

N. KOREA HIJACKS U.S. NAVY VESSEL

Congressmen Brand Seizure an 'Act of War'

Compiled From AP and UPI

WASHINGTON — Grave concern was expressed in Congress Tuesday over the hijacking of an American ship by North Korea.

"Obviously an act of war," Rep. Bob Wilson, R-Calif., called the seizure of the Navy intelligence ship Pueblo.

Sen. Richard Russell, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said it was "a very severe breach of international law that almost amounts to an act of war."

Rep. William H. Bates of Massachusetts, ranking Republican (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)



AN AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

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WASHINGTON (UPI) — North Korea hijacked a U.S. Navy intelligence ship on the high seas Tuesday.

The United States demanded its immediate release. Sources said the aircraft carrier Enterprise was on its way to the area.

Authoritative sources in Washington Tuesday night said the nuclear-powered Enterprise, which ended a five-day visit to the Japanese port of Sasebo late Monday, was leading an American task force into the Sea of Japan, where the USS Pueblo was seized.

The Enterprise was heading south from Japan to return to duty off North Vietnam but received orders to turn north and join other units heading into the Wonsan area, the sources said.

The Navy announced four men were injured, one critically, in the hijacking of the Pueblo. It was unable to say how the injuries occurred.

The ship carried six officers, 75 enlisted men and two civilians, the Pentagon said. It is captained by Cmdr. Lloyd Mark Bucher, 40.

The Navy said that at no point did the Pueblo fire its guns — two 50-caliber machine guns.

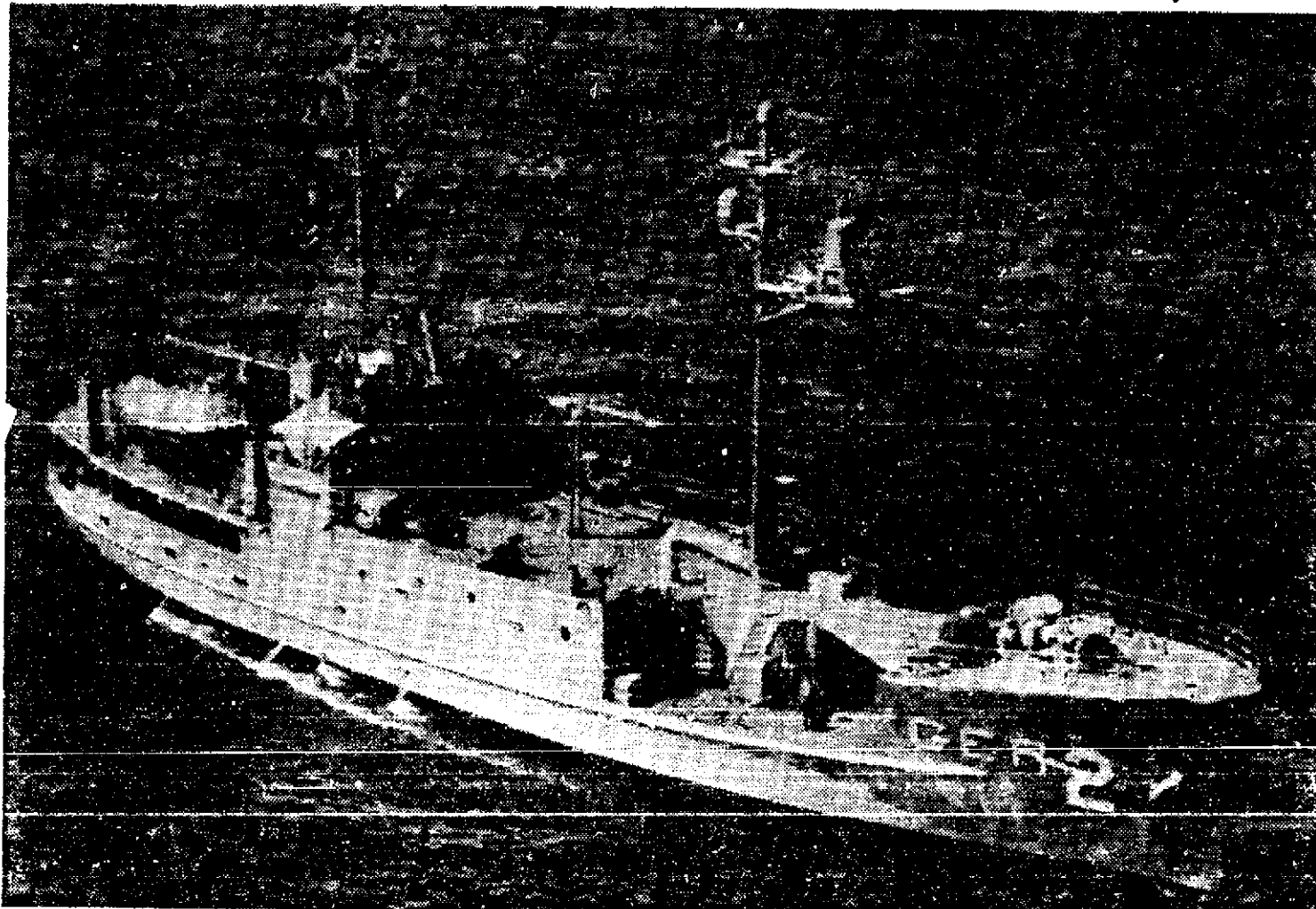
A Navy spokesman said the Pueblo "did ask for help at the time of the boarding"

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at 11:45 p.m. EST Monday. The ship was approached at 10 p.m. by the first North Korean patrol boat, which was joined an hour later by three others.

Asked what the Pueblo did during the hour-and-45-minute lapse between the initial approach and the boarding, a Navy spokesman said: "It continued its mission in international waters."

He said the ship was in contact with higher authority, leaving the presumption it was (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)



USN Via AP Radiophoto

THE USS PUEBLO, CAPTURED BY NORTH KOREANS, IS PICTURED UNDER WAY AT SEA

U.S. Flies 3,000 to Bolster Valley Line

SAIGON (AP) — South Vietnamese militiamen and civilians pulled out of a second district town in the enflamed Khe Sanh Valley, it was reported Tuesday. The U.S. Command rushed thousands of reinforcements to the embattled northern sector.

More than 3,000 army helicopter-borne infantrymen from the U.S. 1st Air Cav. Div. were moved into the northern sector

apparently as quick reaction and backup troops should they be needed anywhere along the line. A battalion of fresh U.S. Marines was rushed to the Khe Sanh combat base to bolster three other battalions already there.

South Vietnamese military headquarters said that about 200 militiamen and an unknown number of civilians had been withdrawn from Huong Hoa dis-

trict town, about a mile and a half southeast of Khe Sanh district town. Three Combined Actions Platoons of U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese militiamen and 1,112 civilians abandoned Khe Sanh Monday. Both towns came under heavy attack Sunday and obviously are regarded as vulnerable.

(Pacific Stars & Stripes' Vietnam Bureau reported govern-

ment officials said 250 Communists were killed Sunday when an enemy force tried to overrun Huong Hoa.

In addition to the 250 Reds claimed slain, the Communists reportedly lost 100 assorted weapons, including five heavy machine guns and a recoilless rifle.)

The U.S. Command, which (Continued on Back Page, Col. 4)

BULLETIN

NAGOYA, Japan (UPI) — A young rightist Wednesday attacked visiting Soviet Deputy Premier Nikolai K. Baibakov with a wooden sword on the platform of the Nagoya railroad station. Baibakov escaped injury. No further details were immediately available.

Top Medal For AF Pilot

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon announced Tuesday the 24th Medal of Honor of the Vietnam war will go to an Air Force pilot who flew a light unarmed plane against an enemy force to save a South Vietnamese army battalion.

Capt. Hilliard A. Wilbanks was killed last Feb. 24 in action near Dalat, South Vietnam.

Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown was to present the Medal of Honor to Wilbanks' widow, Rosemary A. Wilbanks of Glen Allan, Miss., in ceremonies Wednesday at the Pentagon.

The citation credits Wilbanks, (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

Main Supply Route to South

Navy Jets Blast Key Red Railway

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — U.S. Navy pilots zeroed in on a key North Vietnamese rail link Monday as American jets flew 75 missions over the cloud-covered north.

Visibility was down to 2,000 feet, but A6 Intruders made "excellent" bombing runs over the Hai Duong railroad yards, 45 miles southwest of Haiphong. This is where the main railroads from Haiphong and Hanoi join to form the trunkline that moves supplies southward toward Communist forces in South Vietnam.

Other Navy planes attacked railroad yards at Thanh Hoa and Nam Dinh and reported good results.

Air Force F4 Phantoms from the 8th and 366th Tactical fighter Wings concentrated on barges around the Panhandle port of Dong Hoi, destroying or damaging 11.

In other Air Force raids, F-105 Thunderchiefs from the 388th TFW damaged a Communist surface-to-air missile site northeast of Hanoi, while other F105's from the 355th TFW hit a radar emplacement 42 miles northeast of the North Vietnam capital.

Marine Intruders from Chu Lai and Da Nang hit a highway ferry and truck traffic in the Dong Hoi area. There was one secondary explosion reported by pilots hitting the trucks.

Other Marine pilots attacked enemy assembly areas, artillery positions and anti-aircraft emplacements in and just north of the Demilitarized Zone.

Other raids included strikes on a railroad bridge 36 miles south of Thanh Hoa and a highway span about 46 miles northwest of Dong Hoi.



Dodging Red Shells at Khe Sanh

Refugees and a U.S. Marine crouch behind an earthen wall as North Vietnamese mortars hit near the air strip at Khe Sanh. U.S. and South Vietnamese troops withdrew from the town of Khe Sanh Monday to a Marine combat base three miles north of the town. They were followed by many of the town's civilians who were later evacuated to Da Nang. (AP Radiophoto)

H. Kong Quarantine

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong health authorities have imposed cholera quarantine restrictions on arrivals from Bangkok. Travelers from Bangkok will have to show proof of immunization against cholera or be inoculated upon arrival.

Blonde Found Slain Along Thailand Road

BANGKOK (AP) — The nude body of a young woman, believed to be a European, was found Monday with her throat cut in Saraburi Province about 85 miles north of Bangkok.

The woman, with long blond hair, was believed to be about 20 years old.

There was no identification on the body.

Police said preliminary checks with foreign diplomatic missions had provided no clue to the girl's identity.

The body was found beside a dirt track off the Friendship Highway which connects Bangkok with the big airbases at

Korat and Udorn.

Police said there was no sign of a struggle although the woman had been stabbed three times about the face.

Police said an autopsy would be held to determine if the woman had been sexually assaulted.

The girl had been dead about ten hours when her body was found by villagers.

Police said they suspected she had been murdered some distance away and her body dumped by the roadside.

Her wounds appeared to have been cleaned and there was no blood.

Hair-Raising Experience

KHE SANH, Vietnam (AP) — U.S. Marine Cpl. Samuel Hair had a hair-raising experience. A 105mm enemy artillery shell landed in his lap.

The 20-year-old Marine from Wade, N.C., was in a trench waiting out a North Vietnamese artillery attack. Suddenly a shell came flying into Hair's trench.

Another Marine shouted that the shell was live and all scrambled out of the bunker. All accept Hair, that is. He still had the shell in his lap.

He said: "I took that shell from between my legs and I laid it down softly, very softly and then I jumped." The shell didn't go off.

Vietnam Casualties

WASHINGTON (S&S) — The Defense Department has announced the following casualties in connection with the conflict in Vietnam.

KILLED IN ACTION

Army
Pfc. Larry E. Hill, Lanette, Ala.
Sic. Ernest T. Martin, Compton, Calif.
Pfc. John N. Brewer, Sonoma, Calif.
Spec. 4 Charles W. Irby, Hillsboro, Ill.
Pfc. Joseph W. Dudek, Chicago, Ill.
Pfc. Frederick H. Hemphill, Red Wing, Minn.
1Lt. Douglas B. Green III, Ellizabeth, N.J.
Sgt. Donald C. Brown, Ozone Park, N.Y.
Spec. 4 Brian T. Coody, Edmeston, N.Y.
Spec. 4 James D. Sacco, Syracuse, N.Y.
Spec. 4 Manuel Casilla-Vazquez Jr., New York City.
Sgt. Anderson L. Ruderson, Jamesstown, N.C.
Spec. 4 Harry J. Boston, Conover, N.C.
Pfc. Kenneth R. Howell, Highpoint, N.C.
Spec. 4 Patrick C. Morlus, Twinsburg, Ohio.
Pfc. James B. Rulledge, Columbus, Ohio.
Spec. 4 Martin W. Welleski III, Cabot, Pa.
Cpl. John E. Barron, Homestead, Pa.
Spec. 4 Jimmie R. Bissett, Houston, Tex.
2Lt. Richard H. Walker, Spokane, Wash.
SSgt. Emile Cole, Seattle, Wash.

Marine Corps

Cpl. Joel F. Koester, Phoenix, Ariz.
LCpl. Arthur Bustamante, San Fernando, Calif.
LCpl. Edward Sanchez Jr., Los Angeles, Calif.
Pfc. Ronald L. Mc Duffie, Gary, Ind.
Pfc. Douglas E. Googins Jr., Yarmouth, Maine.
1Lt. Alfred B. Russ, Peterborough, N.H.
Pfc. Charles S. Slicker, Ewan, N.J.
Pfc. Louis T. Hazzard, Lima, Ohio.
Pfc. Harold L. Schreckengost, Rural Valley, Pa.
Cpl. Robert A. Jackson, Providence, R.I.
2Lt. Randall D. Yeary, Kingsport, Tenn.
LCpl. Charles E. Harris, Norfolk, Va.

DIED OF WOUNDS

Marine Corps
Pvt. Dale A. Miles, San Diego, Calif.
LCpl. Andrew Coca, Taos, N.M.

MISSING TO DEAD—HOSTILE

Army
SSgt. Willie J. Coltrill, Joliet, Ill.
Cpl. Benton Micheud, Fort Kent, Maine.
Cpl. Douglas S. Mc Ilroy, Taylor, Mich.
Spec. 4 Jim D. Martinez, Chamisal, N.M.
Spec. 4 Eugene M. Williams, Youngstown, Ohio.
Pfc. Victor D. Tomczyk, Dorchester, Wis.
Spec. 4 Louis E. Berry, San Juan, P. R.

MISSING IN ACTION

Army
2Lt. John M. Scully.
MSGT. Richard F. Williams.
Spec. 4 Warren E. Newton.
Pfc. Jackie W. Hall.
Pfc. Darri Sykes.
Pfc. Richard R. Rahe.
Pfc. Morris C. Pickett.
Pfc. David N. Harker.
Pfc. Howard A. Bissen.
Pfc. James A. Daly Jr.
Pfc. James H. Strickland Jr.

MISSING TO CAPTURED

Navy
Cdr. Robert J. Schweltzer.
DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION
Army
Spec. 4 Cullie W. Bryant, Fort Myers, Fla.
Pfc. Roger L. Ball, Rochelle, Ill.
SSgt. Clarence J. Claycomb, Altoona, Pa.
Spec. 4 Alfonso Ibanez, Alice, Tex.

MISSING TO DEAD—NON HOSTILE

Army
Cpl. Clifford O. Ware, Kent, Wash.
Cpl. MISSING TO DEAD—NON HOSTILE
Army
WO Ronald L. Martin, Corsicana, Tex.
Sgt. Norman R. Anderson, Amarillo, Tex.

MISSING NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

Army
Pfc. Raymond N. Weber.

VC Routed by Their Own Gas

SAIGON (AP) — The wind shifted early Monday and a Viet Cong gas attack backfired, the U.S. Army reported.

Army spokesmen said a fire support base of the U.S. 25th Inf. Div., about 20 miles north-

west of Saigon was hit first by 23 rounds of enemy mortar fire, but there were no casualties.

"An unknown number of enemy, supported by a tear gas type riot control agent, were apparently planning to attack the base immediately after the mortar barrage," a spokesman continued. "The plastic bags con-

taining the agent exploded outside the perimeter as planned, but the wind shifted and the last the U.S. soldiers saw were the Viet Cong running and stumbling from their attack positions."

The use of riot control tear gas by both U.S. and enemy troops has been reported several times in the war.

Mine Kills 2 U.S. Aids

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON—A Viet Cong Claymore mine killed two American civilians early Monday as they rode in a pick-up truck between the Mekong Delta towns of My Tho and Dong Tam.

The victims were Arnold A. Isaacson, 34, Renton, Wash., and Howard W. Andree, 47, Sacramento Calif. Both were employes of Pacific Architects and Engineers, which furnishes repairs and utilities to military units supported by the 1st Logistical Command.

It was the second fatal incident involving PA&E employes in two months. On Dec. 30, Lester D. Pearce, 53, was routed from a sanitary fill office just outside the U.S. Tay Ninh compound, then shot down by Viet Cong automatic weapons as he ran for a jeep.

Isaacson, survived by a wife, two daughters and a stepdaughter, and Andree, who had a wife and two daughters, were hit by the Claymore blast about halfway between the two South Vietnamese towns while making a supply run. Isaacson was PA&E production control chief at Dong Tam, Andree a sanitation supervisor. They had both been in Vietnam since last April.

Chinese Seek Viet Asylum

SAIGON (UPI) — A small group of Chinese made a dash for freedom in a boat from the Communist Chinese island of Hainan and was guided to safety in South Vietnam by a U.S. Navy vessel, informed sources disclosed Tuesday.

The sources said four men, three women and two children were aboard the boat.

The boat was guided to Da Nang, about 170 miles southwest of Hainan and 385 miles north of Saigon.

Refugee Picture Brighter

SAIGON (AP)—For the first time since the Vietnam War began generating great numbers of refugees, the number of new refugees was less than the number resettled or sent back to their villages in 1967, U.S. officials said.

Admittedly using figures they said were almost impossible to compile accurately, the officials said there were 436,108 new refugees in 1967, and that South Vietnamese government statistics showed that 136,621 refugees had been resettled while 315,499 were returned to their villages during the year. This represented a reduction of 16,012 in the number of refugees in temporary camps to 793,944, they said.

They also noted that the number of new refugees during 1967 was about one-half the number generated in 1966, the peak year, when 809,956 were reported. These numbers represent only the number of refugees who go through official refugee channels.

In two years, the officials said, about 1.2 million of a total of 2 million refugees have been resettled or returned to their villages.

They said that the South Vietnamese government has assigned a high priority to the refugee problem, and that the decreased number of new refugees in 1967 had brought "this tragic problem" down to more manageable proportions.

A total of \$62.2 million is earmarked for refugee assistance in fiscal 1968, most of it from the United States.

Viets Boost Base Guard

BIEN HOA, Vietnam (OI)—A Civilian Guard Force (CGF) of Vietnamese has been organized at Bien Hoa AB to augment night security policemen.

The 13 Vietnamese will protect 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing equipment in other than restricted areas.

Trained by S. Sgts. William H. MacDonald and Donald L. Campbell, 3rd Security Police Sq., the guards are already on the job.

"We gave them a 24-hour training course in use of weapons, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) rules of engagement, challenging procedures, communications, first aid and security instructions," MacDonald said.

"These men are highly motivated and like security work," Campbell said. "We were particularly surprised, and extremely pleased that the Vietnamese learned so quickly. We think we have a top-notch group," he said.

Sergeant Pitches It

An Unlucky Tent—What's Left of It

LOC NINH, Vietnam (IO) — Sgt. Maj. Elden W. Farley has turned in his tent.

When the 11th Armored Cav. Regt.'s 2nd Sq. moved into Loc Ninh, Farley had his small tent set up, sandbagged, and foxhole partially dug by nightfall.

After dark he and M. Sgt. Paul

100,000 Work for Army

Viet Employes of U.S. Praised

SAIGON (IO)—Approximately 100,000 Vietnamese employes are helping the U.S. Army and its contractors in the continuing program to release soldiers for duty in combat and combat support units, according to the Army's civilian personnel director in Vietnam.

William S. Moyers, speaking to Saigon Central Lions Club members, said no civilian job position will be held by American military or civilian personnel if qualified Vietnamese are available to do the job.

About 50 per cent of the workers are female employes.

Moyers said women now are working in such vocations as carpentry and plumbing, and in many other jobs normally considered to be for men only. He compared the present work force to the situation in World War II in the United States when women filled jobs vacated by men going to war.

He said the many thousand "loyal and hardworking" Vietnamese employes are vital to the Army's mission here.

He referred to a "common misconception" that the military pays higher wages than the private sector and the Viet-

namese Government. Surveys and data gathering projects have been conducted, he said, to insure the workers are compensated on a par with others having similar occupations and like responsibilities.

Moyers mentioned benefits that many companies pay, such as housing and rice allowances and "other items which we do not pay separate and distinct from basic pay." This differential, he explained, is given in monetary value included in the wages.

The average salary for the total work force, according to

Moyers' figures, is 28 piasters per hour, or about 25 cents. "So, you can be assured that U.S. Forces in Vietnam are not inflating wages, and to the contrary, only want to pay those wages that are being paid by the private sector and no more."

Army civilian personnel officers are situated with major military installations. In addition to its own program, the Army provides service to U.S. Navy elements and the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, in all areas except I Corps.



If Basket Fits, Wear It

A 1st Bn., 27th Inf., machine gunner wears his basket rather than carry it. He found the basket during an operation 30 miles north of Saigon where the 25th Inf. Div. is conducting Operation Saratoga. (USA Photo by Spec. 4 George Pullen)

Saigon Predicting Higher Red Losses

SAIGON (UPI)—The South Vietnamese government said that 1967 was a year of "bitter defeats and great losses" for the Communists and 1968 would be even worse.

In a special year-end news release entitled, "1967: Year of Enemy Defeat," the government said "the enemy suffered extremely heavy losses in personnel, partly by friendly 'search and destroy' operations and partly by their own great campaigns."

It mentioned the "winter-spring" campaign in III Corps, the "summer" campaign in I Corps, the "rainy season" campaign in the central highlands, the "countryside revolt" along the central coast, and the "winter-spring" campaign along the Cambodian border.

"Although they focused all their effort in carrying out these campaigns," the release said, "they had to be self-satisfied with bitter defeats and to receive great losses to their best units."

The government report said the Communists lost 95,513 killed or captured for an average loss of 8,000 troops a month, compared to average monthly losses of 5,500 in 1966.

It said 26,157 Viet Cong cadres "came back to the national cause" during the year, including 18,598 military cadres — 31 were officers — and 7,559 political cadres, roughly, 2,000 a month. Last year, about 1,800 persons a month defected to the government side.

"From early 1967, the enemy met with many difficulties in forcing the rural youths into their ranks," the report said. "For that reason they were forced to draft even children from 14 to 16 years of age and to use women in replacing guerrillas."

The government said the Communists' severe draft policies "led to the collapse of morale and the fighting ability within their ranks for they did not receive enough training and equipment necessary."

The government sees 1968 as another year of heavy woe for the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese.

Dead-End For Red Ambushers

DA NANG, Vietnam (ISO)—An enemy hit-and-run squad ran the wrong way and ended up on a dead-end mission — facing a squad-sized Leatherneck "Wolf-pack."

The Wolfpack from G Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Marine Regt., had set up a night ambush during a search and destroy mission southwest of Da Nang.

"It was about 9:15 in the evening when we spotted them," said Cpl. William Brent, 21, of Crystal Springs, Miss.

The 10-man enemy squad was later identified as the same group that had staged a hit-and-run assault against another Marine ambush patrol in the same area earlier.

Brent triggered the ambush with a grenade and M16 automatic weapons fire.

The one-sided battle lasted about 30 seconds. The Marines killed four Communists.

Lucky Find By Observer

CON THIEN, Vietnam (ISO) — Second Lt. Don Perkins Jr., of Winnetka, Ill., thought his position atop Observation Post 2 was a prime enemy target. A recent patrol north of Con Thien confirmed his suspicions.

Perkins, an artillery forward observer, and his men were scouting reported enemy fortified positions when they spotted a communications wire leading into the brush.

The wire led to a bunker complex.

Perkins found a bamboo aiming stake alongside an NVA mortar pit. He decided to sight along the stake to see what the enemy's target was.

It was his bunker... atop OP-2.

The enemy positions were destroyed.

N. Korea Seizes U.S. Navy Ship

(Continued From Page 1)
acting under orders. The spokesman added, "No one ordered the Pueblo to submit—it was boarded." By this, he said he meant the ship was taken forcibly and did not surrender.

The four Communist boats forced the Pueblo to the port of Wonsan on North Korea's east coast. The Pentagon said the hijacking took place on the high seas.

The White House called it "a very serious situation," and Secretary of State Dean Rusk said it was "a matter of the utmost gravity."

President Johnson scheduled a meeting Wednesday with his National Security Council of top military and intelligence advisers.

The White House described it as a "regular" meeting.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff were reported to have met at midday. Gen. Leonard F. Chapman, new Marine Corps commandant, cancelled a noon news conference, presumably to join the other service chiefs.

The Pueblo, a modified auxiliary light cargo ship packed with sophisticated electronic monitoring gear, sent its last message at 12:32 a.m. EST (0532 GMT—14:32 JST) Tuesday. It said its engines were at "all-stop" and it was "going off the air."

The Pentagon said the daylight seizure of the Pueblo occurred in international waters of the Sea of Japan, "approximately 25 miles from the main-

land of North Korea."

However, the ship's position at the time of the boarding, as given by the Pentagon, would be about 15 miles from the mouth of Wonsan Harbor, on North Korea's east coast.

North Korea claims its territorial waters extend 12 miles offshore. The United States recognizes a three-mile limit.

Asked whether the Pueblo might have been within North Korean waters when sighted by the patrol boats and then steamed out into international waters where it was boarded, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said: "I have no reason to think so."

North Korea, in a broadcast monitored by the United States, charged the Pueblo was in its waters "carrying out hostile activities."

The Pueblo, based at Yokosuka, Japan, had been stationed off the North Korean coast for about two weeks, official sources said.

The State Department said it sent its demand for prompt release of the Pueblo and its crew to North Korea through the Soviet Union. The United States has never recognized the Communist regime in Pyongyang.

In addition, the department said, U.S. officials were pressing the demand directly with North Korean representatives at a meeting of the Military Armistice Commission at Panmunjom, Korea, Tuesday night.

President Johnson was awakened between 2 and 2:30 a.m. and informed of the incident by Walt W. Rostow, special adviser on security affairs.

The Pentagon gave this account of the Pueblo's seizure:

"At approximately 10 p.m. EST, a North Korean patrol boat approached the Pueblo. Using international signals, it requested the Pueblo's nationality. The Pueblo identified itself as a U.S. ship."

"Continuing to use warning signals, the patrol boat said: 'Leave to or I will open fire on you.' The Pueblo replied: 'I am in international waters.'"

"The patrol boat circled the Pueblo. Approximately one hour later, three additional patrol craft appeared. One of them ordered: 'Follow in my wake. I have a pilot aboard.'"

"The four ships closed in on the Pueblo, taking different positions on her bow, beam and quarter. Two MIG aircraft were also sighted by the Pueblo circling off the starboard bow. The patrol craft began backing toward the bow of the Pueblo with fenders rigged. An armed boarding party was standing on the bow."

"The Pueblo radioed at 11:45 p.m. that she was being boarded by North Koreans. At 12:10 a.m. EST today (Tuesday) the Pueblo reported that she had been requested to follow the North Korean ships into Wonsan and that she had not used any weapons."

"The final message from the Pueblo was sent at 12:32 a.m. It reported that it had come to 'all-stop' and that it was 'going off the air.'"



CMDR. RUCHER
Pueblo Skipper

Khe Sahn—

(Continued From Page 1)
sometimes lags in battlefield reports, said it had received no report of any significant actions from Khe Sahn Tuesday. A spokesman said that Hill 861, one of three strategic peaks north of the Marine combat base at Khe Sahn overlooking the enemy approaches from Laos and the demilitarized zone, had come under light sporadic shelling.

Near Gio Linh, a South Vietnamese task force reported it killed 83 North Vietnamese and captured four in a one-hour fight. South Vietnamese losses were reported light.

The U.S. Command, calling on its massive air power, kept the pressure on North Vietnamese buildup areas threatening the valley. More than 200 American bombers, including the big B52 strategic bombers, unleashed perhaps as much as 1,000 tons of explosives on suspected North Vietnamese gun positions, troop concentrations and infiltration routes in a last 24-hour period.

The air strikes cost another American plane, the second in two days in support of Khe Sahn, and the 226th downed in combat in South Vietnam. The latest loss was a Marine F4 Phantom that was brought down by ground fire while on a bombing run. The two crewmen parachuted and were quickly rescued with only minor injuries.

The arrival of the army brigade in the northern sector enabled the Marine command to free a battalion of Leathernecks to reinforce Khe Sahn. The army brigade, the first Army infantry unit to operate in heretofore Marine territory above Da Nang, bolstered Allied troop strength to more than 50,000 men alone in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces that front the DMZ. About 5,000 of these men, all Marines, are now defending Khe Sahn.



WHERE NORTH KOREANS SEIZED PUEBLO

Congress Reacts

(Continued From Page 1)
on the House Armed Services Committee, called the incident "a dastardly act of piracy." Rep. Deward Hall, R-Mo., said President Johnson should make it clear the American ship must be released "or North Korea will suffer inevitable and dire consequences."

Chairman J.W. Fulbright, D-Ark., of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, commented, "We got caught unexpectedly."

Fulbright said intelligence-gathering activities of the type engaged in by the Pueblo "certainly exposes" the United States to incidents of this kind.

He added the incident was

very serious "if, as reported, the ship was on the high seas."

The Defense Department said flatly that the Pueblo was in international waters.

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said, on the basis of facts available, the incident was "a clear violation of international law."

Mansfield said he assumed the U.S. government would make "the necessary protests and objections."

A question was raised by the fact, reported by the Pentagon, that the Pueblo radioed it was first challenged by a single North Korean patrol boat at about 10 p.m. Monday (noon Korean time Tuesday) but was not boarded until one hour and 45 minutes later.

Senator Russell told newsmen, "I don't know why they (U.S. forces) didn't get some air support out to them. Nor do I know why the Pueblo did not undertake to defend itself."

The apparent absence of U.S. warplanes also was questioned by Bates.

"It certainly appears there was plenty of time for this in view of the high speed of our planes and the slow speed of the ship to reach port with the Pueblo in tow," he said.

Wins Medal—

(Continued From Page 1)
a 34-year-old native of Cornelia, Ga., with bravery while flying as a forward air controller providing reconnaissance for the South Vietnamese.

"He discovered a large hostile force poised to ambush the advancing South Vietnamese rangers and, recognizing that support aircraft could not arrive in time, made repeated low passes in his unarmed, light aircraft and inflicted many casualties by firing his rifle out of the side window," a Pentagon statement said.

"His daring tactics allowed the Rangers to withdraw from their exposed position," the Pentagon added. "During his final attack on the enemy forces, Capt. Wilbanks was mortally wounded and his bullet-riddled aircraft crashed."

He was the son of Travis O'Neal Wilbanks and Ruby Lee Wilbanks of Cornelia, Ga.

24 Pacific Stars & Stripes
Thursday, Jan. 25, 1968

Pair Accused of Tutoring Shoplifters

MUSKEGON, Mich. (AP) — A Muskegon grandmother and her daughter, accused of running a "shoplifter school" for youngsters, were free on bond Tuesday on felony charges of larceny in a building.

The two women — Genevieve Nichols, 53, and her daughter, Betty Keller, 29 — were arrested Saturday along with six children, ages 2 to 14.

They were taken into custody

after a private security guard followed them through five stores, police said. Several articles of clothing and merchandise were recovered from beneath the seat of the women's car, officers reported.

Five of the children were daughters of Mrs. Keller and granddaughters of Mrs. Nichols, police said, while the other was a nephew of the Kellers.

The grandmother and mother were running a "shoplifter school," said Muskegon Township Police Chief Donald Robbins. "They were teaching them to steal," he added.

The children were released to the custody of their fathers.

Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Keller demanded examination Monday at their Municipal Court arraignments. No date was set.

Module Flight Hailed

CAPE KENNEDY, Fla. (AP) — The ugly-duckling spacecraft built to set Americans on the moon — Lunar Module 1 — performed so gracefully in Monday's maiden flight that men will be in the next one launched, top space agency officials said Tuesday.

"This was a remarkably good next step on the way to the moon," said Dr. George Mueller after the debut trip of the last piece of hardware to be qualified for the lunar journey. Mueller is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's associate administrator for manned space-flight.

Mueller and his colleagues were so pleased that they all but ruled out a proposed duplicate test in late spring, opening the way for Apollo astronauts to use the next lunar module in a deep space exercise early next year.

The seven-hour, 52-minute flight Monday was flawed only by an abbreviated firing of the rocket to be used to make a gentle moon landing.

As the orbiting moonship coasted over the Indian Ocean, that engine started up. But a touchy computer aboard sensed low fuel pressure and shut it off.

At the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, controllers reached for an anthology of emergency mission plans for a

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trip the space agency warned in advance was too risky to follow a rigid course.

On the second try, the back-down engine performed at full thrust and then at 10 per cent of full thrust, exactly as controllers told it to.

Then, in the most crucial checkout, the craft's gateway engine began firing while the descent rocket still burned. This "fire in the hole" test duplicated the procedure astronauts would follow in lifting away from a potentially hazardous lunar touchdown. The lunar module passed it perfectly.

Free of its landing stage, which would be a launch platform on the moon, the passenger section's ascent engine fired for 6½ minutes. This was a test of the lunar takeoff which will start two astronauts from the moon to the Apollo command ship waiting to carry them home to earth.

World Weather

USAF Weather Central				
TEMPERATURES				
Wednesday night: Fair; Low high 20's				
Thursday: Fair; High 40				
TOKYO AREA				
Jan. 23				
	H	L	H	
Bangkok	92	73	Manila	84
Chitose	30	28	Naha	63
Guam	81	77	Saigon	85
Hanoi	48	28	Seoul	32
Yokohama	50	35	Taipei	73
	H	L	H	
Albany	36	11	Louisville	49
Albuquerque	54	29	Melbourne	50
Amarillo	42	40	Memphis	58
Birmingham	67	36	Miami	73
Bismarck	—	26	Midwaukee	42
Boise	42	26	Moscow	60
Boston	36	27	N. Orleans	65
Chicago	40	29	NYC	41
Cincinnati	41	37	N. Platte	42
Cleveland	36	26	Oklahoma City	49
Denver	38	27	Oman	33
Des Moines	41	32	Paris	36
Detroit	34	28	Phila.	45
Duluth	35	25	Phoenix	73
Fargo	29	26	Pittsburgh	37
Fort Worth	58	50	Portland, O.	49
Hong Kong	64	56	Reno	57
Honolulu	83	75	Singapore	85
Houston	66	57	St. Louis	56
Indianapolis	40	32	St. Paul	34
Jackville	74	45	Salt Lake	59
Jakarta	89	73	S. Antonio	67
Kansas City	49	32	San Diego	74
K. Lumpur	88	69	San Fran.	73
Las Vegas	68	34	Seattle	49
London	43	29	Shreveport	67
			Sydney	80
			Tucson	70
			Wash.	50