THE BATTALION

Survivor says crash was 'hell'

United Press International ASBESTOS, Quebec — The last person to escape from a bus that forget. plunged into a lake and slowly Daz drowned 40 passengers said she

spent 10 minutes in the sinking death trap consoling the victims and listening to their screams and prayers. Lucie Pouliot, one of several vol-

Friday night at a lake near the Ver-mont border was a "hell I'll never

Dazed relatives, many crying, pushed past reporters and onlookers Sunday into a makeshift morgue in Eastman to identify the 37 bodies taken from the bus. Three other

corpses were recovered separately. One official said the battered veunteers on an outing with a group of hicle, pulled from the muddy bot-

wheelchairs, crutches and bodies.' Behind the funeral home in Eastman, 75 miles from Asbestos, hearses waited bumper to bumper to take the victims home. They pulled away carrying as many as three bodies each.

"When we hit the water there was mass panic," Pouliot said. "They screamed, they stood up, they were terrified.

year-old volunteer worker said, she was "consoling and whispering hopes" to the passengers.

'I told everyone to stay still in their seats. I told them we were going to live," she said.

"Some were saying the Lord would never let them die. He would send help. Couples embraced and cried. Then we started to sink. Seconds after she dived into the

ing others were following her — the back end of the bus sank below the ter. Monday at the local recreating ter. dark surface of the lake. She was the last of seven survivors who escaped.

"They went down screaming, and crying, and praying," she said.

For the 9,000 people of Asbestos, Sunday was a day of mourning. Fu-neral music played constantly over radio stations and flags flew at half staff. The bodies were lying in state

In the city's hockey aren ers scrubbed walls and fl volunteer carpenters built h preparation for a mass Thursday. The mud-covered bus was

in a garage, awaiting exami see why it lost its air bra steep hill, hit the water at a mph and floated several h feet to the center of the lake

