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Tatters of Tragedy in a Paddy Field

SAIGON, South Vietnam, April 4 (AP)—The huge transport plane lay broken into four main sections, its debris strewn over an area the size of two football fields.

Toys, cushions, a baby bottle, flight manuals, a Donald Duck comic book and the bodies of orphans were scattered in the soggy paddy field.

Helicopters ferried small bodies wrapped in ponchos to Saigon morgues.

The immense United States Air Force C-5A Galaxy that crashed Friday afternoon a half hour after leaving Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport was carrying 243 Vietnamese orphans to new homes and safety in America.

More than a hundred of them died.

Some South Vietnamese militiamen at a post one and a half miles from the airport had been preparing their evening meal at the time. "We looked straight up in front of us and we saw debris flying all over the paddy field. It was a horrible thing to see."

The pilot, Capt. Dennis Traynor, said a cargo door blew out and the sudden decompression crippled his con-

trols. He was flying back to Saigon when he crashed.

Air Force Sgt. Jim Hadley, a medical technician from Sacramento, Calif., recalled what happened after the cargo door blew. He was on the second level of the plane's three levels, all packed with orphans.

"You could see the hole in the back of the plane. You could see the sunlight streaming in.

"Things started flying around. Eyeglasses. Pens. Pieces of insulation tore off the ceiling. The pillows exploded—they were plastic lined."

Sergeant Hadley said that oxygen masks dropped down automatically, but the children were sitting two to a seat and there weren't enough masks to go around.

"We had to keep moving them from kid to kid," Sergeant Hadley said.

A flight nurse said: "There were about 120 kids in the second level with us, almost all of them infants. After we crashed, someone opened the emergency exit. I think I was the first one out. I looked around and everything looked stable and we started getting the children out. The crew members were all handing kids up the aisles."

The nurse, who was injured, didn't want her name used because her parents didn't know she was on the flight.

"I felt like I was waiting to die," she said, describing the moments during which the plane tried to reach the runway for an emergency landing. "I knew the cargo door had blown out. We could see it. We're all so thankful to be out alive and that we got so many kids out."

"The children were beautiful," she said. "They were noisy when we took off. They were scared, and they didn't like the straps holding them down. Once the decompression condition hit, the kids didn't say a word. They quieted down right away. I think the kids were quiet because they were getting dopey from an absence of oxygen."

Cambodia Expels Newsmen

Special to The New York Times

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, April 4—The Government ordered today that the Phnom Penh bureau chief for Agence France-Presse, Charles de Nerciat, be expelled. The bureau will remain open. The action was officially described as due to "tendentious reporting."