

First Strikes by Thai Aircraft Inside Cambodia Are Reported

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BANGKOK, Thailand, July 2 — Thai fighter-bombers launched their first air strikes in Cambodia yesterday, informed sources here said today.

Several T-28 light strike aircraft were reported to have destroyed an arms depot and field installations at Ban Phai, a village about five miles from the Thai border province of Sisaket. Sisaket is about 220 miles north east of Bangkok.

[In Saigon, the United States command reported that 104 American soldiers were killed last week in the Indochina war, an increase of 24 over the previous week.]

In Bangkok, there were unconfirmed reports that Thai planes had also attacked a concentration of Communist troops that overran Ban Phai on Tuesday. [According to Reuters, the planes took off from Ubon air base, 540 miles northeast of Bangkok.]

Thai reinforcements were sent to Sisaket today amid reports that sporadic fighting was continuing at Ban Phai between Communists and Cambodian troops cut off from their units.

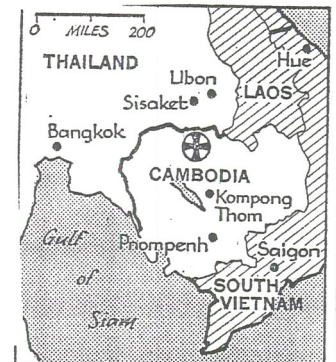
Meanwhile, about 200 Cambodian soldiers who had been

defending Ban Phai, together with their dependents and other civilians, have taken sanctuary in Sisaket. As the soldiers retreated on Tuesday, Bangkok sources said, the Communists began the shelling. Some shells fell in Thai territory, the source added.

Yesterday's air raid was said to have been designed to deny the Communists use of the weapons that the retreating units had left behind. The few arms that the units had brought with them into Thailand are believed to be held by Thai police. The Thai Government, however, has not officially acknowledged the raid.

Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, the Premier, today sidestepped a newsmen's question about the use of Thai forces in

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Area of air strikes (cross)

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Cambodia and, specifically, whether the Premier agreed with Secretary of State William P. Rogers that the combat burden now fell on Thailand and South Vietnam.

U.S. Losses Announced

By IVER PETERSON

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, July 2 — The United States command reported today that 104 American soldiers lost their lives in the Indochina war last week. This figure for the week, which ended last Saturday, was an increase of 24 over the previous week but was lower than the average number of

American fatalities in the last two months.

A military spokesman said that 34 Americans had been killed in Cambodia, and that the rest had died in South Vietnam.

A total of 417 United States servicemen were wounded during the same period, the report said. Slightly more than half of the wounded required hospital care.

The week's losses brought to 42,858 the number of American soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen killed since the beginning of 1961, when the first American life was lost in battle. Several thousand other Americans—the exact number is unavailable — have died here in noncombat situations, primarily in accidents and from illness.

Enemy losses for the week

were put at 1,474 killed, of which the South Vietnamese forces were reported to have killed 935, with a loss of 307 of their own men.

The figures thus disclose that the South Vietnamese lost one man for every three enemy soldiers reported killed by their troops. Although such so-called "kill ratios" have been subjected to widespread derision from observers critical of the war, United States military officials watch them closely and consider any ratio lower than 10 enemy dead for each South Vietnamese soldier lost unacceptable in terms of Saigon's long-range battlefield prospects.

The United States command put the number of Vietcong and North Vietnamese troops killed since the start of 1961 at 353,675.

In action in South Vietnam, eight United States paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division were killed in an enemy attack on their camp in the steep hills 25 miles west of Hue.

The United States forces reported finding the bodies of 15 enemy soldiers in the area after artillery and helicopter gunships had helped drive off the attack.

The United States command also reported that three Air Force planes were shot down in Laos last Tuesday, with one of the crew having been rescued and the remaining eight reported as missing.

The communiqué added that 10 American airmen had been killed over Laos since statistics of the fighting in that country were first made available on March 10.