

VC HIT SAIGON

Reds Invade Embassy, Air Base

PACIFIC STAR AND STRIPES

AN AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF THE
U.S. ARMED FORCES IN THE FAR EAST
郵政特准掛號認爲新聞紙類第176号 (日刊)
(昭和34年4月21日第3種郵便物認可)

10¢

Vol. 24, No. 31

FIVE-STAR EDITION

Thursday, Feb. 1, 1963

SAIGON (UPI)—Viet Cong forces launched heavy attacks against Saigon Wednesday. Guerrillas fought their way into the U.S. Embassy and occupied five floors of it for several hours.

Other Reds invaded Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport and battled American and Vietnamese troops and tanks.

American military policemen fought around the gleaming, new embassy for more than four hours. Helicopters dropped troops onto a roof-top pad to help rout the Communist suicide squad.

Radio reports from the embassy reported at 9:15 a.m. that it was secure and said 19 Viet Cong had been killed inside.

American casualties were reported as eight dead with an unknown number wounded.

Another 21 U.S. military police were killed while defending the military billets.

A U.S. spokesman said Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker was not in the embassy when it was attacked.

"There were no senior officials in there," the spokesman said.

The Communists bombed at least four American military hotels in Saigon and struck Independence Palace, the office of President Nguyen Van Thieu, with rockets and mortars in a pre-dawn raid. There was fighting in the streets near the palace.

The headquarters of the South Vietnamese military also came under ground attack.

The attacks were the most audacious of the new Communist offensive which erupted in eight cities Tuesday.

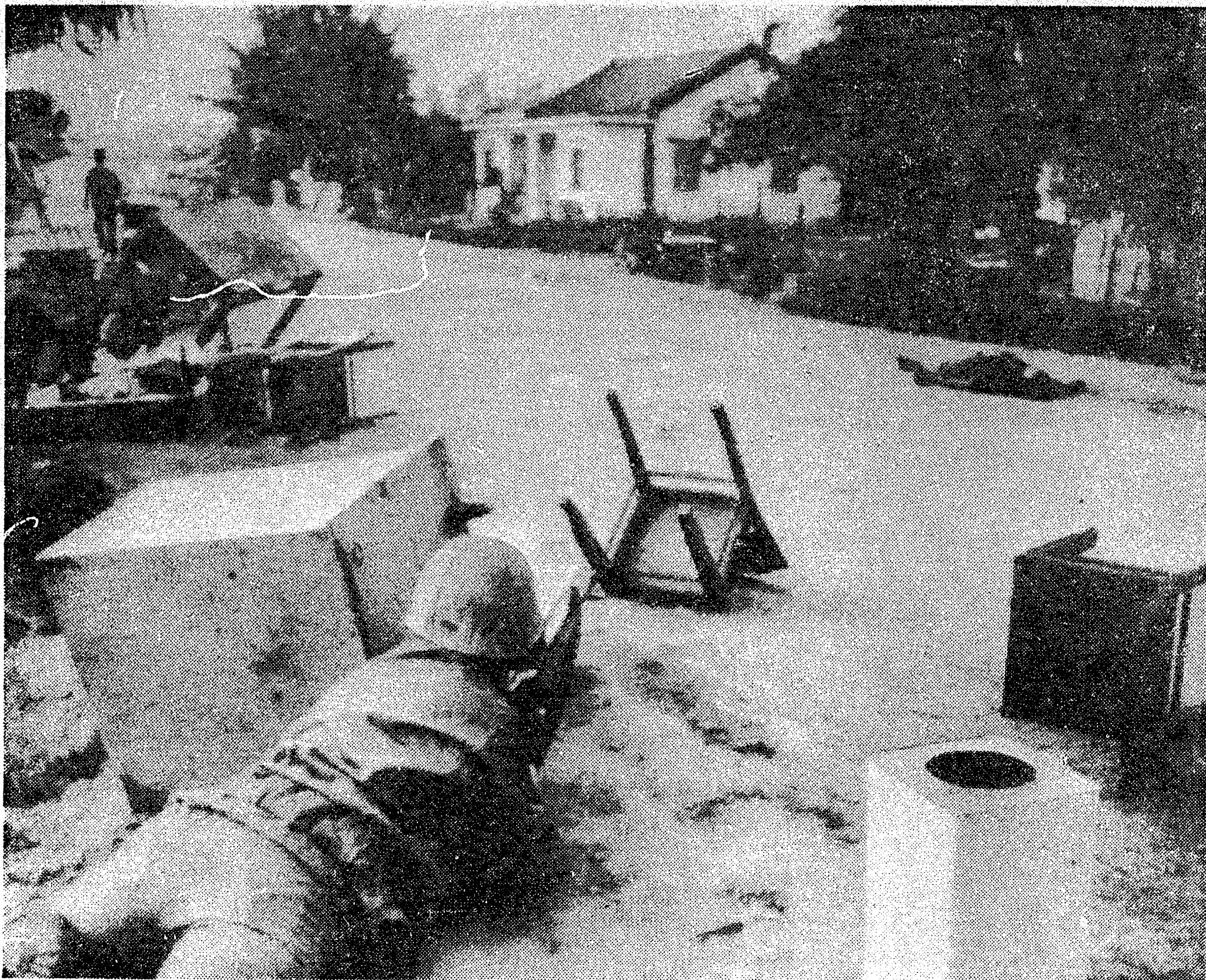
The attacks in Saigon began shortly before midnight. One of the American billets was reported still under heavy attack at mid-morning.

The Communist force fought defenders on three sides of Tan Son Nhut and then battled their way inside the barbed wire.

The military police made several assaults against the Embassy but the Viet Cong threw grenades and drove them back.

Saigon Radio also was attacked. A U.S. tank that came to rescue it was knocked out. But at mid-morning it broadcast a curfew announcement by Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky.

Viet Cong terrorists stole an American jeep with a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on the (Continued on Back Page, Col. 4)



A South Vietnamese soldier fires from behind an improvised barricade during street fighting in Da Nang. A dead guerrilla lies in

right background. At left is a fleeing man, and more furniture used by soldiers as barricades. (AP Radiophoto)

Blast Kills 9, Hurts 20 Near Pittsburgh

Compiled From AP and UPI

PITTSBURGH — A bone-jarring explosion ripped through a business district in suburban Ingram Tuesday, killing at least nine persons and injuring 20 others.

The explosion leveled two buildings where utility workers were searching for a gas leak. Five of the dead were members of a 15-man gas company crew boring test holes in the street.

"There's nothing there," said one of the first newsmen on the scene. "I can't even tell what was there."

The explosion threw debris in all directions and shattered windows of homes and stores blocks away. Bits of clothing hung grotesquely from phone lines as a shroud of smoke drifted over the area.

A gas company spokesman said the 15-man crew was work-

ing on a four-inch low-pressure main. He said the gas was turned off at the curb bordering the buildings.

"At this time we have no idea what caused the explosion," the spokesman said.

Bulldozers and highlifts were used to clear away the rubble. Four of the bodies were taken from the smoldering debris.

"It sounded just like a bomb," said Mrs. Samuel Simpson, who

lives just across a railroad track from the blast scene. She said she was walking into her kitchen when the explosion took place.

"I looked out and saw people and debris everywhere. It blew one of the workers clear across the tracks."

Gas and electric power were shut off over a wide area of the community, which has a population of about 6,000. A grade school about two blocks from the blast scene was evacuated.

Runaway In 1st Gear

LONDON (UPI) — Gareth Reeves ran away from home Monday.

But before slipping out of the house he left a note saying, "I'm leaving . . . and taking the car with me . . ."

Now his parents are not only wondering where he and the car have gone, but how he learned to drive. Gareth is 12.