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Bodies From Cemetery

Reuters News Agency.

Pass Christian, Miss. — Rescue workers searching Friday through debris left by Hurricane Camille found hundreds of bodies unearthed from a local cemetery.

Chief Inspector H. C. Slay of the Mississippi Highway Patrol said the discovery that the bodies were corpses from a cemetery cast doubt on the huge death toll reported Thursday when bodies were described as hanging "up in the trees, under the roofs and lying out in the open."

Searchers combing this gulf coast town, 60 miles from New Orleans, turned up so many bodies Thursday that they stopped counting after reaching 150.

This raised fears that the Mississippi death toll from the hurricane which hit this area Sunday and Monday would be much higher than the 230 already reported.

But despite the fact that many bodies were in fact embalmed corpses, Slay said Friday that the death toll for Pass Christian

would be high, although he was unable to give an exact figure.

A gusty thunderstorm struck at Gulfport, Miss., Friday afternoon, further damaging structures in the hurricane-devastated city and knocking out for three hours a telephone system that had taken four days to set up.

Long-distance circuits strung by some 1,000 linemen failed shortly after the onslaught of rain, lightning and winds.

Troops Friday continued their grim task of combing shattered small towns. One odd find by searchers was a cache of carbines, pistols and revolvers, oiled and ready for use.

A Border Patrol official said the weapons, in two trunks, were found in a destroyed beach front house in Pass Christian. Packed with them were steel helmets and bullet-proof vests.

Newspapers wrapped around the weapons were dated 1961, about the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba. Officials said they might have been left for Cuban exiles who did not pick them up for some reason.

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