

# HANOI-AREA RAIDS BY U.S. BOMBERS HIT 2 TROOP BASES

96 Buildings Are Reported  
Destroyed—Barracks Near  
Haiphong Also Attacked

2 RAIL SPANS TARGETS  
—AUG 29 1972

Foe Lists 5 Planes Downed  
—Close Fighting in Queson  
Said to Be in Progress

NYTimes

By The Associated Press

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Tuesday, Aug. 29—The United States command reported yesterday that American fighter-bombers raiding North Vietnam on Sunday struck at an army barracks and military training grounds near Hanoi, destroying 96 buildings and damaging 78.

The prime target of the attacks, described as the heaviest in the Hanoi and Haiphong heartland of North Vietnam in more than four years, was the Xombai army barracks, 37 miles northwest of Hanoi. An Air Force spokesman said that the barracks house North Vietnamese troops in the Vietri area awaiting transportation to South Vietnam.

Pilots reported that they destroyed 13 barracks and 10 storage or support buildings and damaged 46 other structures. It was said to be the first attack of the war on the Xombai barracks.

## Strike Northwest of Haiphong

The Xuanmai military training complex 17 miles southwest of Hanoi was attacked for the second time this year. The Air Force said that reconnaissance photographs showed 73 buildings destroyed and 32 damaged, along with a large number of vehicles destroyed or damaged.

Navy pilots from the carrier America attacked the Haidong Barracks West, 23 miles northwest of Haiphong, and reported they left it in flames after two big explosions.

Air Force Phantoms using 2,000-pound laser bombs destroyed two railroad bridges on the northeast rail line leading to China, the Air Force said. But other sources reported that in attacks on two other bridges the bombs were off target and the rail approaches rather than the spans were cut.

Air Force spokesmen said that all the bridges had been attacked before but that the

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North Vietnamese had rebuilt them.

Hanoi radio asserted that five United States planes were shot down and some of the pilots captured. The United States command made no mention of plane losses.

In ground action reported yesterday in the northern part of South Vietnam, Government infantrymen and North Vietnamese battled at close quarters for control of the Queson district headquarters, which has changed hands three times in nine days.

## Close fighting in Compound

North Vietnamese troops slipped back into the battered district capital Sunday night when South Vietnamese forces dispersed under an enemy artillery barrage. The South Vietnamese had retaken the town and headquarters compound in a counterattack last Friday.

The North Vietnamese opened fire yesterday from bunkers inside the headquarters compound, which is a block square. The South Vietnamese attacked but failed to dislodge all the infiltrators after several hours of fighting.

At last reports, both sides held parts of the heavily damaged stronghold.

A United States adviser reported that Government forces remained in control of the rest of the town and were still counterattacking in other parts of the strategic Queson Valley.

## Foe Holds High Ground

North Vietnamese troops still hold a high hill dominating the main road into Queson, and an enemy battalion is reported holed up in nearby Fire Base Ross. A boulder-strewn camp, Ross served as a South Vietnamese regimental command post until the enemy overran the valley Aug. 19.

Allied air strikes and Government artillery, tank and infantry assaults have so far failed to drive the enemy from the tree-and scrub-covered hill overlooking the road.

North Vietnamese control of the Queson Valley would give the enemy clear access to Danang, the country's second

north, and to the populous rice-lands along coastal Route 1.

In other action in the area, American helicopter gunships equipped with powerful searchlights reportedly spotted and attacked about 35 enemy troops carrying rockets to within striking distance of Danang.

The pilots reported killing three of the enemy and touching off nine explosions in the attack staged six miles from Danang.

largest city 25 miles to the

The United States and South Vietnamese commands announced in a delayed report that an American advisor and three South Vietnamese airmen were killed Saturday when an O-1 Bird-Dog observation plane and an A-37 attack jet collided in the air over Queson.

A fuel tank in a small tank farm near regional military headquarters in Danang exploded in flames last night, apparently the result of a rocket attack. Reports from the scene said there were no casualties.

Initial reports said it was thought that a rocket had hit the tank but that sabotage had not been ruled out.

On the northernmost front, government marines met heavy resistance as they pressed their counteroffensive into Quangtri.

Government spokesmen said that 192 enemy soldiers had

been killed in a dozen engagements in and around the city. South Vietnamese losses were put at 9 killed and 59 wounded, largely by heavy enemy artillery.