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MAR 30 1975

## Refugees Cling to Plane

# Reporter on Last Plane From Da Nang

By PAUL VOGLE

DA NANG, South Vietnam (UPI) — Only the fastest, the strongest and the meanest of a huge mob got a ride on the last plane from Da Nang today.

People died trying to get aboard and others died when they fell thousands of feet into the sea because even desperation could no longer keep their fingers clasped to the undercarriage.

It was a flight into hell and only a good pilot and a lot of prayers got us back to Tan Son Nhut airbase alive—with the Boeing 727 flaps jammed and the wheels fully extended.

World Airways president Ed Daley was aboard the flight north from Saigon. 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 some more refugees out.

Daley finally said forget the paperwork, clearances and caution and we were on our way.

It seemed peaceful enough as we touched down at the airport 370 miles northeast of Saigon.

Over a thousand people had been waiting around a quonset hut several hundred yards away from where we touched down.

Suddenly it was a mob in motion—they roared across the tarmac on motorbikes, jeeps, motor scooters and on legs churned by desperation and panic.

Ed Daley and I stood near the bottom of the 727's tail ramp. 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 they knew it. Daley and I were knocked aside and backward.

If Ed 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).

They literally ripped the clothes off Daley along with some of his skin. One of them kicked an old woman in the face to get aboard.

In the movies somebody would have shot him and helped the old lady on the plane. This was no movie. He flew and the old lady tumbled down the tarmac, her fingers clawing toward a plane that was already rolling.

A British television cameraman who flew up with us made the mistake of getting off the plane when we landed to shoot the

loading.

He could not get back aboard in the pandemonium. He threw his camera with its precious film into the closing door and stood there and watched the plane take off.

We heard later that an Air America helicopter picked him up and carried him to safety.

As the plane started rolling, madness gripped those who had missed the last chance. Government troops opened fire on the plane. Somebody lobbed a hand grenade toward the wing. The explosion jammed the flaps full open and the undercarriage in full extension.

Communist rockets began exploding at a distance.

Pilot, Ken Healy, 52, of Oakland, Calif., slammed the throttles open and 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 this plane but had been ordered not to land when the panic broke out. Its pilot radioed that 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 one person lose his grip on life and plummet into the South China Sea below.

Healy radioed to Tan Son Nhut: "I've got control problems." The backup plane was shepherding us in.

Huong, in the cockpit of the backup plane, said later when we touched down safely the pilot and cabin crew on his plane pulled off their headphones. Some crossed themselves, and all thanked God for a small miracle delivered this Easter weekend.

When we touched down the troops who had stormed the plane were taken off and put under arrest.

A mangled body of one soldier, M16 rifle still strapped to his shoulder, was retrieved from the undercarriage. He got his ride to Saigon but being dead in Saigon is just the same as being dead in Da Nang.

Over a score of others came out of the baggage compartment, cold but alive. Someone said four others crawled out of the wheel wells alive. One died.

The last plane from Da Nang carried only three civilians—two women and a baby. For all aboard, it was an incredible ride.

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

Not everyone is leaving the Central Highlands or other areas taken by the PRG. The *New York Times* reported Mar. 26 that one-third of Hue's population had remained. Veteran correspondent Daniel Southerland of the *Christian Science Monitor* reported Mar. 24 that in the highlands "most of the estimated 600,000 highland tribesmen who were under government control have apparently chosen to stay behind."

On Mar. 20, the PRG released this description of life in the provincial capital of Ban Me Thuot following the Saigon evacuation: "The streets of this handsome city in the Central Highlands were decorated with flags, streamers, posters and placards of all sizes. The slogan 'Nothing is More Precious than Independence and Freedom was seen on every street corner. . . . Together with other people, the students and pupils were cleaning up the streets. . . . Thousands of Saigon officers, soldiers and administrative personnel turned themselves into the revolutionary administration. All market places in the provincial capital were crowded with customers. . . ."

"Dr. Le Kim Son, head of the provincial public health department of the Saigon regime had also resumed his work and together with the liberation public

health services, kept the dozen or so health stations in the city in operation without interruption. . . . Meanwhile electrical engineers and workers went around to restore power lines. Within only three days, the people of Ban Me Thuot already had enough running water for their needs."

The following day, the PRG reported that the city was bombed by Saigon planes, killing or wounding 200 people.

The PRG also reported on Mar. 26 that three days earlier, more than 10,000 people who were "being forced to follow the Saigon army in its flight from the Central Highlands to the coast" escaped. "Reaching Highway 19 in Binh Dinh province," the report said, "they refused to go further and broke away from the guards. The revolutionary administration is doing everything to help them settle down."

Another PRG report filed the same day said that "to avoid being dragged away by the Saigon army, nearly 3,000 people in various southern coastal villages of Quang Tri province fled to the sea and sailed to the liberated areas in the northern part of the province. In the same period, over 3,000 other forced evacuees took to liberated areas in Gio Linh and Cam Lo districts."

Sources said Pleiku and Kontum City have been declared free fire zones. More than 50 bombing sorties over the highlands have destroyed 100 airplanes, oil depots, ammunition dumps and other important government positions, sources said.

"We follow a scorched-earth policy like the Russians used against Germany," said a government official.

One knowledgeable South Vietnamese source said: "The Ban Me Thuot residents began leaving the city out of fear of air force bombing. They crossed Communist troops marching leisurely into the city. They were walking in opposite directions, and the Communist soldiers were dressed like the ARVN but wearing rubber sandals instead of boots and a red armband with a yellow star. They did not pay special attention to the refugees."

## Saigon aides deny charges of extermination bombing

Associated Press

SAIGON -- South Vietnamese officials yesterday denied Viet Cong charges that the government was conducting "extermination bombings" of recently abandoned towns and forcing civilians to flee.

"We are only bombing to destroy what our troops have left behind and, of course, on the positions of enemy units," Saigon officials said. They denied any deliberate bombings of civilian areas.

The officials said abandoned provincial capitals and district towns were emptied of their military and civilian populations in massive evacuations ordered by the government.

Other sources acknowledged that heavy air strikes were conducted against various installations in Pleiku, one of the Central Highlands provincial capitals given up by Saigon, after it was ordered evacuated. They said the targets included the city's large airfield and the 2d Corps military headquarters.

One source denied that civilian areas were deliberately struck at Pleiku or elsewhere but acknowledged that there were bound to be casualties among civilians remaining behind.

The Viet Cong accusations were broadcast earlier by Radio Hanoi and

renewed at a press conference yesterday by Col. Vo Dong Giang, deputy chief of the Viet Cong's delegation to the two-party Joint Military Commission in Saigon.

Giang said President Nguyen Van Thieu's government was forcing civilians to follow troops retreating from abandoned provinces "in an attempt to strip manpower to continue the US neo-colonialist war" in South Vietnam.

To force the civilians out, Giang charged, the Saigon government "has conducted extermination bombings of . . . towns where their troops have been forced to withdraw."

### MEANWHILE, IN LAOS.....

As those of you who have read my first report about the free choice that the coalition government here in Laos has given to the near 900,000 refugees of U.S. bombing and the "secret war" in Laos know, the fact that approximately 750,000 people have chosen to return to Neo Lao HakSat areas is a most significant development in Indochina, and one that has not been covered by the U.S. press, and also one that the U.S. Embassy here has tried to keep from receiving adequate publicity.

—Lou & Eryl Kubicka, AFSC Representatives in Vientiane, Laos.

This flyer available from Indochina Program, c/o American Friends Service Committee, 112 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. 215/LO 3-9372

A cable, dated April 1, from an American Friends Service Committee team in Saigon reports that:

"The (Republic of Vietnam) policy seems to be to deny the Communists some population, and not to improve the lot of the refugees at all. The effort to move them is a cynical, immoral program."

The six members of the team were working, until recently, at the Quaker Rehabilitation Center in Quang Ngai, all speak Vietnamese and among them they total 16 years experience in Vietnam.

Earlier cables pointed out that many displaced persons are "moving back to their traditional homes in the liberated areas" and that particularly in the case of Quang Ngai, "The greater exodus was out...to the mountains and villages." In other words, to territory administered by the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

In a letter dated March 26 Tom Hoskins, a member of the AFSC team, puts it this way:

"Western observers and analysts say that the map of Vietnam is different every day as new areas 'change hands,' or are 'lost' or 'liberated.' They falsely assume that the areas to be colored red or blue, to be called 'communist' or 'democratic,' are a result of whose army controls which hill and whose munitions can destroy the other's camps.

"But there is no change in the map of Vietnam. There is a great change in the expressions of hope and anticipation, and yes, fear, for the future of Vietnam. The faces of the people are changing. The faces now reveal the true commitment to building a Vietnam...free of political oppression, free from hunger, ignorance, sickness --free from war."

-Excerpted from "Report From Vietnam" by Maris Cakars in WIN's 4/17/75 issue.

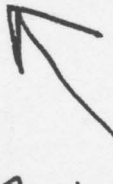


Dominican Republic, '65. Administration used the pretext of "protecting American lives" to land 500 Marines. A week later 23,000 airborne had arrived. And it turns out the Marines had been given a broader political purpose: to repress an insurgency movement.

#### OUR RESPONSE

1. Case-Church is the issue and it must be maintained.
2. Armed Marines sent into Saigon to evacuate Americans are bound to spark off further fighting, panic and casualties. Will there be more POW's? Will more Marines have to go in to rescue the first batch?
3. The aircraft carriers which have been moved into the area for "air support" can serve no useful role in evacuation. Air support means bombing. The 70 or so aircraft on such carriers are not cargo planes which could be loaded with refugees. Instead they are fighter-bombers with room for only pilots and crew.  
The only significant way these aircraft could assist an evacuation would be to "soften" up the areas around Saigon and the exit corridor with highspeed bombing of surrounding "troop concentrations." This would have the inevitable result of also hitting refugees who are being kept out of Saigon, and constituting U.S. reintervention.
4. Evacuation of Vietnamese closely identified with the U.S. would require even broader use of U.S. troops, unless their departure is part of a political settlement.

1000, 14 W. Broad St., Bethlehem, PA 18018 691-8730

  
This is a pro-left or pro communist group  
in this area. I received a phone call after my  
reply to orphan criticism in the Globe Times and  
two large packets of "information" from them since.

Just get you would like to know what they, the  
Orphans etc are saying about the orphans etc!

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Reporting  
3-31-75

## War orphan flow to U.S. jeopardized

By James R. Hood

DENVER (AP) — Efforts to bring war orphans to the United States are being accelerated as the military situation deteriorates in South Vietnam.

"We have 200 to 300 families waiting for children. We're trying to get them out, but we don't know if we can make it," said Sally Bergner of Friends of Children of Vietnam.

"We don't know how much longer we can hold out."

MRS. BERGNER said food costs have risen 200 per cent at some Saigon orphanages in the last few days, creating a desperate shortage of funds.

Food supplies to the orphanages have been interrupted by the renewed fighting and thousands of refugees are pouring into Saigon, where many of the nation's 133 orphanages are located, she said.

The Denver-based Friends of Children organization has been ferrying about 10 orphans from Saigon to new homes in the United States each week for the past year, and hopes to accelerate the pace because of recent developments.

THE LATEST group of 10 children arrives in Los Angeles today.

"We just don't know how much longer we'll be able to operate in South Vietnam. We want to get as many children out as we possibly can," said Cheryl Markson, the group's executive director.

"One Saigon orphanage was swamped with 150 orphans who were brought down from Quang Nam last week," Mrs. Markson said. "They had no food, only the clothes on their backs, no fresh diapers."

The organization has operated in South Vietnam since 1967, functioning as an aid and referral organization. Last year, it became a licensed adoption agency in an attempt to speed the flow of homeless war orphans to the United States.

FRIENDS of Children is one of several groups working to find American homes for some of the estimated 1.5 million orphans in South Vietnam. It operates 26 chapters in the U.S. and has a staff of about 155 people in Southeast Asia.

"I would certainly encourage anyone who wants to adopt a Vietnamese orphan to act as quickly as they can," Mrs. Markson said. "We probably don't have much time left."



**Weather**  
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# THE SUNNAY SUN

BALTIMORE, SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 1975

## Gov signs \$22.8 billion tax

### Death-penalty is enacted, Gov to Mandel

By ANTHONY BARBIERI, JR.  
 Annapolis Bureau of The Sun

— The House of Delegates enacted legislation on Governor Mandel yesterday legislative punishment in Maryland.

action, on an unexpectedly close vote, guarantees that the bill will become law, Governor has already said he will sign legislation if it reaches his desk.

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### Sadat to reopen Suez Canal

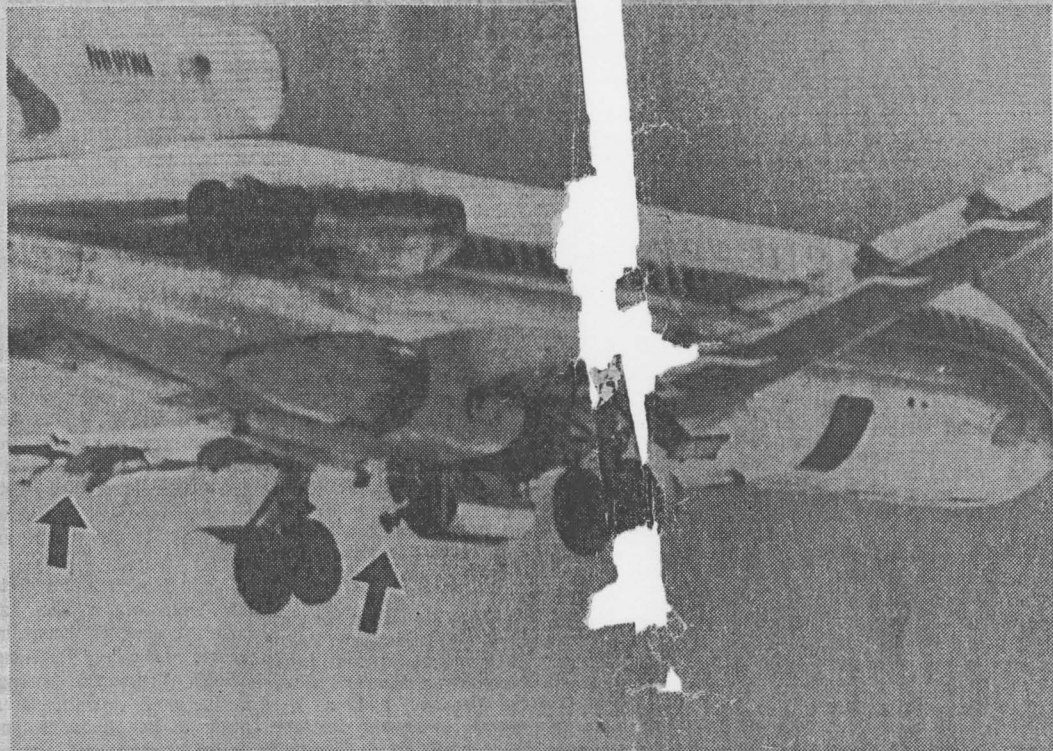
Cairo (P)—Egyptian President Anwar Sadat declared last night he would reopen the Suez Canal to international navigation June 5 and extend the mandate of United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Sinai Desert for another three months.

Mr. Sadat referred to the collapse a week ago of Henry A. Kissinger's peace mission as he told the People's Assembly,

*Saudi oil pricing policy linked to U.S. support for Israel* ..... A3

"Some may expect an emotional reaction from me. But I prefer action to reaction." He added that he will "refrain from acting nervously."

The Ministry of Information later clarified Mr. Sadat's statement on the Suez Canal, saying Israel would not be able to use the waterway. He said its operation would be govern-



The feet of a South Vietnamese soldier (arrow, right) protrude from the wheel well of a Boeing 727 that was supposed to evacuate refugees from Da Nang. Instead soldiers stormed the plane to climb aboard. As the

jetliner took off for Saigon it was hit by a grenade thrown by a soldier trying to delay its departure so he could get on. The grenade damaged a wing flap (arrow, left). The plane landed safely in Saigon.

## Mob of soldiers gains Da Nang exit

By ARNOLD R. ISAACS  
 Sun Staff Correspondent

Saigon—Thousands of panicking South Vietnamese soldiers and airmen, firing shots and flinging grenades, mobbed an American refugee evacuation plane yesterday in a frantic effort to escape from Da Nang.

The World Airways Boeing 727, one flap blown off its left wing by a grenade, limped safely back to Saigon from the Da Nang air base with dozens of soldiers crammed in the open baggage compartment

and seen hanging from the landing gear.

For the first 30 minutes of the flight, Edward J. Daly, the World Airways president, and other airline official, and three Vietnamese were clinging desperately to the still-lowered rear loading stairs.

The fleeing soldiers, who flung away weapons and gear as they fought to get on board, prevented the plane from picking up the civilian refugees who were supposed to be flown to Saigon. Only 10 civilians were among the 330 passen-

gers—more than twice the normal load—who were on board when the plane took off, crew members said.

"I didn't see any refugees," said Joe Hrezo, the airline's manager at Clark Field in the Philippines, who made the flight. "All I saw was fatigue uniforms; that's all I saw. They were shooting at each other on the ground."

Jan Wollett, one of three cabin attendants, said the only civilians who managed to get aboard were 10 women, three babies and some old

men. "I was trying to hoist one woman over the side rail of the steps," she said, "when a man grabbed her around the waist and pulled her back down. Then he crawled on board. He was a soldier. It was a sad comment on human nature—I never want to see that again."

Once the plane was airborne, Miss Wollett said, the soldiers became anxious about their families and asked the crew if more flights would be going into Da Nang. "They weren't See DA NANG, A2, Col. 3

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## the nation

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South Vietnamese soldiers who fought their way to the beach and boarded an evacuation plane intended for refugees from the besieged northern city of Da Nang, are arriving at Tanson Nhut Airport in Saigon.



Tanson Nhut Airport in Saigon. Another critically injured soldier who made the flight in the wheel well of the Boeing 727 also was taken away by troops.

# Soldiers fight refugees to board rescue flight

**DA NANG, from A1** The air base and the city were shelled heavily late Friday night and yesterday morning, the Saigon military command reported yesterday, and ground fighting was under way only 3 to 6 miles away from the city to the south and the west for the last three days. According to witnesses, the city has been in a state of utter panic.

The U.S. Embassy in Saigon said a sealift of refugees is proceeding. Two ships—a U.S. Navy cargo vessel manned by civilian crewmen and a civilian ship chartered by the military sealift command—loaded Friday and yesterday in Da Nang, and one reached Cam Ranh Bay farther south to unload yesterday.

World Airways is on charter to the U.S. aid mission, which had hoped to organize a massive airlift out of Da Nang. Yesterday's landing was not authorized by American officials. U.S. Embassy spokesmen said it was highly unlikely the airlift would resume.

The airline had flown two more 727's into Vietnam for use in the refugee lift, and they were to begin flyin yesterday. Both actually took off for Da Nang, but did not land. "I'm just sick," said Ken

the only control station were still on the steps when the plane became airborne. They spent 30 minutes trying to rescue a Vietnamese who had jammed his leg in the railing and broken it. They finally freed him and managed to clamber into the plane. But the landing gear was still down and the baggage hatch open, and Mr. Healy had to nurse the aircraft back to Saigon at only 200 knots and 10,500 feet of altitude.

Several persons on the plane were injured seriously. Beside the man who broke his leg in the stairway, another had gunshot wounds and a third seemed to have a fractured skull, according to Miss Wollett.

Of the seven men who made the flight in the wheel well, six jumped off and walked away when the plane landed in Saigon, crewmen said, while the seventh, who appeared critically injured and possibly dead, was taken off in an ambulance.

South Vietnamese troops surrounded the plane when it taxied to a stop in Saigon, and herded all the soldiers and airmen away from it. It could not immediately be learned whether they were to be arrested.

The actual military situation around Da Nang was unclear. The command spokesman in Saigon, Lt. Col. Le Trung Hien, said radio contact was lost temporarily yesterday with the first military region headquarters there, presumably because of the overnight shelling, but that contact was re-established later. Other

fighters as they landed and blocked the runway because of the over-night shelling, but that contact was re-established later. Other

When the plane landed, Mr. Healy remained at the controls and Mr. Hrezo got out to begin coordinating the landing. But the soldiers and airmen already were flinging their weapons and gear from the plane.

"As soon as I dropped off I knew it was a goddam mistake," Mr. Hrezo said. He went to the tower while Mr. Healy kept taxiing the plane from one spot to another. But the crowds followed in jeeps and trucks, on motorscooters and on foot.

Mr. Hrezo said he saw one jeep with 20 persons on it involved in a crash right on the runway. At another spot he said a fire engine with people hanging all over it drove for the plane, but other Vietnamese Air Force men shot out the tires. Asked if anyone seemed to be trying to control the crowd, Mr. Hrezo answered sourly, "No, nobody. Mr. Daly and myself, that was all."

After stopping three times in different places and being charged each time, Mr. Healy managed to bring the plane down by the tower to pick up Mr. Hrezo and Mr. Daly. Then he began his take-off run, using a taxiway rather than the runway because a fully bombed-up South Vietnamese fighter was stalled and block-

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# Moscow Jew

Moscow—S about 250 Jews from a Moscow synagogue morning immigration conclusion of over service

Several Jews have been manhandled sought to clear the synagogue meeting place dozens of phalanx to the street.

Some reports police, using force interrupted the ceremony the people out, agreed that apparently it was over in.

Soviet authorities are trying to place Last policemen street outside Passover about 400 gating there

Several Jews have spec moves are Soviet str number of emigrate down on hoping to ment of le date all off

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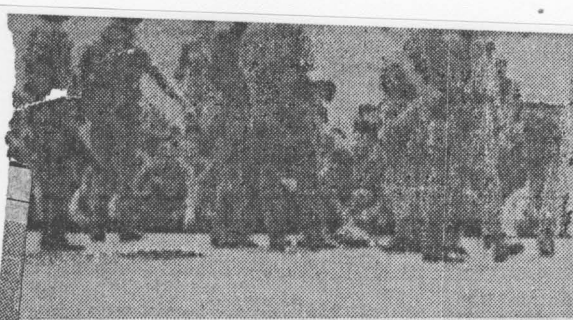
### the city and state

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Tanson Nhut Airport in Saigon. Another critically injured soldier who made the flight in the wheel well of the Boeing 727 also was taken away by troops.

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"I'm just sick," said Ken Healy, the pilot of yesterday's nightmarish flight. "I don't know where to point the plane."

the only control station still functioning.

"They said they would control; they would park and would give us security," Mr. Healy said. "They were very encouraging."

When the plane landed, Mr. Healy remained at the controls and Mr. Hrezo got out to begin coordinating the landing. But the soldiers and airmen already were flinging their weapons and equipment from the plane.

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After stopping three times in different places and being charged each time, Mr. Healy managed to bring the plane down by the tower to pick up Mr. Hrezo and Mr. Daly. Then he began his take-off run, using a taxiway rather than the runway because a fully bombed-up South Vietnamese fighter was stalled and blocking the way.

As the plane lifted, Mr. Healy said Mr. Daly was blowing off a flap and damaging the Da Nang air base tower—

were still on the steps when the plane became airborne. They spent 30 minutes trying to rescue a Vietnamese who had jammed his leg in the railing and broken it. They finally freed him and managed to clamber into the plane. But the landing gear was still down and the baggage hatch open, and Mr. Healy had to nurse the aircraft back to Saigon at only 200 knots and 10,500 feet of altitude.

Several persons on the plane were injured seriously. Beside the man who broke his leg in the stairway, another had gunshot wounds and a third seemed to have a fractured skull, according to Miss Wollett.

Of the seven men who made the flight in the wheel well, six jumped off and walked away when the plane landed in Saigon, crewmen said, while the seventh, who appeared critically injured and possibly dead, was taken off in an ambulance.

South Vietnamese troops surrounded the plane when it taxied to a stop in Saigon, and herded all the soldiers and airmen away from it. It could not immediately be learned whether they were to be arrested.

The actual military situation around Da Nang was unclear. The command spokesman in Saigon, Lt. Col. Le Trung Hien, said radio contact was lost temporarily yesterday with the first military region headquarters there, presumably because of the overnight shelling, but that contact was re-established later. Other sources said as far as they knew the city still was in South Vietnamese hands.

treating soldiers, Da Nang is defended only by part of the Marine Division and the 3d Infantry Division, the only reasonably intact South Vietnamese unit left in the northern region. Two other divisions and part of the Marine Division lost most of their equipment in the flight from other provinces to the north and south.

Meanwhile, Reuter reported that Viet Cong soldiers have gained control of "many important sectors" of Da Nang.

North Vietnamese strength in the area is estimated at three to five divisions, supported by strong artillery and tank forces. The command confirmed the loss of Hoi An, 20 miles south of Da Nang, the last of the regions five provincial capitals to fall. (Da Nang is an independent municipality).

It also confirmed for the first time that Hue, the old imperial capital, is in Communist hands. The abandonment of Hue had occurred during the last week.

The U.S. Embassy said the first evacuation ship, S.S. Pioneer Contender, had on board about 85 foreigners, including 18 Americans from the U.S. consulate-general in Da Nang and 18 non-official Americans.

Albert Francis, the consul-general, and six of his staff were still in the Da Nang area, but the embassy would not say where. The consulate itself is closed.

One unconfirmed report said Mr. Francis was on a ship off the coast, trying to keep in touch with developments and the first

about 200 Jews. Moscow synagogue morning immediate conclusion of over service th

Several Jews been manhan sought to clear the synagog meeting place gious Moscow dozen police phalanx to c street.

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Mr. Healy said Mr. Daly was blowing off a flap and damaging the Da Nang air base tower— Mr. Hrezo and Mr. Daly

**IN MEMORIAM (1)**

REHM 31e  
In memory of my beloved mother, ELIZABETH B. who passed away March 31, 1973. The pains of death are past. Labor and sorrow cease; And life's long warfare closed at last. Her soul is found in peace.

**GINNY & LEE**

**DEATHS (3)**

BAUER 31e  
On March 28, 1975 JOSEPH F. of

**DEATHS (3)**

DRANE 31e  
On March 29, 1975 JOHN A. beloved husband of the late Culligunda Desales Drane and devoted father of Lida C. Smith. Also survived by four grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. Prayers at the Lassahn Funeral Home, 7401 Belair road on Tuesday at 9:15 A.M. Mass of the Resurrection at St. Clements Church (Rosedale) at 10 A.M. Interment in Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery. Visiting 2 to 5 and 7 to

MEARS 31e  
Wint have Hatle wife moth Also Mich sister Eva J Benn Ful ida.