

JUST BLAMED IN ROAD WRECKS

Local and News

Price Five Cents—25 Pages

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1953 Telephone 8111 No. 2529

Reds Leaving Laos Area; May Be End

By LARRY ALLEN

SIAM, Indochina (AP)—Blazeable Communist Viet Cong units were reported withdrawing today from the heart of Laos after overrunning more than a third of the Indochinese kingdom. The move may—or may not—mean an end of the 25-day Red invasion of the peaceful little French-associated state at the back door of Thailand and Burma.

French spokesmen cautiously declined to estimate the scope of the withdrawal but said the number of rebel troops involved was impressive. The Vietnamese units were pulling out of areas around the royal residence city of Luang Prabang, the French-fortified Plain of Jars and Xiengkhouang to the south.

Two reasons were advanced here for the Communist pullback: The Reds apparently had overstretched their supply lines in their 200-mile dash south and west from Viet Nam, another of the three Indochinese states.

They also had lost their race to overrun Laos before the seasonal monsoon rains. These are now beginning with ever-mounting force.

Whether or not the enemy movement northward develops into a general withdrawal, the threat to Laos has lessened and possibly even ended for the present.

French Army spokesmen, however, did not exclude the possibility that the Vietnamese may yet stage a do-or-die assault on Luang Prabang, 275 miles southwest of Hanoi, or on the strongly fortified Plain of Jars.

Some rebel forces still were encamped around the residence town of King Sisavang Vong and the plain, 70 miles to the west. Thus far, however, they have steered clear of an attack on either place.

French-Laoan patrols, reportedly as much as 15 miles into areas where the rebels supposedly were concentrated, returned without firing a shot.

The Vietnamese also appeared to be stalled in the area south of Xiengkhouang, 90 miles south of Luang Prabang. Advance units of the rebel forces in that sector stabbed two days ago to within 35 miles of Laos' Mekong River border with Thailand.

The supply problem seemed an obvious reason for the Vietnamese withdrawal.

The invaders depend for their supplies on tens of thousands of coolies who have been packing guns and ammunition on their backs over jungle and mountain trails from Red China, 300 miles away.

This human chain apparently broke down under the nation's heavy demands and the torrential monsoon rains.

The French and Laotian defenders, meanwhile, received a big American assist in their own supply problem. Six U. S. C-119 Flying Boxcars, the first of possibly two or three dozen to be sent to Indochina under an increased American aid program, took off from Hanoi with war cargoes for Laos.

The big cargo planes have been loaned to France for the emergency. French spokesmen said they would be flown by American civilian crews and serviced by American technicians.

A Few Small Delays Along Way

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A Logan County rancher explained to reporters Thursday why he was late driving from his ranch to town.

One of his cows had a calf. A sow had a litter. And a cat decided to have a few kittens.

"Everything would have been fine," he explained, "except when I got to my car it had a flat tire."

Civil Defense Draft Forecast

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (AP)—An Air Force officer said Thursday that Americans may have to be drafted for civil defense posts unless more volunteers come forward.

Maj. Solomon E. Lifton said that although civil defense authorities estimated 20 million individuals are necessary to man the defense structure, only 4 million persons have volunteered.

Mountain Pass Openings Set

SALEM (AP)—Dates for opening mountain passes that have been closed for the winter were announced Wednesday by State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock.

The expected opening dates are: Diamond Lake, May 16; Mt. Hood Loop, May 22; McKenzie Pass, June 18; and North and East entrances to Crater Lake, July 1.

McMAHAN was hard at work this morning cleaning drain ditch at his place 22 Owens.

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THIS IS ONE OF FOUR highway freight rigs smashed in a rapid-fire series of wrecks a short distance south of Midland yesterday afternoon.

Three American Women On Missing List As Collision Of Ships At Sea Probed

HARWICH, England (AP)—Three American women are missing from the North Sea collision of a British steamer and American freighter.

A sorrowful survivor told how she and her 13-year-old son rescued the 23rd victim to comfort the agony of possibly one of the missing Americans.

Rescue workers toiling through the wreckage of the British-owned Duke of York found four bodies—three women and a man—but they had not been identified. Five persons are known to have perished in the accident Wednesday.

The three Americans missing are Mrs. Ann Spring, identified as a secretary of an Army department in Washington; and two teachers—Miss Gilda Jordet of Rocky Ford, Colo., and Miss Viola Larson of La Crosse, Wis.

One body rescue workers believed to be that of Miss Spring was removed from the wreckage Thursday. She occupied cabin 233. Next door, Mrs. Norma Hoyt of Anchorage, Alaska, was trapped for five hours with her son, Harold, 13, before being rescued.

Mrs. Hoyt, sister of Miss Jordet, said the woman in 233 cried out: "Oh, I'm in agony. Please get a priest. Get a doctor. Get a priest."

Mrs. Hoyt and her son sang a hymn and recited the 23rd psalm in an effort to comfort the woman.

Police found the passports of the three missing women in the debris of the 4,190-ton Duke of York, which lost its bow in a collision with the 7,607-ton American freighter Haiti Victory 40 miles east of Harwich Wednesday.

About 500 passengers and crewmen were rescued. Twelve passengers, including two U. S. Air Force officers, were injured.

The only victim identified thus far is Mrs. Argo Ansdell, 54, an Englishwoman who died in a hospital Wednesday night.

Miss Larson and Miss Jordet were traveling with Mrs. Hoyt of Anchorage, Alaska, where Miss Larson teaches school. Mrs. Hoyt and her son, Harold, 13, were rescued Wednesday after being trapped in the wreckage for five harrowing hours. Miss Jordet is Mrs. Hoyt's sister.

A British Railways spokesman said that Mr. and Mrs. Merrill D. Ely of Portland, Ore., were among the Duke of York's passengers that escaped injury. He said they both were landed at Dover Wednesday night.

The British Railways said 437 passengers and 72 crewmen were aboard the Duke of York—a total of 509. Britons made up the bulk of the passenger list but there also were many Americans and Europeans among those saved.

A tug towed the Duke of York stern first into Harwich harbor just before midnight, more than 19 hours after the collision. The Haiti Victory, with only a gash in her bow, had brought most of the steamer's survivors here hours earlier.

Conventioners Money Protected

PORTLAND (AP)—Hundreds of sets of dice, gadgets for altering dice, and long lists of convention dates in the Portland area—all this, found in an automobile Wednesday, made police somewhat suspicious.

The Corps Still Carries On

SEOUL (AP)—A 210-pound Marine stood watching an evangelist preach to a group of soldiers.

Someone in the crowd walked over to Marine Cpl. Paul Danksy of Clinton, Mass., and said:

"Would you like to be saved?" Danksy replied: "Mack, I don't need saving. I'm a Marine."

Demos Blast McKay Action

SEATTLE (AP)—Interior Secretary McKay's action in pulling the federal government out of the Hell Canyon power development picture "will forever deprive the Northwest of 500,000 kilowatt hours of electricity," a group of Democratic Party leaders charged Wednesday.

They added the action also will deprive the area of water to irrigate vast areas in our Inland Empire and will prevent the flood control so necessary in the Columbia Basin.

The statement came in the form of a resolution at a Renton meeting of precinct committeemen of the 31st Legislative District. McKay indicated the government would withdraw in favor of the Idaho Power Co., which proposes to build dams in the Hell's Canyon of the Snake River on the Oregon-Idaho border.

The resolution added: "We call upon the Federal Power Commission to reverse the stand of this backward looking Republican administration."

DOUBLE DEATH

LATINA, Italy (AP)—Mario Costanzo, 30, pulled out a revolver in the sacristy of the Spigno Saturnia Church near here late Wednesday night and shot to death Onofrio Fusco, a merchant. Costanzo then shot himself.

Plane Down; Fliers Okay

By The Associated Press

Wind and dust storms plagued Southern Oregon Wednesday and stranded two airmen on an isolated sandbar in the Lower Rogue River.

An Oregon National Guard airplane crashed there during the storm. No one was injured.

Two light planes, two-seaters used for artillery spotting, were on a cross-country flight from Portland and one of them developed engine trouble over the rugged country. It was forced to go down and Lt. Roland C. Smith, the pilot, put it safely on Black Bar, 35 miles west of Grants Pass. He and his observer, Sgt. John C. Ferguson, got out and a wind gust flipped the plane and damaged a wing.

The other light plane, flown by Capt. J. C. Isabel, then landed, and found the men all right. He took his observer, Sgt. Ward Lower, to Grants Pass, then went back and got Ferguson. He headed to Portland for a four-seater, and went back to pick up Smith—but Smith was gone when he got there.

A Grants Pass pilot, Fred Hale, had flown to the sandbar and got Smith.

Foresters Talk On Fire Rulings

SALEM (AP)—The State Forestry Department and fire patrol associations are conducting a series of meetings with Western Oregon logging operators.

Under discussion are 26 new forestry laws and methods of improving forest fire protection in logging operations.

The meetings started this week. Sessions are scheduled for Philomath and Medford Friday.

Other meetings: May 11, Eugene; May 12, Toledo; May 13, Swisshome and Roseburg; May 14, Drain and Sweet Home; May 15, Lebanon; May 18, Gold Beach; May 19, Myrtle Point; May 20, Coos Bay; May 21, Reedsport.

The Southern Oregon Counties Tree Farm Association will hold its annual logging operators' meeting at Medford May 22.

Six Injured In Series Of Bad Smashups Here

Death took a brief holiday in Klamath yesterday afternoon as several persons escaped death in five highway smashups. Six persons were hospitalized and 10 vehicles were wrecked, some of them almost totally destroyed.

Today, all the six injured hospitalized were reported as doing well and one woman, Mrs. Francis Lotz, has been released.

Most spectacular of the wreck scenes was 2½ miles south of Midland on U.S. 97, where three

smashups in about 20 minutes saw seven vehicles twisted and smashed in a welter of blood and debris.

A blinding, blackening dust storm swirling across Klamath was a principal factor in these wrecks. But skid marks and other evidence showed that some of the drivers involved were obviously not exercising sufficient caution.

At 12:15 p.m., a northbound freight rig plowed into the rear of another northbound rig south of Midland. By 12:40, two other collisions had occurred at the same spot, and there were four big freighters, a private car and a taxi smashed up in an amazing jumble.

Out of all this came only two seriously injured persons. They were Marcus Howard, Centralia, Wash., and Martin Jurgenson, Visalia, Calif. Some half-dozen others suffered minor hurts but did not require hospitalization.

While this wreckage was piling up, Joseph Casper, 2046 Wantland, had his motorcycle go out of control on Lakeshore Drive and he suffered severe head wounds. This accident was only a short distance south of the scene of Tuesday's fatal sports car crash which took the life of Arnold Hendricks, of suburban Los Angeles.

A few minutes before 6 p.m., a shattering head-on collision at Wocus Junction north of the city on U.S. 97 sent a Klamath Falls woman and her two small children to the hospital. These victims were Mrs. Frances Lotz, 24, Georgine, 5, and Robert, 4. They were in a southbound car. Driving along in the second car was Bill Wilder, Algoma. He was treated by State Police at the scene for a knee injury.

Mrs. Lotz was later released from the hospital but the two children remained there today.

State Police cited Mrs. Lotz for driving on the wrong side of the highway. Wilder said that as he approached a southbound log truck, Mrs. Lotz's car suddenly veered out in front of him from behind the log truck.

Martin Jurgenson, one of two seriously injured in the pileups south of Midland, was a passenger in a southbound cab driven by Ernie Martin. The cab hit the rear of a freight rig which had stopped for the other wreckage ahead.

Jurgenson smashed his head into the windshield. Martin was treated at the hospital for minor hurts and released.

Marcus Howard, the other seriously injured man, was in his own car which was crushed by a freighter. Both were northbound.

Kaler Ambulance and Klamath Valley Hospital crews handled all the serious injury cases.

Dust Storm Blankets Area

Klamath Basin residents Thursday were brushing off effects of one of the worst dust storms to hit the area in recent years.

Whipped by winds that reached a maximum of 42 miles an hour, dense dust clouds Wednesday afternoon blanketed the region. At least two serious accidents were attributed to the storm. Traffic was snarled on half a dozen roads.

Traffic on the highway between Klamath Falls and Dorris was virtually at a standstill for nearly two hours in the vicinity of Midland. This section was the scene of two automobile-truck collisions during the storm in which three persons were injured.

Residents of Tulelake described the shroud of dust that hung over that community for two hours as "just like a London fog."

Officials at Municipal Airport said that the storm did not interfere with plane schedules.

Savage Rapids Dam Claims Life

GRANTS PASS (AP)—Raymond Bennett White, 42, Grants Pass, fell to his death in the Rogue River Wednesday while at work on the rehabilitation project at the Savage Rapids Dam five miles east of here.

A frame structure tipped and he fell against the face of the dam. The body was recovered from the river.

Communists Offer New Peace Plan, Allies Delay

By ROBERT B. TUCKMAN

PANMUNJOM (AP)—The Communists today offered a new compromise plan to break the Korean truce deadlock, bowing to Allied insistence that no prisoners of war who refuse to go home be taken out of Korea.

The Allies immediately asked time for top-echelon study. The eight-point Red plan also proposed a five-nation neutral commission as caretaker for 48,500 Red prisoners who refuse to go back to communism. Both sides previously have suggested one nation for that job.

The new proposal is a reversal of the Reds' earlier demand that these prisoners be sent bodily to the neutral country.

Even though the Reds made it clear the Allies must accept all or

nothing, this appeared to be the first major break since the truce talks reopened April 26 in an effort to agree on exchange of prisoners, last major barrier to an armistice.

Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison, chief Allied delegate, said: "This is an important proposal... that merits careful and considerable thought."

"Our major decisions must be made by the governments themselves."

The next meeting is scheduled for 11 a. m. Saturday.

Harrison gave no clue as to official U. N. reaction. He said any comment he might make would be premature.

The Red plan contains two concessions to Allied demands:

1. A five-nation neutral repatriation commission to take custody—

in Korea—of the Reds who won't go home. The Reds suggested Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, Czechoslovakia and India.

2. A total of four or six months rather than nine for those prisoners to hear Red explanations and perhaps decide to go home. At the end of that time, the future of those remaining would be decided by a political conference of warring nations, as the Reds have demanded.

Should the Allies accept the Red proposal, they would drop their previous nomination of Pakistan as a single neutral custodian. They first proposed Switzerland and Sweden. The Reds turned down both, but included them in the five-nation commission proposed Thursday.

If the five-member commission plan were adopted, India undoubtedly would play a key role. Poland and Czechoslovakia were nominated by the Communists to a separate neutral-nation armistice supervisory commission and Sweden and Switzerland were the Allied choices to the same commission.

The Communist offer on the time for processing prisoners provided that those wanting to go home would be sent back within two months and disposition of the others would be settled in four months.

Previously, the Reds had asked for the initial two months, plus one month to transport unwilling prisoners to a neutral state plus six months for their position—a total of nine.

The Allies had proposed a two-month period to settle the fate of all prisoners.