

# Hanoi and Haiphong Hit; 7 MIG's Reported Downed

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By CHARLES MOHR MAY 11 1972  
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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Thursday, May 11—United States planes bombed targets in Hanoi and Haiphong yesterday and also struck at the rail lines leading from China in a continued effort to seal off North Vietnam from its sources of military supplies.

[The North Vietnamese press agency said 16 American planes were shot down and several pilots captured, and Agence France-Presse reported. The North Vietnamese agency said also that the office of the Chinese economic mission in Hanoi was heavily damaged in Wednesday's raid. It said that two Soviet ships at Haiphong were damaged during Tuesday's mine-laying operation and four crew members wounded.]

Fields of naval mines had already been laid outside Haiphong and six other North Viet-

namese ports on Tuesday, and their time fuses were set to make the mines active at 6 P.M. today Saigon time [6 A.M. New York time.]

Sizable numbers of North Vietnamese MIG fighters rose to meet the United States fighter-bombers, and military spokesmen in Saigon said that seven MIG's were shot down. No word was released on whether there were American losses.

The United States military command said in a statement: "It is anticipated that air strikes and naval gunfire will continue to be used against military targets in North Vietnam to deny the enemy the weapons and supplies it needs" to continue the offensive that it began in South Vietnam on March 30.

Within South Vietnam there were no important advances or attacks yesterday by North

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Vietnamese troops who had previously taken sizable pieces of southern territory, but the threat to South Vietnamese forces did not seem to be diminished.

The statement by the United States Military Assistance Command in Vietnam said that "North Vietnamese military transportation and supply distribution activities were attacked" yesterday by United States Air Force and Navy tactical aircraft.

A senior military officer explained that the northwestern rail line running from Hanoi to Yunan Province in China had been bombed near the border and also near Hanoi, in the hope of trapping trains between the two points. [The rail line was reportedly attacked within 60 miles of the Chinese border, The Associated Press said.]

It was not clear whether the northeastern rail line to China, running into Kwangtung Province, had also been hit, but this seemed likely.

The American raids were on a large scale and lasted much of the day, informed sources said. The number of fighter-bombers participating was estimated at 150 to 175. B-52 heavy bombers were not in action today, spokesmen said.

### Oil Storage Areas Bombed

The official American statement said that targets bombed in North Vietnam yesterday included bridges, repair shops, petroleum storage areas, trucks, waterborne craft and supply distribution centers.

"Among the targets struck were rail and fuel storage sites in the vicinity of Hanoi and Haiphong," it added.

In describing such raids, American officials have customarily measured distance from Hanoi in miles from the center of the city. A well-informed source said that the rail and fuel targets hit yesterday "in" Hanoi and in Haiphong, the main North Vietnamese port.

The Hanoi radio asserted that American naval vessels had also shelled Haiphong, but an American source said that United States destroyers with 5-inch guns had actually shelled points on the ship channel outside the harbor.

### 32 Killed in Copter Crash

In South Vietnam, meanwhile 32 American soldiers were killed in the crash of an OH-47 medium helicopter about 20 miles northeast of Saigon yesterday.

The helicopter was said to have been on an "administrative" mission, meaning that it was being used as a passenger craft. However, the death toll was about three times the number of Americans killed in combat in a week recently.

On the front north of Saigon, a combined force of South Vietnamese paratroops, or airborne troops, and the 21st Infantry Division began to inch forward again in what seemed to be a new attempt to relieve Anloc, the capital of Binhlong Province, where a large South Vietnamese force has been encircled since early April.

One source said the relief column had now advanced to within about five miles of Anloc, which is 60 miles north of Saigon.

This advance was not mentioned in the official South Vietnamese military communique, but official sources said that North Vietnamese units had made light attacks on the relief column.

In the central highlands, North Vietnamese tanks and troops were reported repulsed in an attack on the Denhet military camp northwest of Kontum.

The South Vietnamese said they had destroyed 11 enemy tanks, but American sources said that they could confirm only five. The tanks were Soviet-made PT-76 amphibious light tanks, which carry light armor plating.

A continued high level of American bombing was also reported yesterday within South Vietnam as the United States attempted to use its heavy fire power to support close-pressed South Vietnamese ground units. Spokesmen said that 347 American tactical air strikes were flown in the South, and that the bombing destroyed three tanks, three 130-mm. artillery pieces and other equipment and positions.

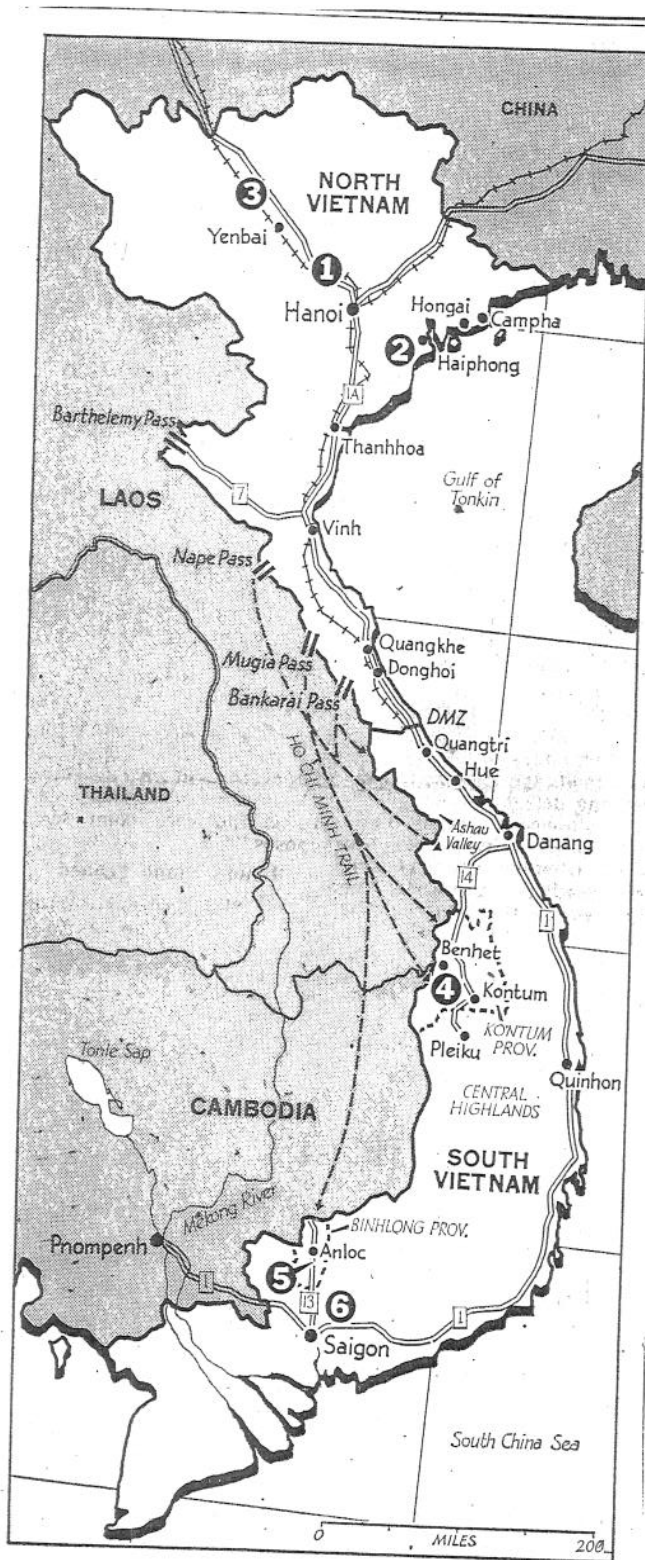
Twenty-two B-52 missions were flown, eight of them in the northernmost province, Quantri, which is now entirely occupied by Northern forces.

### Guns Are Key Target

The report that three enemy cannon had been knocked out in one day was significant, a senior United States officer explained, because in 40 previous days of bombing only four other 130-mm. Soviet guns had been confirmed as destroyed. Despite the weight and intensity of American bombing, such guns were very difficult to find and hit, he said.

Another military source said that long-range, rapid-fire artillery pieces of this type were believed to be near the former imperial capital. "They won't have to move far to be in range of the city," he said.

American bombing, however, was credited by one source with having knocked out or dispersed most of the surface-to-air, or SAM, antiaircraft missiles south of the demilitarized zone. He said that no missiles of this type had been fired at American planes in the Quantri and Hue area for two days.



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U.S. jets bombed Hanoi (1), Haiphong (2) and rail line near Chinese border (3). In South Vietnam, defenders of Benhet (4) repulsed attack. Relief column neared Anloc (5). Copter crash near Saigon (6) killed 32 Americans.