

# U.S. FIGHTER LOST IN RAID ABOVE DMZ

## Heavy Action Over North's Panhandle Continues—A Copter Downed in South

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Thursday, Jan. 11 (AP) — A United States fighter-bomber was lost over North Vietnam yesterday as American planes flew their heaviest raids over that country's southern panhandle area since bombing was halted above the 20th Parallel on Dec. 30.

The United States command also reported the loss of a helicopter in South Vietnam just south of the demilitarized zone. It said that all eight Americans aboard the two aircraft were missing.

The Hanoi radio, however, said that North Vietnamese gunners shot down two B-52's yesterday and a fighter-bomber Monday. The United States command said that it had no B-52 losses to report.

Fifteen B-52 missions, presumably involving a total of 45 of the heavy bombers, and 140 fighter-bomber strikes were reported flown over the North Vietnam panhandle in the 24 hours ended at 8 A.M.

The United States command was not specific about the B-52 targets, but a spokesman, Maj. Jere K. Forbus, said: "Obviously, the B-52's are programmed for the most lucrative targets."

The Seventh Air Force stated that its fighter-bombers destroyed or damaged 40 trucks, 20 anti-aircraft weapons, two field guns, 15 military warehouses, a surface-to-air missile radar and two launchers. Pilots said that their bombs caused more than 100 secondary explosions and 50 fires, indicating hits on ammunition and fuel stores.

Most of the trucks were reported knocked out in the Quang Khe area, 65 miles north of the DMZ.

The command said that an A-6 fighter-bomber was shot down early yesterday about 35 miles northwest of Vinh and that the two crewmen were missing.

### More Ground Action Listed

The second aircraft loss was of an Army UH-1 helicopter that disappeared Monday evening over enemy territory in eastern Quang Tri province just

below the DMZ. Four crewmen and two United States advisers to the South Vietnamese paratroop division were aboard. The command said that the search was called off when no trace of the men or wreckage was found. The cause of the crash was not known.

The United States command also said that B-52's and fighter-bombers flew raids throughout South Vietnam from the Quang Tri area to the Mekong Delta.

Reporting on ground action, the Saigon command asserted that North Vietnamese and Vietcong units had stepped up their attacks on civilian population centers in South Vietnam. Civilian casualties in the last four days, the command said, have increased to more than 100.

The Saigon command reported five new shelling attacks against a provincial capital and three district towns in

the Mekong Delta and a village northwest of Saigon. Nine civilians were said to have been killed and 35 wounded.

Here in the Saigon area, an explosive instrument detonated in a coffee shop near Tan Son Nhut air base just before dawn yesterday, the Saigon command said, wounding three young men. Police sources said that the explosion was set off when one of the men opened a metal tube he had found on the sidewalk. The police said that the tube contained TNT.

United States officials said that many of the enemy attacks appeared to have been aimed at civilian, not military, targets, although in Vietnam's overcrowded villages and hamlets such facilities are often side by side.

Most of the recent attacks have reportedly been small, and nearly all have consisted of mortar and rocket fire.



The New York Times/Jan. 11, 1973  
U.S. jet was downed near Vinh (1). Bombers struck at trucks near Quang Khe (2). Several communities southwest of Saigon (3) were shelled by foe. In Laos, Saravane (4) was lost by Government.