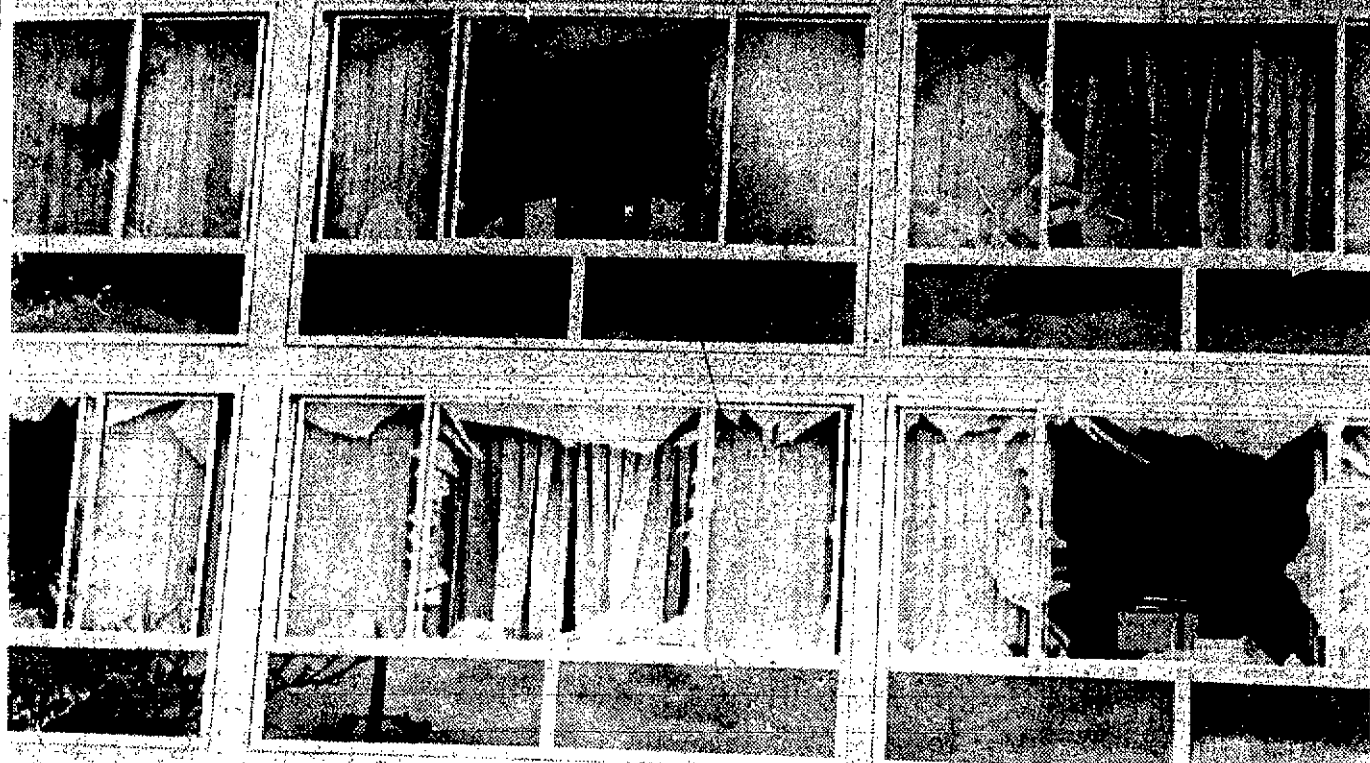


GAZETTE TELEGRAPH

UPI Dial 632-4641 COLORADO SPRINGS—SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1968 10c Daily 20c Sunday



THE AFTERMATH — This was part of the aftermath of a sonic boom at the Air Force Academy caused by a low-flying F-105 jet, one of four, which was to fly over at the climax of ceremonies presenting an F-105 for permanent display at the academy. This is some of the damage to Vandenberg Hall, a cadet dormitory. At lower right, one of the men whose hats were knocked off by the shock wave and who were caught in a shower of glass tries to reclaim his property. (Gazette Telegraph Photo)

Sonic Boom in Fly-Over Damages Academy Buildings

By RAY HERST
Gazette Telegraph Staff Writer
What started out as a routine jet fly-over at the Air Force

Academy Friday ended in disaster and near-tragedy as at least 15 persons were injured by flying glass and damages were expected to reach at least \$250,000.

An F-105 Thunderchief jet, the plane being used in Vietnam combat, flew too low over Vandenberg Hall and cut in its afterburners too soon causing a sonic boom that blasted windows out of Vandenberg, Mitchell Hall, the new cadet dormitory and the cadet gymnasium. Only one of the injured was hospitalized. Lt. Col. Paul D. Pennekamp Jr., air officer commanding the 3rd Cadet Group, sustained a deep cut of the neck when he was struck by flying

glass. He was at Vandenberg Hall at the time. There was one moment of alarm for persons watching the flight from the offices in the gymnasium. The plane appeared to dip down in the valley behind Vandenberg and appeared

(Continued on Page B-4)

Continental Inaugurates Chicago Flight

Continental Airlines will inaugurate the first nonstop jet service between Colorado Springs and Chicago today. The new air route will reduce the traveling time between Colorado Springs and Chicago to just two hours and eight minutes by DC-8C Golden Eagle jet.

Interest on

More Photos On 4-B

ITU Printers Back on Job

BRUNSWICK, Me.—Striking members of the International Typographical Union (ITU), in a contract dispute with the Bath-

New Leaders Emerge Among 'Poor People'

WASHINGTON (AP) — New-emerging leaders of the Poor People's Campaign led 500 demonstrators into headquarters of

Cong Fight Cholera

SAIGON (UPI)—Viet guerrillas, reportedly orders from Hanoi to destroy much of Saigon as they fought their way past Vietnamese defenders and killed 10 city blocks of capital's Chinese sector. Cholera, military spokesman Saturday. Across the city, South Vietnamese Marines battled an Viet Cong force of about 200 a gateway to Saigon. Communist troops there fired three rockets into the outskirts of the capital late Friday, wounding three persons. Small bands of Viet guerrillas were seen before dawn Saturday moving openly along

Council Dem Tax Request Women Vote

By W. J. McGLASSON
Gazette Telegraph Staff Writer
The question of whether proposed amendments to city charter are invalid ruled by City Attorney Henry, was labeled a "screen" Friday by a spokesman for the Voters Organized for Responsible Solutions (VOTERS). The question is "a screen raised to confuse voters and the issues," Charles Hughes, vice president of VOTERS, said. He charged that Henry's action "can be expected to reduce the efforts of the present council and their backers to protect their position and control." The council voted on Wednesday to hold a special election July 2 to let the voters of the city decide upon the issues presented. Friday, the council also voted by a 7-2 margin, to include three proposals by the League of Women Voters and the Chamber of Commerce of Colorado Springs.

Young Brad Is Spared Surgery

BOUNTIFUL, Utah (UPI)—Young Brad Haines, a 2-year-old dynamo with an appetite for almost anything, has been spared surgery, at least for the present time. Brad swallowed his sister's turtle Tuesday because he was mad at her. Since that

Sonic Boom Damages Academy Buildings

(Continued From Page One)

to head straight for the gym before the pilot pulled it straight up and over the building.

"I thought he was going to hit us," said Artus Smith, equipment manager for the academy varsity teams, who was watching from the second floor offices of the gymnasium.

"I hollered for the secretary

to duck and I ducked. He pulled it straight up and it went over us. The glass was flying like hell," he said.

Another eyewitness, who narrowly escaped the flying glass, was Chaplain Roy Terry, chief of chaplains at the academy. He was standing on the second floor of Mitchell, the cadet dining hall, when the boom struck.

"I was standing there watching and the next thing I knew, the glass was flying all around me. I don't know how it missed me. It just went around me. People standing near me were cut," he said.

More than 300 windows were shattered by the blast which happened shortly before noon. Plaster was knocked loose in

some of the buildings. Spokesmen said it would take several days before an official estimate of damage would be available, however unofficial estimates placed the damage at approximately \$250,000.

The dining hall was one of the hardest hit by the sonic boom. It lay directly in the path of the shock wave that moved south from Vandenberg.

The south wall of Mitchell is all glass, two stories high. About a half-dozen windows remained. The roof around Mitchell overhangs a balcony and the overhang was lifted by the blast.

"It just went up and down," Chaplain Terry said.

The rear overhang was damaged extensively as panels were torn out and insulation hung down like browned moss from a tree.

If the fly-over had come 15 minutes later, several hundred cadets would have been sitting beside the south windows. As it was, the three rows of tables lining the windows could not be used for the noon meal until the glass had been cleared.

There was also extensive glass damage to the new cadet dormitory which is near Mitchell Hall.

The cadet wing had gathered for the noon formation at which an F-105 Thunderchief was to be presented to the academy for permanent display.

The plane had been reconstructed from several salvage yards by the 2951st Combat Logistics Support Squadron at McClellan AFB. Representing the Republic Aviation Division of the Fairchild Hiller Corp., which builds the jets, was Donald J. Straight.

Also witnessing the presenta-

tion, directly across from Vandenberg Hall were Lt. Gen. Thomas Moorman, academy superintendent; Col. Robin Olds, academy commandant of cadets who is scheduled to become a brigadier general today; and three Vietnam combat veterans, one of whom wears the medal of honor.

Behind them were a number of specially invited civic and military leaders and members of the press who were scattered around the presentation area.

Following the presentation and exactly on schedule, the four F-105s flew over in close formation and circled to make a second pass individually.

The first jet roared over Vandenberg Hall. It was estimated that the plane was about 50 feet above the three story building when it cut in its afterburner.

The resulting sonic boom and shock wave was not unlike what it must feel when one is standing in an area struck by an earthquake. The ground seemed to swell and one felt as though he were lifted off his feet.

Long afterwards, one seemed to feel the boom reverberating in his stomach and tickling the balls of the feet.

We were facing Vandenberg Hall and noticed a number of persons watching from the windows.

There was no sound of breaking glass. The boom was too loud, but the windows seemed to melt before your eyes. All of a sudden they just weren't there and heads disappeared as if by magic from the windows.

A photographer, whose back was toward the dormitory, said he hadn't realized what had happened until he turned around and noticed a number of Air Force hats lying on the ground beneath the windows. They had been knocked off by the blast.

The second plane in the individual fly-over, its pilot apparently realizing that the flight

leader was too low, pulled up and delayed cutting in its afterburner. The other two planes veered off.

Everyone seemed to be in a daze for a few seconds after the boom.

The cadet wing, not realizing the extensive damage, jubilantly cheered the boom, throwing hats in the air and waving their arms.

According to advance information the flight was cleared at 7,500 feet above sea level which would have put the lead jet at least 250 feet above the chapel and even higher above Vandenberg.

The flight leader for the four F-105s from McConnell AFB in Wichita, Kan. was Lt. Col. James W. Matthews. It was not known if he was flying the plane which caused the damage.

The fly-over was to climax the presentation of the re-built F-105 and to kick off a special luncheon at which Strait, general manager of the Republic Aviation Division of the Fairchild Hiller Corp. was to present a scholarship to the Cadet Wing.

The sonic boom put a damper on the scholarship presentation, but did not preclude the fact that it marked the first time that such a scholarship had been named after an academy graduate.

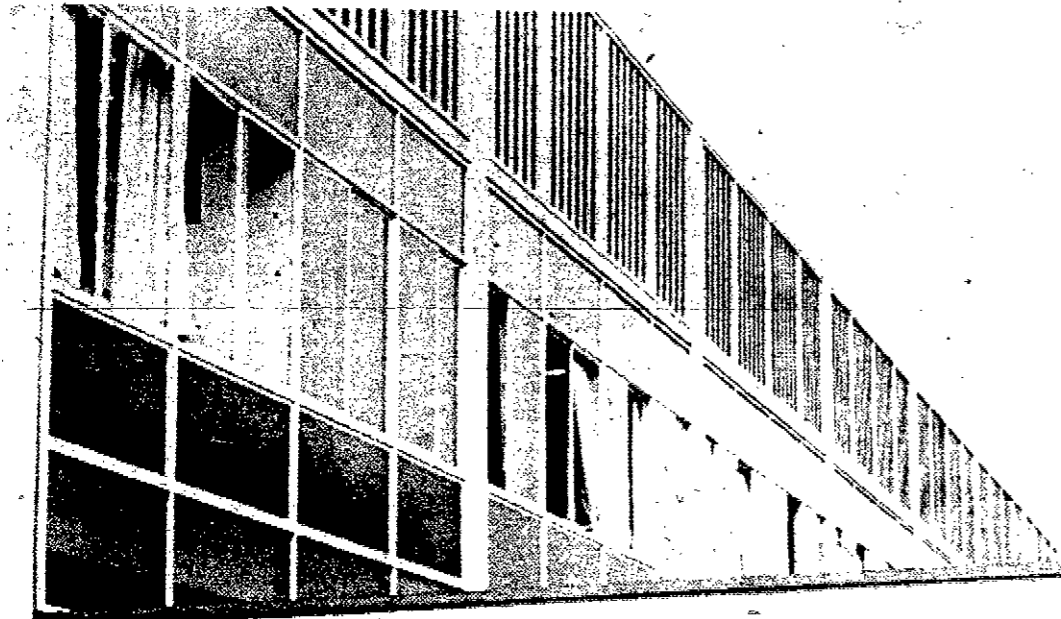
The Lt. Karl W. Richter Scholarship will be administered by the Falcon Foundation and will be awarded annually, providing a year's preparatory schooling to a qualified young man who desires to enter the Air Force Academy.

At the same time, Strait presented the academy with an oil portrait of the late Lt. Richter painted by Miss Maxine McCaffrey, who was also an honored guest at the luncheon.

Lt. Richter, the youngest man credited with a MIG kill in Vietnam, was killed on his 198th mission against North Vietnam in July of last year. Among other decorations, he was

awarded the Air Force Cross, the country's second highest combat award and the Silver Star.

Also present for the ceremony in the damaged Mitchell Hall was Lt. Richter's father, Ludwig Richter of Holly, Mich.



CADET GYM — Cadets joined in with military and civilian workers to clean up glass and debris in the damaged

buildings. This was the scene at the west entrance to the cadet gymnasium. (Gazette Telegraph Photo)

Photos
By
STAN PAYNE
Staff Photographer

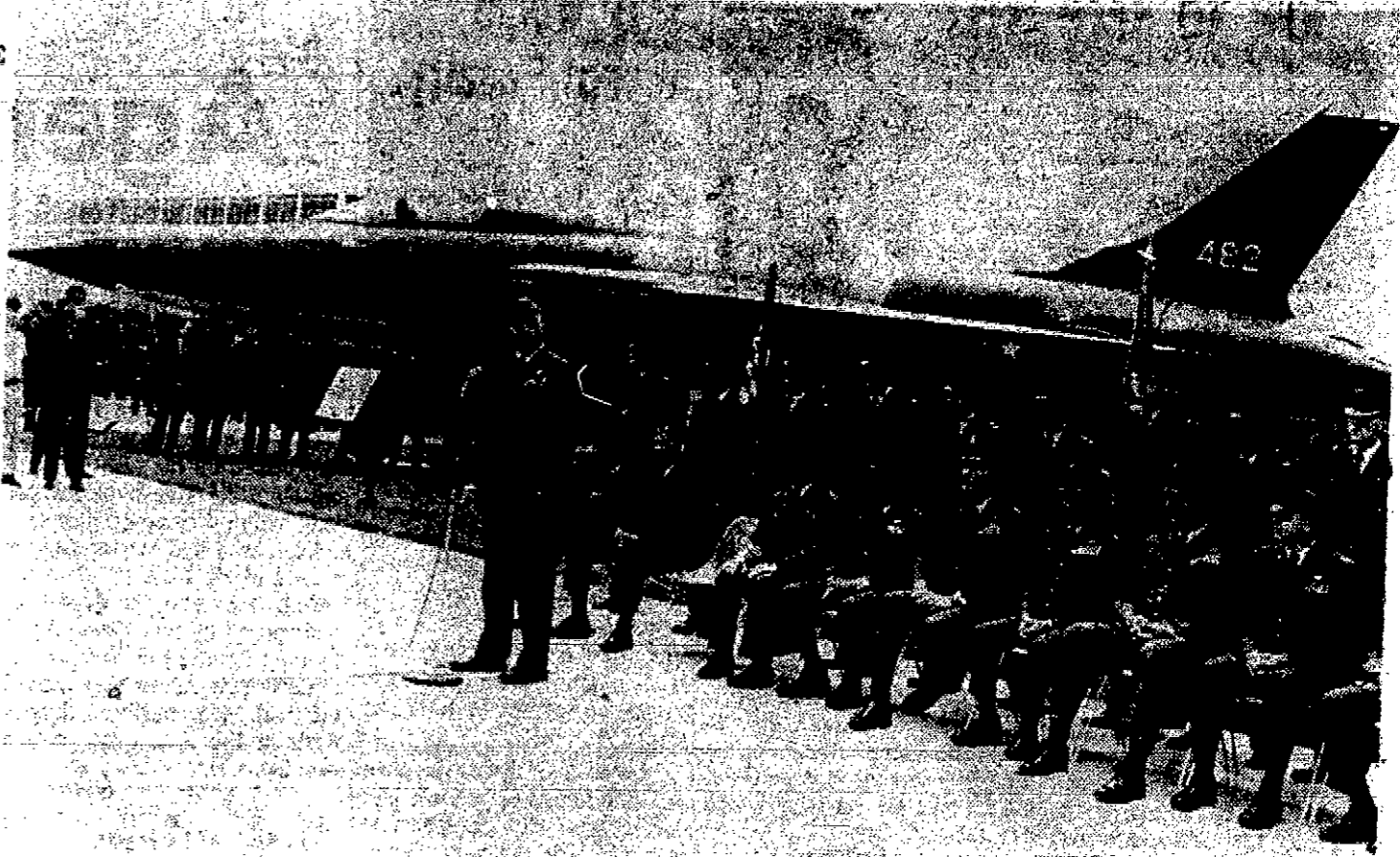


SECONDS LATER — This was the plane that set off the sonic boom that caused extensive damage Friday at the Air Force Academy. Seconds after this photo was taken, the low-flying jet cut in its afterburner setting off the sonic boom. (Gazette Telegraph Photo)



WHY THEY WERE THERE — The photos at left and right illustrate the reason the F-105s made the fly-over Friday which resulted in the sonic boom that caused the damage at the Air Force Academy. At right, Maj. Gen. George R. Simler, former academy athletic director, presents the F-105 in the background to the Cadet Wing. It was a flying model of this craft which caused the boom. At left, from left, Donald J. Strait, retired Air Force Gen. Robert J. Smith and Ludwig Richter admire the portrait of Richter's son, the late Karl W. Richter, which was presented to the academy at a luncheon along with a scholarship named after the 1964 graduate who was killed in combat in Vietnam. (Gazette

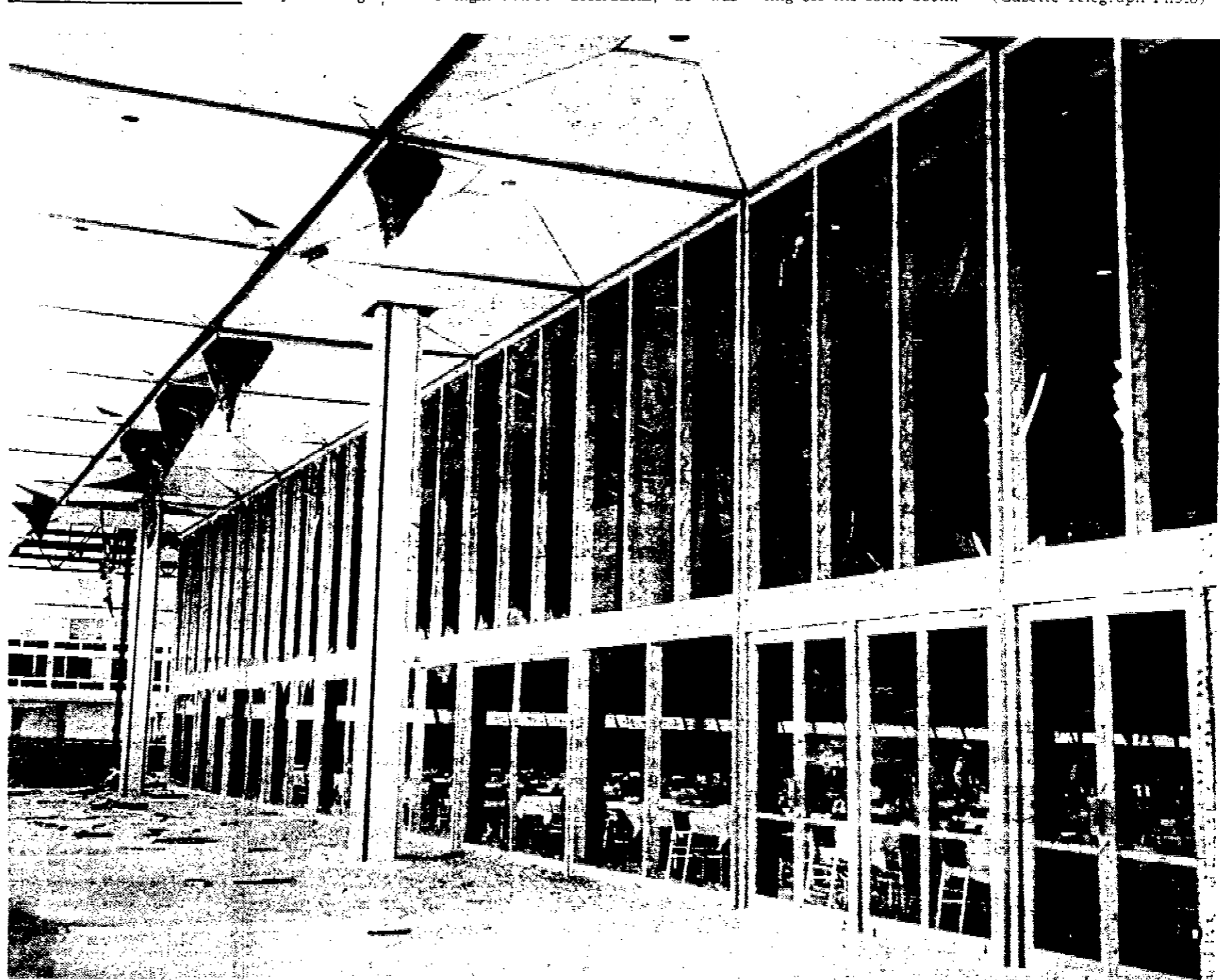
Telegraph Photos)





NORTH ENTRANCE, MITCHELL HALL — Several persons who were watching the ceremonies at this entrance to Mitchell Hall were cut by flying glass. Academy Chaplain Roy Terry, who was standing on the second floor, near the railing behind the third window from the right, escaped injury.

(Gazette Telegraph Photo)



SOUTH WALL, MITCHELL HALL — This was what was left of the south wall of Mitchell Hall following the sonic boom which caused extensive damage at the academy. The entire wall is composed of windows or glass doors. The overhang on the balcony was extensively

damaged as the blast lifted it. The light hanging from the overhang, center top, is supposed to be recessed. If the blast had come 15 minutes earlier several hundred cadets would have been seated at the tables near the doors.

(Gazette Telegraph Photo)