

Girl, 9, Survives Napalm Burns



Associated Press

Phan Thi Kim-Phuc is comforted by mother at hospital

SAIGON, South Vietnam, June 10 (AP)—Nine-year-old Phan Thi Kim-Phuc is recuperating in a Saigon children's hospital, the unintended victim of a misdirected napalm attack.

A photograph of her, running naked down a road after being hit by the accidental napalm strike at Trang-bang, was carried in many American newspapers this week.

"I feel better now," Kim-Phuc says, "But I still have a fever and some pain."

"This war is so brutal," said her father, Phan Thanh Tung, an unemployed former district official. "If only the children had stayed in the

pagoda."

The South Vietnamese bombers which accidentally hit friendly forces and civilians came in for a run, Mr. Tung explained. Then another

South Vietnamese bomber flew over and its canisters of napalm splattered sticky balls of fire across the road. The napalm set his daughter's clothes afire but she kept running until she reached Government positions.

Later, her mother came down the road, carrying Kim-Phuc's seriously burned brother. A soldier stopped the mother and draped his rosary around the boy's neck. The brother died a few hours later.