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U.S. Navy Transports Ordered to Rescue

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Ford announced a huge sealoft Saturday to save more than a million refugees trapped by advancing Communist forces on South Vietnam's coast. Other officials said it already was underway with commercial and Navy vessels.

Pentagon officials said Saturday night that despite the fall of Da Nang they were going ahead with plans for the sealoft.

Ford called on ships of all nations to join the rescue. At least four nations were involved within hours.

Officials estimated some 1.5 million refugees are swelling towns and cities along the central coast. It appears the evacuation might become the largest since Dunkirk, when more than 300,000 British troops were taken off the beaches of France in 1940.

FORD ORDERED four Navy transport ships to sail Saturday for Vietnam. A Pentagon spokesman said the first two would arrive sometime after midnight Sunday, while the others would get there later.

Daniel Parker, the U.S. Foreign Aid Administrator named by Ford to coordinate the huge evacuation, said two U.S. commercial ships under charter to the military sealoft command already had loaded some 15,000 refugees from barges off Da Nang. A

Philippine vessel has moved in for others, he said.

Australia, Britain and the Nationalist Chinese government also joined the rescue effort in response to Ford's appeal. Britain dispatched a Royal Navy frigate, Australia sent a Hercules transport plane and Taiwan provided 20 landing craft.

Parker said he does not know just how many refugees the United States and other countries can evacuate.

U.S. officials stressed that no troops are aboard the Navy vessels sent to Vietnam. They said the ships would anchor off the Vietnamese coast near such points as Da Nang, Nha Trang and Tuy Hoa and take aboard refugees ferried out to them by small boats.

Pentagon sources said they expect that soldiers "in a refugee status" would be taken on board the ships.

If fired on, officials said, the U.S. ships will withdraw.

Da Nang Falls

SAIGON, South Vietnam (AP) — Da Nang, South Vietnam's second largest city and its last bastion in the northern zone, has been captured by Communist-led troops, Saigon military officials said Sunday.

One official said the government lost four infantry divisions, an air force division and other units for an estimated total of nearly 100,000 soldiers who were trapped in the area.

"The loss of the city was the single biggest defeat for South Vietnam in the past 20 years," he added.

The fall of Da Nang was reported only hours after President Ford in

Washington had ordered U.S. Navy boats to Da Nang to help evacuate a half-million refugees who had fled to the port city, 380 miles north of Saigon.

The victory left North Vietnamese-Viet Cong forces in control of the entire northern quarter of South Vietnam.

Da Nang's population had doubled to more than a million in recent days as refugees swarmed into the zone, hoping to be evacuated to government-controlled areas farther south.

Da Nang, once a stronghold of the U.S. Marines, had collapsed into disorder and rioting as the end neared.

For Strongest, Meanest

Last Days of Da Nang No Heroic Movie Script

By PAUL VOGLE

DA NANG, South Vietnam (UPI) — Only the fastest, the strongest and the meanest got out on what may be the last refugee plane from Da Nang Saturday.

I saw a South Vietnamese soldier kick an old woman in the face to get aboard.

In the movies somebody would have shot the soldier and helped the old lady on the plane. But this was no movie—he flew and the old lady tumbled down the tarmac, her fingers clawing toward the plane that was already rolling.

PEOPLE FOUGHT one another and died trying to get aboard. Others fell thousands of feet to their deaths in the sea because even desperation could no longer keep their fingers welded to the undercarriage.

World Airways President Ed Daley was aboard. He was angry and tired. Daley said he had been up all night arguing with American and Vietnamese officials for permission to fly into besieged Da Nang to get more refugees out.

Daley finally said to hell with paperwork, clearances and caution and we were on our way.

More than a thousand people had been waiting around a quonset but several hundred yards away from where we touched down.

Daley and I stood near the bottom of the 727's tailramp. Daley held out his arms while I shouted in Vietnamese, "One at a time—one at a time. There's room for everybody."

There wasn't room for everybody and everybody knew damn well there wasn't.

Daley and I were knocked aside and backward.

If Daley thought he'd get some women and children out of Da Nang he was wrong. The plane was jammed in an instant with troops of the 1st division's meanest unit, the Hac Bao (Black Panthers).

As we started rolling, insanity gripped those who had missed their chance. Government troops opened fire on us.

Communist rockets began exploding at a distance.

Our pilot, Ken Healy, 52, of Oakland, Calif., slammed the throttles wide open and the plane lurched into the air from the taxiway. There was no way we could have survived the gunfire and got onto the main runway.

A backup 727 had flown behind us

but had been ordered not to land when the panic broke out. The pilot radioed he could see the legs of people hanging down from the undercarriage of our plane.

UPI photographer Lien Huong, who was in the cockpit of that backup plane, saw at least one person lose his grip on life and plummet into the South China Sea below.

There were 268 or more people jammed into the cabin of the little 727 limping down the coast.

Only two women and one baby among them. The rest were soldiers, toughest of the tough, meanest of the mean. They proved it Saturday. They didn't talk to each other or us. They looked at the floor.

But the face that remains is that of the old woman lying flat on the tarmac seeing hope, seeing life itself, just at the end of her fingertips and rolling the other way.

Paul Crume's

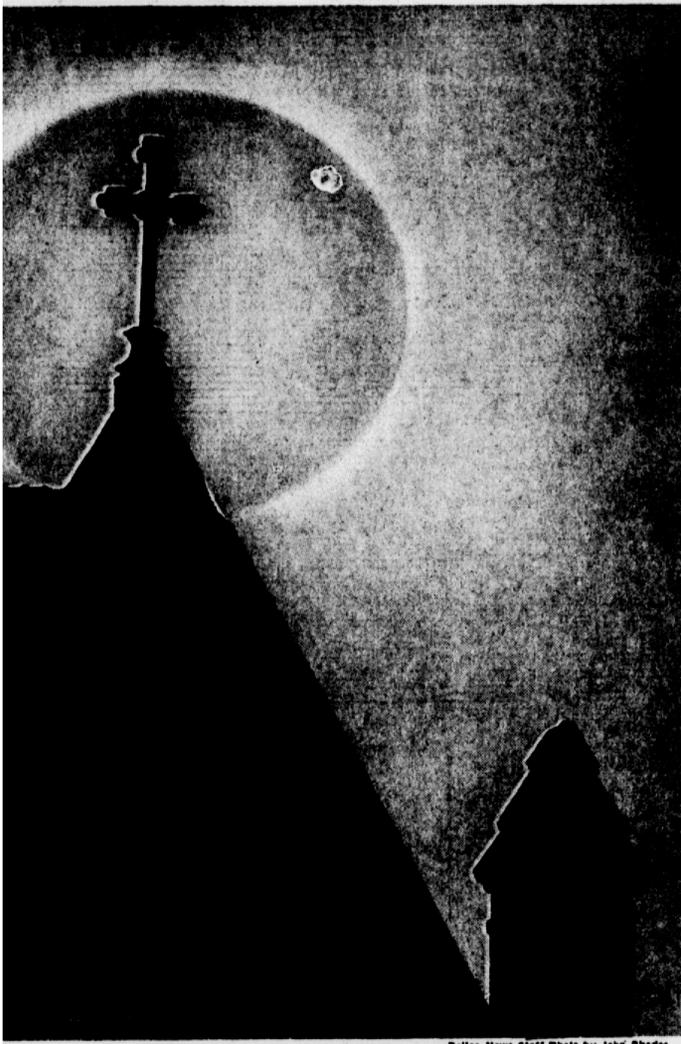
Big D



AT A DALLAS beauty shop, a Dallas woman was working a crossword puzzle while her hairdresser finished up.

The hairdresser's assistant shyly

friend, Angie, 5, over to hear his old record collection. She got carried away by the beat and was dancing around wildly while Matt played a toy piano and the records went round and round.



—Dallas News Staff Photo by John Rhodes.

Crucified . . . but He is risen!

Graham Asks for Hope

DALEY

of Easter, and says without

as last week talked about what it means

this country," looked at the face today. d guilt-ridden

THE South terrible surround swell of demonstrations in campuses like of the north-

ham was arm his enternal messenger resettlement ere forced to

trends in the United States toward isolationism, the country's increasing loss of credibility as signed treaties are "not backed by Congress" and dealing with the incredible problem of world hunger.

"Great tragedies have come about through many mistakes made since World War II," said the evangelist. "A lamp that came into our lives was snuffed out by sin. It can be revived by a faith that can carry anyone through any circumstances.

"With Christ in our hearts, we have supernatural powers."

GRAHAM SAID Konrad Adenauer, during his last years as chancellor of West Germany, once called the evangelist into his office.

"He was in his 90s," said Graham, "and I thought he wanted to ask me something about the United States.

"Instead, he asked if I really believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I said I did and he replied, 'So do I. If Jesus Christ did not rise from

Easter Egg Likely Cool

Children will hunt Easter eggs under cloudy skies Sunday morning.

The National Weather Service predicted a high temperature Sunday near 50 and a low Monday morning near 40.

Skies will clear late Sunday and Monday and the high Monday will be near 70, the official forecast said.

A freeze warning was in effect Saturday night, with predictions of a Sunday morning low in the 30s.

The un hospitable weather prompted the Dallas Symphony Orchestra to move its 4 p.m. Sunday concert from Lee Park to the State Fair Music Hall at Fair Park.

Under the direction of Louis Lane, the concert is free to the public and the first of 15 planned outdoor concerts this year.