

# Defenders Of French Fort Fought On To Bitter End

By LARRY ALLEN  
 HANOI, Indochina (AP)—The valiant French Union defenders of Dien Bien Phu fought their Communist-led assailants furiously and without letup until all their ammunition was gone.

Then, as one by one their guns fell silent over the remnants of the fortress bunkers, they carried out Brig. Gen. Christian de Castries' last order—"Give up when you can no longer fight."

This account of the fortress' last hours on May 7 was given to newsmen last night by three badly wounded survivors of the epic siege, part of the contingent of 11 casualties released by the Vietminh rebels before the airlift evacuation was suspended Saturday.

At Hanoi's overcrowded Lanessan Military Hospital they said both Brig. Gen. Christian de Castries, their heroic garrison commander, and the only woman in the fortress, air force nurse Genevieve de Galard Terraube de Paris, both were captives of the Vietminh.

Neither was wounded, the trio said.

All three men lay badly wounded with some 1,400 others in the battered, shell-torn fortress' underground hospital while the human tidal waves of rebels swept over in the final engulfing blows.

His right leg badly shattered by Vietminh fire, Pic. Marcel Champougny said he thought the last hours of fighting would never end.

"It seemed like there were thousands of shells and machine-gun bullets hitting against the hospital bunker.

"Some of them buried some of

are no worse than others. You are now prisoners and will get the attention prisoners of war deserve."

Some of the rebel soldiers in their mud-caked uniforms were laughing hysterically, but none attempted to mistreat any of the French wounded.

Nor did Champougny, after he was carried out to the battlefield, see any rebels mistreat any of the unwounded—reportedly 8,000—they rounded up.

Champougny said Miss de Galard disappeared for awhile after the invaders entered the hospital section "but I saw her come back to help the wounded, and later she was taken away by the Vietminh."

"She looked as brave and unafraid and courageous as ever."

Later, Champougny said, he was carried out of the bunker to the battlefield.

There "I saw Gen. de Castries in his mud-stained battledress, still wearing his red Spanish overalls

cap, jauntily and calmly walk between two heavily armed Vietminh soldiers to a jeep.

"He climbed into the jeep — which the Vietminh had captured from the French — and was taken away."

Champougny said for three days after the fall of the fortress, the Vietminh had held the garrison's score or so of French army doctors captive, away from the wounded, but then permitted them to return and treat their men.

Meanwhile, Vietminh doctors had tried to ease the French. The rebels made tents for them out of captured parachutes, and the French air force began parachuting food and medical supplies to them.

Another of the men evacuated, Foreign Legionnaire Nicolas Neiler, had lost his left leg in the explosion of a mortar shell.

He, too, told of seeing De Castries being taken to a jeep and driven away by the Vietminh.

men agreed they wanted only "to be able to fight again for France and the free world against the Reds."

Prevost had been in the thick of the battle as the eastern string of French defenses collapsed. He said the Vietminh at some points "threw more than 2,000 grenades to smash our lines." It was there the sergeant was wounded, by mortar shell splinters.

It was the collapse of these eastern defenses, he said, that resulted in the fall of Dien Bien Phu.

"They gave the Vietminh the dominating hill positions and from there their artillery and mortars pumped over thousands of shells.

"At the same time there was just one big wave after another of Red troops, wildly screaming, hurling grenades, firing machine guns and going for their knives in hand-to-hand combat.

"Our troops simply couldn't hold back such a mad surge."

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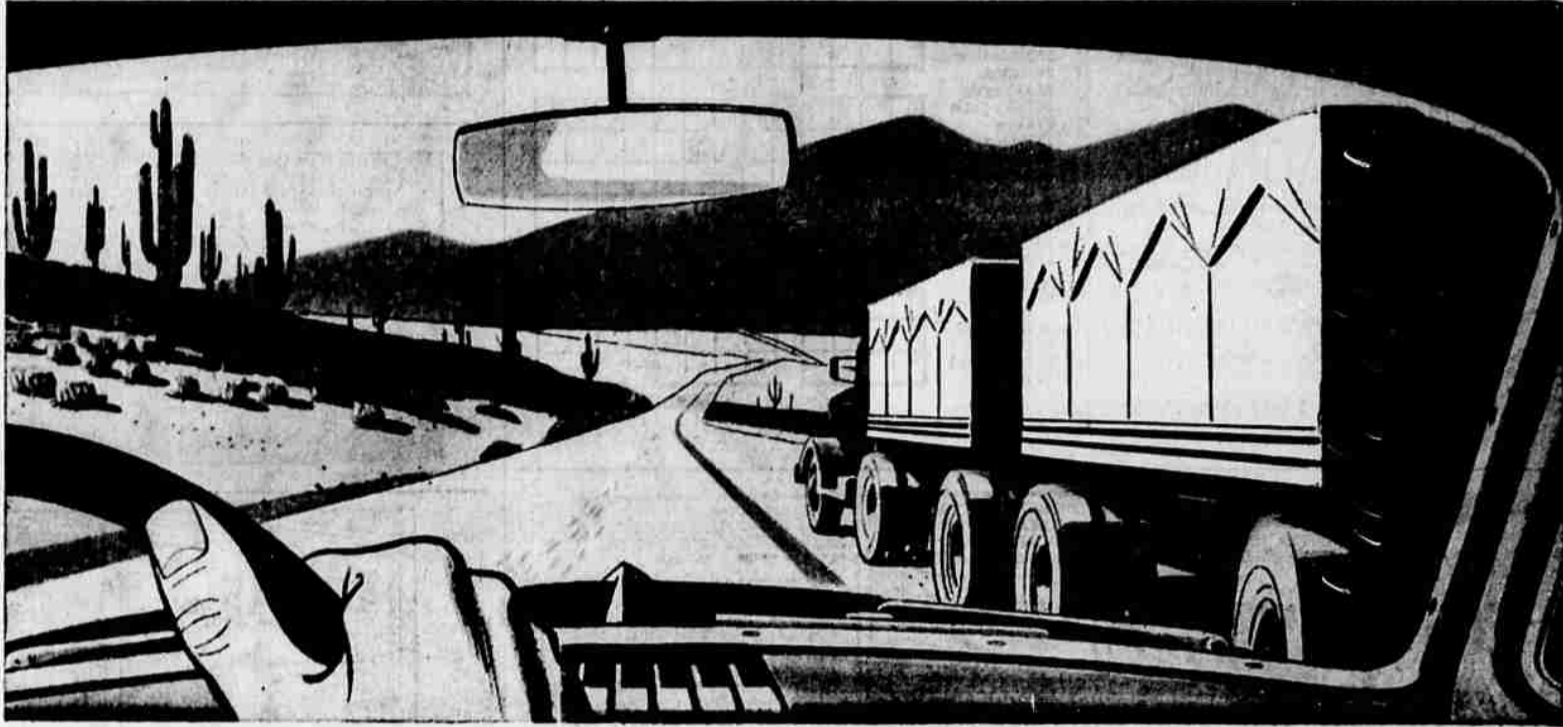
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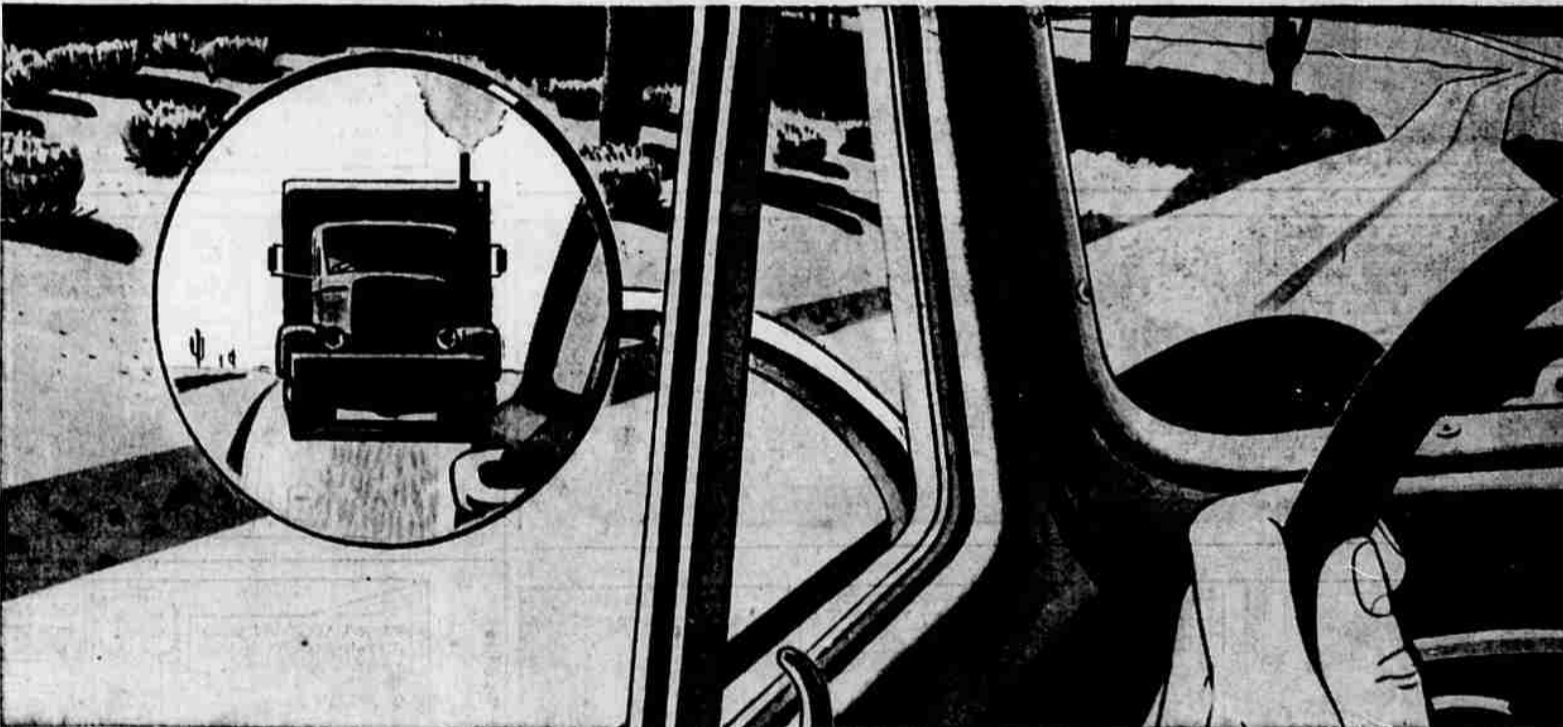
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## Five Killed In Car Smash Up

TRENTON, Ill. (AP)—A car carrying six young people home from a dance smashed into a fast Baltimore and Ohio passenger train yesterday, killing five of the occupants and critically injuring the other.

Dead were Raymond L. King, 22; Marilyn J. Goff, 19; Horace H. Hooks, 19; and Kenneth Ray Stewart, 18, all of Edwardsville, Ill., and Eleanor Clark, 16, St. Jacob, Ill.

The only other occupant of the car, Donna Reed, 18, Highland, Ill., was in a critical condition.

Sheriff Henry Klutho said witnesses in another car told him they had stopped for the railroad crossing as the train, bound from St. Louis to New York, approached.

They said the victims' car, traveling at high speed, swerved around their automobile and into the path of the train.

MEETING  
 NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP)—Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee meet here once a month. Grant is chairman of the Fleet Safety Assn. of Niagara Falls, and Lee, of nearby Lewiston, is a member of the group.

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