

SAIGON REPORTS HANOI UNIT FLEES

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Says Routed Battalion Is on
Way Back to Cambodia.
NYTimes

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Wednesday, Dec. 13 (AP)—Ground action in South Vietnam was reported at a low level yesterday, and infiltrating North Vietnamese troops who had come under strong attack northwest of Saigon were said to be fleeing back to Cambodia.

Military sources said that the remnants of a North Vietnamese battalion were being harassed in their retreat to the Parrot's



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Saigon troops reportedly harassed retreating foe northwest of Saigon (1). B-52's struck at an area near Donghoi (2).

Beak section of Cambodia by air strikes and artillery bombardments and that South Vietnamese troops were pursuing them.

The battalion, which was believed to have numbered several hundred men, was said to have been in South Vietnam only five hours when it ran into Government militiamen who had reportedly been alerted by a defector.

In five hours of fighting, the Saigon command said, the North Vietnamese lost 79 killed and two captured.

Later, military sources put the total enemy casualties at more than 100 killed, many of them caught in air raids and artillery barrages. Government casualties in the fighting, in an area about 50 miles northwest of Saigon, were listed as three wounded.

Reporting on other action, the Saigon command said that it had counted 57 enemy attacks in the 24 hours ended at 6 A.M. yesterday, 47 of them shelling attacks.

The command said that Government troops in the southernmost province of Anxuyen killed 30 enemy soldiers in a clash six miles southwest of Camau.

Another clash was reported 25 miles north of Saigon near Bencat. Four government soldiers were said to have been killed and eight wounded. Enemy casualties were unknown.

In the air war, United States B-52 heavy bombers reportedly attacked troop concentrations and supply dumps on the coast just north of the demilitarized zone for the sixth straight day. Six missions of up to three planes each were said to have been directed at a target 41 miles southeast of Donghoi, a North Vietnamese port.