



Marines Take Cover In Ancient Hue

## Breakthrough Thrown Back Reds Launch Heavy Attack On Marines At Khe Sanh

SAIGON (UPI) — In what could be the start of their mightiest offensive of the war, North Vietnamese troops today hit the crucial Khe Sanh border position with an artillery and ground attack.

U.S. spokesmen said infantrymen broke through Marine defenses on a hill overlooking Khe Sanh, but were ejected after 25 minutes of combat at close quarters.

Hostile artillery, mortar and rocket fire poured onto the Khe Sanh base itself, where a beefed-up Marine garrison was awaiting an onslaught by two divisions of North Vietnamese troops believed operating in the immediate area.

There was no immediate indication, however, whether today's attack was the start of the expected offensive or another in a series of raids and skirmishes at Khe Sanh.

Nor was there any immediate word on casualties.

**Curfew Ends Gay Mood Of Saigon, A-9;  
U.S. Hirelings Aid Reds, A-5.**

At 4 a.m. today, in what could be the opening round of the feared offensive, the enemy began pouring explosives into the camp.

Ten minutes later, North Vietnamese infantrymen hit Leatherneck units atop Hill 881—the number denote its height in meters—which was the scene of bitter fighting last May when the North Vietnamese once before tried to overrun Khe Sanh.

After one hour and 10 minutes of fighting, the North Vietnamese force managed to penetrate the defensive perimeter of the hill, spokesman said.

Even as the Khe Sanh fighting picked up, the Communists continued their onslaught elsewhere. Spokesmen reported continued fighting in the Montagnard capital of Ban Me Thout and at Kontum, another important city in the central highlands.

On Sunday, U.S. troop reinforcements were moved into Saigon to help mop up gangs of marauding guerrillas.

At Hue, the fighting was fierce — with U.S. Marines teamed up with South Vietnamese forces slugging from the hill, spokesman said.

**PRELUDE?**

U.S. officials said the massive offensive which swept many of the nation's cities last week may have been a prelude to a yet bigger drive in the Khe Sanh area.

There has been speculation that North Vietnam is seeking military advances in order to start truck talks from a strong bargaining position.

Khe Sanh is the western bastion of a chain of defenses which cross South Vietnam just below the demilitarized border zone.

(In Washington Sunday, the Defense Department said the Joint Chiefs of Staff had told President Johnson in a written memorandum that the "Sinh" "could and should be defended".)

**BY ALVIN B. WEBB, JR.  
HUE, South Vietnam (UPI)**

A young American Marine named Frank choked back the agony of four bullets in his body, blazed away with his machine gun into a wall of charging Viet Cong and stopped the assault almost single-handedly. He probably will get the Medal of Honor—posthumously.

Another Marine known to his buddies as "Pancho" pushed open a door and walked into a hall of Communist lead. That was the last conscious act of Pancho's life.

It was too young for World War II but older men have told me about the street fighting in Italy, France and Germany. It is like that—maybe worse—in this city.

I am writing this on notebook paper by the illumination of a penlight under a blanket.

I came into Hue on a Marine convoy Saturday. The streets were littered with the debris of war—twisted street signs, fallen power lines and trees, cars and jeeps riddled with bullets.

A U.S. tank blocked the road. It had been blown up by a mine. Another tank had smashed into the front of two stores. There was no one alive in it.

Our convoy rumbled down the street toward the compound housing the U.S. Military Assistance Command for Vietnam in Hue. It had been the scene of heavy fighting Wednesday when the Communists invaded Hue and tried to take the compound. The Marine named Frank stopped that assault.

There were Communists in the area as our convoy moved in. Snipers opened up from perches in buildings blown full of gaping holes.

Mortar shells exploded around us. We made it into the compound, and no one in our 12-vehicle convoy was hurt.

The evidence of battle was there. Outside the compound, in the gutters of the street, corpses of North Vietnamese infantry lay rotting. They fell under Frank's bullets:

1st. Col. Howard L. Moon of Pemberton, N.J., Frank's commanding officer, told me he was recommending Frank for the Medal of Honor.

"He held off that attack single-handedly," Moon said.

"Every man did his job." Moon told me about another dead hero of the Battle of Hue, a kid Marine named "Kenny."

Kenny's platoon had been pinned down. Communists in a bunker across the road from the compound. A buddy told me Kenny grabbed a machine gun and "tore across the street wide open, and didn't quit firing until he ran out of ammo." Someone tossed Kenny more ammunition. He loaded up and started shooting again. He didn't quit until six or seven Communist slugs ripped into his body.

On Saturday, after our convoy (See Heroes: A-2, Col. 4)

Three-story brick buildings on either side of the hotel were not damaged. The temperature hovered around the freezing mark. Icicles hung from ladders, and fire escapes were coated with ice.

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## Fire Kills 9 Persons, Destroys Boston Hotel

BOSTON (AP) — Nine persons were killed in a pre-dawn fire Sunday that destroyed a \$2-a-night transient hotel in the South End.

Firemen searched the debris of the six-story brick building for other possible victims, although officials said no one was known to be missing.

The dead were not immediately identified.

The Hotel Roosevelt occupied the top five floors of the building. There were stores on the ground floor.

At least 15 persons were injured. A Boston City Hospital spokesman said eight persons suffering smoke inhalation were admitted and seven others, including four firemen, were treated and discharged.

William Fitzgerald said the general alarm fire probably started in a second-floor kitchen.

The fire department's arson squad and the state fire marshal began investigating the origin.

One of the first to reach the scene was Stephen P. Mugar, 26 vice president of the Star Market chain of supermarkets.

Officials credited Mugar, three friends and two policemen with saving approximately 10 persons before fire and smoke ended their rescue efforts.

The blaze gutted the inside of the building, leaving only a shell standing.

Moses Bernard, 38-year-old process market worker who was taken aboard last week at the time for a coffee break.

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### Substantial Headway Reported

SEUL (AP) — A secret U.S.-North Korean meeting Sunday may have made "substantial headway" toward release of the USS Pueblo's crew, including agreement on returning the lead and injured, South Korean sources reported.

A Seoul radio station quoted a South Korean government source as speculating that "a certain major agreement" might have been reached.

A spokesman for U.S. forces in Korea neither confirmed nor denied reports of a meeting Sunday at Panmunjom. One such meeting was held Friday without result and South Korean sources reported others also were held Saturday and again today.

According to one South Korean account, the Communists agreed Sunday to turn over a body or bodies from the crew of the captive intelligence ship.

Others said the North Koreans planned to release the crew but not the ship and had offered as a first step to turn over the dead and injured if the United States would admit the vessel had intruded into North Korean waters.

North Korean Maj. Gen. Park Choon-kook told a Military Armistice Commission meeting at Panmunjom Jan. 24 that "several" crewmen were either killed or injured resisting Communists who seized the ship off Wonsan Jan. 23. He did not specify the number killed or injured.

At the same time, Korean officials and legislators complained that the United States was showing too much concern about the Pueblo incident and not enough to the attempt last month by North Korean infiltration to kill President Chung Hee Park or to South Korean requests for military modernization.

Park Choon-kook, chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, declared Saturday that South Korea should consider withdrawing its 48,000 troops from Vietnam if the United States claims its "lukewarm attitude."

South Korean frontier forces were alerted for several hours early Sunday after an apparently erroneous report from a U.S. sentinel that he saw about 20 North Koreans crossing a newly erected barrier just below the demilitarized zone on the western front.

The report, from an unidentified member of the 2nd U.S. Infantry Division, "sent the division's quick reaction troops into the area and put South Korean troops and national police on alert. Military investigators sent to the scene did not find any evidence of infiltration."

### Today's Chuckle

Overhead is an elevator. It's a tick, a slow tick, every time the little bell rings on her typewriter, she thinks it's time for a coffee break.

## British Polaris Submarine Arrives For Initial Tests

CAPE KENNEDY (UPI) — A Scottish bagpiper on its deck, Britain's first Polaris submarine docked at Port Canaveral Sunday to prepare for its initial missile test-firing later this month.

The nuclear-powered ship, HMS Resolution, carried several Polaris A3 missiles that were taken aboard last week at the U.S. Navy Submarine Base at Charleston, S.C.

The Resolution is expected to launch at least two of the 30-foot missiles starting around Feb. 15. The dull black submarine will be submerged for the shots about 30 miles east of here and will send the rockets to an Atlantic Ocean target area 1,500 miles to the southeast.

The submarine is the first of four built in Great Britain. The United States sells the basic missile to the Navy and Britain will provide its own nuclear warheads. The test rockets carry dummy warheads.

—The Resolution edged into the U. S. Navy's Polaris submarine facility at Port Canaveral adjacent to Cape Kennedy shortly after sunrise. Lance Col. David Cairns of Glenboig, Scotland, was dressed in full kilts and playing the bagpipe as the ship was nudged up to the dock by two tugboats.

An Air Force band and more than 100 persons were on hand to welcome the Resolution. The weather was perfect, with cloudless skies and the bright rising sun warming the nippy air.

The Resolution has two crews which will alternate on sea patrols once the vessels become operational this summer. Commander M. C. Henry, now of Faslane, Scotland, was the skipper Sunday.

The day before our capture (Jan. 23) we proceeded toward the port of Wonsan... and gathered data on the number of incoming and outgoing ships and their conditions to ascertain the capacity of the port.

## Reds Air 'Confession' Of Pueblo Spy Mission

TOKYO (UPI) — The North Koreans Sunday broadcast what they claimed was another confession by an officer aboard the USS Pueblo that his ship was carrying out espionage activities inside Communist waters when captured.

The North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) identified the officer as Lt. (j.g.) Frederick Carl Schumacher, Jr., operations officer.

"There is no excuse for my criminal acts since the facts have already been made clear," he also was reported to have said the Pueblo "is originally an armed-espionage ship (and) has carried out pure military espionage missions up to now since she was commissioned."

One of his duties, Schumacher allegedly said, was to take photographs of naval vessels entering or leaving North Korean ports.

He said he once saw two ships entering Wonsan, and several naval vessels of the Korean Peoples Army circling by." KCNA said.

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## Rusk Covers Microphone As McNamara Speaks Rusk Says U.S. Exercised Restraint In Bombing North

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Dean Rusk said Sunday the United States recently "exercised some restraint" in bombing North Vietnam while exploring the possibility of peace talks with Hanoi.

But Rusk indicated the administration views last week's big Communist offensive against South Vietnamese cities as a

facto rejection of those peace probes.

"We have not had a pause in the traditionally accepted sense, but we have limited the bombing at certain points in order to make it somewhat easier to carry forward peace explorations, so that a particularly tifficult incident would not interrupt them," Rusk said.

At the same time, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara—appearing jointly with Rusk on a television-radio program—pointedly left open the possibility more troops might be deployed in Vietnam.

At this point, additional forces have not been requested by commanders but, McNamara said, "I don't want to foreclose the possibility of requests in the future."

The bombing limitation, plus new disclosures on North Korea's seizure of the intelligence ship Pueblo, highlighted the two secretaries' appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press," expanded Sunday to one hour.

Rusk said the air attacks were restricted "particularly in the immediate vicinity of Hanoi and Haiphong" after North Vietnam stated it would talk if the attacks and other acts of war were halted.

The U.S. position is that the raids will be suspended if there is reasonable assurance that prompt, productive discussions would follow, and that Hanoi would not try to take military advantage.

—On the Pueblo situation, Rusk also disclosed U.S. representatives have been rebuffed again in a meeting with North Korea.

(See Rusk Says: A-2, Col. 1)

## Divorce Rate, Cost Rising

NEW YORK Times News Service

NEW YORK — Divorce, American style, is on the rise both in price and numbers. In fact, divorce can cost more than major surgery—much more when it is considered that most everyone has some hospital medical coverage these days.

In a normal midtown Manhattan situation the legal fees probably would run about \$1,500 in the New York area, plus the filing fees of about \$50, according to Philip F. Solomon, president of the New York Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. That represents an increase of about 50 per cent, due mostly to the longer and more complex procedures under New York's new divorce laws.

The law has been in effect less than six months.

The \$1,500 would have to be multiplied by two, since each spouse would probably be advised to have a lawyer. Couples ready to divorce amicably sometimes share a lawyer but generally lawyers from upon this practice.

AT THE VERY least a lawyer in a low income neighborhood might charge \$750 to represent a client in a divorce. The other spouse might be charged about the same. Of course, where families cannot pay for a divorce there are legal aid societies and neighborhood law bureaus that can handle it more cheaply.

Under the new liberalized New York state divorce law there are six basic grounds on which a person can get a divorce, in contrast to the old law which stipulated adultery as the sole reason.

BRIEFLY the six reasons are:

- Cruelty, either mental, physical or both;
- Abandonment for two years;
- Imprisonment for 3 years;
- Legal separation for two years by agreement;
- Legal separation for two years by court decree.

However, the new law requires what can be a long cooling-off period during which conciliation is attempted.



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