

LBJ WON'T RUN

Halts Bombing North of DMZ

PACIFIC
STAR AND STRIPES
AN AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF
U.S. ARMED FORCES IN THE FAR EAST
昭和34年1月22日(國鉄東局特別扱承認新聞紙第175号(日刊))
(昭和34年4月21日第3種郵便物認可)

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Vol. 24, No. 91

★★★★★ EDITION

Tuesday, April 2, 1968



AP Radiophoto

CAPT. ROBB KISSES WIFE LYNDA GOODBY AT NORTON AFB, CALIF.

A Parting Kiss for Lynda Bird, And Robb Is Off to Viet War

NORTON AFB, Calif. (AP)—President Johnson's eldest daughter, Lynda Bird, stood composed Saturday as her husband, Marine Capt. Charles S. Robb, departed for 13 months' duty in Vietnam.

After embracing her husband, Lynda Bird told a wife of another departing Marine, "I hope I can be as brave as the rest of you women here."

The couple arrived at the base shortly before 6 and stayed together in a room separate from the rest of the departing servicemen.

They emerged from a hall leading to the gate, faced newsmen silently and then walked to the gate.

"I do not know what duty I will have in Vietnam. I expect

to be there a full 13 months," said the tall, handsome former White House aide.

He asked for a moment alone with Lynda and they embraced each other, saying nothing.

Again they headed for the gate, Robb was dressed smartly in his greens. He carried no baggage.

Neither offered any comment, but when asked Lynda Bird said she planned to return to Washington "on the next commercial flight."

Robb, an infantry officer, boarded the jet liner with 165 other Marines.

The plane lifted off the ground, Lynda watched, her face composed and then turned on her heel for a waiting limousine.

The Robbs were married in

December. They stayed in the San Clemente, Calif., area while he underwent four days of intensive training for combat that ended Friday at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Meanwhile in Da Nang, South Vietnam, Marine Corps officials said Capt. Robb will be assigned to the 1st Marine Div.

Robb, arrived in Naha Okinawa, early Monday. He will spend two or three days at Camp Butler getting processed for Vietnam, officials said.

He is expected to arrive in Da Nang in two or three days. On arrival he will be interviewed by the division's personnel section, then assigned according to the "needs and availability in his field," Marine officials said.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Johnson said Sunday, "I shall not seek and I will not accept the nomination for another term as president."

He said he does not believe that with war in Vietnam he should "devote an hour or a day of my time" to any partisan cause.

Johnson made his dramatic withdrawal at the end of a nationally broadcast speech in which he disclosed he is ordering a halt in nearly all air and sea action against North Vietnam in a move to bring peace talks.

Johnson recalled that 52 months and 10 days ago he came into the Presidency through the tragic death of President John F. Kennedy.

Now he said there is divisiveness in the country and made an appeal for unity.

"I would ask all Americans to guard against divisiveness and all its ugly consequences."

In announcing the Vietnam moves, Johnson said there will be a pause in air attacks on North Vietnam, except in the area near the demilitarized zone.

He called this "the first step to de-escalate" the war, saying the U.S. will substantially reduce "the present level of hostilities."

Johnson appealed anew for immediate peace talks, saying: "There is no need to delay the talks that could bring an end to this long and bloody war."

The chief executive called on the Soviet Union and Great Britain, as co-chairmen of the Geneva confer-

(Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

Thieu Eyes General Mobilization

'We'll Fight On Even If Allies Quit'

SAIGON (UPI) — South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu threatened Sunday to decree a general mobilization and vowed his nation would continue fighting the Communists even if the United States should withdraw its support.

Thieu said nothing could force his government into accepting a coalition with the Communists and denied rumors that the United States was pressuring him to make such a move.

"Even if the allies were to say if you don't accept a coalition, we'll leave the country, we'll cut off aid; even if our allies should no longer be willing to assist us, we will make sufficient sacrifices to carry on our struggle and achieve our aims," the Vietnamese president declared.

In an impromptu speech to 2,000 cheering university students, Thieu said that if the Communists keep fighting after the government carries out its current plan to mobilize 135,000 fresh troops, he will declare a general mobilization next October.

This would put all able-bodied Vietnamese between the ages of 18 and 40 in the armed forces, he said.

Thieu spoke at ceremonies marking completion of a military training course for Saigon university students. U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker attended the session.

"There are students throughout the world who don't believe our struggle is legitimate," Thieu told the students. "Our answer to them will be the blood you shed when you rise up to defend our country."

He was loudly cheered. It was Thieu's first public appearance since Bui Diem, the Vietnamese ambassador to Washington, returned to Saigon to brief him on the political situation in the United States.

Bunker was given an enthusiastic reception by students in the crowd after Thieu's speech was over.

More Firings Hinted in Viet

SAIGON (AP) — Reports circulated widely in Saigon Sunday of a major South Vietnamese government reshuffle within the next two weeks.

Informed government sources said high-level changes were in the works but that nothing was definite yet.

The reports and government sources indicated that President Nguyen Van Thieu was contemplating the removal of among others, Premier Nguyen Van Loc, four or five ministers, the chief of the National Police, the commander of the 3rd Military Corps area and the Mayor of Saigon.

If the reports are true, and Thieu goes through with the changes, they would be the strongest moves to date to strengthen his hand as president.

Otto Hahn Hurt in Fall

GOETTINGEN, Germany (UPI) — Prof. Otto Hahn, 89-year-old discoverer of nuclear fission, has been hospitalized for a back injury suffered in a fall. The Nobel Prize-winner's condition was described by doctors as "satisfactory under the circumstances."

6 Pacific Stars & Stripes
Tuesday, April 2, 1968



Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu inspects students who have just completed two weeks of military training. About 2,000 students heard Thieu speak in Saigon. (AP Radiophoto)

Jets Pound Hanoi Port

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — Target areas in North Vietnam were pounded by 118 U.S. air missions Saturday despite continued overcast weather.

Air Force Phantoms and Thunderchiefs bombed storage areas in the Dong Hoi area, the Chuc Son Army Barracks near Hanoi plus communications lines throughout the panhandle.

Intruder jets from the carrier Enterprise braved heavy flak and SAMs to hit the Hanoi port facility and intercept convoys between Vinh and Thanh Hoa. Bridges at Thanh Hoa and Hai-phong were bombed.

USS Ticonderoga pilots struck at fortified positions and troop concentrations in and north of the DMZ.

Raids by Marine Corps Intruders touched off explosions in a convoy above Con Thien besides hitting artillery positions, river shipping, communications and road traffic as far north as Dong Hoi.

Bus Hits Mine; 12 Viets Killed

SAIGON (AP) — Twelve South Vietnamese were killed and 14 wounded when a civilian bus ran over a Viet Cong mine seven miles southwest of Da Nang Sunday, U.S. officials said.

They said the bus was going south on Route 5 when the mine detonated at 4:30 p.m.

3 Pink Elephants Were Red

DA NANG, Vietnam (UPI) — This is no April fooling or tall Texas story. Houston's Al Barr did kill a pink elephant.

Barr, 23, stopped the three elephants from his helicopter gunship while patrolling 20 miles northwest of Da Nang — an area known appropriately

Recent Operations Increase Allies' 6-1 Kill Ratio Over Foe

SAIGON (AP) — Allied forces in South Vietnam are killing an average of six enemy troops for every man they lose in overall combat, military officials said Sunday.

But some operations in recent weeks have been producing double and even triple that ratio in favor of the allies if the U.S. and South Vietnamese reporting system is accurate.

The most prominent example is Operation Quyet Thang (Resolved to Win), a thrust by 50,000 American and South Vietnamese troops to clear five provinces around Saigon of Viet Cong.

It was launched March 11. Since then, the U.S. command says 2,147 enemy have been killed compared to 206 allied soldiers killed. This is a ratio of 10 to 1.

Brig. Gen. Winant Sidle, the U.S. Military Command's information chief, said operations officers had analyzed some of the larger actions such as Quyet Thang in efforts to find an explanation.

"The analysis indicates it is more a matter of coincidence," Sidle said. "In certain types of actions, your armor (tanks and armored personnel carriers) catches the enemy in the open. Or helicopter gunships catch the enemy on the run and hit them hard."

Armor, artillery, tactical fighter-bombers and helicopter

gunships have been used extensively in the Quyet Thang offensive. While some observers question the high number of enemy claimed killed, Sidle insisted that all figures on enemy casualties are obtained by a body count.

"Armor, air or catching them running in the open always adds up to a high kill," Sidle said. "Firepower makes the difference on our side."

Sidle said that for the past several months the overall kill ratio has remained on the average of 6 to 1. But during some

Spot VC Road to Saigon

By SPEC. 5
BRUCE MCILHANEY
S&S Staff Correspondent

SONG BE, Vietnam — The Viet Cong have quietly built 34 miles of road through Phuoc Long Province heading toward Saigon.

Complete with fuel dumps for the heavy equipment being used to build it and two bridges, it discreetly bypasses allied military bases.

It was discovered in early March by Maj. Glenn L. Adams, Air Force liaison officer to the 5th ARVN Div. here.

"We figure we caught the road before they moved more than a dozen vehicles," Adams said. "Shortly afterwards we received a 15-hour mortar attack."

Since then traffic has intensified, deeply rutting the road. A Vietnamese recon team reported sighting six trucks and two bulldozers at work. There is also a footpath running parallel to the road.

Air strikes have destroyed six trucks, one fuel dump and a bridge along the road.

Reds May Be Quitting Khe Sanh Battle Site

SAIGON (UPI) — The North Vietnamese are withdrawing elements of two regiments from the Khe Sanh area, informed military sources disclosed Sunday.

The pullback, if such is the case, has been in progress for the last three weeks, according to the sources.

The North Vietnamese have been moving small elements of the two regiments in an easterly direction, apparently toward the city of Quang Tri and other Marine bases.

Though the withdrawals have been confirmed through various intelligence sources, of-

ficials are unsure how to interpret the move.

"On the one hand it could mean that the North Vietnamese are moving out of the area. If this is the case, then this probably means the beginning of the end of the battle of Khe Sanh," one officer said.

"On the other hand, it may be some kind of feint by the North Vietnamese. Or they might only be swapping these two units for fresh ones. Right now we are in a period of 'wait and see.'"

However, there are indications that, in fact, the North Vietnamese are hurting, they have begun to pull out, and probably will stay out.

Recently, allied patrols have been venturing further and further from the perimeter.

Montagnard tribesmen trickling into the base say incessant B52 raids are taking a terrific toll of Communists, as are allied artillery and lighter bombers to a lesser degree.

Not only are North Vietnamese dying, but their supply lines are being severely hurt, according to the tribesmen.

phantoms love to roll in. The Marine captain reluctantly attacked the three giant beasts and downed all three with his heavy guns. He is credited with at least one elephant kill and has a pink elephant painted on his helicopter signifying the mission.

'Spad' Will Soon Be Had

ATSUGI NAS, Japan (PAO)—One of the U.S. Navy's last "Spads" will soon be had—by the United States Air Force.

The last A1E Skyraider in the Western Pacific has taken off from Atsugi NAS, outside metropolitan Tokyo, to land on the aircraft carrier Coral Sea and go from there to Lemoore NAS, Calif., to be officially decommissioned and then turned over to the Air Force.

The 21-year-old dive bomber, first produced in 1947, has been a durable workhorse in Korea and Vietnam. Navy pilots jokingly called their aged aircraft the Spad, after the World War I French biplane.

But they swore by it. One of their favorite sayings, directed at the enemy, was: "You've just been had by a Spad, dad."

Navy Lt. Cdr. W. H. Ritzmann of Attack Sq. 25 put 15 years of experience flying Spads into taking out the last one in this corner of the world.

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, chief of Naval Operations, will be guest of honor at the decommissioning ceremony this spring.

Before the Navy Skyraiders vanish from the Western Pacific, however, one still has a job to do. An A-1, capable of carrying more than its empty weight, will fly one last combat mission in Vietnam.

That Spad will be placed in the Naval Aviation Museum at Pensacola NAS, Fla. All others will go to the Air Force.

Viet Lepers Get GI Gift

S&S Vietnam Bureau

BEN SAN, Vietnam—Sisters and patients of St. Joseph's Leprosarium, Ben San, gathered about a group of 1st Inf. Div. artillerymen as they officially presented a large tile-making machine to Father Victor Ber-set, chaplain of the leper colony.

The American soldiers donated \$2,282 toward the cost of bringing the machine from France. It was purchased through the Catholic Relief Services.

Since the 1st Inf. Div. arrived in Vietnam 2½ years ago, the troops have taken the welfare of the 400 patients at St. Joseph's under their "wing" and have contributed thousands of dollars to the lepers. Division MEDCAP teams conduct regular visits to Ben San, 25 miles north of Saigon.

Chief Komer Confident

Pacification Is Still 'Alive, Kicking'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ambassador Robert W. Komer says the Viet Cong dealt pacification a real setback with their February assault on South Vietnam's cities—but he predicts Saigon will recoup its losses faster than the enemy will.

In a cabled response from Saigon to questions from The Associated Press, Komer summed up the status of "the other war" since the massive lunar new year enemy offensive this way: "Pacification is still alive and

kicking, despite the early tendency of many to pronounce it dead.

"We unquestionably suffered a real setback—especially tragic in terms of innocent civilian losses—but the enemy suffered grievous losses, too.

"The real question is whether we can recover and forge ahead more quickly than he. I believe that we are and can, given perseverance and will."

Komer, who runs U.S. assistance to the pacification effort as

a deputy to the American commander, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, had previously held off a public assessment of the over-all impact of the Tet attacks on his program until more results were in from South Vietnam's 44 provinces.

Following are questions to and replies from Komer:

Q. How does "the other war" stand since the Tet offensive, both in psychological and physical terms?

A. By and large, the "other

war" impact of the Tet offensive now appears to have been more psychological than physical. Despite the tragic losses—some 650,000 Tet evacuees at the high point, about 7,500 civilians killed and 15,500 wounded, around 95,000 homes destroyed or damaged, and extensive damage to business facilities and transport nets—South Vietnam has displayed considerable recuperating power.

Evacuees have now declined to under 400,000, extensive urban rebuilding and resettlement is underway for the homeless, medical facilities have been largely restored, and ample food is available.

Prices are back down near pre-Tet levels, most key roads and waterways have been reopened, and traffic on them is slowly increasing.

However, economic recovery in general has been sluggish as business confidence is only slowly returning.

In pacification, too, the more serious damage seems psychological rather than physical. While rural pacification unquestionably received a substantial setback, especially in the IV Corps Delta area where over half our losses were suffered, the loss of hamlets and resources has proven much less than earlier feared.

Q. What lessons from the Tet assault have been learned which can help against the next general offensive which the Communists say they plan for this summer and fall?

A. The most obvious lesson is always to expect the unexpected. I doubt the GVN really expected such blatant violation of the Tet truce. In my judgment, the initial success of the enemy's Tet offensive sprang largely from a combination of optimum surprise and meticulous pre-planning.

But another key lesson from the Tet offensive is that despite surprise, the enemy lacked the capability to sustain his initial success in penetrating many towns. He did not get the Vietnamese Armed Forces collapse or popular response he expected.

Ride in Style, Courtesy VC

PHUOC VINH, Vietnam (IO) —Paratroopers from C Co., 3rd Bn. (Abn.), 187th Inf., have been riding in style since a brief fire fight near here recently.

Four of the 101st Airborne Div. troopers were setting up a security point on a road-clearing operation when the action started.

"I saw about a dozen Viet Cong coming toward us on the road," recalled Sgt. Leroy Green, Sumter, S.C.

The airborne infantrymen fired on the Reds and sent them scattering into a nearby rubber plantation.

They gathered the documents, supplies and equipment left by the Viet Cong, including five cycles.

New Post for Darrow

WASHINGTON (S&S) — Maj. Gen. Don O. Darrow, an assistant chief of staff with the Military Assistance Command Vietnam, has been named as chief of staff of the Tactical Air Command at Langley AFB, Va.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7
Tuesday, April 2, 1968



A Dry Run

A 4th Inf. Div. trooper is caught in a cyclone of dust as he hooks up an empty water trailer to a CH47 "Chinook" helicopter at the 1st Bn., 12th Inf., firebase near Ban Me Thuot.

(USA Photo by Pfc. Lew Grass)

Thai Road Builders Get Lift

UDORN ROYAL THAI AB, Thailand (OI)—With the help of the American consul in Udorn, the U.S. Air Force and the Accelerated Rural Development (ARD) commission, the village of Klangyia in Phu District of Northeastern Thailand, will soon have paved roads.

The project began several months ago as a joint Thai-American venture. It came to a standstill last week when an ARD truck broke down. The truck was used to carry the road grading equipment.

Area engineering advisor Albert Karian asked help from the American consul, who in turn contacted the 429nd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Udorn for loan of a tractor truck. An Air Force truck was on its way to Klangyia with tons of earth-moving machinery in a day.

"Without the truck the project could be set back about a week," Karian said. "We are fighting to complete the job before the rains start and halt work in the area."

The road will provide a better route to nearby markets for the area's produce farmers eventually bring modern conveniences to the region.

ARD helps develop Thailand's rural area by building roads, providing medical care and assisting with civic action programs.

The Thai Government hires and trains construction workers and provides engineers and funds.

Gen. Zais Shift Set

WASHINGTON (S&S) — Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, director of individual training for the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel here, is being transferred to Vietnam in late June, the Army announced. This will be his second tour in Vietnam.

From a Tight Spot With a Single Shot

DA NANG, Vietnam (ISO) — Lance Cpl. Alex Ruiz, 20, of Denver, had a pistol and three rounds of ammunition — it wasn't much, but he made every bullet count.

Ruiz, a mortarman with 1st Bn., 1st Marine Regt., found the pistol near the body of a fellow Marine after his own M16 rifle had been shattered by shrapnel from an enemy mortar round.

When an enemy ambush halted the 25-truck convoy enroute from Hue to Phu Bai, Ruiz was wounded three times. He lay by the side of Highway 1, almost crippled by his wounds but waiting for the chance to get off the road into a safer position.

The battle was to last for two

and a half hours before the convoy troops, aided by reinforcements from the Marine base at Phu Bai, would be able to rout the enemy.

North Vietnamese regulars charged from concealed positions in the treeline. Enemy sappers moved up the row of trucks, tossing satchel charges into the vehicles. They had waited to ambush the convoy as it returned from carrying supplies to a Marine artillery battery near Hue.

The enemy had attempted to split the convoy in half and then wipe out the Leathernecks with concentrated attacks against the divided troops. They seemed to

be everywhere as they ran between the Marine trucks.

"I could see muzzle flashes coming from the treeline," recalled Ruiz. "Then I saw one of the sappers moving toward the truck where I was. He was tossing satchel charges into the trucks — so busy he didn't see me.

"When he got up near me," Ruiz continued, "I used that pistol and shot him, and then made my escape to where our guys were gathering."

The Marines were assembling along the side of the road opposite the enemy positions. They set up their defenses near a graveyard.

"I crawled into a hole where one of our machine gunners was set up," said Ruiz. "He patched me up as best he could so I'd be OK until I was sent out."

The Leatherneck had been wounded in the groin and face by enemy recoilless rifle fire. He had shrapnel wounds from enemy mortar rounds throughout his body.

"I wasn't sure I could make it when I was lying there near the trucks," Ruiz commented, "especially when those enemy troops were coming toward me.

"I didn't even know if I could make myself crawl out of there," he concluded, "but I had to — and I did."

Johnson Says He Won't Seek Reelection

(Continued From Page 1)

ence, "to do all they can to move from the unilateral act of de-escalation I have just announced toward genuine peace in Southeast Asia."

In still another major announcement the President said some 13,500 support troops will be sent to Vietnam during the next five months—some of them to be reserve units that will be called to active duty. This would indicate only a small reserve call-up.

Johnson also disclosed new estimates on financing needs for the war. He said additional expenditures in the fiscal year that ends June 30 are estimated at \$2.5 billion and, for the coming bookkeeping year, \$2.6 billion.

"We have no intention of widening this war," Johnson asserted. "But the United States will not accept a fake solution to this long and arduous struggle and call it peace."

As he frequently has done in recent public utterances, Johnson once again cautioned that Hanoi "must not miscalculate the pressures within our democracy in this election year."

In announcing the halt to most air and sea action against North Vietnam, Johnson gave no indication of how long the pause would continue.

But he did say that even the limited bombing of the North that would continue under his present policy "could come to an early end—if our restraint is matched by restraint in Hanoi."

He said only events will determine whether a complete bombing halt becomes possible. At the moment, he said, "I cannot in conscience stop all bombing so long as to do so would immediately and directly endanger the lives of our men and our allies."

Indicating the scope of the bomb halt he announced, Johnson said:

"The area in which we are stopping our attacks includes almost 90 per cent of North Vietnam's population, and most of its territory. Thus there will be no attacks around the principal populated areas and in the food-producing areas of North Vietnam."

Should peace talks begin, he said, he is designating Ambassador Averell Harriman "as my personal representative for such talks." He went on:

"In addition, I've asked Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson, who returned from Moscow for consultations, to be available to join Ambassador Harriman at Geneva or any other suitable place just as soon as Hanoi agrees to a conference."

In a passage that seemed to summarize his approach, Johnson said:

"I call upon President Ho Chi

Minh to respond positively, and favorably, to this new step toward peace.

"But if peace does not come now through negotiations, it will come when Hanoi understands that our common resolve is unshakable and our common strength is invincible."

The chief executive voiced also a new appeal for early congressional passage of an income tax increase, saying that without higher taxes or budget cuts, next year's deficit would again be around \$20 billion.

"Yet Congress has not acted," he said. "And today we face the sharpest threat in the post-war era—a threat to the dollar's role as the keystone of international trade and finance."

He called also for Congress to do some sharp budget-cutting.

Johnson declared that "no one can foretell the precise terms of an eventual settlement" in Vietnam. But he went on to reaffirm limited objectives on the part of the United States:

"Our objective in South Vietnam has never been the annihilation of the enemy. It has been to bring about a recognition in Hanoi that its objective—taking over the South by force—could not be achieved . . .

"Tonight I also reaffirm the pledge we made at Manila—that we are prepared to withdraw our forces from South Vietnam as the other side withdraws its forces to the North, stops infiltration, and the level of violence thus subsides."

Johnson restated, too, his "San Antonio formula" offer of last September—"that the United States would stop its bombardment of North Vietnam when that would lead promptly to productive discussions—and that we would assume that North Vietnam would not take military advantage of our restraint."

Johnson said he believes "that a peaceful Asia is far nearer to reality, because of what America has done in Vietnam." He said:

"Tonight I have offered the first in what I hope will be a series of mutual moves toward peace.

"I pray that it will not be rejected by the leaders of North Vietnam. I pray that they will accept it as a means by which the sacrifices of their own people may be ended. And I ask your support, my fellow citizens, for this effort to reach across the battlefield toward an early peace."

The Communists, it appears, are trying to make 1968 the year of decision in South Vietnam, he said.

But he said their Tet holiday attack on the cities "failed to achieve its principal objectives," which he listed as Communist hopes to collapse the Saigon government or shatter its army, to produce a general uprising and to retain control of at least some cities.

F111 Missions In Viet Halted

SAIGON (AP) — The Air Force kept its controversial F111 fighter-bombers on the ground Sunday as officials investigated the loss of two of the \$6-million planes during the first week they have flown in Vietnam War operations.

It was the first day since the F111s began flying against targets in North Vietnam last Monday that the Air Force announced no missions for the ultra-modern jets that are based at Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base.



U.S. troops pass Vietnamese villagers who have temporarily abandoned their homes as fighting rages in the area near Trang Bang, 25 miles northwest of Saigon. (AP Radiophoto)

Communists Blast 2 Key Viet Bridges

By SPEC. 5 RAY BELFORD

S&S Staff Correspondent
SAIGON—U.S. and Vietnamese force killed 377 Communists Saturday in three major battles in south Vietnam's five most northern provinces and other action.

The day included some of the heaviest fighting near the DMZ since the Tet offensive.

The savage fighting continued into the early morning hours Sunday as an estimated 150 enemy soldiers attacked two major bridges along Highway 1, seven and eight miles southwest of Phu Bai. They were defended by U.S. Marines and Vietnamese infantrymen.

The Reds attacked at 3:20 a.m. and succeeded in overrunning the northern bridge and a U.S. Marine security element defending it. They destroyed the bridge with satchel charges and retreated.

The Communists also took part of the Truoi River Bridge a mile to the south and blew out the center span. The bridge was defended by U.S. Marines and a company of Vietnamese railroad security men.

Fourteen Marines were killed and 30 wounded. Nine enemy soldiers were killed. Government casualties were said to be light.

In the heavy fighting in the I Corps tactical zone Saturday, U.S. Marines killed 115 Communists during a bloody, hour-long battle a mile south of the Khe Sanh combat base.

The battle began at about 8:30 a.m. when a reinforced company from the 5th Marine Div. ran up against an estimated enemy battalion in a bunker and trench complex a mile outside the Khe Sanh perimeter. The two forces slugged it out with small arms and automatic weapons fire while mortarmen on both sides sent shells crashing down on each others positions.

The Marines called for heavy artillery support to help rout the Communists from their

bunkers.

An hour after the battle began the Marines reported the enemy withdrawing. When the Marines searched the battlefield they found 115 enemy bodies. Marine casualties were nine killed and 61 wounded.

Early the same morning another patrol from the base killed 15 Reds when they tangled with an unknown-sized enemy force a mile west of the perimeter. Three Marines were wounded.

Vietnamese infantrymen from the 1st ARVN Div. reported killing 132 North Vietnamese soldiers during a bloody, all-day battle six miles north of Dong Ha. The battle brought the total number of enemy killed in a 27-square-mile area north of Dong Ha to 916 for March.

The battle reportedly began about 9:30 a.m. when a battalion from the 1st Regt. met the North Vietnamese force about three miles southwest of Gio Linh.

The government troops kept the pressure on the enemy and were supported by artillery during the day.

At about 4 p.m. a battalion of Vietnamese infantrymen from the 2nd Regt. and units from the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Army's 1st Air Cav. Div. arrived.

The fighting continued past nightfall as Air Force AC47 Dragonships lit the way for the infantrymen on the ground with flares and for an air observer to direct artillery fire.

At about 9 p.m. the enemy was beaten into retreat.

Fifteen Vietnamese infantrymen, four U.S. soldiers and one Marine were killed. Five U.S. soldiers and 75 Vietnamese troops were wounded.

South Vietnamese infantrymen from the 2nd Div., supported by air strikes, reported killing 76 enemy soldiers five miles southwest of Tam Ky during another day-long battle. One government soldier was reported killed.

TV Copter Crashes at Texas Rally

ORANGE, Tex. (AP) — A helicopter carrying an NBC television crew lost power and spun to the ground Saturday while a Texas political candidate and 200 assembled supporters watched in horror. One of the craft's three occupants was killed.

The victim was Bruce H. Powell, 50, of Arlington Heights, Ill., a Chicago suburb. Powell was a cameraman for NBC in Chicago.

The pilot and another NBC employe walked away from the crash.

The helicopter had just taken off after filming the opening of headquarters in this South Texas City for Waggoner Carr, a Democratic candidate for governor of Texas.

The Carrs, who had arrived in the aircraft only 30 minutes earlier, watched the crash along with other onlookers. The Carrs were not hurt but one bystander suffered an injury from a spinning piece of debris.

The crash came on a loading dock near the downtown area.

Kenneth Jones Harmon, 31, of Houston, pilot of the helicopter, said it lost power, apparently in the tail rotor that keeps the body from spinning with the force of the overhead rotor.

Also in the craft was Bryan Wright, 54, of Chicago, an NBC sound technician. Wright was slightly injured.

Arthur Black, 53, of Orange, was the only one of the some 200 bystanders to sustain harm from the flying debris. Black was hospitalized in good condition.

Harmon said the craft was some 150 feet up when it lost power and began spinning crazily. The crowd on the ground at first thought it was a bit of trick flying.

Debris was spread over a three-block area.

Carr canceled the rest of his day's campaign activities.

Weather

Asian Weather Central
TOKYO AREA

Monday Night: Cloudy; Low: 50

Tuesday: Partly cloudy; High: 66

TEMPERATURES

March 31

	H	L		H	L
Bangkok	94	81	Naha	66	64
Chitose	54	32	Saigon	93	79
Guam	83	—	Seoul	63	41
Hazuke	66	46	Taipei	64	57
Manila	93	77	Tokyo	70	59
	H	L		H	L
Albany	76	43	L.A.	83	59
Anchorage	33	16	Melbourne	65	51
Boston	58	47	Miami	74	70
Chicago	66	46	Moscow	57	43
Cincinnati	79	50	N. Orleans	74	57
Cleveland	74	30	NYC	66	48
Denver	74	36	Paris	70	45
Detroit	69	32	Phila.	78	52
Fort Worth	76	63	Phoenix	90	55
Hong Kong	68	63	Singapore	88	71
Honolulu	78	73	St. Louis	83	52
Houston	76	66	Salt Lake	75	49
Kansas City	79	59	Seattle	53	34
K. Lumpur	91	74	Sydney	76	56
London	54	40	Wash.	82	58