

Commies Raid French Camp In Indochina

By LARRY ALLEN
HANOI, Indochina (AP) — Vietnamese troops stung the French with a diversionary raid on a native military training camp in the Red River Delta Wednesday while the French built up defenses against enemy columns closing in on key centers of Laos, far to the southwest.

Communist-led rebel detachments attacked the camp at Namdinh before dawn and captured 350 Vietnamese recruits, soldiers in the army of Viet Nam being trained to fight alongside the French. After pulling out, the raiders fired mortar shells into Namdinh, a city of 50,000 population in the delta 50 miles southeast of Hanoi. The raid was staged as the French announced that the invaders of Laos, a neighbor of Vietnam in the associated states of Indochina, had captured the French-Laotian defense post at Bannamhac, 40 miles north of the royal Laotian capital of Luangprabang.

Second Setback
This was the second French reversal in the area announced in as many days. Tuesday the French command reported the loss of Pakse, 42 miles northeast of Luangprabang.

With the Communist leaders apparently throwing more and more of their best fighting men into the Laos invasion, the possibility increased that the Vietminh might launch an all-out assault against Luangprabang this coming May Day weekend.

With advance Vietminh elements reported from 12 to 25 miles from the royal capital on the north and east, the French High Command moved to increase the effectiveness of aerial assaults on the enemy by basing squadrons of fighters and bombers on airstrips within Laos.

Planes Sent
The warcraft were dispatched to fields at Luangprabang and Vientiane, 140 miles to the south, and to other strips being rushed into service. Vietnameans were also sent to Laos.

Previously, the French flew fighters and bombers from Hanoi, more than 200 miles to the northeast, or from the aircraft carrier Lafayette cruising in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Many French officers feared the Vietminh would be within shooting distance of Luangprabang by Saturday. To meet this threat, the big French supply airlift rushed more and more troops and war materials from Hanoi.

In aged King Sisavang Vong's residence capital, the 6,000 people joined French and Laotian troops digging ditches, stringing barbed wire entanglements and erecting other defense fortifications.

Taft Assails Testimony of Harry Bridges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Taft (R-OHIO) Wednesday assailed Harry Bridges, leader of the West Coast longshoremen's union, and charged him with "misrepresentation in practically every statement" Bridges made to the Senate Labor Committee.

The Australia-born labor leader testifying on amendments proposed to the Taft-Hartley law, was interrupted by Taft who asked him: "Are you a citizen of this country?"

Bridges said he thought so. Taft asked if Bridges was under conviction by a Federal Court, and if so, for what.

Bridges replied simply the case was in the courts now.

Taft demanded to know "what the fact is on the conviction."

Ask About Perjury

Bridges said he had been convicted of defrauding the government but Taft said he understood the conviction was perjury.

Bridges replied: "that's not the case."

"I was just so informed by the Department of Justice," replied Taft, who a few minutes earlier had used the telephone in committee chambers.

Bridges said he did not want to discuss the matter in advance of Supreme Court arguments and "it is being argued Friday."

A District Court in San Francisco convicted Bridges in 1950 of swearing falsely that he had never been a member of the Communist Party. He was sentenced to five years in prison, and his citizenship was ordered revoked.

Decision Pending
Both the conviction and the de-nationalization order are pending on appeal to the Supreme Court.

Taft said Bridges' testimony before the committee was shot through with "Misrepresentations" in such a way that "we would be here all day" if committee members sought to argue each point taken up by Bridges.

Bridges had said the law forces the union to take in misfits, crooks and other undesirables and put these persons to work on ships. Taft replied "It doesn't do anything of the kind" and then charged bridges with making "misrepresentations."

Bridges said the law should be repealed in toto along with its predecessor, the 1935 Wagner Act.

JOSEPH MAGNIN DIES

HILLSBOROUGH, Calif. (AP) — Joseph Magnin, founder and president of the ten fashionable department stores in California and Nevada, died Wednesday after a six months illness. He was 87.

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