

# BESIEGED ANLOC IS SAID TO REPEL ANOTHER ASSAULT

Enemy Is Reported to Lose  
6 Tanks—Key Highway in  
Cambodia Is Attacked

By FOX BUTTERFIELD

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Friday, April 21—North Vietnamese tanks attacked the besieged town of Anloc again yesterday after a heavy artillery barrage, but they were beaten back with the loss of six of the heavy Soviet-made tanks, allied military commanders here said.

Street fighting was reported continuing last night in several isolated pockets of Anloc, the capital of Binhlong Province, 60 miles north of Saigon, where the North Vietnamese have been attacking the encircled South Vietnamese Fifth Infantry Division for over a week.

In what appeared to be a related action, North Vietnamese troops launched a series of assaults along a 50-mile stretch of Route 1 in the Parrot's Beak section of Cambodia just south of the fighting in Binhlong, the Cambodian command announced yesterday. It was feared in Saigon that the new Communist offensive in eastern Cambodia might be designed to cut off the large government relief force trying to reach Anloc.

[The entire 50-mile stretch of Cambodian highway was seized by the enemy, The Associated Press reported, and one of the Government positions that fell is close to where the road enters South Vietnam. In Washington, meanwhile, officials said more North Vietnamese troops were entering the demilitarized zone and heading southward. Page 16.]

## Heaviest Toll of War

The South Vietnamese suffered their highest casualties of the war last week, a Government military spokesman announced yesterday: 1,002 killed, 2,656 wounded, and 408 missing. The South Vietnamese claimed that 7,117 enemy soldiers were killed and 71 captured.

American losses for the week were put at 12 killed, 63 wounded and 10 missing, according to the United States command.

There were these other developments in the war:

¶Around Kontum city in the mountainous, jungle-covered Central Highlands where a major North Vietnamese offensive has been predicted for three weeks, there was continuous but small-scale fighting at the dozen small Government fire bases in the area. An American Army helicopter yesterday made the first confirmed sighting of an enemy tank in the highlands. The North Vietnamese have blocked Route 19, the only highway leading from the

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coast to the highlands, for 10 days near Ankhe, and two enemy battalions were reported moving in the city.

On the central coast, where there has been little enemy activity in recent years, North Vietnamese and Vietcong guerrillas launched 12 attacks Wednesday night on government outposts near Phanthiet. They continued their assaults yesterday in Quangtin, Quangngai and Binh Dinh provinces. American officers in Danang said an enemy battalion operating without opposition in Quangngai in an area near Mylai burned down seven Government resettlement villages Wednesday.

¶At Fire Base Bastogne, which guards the mountainous western approaches to Hue, Ninth Vietnamese pressure was reported to have dropped, with the enemy making only a small ground assault. American advisers near Bastogne said the enemy forces had used tear gas in the attack.

¶At Dongha in northern Quangtri Province, South Vietnamese rangers reported that they had killed 50 enemy soldiers and knocked out one tank five miles southwest of the city. There have been no major Communist attacks in Quangtri for over a week, and allied military officers say they are now slowly pushing the enemy back to the mountains west of Quangtri.

¶In the populous Mekong Delta, the Communists made 39 more artillery and ground attacks on small, isolated government militia defenses, allied officers said in Saigon. The enemy assaults, which have been continuing for two weeks, appear to be aimed at wiping out as many of the vulnerable mudwalled militia posts as possible and capturing rifles and radios, the officers said. Government losses are reported to have been very heavy.

## Intense Air War Goes On

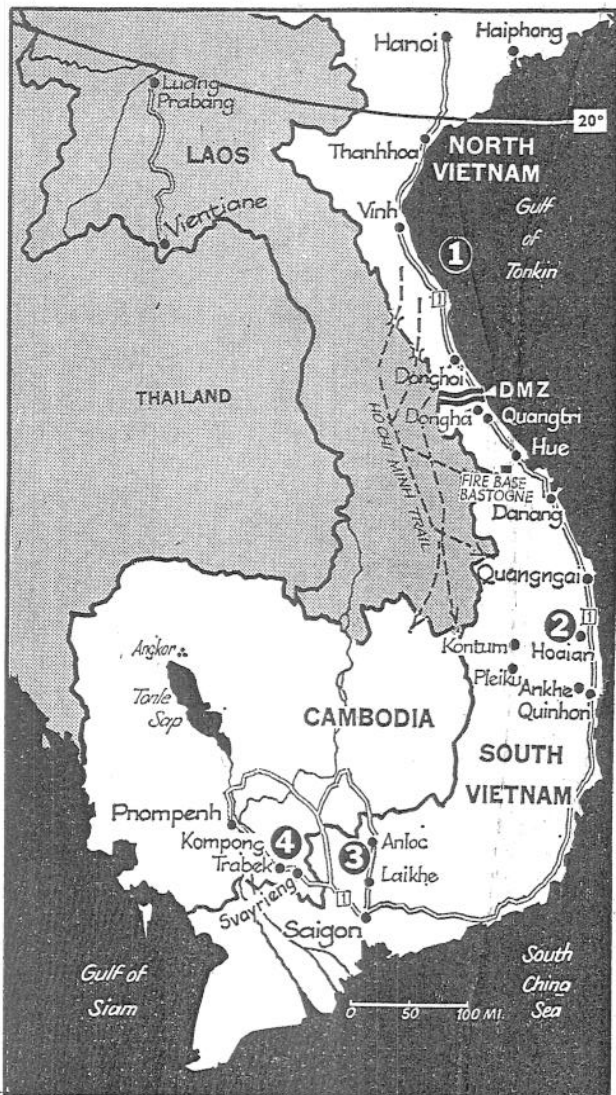
American warplanes continued their intensive activity in South Vietnam yesterday, with 22 B-52 raids and 368 strikes by fighter-bombers. Most of the raids were around fire base Bastogne, Kontum city and Anloc.

In the fighting at Anloc, American intelligence analysts say they believe that the North Vietnamese have committed 20,000 to 30,000 men of their Fifth, Seventh and Ninth Divisions in an effort to draw in and then destroy large numbers of Government troops.

Captured, enemy directives reportedly outline a campaign in Binhlong to force the Saigon command to draw its reserves away from the more populous capital and delta regions.

If that is the enemy objective, it has been successful, for the South Vietnamese command has rushed a brigade of paratroopers — which ordinarily form President Nguyen Van Thieu's palace guard—and the entire 21st Division from the lower Mekong Delta to relieve Anloc.

The relief column has been bogged down and harassed by guerrillas hiding in the scrub jungle and rubber plantations along route 13. Hundreds of B-52 and fighter strikes on enemy positions near the road and around Anloc have evidently failed to dislodge the North Vietnamese.



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U.S. destroyer fired on enemy patrol boats off North Vietnamese panhandle (1). Hoaian (2) in South Vietnam was reported abandoned before attack. Defenders of Anloc (3) repulsed enemy tank thrust. In southeastern Cambodia, enemy troops seized 50 miles of Route 1 (4).

The only bright spot, American officers say, has been the Communists' misuse of Soviet-made tanks, which they have thrown into battle two or three at a time, advancing with their turrets open and often not even firing their guns. Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, the commander of United States forces in Vietnam and a former armored cavalry leader, is reported to be particularly amused at the Communists' apparent inexperience.

The six tanks reportedly destroyed yesterday were said to have been knocked out by South Vietnamese infantrymen using American-made MM-72 anti-tank rockets.