

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 155 USPS 045360 6 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, May 20, 1987

Reagan alerts forces after Iraqi bombing

Death toll climbs to 37 aboard USS Stark

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan declared Tuesday that U.S. military forces have been told to "defend yourselves" as the death toll from the Iraqi attack on a Navy frigate mounted to 37.

Reagan, in a speech to graduating high school seniors from the Chattanooga, Tenn., area said "this tragedy must never happen again," and Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger acknowledged that "we don't know why" the USS Stark did not return fire on the Iraqi warplane that attacked it in the Persian Gulf.

In an interview with Chattanooga area newspapers, Reagan said the

administration is waiting to find out why the guided-missile frigate didn't return fire at the Iraqi missile-firing plane in the 60 to 90 seconds that would have allowed such a response.

"What we're waiting to find out now is what exactly was the situation on the ship and the attitude, and why they . . . hadn't prepared," Reagan said. He noted that "general quarters hadn't been sounded, as it might be, if a hostile plane were coming into the area."

The president, however, did say the United States "had a very fulsome apology" from President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

"The whole thing, the course of the plane coming down that coast was the course that's taken by Iraqi planes all the time, and they're never . . . we've never considered them hostile at all," Reagan said. "They've never been in any way hostile. And this was at night, of course, so they never had any visual sight of the target. They fired that missile by radar."

"We're going to do what has to be done to keep the Persian Gulf open. It's international waters. No country there has a right to try and close it off and take it for itself. And the villain in the piece really is Iran. And so they're delighted with what has just happened."

Rear Adm. Harold J. Bernsen, speaking to reporters in Bahrain, said the Stark had about a minute's warning that an Iraqi warplane had turned on its weapons radar and had locked in on the frigate. But based on preliminary reports, the admiral said, there was "no indication" to the crew that a missile had been launched.

Reagan said, "Our ships are deployed in the gulf in order to protect U.S. interests and maintain free access and maintain freedom of navigation and access to the area's oil supplies. It is a vital mission, but our ships need to protect themselves and they will."

From now on, the president said, "if aircraft approach any of our ships in a way that appears hostile, there is one order of battle."

"Defend yourselves," he said. "Defend American lives."

In fast-moving developments as the nation's capital reacted to the heaviest loss of American lives since the bombing of U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon:

- Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas questioned the policy that has sent American ships into the Iran-Iraq war. "We need to rethink exactly what it is we are doing in the Persian Gulf," he said. "What are our goals? What is our strategy? What are the risks? And how much cost are we willing to pay?"

- The State Department said it was willing to join with Iraq in conducting a joint investigation into the attack on the Stark.

- The administration said that despite the Iraqi attack on an American frigate, "general agreement" has been reached with Kuwait to put American flags and American captains aboard Kuwaiti oil tankers operating in the gulf. The purpose is to protect the shipping lanes of the Straits of Hormuz.

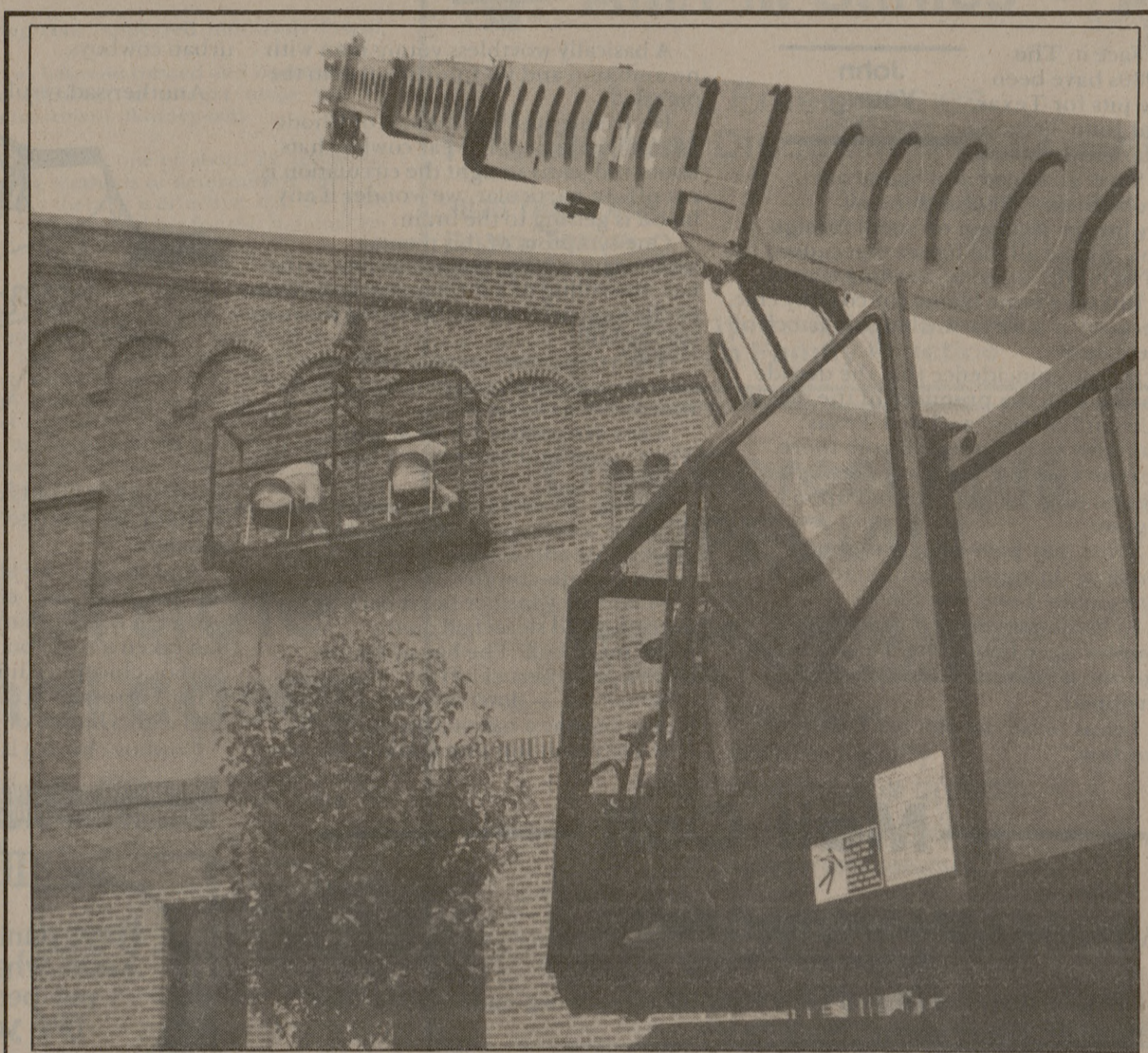


Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Just Hangin' Around

Physical plant paint shop workers Virgil Hartfield, left, and Terry Perry continue waterproofing work on the brick exterior of the Pavilion. The

work was started about three months ago after water from rain began getting inside the building and caused damage to carpeting.

Four Texans among survivors aboard attacked U.S. ship

(AP) — An El Paso man was among 21 sailors injured when an Iraqi jet attacked the USS Stark in the Persian Gulf, and at least three other Texans who were crew members escaped without injury, their families said Tuesday.

Seaman James Randall "Randy" Wheeler, 26, suffered burns over 35 percent of his body, but was in good condition Tuesday, said his mother, Jan Wheeler of El Paso.

Gunner's Mate Nick Andrew Norfleet and Petty Officer First Class Julio Gonzalez were on the able-bodied list, their mothers said, while Chief Petty Officer Larence Barrow was "alive and well," his wife said.

The Stark, part of a U.S. naval task force in the gulf, was hit Sunday by one — possibly two — French-made Exocet missiles while on routine patrol about 85 miles northeast of Bahrain.

Thirty-seven sailors were killed and another 21 were injured, officials said. The White House and Pentagon said the Iraqi attack was inadvertent but unexplained.

Imelda Barrow of Jacksonville, Fla., said a Navy officer informed her Tuesday morning that her husband, whose parents live in Houston, was OK.

"Of course, I was ecstatic," she said. "The Navy has been wonderful to all of us wives and families."

She said she was grateful for the interest from her husband's home state.

Barrow's parents, Larence and Betty, left Monday for the ship's home port in Mayport, Fla., to be with their daughter-in-law and four

grandchildren. Betty Barrow said she and her husband understood the dangers faced by U.S. servicemen overseas.

"A man in the military, and then going to the Mideast, yes, you have fear for him," Barrow's mother said. "It's not a conscious fear that you keep in your mind all the time, but it's always there."

Jean Brown of Conroe, who was informed late Monday that her son, Nick Norfleet, was all right, said she wanted to call him.

"Just knowing he's on that (able-bodied list) is what counts," she said. "Now I want to hear his voice."

Lucia Gonzalez of San Antonio said she learned Monday that her son, a 29-year-old radio operator on his first tour of duty aboard the Stark, was safe.

Gonzalez said her son's wife and three children live in the Mayport area. His youngest child was born after he went to sea, she said.

Jan Wheeler said she first learned at about 5 p.m. Sunday that her son was on the ship attacked by the Iraqis. Another son called and told her.

"About 11 p.m. (Sunday) someone from the American embassy (in Bahrain) called and told me that Randy might be alive," she said. "I spent the rest of the night worrying and wondering."

On Monday morning, a U.S. Navy official called to say her son was in good condition in a Bahrain hospital, she said.

"When I heard that I began to watch the television," she said. "There he was lying on a hospital bed. The television cameras took the picture of just one sailor and it was him."

House passes bill limiting abortions of 'viable' fetuses

AUSTIN (AP) — The House gave final approval to an abortion regulation bill Tuesday, while an anti-abortion group released a film showing doctors dismembering a 4½-month-old fetus.

The bill, which would prohibit abortions after a fetus is "viable," now goes to the Senate, where a similar measure is pending.

Several senators have threatened to filibuster against it. Sen. Craig Washington, D-Houston, said he plans to "talk for two days" if the House version is brought up for a vote.

"I think it's particularly ironic that Sen. Washington would use the filibuster tactic on this issue, because it will do nothing if it is successful but clearly thwart the will of the majority of the Senate," said Richard Land, who is Gov. Bill Clements' moral issues adviser.

"Filibusters were used in the United States Senate in previous generations to thwart the clear majority of the Senate's will on civil rights for blacks," Land said. "This is a civil rights bill for unborn babies."

Mark Fury, spokesman for the Texas Right to Life Committee, said the film "Eclipse Of Reason" was released in Texas on Tuesday in an attempt to "shift the focus

from individuals in the House and Senate to the issue at hand."

The 26-minute film will be shown in New Orleans at the National Right to Life Committee convention during mid-June, Fury said.

The film is a sequel to the controversial "Silent Scream," which showed the abortion of a fetus 12- to 14-weeks-old, he said.

It begins with an introduction by Charlton Heston, who says the news media has not done its job in informing the public about abortion.

"The press and television tells us more about heart surgery than they do about abortion," Heston says in the film.

The viewer is shown a fetus through a fetoscope, a fiber-optic instrument inserted into the mother's uterus to observe the child.

The film narrator, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, who also wrote "Silent Scream," says, "This child will be destroyed before your eyes."

Pam Fridrich, executive director of Texas Abortion Rights Action League, who also watched the film, said, "The Silent Scream" was discredited for being a phony film with photographic tricks in it. . . . This one is just another more emotional piece of propaganda."

Repeated, drastic mood swings may indicate common disorder

By Kellie Copeland
Reporter

"I felt nothing, or I felt everything. When I was on a high, I was king of the world. On the downside, I was unable to function."

These are the words of a Texas A&M student who has a bipolar disorder — more commonly known as manic depression.

Peter Ostwald, a psychiatrist at the University of California at San Francisco medical center, defines bipolar disorders as mood abnormalities marked by severe depression and the slowing of behavior at one pole and excessive feelings of joy, accompanied by the acceleration of thought and behavior at the other.

Depression is characterized by the loss of interest in almost all usual activities and pastimes, according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, a classification system of mental disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association.

Insomnia, low energy levels, feelings of inadequacy, lack of concentration, social withdrawal, a pessimistic attitude and crying are other characteristics of depression.

The manic, by contrast, exudes an infectious gaiety with laughter, expansive gestures and occasional statements which leave no doubt that the individual believes life is worth living. However, irritability often is very near the manic's surface.

Eddie Vela, a graduate psychology student at A&M, says, "Bipolar disorders were previously assumed



to be rare. But recent evidence suggests that, among college students, the disorder may be relatively common."

Joe, not his real name, discovered he was manic-depressive after seeking treatment from the student counseling service offered on campus.

"I've always been moody," he explains, "but I had no idea that I really had a problem until a year ago. Sometimes I would have such great highs and feel so peaceful. But those moods began to happen less often. The rest of the time, I felt like I was dead inside."

"My soul felt black — I lost all interest in life. I didn't feel like doing anything."

"I really tried to hide it, but my friends and teachers began to notice something was wrong. I knew I was depressed, but I couldn't shake it. And then I began to think about suicide."

Fortunately, he says, one of his friends persuaded him to visit the

student counseling service, which put him on medication to straighten the arc of his mood swings.

"I still don't see the world like most people do," he says, "but I'm a lot better now."

Joe is one of the more lucky of about two million Americans who suffer from bipolar disorders because he was able to receive treatment and now leads a fairly normal life.

Vela says many people don't get help because they resist the idea that they are ill. Other people resist help because they don't like the idea of being on medication.

Ann Schumann-Ousley, marketing director of Greenleaf Hospital in Bryan, says students are sometimes reluctant to seek help because of the stigma attached to mental illness.

"But they should know that it is extremely common to seek counseling," Schumann-Ousley says. "Mental illness is not a problem of will or failure of self-control, but it is a medical condition like heart disease or high blood pressure."

Mary Crockett, professor of psychological nursing at the University of Texas at Austin, says that, because the illness is really due to a chemical imbalance, therapy alone isn't effective treatment.

Out of every 100 people in America who suffer from bipolar disorders, Crockett says, 85 percent can be helped through a combination of therapy and medication — usually lithium — but the remaining 15 percent get worse.

The most common complications

of manic depression are substance abuse and the consequences of actions resulting from impaired judgement, such as financial losses and illegal activities, she says.

Substance abuse is particularly common as a result of self-treatment with sedatives and alcohol during the depressed periods and the self-indulgent use of stimulants and psychedelics during the manic periods.

The most serious consequence, however, is suicide.

"One in six manic-depressives will commit suicide if left untreated," Crockett says.

Like Joe, Dian Cox-Leighton also has been diagnosed as a manic-depressive, but Cox-Leighton, who is a counselor at a manic depression support group near Austin, doesn't take lithium for her illness.

"I used to take lithium," Cox-Leighton says, "but I stopped because of some minor side effects connected with it."

Tremors or shaking, urinary tract infections, dehydration and drowsiness are some common side effects of lithium.

"I struggle with my disorder, but I'm coping and I'm happy," Cox-Leighton says. "What more could I ask?"

Cox-Leighton says she needs an active life or she would be self-destructive.

"I'm a driven person, but as long as I direct my energies in a positive way, I'm all right," she says. "Manic depression has become the fashiona-

See Manic depression, page 6