

3 Attacks on Saigon

RED PUSH REPELLED

PACIFIC
STAR STRIPES
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U.S. ARMED FORCES IN THE FAR EAST
10¢

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★★★★★

Saturday, May 11, 1968

Crash Grounds F111As

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI)—The controversial F111A was grounded worldwide Thursday because of another unexplained crash during a routine training flight 60 miles north of here.

"F111A operations have been restricted pending further investigation of the May 8 accident," said an Air Force spokesman.

All of the swept-wing jet bombers—at Nellis AFB, Nev., Thailand and Edwards AFB, Calif.—are grounded, but it was indicated the curtailment would not be protracted.

The May 8 crash occurred near the Nevada-Utah boundary. The two-man crew, an instructor and student pilot, ejected safely.

It marked the seventh F111A crash in 15 months. A Navy F111B version crashed a year ago on Long Island, N.Y.

The Air Force said the cause of Wednesday's crash was not known and that a board of officers had been appointed to investigate the accident.

The men aboard were Maj. Charles Van Driel, 35, of Morenci, Ariz., and Maj. Kenneth A. Schuppe, 38, of Chicago.

Pilots for the F111A are trained at Nellis in the 4527th Combat Crew Training Sq. Fifteen of the planes currently are assigned to the southern Nevada air base about 15 miles from here.



With one under his arm, an American GI fighting rages around them on the southern edge of Saigon. (AP Wirephoto)

SAIGON (AP)—The Viet Cong drove hard on Saigon from three sides Thursday and pushed closer to the center of the capital than ever before on the eve of the Paris peace talks.

U.S. military spokesmen said 2,000 American troops from the 9th Inf. Div., armored personnel carriers, helicopter gunships and dive bombers had smashed—at least for the time being—a Viet Cong drive to push into the capital from the south and east.

The spokesmen said helicopter gunships also had wrecked two launching pads loaded with rockets less than a mile from the city, prepared to fire on the capital.

The 9th Div. infantrymen reported killing 131 enemy in a day-long battle that was still going on at nightfall.

"For the third consecutive day, the enemy was repulsed trying to enter Saigon from the south," an officer said. "More than 450 enemy have been killed in the last three days."

Ninth Div. casualties were said to be about seven killed in the latest fighting, with several more wounded.

The U.S. Command announced 2,540 enemy soldiers had been killed by allied forces in fighting around Saigon since the beginning of the Communist new offensive last Sunday, including 2,170 in the capital and sur- (Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)

Harriman, Hanoi Aid In Paris

PARIS (UPI)—U.S. and North Vietnamese chief negotiators arrived in Paris Thursday for preliminary talks on the Vietnam war.

Hanoi's Xuan Thuy bluntly told the United States it must halt all attacks against North Vietnam unconditionally if it wants full-scale peace negotiations.

U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Averell Harriman later landed at Orly Airport and told newsmen "there will be no time limit on whatever on the talks." He added, "No man so sincerely desires peace as President Johnson."

Harriman flew in just 3½ hours after Thuy to head a U.S. (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

Report Soviet Troops on Czech Border

LONDON (UPI)—Western diplomats and other foreign residents of Warsaw were barred from leaving the Polish capital by main roads Thursday amid reports of Soviet troop movements near the Polish border with maverick Czechoslovakia.

There was no indication of any outright action against the new Prague regime which is dedicated to liberalizing Czechoslovakia after two decades of Stalinist rule.

But Prague radio declared again Thursday, as it has before, that there must be no repetition of Soviet intervention

as there was in Hungary in its 1956 rebellion or of Soviet pressure on Yugoslavia.

The travel clampdown accompanied reports of heavy Soviet troop movements along the 500-mile Czech-Polish border and toward Czechoslovakia. But there was no confirmation of any such movements from Poland, where two divisions of regular Soviet troops normally are stationed.

Observers said if such troop movements actually were under way they could be merely routine maneuvers.

Soviet and Polish troops held

spring maneuvers a month ago near the Czech frontier and the exercises touched off speculation they were a warning to Prague not to go too far in its liberalization movement.

Recently another Warsaw Pact maneuver was scheduled for Czechoslovakia but it later was described by Czech newspapers as a "paper command exercise" with no troops involved.

A Warsaw newspaper charged there still were "anti-Socialist trends which would like to liquidate the peoples' rule in Czechoslovakia" and said these were causing Poland "sincere

anxiety and concern."

The situation was so tense on the Czech question that a hurried meeting of the remnants of the once-solid Soviet bloc was called to meet in Moscow. It ended Thursday and a brief communique said only that the leaders, who arrived Wednesday, talked about "the world Communist and working class movement" and pledged themselves to "all-round cooperation."

The meeting was notable by the absence of Czechoslovakia and Romania. Russia, Poland, East Germany, Bulgaria and Hungary attended.

Captain Gets Off the Hook

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—If there's no hook on the line, you're not fishing, a superior court judge has ruled here.

The case was the appeal of Army Capt. Michael Harbin of Ft. Devens, Mass., from a \$20 fine in lower court on a charge of fishing out of season.

Harbin said he wasn't fishing—just trying out a new spinning reel without a hook. The case was dismissed.



Troops of the 9th Inf. Div. fire into Viet Cong positions on the western edge of Saigon as a captured Viet Cong guerrilla sits to one side, waiting for evacuation. A toll of 131 enemy were killed by the infantrymen in a day-long battle. (AP Radiofoto)

Kontum Set for Red Push

S&S Vietnam Bureau

KONTUM, Vietnam—U.S. infantrymen here are bracing for what they expect to be the strongest enemy offensive of the war in the Central Highlands.

Information obtained from two North Vietnamese soldiers captured two weeks ago indicates an all-out assault on Kontum may begin within two days. The NVA is known to have assembled at least one division and support units west of the provincial capital, and there is concern that more enemy troops may be moving into the area. It is believed the buildup may be larger than those massed by the enemy during the sieges of Khe Sanh and Dak To.

The captured enemy soldiers said it took them only five days to travel from Hanoi to the Cambodian border, where they picked up a new road complex built by the Communists into South Vietnam. American artillery and B52 strikes have been pounding the road and suspected enemy concentrations for weeks.

New weapons and equipment have been captured by patrols of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Inf. Div., who have met only light resistance in scattered ground action since they relieved another unit in early April.

The Communists are believed to be interested in capturing Kontum and using it as a pressure point in the preliminary peace talks in Paris, according to one staff officer. The city's closeness to NVA supply routes from Cambodia makes Kontum the easiest target of all provincial capitals.

Commanders of the 3rd Brigade are confident that they can prevent the enemy from reaching the city with a ground attack. The brigade headquarters borders the city, with additional support bases and small camps fanning out into the mountains.

The two prisoners said Polieking, a large artillery base and Special Forces camp west of the brigade headquarters, would be the first target in the sweep to the city.

"We hope they'll never reach Polieking," said Col. Eugene E. Forrester, brigade commander. "We believe we have broken their concentrations with artillery and by setting up our fire bases. It's hard to tell what they'll do; they don't think like you or I. But if they were to overrun one of our bases, they could never hold it."

The monsoon season, which is now moving into the highlands, has generally been favorable to the North Vietnamese.

Flow of Food To Saigon Cut

SAIGON (AP)—The flow of food into South Vietnam's capital has been cut to a trickle by the current fighting and food prices have risen 25 per cent in the past several days, U.S. economists said Thursday.

No substantial vegetable shipments have reached the city since last Friday.

R.P. Ship Fired Upon

SAIGON (AP)—Guerrilla gunners opened fire on the Philippine oiler, LSCO Baven as it was sailing up the My Tho River Wednesday, but none of the crew was injured and damage was light.

Infantrymen Chase Snipers in Cholon

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON—Ninth Inf. Div. troops battled three reinforced North Vietnamese battalions Thursday along the Kinh Doi Canal in the southern suburbs of Cholon, the western portion of Saigon.

Elements of three 9th Inf. Div. battalions spent the day chasing

snipers from house to house in a battle of frustrating slowness. Progress of the fighting was clearly visible, denoted by a moving line of smoke from burning houses.

"It's fantastic," said one trooper sitting beside his .50-caliber machine gun. "You pin

one down and fire comes from a different angle. They deliberately wait for us to come in close."

One of two bridges leading into Cholon, which is made an island by two connecting canals, came under intense attack Thursday morning. The defend-

ers, a mechanized infantry platoon, shot Communist snipers from rooftops and among the buildings of a horse stable near the bridge approach. Panicking horses added to the confusion.

In all, 131 Communists were killed in the Saigon area Thursday.

Jets Nail 53 Trucks

SAIGON (AP)—American jet bombers continued their campaign Wednesday to stop North Vietnamese supplies from moving south and pilots reported smashing 53 more trucks in raids in North Vietnam's southern panhandle.

This brought to 167 the number of supply trucks claimed destroyed or damaged by U.S. pilots in two days.

The raids Wednesday cost one American plane, the U.S. command said. It reported a carrier-based Navy A4 Skyhawk went down near the panhandle city of Vinh, 145 miles north of the Demilitarized Zone. The pilot was rescued.

In Wednesday's raids below the 19th parallel, American fliers also claimed damage or destruction of 15 bridges and an artillery gun position.

The farthest penetration north was a strike against an anti-aircraft gun site 22 miles north of Vinh and 167 miles north of the DMZ.

Thieu Warns S. Viets Of Red-Led Protests

SAIGON (AP)—President Nguyen Van Thieu Thursday urged South Vietnam's people not to be misled by Communist propaganda and not to participate in nationwide demonstrations he said the Communists were planning.

Thieu warned that the National Police were under orders to fire into crowds if Communist-directed demonstrations threatened government installations.

The South Vietnamese President spoke on national television against a background of repeated explosions caused by allied air strikes against enemy infiltrators inside the capital, only a short distance from where Thieu spoke at Independence Palace.

It was Thieu's first public statement since the Communists began their renewed attacks against the capital last Sunday.

Thieu warned that South Vietnam will not agree to a complete halt in the bombing of the North without a complete halt

in infiltration of the South. He reiterated his government's stand that it will not recognize the National Liberation Front, and it will not accept a coalition government.

Thieu said, "I hope the Communists see that they are in a weaker position . . . and that they cannot win militarily as they did at Dien Bien Phu in 1954. The situation in May 1968, is not the situation in May 1954."

Koreans Kill 26 In 8 Viet Battles

SAIGON (AP)—South Korean infantrymen and Marines reported they killed 26 enemy Wednesday in eight separate actions.

Korean casualties were termed light in all the engagements.

Spokesmen said the Korean forces also captured eight weapons, including one crew-served piece.

Week's Toll Hits 383

SAIGON (UPI)—The United States lost 383 men killed in action last week, the highest weekly death figure in two months, Saigon headquarters said Thursday.

Communist forces suffered 2,264 killed, the U.S. communique said, while government forces lost 242 dead. A total of 1,501 Americans were wounded, 974 of them requiring hospitalization.

The U.S. death figure was the highest since the week of March 9 when 509 American GIs were slain.

The figures did not reflect casualties from the current Communist attacks against Saigon.

Officials put the civilian casualties for the week at 61 killed, 56 wounded and 178 abducted by the Communists.

America's troop commitment rose by 1,000 last week to a little more than 525,000, the command said.

Weary Refugees Pour Into Central Saigon

SAIGON (AP)—Thousands of refugees, mostly women and children, poured into the center of Saigon Thursday, fleeing the fighting and the fires raging on the southern edge of the city.

The women, mostly wearing traditional Vietnamese costume and conical straw hats, carried babies and what they could of their belongings.

They appeared strained and weary, but there was no sign of panic. At times, when they came near the sound of machine-gun fire, they threw themselves to the ground by the roadside. When the shooting subsided, they went on their way.

American artillerymen and helicopter gunships engaged in the fighting were under orders to avoid accidental casualties among the refugees. Some re-

fugees sheltered in a pagoda reportedly were killed Wednesday by a helicopter gunship rooting out snipers.

By noon Thursday, South Vietnamese authorities estimated 46,000 refugees had come into central Saigon since the start of the latest Viet Cong offensive Sunday.

The flow continued unabated all afternoon, across the "Y" bridge over the Kinh Doi Canal and bridges leading out of em-

battled south Cholon. The total was expected to exceed 60,000 by nightfall.

They streamed into the city center and dispersed. Many settled in schoolhouses, churches and pagodas which had served as refugee collection points during the Communist Lunar New Year offensive.

The mayor's office and the National Refugee Ministry took emergency action to feed the homeless throng.

Navyman Stalks, Kills Paper Work Snafus

SAIGON (PAO) — U.S. Navy men in Vietnam fight battles with the Viet Cong, battles against disease and hunger and battles for the loyalty of the populace.

Master Chief Damage Controlman Charles I. Fields fights yet another kind of battle as old as war itself, and, for the men in the field, more personal than a pair of socks.

His battle is with administrative "snafus" that are inevitable when men are separated for long periods of time from their headquarters.

Fields is senior enlisted adviser to commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam.

Named to the position in October 1967,

Fields has traveled the length of South Vietnam, visited 20 different installations and talked with hundreds of U.S. Navy men to untangle administrative snafus and confusion.

Until March of this year the job was a collateral duty for him. His main task was advising the Vietnamese navy men at the Vietnamese Navy Shipyard in Saigon.

Now he works at the job full time out of the Force Inspector's office.

"But," he insists, "I am not an inspector. I go out and talk to the men in the field and listen to their ideas, problems and complaints."

Many questions are answered on the

spot from a thick reference book he has assembled or from his personal knowledge.

"A lot of the problems the sailors present are based on misinformation," he said. "Half the time, once they get the right dope, the problems and questions disappear."

Questions that can't be taken care of on the spot are jotted down along with the man's name and mailing address.

"Usually, the problems I bring in from the field," he said, "could be solved by the men during a five-minute visit to the disbursing, personnel or R&R office. But these facilities are in Saigon, and the men are scattered all over South Vietnam."

After a trip, he spends many hours checking on "missing" pay, "lost" R&R chits, transfer orders and other administrative problems that loom large in the minds of the men involved.

Many more hours are spent writing the men about the outcome of his battles.

Other gripes pop up from time to time. The in-command problems are never taken back to Saigon unless absolutely necessary.

"I always explain to the base commanders what the gripes are," he said, "and if the command is willing and able to take care of it, which they usually are, the problem is left in their hands."

Navy Nurses to Mark 60th Birthday

DA NANG, Vietnam (PAO)— War permitting, 30 nurses will celebrate the Navy Nurse Corps' 60th birthday Monday in an area no other members of the corps have ever been assigned to—on-shore duty in a combat zone.

The initial group of 20 nurses, all volunteers, arrived at the Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, Station Hospital in August, 1967.

The nurses were sent to Da Nang in February to assist with the increased number of casualties at the outbreak of the Communist Tet offensive. More than 2,100 patients, over twice the monthly average and most of them combat casualties, were admitted to the hospital during February.

Only minutes away by helicopter from some of the hardest fighting in northern South Vietnam, the hospital receives battlefield casualties day and night. Along with doctors and hospital corpsmen, the nurses work around-the-clock in three shifts.

The Nurse Corps was created by an act of Congress in 1908. From an original 20 nurses, referred to as the 'sacred 20,' the number of women in the corps has increased to 2,300 commissioned officers currently on duty.

In the past nurses have been stationed at naval medical facilities throughout the world, but never ashore in a combat zone. They have served aboard hospital ships in World War II, the Korean conflict and now in Vietnam aboard the USS Repose and USS Sanctuary.

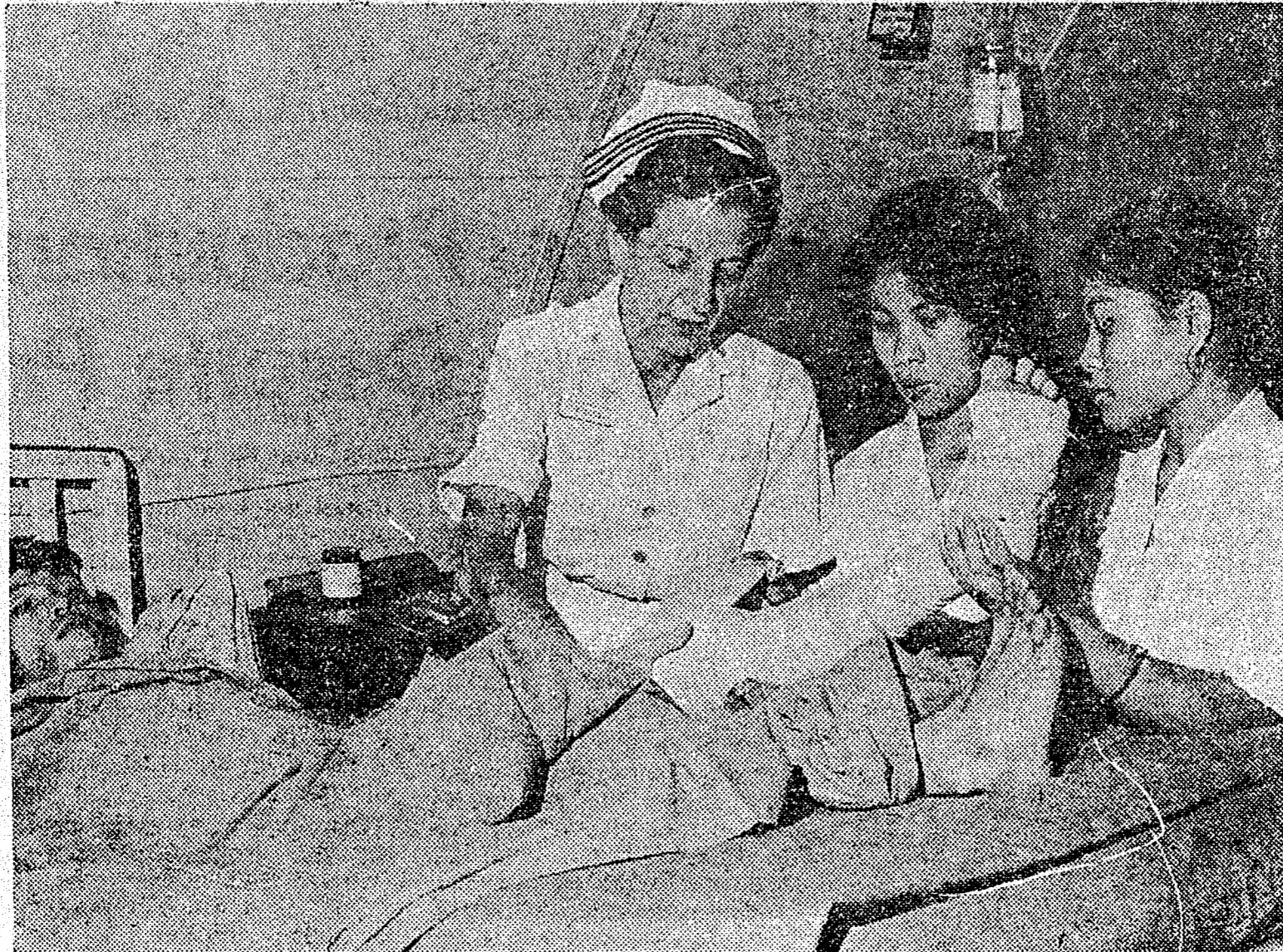
Typical of the nurses' eagerness to serve ashore in Vietnam is Lt. Cmdr. Nancy E. Sullivan, of North Easton, Mass., who "had volunteered for duty at the hospital a year before receiving orders." And, she added, there's a long waiting list of nurses who have volunteered for Vietnam.

Cmdr. Mary F. Cannon, of Chicago, is the senior Nurse Corps officer at the hospital. Nine nurses work in the operating room, five are anesthetists and four are operating room management nurses, and 20 women are charge nurses on various hospital wards.

"I planned on joining some branch of the service when I was in nursing school," said Lt. Cmdr. Shirley Thomas, of King City, Mo. "One reason I decided on the Navy was that my brother is making it a career."

The intensive care unit receives seriously wounded patients, usually immediately after surgery. The nurses, assisting the doctors and assisted by the corpsmen, use their special skills to provide constant medical attention.

"Sometimes it seems like there aren't enough hours in the day," said Lt. Cmdr. Adeline



Lt. Cmdr. Adeline Nicora, assistant senior Nurse Corps officer at Da Nang, bandages a patient's wounds while instructing two Vietnamese nurses. (USN)

Nicora, of North Andover, Mass., assistant Nurse Corps officer, "but the cooperation is outstanding and the work always gets done."

"In many ways we're like a battlefield hospital," said Cmdr. Cannon. "We get Medivac (Medical Evacuation) casualties directly from the field. Yet we have all the facilities that a stateside hospital has."

A helicopter landing pad is located in front of the hospital. As the 'chopper' sets down, corpsmen with stretchers rush to the casualties.

The patient is moved quickly from landing pad to operating room and receives medical

treatment as soon as possible.

Although Viet Cong rockets fly over the hospital during frequent attacks on a nearby air base, the women are some of the last to seek shelter. First, all patients who can be moved must be placed under the beds for protection.

"I'd rather be working on the wards during attacks," said Lt. Cmdr. Ann Barker, of Lake City, Fla. "There's no time to worry when I'm busy with the patients."

The hospital, with a staff of more than 500 nurses, doctors and corpsmen, has admitted more than 11,000 patients and performed more than 8,000 op-

erations since the nurses arrived in August. It has a 30-day holding authority for patients.

The women have brought a refreshing touch to the station hospital. Instead of wearing fatigues, normally worn by nurses of other branches of the service in a combat zone, the Navy nurses wear their white uniforms.

"One reason we wear dresses," explained Cmdr. Cannon, "is that it makes the fellows feel more at home."

"They do a fantastic job," said Army Sgt. I.C. George Fairecloth, a patient, "and they sure provide a pleasant change of scenery."

Parachute Serves as Chapel

CU CHI, Vietnam (IO) — The use of field expedients in the Army is a common occurrence, especially in South Vietnam.

When Chaplain (Capt.) Don Breland, of Houston, Tex., came to the 25th Inf. Div.'s 3rd Sq., 17th Air Cav., he faced a major problem. The unit had no chapel.

"We started holding services in the uncompleted supply room, but once the building was occupied by supply we had to find a new place of worship," Chaplain Breland related.

The chaplain then tried a Sunday in the mess hall. "There just wasn't enough room," he said. "Since the service was conducted immediately after breakfast, I faced the prospect of holding it among dirty dishes."

Next, the chaplain and headquarters troop commander, Capt. Harvey E. Turner, of Clinton, Tenn., suggested constructing a temporary chapel with a parachute.

The "C" Troop rifle platoon contributed a huge cargo parachute and under the supervision of 1st Sgt. Dallas D. Shumate, of Orange Park, Fla., the project got underway.

The chute was nailed to the top of a telephone pole. The edges of the chute were tied down and empty, wooden ammo boxes, were installed for seats.

In the evening a strong wind forced the parachute canopy upward, ripping it away from the nails and stakes.

The following morning the sight of a sagging chapel greeted the worshippers. Service was held, but in the week that followed the chapel was reconstructed and reinforced.

Once again a strong wind blew. But this time the chapel remained intact.

Spec Specialists Grind Out the Glasses

By MGY. SGT. J.T. FRYE
S&S Staff Correspondent

DA NANG, Vietnam — Uncle Sam wants his men to see what they're doing. That's why he doesn't complain about giving the average spectacle-wearing combat Marine eight pairs of glasses a year.

Handling this far-sighted business is the job of the Ophthalmic Service Unit of the Naval Hospital in Da Nang.

They turned out 5,404 specs last month. And a man can be wearing a new set of cheaters within 10 minutes after opening the front door.

Lt. Richard L. Newell and Lt. James F. Socks are the only Navy optometrists in Vietnam

and the only optometrists in I Corps. They take care of all branches of the service.

Nine enlisted opticians—three of them chiefs—construct the glasses.

The customer walks into the reception room and hands his prescription or his old glasses to the man at the desk. The attendant screens the request and directs the customer to follow the red footprints on the floor.

The path leads the man down the hall, around the corner and to the first stop—the fabrication room. Here two convalescent hospital patient helpers pick out the correct assembled frames from stock drawers and

pass them on to the next station.

Then corpsmen take over and fill the prescription from thousands of lenses on file. Lenses are then ground down to frame size on one of four edgers. Next they are beveled.

After that, some glasses—as specified by the doctors — go through a case hardening process which makes them safety glasses.

Final stages are a hot silicone dip to soften the frames and allow lenses to be popped into place, then a recheck of the prescription and the glasses are fitted.

First-timers and special cases are handled personally by

doctors who often do up to 35 refractions a day. Glasses are issued the same day.

In April, 1,769 persons visited the Ophthalmic Unit. Even more business was done by mail. Dispensaries and individuals send in prescriptions or bits and pieces of lenses broken in combat areas.

But mail orders take longer. Area or unit representatives bring down all the data via courier air runs and return next day to Chu Lai, Phu Bai, Dong Ha or elsewhere with several pairs of spectacles.

U.K. Tories Win Municipal Vote

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Labor Party was swept out of control in traditional town hall strongholds across the country Thursday night. Conservatives were elected in cities where they had not held power for generations.

The Conservative sweep in

Paris—

(Continued From Page 1)

delegation at the talks, scheduled to start in Paris Friday. The Americans were pledged, in President Johnson's words, to seek "an honorable settlement ... nothing less."

In Washington, Johnson announced Thursday that the Manila communique of 1966 would form the basis of the United States position in the Paris talks.

The announcement, contained in a joint communique issued by Johnson and Thai Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn, was the first public indication Johnson has given of what the Allied position would be.

The Manila communique, issued at the end of the meeting of President Johnson and other Allied leaders in 1966 in the Philippines, stated that the United States would agree to a withdrawal of forces as the level of violence in the Vietnamese war subsides.

It was never clearly spelled out exactly what level of violence would have to be reached before the phased withdrawal would go into effect.

It also was stipulated in the Manila communique that all North Vietnamese forces would have to be withdrawn from South Vietnam in a phased manner as the level of violence of the war subsided.

Harriman, accompanied by his deputy, Cyrus Vance, flew to Paris in a special U.S. Air Force jet transport. He was met by Sargent Shriver, who had arrived just 24 hours earlier to take up his post as new U.S. ambassador to France.

In an airport statement, Harriman said he came to Paris at Johnson's direction on a mission "which relates to the peace and future prosperity in another part of the world."

"In this we are allied with the governments of the Republic of (South) Vietnam and the countries supporting it," Harriman said.

He said he would return home during part of the talks and Vance would then take over leadership of the U.S. delegation temporarily.

Harriman said he had no information whether North Vietnam was prepared to scale down its military effort in exchange for a complete end of the bombing in the north.

But the Hanoi chief negotiator, Thuy, arriving at another Paris airport, took a tough stance, and served notice that the United States must halt all bombing and other attacks against North Vietnam unconditionally if it wants full peace talks.

Thuy said if Washington accepts these terms—something Johnson has refused to do repeatedly without reciprocal steps from Hanoi—North Vietnam is willing to open full-fledged peace negotiations.

24 Pacific Stars & Stripes
Saturday, May 11, 1968

municipal elections in England and Wales reflected nationwide reaction against Prime Minister Wilson's Labor government. Although it did not affect Labor's governing majority in the House of Commons, it did threaten Wilson's position as leader.

Early results showed that the Conservatives had scored net gains of 443 council seats, Labor had lost 435 and the Liberal Party had lost 31 seats.

The Welsh Nationalists, hoping to repeat the landslide scored by Scottish Nationalists north of the border earlier this week, failed dismally. They ran 39 candidates and had elected only one in early returns.

In London, where the municipal government fell to the Conservatives last year for the first time in 30 years, borough councils across the metropolis went to the Conservatives.

Up to midnight, Labor had lost control of 12 town councils and the Conservatives had taken control of 13.

Saigon—

(Continued From Page 1)

rounding Gia Dinh Province to the north. Against this, U.S. casualties were put at 53 killed and 487 wounded. South Vietnamese casualties were reported 29 killed and 719 wounded.

The heavy fighting drove countless thousands of civilians streaming across two bridges into the center of the city, and swelled the ranks of the homeless to more than 50,000. Some didn't make it. The toll of civilian dead and wounded mounted to more than 2,000.

Blocks of Saigon's southern and eastern sections were destroyed under day-long aerial pounding by U.S. and South Vietnamese dive-bombers and helicopter gunships firing rockets. Some houses were set afire by the Viet Cong to cover their movements.

The U.S. Command sent hundreds of infantrymen, tanks and helicopter gunships into the capital to check the renewed Viet Cong drive. There were reports, however, that the Viet Cong had reinforced through the night.

They sent a battalion of 200 to 300 men to attack — under the cover of mortar fire — two companies of U.S. armored personnel carriers early Thursday 17 miles northwest of Saigon.

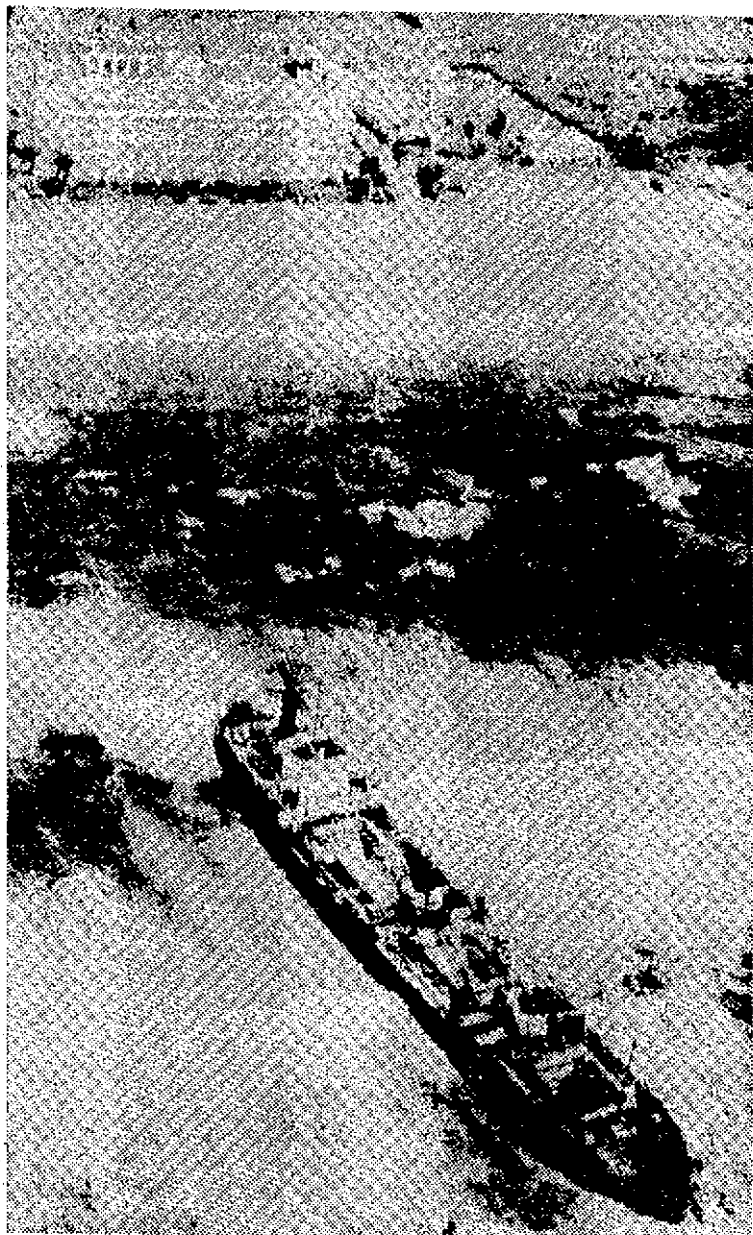
The Viet Cong slammed mortars and rocket-propelled grenades into the armored carriers and caused heavy damage. The APC force had been blocking enemy reinforcements for Saigon until they got replacements.

Nine U.S. soldiers were killed and 63 wounded. Fourteen enemy were reported killed.

Thursday's fighting centered along the southern edge of Saigon, then spread eastward to an island that is Saigon's 4th District. South Vietnamese National Police and American MPs blocked off the bridge connecting the main downtown section of Saigon with the 4th District.

The fighting was about two miles from the bridge along rows of shanties and rice paddies.

The drive took the enemy within two miles of Independence Palace, the office of President Nguyen Van Thieu, in the geographical center of the city.



Ship to Shore—By Accident

The British cargo ship Inverosa lies aground off Boca Raton, Fla. in heavy surf. The 328-foot vessel carries a crew of 28. There were no reported injuries. In background is Vista Del Mar, a resort hotel. (AP Radiophoto)

Rescue Hopes Dim For 10 Coal Miners

HOMINY FALLS, W. Va. (UPI)—Hope was all but given up Thursday for 10 of 25 miners trapped in a flooded coal mine and efforts to reach the other 15 were delayed at least another day when difficulties were encountered in installing a high-speed pump.

"My hopes are fading for these 10 men but we've not

Candidate Barely Wins

STANFORD, Calif. (AP)—Topless dancer Vicki Drake, who began a campaign by circulating nude pictures of herself at strategic campus locations, has won a preliminary election for presidency of the Stanford University student body.

In an unprecedented turnout Wednesday, the students voted 1,575 for Miss Drake and 1,232 for runnerup Dennis Hayes.

Because she did not win a majority, Miss Drake faces a run-off May 14. But not in 10 years has a preliminary victor failed to win final election.

S.F. Bans Mace

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Police chief Thomas Cahill has ordered an indefinite ban on the use of the chemical Mace, an anti-riot weapon. Cahill has ordered all Mace containers turned in because of the U.S. Surgeon-General's finding that the chemical "may produce more than transient effects."

given up hope," said C. E. Richardson, president of the Maust Coal and Coke Co. which owns the mine.

The 10 had not been heard from since Monday when water from an adjacent abandoned mine roared into an area in which they were working.

A hole from the surface was drilled to the spot where the 10 men were thought to be but all that was found was water.

Constant telephone contact was maintained with the other 15, who had been working in two other tunnels.

Richardson said rescue crews had hoped to reach the 15 by nightfall Thursday but the plan was scotched when a drill gouging a hole for a high-speed pump struck hard rock. He said the water would not be low enough for a rescue attempt for up to 24 hours.

1 Dead, 6 Lost in Jump

OTTAWA, Ont. (UPI)—One Canadian Army paratrooper was dead and six were missing Thursday when a training jump dropped them 1,000 yards off course into a lake near Camp Petawaw, 100 miles northwest of here.

The body of one of the paratroopers was recovered Wednesday from the waters of Lake Alouette, part of the Ottawa River, a Canadian Armed Forces spokesman said.

Search for the other six was continuing. The spokesman said the ac-

Heart Surgery In France

MONTPELLIER, France (UPI)—A 65-year-old Frenchman was in "satisfactory" condition Thursday, 24 hours after he received the heart of a 35-year-old service station owner in France's second cardiac transplant.

A team of doctors led by heart surgeon Eric Negre carried out the operation in secrecy Wednesday at the Saint-Eloi Surgical Clinic.

The doctors refused to reveal the name of the heart recipient but said his condition "is satisfying. The prognosis however, remains very reserved."

The donor was Jean-Claude Amarger, father of three who was fatally injured last May 3 when a tire exploded in the garage he owned at Caylar.

He died of his injuries at the clinic where the recipient was being treated.

The country's first heart transplant patient, Clovis Roblain, 66, died in Paris April 30, 51½ hours after receiving the heart of a 23-year-old man.

School Lunch Setup Widened

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Johnson signed Wednesday a bill to extend and expand the national school lunch program.

The new law also provides \$32 million a year for the next three fiscal years to give the states assistance in setting up and expanding pilot food service programs for children in nonschool activities away from home, such as day care and recreation centers and Head Start projects.

Weather

Asian Weather Central

TOKYO AREA

Friday Night: Fair to Cloudy; Low: 50
Saturday: Partly Cloudy; High: 76

TEMPERATURES

May 9

	H	L		H	L
Bangkok	91	80	Naha	73	74
Chitose	81	37	Saigon	93	79
Guam	85	77	Seoul	73	45
Hazuke	68	55	Taipei	70	44
Manila	93	79	Tokyo	64	48
	H	L		H	L
Albany	69	26	Melbourne	75	59
Albuquerque	76	41	Millwaukee	76	54
Amarillo	81	48	Moscow	68	55
Allanta	58	50	N. Orleans	82	68
Birmingham	80	62	NYC	63	47
Bismarck	43	39	N. Platt	65	38
Boise	76	38	Okl. City	60	46
Boston	63	45	Omaha	72	43
Chicago	79	60	Paris	53	43
Cincinnati	75	54	Phila.	71	43
Cleveland	74	48	Phoenix	93	55
Denver	67	28	Pittsburgh	76	45
Des Moines	76	46	Port., O.	78	41
Detroit	73	47	Rapid City	49	40
Fargo	58	40	Reno	73	31
Fort Worth	63	65	Richmond	75	41
Hong Kong	91	78	Singapore	83	73
Honolulu	82	72	St. Louis	82	56
Houston	78	67	St. Paul	57	44
Indianapolis	75	55	S. Antonio	81	61
Jackville	79	68	San Diego	71	60
Jakarta	93	77	San Fran.	57	50
Kansas City	79	48	Seattle	71	45
K. Lumpur	92	77	Shreveport	83	65
Las Vegas	85	52	Sydney	75	59
London	57	47	Tucson	88	56
L.A.	68	56	Wash.	75	44
Louisville	71	55			