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—UPI Telephoto

FIREMEN PROBE WRECKAGE OF AIR FORCE PLANE MONDAY

. . . Early morning crash at takeoff at Hamilton AFB kills 13

13 Die In Flaming AF Plane Crash

HAMILTON AFB (UPI) — An Air Force transport plane clipped a haze-shrouded ridge minutes after takeoff, crashed and exploded Monday, killing 13 of the 14 persons aboard.

Capt. George Burk was found 35 yards from the wreckage, moaning, "Help me, help me. He was rushed to the base hospital, and then flown to the Armed Forces Burn Center at Kelly AFB at San Antonio, Tex.

The T29 Convair, converted from a training plane to a transport, carried a crew of six and 10 military communi-

all the smoke," said John Daviau, Mangels foreman. "I ran back home and called the fire department and then went back to the scene."

A piece of the fuselage about eight feet long and one of the plane's two engines were the largest remaining pieces of wreckage. The rest was smashed to pieces and scattered over the barren hills.

Three Coast Guard helicopters arrived at the scene within minutes after the crash and rushed the survivor to the Hamilton hospital. A 25-man

transport, carried a crew of four and 10 military communications experts en route to Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane.

It took off about 8 a.m. from this Northern California base and almost immediately disappeared from the radar screens. Officials said it crashed at 8:02 a.m. eight miles northeast of Hamilton on the remote, rolling Mangels Ranch.

"I was coming over the hill checking the cattle when I saw

rushed the survivor to the Hamilton hospital. A 25-man ground crew from the air base arrived about an hour later.

Lt. Col. Everett Brown of the Hamilton Public Information Office said the area was shrouded with patches of fog or haze at the time. Brown said there was no disaster call from the plane before it went down.

Among the dead was Maj. Robert L. Robinson Jr., 39, pilot, commander of Almaden Air Force Station. (See other story, page 4)



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