

Raids North

Lavelle Tells of Bombings

A major controversy brewed in Washington last week as the former head of the 7th Air Force revealed unauthorized air strikes against targets inside North Vietnam.

Lt. Gen. John D. Lavelle, fired from the 7th Air Force post and subsequently retired after the air strikes came to the attention of higher-ups, said the bombings were ordered for the safety of his pilots "and at the same time trying to stop the buildup" of North Vietnamese forces then preparing for their all-out offensive against the South.

He said that under the provisions of the 1968 bombing halt — which called for all but "protective reaction" strikes into North Vietnam to be stopped — he felt he had the authority as commander to order the raids.

His pilots, he said, had seen

massive buildups of enemy troops and equipment just north of the Demilitarized Zone, and so Lavelle requested permission from Gen. Creighton Abrams, U.S. commander in Vietnam, for permission to strike. He said he did not get permission, but he was not denied, either.

"At that time, as the commander on the spot concerned with the safety of the crews and at the same time trying to stop the buildup that was going on, I felt that these were justifiable actions," Lavelle said.

One of the things the Senate was concerned about over the incidents was the falsification of reports on the missions, which made them appear to be protective reaction raids.

A letter from a sergeant with the 7th Air Force to Sen. Harold Hughes, D-Iowa, said, "We have been reporting that our planes have received hostile re-

actions such as AA and SAM firings whether they have or not. We have also been falsifying targets struck and bomb damage assessments."

Lavelle told the Senate he ordered the raids stopped after discovering that three false reports had been made.

Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., called on the Air Force to court-martial Lavelle.

Charging that "the issue of civilian control of the military is at stake," Proxmire said, "If the Air Force does not bring Gen. Lavelle to trial, any general who ever dreamed of riding a white horse might be ordering air strikes, surreptitious raids and unauthorized forays in dozens of situations where the survival of civilization itself is at stake."

The Pentagon said that as far as it was concerned, Lavelle's case was closed.



Gen. John D. Lavelle

... While U.S. Orders Halt

The United States announced that it was suspending its bombing operations near Hanoi so as not to endanger Soviet President Nikolai V. Podgorny, who arrived in North Vietnam Thursday.

The White House was hoping that Podgorny was in Hanoi to persuade the North Vietnamese to give a little at the Paris talks and perhaps even to halt their current offensive in South Vietnam. The Russian was expected to be in North Vietnam three or four days.

"You can be sure that we won't do anything to endanger President Podgorny while he is in Hanoi," one official said.

In 1966, U.S. bombers struck a target in Hanoi's suburbs while Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin was in the North Vietnamese capital.

The temporary bombing halt, however, was only limited to the Hanoi area. Elsewhere, U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine jets were streaking into North Vietnam in record numbers,

hitting bridges, barges, trucks, boats and missile sites.

The U.S. Command reported that six railway bridges close to the Chinese border — one only 25 miles away — had been destroyed or damaged.

The closeness of the attacks brought angry reaction from the Chinese Foreign Ministry,

raids were taken with "considerable care and caution" and noted the "effectiveness of some of the newer techniques involving laser and television control of bombings, which have made the air war more precise than in the past."

How precise it is was measured this way by a senior U.S. Air Force official:

"We're eating the vitals of the country. There is nothing they can do about it. Nothing. If the bombing is permitted to continue for three or four months, there won't be a worthwhile target left up there. Every high-value target will have been destroyed with great precision, and they can't stop it..."

"Now I think after a period of time it's going to dawn on them that this is a losing proposition, that they better start getting reasonable at the (Paris) table."

In Paris, the United States and South Vietnam again turned down a call to reopen the stalled negotiations.

Review

By Bob Smith

which said that the Peking government regarded the bombings as a threat to China's security.

The United States quickly sought to assure the Chinese. State Department spokesman Charles W. Bray said that the

Ulrike Meinhof Caught

Police ended the two-year terrorist spree of anarchist Ulrike Meinhof, arresting the kicking and cursing leftist in an apartment in Hannover, West Germany.

She was the ideological leader of the Baader-Meinhof group or "Red Army Faction." Her partner in terror, Andreas Baader, was seized earlier by police in Frankfurt.

Acting on tips from the public, the police raided her apartment and seized the 37-year-old mother of two along with a person thought to be her bodyguard, Gerhard Mueller.

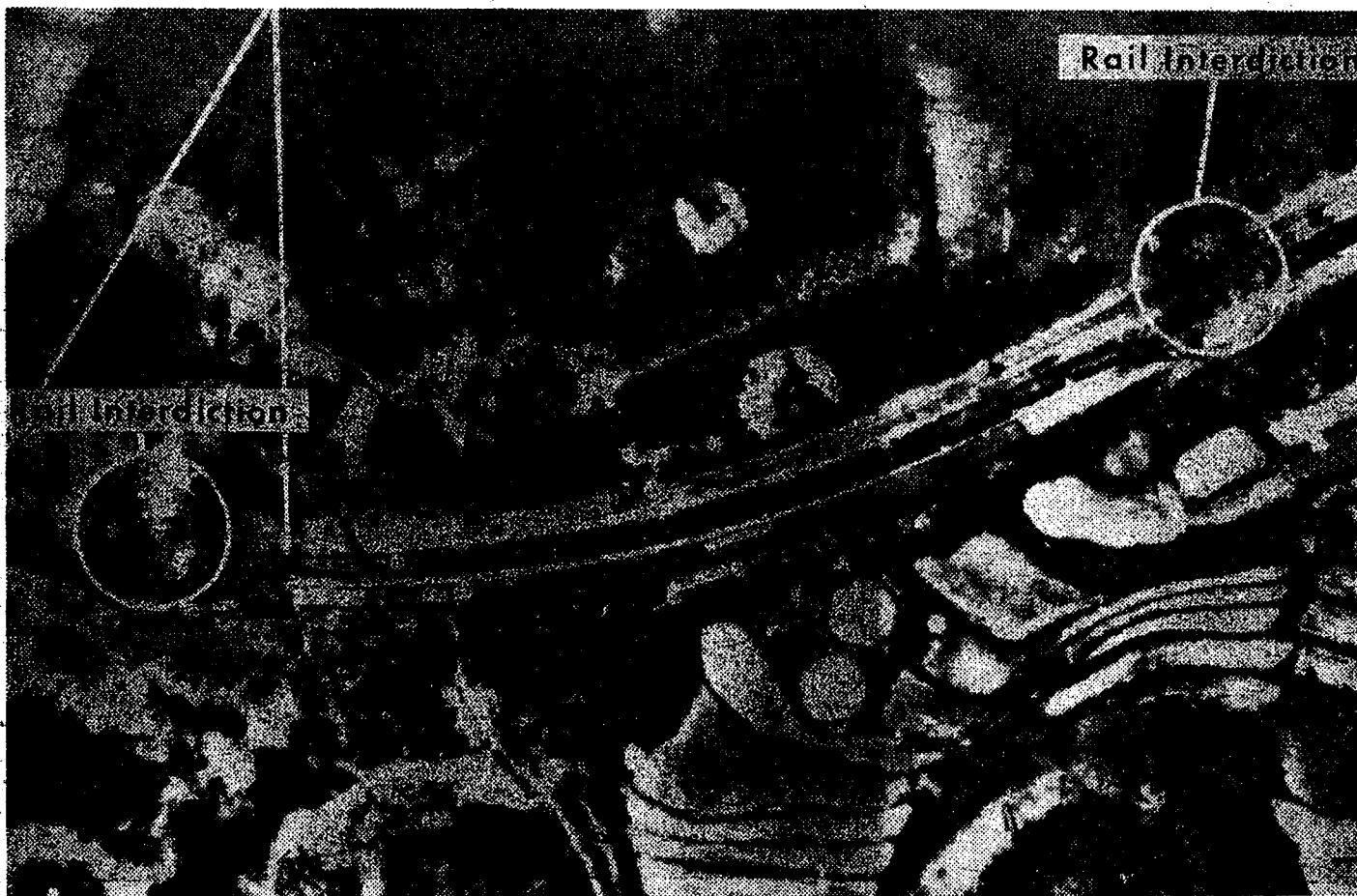
Police also found a nine-pound bomb, a submachine gun, three revolvers, ammunition and equipment to make other explosive devices. They also found an itinerary of planned explosions and a list of names and addresses of persons living in Germany and other countries.

The arrest came Thursday night, though police could not at first make positive identification, because the formerly chubby Miss Meinhof had lost a great deal of weight and looked very haggard.

She was positively identified after her skull was x-rayed and silver clamps left from a tumor operation were found.

Her arrest brought to seven the number of hard-core members of the gang apprehended by police since the arrest of Baader June 1. Another member, Ilse Stachowiak, is believed to be still in Germany, while three others are thought to be in Denmark.

The gang had taken credit for bombings at U.S. Army installations in Frankfurt and Heidelberg that took the lives of four persons and injured another 36. German authorities also say that it is responsible for the shooting deaths of three policemen.



DAMAGED RAILS — This is an aerial view showing the damage done to a rail line running from China to Hanoi. It was attacked with laser-guided bombs. —Associated Press Photo

Here and There in the World

● A federal judge in Washington ordered the United Mine Workers to hold elections before the end of the year.

● The California Supreme Court upheld the conviction of Sirhan Sirhan for the murder of Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 but modified his death sentence to life in prison, in line with its earlier ruling abolishing the death penalty in the state.

● Torrential rains brought flooding to South Dakota last weekend, with at least 200 persons killed.

● Presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger was to go to Red China for his fourth visit this week.

● Twelve persons, including 11 children, were killed in a traffic accident in Shady Nook, La.

● President Nixon urged speedy congressional approval

of the arms curbs agreements he made with Soviet leaders when he visited Moscow.

● Egyptian and Israeli warplanes clashed in a dogfight over the Mediterranean, with both sides claiming two enemy jets were knocked down.

● A Japan Air Lines plane crashed near New Delhi, India, with 83 of the 89 persons aboard dying immediately. A Cathay Pacific jet also crashed in South Vietnam with 82 aboard. No survivors were found.

● The Environmental Protection Agency banned virtually all uses of DDT, claiming it is a health hazard.

● A 43-year-old German killed three policemen after barricading himself and his family inside their home to prevent a search for suspected weapons and explosives. He was arrested after the long gun battle.