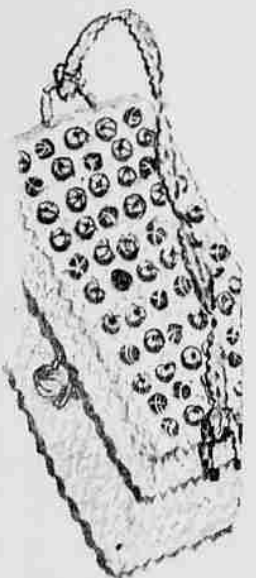


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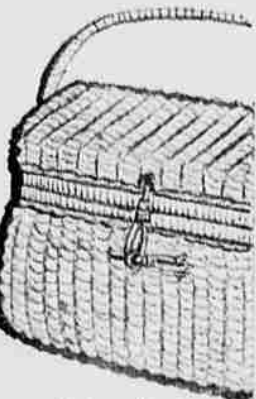
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Rebels Slacken Mass Assault

Defenders Claim 2,000 Killed in Fight

MANOI, Indochina — The French high command announced Thursday the Communist-led Vietminh had slackened their human-wave assaults on the Dien Bien Phu fortress after losing close to 2,000 men in 24 hours of furious battle.

The French Union defenders held grimly to the northeast Indochina plain despite the onslaught of rebel forces in their second major bid to seize Dien Bien Phu at no matter what cost. A French spokesman at headquarters here said the Vietminh was "taking time out" while they rushed up more ammunition in preparation for a possible renewed infantry charge Thursday night.

The spokesman said in addition to the 1,350 Vietminh reported killed Wednesday in hand-to-hand fighting at the barbed wire barricades and by curtains of artillery fire and record French aerial attacks, the enemy had gathered up several hundreds more bodies from the battlefields early Thursday.

The forces of Moscow-schooled Ho Chi Minh were estimated to number about 30,000 regulars—three divisions equipped, trained and advised by neighboring Red China—and possibly another 10,000 guerrilla and regional fighters brought in for this crucial battle of the seven-year-old Indochina war.

The French claimed to have knocked out another division in the first major enemy assault of March 13.

School Blaze Debris Probed

CHEEKTOWAGA, N. Y. — Three investigations were opened Thursday into a fire that snuffed out the lives of 10 sixth grade pupils and destroyed the frame annex of an elementary school in this heavily-populated Buffalo suburb.

The fire, which flashed through the 100-foot-long building just before the noon recess Wednesday, caused injury to 23 other persons.

The dead included six girls and four boys, all sixth graders. Their badly-charred bodies were found pressed against what was left of a window wall. A few feet away were a doorway and broken windows—avenues of escape the youngsters never found.



CORINNE CALVET
'Til Count Sheep'

Film Actress Won't Take Pills Again

HOLLYWOOD — Will Corinne Calvet take sleeping pills again?

"Oh, hell no!" she told a news conference after emergency hospital attendants had pumped out her stomach. "I'll count the sheep from now on."

The incident was recorded on the police blotter Wednesday as an attempted suicide, but Miss Calvet called it "a stupid accident," and added, "I love life."

She wore a filmy negligee over a revealing nightgown when she greeted reporters and photographers in her Beverly Glen home some eight hours after she was treated at Santa Monica Emergency Hospital.

She and her former husband, actor John Bromfield, had made the rounds of night clubs the evening before, she explained.

"My doctor told me to take two sleeping pills at night to help me sleep," the 27-year-old French actress said. "I came home, took two but started shaking. I thought maybe I was getting used to them so I took two more. It was a silly thing to do."

No reconciliation with Bromfield is in view, Miss Calvet said. Then she added: "After six years of living together it gets to be a habit discussing your affairs with someone. John and I go out at least once a week, John is such a nice habit."

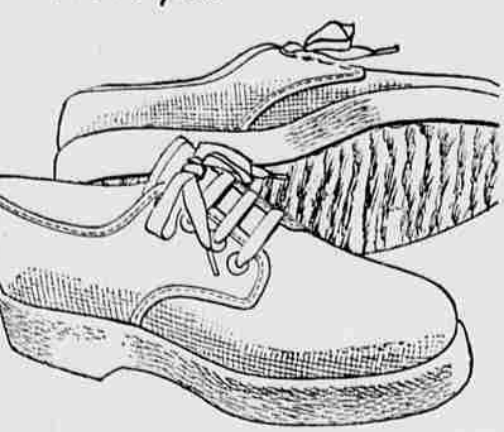
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Military Leader Ousted in France

PARIS — France's government fired Marshal Alphonse Juin Thursday from the nation's two top military strategy posts. It appeared likely he also would lose his NATO job as commander of land, sea and air forces in central Europe.

The Cabinet ordered the outspoken, 65-year-old marshal removed from his French military posts—adviser to the government on defense strategy and vice president of the National Superior Council for Armed Forces—after he ignored Premier Joseph Laniel's summons to explain his public criticism last weekend of the proposed European Defense Community (EDC).

TOUCHES OFF FUROR

The firing touched off a furor in France comparable to that in America following then President Truman's dismissal of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Opponents in Parliament of EDC led the critics of the French government action.

Since the presidency of the National Superior Council is held by President of the Republic Rene Coty, Juin actually was the ranking French military man in questions of strategy.

Paris newspapers agreed the French government, which had nominated Juin for his NATO post, now had no choice except to ask the NATO Council and the Su-

preme Allied commander in Europe, U.S. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, to dismiss him.

A spokesman at SHAPE, Gruenther's headquarters near Paris, said SHAPE has nothing to say on Juin's discharge.

In the French Senate, supporters of Gen. Charles de Gaulle interrupted debate on the national defense budget to protest the discharge.

Laniel had asked Juin to come to his office Wednesday night to explain his speech to a reserve officers' group last weekend in which he said that EDC was unwieldy and should be replaced by some other arrangement.

After Juin had failed to show up, the Cabinet in an extraordinary session reprimanded him and dismissed him from his two posts for discourtesy and disobedience to the government. He also had ignored a 15-year-old law requiring him to submit to the government in advance any speeches he planned to make.

REPEATS CRITICISM

The action did not affect his rank of marshal, an irrevocable lifetime rank which he himself cannot resign.

Instead of meeting Laniel, Juin went to a reserve officers' dinner in a Paris restaurant and repeated his criticism of EDC.

Ex-Policeman Found Guilty Of Perjury

KANSAS CITY — A federal court jury has convicted Elmer Dolan, suspended St. Louis patrolman, of perjury — a charge that grew out of the arrest of kidnap-killer Carl Austin Hall.

Dolan was found guilty Wednesday of lying to a grand jury about the handling of ransom money recovered in Hall's room.

Judge Albert A. Ridge deferred sentencing pending a motion for a new trial. Dolan's attorney said he would seek a new trial and April 15 was set as the deadline for filing the motion.

Dolan and Louis Shoulders, former St. Louis police lieutenant, participated in the arrest of Hall last Oct. 6. Hall and his paramour, Mrs. Bonnie Brown Heady, were executed last December for the kidnap-killing of 6-year-old Bobby Greenlease.

Only \$206,280 of the \$600,000 ransom paid by Bobby's father, automobile dealer Robert C. Greenlease, was recovered.

Dolan was indicted on a perjury charge after he told a grand jury he carried into a St. Louis police station one of the suitcases containing ransom money shortly after Hall was arrested and booked.

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