

# THE MAIN IN MASS MURDER-SUICIDE

## As Others See Us

The Greater Debate on foreign policy may be thoroughly confounding the boys in the Pentagon, "The Reporter" magazine concludes in a readable bit of fantasy on today's editorial page 16-A.

ESTABLISHED DEC. 8, 1888

Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Carolinas  
Charlotte, North Carolina Thursday, May 3, 1951

\*\*\*\*\*  
Final  
46 Pages—Price Five Cents

# THE MAIN IN MASS MURDER-SUICIDE FATHER SAYS JOINT CHIEFS JUDGED BLOCKADE, LOCKRADE, AND TO CHANGING

## Father Kills Eight Children and Self, Sets Home On Fire

**By RALPH GIBSON**  
Charlotte News Staff Writer

LENOIR — Officers tried today to piece together the events which led up to the killing of eight children by their father, and the father's suicide near here last night.

The only member of the Ralph Gregg family left alive was 36-year-old Mrs. Gregg, who had separated from her husband about a month ago.

Mrs. Gregg decided this morning it would be too much to look at the battered and charred bodies of her children and husband.

"I would rather remember them as they were," she said, when Coroner Marshall Kincaid told her about one of the worst multiple tragedies in Southern history.

This is what Mrs. Gregg heard: Her husband put the eight children in bed about 8:15 o'clock last night in their six-room frame house above Collettsville, some ten miles from Lenoir.

There were two to a bed. Ralph Gregg, a 24-year-old unemployed lumber company worker, killed each child—eleven-year-old Katherine down to three-year-old Rebecca.

**HEAVY IMPEDIMENT**  
He must have used some type of heavy instrument, hammer, ax or the stock of his 20-gauge shotgun. Nobody knew.

While the children lay in their beds, Ralph Gregg evidently had poured kerosene in various rooms of the house.

Then he set the house afire. It went up in a great flash that startled the few neighbors in the rural section.

Merly Wesley Setzer, who lives about 100 yards away from the Gregg house, was sitting in his front doorway when the great blaze raged up.

Before Mr. Setzer or anybody else could do anything, the flames engulfed the old L-shaped house.

**SHOOTING HIMSELF**  
Inside, in a hallway of the house, having already attacked the children, Ralph Gregg put his shotgun to his head and killed himself.

His body fell by the chimney. The five-gallon fuel can he'd used to start the fire lay beside him, near the house.

Lenoir firemen couldn't do anything to save the house. They had to wait for hours—until after 11 o'clock last night—before they and deputies could start taking the bodies out of the ruins.

The bodies were badly burned, but only the two oldest children—Katherine and Christine, thirteen—were identified. They couldn't be sure which was ten-year-old Jimmy, or nine-year-old Paul, or seven-year-old Carolyn, or Paul Edward, six, or Judy, four, or Rebecca.

**MURDER SUICIDE**  
Marshall Kincaid, the coroner, said there was no doubt about it: It was mass murder and suicide.

There wouldn't even need to be an inquest, he said.

It was the Coroner who had the job of going out to Henry Valley, a hilly rural settlement across the county from Lenoir.

See NINE on page 5-A

**UN Patrols Clash With Dug-In Reds**

**By GLEN CLEMENTS**  
TOKYO (Friday)—Allied tank-infantry patrols, fanning northward out of Seoul, fought a series of sharp engagements Thursday with Chinese Red Army units, some ten miles from the city, Korean capital.

One patrol went into Uijongbu key road point some eleven miles north of Seoul, against only minor Red resistance. (Field dispatches implied that this patrol then pulled back southward.)

Another patrol southwest of Uijongbu brought back to United Nations lines two allied tanks that had been abandoned previously.

The day's most sizable action was a two-hour fight east-northeast of Seoul. An Allied armored force hit a Red regiment, killed an estimated 200 men and brought back 201 prisoners after a brisk night battle.

**MORE THAN 200**  
"We probably killed a lot more than 200, but we only counted what we actually knew," the patrol commander related.

From an eastern point northwest of Seoul ran into the vanguard of an estimated Red division.

But an estimated two third of the skirmishes, an American staff officer said, the Communists stopped short of having established a front about ten miles north of Seoul which they hoped to hold while regrouping for a new drive.

"While the Reds were digging in, the officer warned, 'they are not going to be defeated—the enemy has not quit yet.'

In the air, two American F-80 fighters on a defensive — the enemy has not quit yet."

By Red gunfire.

On the central front allied forces fought a six-hour skirmish with 150 Reds dug in atop a hill. Communists kept the fight going an estimated two third of the time they were killed.

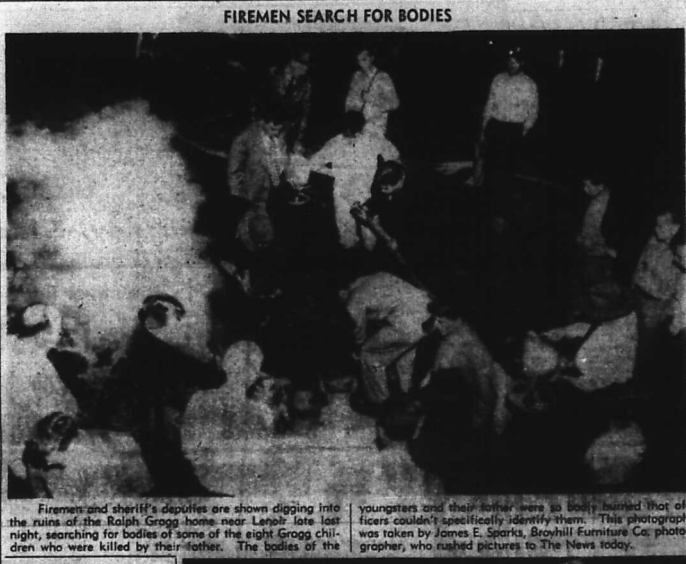
This fight was southeast of Chungju, about 40 miles east of Seoul. Allied warplanes strafed Communist camps in the same area and to the northeast.

Most planes flew north to blast the Red buildup for a new assault along the western and central fronts.

Action up to dusk Thursday was lightest in the preceding day, one of the quietest of the war. The Eighth Army estimated Red casualties Wednesday at 435. Air strikes accounted for about that many more. The figures were up from 1,000.

Troop units took advantage of the break to swim, play and rest.

"This hill has long wondered for my report, one first line officer said.



FIREMEN SEARCH FOR BODIES

Firemen and sheriff's deputies are shown digging into the ruins of the Ralph Gregg home near Lenoir late last night, searching for bodies of some of the eight Greg children who were killed by their father. The bodies of the youngsters and their father were so badly burned that officers couldn't specifically identify them. This photograph was taken by James E. Sparks, Bryhill Furniture Co. photographer, who rushed pictures to The News today.

**Textile Union In Peace Move**

**GREENSBORO**—(AP)—Officials of the Textile Workers Union of America (CIO) called upon its state directors in the South today "get in touch immediately with all employers in your area whose mills are now on strike and propose that the issues be submitted to the Wage Stabilization Board."

The board was appointed today by President Truman.

"As you know, this board is empowered to settle disputes," said the message from James W. Bamford, TWU's Southern director, to the state directors. "Where employers cannot to submit the case to the board, you are to recommend to the strikers that they return to work at once."

Bamford said he proposed this step because it appeared to him to be the quickest and fairest way to settle the 33-day-old strike.

Still another CIO workers' representative about one-tenth of the cotton-rayon textile in the South, are on strike in seven Southern states. They left their posts when management refused demands for a 15-cent an hour raise to boost the minimum to \$1.14 1/2 cents an hour.

**Brewster Backed For Committee Job**

**WASHINGTON**—(AP)—Senate Republicans voted today to back Senator Brewster (R-Me) for a place on the important Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

If Senate Democrats agree to the choice, Brewster will fill the vacancy left by the death of Senator Arthur Vandenberg (R-Mich.), Senator Millikin (R-Colo.), who presided at the closed door meeting of the Republican conference held reporters Brewster was picked on the assumption that the majority party will not change the roster of seven Democrats to six Republicans" on the committee.

**ENVOY COMING HOME**

**ATHENS, Greece**—(U.S.—) Ambassador John E. Pavonis left by plane today for conferences in Washington.

Informed sources said the American envoy will strongly recommend that Greece become part of a military defense pact.

**There Wasn't A Very Big Crowd...**

**Photographer Gives Word Picture, Too**

**By JAMES E. SPARKS**  
(Who took photographs at the Gregg tragedy scene and rushed them to The Charlotte News today.)

It was about 10 o'clock last night when I went out to the Gregg house near Collettsville. I started not to go. I had heard that a man had been burned up in a fire, about 8 or 8:30 o'clock, and I didn't know any more, and I started not to go.

A friend of mine and I were at the ball game in Lenoir. I was the photographer for the Bryhill Furniture Factory, and a party-time deputy, and one of the deputies had called me on the telephone while I was at the game.

I had around the police station in Lenoir some, and got out and took pictures of trucks and things like that. So I went by the police station.

**RECEIVED TO GO**  
They told me about the fire, and my friend and I decided to go on up to Collettsville, even though only a man burned, but his eight children, too.

The bodies were burned so badly, they were completely black, and you couldn't tell anything about them.

For a while, they couldn't find out what happened, and the neighbors knew that the man and his eight children had all been there in the house. So the deputies spent some time looking for the ninth body, before they moved any.

## Mac Doubts Soviet Could Hit In Asia

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur testified today the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended last Jan. 12 a naval blockade of Red China, air operations over Manchuria and supply support of Chinese Nationalists.

Since he was never allowed to carry this out, MacArthur said he "assumes" the Joint Chiefs were overruled by President Truman or Secretary of Defense Marshall.

MacArthur told Senators in testimony behind closed doors that the Joint Chiefs had presented to the Secretary of Defense on that date the exact recommendations he made to Congress April 19 for prosecution of the Korean war.

**SAID VIEWS SHARED**  
In that speech to Congress, MacArthur had said he understood his views were fully shared in the past by the Chiefs of Staff from the military standpoint.

The Defense Department later issued a statement saying the White House had authorized it to say President Truman's decision to fire MacArthur from the post was unanimously approved by his principal military and civilian advisers.

MacArthur testified to the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees. They are making an inquiry into his dismissal and into Far Eastern policy.

**FEW TROOPS NEEDED**  
In his testimony, MacArthur also predicted that a few ground troops could wind up the fighting in Korea if backed up by the Air and Naval effort against Red China which he has urged.

MacArthur said the Jan. 12 views he attributed to the Chiefs were arrived at in conferences between his headquarters and Washington, adding:

"I was in full agreement with them then and now."

The five-star general outlined to the Senators the following recommendations he said were presented by the joint chiefs to the Secretary of Defense:

"That we are to continue and intensify now an economic blockade of trade with China."

"That we were to prepare now to impose a naval blockade of China and place it into effect as soon as our position in Korea is stabilized or when we have evacuated Korea, and depending on circumstances then obtaining."

"Remove now the restrictions on operations of the Chinese Nationalist forces and give logistical (supply) support to the forces as well contribute to effective operations against the Communists."

**NOT CHANGED**  
MacArthur said that "as far as I know, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have never changed those recommendations since they were first edited by a military censor—was never been informed of it."

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, he said, had written a letter to the United States government was driven from the mainland of China by the Communists; has a sizeable army on the island of Formosa.

MacArthur has placed the number of these troops at 600,000 and urged their use in the war with the Reds. Administration policy has been against this.

Although MacArthur testified he had closed doors, a stenographic report of his testimony—11:25 p.m.—was edited by a military censor—was given to newsmen.

As he has before, the general predicted that the United Nations forces are not permitted to carry out the "great strategic concept of stopping the supplies of troops, and preventing the build-up of enemy troops and the disorganization of supplies."

If you would take off the prohibitions and permit them to carry out this concept, I do not believe it would take very great additional amount of ground troops to wind this thing up," MacArthur said.

He said he would be able to supply enough ground troops in

force to be able to satisfy China's needs.

**DOUBTS RUSSIAN ATTACK**  
MacArthur had questioned earlier whether there was any great threat of Russian action. He said he does not believe Russia is in position to "launch any predatory attack from the Asiatic continent."

The general said that even if ground troops fought their way to the Yalu River without being permitted air operations over Manchuria, "you would be in a position where the enemy could jump you immediately."

The Yalu is the boundary between North Korea and Manchuria. MacArthur added: "I don't know how many troops it would take you to do that, ground troops—but they are quite beyond the capacity of this country to supply their main war effort. You would have to do anything else."

**PREDICTS STALEMATE**  
That amounted to predicting a stalemate in the Korean war, unless air and naval forces were permitted air operations over Manchuria. Chairman Russell (D-Ga) of the combined committee, asked MacArthur's opinion as to whether the Russians would move in Asia or Europe first.

"Do you think they have any hard and fast plans in that direction, but I am sure to carry the fighting to the Chinese Reds in Manchuria, Chairman Russell (D-Ga) of the combined committee, asked MacArthur's opinion as to whether the Russians would move in Asia or Europe first."

"Do you think they have any hard and fast plans in that direction, but I am sure to carry the fighting to the Chinese Reds in Manchuria, Chairman Russell (D-Ga) of the combined committee, asked MacArthur's opinion as to whether the Russians would move in Asia or Europe first."

See MARCH 16 on page 5-A

**What's Inside**

Classified Want Ads... 15-118  
Comics... 12A  
Crossword Puzzle... 12A  
Daily News... 12A  
Radio Program... 12A  
Serial Story... 12A  
Sports... 12A  
Theater... 12A  
Whisking Wolf... 12A  
Women's Page... 12A