

Texas A&M
The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 182 USPS 045360 6 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, July 22, 1987

Navy ships prepare for escort duty in gulf

FUJAIRAH, United Arab Emirates (AP) — U.S. warships stood ready Tuesday to escort the first two Kuwaiti ships flying American flags through the Persian Gulf's perilous waters, where Iran threatens to attack.

Administration moves to protect gulf policy from attack by Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration, unable to enlist congressional support for escorting reflagged Kuwaiti tankers through the Persian Gulf, has taken steps to protect its military and diplomatic flanks against an Iranian attack.

Critics say U.S. aims in the Persian Gulf are as ill-defined and ambiguous as was the mission of American Marines in Lebanon in 1983. The U.S. force was withdrawn from Lebanon after terrorists believed to have links with Iran blew up the American barracks, killing 241 servicemen.

The fear cited by Capitol Hill critics, such as Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, is that Iran will devise a devilish new way to embarrass "the Great Satan," possibly forcing the United States to curtail the naval presence it established in the gulf since the late 1940s.

Although the Democratic-controlled Congress was unable either to propose an alternative policy or to block President Reagan from carrying out his decision, lawmakers left themselves in a position to say "I told you so" should anything go wrong.

Reagan cited growing Soviet and Iran influence in the gulf in justifying the risk and built up the Navy's Middle East Force in an attempt to deal with the Iranian military threat.

Underlying the administration position is fear that Iranian pressure on Kuwait and other gulf Arab states could force them to curtail their aid to Iraq, and that Iraq could lose the war, establishing Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's revolutionary Moslem regime as dominant throughout the region.

State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman rejected the view that the reflagging would increase rather than smooth tension. "That's really a misperception of what's happening," Redman said Tuesday. "We have had an American presence in the Persian Gulf for 40 years. The tensions which exist in that region clearly come from the war that has gone on for more than seven years."

In and around the gulf, the Navy has assembled a force of 15 warships, including the aircraft carrier Constellation near the danger zone at the mouth of the gulf, as well as the cruiser Fox and the destroyer Kidd, which were expected to inaugurate the convoy duty Wednesday.

Two Kuwaiti tankers newly registered as U.S. vessels ran up the Stars and Stripes off Khor Fakkan, an Arabian Sea port in Fujairah, one of seven small sheikdoms that make up the United Arab Emirates.

Khor Fakkan is 90 miles south of

the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow gateway to the gulf between Iran and Oman. Iran has a store of Silkworm anti-ship missiles on its side of the strait.

No military action was reported in the gulf Tuesday after a month of attacks on shipping by both Iran and Iraq and sustained Iraqi bombing of Iranian oil installations. The Persian Gulf neighbors have been at war since Iraq invaded Iran in September 1980.

On Monday, the U.N. Security Council unanimously passed a resolution demanding a cease-fire. Iraq supported it, but Iran said in advance it would ignore the measure, as it has similar resolutions.

Iran said its Revolutionary Guards marines seized three Kuwaiti "spy boats" in the northern gulf Tuesday and took the crews prisoner. No details were given.

The Iranians accuse Kuwait of being a conduit for arms shipments to Iraq, whose ports have been closed since shortly after the war began. Iran began regular attacks last September on ships owned by or serving the emirate, and it vows to continue despite the U.S. flags and escorts.

Defense Department officials in Washington said the two tankers and their Navy escort would set out late Tuesday or early Wednesday on the three-day trip to Kuwait, Iraq's western neighbor at the northern end of the gulf.

Shipping sources in Fujairah said privately that the convoy might move out Tuesday night and anchor at the southern end of Hormuz, then pass through the strait in daylight.

An official of the company servicing the tankers said ships still were anchored at sunset, with no sign of preparations to move.

The 401,382-ton Bridgeton and the Gas Prince, a 46,723-ton products carrier, are the first of 11 Kuwaiti tankers to be reflagged.



Copy Cats
Gina Mik, right, and John Lombard of the Baylor Debate Team spent the day photocopying material at the library. They brought \$250 worth of nickels and planned to stay until it closed.

Officers find escapee, charge him with murder

By Kirsten Dietz
Senior Staff Writer

A recaptured Grimes County prisoner was charged Tuesday with capital murder in the shooting death of a deputy sheriff, who was killed during an escape from the county jail Sunday night.

James Herbert Mann, 26, was found about 10:35 p.m. Monday by a group of law enforcement officers on horseback.

Mann was wanted in connection with the death of Grimes County deputy sheriff Wesley Alford, 22, who was found dead at the jail after Mann's escape.

Mann was picked up near FM 1774 and County Road 215 in Grimes County.

Larry Adams, an investigator in Grimes County, said bloodhounds led officers to the prisoner's hiding place in some tall grass.

When officers approached the spot, Mann stood up, Adams said.

When captured, Mann was armed with a shotgun and a pistol, Adams said.

After his arrest, Mann was treated and released at a local hospital for minor wounds to his ankle that he apparently received during a confrontation with a family in which he was shot once, officials said.

The prisoner was returned to the county jail in Anderson, about 35 miles southeast of Bryan-College Station.

The prisoner will be held without bond.

Mann, a trusty, originally had been jailed for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, Adams said.

The prisoner later was charged with aggravated robbery, he said.

The arrest ended a manhunt which covered at least five square miles and involved about 200 law enforcement officers from the Texas Rangers, the Texas Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety and area law enforcement agencies.

Legislature passes largest tax increase in state history

AUSTIN (AP) — After a day of parliamentary wrangling and partisan squabbling, the Texas Legislature ended its budget-balancing special session Tuesday with passage of the largest tax increase in state history.

Lawmakers wrapped up work on \$5.7 billion in new taxes and a \$38.3 billion 1988-89 state budget.

"This particular bill happens to be the largest in dollar amount of any tax bill, I suppose, to ever pass in the free world outside of Congress," said Rep. Dan Morales, D-San Antonio, House tax sponsor.

The Senate passed the budget on a 26-5 vote, while the House voted 80-69 for the spending bill.

Gov. Bill Clements indicated he would sign the tax and spending plans if the comptroller certifies them as balancing, and if the bills are "in a reasonable form" when they reach his desk.

Of the new taxes, more than \$4.8 billion would come from raising the sales tax rate from 5 1/4 percent to 6 percent on Oct. 1, and boosting a variety of other business and personal taxes.

An additional \$889 million would come from keeping the motor fuel tax at 15 cents per gallon rather than allowing it to roll back to 10 cents on Sept. 1 as scheduled. That bill had received its final OK Monday.

Legislative leaders said they hoped the final gavel also had brought to an end more than a year of budget and tax struggles that began in 1986 when oil prices plunged from near \$30 per barrel to less than \$10 and the Texas economy soured.

The tax plan approved Tuesday would raise the state sales tax rate from 5 1/4 percent to 6 percent on Oct. 1. In large cities,

where both a city and a mass transit tax also are levied, the rate would be 8 percent.

The bill called for expanding the 6 percent sales tax to a variety of new items and services, including garbage collection, data processing and private club membership fees.

The measure also would raise the corporate franchise tax, boost cigarette taxes, hike the hotel-motel tax and impose a \$110 annual occupation tax or fee hike on doctors, lawyers, dentists, accountants and other professionals.

Disease disrupts lives of victims, families

Alzheimer's affects all types of people

By Janet Goode
Reporter

"When you comb my hair today, will you please tuck that clock behind my ear?"

"Of course." I answered her slowly, swallowing the lump forming in my throat.

Affects of Alzheimer's disease Part one of a two-part series

"And what time is it anyway?" she asked for the third time in the past minute.

I looked into her eyes quizzically. They were unseeing, unknowing.

I sighed and answered her for the third time.

"Half-past two," I said, and wheeled her through the spotless, double-glass doors of the nursing home.

The aged — the "oldest of old," the elderly — have become the fastest-growing and least-understood microculture in America today.

Alzheimer's disease also is fast-growing, misunderstood and very often misdiagnosed.

The disease was first described by Alois Alzheimer in 1906. It knows no social boundaries and affects men and women equally. Although most victims are over 65, it can strike victims in their 40s and 50s.

Alzheimer's attacks in the form of protein deposits that build up in the brain, causing dementia.

Sarah Jackson, who works with senior citizens at Humana Hospital,

says that until the 1960s the disease often was mistaken for senility.

Alzheimer's is distinguished from senility in that senility results when brain tissue deteriorates.

Jackson says Alzheimer's disease is what used to be called "old age."

"People used to die of old age," she says. "Now they die of Alzheimer's."

Jackson says people still are being misdiagnosed because there is no known cause for the protein deposits, no known cure, and no single clinical test to identify the disease. The diagnosis is a process of elimination.

Jackson says problems such as depression, drug reactions, metabolic changes, nutritional deficiencies, head injuries and strokes must be looked at and eliminated along with the possibility of Parkinson's, Pick's and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease. All of these have similar symptoms.

Bette Jackson, social activities director at the Brazos Valley Geriatric Center, says memory loss alone isn't enough to distinguish the Alzheimer's patient.

Bette says the usual stages Alzheimer's victims go through start with confusion, followed by a loss of the ability to keep track of time, and eventually the inability to recognize themselves or loved ones.

Alzheimer's symptoms can show up in people a little at a time (unlike some of the other diseases), and the stages associated with Alzheimer's can overlap, she says.

Sometimes a person can still remember family members, but forget how to use a toothbrush or a fork,

she says.

Patients in early stages of the disease often become frustrated because they know they just "aren't quite right," she says.

One such woman at the center, she says, sits on her bed and daily pounds her fists, asking, "Why, why, WHY?"

Alzheimer's patients also may become obsessed with a certain security — something that links them to reality — such as time or a familiar object, she says.

Mary Jane Mistovich, a member of an Alzheimer's support group here, says her husband Mike, 72, was very attached to his car.

As his disease progressed, she says, it became too dangerous to have it around.

"It was just a year ago next month that I had to sell his car," she says. "It was very traumatic for him because I was taking away his security."

She remembers the conversation.

"I asked Mike, 'Do you love me?' and he said, 'Yes.'"

"Then I asked him, 'Do you love your car?' and he said, 'Oh yes!'"

"So I said, 'Well, who do you love the most?' and he stammered for a minute and then said, 'You.'"

"I said, 'Okay then, we've got to sell the car.'"

"I finally sold the car and got it out of sight and he didn't mention it again," she says.

At the geriatric center, activities to help stir patients' cobweb-covered memories are part of a daily routine.

One common activity is to show an object such as an apple and ask the patients to relate memories.

Bette says some of them will say, "I used to make pies with that," or "That's red — the color of Christmas," and then others will join in.

Another favorite activity at the center is singing.

"They love to sing," Bette says. She will start singing a song, especially old hymns or songs from earlier days, and the patients will sometimes finish singing it.

One elderly woman is referred to by the staff at the center as "the singing lady." She often sits at a table about to nod off to sleep. Bette nudges her and asks, "How's my singing lady today?"

The "singing lady" opens her eyes, then her mouth, and quite loudly begins to sing. She sings a medley of songs from the early 1900s, and when she's done she nods back to sleep.

Bette explains that this woman is past the frustration stage — she is content living in her reality of "bicycles built for two."

After initial memory impairment, Alzheimer's victims experience depression, lack of spontaneity, wandering and increased disorientation. Their forgetfulness increases and they develop an inability to attach meaning to their sensory perceptions.

Pat Stirling, another member of

an Alzheimer's support group in Brazos Valley, says that in these stages a patient may leave a pot of boiling water on the stove or try and leave the house at night.

Sometimes they also undergo a personality change, she says. One patient was described to her as dressing up in her Sunday clothes and then walking around cursing — something the woman had never done!

As the disease progresses further, Bette says, patients may become unable to think abstractly and may engage themselves in repetitive actions such as twisting a sheet corner over and over or walking aimlessly.

To combat this, the staff at the center often supplies patients with scarves or other things to fold and refold and gives them household chores such as sweeping or dusting. The center also is equipped with an outside path with a handrail for those who like to walk.

In the later stages of the disease, Alzheimer's victims become completely dependent. They develop an inability to recognize either themselves or others. They become speech-impaired, sometimes to the point of muteness. They often develop a morbid need to put everything into their mouths.

They then develop a necessity to touch everything in sight. And in the end, "incontinence" sets in — they lose control of all bodily functions.

Editor's note: The Battalion has been informed that Mike Mistovich died Tuesday morning.