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ENEMY BLOWS UP BIG RIVER CONVOY

South Vietnamese Lose 300

Tons of Ammunition
NYTimes

SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 5 (AP) — The South Vietnamese command lost 300 tons of ammunition, including bombs and artillery shells, in an explosion that ripped through a river convoy 10 miles east of Saigon today.

Either an enemy mine or a rocket fired from the riverbank caused the blast, allied officers said.

Three ammunition barges went to the bottom and several escort vessels either sank or were damaged. Three men were reported missing and six were wounded.

The convoy had been moving up the Dongnai River, ap-



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Foe blew up convoy on
Dongnai River (cross).

parently headed for the Bienhoa Air Base, 15 miles northeast of the capital.

The blast shattered windows and glass doors in Saigon, where many feared a Vietcong terrorist attack was under way. Military police raced about but found nothing.

The South Vietnamese said the convoy included three ammunition barges, a tug, two medium craft—presumably minesweepers—and two river patrol boats. It reported the three barges and one medium craft cases of TNT and 30 rocket damaged. United States Navy advisers reported that a minesweeper was flooded.

Action elsewhere in South Vietnam was reported to be light and scattered.

For the first time in several weeks, there were no B-52 raids reported in South Vietnam during the 24-hour period ending at noon today. But the United States command reported B-52 strikes against enemy supply lines in both Laos and Cambodia yesterday.

South Vietnamese troops on a new operation northwest of Tancah reported killing three enemy soldiers and finding a cache containing five cases of small arms ammunition, five cases of TNT and 30 rocket grenade and mortar rounds.