

# French Troops Smash Reds

## Tank, Air Power Saves Vital Fort

By LARRY ALLEN  
HANOI, Indochina (AP) — Five thousand French troops smashed through to the relief of Yen Phu Saturday and the rebel besiegers ran for the hills.

The French command said the relief force, under heavy air cover and using tanks and armored units, hammered through with reinforcements and supplies for the tiny post 30 miles south of Hanoi. Under fire for 18 days, it had been manned by only one company — 150 men.

It has been a vital protective outpost for Phu Ly, one of the anchors of the Red River Delta defense line in the south.

The French described the relief operation "the biggest offensive move" they had made since Dien Bien Phu fell May 7.

The Vietnamese were estimated to have 12 battalions in the Phu Ly sector. The French Union troops number about a division.

The fall of Yen Phu and Phu Ly would give the rebels good bases to step up attempts to destroy the highway and paralleling railway between Hanoi and the seaport of Haiphong. Over these routes moves the bulk of American war equipment for French forces in the delta.

In attempting to mop up the Vietnamese around Phu Ly, the French sent in amphibious units to bombard the rebels from the Day River.

Until the French offensive move, the Vietnamese had been having an easy time creeping closer to Yen Phu.

The rebels had kept the little outpost in the vital Red River Delta area under steady mortar bombardment while Vietnamese mole squads burrowed to within 300 feet of the barbed wire barriers. Some 12 Vietnamese battalions took part in the grueling attack.

Following the tactics they used to take Dien Bien Phu, the rebels apparently aimed to pound the outpost until it was sufficiently softened up for a frontal assault.

News of the French breakthrough came after a day of scattered action in which the rebels knocked off one Vietnamese command post 20 miles southwest of Hanoi and encircled two others in the same sector.

The French said they were supplying the embattled posts by air.

The French Union cause was bolstered somewhat yesterday by the arrival of 17 American fighter planes and fresh troop reinforcements.

The 17 fighter planes—Grumman B-26's—arrived in Saigon aboard the American light aircraft carrier Windham Bay. The planes, with a top speed of 450 miles an hour, are able to take off at high speed on short runways, a valuable asset in Indochina.

The troop reinforcements were coming into the delta area both from France and other areas of Indochina.

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The distinguished flyer lost his life, May 2, 1953, in Korea as he flew a close air support mission.

The award was presented to his five-year-old daughter, Lorilyn Rae Betzer, who lives with her mother, 610 Jonquil Road, Santa Ana, May 20 by Brig. Gen. John N. Hart, deputy commander Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

The citation read in part: Maj. Betzer participated in the rescue of a downed Marine aviator who was surrounded by enemy troops after crashlanding his aircraft deep in hostile territory. Maj. Betzer flew a series of low-level strafing attacks through intense enemy fire to draw that fire from the downed pilot. After his ammunition was gone he continued simulated strafing attacks that enabled a helicopter to pick up the pilot.

The major and his family had visited in Klamath Falls.

# The Klamath and News

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## Navy Bennington Fire Cause

QUONSET POINT, R. I. (AP) — The skipper of the Bennington Saturday testified concerning a possible link between catapult mechanism and the blasts and fires Wednesday that claimed 99 lives on the big aircraft carrier.

Capt. William F. Raborn Jr., first witness before a naval board of inquiry which opened hearings in the administration building at Quonset, said he was on the bridge about 5 a. m. Wednesday directing jet launches.

Both catapults had been ready for use, he said, but the starboard mechanism conked out, leaving only the port catapult in use.

A Bantane jet, which the starboard catapult would not propel, was being towed away to an elevator and the port catapult was being used when he saw smoke coming from below decks on both sides of the ship.

SMOKE SEEN  
He estimated it was only 15 seconds after the last jet had been launched from the port catapult when he saw the smoke that was followed by the first explosion.

Capt. Raborn described the death dealing blasts, fire and smoke as the big carrier made for her Quonset base from the point 75 miles south of Newport where disaster struck.

He said the smoke was typical of a "flash fire," with no hint of a petroleum product.

## Weather Rescuers Struggle Up McKinley

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) — A rescue party of eight men clawed up the rugged slopes of snow-covered Mt. McKinley Saturday toward a tiny tent housing the broken body of a man they hope still is alive.

The rescue party, spurred by clearing weather and air-dropped provisions, radioed its base late Friday night it was within 1,000 feet of the tent in which Pfc. George Argus was lying.

The tent was sighted from the air late Friday night by Morton Wood, one of three survivors of a 1,000-foot fall which killed one man and left Argus helpless with a broken hip.

As a swirling snowstorm let up Friday night, the Air Force flew Wood over McKinley in a C-47. He spotted the tent standing undamaged at the 11,000-foot level.

From the plane Wood radioed instructions to the ground party, and with renewed hope that Argus might still be alive, the rescuers below pushed ahead.

The 25-year-old soldier was left on the mountainside when Morton and Les Vereck, the third survivor, had to give up attempting to bring him down the tortuous slopes alone. They left Argus in a tent last Sunday after spending a week with him waiting for help that never came.

He was warmly wrapped, lying on an air mattress. But he had only enough food to carry him through this weekend and there was no way to mark conspicuously the tiny tent on a vast expanse of snow and rocks.

## Weather Liberals Winning In Aussie Vote

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The vote of 4,800,000 Australians at first showed a trend toward Labor, which in the retiring parliament held 53 to the government's 68 seats but the government gained as the count progressed.

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BUYING A POPPY this morning from salesgirl Margaret Ogle, was Fred L. Peterson of Swansen's Barber Shop.



ALAN K. ABNER

## New Manager Of KFJI Named

KFJI announced today the appointment of Alan K. Abner as the radio and television director of the W. D. Miller Enterprises, Inc. Abner, manager of the Miller Radio station KWIN, Ashland for the past year, replaces Dick Maguire, manager of KFJI, Klamath Falls. Maguire's plans, unknown at the present time will be announced soon.

Abner is not new to the Klamath Basin. He has been associated with KFJI since 1947 when he joined the staff in a production-sales capacity. In 1950 Abner was recalled for a second tour of active duty with the United States Air Force as a reserve officer. He was connected with the Air Force television production "March On" released on KING-TV, Seattle, during 1950. For the remainder of his tour, Abner's assignment was as chief of the division of the Air Force's Radio and Television Effort, Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

This activity involved the research and development into the technical aspects of information media in cooperation with other agencies of the federal government. This effort was also concerned with the production of materials released through the State Department to the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and other outlets to the international information service of the State Department.

Abner joins KFJI in its 31st broadcast year. The W. D. Miller Enterprises is currently applying to the Federal Communications Commission for a television outlet for the Klamath Basin on Channel 2.

## Lumber Wage Talks Planned

PORTLAND (AP) — Negotiations between CIO Woodworkers and Pacific Northwest lumber operators are to resume next week under the supervision of the Federal Mediation Service.

The union's policy committee, which has consistently rejected the employers' offer to renew the present contract without a wage increase, Friday asked the mediation service to get the contract talks started again.

Sessions with fir and plywood employers, including the "numbered" Industrial Relations Committee, are scheduled for Wednesday. On Thursday the union will negotiate with Weyerhaeuser, Timber Co. and on Friday with the Pine Industrial Relations Committee at Klamath Falls.

In its statement Friday, the union made no mention of the May 3 strike deadline which it postponed indefinitely, nor of its earlier demands for a 12 1/2-cent hourly increase and other contract benefits.

The statement called attention to the recent 2-cent hourly increase granted AFL pulp and sulphite unions. In many plants these workers and CIO woodworkers "go through the same gates to work," the union said.

Meanwhile officials of the AFL Union reported that members were voting overwhelmingly to authorize a strike to back demands for a 12 1/2-cent hourly increase.

The AFL union's Northwest district officers have scheduled a strategy meeting here June 11-12.

Wreck Caused by Deer On Highway

In attempting to dodge a deer on Highway 97 about four miles north of Chemult Friday evening, Thomas P. Satterlee, Long Beach, California, lost control of his car and turned it over. He was brought to the Klamath Valley Hospital by Kaiser's Ambulance Service for treatment.

Two passengers in the Satterlee car, Don R. Bailey, Portland and Bill Powers, Long Beach, were not injured. The three are students at Oregon State College.

The injured man spent the night in the hospital and was released this morning. His injuries were not serious.

Posthumous Award Told

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The major and his family had visited in Klamath Falls.

Boat Capsized By Tornado

BAGNELL, Mo. (AP) — A tornado upset an excursion boat on the Lake of the Ozarks yesterday. At least four persons and probably six were drowned.

Six passengers and the pilot were rescued. Two of the passengers said the pilot saved their lives. Owners of the capsized craft said it was routine to send another boat to check on its excursions when a storm blew up, and that precaution put a rescue boat alongside the stricken craft quickly.

The known dead: Mrs. Letha Rockwell, 50, and a daughter, Rosalyn Ruth Rockwell, 16, Belle Plaine, Iowa.

Mrs. Richard Lamberty and a son, Warren, 2, Fremont, Neb.

Missing were Duane Hodges 19, of Missouri Valley, Iowa, and Patricia Gump, 16, of Tuna, Mo. A relative said he saw them get on the excursion boat but it was not certain they were aboard.



FORT KLAMATH'S BID for the title of Queen of the 1954 Klamath Basin Roundup is Marcia Wilson, 18 year old daughter of Mrs. Herbert Wilson, 729 Cook, Klamath Falls.

## In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

You've heard, I suppose, that politics is a tricky trade—full of pits and deadfalls. It may be true. At least an incident of the closing hours of North Carolina's Democratic primary election campaign points toward that conclusion.

These are the circumstances: In one-party North Carolina, the Democratic nomination is equivalent to election. The big battle of the primary campaign that closed last night (the election is held today) was the Democratic nomination for U. S. senator.

There are two leading candidates—incumbent senator Alton Lennon and former governor W. Kerr Scott. The big issue of the campaign was RACIAL SEGREGATION, and all the way through Lennon and Scott stood shoulder to shoulder for maintenance of segregated public schools—supreme court decision or no supreme court decision.

Then— In the final hours— Tens of thousands of unsigned reprints of a newspaper advertisement warmly praising Scott as a friend of the Negro flooded the state's eastern rural areas.

Mayor Marshall Kurfess of Winston-Salem, an active LENNON supporter, admitted placing the ad. He said he persuaded a Negro leader who is a professed supporter of SCOTT to sign it.

There were immediate anguished and angry cries of FALSEHOOD from the Scott camp and Scott's aides called for a federal-state inquiry into possible violations of statutes against distributing unsigned campaign literature.

This is the point: Throughout North Carolina, and particularly in the rural eastern counties of the state, there are far more registered white voters than registered colored voters—and it is probable that the registered white voters of North Carolina will be FOR continued segregation.

It was reasoned— If Scott could be painted as a friend of the Negro and a supporter of NON-SEGREGATED schools he would be defeated. The idea back of it was the ancient—and now, it's fair —discredited theory that all I hope in war and politics and that the end always justifies the means.

This North Carolina business is a perfect example of what used to be called a "roorback." The dictionary defines a "roorback" as "a defamatory falsehood published for political effect." The word originated in 1844 when there was widely published, to the detriment of James K. Polk, then a candidate for President, an extract purporting to be from Rooback's Tour through the Western and Southern States in 1836.

The "roorback" was a natural back in those days when communications were limited and a lie could be spread faster than the truth could catch up with it. It isn't so effective in these days when communications are so complete and so highly perfected that the dropping of a pin in Afghanistan can be heard almost instantaneously around the world. Even in backward eastern North Carolina nearly everyone has a radio and with the aid of radio plus television a lie can be nailed as rapidly as it can be spread.

Multiplicity and perfection of modern communications bring problems of their own. Among other things, they provide the demagogue with a perfect medium for his demagoguery. But they do help to render LESS effective the despicable expedient of a nasty political lie spread widely at the last moment.

It will be interesting to see what happens in North Carolina today in a hot campaign into which the ancient technique of the "roorback" was interjected in this modern age.

## Girl Enters Roundup Queen Race

Marcia Wilson tossed her ten gallon chapeau into the ring for Queen of the Klamath Basin Roundup and brought the number of entrants to an even half a dozen.

The petite brown haired, hazel eyed horsewoman aspires to take the queenship to Fort Klamath. Marcia is the daughter of Mrs. Herbert Wilson, 729 Cook, Klamath Falls, and here she stays during the winter months when a school's a must—but when summer comes and the thousands of cattle are returned from winter pasture in California to summer range in the Wood River Valley, Marcia leaves textbooks and teachers behind and makes her headquarters the Pat McAuliffe ranch at Fort Klamath.

At the Fort, she makes a strong bid for the affections of Major, a bay quarter horse, owned by McAuliffe. Flash, a sorrell part quarter horse, part thoroughbred, gets attention from the horse lover, too, and one of these will be her mount in the queen contests.

The young horsewoman rides more for her own enjoyment than anything, she says, but she is a willing helper in the corral and in the hills when vaccination time for cattle rolls around—or anytime she's needed.

She learned to ride at her aunt and uncle's ranch, the Frank Kings, at Long Creek near John Day. Falls and winters she stays in town, attends Klamath Union High School from where she will graduate next Wednesday, keeps up on popular record releases, dances, sings in the a cappella choir, takes part in "Tri-Hi-Y" activities, and waits for school days to end. In the summers she concentrates on riding while a guest at the McAuliffe ranch, as she has been the past four summers.

The 18 year old entrant will compete with the other five candidates in the queen contest June 13, when judging will be on horsemanship, 60 points. The remaining 40 points, divided equally between poise and personality, will be judged at the Queen's Ball at the armory Sunday, July 4.

Candidates to date include Betty Scala, Midland; Beverly Scott, Malibu; Jean Reimiller, Tulelake; Donna Anderson Stover, Tulelake; Darlene Wineberger, Mt. Hebron, California; and the most recent, Marcia Wilson, Fort Klamath.

Deadline for registration for the contest is June 10. Candidates may sign at Charlie Read Saddlery, The Town Shop or Drews Manstore.

RED CHARGES

LONDON (AP) — Ho Chi Minh, leader of the Vietnamese in Indochina, was quoted Saturday in the Communist Daily Worker as saying "had there been no American intervention we should long ago have reached an agreement with France."

The veteran revolutionary was interviewed by Polish author Voitsek Zhukrovsky in Ho's offices in northern Viet Nam.

ROUNDUP OFFICE

The Klamath Basin Roundup Association ticket office and information booth has been set up at the chamber of commerce, 323 Main. Phone 8041. Contestants for the rodeo will sign up at the fairgrounds prior to the show. Tickets for the show are now on sale.

WEVSELS SEIZED

TOKYO (AP) — Kyodo news service said Saturday a Russian patrol boat seized two Japanese fishing vessels Friday morning near the Kurile Islands north of Japan. They brought to 17 the number of Japanese boats listed as captured by the Russians this year.

Holiday Death Toll Mounts

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
The number of deaths by accident rose slowly Saturday as millions of Americans began the three-day Memorial Day weekend. By noon Eastern time, 18 hours after the count started, 51 deaths had been reported. Included were 47 in traffic, 1 by drowning and 3 from other causes.

The National Safety Council has estimated that 35 million motor vehicles will be on the roads during the long weekend. It also estimated that 340 persons may be killed in traffic accidents between 6 p. m. Friday and midnight Monday.

Carrier Guided

The carrier was guided into Naragansett Bay by the destroyer Ingraham because it had lost its compass.

Whatever explosive mixture touched off the disaster to various parts of the ship and damage was done on the second, third and fourth decks. Smoke was carried throughout the ship.

He said the ship was carrying ammunition and officers were prepared to flood the magazines, which, if they had exploded, probably would have resulted in the Bennington's being a total loss.

He was high in his praise for the way the crew brought the fire under control.

The board of inquiry planned to sit throughout Saturday. The board probably will adjourn to Tuesday for further testimony to be followed by technical inquiry at subsequent hearings.

The number of deaths in the explosion rose to 99 last night and Navy doctors looked to the next 48 hours as the crisis period for the 30 bandage-swathed seamen battling for life at the naval hospital in nearby Newport.

SMOKE SEEN

He estimated it was only 15 seconds after the last jet had been launched from the port catapult when he saw the smoke that was followed by the first explosion.

Capt. Raborn described the death dealing blasts, fire and smoke as the big carrier made for her Quonset base from the point 75 miles south of Newport where disaster struck.

He said the smoke was typical of a "flash fire," with no hint of a petroleum product.

He said there was no evidence of a break in gas lines or fuel lines and "to my knowledge none in the main propulsion line."

When he took command of the Bennington, he said, he closely inspected the catapult.

The lessons learned for greater safety as a result of the fire aboard the Leyte at Boston last October, caused by exploding catapult fluid, had been incorporated in the Bennington, its skipper testified.

In his recitation of the events on the day of the explosion, the carrier captain revealed that the ship lost both its gyro-compasses, annunciators, its whistle and siren and all communications for a period of time until crew members in the generating room could restore it.

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Recently the government has held a margin of 68 to 53 in full voting seats in the house of representatives. It had 74 to 47 when it swept Labor from office in 1949, but lost much of its margin in the 1951 general elections.

Today's voting, which was compulsory for the electorate of 5,100,000 persons was for 123 members of the House. The contest was among 281 candidates in 116 electorates. In seven electorates, where candidates were unopposed, 300,000 eligible voters were excused from going to the polls.

He was warmly wrapped, lying on an air mattress. But he had only enough food to carry him through this weekend and there was no way to mark conspicuously the tiny tent on a vast expanse of snow and rocks.

The rescuers, spread out in three parties ranging from the 6,000 to the 7,500-foot level and still at least 3,000 feet below where Argus is believed to be lying.

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