

JUN 5 1964

REBELS IN CONGO FIRE AT U.S. PLANE

Machine Guns Used Against Craft on Kivu Suurvey

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Special to The New York Times

BUKAVU, The Congo, June 4—A United States Army plane was fired on today by machine guns from rebel positions in the village of Kamaniola, 25 miles south of here.

The plane's pilot, Maj. Harry Asbury of the Army, an assistant military attaché, said the leftist-led rebels appeared to be waiting for the aircraft as it came over the village at tree-top level. [This dispatch did not indicate whether the plane was hit.]

The small twin-engine Beechcraft has been flying daily reconnaissance missions for the Congolese Army over the rebel-held Ruzizi Valley in Kivu Province.

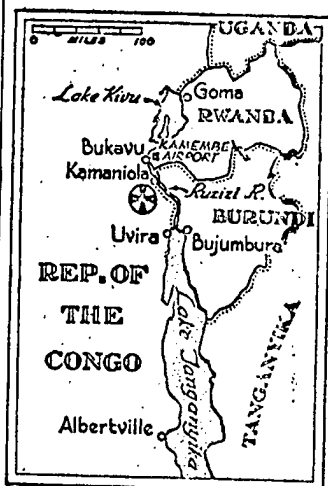
The plane has been fired on before by "poo-poo guns"—muzzle-loading muskets with bolts, nuts and nails as ammunition—as well as by automatic rifles. This was the first time the rebels had used machine guns.

The rebels have seized several hundred weapons from Congolese troops who fled the valley over the weekend after part of the Eighth Battalion was ambushed south of Kamaniola.

The plane's passengers again saw the blue and gold flag of the rebellion flying over Kamaniola. The flag is the former Congolese national flag introduced by the Government of the late Patrice Lumumba in 1960 but since replaced.

The leaders of the Kivu rebellion have utilized the Lumumba myth. They insist that Mr. Lumumba, the left-leaning first Premier of the Congo, is still alive. They warn that anyone who tries to oppose the rebellion is opposing his return.

The rebellion, which began in January, is being directed by the National Liberation Committee, a group of left-wing Congolese exiles who are operating from Bujumbura, capital of the neighboring kingdom of Burundi. Most of the committee members are followers of the late Mr. Lumumba and his self-proclaimed successor, Antoine Gizenga.



The New York Times June 5, 1964
ATTACK IN THE CONGO:
Rebels at Kamaniola (cross) fired on a U.S. Army plane.

Moderate Regime Opposed

However, few of the rebels themselves have any specific political affiliation. Most are members of the Bafulero tribe who inhabit the lush Ruzizi Valley and the mountains to its west. The Bafuleros have been worked up against the moderate provincial government by a young politician named Moise Marandura, who has a personal grudge against the provincial president, Simon Pierre Malago.

The National Liberation Committee, and the Chinese Communist Embassy in Bujumbura, which supports the committee, have exploited this local dispute.

Aboard the United States plane were Col. William Dodds, a member of the United States military assistance mission to the Congo, and Col. Guy Logiest, head of the Belgian military mission.

Colonel Logiest arrived yesterday with four other officers to try to give some leadership to the crumbling Congolese forces. The Congo is a former Belgian colony.

The colonels again sighted a large rebel concentration in and around Kamaniola. The rebels, who numbered between 300 and 400, wore warpaint and monkey-skin hats. Many appeared to be carrying rifles, but others had spears and machetes.

The rebels appear to be preparing for an attack on Bukavu, capital of Kivu Province.

An attack expected last night did not materialize. Sporadic firing was heard during the night in the commune of Bafira, north of the city, but no rebels were seen.

Two more armored cars arrived last night from Leopoldville aboard a United States transport plane, making a total of four in the last 24 hours.

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