

RAIDS SAID TO CUT ONE LINE LINKING HANOI WITH CHINA

Bombing Reported to Have
Destroyed Vital Bridge
Northeast of Capital
—MAY 13 1972

TARGETS ON COAST HIT

Enemy Says a Soviet Ship
Was Heavily Damaged
in Attack on Port

NYTimes

By The Associated Press

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Saturday, May 13—United States fighter-bombers have reportedly cut North Vietnam's northeastern rail link with China by knocking out a bridge.

The entire North Vietnamese rail system is said to have been heavily bombed as part of the campaign to cut off the flow of military supplies to North Vietnam.

The attack on the railroad bridge, an unspecified distance northeast of Hanoi, was reported by Lieut. Col. John P. O'Gorman of St. Louis, commander of a fighter squadron in Danang. Colonel O'Gorman, who escorted the bombers to protect them against MIG interceptors, said yesterday that several of the bridge's concrete supports collapsed during the 15-minute attack, which was made Thursday.

Anloc Fights On

The United States bombing campaign, according to official spokesmen, was limited yesterday to a coastal strip of North Vietnam below the 20th Parallel well south of Hanoi and Haiphong. The targets were said to be petroleum pipelines, pumping stations, bridges, roads and rail lines that can be used to support the North Vietnamese offensive across the demilitarized zone.

[North Vietnam charged in a broadcast that United States planes had bombed dikes along the Red River in a suburban area of Hanoi on Wednesday and Thursday, Reuters reported. The Hanoi radio also said that a Soviet ship was heavily damaged, a sailor killed and the captain wounded when American planes attacked one of the lesser North Vietnamese ports on Wednesday.] 10, 11 MAY

On the front north of Saigon, fighting was reported continuing late yesterday in the ruined provincial capital of Anloc, whose defenders had come under heavy attack on Thursday by tank-led forces backed by a bombardment of more than 7,500 artillery and mortar shells.

Saigon headquarters spokesmen said the situation was not so serious at Anloc yesterday as it had been the day before. Reports from the field said the North Vietnamese fired 3,000 more shells into the besieged town yesterday.

Northern Front Quiet

In the Central Highlands, four enemy tanks were reportedly spotted by South Vietnamese pilots only 14 miles northwest of Pleiku. One tank was said to have been destroyed by an air strike.

Pleiku is about 30 miles south of Kontum, where it is expected that the next major

Continued on Page 9, Column 2

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

enemy thrust in the highlands will be made.

Little ground action was reported from the northern front near Hue, the former imperial capital. But South Vietnamese planes were said to have knocked out three enemy mortar emplacements six miles south of the city. Spokesmen said seven Communist soldiers were killed and three ammunition dumps knocked out.

Reporting on the air strike on North Vietnam's northeastern rail line to China, Colonel O'Gorman said Thursday's mission against the bridge was so successful that bombers did not have to return to the area yesterday.

North Vietnam has two rail links with China, with the northeast line considered the more important. It is believed that United States bombers will have to strike almost daily to keep the lines cut.

In the fighting at Anloc, 60 miles north of Saigon, spokesman said that there were "some enemy" still in the city and that the principal action was at a former police station now held by North Vietnamese forces.

United States B-52 bombers carried out the heaviest concentration of strikes of the war along an eight-mile line to the north of the town. They dropped more than 1,700 tons of explosives, but when the raids were over the enemy guns opened fire again.

The United States command reported that an American adviser had been killed and another wounded at Chonthan, a district capital 15 miles south of Anloc.

United States headquarters also reported that two Air Force spotter planes had been shot down in the Anloc-Chonthan area. The two crew members were listed as missing.

The command reported that a third aircraft, an Army OH6 light observation helicopter, was shot down Friday about 12 miles north of Kontum in the Central Highlands. One crewman was wounded.