

# Classifieds

## Bomb blast for band foiled by Belgium traffic

**United Press International**  
BRUSSELS, Belgium — A powerful bomb ripped through the medieval Grand Place in the historic heart of Brussels Tuesday just minutes before a British military band was to give an outdoor concert, police said.

Four persons were injured, two seriously, in what police sources said could be another attack on a British target by IRA terrorists.

The blast shattered windows throughout the historic square and wrecked the outdoor platform on which the visiting British band was to have given a concert. Officials said the casualty toll would undoubtedly have been much higher had it not been for a traffic jam that delayed the arrival of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment military band.

"We were lucky because we arrived late," said bandman Jack Hardy of Gloucester. "We were held up by a traffic jam getting into Brussels."

Only a few bandmen and stagehands were on the platform at the time of the blast, setting up instruments.

Brussels Police Chief Georges Poels said the blast was apparently caused by a charge of plastic explosives placed underneath the platform set at one end of the historic square, acclaimed as one of the most perfect examples of medieval and renaissance architecture left in Europe.

The blast ripped apart the heavy wood and metal stage. Twisted, broken instruments lay scattered on the cobblestoned ground along with shards of glass from dozens of shattered windows in the cafelined square.

Customers sipping drinks at an outdoor cafe near the stage dove for cover as debris showered down. They apparently escaped serious injury because the force of the blast was directed upwards, police said.

Authorities said they were still investigating the bomb blast. But police sources said the British band could have been the target of

another Irish Republican Army terrorist attack.

On Monday, IRA terrorists detonated a bomb that killed Lord Mountbatten, one of Britain's most famous military heroes and statesmen, and three others on a boat off the Irish coast. Another IRA ambush in Northern Ireland killed 18 British soldiers.

## More boats mean new refugee flight

**United Press International**  
MANILA, Philippines — The U.S. Navy Tuesday reported sighting seven refugee boats packed with 268 Vietnamese in the South China sea, indicating that the refugee wave from Vietnam was resuming after a virtual two-week lull.

A Navy spokesman said U.S. P-3 long-range patrol planes made the sightings in the past four days. Three of the boats were spotted Tuesday. One of them, carrying 59 Vietnamese, was rescued by the Dutch merchant ship Marinula.

The two other boats sighted today carried 42 and 45 refugees and were spotted 450 nautical miles east of Cam Ranh Bay and 300 nautical miles south of Saigon, respectively, the Navy said. The second boat was "dead in the water" but in no apparent distress, it said.

These brought to 13 the number of refugee junks sighted by patrol planes of the U.S. 7th Fleet since July 21 when President Carter ordered the fleet to search actively for refugees in the South China sea.

Altogether 158 Vietnamese have been rescued by 7th Fleet ships since the mission began.

The lull in the refugee exodus began Aug. 9 at the onset of the typhoon season.

The 59 refugees rescued today were aboard a 35-foot junk that sent up a red smoke signal to an Orion overhead 325 nautical miles east of Cam Ranh Bay, the spokesman said.

On Monday evening an Orion located a 35-foot fishing boat 100 nautical miles east of the Malaysian coast and directed a passing craft to rescue those aboard.

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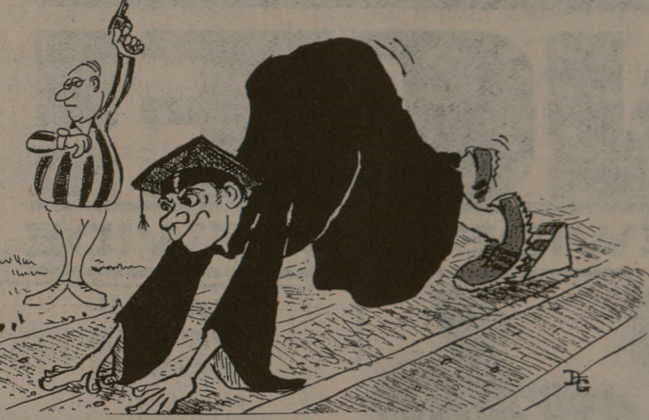
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