

KHESANH AIRLIFT PROVES MISTAKE; PARACHUTES FAIL

MARINES CRUSHED Tanks, Heavy Guns Fall Mercilessly on Men Below

By TOM BUCKLEY
Special to The New York Times

KHESANH, South Vietnam, March 6—An attempt to airlift heavy artillery and tanks to the besieged combat base at Khesanh proved disastrous this morning as parachutes failed to open.

Official military spokesmen refused to estimate casualties or damage resulting from the malfunctions, but it was apparent to all of us here that many American lives were lost and many millions of dollars worth of equipment were damaged beyond repair.

No explanation of the catastrophe has as yet been made available to the press, but Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam, ruled out the possibility of sabotage. In a special television broadcast the General expressed deep regret over the accident, terming it "one of the major blunders of the war," but was quick to note that "neither our morale nor our defensive capability were appreciably affected."

Dericks Downed
The squadron of fifteen "derick" helicopters escorted by twenty-four "attack copters" had taken advantage of a rare break in the monsoon weather. Six of the slower more awkward derick helicopters were lost to ground fire subsequent to the attempted drop.

Of the twelve tanks airlifted to the base this morning only one was recovered intact. The other eleven tanks and three heavy artillery pieces fell mercilessly upon the marines waiting below.

Master Sergeant Everett Smith of Cleveland, Ohio, who witnessed the calamity remarked, "After a few months over here you learn to see the humor in this sort of thing, but we needed those tanks badly."

Marines Outnumbered
The marines at Khesanh are surrounded and outnumbered 6 to 1 by an estimated 40,000 North Vietnamese regulars. The base at Khesanh is of little strategic importance except as a psychological factor. Captured documents reveal that Hanoi hopes to make Khesanh another Dienbienphu. Dienbienphu was the site of the crushing military defeat that broke the will of the French to continue their fight in Southeast Asia.

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Walrus in Central Park Zoo Speaks

Passers-by who were within earshot of the walrus in the Central Park Zoo at approximately 4:02 yesterday afternoon witnessed an historic event.

The walrus is a carnivorous pinniped marine mammal allied to the *Phocidae* (seals) and *Otariidae* (sea lions). Chiefly distinguished by two tusks (exserted upper canine teeth), it inhabits the Arctic seas.

The walrus's keeper, Morton Dill, was among those startled by the outburst. "All the more shocking after years of silence," he commented.

Many had hoped that the walrus would have something to say about international affairs, but were disappointed.

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Nixon Calls Mishap Typical of Johnson Handling of War

By MARK JONES
Special to The New York Times

HANOVER, N.H., March 6—Richard Nixon today cited this morning's Khesanh catastrophe as typical of the "careless, almost happy-go-lucky" manner in which the Johnson Administration is conducting the war. Speaking at a sparsely attended fund-raising luncheon, Mr. Nixon called for a full investigation of the accident.

"In my opinion," Mr. Nixon proclaimed, "President Johnson owes a personal apology to every mother of every boy killed in this most unfortunate incident. The Khesanh catastrophe must stand out to all Americans everywhere as a flagrant example of the kind of waste and misjudgment that has characterized a good deal of our war effort under Democratic leadership," he continued.

Mr. Nixon went on to say that in recent weeks he has visited many states speaking to hundreds of people, and everywhere he has detected a "temper of change."

People Want Change
"The American people are not satisfied with what is being done," he said. "They want change, and come November they are going to vote for that change. A Republican vote in November," Mr. Nixon declared, "will be a vote against the sort of thing that is going on all over Southeast Asia at this very moment—American mistakes and miscalculations like the one that occurred over Khesanh this morning."

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ICELAND DOCTOR TRANSPLANTS HEART

Dr. Fjorn Baal Overcomes Recent Personal Tragedy; Gains World Recognition

REYKJAVIK, March 6—In spite of a personal tragedy which he called "the worst blow of my life," Dr. Fjorn Baal successfully performed yesterday the first heart transplant to be attempted in Iceland.

Dr. Baal's wife had disappeared the day before and all efforts to find her have thus far proved fruitless. He said in a press conference that he was almost unable to go through with the delicate operation, but "for the sake of science and humanity," he felt morally obligated to continue as planned.

Solveig Bjornsen, the beautiful young Icelandic starlet who received the heart, was reported in very good condition last night and praised the doctor highly from her bedside. "Fjorn is the most wonderful man I've ever met," she said in broken English, "and a good doctor too, of course." Her luscious, buxom body accepted the new heart without incident. It is not known what, if anything, was wrong with her previous heart.

The donor was not identified.

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NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN: This photograph reveals the majesty of the Parthenon, perhaps the most outstanding example of Greek classical architecture. The edifice is now forever lost to mankind, destroyed by yesterday's earthquake.

LINDSAY ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR NEW "EL" As Quake Rocks Greece

By RICHARD WELLER
Special to The New York Times

Trainway Will Run Above
Park Ave.—Mayor Cites
Present Inadequacies

Mayor Lindsay announced yesterday that the city will build an elevated trainway on Park Avenue not dissimilar to the famous Third Avenue El which was torn down almost a decade ago. Citing the "sardine-like" overcrowding which occurs twice a day in our present subway system, the Mayor emphasized the city's great longterm need for such a project in a news conference at Gracie Mansion.

"In years to come," he said, "the problem of overcrowding in public transportation is simply going to get worse and worse, and we must therefore think futuristically."

Beauty Is Secondary
Lindsay came under heavy attack from many who think the El will detract from the beauty of Park Ave. and of the city as a whole. The Mayor argued, however, that "We have reached a point in modern society where beauty must necessarily take a back seat to the needs of the public."

Park Avenue is an ideal place for the El because construction above the islands in the middle will not effect the traffic running in either direction. There is, unfortunately, a danger that the subsequent lack of sunlight will kill the grass and trees now growing on the islands, but it is a risk we will have to take for the sake of a growing New York.

The project should be underway within six months after

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ANCIENT PARTHENON TOPPLES As Quake Rocks Greece

By RICHARD WELLER
Special to The New York Times

Requests Public's Assistance
to Reduce Danger of
State-Wide Flooding

ATHENS, March 6—The Parthenon, perhaps the most spectacular extant example of ancient Greek art, was toppled to the ground yesterday by a mild earthquake near Athens. Seven people were known dead and some two hundred were injured as a result of the quake, but the real tragedy could be observed in the eyes of the thousands who climbed Acropolis Hill to see this greatest tribute to their heritage destroyed and in ruins.

Critics Grieved
Art critics all over the world were grieved at the news. Lorenzo Paglioni, director of the Florence Academy for Artistic Appreciation, said, "Ah, this is most unfortunate, most unfor-

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GOVERNOR WARNS OF WATER SURPLUS

By SIDNEY H. SCHANBERG

Requests Public's Assistance
to Reduce Danger of
State-Wide Flooding

Governor Rockefeller expressed grave concern yesterday over the fact that the state's reservoirs are dangerously full. "In contrast to last year's problem of water shortage, we now have a perhaps even more serious problem of water surplus," the Governor said.

The water surplus has apparently been caused by the large amount of rainfall and snowfall in the New York State area this winter along with the unaccountably declining use of water in the average household. This has created a situation which could result in wholesale flooding across the state should reservoirs overflow.

Take Baths
To alleviate the crisis, the Governor suggested that people take at least two baths or showers per day and find other ways to use up the excess water. "Flush your toilet on any pretext," he added, "and don't be afraid to leave the faucet running."

Washing cars, sprinkling lawns, and laundry were cited as other uses to which water might be put—in addition of course to oral consumption. The Governor emphasized that as good citizens we must "keep in tune with our needs supply and adjust our needs accordingly." "If supply is low, we must want less. If supply is high, we must want more," he concluded.

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U.S. Polaris Base at Holy Loch Severely Damaged During Night

By MAX LAMBERT
Special to The New York Times

HOLY LOCH, Scotland, March 6—High-ranking Navy officials let it be known this afternoon that the Polaris submarine base at Holy Loch had been "seriously damaged" sometime early this morning.

Lieutenant James Piersall, speaking for Admiral P. D. Spencer, dodged press inquiries into the incident and indicated that no explanation would be forthcoming in the near future. He did deny, however, that any foreign power was in any way implicated in the damage.

Villagers Fear Monster
The Lieutenant discounted as "patently ridiculous" speculation by nearby villagers that the Loch Ness monster played some part in the event.

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Red China: The Problems Behind the Rice Paddies

By C. P. SULZBERGER
Special to The New York Times

Succession: Apres Moi:

Chairman Mao died, he will be followed by someone else as Party leader, and China will have lost its great teacher, great supreme commander and great helmsman. Lin Piao has tuberculosis and perhaps cannot rule from Peking. He would be safer in Shanghai or Chungking but those cities lack ideological purity. Whether Lin can take the jacket of Mao upon his shoulders or not, the basic remorseless verity of China remains those silent shots of rice as they manifest their immortal metamorphoses.

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Red China: The Problems Behind the Rice Paddies

By C. P. SULZBERGER
Special to The New York Times

This is the first of a series of articles by Mr. Sulzberger based on his current visit to China.

The office from which Chen Yung-kei runs the Tachai Production Brigade is sparse. A photograph of the Party Chairman looks down on a rough table supporting the collected works of V.I. Lenin, Josephine Tey, and Chairman Mao, as well as two plain cups from which we sipped Albanian coffee. The difficulties related to me of harvesting the rice in Shansi reflect the basic problems scouring China.

The Setting
Much of China looks like New Mexico or Arizona did before Europeans acquired generous concessions from the Indians. Large areas to the west are deserts because no rain falls for months on end. The central region has mountains, most of them drab and worthless, some of them very beautiful in winter with snowcaps. When spring comes, the snow melts into streams which

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CASTRO SIEZES U.S. NAVAL BASE AT GUANTANAMO

WASHINGTON, March 6—Authoritative sources within the Johnson Administration announced tonight that Cuban nationalists forces had siezed the United States Naval Base at Guantanamo.

Research Links Asparagus Tips to Stomach Cancer

Research at Columbia University has tentatively linked three types of stomach cancer to asparagus tips. Dr. Stephen Y. Nareff announced his findings yesterday afternoon in a press conference at New York's Ritz Tower Hotel.

Dr. Nareff conceded that "a great deal of work remains to be done," but data thus far compiled shows "distinct and indisputable" correlation between incidence of stomach cancer and the eating of asparagus tips.

Dr. Nareff's findings are expected to have a profound if not immediate effect on agriculture and related industries. Asked if he viewed only the tip of the asparagus plant as a potential health hazard, Dr. Nareff replied that "it is too early to tell, but we suspect that some areas lower in the stalk may be almost as dangerous."

Upstate, the asparagus farmers were hard-hit by the news. "I'm primarily a tobacco farmer," confided one man, "but I've always fallen back on my asparagus—don't know what I'll do now."

The owner of a vast asparagus farm in Putnam County said he planned to continue growing asparagus despite Dr. Nareff's warnings. "I've been growing asparagus for thirty years," he said, "and I'm not about to stop now and learn how to grow something else just because some university man tells me it makes people sick."

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Research Links Asparagus Tips to Stomach Cancer

Reports from the Pentagon arriving at the State Department shortly before 11 p.m. (E.S.T.) indicated that communication from the Base had ceased about three hours earlier in the evening. Further information was described as "sketchy," but it was expected that President Johnson would make a televised statement sometime Thursday night.

Premier Fidel Castro and the Cuban government have virtually ignored the presence of the United States outpost on their soil since they closed off base's water supply several years ago. Nevertheless, the Administration has instituted periodic inspections of base's defenses during recent years. For this reason, Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard Helms, Admiral Raymond Nelson, and Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach were sent to Guantanamo two days ago to investigate proposed further security measures. It is believed that three men were taken into custody.

Fear Direct Challenge
The Administrative sources expressed particular concern over the apparent capture of the three men because it may suggest that Premier Castro had intentionally planned to attack while the officials were there. This would have to be interpreted as a direct challenge to the United States at a time when our defenses have been weakened by the conflict in Southeast Asia. The sources suggested that there may be some link between the recent seizure of the *Pueblo* by North Korea and the Guantanamo takeover but were unwilling to speculate until more information had been received.

Newsmen found it difficult to gauge reactions to the crisis because most Congressmen were at home. House Minority Leader Gerald Ford, however, said he was "bewildered" by the events and by the intentions of the Cuban government. He did feel hopeful that drastic action on the part of this country would not be necessary but emphasized that the incident revealed once again the fact that this country is dealing with a monolithic Communist conspiracy. "As General Westmoreland said last week," he added, "it's time to halt internal debate, lock arms and face the task confronting us all."

In response to the apparent crisis, Governor Claude Kirk of Florida mobilized the Air National Guard of his state and was awaiting word from the President before taking steps to recapture the base. The Governor has always advocated a hard-line policy to

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BISON BELIEVED NEAR EXTINCTION

Conservationists Fear the One-time Plain Dweller May Soon Be No More

WASHINGTON, March 6—The 530 members of the National Conservationist League who have congregated here for their annual convention were startled and dismayed to learn that the bison, so long a dweller of the frontier plains and a symbol of the democratic spirit everywhere, is rapidly becoming extinct.

According to Dr. Alfred Baumgartner, who has devoted his whole life to the study of the bison, "I feel I am in the somewhat tragic position of being forced to verify the rumors that people have heard for decades: the bison, the great American Buffalo, is in fact becoming extinct."

Mrs. Johnson Grieved
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, always a strong supporter of conservation, expressed dismay and concern at the news. "I think this is just awful coming at the very time when we're trying to beautify America. Let us take stock and, under the guidance of God, continue."

The bison was used originally by the Indian for eating and food purposes. But it was the white man who ended up killing him off by the thousand.

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Thruway Will Be A One Way Road

There was some speculation that the announcement of the project was timed to "upstage" Mayor Lindsay's unveiling of a proposed elevated trainway for New York City. Both Mayor Lindsay and Governor Rockefeller are considered potential candidates for the Republican presidential nomination.

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