

# Munition Dump Destroyed As Foe Steps Up Attacks

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By The Associated Press APR 27 1971

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Tuesday, April 27—A huge ammunition dump in the side of a coastal mountain was exploded by enemy shelling early yesterday, the third day of a wave of attacks through much of South Vietnam.

Three airfields were among the allied installations shelled during the day, and enemy forces staged small ground attacks in areas from the Mekong Delta south of Saigon to Danang in the north.

South Vietnamese headquarters here reported 54 "enemy-initiated incidents" in the 24 hours up to daybreak yesterday. This was the highest figure this month and more than double the daily average of 24 so far in April.

Official but incomplete reports listed at least 54 South Vietnamese soldiers and civilians killed and 185 wounded

since Saturday. American losses in this period were put at 7 killed, 3 missing and 60 wounded, according to communiqués.

In the worst of yesterday's attacks, 10 South Vietnamese soldiers were killed and 26 wounded as a mortar barrage blew up the ammunition dump at Quinhon, 265 miles north-east of Saigon. Eighteen civilians were also reported wounded.

The enemy bombardment also struck a nearby United States Army support compound and a South Vietnamese military hospital. Six American servicemen were reported wounded.

The village of Xuanquang between the munitions depot and Quinhon was heavily damaged, and flying debris was said to have killed two villagers. The munitions dump, which was

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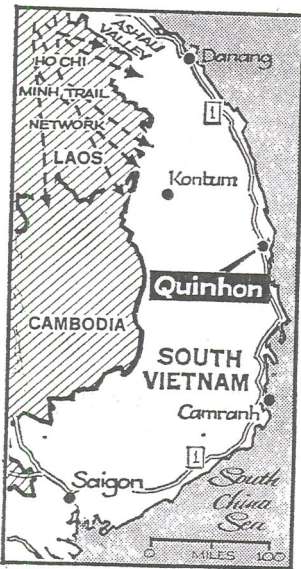
operated by the South Vietnamese, held about 15,000 tons of ammunition for both South Vietnamese and United States forces.

The United States command reported that the big American air bases at Danang in the north and at Cambanh Bay on the central coast were hit with small rocket barrages. The rockets caused light casualties at Danang and no casualties at Camranh Bay, the command said.

South Vietnamese headquarters said the airfield at Kontum in the Central Highlands was hit by two light rocket attacks that left one soldier and one civilian dead and two civilians wounded.

In ground action, a Vietcong demolition squad attacked a Government regional force unit only six miles southwest of Saigon. Field reports said seven Government soldiers were wounded.

South Vietnamese headquarters reported a mortar shelling



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Depot is near Quinhon

of a town 13 miles south of Danang that killed a civilian and wounded two others.

Three platoons of Government popular forces engage

North Vietnamese troops about 30 miles south of Danang just before noon Monday, and the Government force reported that 42 North Vietnamese were killed, including the assistant battalion commander. The South Vietnamese listed their own casualties as three wounded.

There were still no reports of any sizable battle action in the two-week-old Operation Lamson 720, the United States-backed South Vietnamese drive

in and near the Ashau Valley. United States B-52 bombers continued to pound the area just north of the valley, which has long been a major infiltration corridor from nearby Laos into the northern quarter of South Vietnam.

Other American air blows against the Ho Chi Minh supply trail network in Laos were hampered by thunderstorms, forecasted by the monsoon rains due in a week.