

Small Blast, Smoke Rule Out More Rescue Teams In Mine

Enemy Downs 2 U.S. Jets

SAIGON (AP) — Two U.S. jet planes were attacked by MIG fighters and surface to air missiles and downed over North Vietnam, the U.S. Command announced today.

In a terse announcement, the Command said an unarmed reconnaissance aircraft and an armed fighter, which often accompany reconnaissance sorties, were downed in separate incidents.

"Suppressive fire," presumably bombing and strafing runs, was used in attempts to rescue the downed crewmen, the command said, adding that all further details were being withheld until rescue efforts were completed.

Earlier, Radio Hanoi had said an American reconnaissance pilot had been captured after his plane was shot down 175 miles north of the demilitarized zone.

In the South, American ground and air forces killed 155 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers in three clashes northwest and southwest of Saigon while suffering five Americans killed and 10 wounded.

But enemy gunners fired more than 200 rounds of rockets and mortars into five south Vietnamese towns and a dozen allied bases Sunday night. Military spokesmen said 13 Vietnamese soldiers and seven civilians were killed, while the wounded included 25 South Vietnamese troops, 36 civilians and at least 16 American servicemen.

With 187 enemy troops reported killed in clashes Saturday, the weekend saw some of the hardest fighting since the halt in the bombing of North Vietnam on Nov. 1.

Two of the three ground fights centered 70 to 75 miles northwest of Saigon along the Cambodian border where the enemy command reportedly has massed 15,000 to 20,000 troops. The third was in the Mekong Delta 45 miles southwest of Saigon.

Crack American troops from the 1st Air Cavalry Division ran into about 150 North Vietnamese troops at daybreak today a mile from the Cambodian border.

While the American troops pursued them, helicopters spewing rockets and machine-gun fire raked them from the air. Air Force bombers also attacked the enemy positions.

U.S. headquarters said that during the 3½-hour battle, 52 enemy and five Americans were killed and 10 Americans wounded.

On Sunday, in the same area, helicopter gunships on reconnaissance missions spotted and estimated 200 enemy soldiers four miles from the Cambodian border. The gunships attacked



TALKING WITH KIDNAPED DAUGHTER — Mrs. Philip Maquar sits teary-eyed as she talks with her three-year-old daughter Brenda Ann in Needles, Calif., who was kidnapped from her stroller in New Orleans five days ago. The tot was found after a one-car crash in which the alleged kidnapper was injured. Brenda reportedly told hospital officials, "he is not my daddy." (AP Wirephoto)

Accident Helps Free Little Girl

NEEDLES, Calif. (AP) — A traffic accident provided the break needed for the safe recovery of a 3-year-old New Orleans, La., girl and the arrest of a Fresno man charged with kidnapping her.

Frank Willis Castle, 39, was arrested Sunday by FBI agents and charged with kidnapping Brenda Ann Maquar, who was taken from a stroller in front of a grocery near her home last Wednesday.

He and the girl had been brought here for hospital treatment Friday after Castle apparently fell asleep at the wheel and his car left Interstate 40 about six miles east of Topock, Ariz., a small community seven miles southeast of here.

FBI agents quoted hospital spokesmen as saying the girl became hysterical while being treated for minor injuries and told nurses that Castle was not her father. Because of difficulty in understanding the girl's statements, the FBI was not called into the case until Sunday.

When the girl was identified, kidnapping charges were filed against Castle in New Orleans and he was placed under arrest. Asked why the child was abducted, an agent assigned to the case said: "That's a good question—I don't know."

Castle, with six ribs fractured, was taken to Needles Community Hospital, just across the California border from Topock. Brenda, who had a bloody nose, also went to the hospital after the accident. The FBI said hospital officials

Franc Shows Strength

By JOHN VINOCUR
Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — The franc strengthened in Paris today and the government announced new austerity measures. There was a stampede to buy dollars in Germany but other transactions on Europe's markets gave little clue as to whether the world's monetary crisis was over.

Foreign speculators, who had figured on an upward revaluation of the mark, began unloading their huge mark hoardings in Frankfurt and the West German bank sold about \$1 billion U.S. dollars for marks.

Gold sold briskly in Paris but at a slower rate than last Tuesday before the Paris markets were closed to dampen speculation.

Government leaders and financial experts watched closely for indications of whether President Charles de Gaulle's new austerity program can save the franc from devaluation.

De Gaulle announced over the weekend he would not devalue the franc, declaring that would only reward "odious speculation." The official rate is about five to the dollar.

The official quotation of the franc today was 4.8575-4.96 to the dollar. It reached a level of 4.974 last week, forcing the Bank of France to intervene. Official parity is 4.937.

The franc had apparently been bolstered by De Gaulle's decision to get the economy back in balance, but holders of francs still seemed anxious to shift their money into some other form.

The volume of the Paris gold market was \$2.56 million, compared with \$4.7 million on last week's final trading day. One kilogram—2.2 pounds—of gold closed at \$1,348, up from \$1,289 last week. Unofficial trading last week had seen the price of a one-kilogram ingot soar to \$1,398.

One of the more surprising results was the rush to the dollar in Germany, where the government announced last week it would not revalue the mark upward.

Within half an hour of the opening in Frankfurt, the West German bank lost about \$200 million of the pile of \$1.8 billion

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Weather

Sunny and mild today. Highs in the 40s. Fair and cool tonight. Lows mid 20s to low 30s. Tuesday, increasing cloudiness continued mild with chance of rain by evening. Highs low 40s to low 50s.



TALKS TO NEWSMEN — John Corcoran, president of Consolidation Coal Co., tells newsmen where a mine rescue team entered the Consol No. 9 mine Sunday night in search of 78 miners trapped since Wednesday. (AP Wirephoto)

Blaze Kills Couple, 3 Children

SALEM, N.H. (AP) — A couple and three of their five children died today in a pre-dawn fire that swept their 2½-story home. The grandmother and two children escaped.

Robert Rae's body was found near the stairs and the body of his wife Ann was found in a second-floor bedroom.

Police said the surviving children, Theresa, 16, and Carolyn, 8, jumped from a second story window.

The grandmother, Mrs. Rita Rae, told police her son awakened her, told her to summon the fire department, then raced upstairs to awaken his wife and children.

The bodies of the dead children, Roberta, 15, James, 12 and Evelyn, 4, were found in a top floor bedroom police said.

The survivors were taken to a hospital.

U.S. Plane Down In Laos Killing 32

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — An Air America C46 plane chartered by the U.S. Agency for International Development crashed soon after take off from Savannakhet today, killing 32 of the 34 persons aboard.

The passengers were mainly U.S. Aid officers and local employees.

The plane crashed about two miles from Savannakhet, about 170 miles southeast of Vientiane. First reports said a wing defect was the apparent cause of the crash.

Don't forget Tues. Is Mystery Special Day at Foodland. Mon. tfr

"Scare Hell Out Of You"

MANNINGTON, W. Va. (AP) — A puff of smoke, triggered by a small explosion early today, ruled out the immediate possibility of sending more teams into deep mine shafts to look for 78 men missing for five days.

"These puffs are what scare the hell out of you," coal company official Alder Spotte told a news conference today.

He said rescue teams, such as the two which probed the mine's tunnels Sunday, could be walking into "the dangers of fire from the explosion."

The small blast blew smoke from the Llewellyn shaft, scene of the great impact when the first explosion ripped the Mountaineer Coal Co. No. 9 mine last Wednesday. The 99-man mid-night shift was about to finish its tour when the explosion hit. The other 21 managed to reach safety or were rescued.

One of the two units to enter the mine went as far as 4,500 feet, found some slight traces of concussion but no evidences of the missing men.

The two teams entered the mine in an area least affected by the explosions and one worked its way toward the Llewellyn shaft.

"As long as we have no assurance the fire is out," Spotte said, "we cannot send men down."

Spotte, an engineer for Consolidation Coal Co., parent firm of Mountaineer, said the puff didn't have any damaging effect on the mine.

He was unable to say whether it had increased the fire's intensity.

"The new explosion confirms the theory there is an explosion mixture of methane gas and coal dust," he said.

"When one team went to a place where they could detect explosive gases and see coal dust, we decided to pull up and reassess the situation," Spotte told the news conference which ended at 11 a.m. (EST)

"We still have hope we can get a rescue team in there without endangering their lives," he said.

Drill teams using diamond-bit bits poked through nearly 800 feet of shale and earth in boring holes to the roof of the honeycomb of underground passageways.

A sensitive microphone was dropped through the three-inch opening, hoping to pick up sounds of men's voices. Consolidation officials said the microphone could pick up "a whisper at 100 feet."

But rescuers on the surface heard only the gurgle of water and pebbles dropping from the

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"Scare Hell Out Of You"

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cavern's roof against the microphone.

Officials explained the water came from underground mountain streams punctured by the drills and the water seeped into the shafts but presented no threat "It was like a faucet dripping," said one rescuer.

"I don't think much else can be done," Spotte said. "We are open to suggestions. We have received letters and telegrams from many people including scientists and visionaries.

"We are open to any suggestions and will evaluate all of them."

Spotte hit at the heart of the fear harbored by many of those awaiting word of husbands, brothers and fathers trapped in the mine when he was asked if there were any plans to seal the mine:

There's no sign of life at the present time in the hole," said a coal company official, Ralph Hatch, after the first of the night-long testings with a sensitive microphone. The listening device—capable of "picking up a whisper at 100 feet"—was dropped through a drilling hole into one of the mine's passageways 785 feet below the surface.

Two rescue teams also probed into the mine shafts Sunday but found no trace of the men who have been trapped since early Wednesday when explosions thundered through the sprawling Mountaineer Coal Co. No. 9 mine. The other 21 men on the midnight shift either escaped or were pulled to the surface.

The rescue units reported finding evidences of concussion and clear air as one poked 4,500 feet into one shaft, the deepest penetration.

John Corcoran, president of Consolidation Coal Co., Mountaineer's parent firm, sent the rescue teams into the mine "because I still have that ray of hope that these men will be found alive."

Corcoran said the teams could enter because of "conditions stabilizing" in the mine. He noted there had been no explosions since Friday morning and smoke from the mine's portals had diminished considerably.

At 2 a.m. today, James McCartney, Consolidation public relations officer, announced "no further exploration of the underground areas of the mine by the underground rescue teams at this time, pending further information." Officials indicated they would analyze air samples taken from the mine before deciding whether to probe deeper.

"It is felt that it would be endangering the lives of the mine rescue teams unduly to have them proceed further into the mine than they already have," McCartney said.

McCartney read a statement issued after a meeting in nearby Monongah of Consolidation officials, representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Mines and West Virginia Department of Mines, and the United Mine Workers union.

There had been no contact with any of the men since the first of the chain of explosions Wednesday. Several explosions followed within a few hours and another blast sent tremors throughout the area early Friday.

Sending the rescue teams and the success of the drill teams in poking through the nearly 800 feet of shale and earth brought renewed hope to those who awaited word of the trapped men.

"I never felt so good in my life," said Mrs. June Heflin whose brother, Wayne Minor, is trapped. "I know there's a real chance now."

"We must evaluate and see what else can be done," Corcoran said.