of Aggies' undying love for A&M and the burning desire to beat TU."

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SUPPORTS GO UP

Ray Prewitt of Temple, looking a little like a telephone linesman, nails supports onto the 104-foot center pole for the 1967 Bonfire. The supports, about 20 feet up, will hold the first stack of logs in place around the pole.

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ALSO, MR. and Mrs. Charles Arnold, president of the Southwest Houston A&M Club; Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Richardson, Houston A&M Club vice president; Col. Jim H. McCoy, A&M commandant, and Col. Vernon L. Head, professor of aerospace studies.

Bandmen directed by Lt. Col. E. V. Adams will make a second official appearance of the day at halftime of the A&M-Rice game.

The band drill will be under the batons of drum majors Richard C. Westbrook of Beaumont, Marc A. Sheiness of Alice and James W. Criswell of Brady.

Work on the bonfire started last Saturday and will resume at 5 a.m. Sunday following the Corps Trip. The large stack of logs will be ready for the match at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22.

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