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A Saigon Battle Claim Denied

Saigon

Government radio reported yesterday South Vietnamese paratroopers, backed by allied artillery and air support, had attacked the stone-walled inner citadel of Quang Tri in the final drive to push North Vietnamese troops out of the stronghold they have held since May 1.

UPI correspondent Donald A. Davis reporting from Quang Tri, Saigon's northernmost provincial capital, said, however, there was no evidence of such an attack. A South Vietnamese spokes-

man in Hue, the operational headquarters south of Quang Tri, said he had no knowledge of the assault.

A U.S. command spokesman said no American aircraft attacked the citadel.

To the south, however, government troops yesterday recaptured another of the coastal highlands district towns overrun by the Communists three months ago.

UPI reporter Edward Bassett said Saigon's flag flew over Tam Quan, 290 miles north of the capital, after troops walked in unopposed

yesterday. Tam Quan is ten miles from Bong Son, another district town retaken by South Vietnamese paratroopers Friday.

Saigon Radio said the airborne troops yesterday "attacked enemy positions" in Quang Tri's 19th Century citadel on the 27th day of a campaign to retake the city.

In a special broadcast last night the radio said the South Vietnamese forces "advanced slowly under uninterrupted support by friendly heavy artillery and warplanes."

U.S. planes bombed a fac-

tory in suburban Hanoi Sunday, sending clouds of smoke 4000 feet into the sky, a U.S. command spokesman said yesterday.

United Press