

Copters Rescue 11 Stranded GIs

By SGT. ROGER NEUMANN

SSG Staff Correspondent

SAIGON—U.S. Air Force and Army helicopters dodged through heavy enemy fire Wednesday to pluck 11 soldiers from a mountain-side in South Vietnam's Central Coastland in what Air Force spokesmen called one of the largest rescue operations of the war.

The soldiers—five of them wounded—were stranded on the 60-degree slope after their UH1 "Huey" helicopter from the 173rd Airborne Brigade was shot down at 10:45 a.m., 18 miles northeast of An Khe in Binh Dinh Province. Within 15 minutes, three HH43 "Pedro" rescue choppers from the 38th Aerospace Rescue and Re-

covery Sq. detachments at Phu Cat and Pleiku AB were on the scene to begin the nine-and-a-half-hour operation. Two of the helicopters were heavily damaged immediately when they dove through a storm of Communist gunfire.

There were no casualties among the rescue crews. Army chopper gunships pelted

and silenced enemy guns while the "Pedros" and an Army helicopter went in for the Americans. The Air Force crews rescued nine, and the Army copter pulled out two more.

One of the wounded was pinned in the wreckage of the destroyed helicopter. SSGT. Robert E. Rager, (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

Allies OK Seating Plan

PROGRESS AT TALKS

PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

AN AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

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U.S. Ambassador W. Averell Harriman (left), is interviewed with Cyrus Vance (center), deputy U.S. delegation chief, and South Vietnam's Vice

President Nguyen Cao Ky after a meeting of the Allied delegations in Paris resulted in accord on procedural proposals. (AP Radiophoto)

PARIS (UPI)—The United States and South Vietnam announced Thursday they have reached full agreement on new proposals for seating arrangements to lead to an early opening of the expanded Vietnam conference.

U.S. delegation chief W. Averell Harriman and South Vietnamese Vice President Nguyen

Can Ky announced the allied agreement on a new procedural package after a 90-minute meeting at Ky's Paris residence.

Harriman strongly denied reports that differences between the American and South Vietnamese delegations had occurred on how to define ground rules for the new peace talks.

Harriman indicated the new proposals would be submitted shortly to the North Vietnamese. He refused, however, to reveal the proposal.

Smiling broadly after his prolonged talks with Ky, Harriman told newsmen, "We have reached agreement on new proposals in the arrangements."

"We discussed matters in which we are both interested," Harriman said, "including the seating arrangements."

"We have reached full agreement on new proposals... We will stick to the principles to which we are both very definitely committed."

Harriman's statement indicated that neither the United States nor South Vietnam was prepared to modify their formula calling for the conference to be a "two-sided" affair.

Both Hanoi and the National Liberation Front (NLF) are demanding the conference be a four-way affair with separate seating for each delegation.

North Vietnamese officials in (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)



TALLULAH BANKHEAD

'Dahling' Tallulah Dies at 65

NEW YORK (AP)—Tallulah Bankhead, the gravel-voiced Southern belle who became a stage star, movie star, and eventually one of the nation's loudest character actresses—died Thursday. She was 65.

Miss Bankhead had been ill only a few days, a victim of the current outbreak of flu, when pneumonia developed and led to her death, according to her business manager, Ezra Schine.

Her sister, Eugenia Bankhead, and nephew, Billy Bankhead, were with her at her death.

The flamboyant Tallulah—named for her grandmother, who was named for a wealthy Georgia, which the syllable called "singing water"—gave many of her best performances off stage.

A violently partisan fan of the New York Giants, she instructed the players from the stands, could dominate a football (Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)

Ethel Gives Birth to Girl

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ethel Kennedy, widow of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, gave birth Thursday to her 11th child—an eight-pound, five-ounce girl.

The child was delivered at Georgetown University Hospital by Caesarean section at 8:40 a.m. Mrs. Kennedy has three other girls and seven boys ranging in age from 18 months to 12 years.

Her husband, the junior senator from New York, was assassinated last June.

Nixon Allows Cabinet Men To Select Top Assistants

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Richard M. Nixon gave the members of his Republican Cabinet broad authority Thursday to seek and select their own top assistants—but indicated he will retain veto power.

"The final approval would have to be given by the President," said Herbert C. Klein,

Nixon's director of communications.

But Klein said Nixon told the 17 Cabinet officers they can to

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select their own deputy and assistant secretaries and other top aides.

The President-elect, his chosen White House assistants, and

the Cabinet team met in the Board Room of Washington's Shoreham Hotel.

Late in the day, Nixon, his wife and daughter Tricia, went to the White House to call on President Johnson.

It was an eight-hour day of lectures, briefings, questions and answers. Nixon was present for a portion of the schedule. (Continued on Back Page, Col. 4)

GI Rescue—

(Continued From Page 1)

an Air Force fireman flown in from Phu Cat, cut the soldiers free with chain saws and bolt cutters.

The wounded were taken to Phu Cat and the Qui Nhon Army hospitals for treatment.

One soldier told his rescuers it was his last day in Vietnam.

"I'm sure glad to see you guys," he said. "Please get me fixed up fast. I'm due to go home tomorrow."

Elsewhere in South Vietnam, gunships and bombers from the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps killed 84 Communists in scattered action.

Army gunners reported killing 28 enemy and destroying 98 fortifications and 42 sampans during 8,708 sorties. They supported South Vietnamese infantrymen with 1,078 sorties over the Mekong Delta.

Marine jets, Huey gunships and OH-10 Broncos killed 46 Reds and hit 10 fortifications, 34 bunkers and five gun sites. They triggered four secondary explosions and seven sustained fires.

Air Force fighter-bombers logged 333 sorties, including 42 close-support strikes for allied ground forces. Forward air controllers credited crews with killing 13 enemy troops and hitting 292 bunkers, 230 fortifications and 26 sampans, while setting off 15 secondary blasts and 18 sustained fires.

Eight missions were flown during the night by B52 bombers.

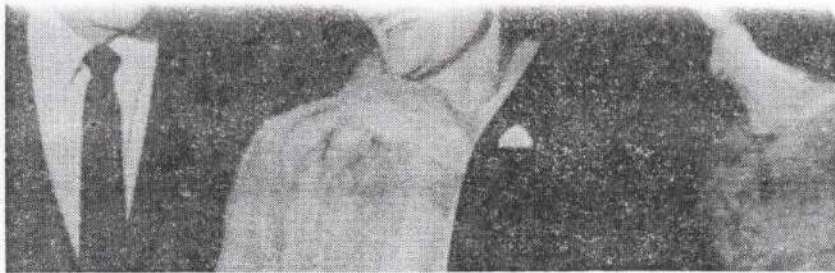
Ship Ablaze in N.Y.

NEW YORK (AP) — Fire raged out of control for several hours aboard a British freighter loaded with chemicals at a Belgian Line pier Thursday.

Firemen at first feared the vessel would blow up but authorities later said there was no danger of an explosion.

The blaze burned between

24 Pacific Stars and Stripes
Saturday, Dec. 14, 1968



President-elect and Mrs. Richard M. Nixon (left) are greeted at the White House by President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson as pair arrives for a visit. (AP Radiophoto)

Tallulah Dies at 65 Cabinet—

(Continued From Page 1)

party conversations with baseball statistics.

Member of an old Alabama family and the daughter of William Brookman Bankhead, a longtime member of Congress and once speaker of the House, Tallulah drawled her Deep South and highly cultured accent through innumerable films and plays and received from the American public that final honor—to be known by her first name.

A woman of great wit, which often had a sharp bite, Tallulah could cut a detractor cold with a "Dahling!" more effectively than some of her contemporaries could with a four-letter word.

"In my time," she once said, "I've been called a garrulous extrovert, a cello-voiced witch,

a honey-haired holocaust. ... Let me knock off two frozen daiquiris at lunch and it makes Page 1 in Cheyenne, Wyo., the next morning. Frozen daiquiris? Good for your gizzard!"

Some of her greatest triumphs were in "The Little Foxes," as Sabina in "The Skin of Our Teeth" on Broadway, and in the movie "Lifeboat." Younger audiences knew her as the homicidal religious fanatic of "Die Die! My Darling," the supreme test of her acting ability in a role as alien to Tallulah's personality as one could imagine.

A number of times in recent years Tallulah had descended on television for brief appearances, the same explosive, irrepressible, great-lady-turned-clown as always.

Not long ago Tallulah finally explained to a reporter in London why she calls everybody "Dahling."

She had to, she said, because "all my life I've been terrible at remembering people's names."

"I once introduced a friend of mine as Martini," she added. "Her name was actually Olive."

Her only marriage, to actor John Emery, ended in divorce in 1937.

Describing an Italian count once as "the only man I was ever formally engaged to," Tallulah gave this explanation for the engagement:

"I felt obligated since he'd given me a diamond necklace."

(Continued From Page 1)

About 75 people were on hand for the hotel session, among them the wives of the President-elect and the Cabinet choices.

Klein said Nixon opened the meeting by urging that the Cabinet "follow up heavily on his concept that this be an open government."

He said the President-elect then urged that, as Cabinet officers select their deputies and assistants, they look not for the immediate impact of an appointment but for men who "would be hailed for their work six months or a year from now."

Nixon, his spokesman reported, said the sub-Cabinet appointments should be representative of "a basic cross section of the American population." He said it should include Democrats, members of all racial and ethnic groups, people from all sections of the nation.

"He's going to allow them to pick their own team, but he urged them to consult with him also," Klein said of Nixon. Like the Cabinet itself, nominees for positions such as deputy secretaries and undersecretaries are formally named by the president and are subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Nixon's statement indicated his Cabinet members will have more latitude than those of past administrations in choosing their own men.

previous year. In January, 1968, with a December call of 17,500. The draft in February, 1968, was 23,300.

The Pentagon said 32,200 of the February draftees will be assigned to the Army, and that 1,500 will go into the Marine Corps.

The Marines are getting 2,500 men from this month's draft.

An increase in draft calls was indicated last week when plans were completed to grant early releases to 37,000 Army and Air Force National Guardsmen and Reserves who were called to active duty last January and April.

The total draft for the current fiscal year, ending next July 1, is now expected to be about 280,000, with 174,000 of them being inducted during the first half of 1969.

The Defense Department said the draft calls were being set at levels to maintain the Army close to its present strength of 1,496,000 men. The Marine Corps strength is 308,000.

The quotas are still below the peak of 45,000 reached last April.

February's quota is the highest since 45,000 were inducted last May. The draft dropped to 20,000 in June. The lowest of the year was 10,000 in November.

World Weather

	Dec. 12			Dec. 12	
	H	L		H	L
Bangkok	93	76	Naha	75	64
Beijing	41	27	Osaka	91	77
Guam	81	75	Seoul	54	43
Honolulu	57	50	Taipei	73	61
Manila	88	67	Tokyo	55	52
	H	L		H	L
Albany	25	-2	Melbourne	82	53
Albuquerque	52	26	Memphis	61	31
Amarillo	—	35	Miami	69	54
Atlanta	48	24	Milwaukee	48	24
Birmingham	46	23	Moscow	28	16
Bismarck	31	22	N. Orleans	67	32
Boise	44	37	NYC	45	29
Boston	34	15	N. Platte	58	18
Chicago	52	28	Omaha	66	42
Cincinnati	50	21	Portland	53	34
Cleveland	33	09	Paris	30	23
Denver	66	37	Phila.	30	18
Des Moines	52	34	Phoenix	71	44
Detroit	43	17	Pittsburgh	33	11
Duluth	33	20	Port. O.	47	38
Fairbanks	-10	-32	Rapid City	61	33
Fort Worth	—	14	Reno	38	19
Hang Kong	60	49	Richmond	35	12
Honolulu	83	67	Singapore	87	75
Houston	68	58	St. Paul	43	16
Indianapolis	51	24	Salt Lake	49	28
Jackville	54	24	S. Antonio	64	57
Jakarta	90	74	San Diego	61	50
Kansas City	57	37	San Fran.	—	46
K. Lumpur	92	74	Seattle	47	31
Las Vegas	—	44	Shreveport	67	43
London	41	32	Sydney	73	58
L.A.	64	52	Tucson	71	48
Louisville	54	25	Wash.	33	13