

HEAVY B-52 RAIDS CONTINUE IN NORTH

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48-Hour Total Is Reported
as Highest of the War—
Supplies Are Targets

By The Associated Press

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Friday, Nov. 24 — The southern part of North Vietnam came under heavy bombing by United States planes again yesterday, with high-flying B-52's carrying the major burden as bad weather cut strikes by fighter-bombers.

The B-52's reportedly flew 12 three-plane missions in the 24 hours ended at noon, striking at supply accumulations awaiting shipment to the battle areas in South Vietnam. With 15 three-plane missions reported in the previous 24-hour period, the B-52 bombing of the North was described as the heaviest of the war.

Most of the raids were reportedly concentrated around the area of Vinh, 145 miles north of the demilitarized zone, which straddles the border between the two Vietnams.

The United States command reported that Air Force, Marine and Navy fighter-bombers flew 90 missions over North Viet-

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nam, 30 more than in the previous 24-hour period but still far below their normal average. Meanwhile, Air Force investigators reached the area of eastern Thailand where a B-52 crashed Wednesday night after a bombing run over North Vietnam, and they reported findings substantiating the statements of military sources shortly after the crash that the huge plane was the first of the war to be lost to enemy fire.

The United States command said the inquiry had determined that the B-52 had probably been hit by a surface-to-air missile during its raid on North Vietnam. Earlier, the command had said that the cause was undetermined.

A broadcast by the Hanoi radio said the B-52 had been downed by North Vietnamese gunners, but it disputed the United States statement that it was the first of the heavy bombers to be shot down during the war.

Reconnaissance Craft Lost

The broadcast said it was the 19th to be shot down since B-52's began raiding the North in large numbers last April.

Besides the continuing bombing of the North, 23 missions by the heavy bombers were also reported south of the demilitarized zone, most of them in the Saigon region and around Quangtri in northernmost South Vietnam.

At Quangtri, South Vietnamese marines are trying to expand their control of territory before any cease-fire.

The United States command also reported that an American light reconnaissance plane was shot down by shoulder-fired heat-seeking missile near Anloc, 60 miles north of Saigon. The



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Targets around Vinh (1),
Quangtri (2) and Saigon
(3) were heavily bombed
by American B-52's.

pilot bailed out and was rescued.

In ground action, the heaviest fighting reported was centered in the Mekong Delta, where Government forces reported killing 58 enemy soldiers in battles 120 to 180 miles southwest of Saigon. Government forces reported 3 men killed and 14 wounded.

Reports from the field said fighting had been under way for three days near the village of Bente, 17 miles north of Saigon near Route 13.

In other action, the South Vietnamese command reported that enemy demotion men infiltrated the Bensen leper camp, 20 miles north of Saigon. There were no casualties reported.