

# B-52'S BOMB AREA TO SOUTH OF HANOI; PHANTOM IS LOST

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Targets Are 80 Miles From  
Capital—North's Radio  
Claims 2 U.S. Planes

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, April 22 — United States B-52 bombers and Air Force and Navy fighter-bombers struck yesterday at targets in North Vietnam around Thanhhoa, about 80 miles south of Hanoi, the United States command announced.

The command refused, for what it said were security reasons, to disclose how many planes participated in the new raids. It reported that the attacks began early in the morning, continued through the day and ended in the evening.

All the B-52's returned safely to their bases, the command said, but an Air Force F-4 Phantom was shot down 42 miles southeast of Thanhhoa at 9:30 A.M. The two crew members were rescued at sea half an hour later.

## Attack by Patrol Boat Reported

The Hanoi radio asserted that "waves" of United States planes bombed the vicinity of Thanhhoa yesterday and that North Vietnamese antiaircraft gunners shot down two of them.

The United States command also announced that a North Vietnamese patrol boat fired an undetermined type of missile at a Seventh Fleet guided missile destroyer, the Benjamin Stoddert, in the Gulf of Tonkin Thursday evening. The destroyer was not hit and returned fire, driving the patrol boat toward shore, the command said.

Another destroyer, the Lloyd Thomas, fired at another patrol boat off the coast of North Vietnam a few miles north of the demilitarized zone and sank it, the command said.

## No Attacks Near Hanoi

The encounter involving the Stoddert was said to mark the first time a North Vietnamese patrol boat had fired on an American warship in the Gulf of Tonkin since incidents began early this week.

The air strikes yesterday, the command's announcement said, were directed at "military targets in North Vietnam that are helping to support the Communist invasion across the demilitarized zone into South Vietnam."

The B-52 strikes were said to have been in the vicinity of Thanhhoa. Command spokesmen said that fighter bomber strikes were both north and south of Thanhhoa and may have ranged slightly north of the 20th Parallel, but that none of the attacks was near Hanoi or Haiphong.

"The military targets included logistic, transportation, and air defense facilities in areas

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# F-4 Phantom Downed, U.S. Reports; North Claims 2 in Radio Broadcast

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where the enemy has been assembling and moving supplies and troops to support the invasion forces across the demilitarized zone," the command statement said.

One of North Vietnam's principal MIG air fields, at Baithuong, is about 40 miles northwest of Thanhhoa, and it is considered likely here to have been bombed yesterday.

The new raids today were the first large-scale strikes by B-52's since the early-morning

surprise raid on the area near Haiphong harbor on Sunday. Each B-52 can drop 30 tons of bombs in a long, rectangular pattern.

Air strikes and naval bombardment of the north were cut back considerably on Monday and Tuesday, and began picking up again Wednesday, mostly south of the 20th Parallel, according to informed officers.

On Wednesday, two North Vietnamese MIG aircraft attacked a group of Seventh Fleet ships that were bombarding the coast about 20 miles north of

the demilitarized zone. One MIG scored a direct bomb hit on the destroyer Higbee, and it was considered possible that the MIG's came from the Baithuong airfield.

Surface-to-air missile sites were also believed to be among the targets bombed yesterday. The command's announcement gave no indication of the level of intensity of ground fire during the raids, but it has been extremely heavy for all the bombing missions over the north since the Americans resumed heavy attacks on the north on April 6 with bombs and naval gunfire.

In another development, the United States command announced the end of 20 days of search-and-rescue operations that involved the loss of four planes and a rescue helicopter in Quangtri Province, the northernmost province of South Vietnam, in the first two weeks of the enemy offensive there. Sixteen American airmen were declared missing and presumed dead.

## RAID WARNINGS IN HANOI

HANOI, North Vietnam, April 21 (Agence France-Presse)—Several times in the last 24 hours the prealert signal has sounded here, warning the populace to remain near air-raid shelters.

Antiaircraft gunners have pointed their guns in the direction of the expected attack and then have relaxed.

These prealerts have reportedly been caused by United States Navy planes.

The aircraft, it is said, have been approaching to within 30 miles of Hanoi on what is viewed here as psychological warfare missions and then returning to their carriers off the coast.

## The Target Area: In Brief

Thanhhoa, in the target area struck yesterday by American bombers, is situated in the Ma River delta about seven miles from the coast of the Gulf of Tonkin and has a population of about 60,000.

The city's strategic value dates from the 15th century, when it served as the second capital of Vietnam during the Ho dynasty. The ruling leaders would retreat to the city when the Chinese invaded from the north.

The area around Thanhhoa has been known as the "mother of revolutionaries." Ho Chi Minh, the father of Vietnamese Communism was born near the city.

The North Vietnamese, in their five-year plan of 1960-1965, attempted, reportedly with limited success, to industrialize the city.

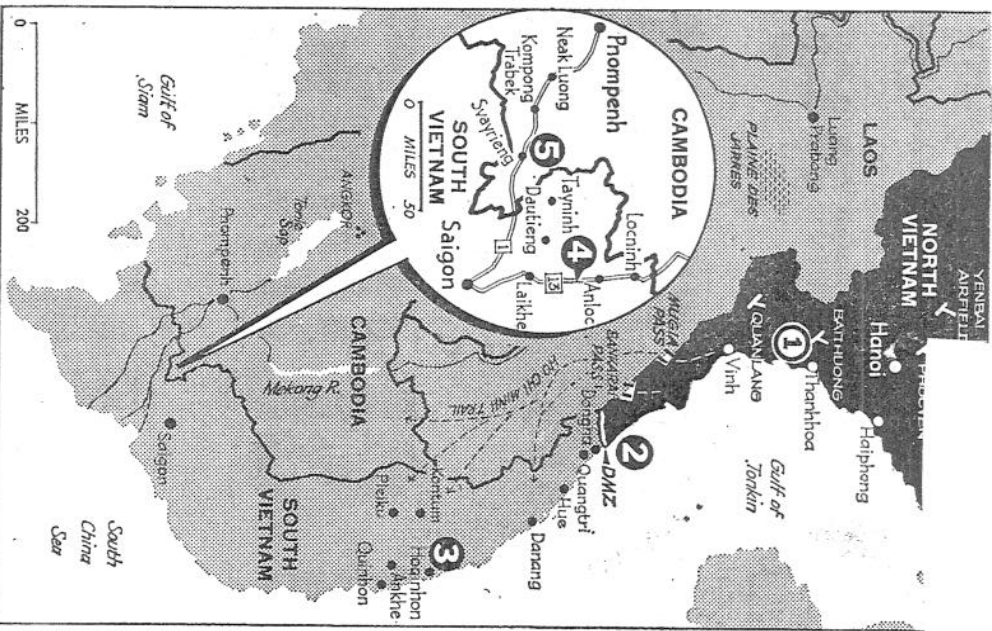
After daily United States bombing ceased in the fall of 1968, the North Vietnamese reportedly shifted the hub of their resupply effort from the Hanoi-Haiphong area to Thanhhoa, so they would have stocks of weapons and ammunition and fuel closer to their infiltration routes to the combat areas.

Among other factors on which the United States air commanders might have based their decision to bomb Thanhhoa are the following:

¶The second largest MIG airbase in North Vietnam, Baithuong, lies northwest of the city.

¶The city has become the main staging area for troops heading south since the heavy bombing of Vinh, to the south.

¶The Hamong bridge, still standing across a gorge near the city has become a symbol of resistance against the bombing for the North Vietnamese.



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Thanhhoa area (1) of North Vietnam was pounded by U.S. planes. American destroyer sank enemy patrol boat near DMZ (2). Haoinhon district (3) in South was attacked by foe. Saigon relief column, pinned down near Anloc (4 on inset), reportedly gave up drive to lift siege. Cambodians at Svayrieng (5) were under heavy assault.