

# Reds Give Scorched Earth Treatment to Indo China

By Robert C. Miller  
United Press Correspondent

Hung Yen, Indo-China, Mar. 31—(U.P.)—The governor came back to Hung Yen today and found that on the site of a once-thriving city the communists left only mounds of rubble and shells of houses.

Hung Yen has been given the "scorched earth" treatment, one of the ugliest by-products of the four-year-old Indo-China war.

Vietnamese Governor Nguyen Huu Tri was administration for Hung Yen when it was a prosperous industrial center of 25,000 lying in the heart of the Red river delta, 30 miles from Hanoi.

In 1945 it was occupied by the communist-led Viet Minh rebels. Last December it was recaptured by the French.

When Gov. Tri revisited it today he found it a city in name only.

He couldn't recognize any landmarks except a few churches and temples which had been left untouched. Everything that might possibly be of use to the French had been destroyed.

As the French slowly advanced on Hung Yen the Viet Minh guerrillas pulled back, smashing everything in sight. The work took several months as the wrecking was done mostly by hand. Explosives were used only for the larger buildings.

About 7,000 natives who retreated with the Viet Minh have returned. They freely admit they "scorched the earth." They say they did it as a protest against French occupation.

They say the rebel chiefs told them they'd have to sacrifice their homes to show their loyalty to the Viet Minh leader, Moscow-trained Ho Chi-minh.

Shelling heard

As a large crowd welcomed Governor Tri into town, the sound of French troops shelling the rebels nearby could be heard.

Some of the city elders told him only a minority in Hung Yen were communists or terrorists. All the people wanted, they said, was independence.

The governor made a speech. He told a crowd of thousands they'd soon be free if they placed their faith in the French-backed Emperor Bao Dai.

Most of the goateed city elders seemed to approve. But it was hard to tell the true feelings of some of the hot-headed youths who stood waving Vietnamese flags as the governor spoke.

Many most likely will be out tonight, distributing rebel propaganda and gunning for the French in the hills.

## Hog Price Support To Die at Midnight

Washington, Mar. 31—(U.P.)—For lack of price support money the government will let price supports for pork-on-the-hoof die at midnight tonight, an agriculture department spokesman said today.

The spokesman said Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan does not plan to set up a new program immediately to replace the expiring hog support commitment.

That means hog farmers tomorrow will be without price support for the first time in eight years.

## Easter Seals May Be Purchased in City

Mrs. C. B. Partch, Jackson county chairman of this year's Easter Seal sale, said today that she has received phone calls from several Jackson county residents who have not received their Easter seals through the mail.

Anyone who wishes to purchase Easter seals and has not been given the opportunity to do so, may secure the seals by phoning Mrs. Partch at 3-1694.

## Dutch Police Called To Check Red March

The Hague, Netherlands, Mar. 31—(U.P.)—Dutch police were mobilized today to block a communist march on the capital tomorrow when Atlantic pact defense ministers meet here.

Four or five smaller members of the Atlantic pact, The Netherlands being the only one identified, were reported seeking millions of dollars more in American aid. That subject presumably will be weighed by the defense ministers.

Mayor F. M. H. Schokking of The Hague officially forbade a communist protest demonstration set for tomorrow.

Officials said road blocks would be set up at every route into the city, where the ministers under the chairmanship of Louis Johnson, American defense secretary, will meet to approve a master defense plan and discuss means of financing it. The financing was expected to involve the reported request by small nations for more aid.

## Salem Boys Petition To Remain in School

Salem, Ore., Mar. 31—(U.P.)—Eighteen boys who are students at Salem high school petitioned Marion county circuit court Thursday to stay in school while their attorneys appeal their case against suspension to the Oregon supreme court.

The boys were suspended last October by the Salem school board on grounds that they belonged to a secret society, forbidden under state law. The boys and their parents contended that the group they belonged to was not secret. The boys called it the "American Boys' club," but the school board contended it was an affiliate of a Portland society known as the Alpha Beta Chi.

Last week Circuit Judge Dal M. King of Coos county, who came here to hear the boys' suit against the school board for reinstatement, held that the students belonged to a secret society and upheld the school board in its action. He also ordered dissolved the temporary injunction which had enabled the boys to stay in school.

## News of 4-H CLUBS

The Busy Bee 4-H club was organized about a month ago. Officers are Patty Thompson, president; Carol Simmons, vice-president; Fay Thompson, secretary and reporter; Patty Freerburger, treasurer; Mrs. Al G. Wilson, leader, and Mrs. Jack Garrison, assistant leader.

The club has had several interesting meetings and members have nearly finished their first project of sewing No. 2. Plans were made at the last meeting to join the Boys 4-H club at their meeting Thursday evening, March 23, to assist in a farewell party for Paul and Stanley Christensen, who are leaving for Schenectady, N. Y.

Howard Club

The Howard Handy Hands met at the home of Mrs. William Foley March 18. There are now 17 girls in the club and Mrs. Thurman Barnes is assistant leader.

Nadine Brood demonstrated threading a needle, and Irene and Jackie Cummings showed how to miter a corner.

Helen Miller and Marie and Mary Jane Briggs served cookies and chocolate.

Future meetings will be held at the leader's home. The next meeting will be April 1. Each girl is to bring two or three Easter eggs.

Two other meetings have been held recently. February 18 Nancy Barnes entertained the club and Glenda Martin demonstrated how to turn a hem. Irene and Jackie Cummings were hostesses on March 4.

LOIS BLACK, Reporter.

Edinburg, Tex., Mar. 31—(U.P.) Mrs. John Williams Harrington wanted a divorce today because her husband has four college degrees and she never went to college. "It's downright embarrassing," she said.

## Experts Warn About Danger to Chicks

With the seasonal peak for taking on baby chicks approaching, the state department of agriculture today called attention of chick buyers to the importance of taking precautions to protect their purchase against any possible appearance of Newcastle disease.

M. E. Knickerbocker, chief of the division of animal industry, said that 51 cases of Newcastle disease have been officially diagnosed in Oregon in the three years since the disease was first reported here. No new cases have been diagnosed since February 14 this year, but with the spring movement of chicks just around the corner, the danger from the disease could become real.

Salem, Ore., Mar. 31—(U.P.)—Frank M. Turner was appointed food sanitarian to the staff of the foods and dairies division of the state agriculture department, Division Chief O. K. Beals announced today.

## Recall Election at Springfield Slated

Springfield, Ore., Mar. 31—(U.P.)—City Recorder K. R. Gile announced today that a recall election against Mayor B. F. Larson will be held here April 14. Larson failed to resign his position after filing of the recall, making the election mandatory within 20 days. U. S. Burt, chairman of the Good Government league, filed the recall charges January 12. A majority vote will be necessary to recall the mayor.

By United Press

Northern California—Fair today, tonight and Saturday except coastal fog in mornings south of Monterey. Little change in temperature. Variable wind 8-15 MPH off coast, mostly westerly in afternoons.

The college fraternity in the United States is as old as the republic.

## Rising Temperatures Ease Cattle Danger

Chicago, Mar. 31—(U.P.)—Rising temperatures which melted heavy snows lessened the danger of cattle starving in North Dakota today.

The weather bureau said temperatures would reach 50 degrees by mid-afternoon, thus opening many roads isolated by this week's spring blizzard. Tomorrow's forecast was fair and warmer, with temperatures expected to go as high as 45.

The blizzard had resulted in two deaths, marooned scores of persons and disrupted communications and travel. Fifteen inches of snow was reported in Bismarck, N. D.

Meanwhile, state authorities considered using "weasels" to help highway crews and carry feed to cattle in trouble spots.

Friday, March 31, 1950 MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

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