

NYTimes
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**Saigon Reports 154 of Foe Slain
In Two Battles Near Quang Tri**

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Thursday, Dec. 21 (UPI) — Heavy ground fighting was reported yesterday on South Vietnam's northernmost front, with two battles fought near Quang Tri city.

The Saigon command said South Vietnamese marines and paratroops and United States fighter-bombers supporting them killed 154 North Vietnamese in the battles, north and south of the city. According to a communication from South Vietnamese sources, 100 North Vietnamese were killed and 48 wounded. Reports from the field also said South Vietnamese troops battled enemy tanks south of Da Nang.

Despite the heavy fighting, it was reported that United States planes flew only 50 sorties during the day in the five northern provinces of South Vietnam, where sunny skies prevailed, indicating that most available American aircraft were assigned to the bombing of North Vietnam.

In the 24 hours ended at 8 A.M., the United States com-

mand said, 117 fighter-bombers conducted raids in South Vietnam, the lowest number since March 29.

Another indication that most planes were being diverted to the North came from the United States Navy, which said that only one of the five aircraft carriers with the Seventh Fleet was operating off South Vietnam.

Fighting Near Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Dec. 20 (Reuters)—The Cambodian command reported today that fighting had broken out again 12 miles south of the capital, with Communist troops burning a hamlet near the main highway to the southern part of the country.

The command said also that new Communist attacks were under way against the besieged town of Kompong Thom, 77 miles to the north. Military sources said that in two weeks of fighting there 30 or more Cambodian soldiers were killed.