

SETTANTA VITE IMMORTALI



Olgiate Olona - 26 giugno

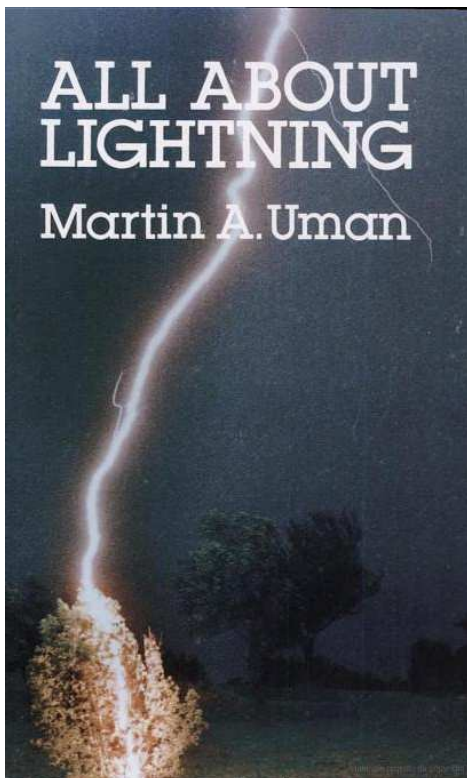
## June 26, 1959: plane crash

excerpt from:

### *All about lightning*

by Martin A. Uman

Dover Publications, 1987



(pag.30)

On June 26, 1959 near Milan, Italy, a Lockheed Constellation, a propeller-driven U.S. air carrier, was climbing in thunderstorm activity through about 11,000 ft when structural disintegration occurred. All persons aboard were killed. Investigation revealed that two of the fuel tanks had exploded. Fuel vent pipes extending off the trailing edges of the wings were exhausting air and fuel vapors (to maintain a pressure inside the fuel tank equal to the decreasing pressure outside, as the plane climbed) and were a likely point for fuel ignition. It is not clear whether lightning struck a fuel vent pipe or whether a traveling spark (similar to those which leave lightning rods) was initiated at the pipe causing ignition. In either event, it is probable that some sort of electric spark ignited the fuel at the vent pipe, the burning fuel propagated into the number 6 and 7 fuel tanks, and those fuel tanks exploded.