

Enemy Opens New Attack North of Hue

NYTimes JUN 23 1972

SAIGON, South Vietnam, June 22 (UPI)—A North Vietnamese infantry regiment backed by Soviet-built tanks crossed South Vietnam's northern defense line today and battled paratroops 20 miles north of the former imperial capital of Hue.

An allied officer said the drive, North Vietnam's largest since Quangtri Province was taken May 1, could be the beginning of an attack on Hue, South Vietnam's third largest city.

Intelligence sources, however, said the Communists would need more than a 2,900-man regiment to take on the five brigades and one division of South Vietnamese troops defending Hue.

The paratroopers, backed by scores of United States warplanes, said they had killed at least 100 North Vietnamese soldiers and knocked out 16 tanks. South Vietnamese officers described their own casualties as light.

In the air war, the United States command said American F-4 Phantoms shot down a Communist MIG-21 jet over North Vietnam yesterday—the 119th MIG reported downed in the war.

B-52 bombers also struck into North Vietnam for the 14th consecutive day, the command said, hitting Communist supply and troop concentrations up to

50 miles north of the demilitarized zone.

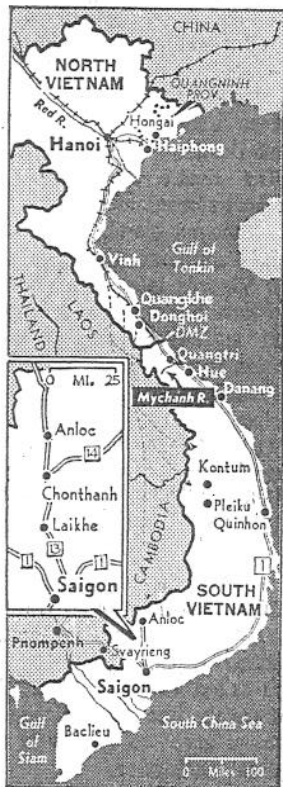
Smaller fighter-bombers struck deep into North Vietnam for the seventh day in a row, the command said, destroying 34 pieces of equipment in the

Communist air defense system—11 surface-to-air missiles, 16 missile canisters, 2 SAM transporters, 3 missile sites and 2 anti-aircraft guns.

The North Vietnamese infantry regiment and its amphibious tanks were reported to have moved across the Mychan River last night and early today and to have engaged a South Vietnamese paratroop brigade dug in four miles southwest of the town of Mychanh.

At the same time, the Communists attacked the western half of the South Vietnamese defense line, and four of six Saigon marine battalions began pulling back from a five-day drive into Quangtri Province.

Allied officers said "several small combat outposts" were left in the province and that the pullback was planned before the latest North Vietnamese thrust.



The New York Times/June 23, 1972

Enemy made thrust at the Mychanh River. Road from Anloc (inset) was blocked.

'Harassment' in Cambodia

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, June 22 (Agence France-Presse) — Communist forces have stepped up artillery harassment of nearly all Government positions along Route 1, leading from Pnompenh to Saigon, the military spokesman said today.

He said the Communists had lobbed 20 mortar shells into a Cambodian command post, but the Government force had reported only five wounded.

Route 1 has now been cut for two months at a point 50 miles east of Pnompenh, or 12 miles east on Neak Luong, a ferry point on the Mekong River.

Hanoi Reports Casualties

HONG KONG, June 22 (Reuters)—North Vietnam said today that more than 150 people had been killed and every building in Hongai, the capital of Quangninh Province, had been damaged or destroyed in United States air-raids.

The North Vietnam press agency quoted a statement by the "Commission for Investigation of the United States Imperialists' War Crimes in Vietnam," denouncing "extermination attacks" by United States aircraft early this month on the coal-mining province bordering China.

From June 1 to 11, "brutal encroachments" of North Vietnamese airspace by United States aircraft "caused destruction and death in many hamlets and villages as well as in populous urban areas in the province," the statement said.