



A Soldier's Gear Goes First Class

A 25th Inf. Div. soldier pushes an air mattress—loaded with his helmet, pack and rifle—in front of him as he swims across a

monsoon-flooded river in South Vietnam while taking part in Operation Kolkole with the 1st Bn., 25th Inf. (UPI Radiophoto)

Man Steps Into Vat of Molten Iron

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A tall slender young man walked into a San Francisco foundry Friday and stepped into a vat of molten iron.

The vat contained iron ore heated to 2,600 degrees and only his head was found. The coroner hopes to make identification from it.

Witnesses said the molten iron exploded when the man went into the vat Thursday, sending red hot metal spraying for 30 feet.

Homicide investigators said they learned the man had tried to take his life earlier by jumping into a flatbed truck filled with liquid cement.

William Nicolini, a telephone company supervisor, told police he pulled the man out of the concrete but was told:

"Leave me alone — I'm trying to make an impression."

Minutes later, the man, about 28, walked into the foundry.

Foundry workers eating lunch (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

C47 Crashes in Singapore; 1 American Dead, 13 Injured

SINGAPORE (AP) — A twin-engine U.S. Navy transport plane crashed and burned while taking off from Singapore's International Airport Friday, killing a crew member and injuring 13 other Americans who were returning to Jakarta after a week's vacation here.

All 14 persons aboard were American military personnel and their dependents assigned

to the U.S. Embassy in the Indonesian capital.

Four of the survivors were listed in critical condition at the Singapore General Hospital.

Two other persons also were admitted to the hospital for treatment of burns and injuries. The remaining passengers were released after treatment.

The aircraft, a C47 transport crashed shortly before noon.

Eyewitnesses said it suddenly went out of control, skidded 200 yards off the runway into a ditch and caught fire almost immediately.

The survivors, some with their clothes aflame, scrambled out of the aircraft through the emergency exit seconds before it erupted into a blazing inferno.

It took the airport fire-fighting squad a half hour to extinguish the flames, which completely gutted the plane. Gasoline oozing out of the craft's ruptured tanks endangered the rescue operation.

The body of Marine Gunnery Sgt. John Vojcak of Chicago was removed as soon as the fire was extinguished.

The other crew members were Marine Capt. Walter Livengood of Bridgeville, Tenn.; Air Force Capt. Randall Peat of Mount Cargol, Ill., and Marine Gunnery Sgt. Carle Albert, of Trimble, Tenn.

The survivors who were discharged from the hospital went to the homes of friends, declining to talk with newsmen.

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Martha Raye Faints

SAIGON (UPI)—Old Vietnam troupier Martha Raye collapsed Friday just as she was about to sing the finale to "Hello Dolly" under a punishing sun before 300 G.I.'s.

She soon recovered in an Army dispensary where she was carried by stretcher and ambulance. She sent word to the troops that she would be back some day.

Miss Raye, who has been in Vietnam more often than any other well-known entertainer, was starting a 33-day tour. Her performance was on a stage on a basketball court at Camp Davis, a few miles outside of Saigon.

An Army officer said she had not been feeling well before going on and USO officials said she had neglected to take salt tablets.

She was wearing a heavy wig and a 20 pound dress and had been performing for an hour when she fainted. Members of the cast carried her off stage. The temperature was in the 90s.