

Story below from SFChronicle, is identical to that carried by NYTimes, under headline "U.S. Lists Targets of Heavy Attacks in North Vietnam; Spokesman in Saigon Cites Airfields and Rail Yards - 9-Day Silence Ends." Story is on the back of the text of U.S. communique listing targets of raids, and is by Joseph B. Treaster, Special to The New York Times.

N.Y. Times Service  
SFChronicle DEC 28 1972  
Saigon

The U.S. military command broke a nine-day silence yesterday on damage inflicted in the intensive air attacks against North Vietnam.

The command listed nearly three dozen airfields, railyards, power plants, supply depots and communications centers among the facilities that have been bombed.

Many of the targets were in the populous area of Hanoi and Haiphong.

#### TARGETS

Although the report ran ten pages, it listed only military targets and did not include the Gia Lam International Airport, the Bach Mai Hospital and other civilian sites in Hanoi that diplomats, journalists and the North Vietnamese had previously reported damaged.

Major Gilbert L. Whiteman, a spokesman for the command, would not comment on the bombing of the airport and the hospital or respond to any questions concerning civilian casualties from the B-52 aircraft, which lay down a carpet of bombs a mile and a half long and half a mile wide.

"We have targeted and continue to target only military targets," he said.

#### CONTINUING

In a question-and-answer session with newsmen last evening as the report was issued, Whiteman confirmed that the bombing is continuing — along with shelling by warships off the coast — and that the nature of the targets continues to be the same as the command indicated had been struck from the first day of the raids.

Although the list was incomplete, the spokesman said. "You can look at the types of targets struck and get a very valid profile of what the bombs were directed at."

Among the targets the U.S. command said have been hit by B-52s are the Gia Lam railroad yard and railroad car facility, which is about three quarters of a mile northwest of the Gia Lam airport, and the Hanoi petroleum product storage area, which is only about 200 yards west of the Bach Mai Hospital.

The command indicated in the report that 11 buildings were destroyed at the rail yard and 16 others heavily damaged. Thirty large explosions were set off at the fuel depot, the report said, and two storage and support buildings were destroyed.

Several informed officers have said privately that the international airport was bombed by mistake.

#### MISTAKE

"We have some allies up there who use the airport, too," one officer said. "We don't want to cause trouble for them. It was used by some military planes but it was not considered primarily a military target. It was hit by mistake. That's all there was to it and the command isn't about to announce its mistakes."

Several foreign diplomatic missions in Hanoi, including

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missions in Hanoi, including those of India, Cuba and Egypt, have reportedly been damaged in the bombing, as have at least three foreign civilian cargo ships.

This morning the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the bombing and charging that it had caused "thousands of deaths" and "destroyed thousands of homes."

The report, which the command conceded was incomplete and which it referred to as a summary, listed more than 60 targets that had been bombed from the time the intensive raids began Dec. 18 until a 36-hour halt for Christmas went into effect at 1 A.M. Sunday.

#### Targets Concentrated

All the targets were concentrated in the most populous and most developed region of North Vietnam, within a triangle that has Hanoi, Haiphong and the coastal city of Thanh Hoa at its corners.

The report said that there had been more than 1,000 tactical air strikes by fighter-bombers and 147 missions by big B-52 Stratofortresses, each of which carries more than 20 tons of bombs.

Major Whiteman defined a mission as consisting of "one or more planes" and refused to be more specific, making it impossible to calculate the approximate tonnage of bombs dropped in the North. He was asked for tonnage figures but replied that the command would not provide them. A B-52 mission usually consists of three planes, and informed officers say that the bombers have generally been operating in that manner during the current raids. But even this knowledge offers little aid in calculating bomb tonnage for there are often missions with only two planes and sometimes a mission has consisted of 18 to 20 planes.

Until last evening, the command had refused to comment on the number of planes participating in the strikes or to disclose what targets were being hit and the extent of damage.

The reason the information had been withheld, Major Whiteman said in response to a question, was "in order to protect the security of an ongoing operation and to insure the safety of the crews."

If that was the case, a newsman asked, then why had the command this evening released information on raids conducted as recently as Dec. 25 without fear of jeopardizing the operation and the airmen. Major Whiteman said he did not "want to take the question any farther."

Earlier, informed officers had said that more than 100 B-52's and several hundred fighter-bombers were striking North Vietnam daily.

Last evening a spokesman said that those figures were correct for some days but that, partly to confuse the North Vietnamese, the number of strikes daily was being varied widely. He said that averaging the figures given for strikes and missions would not accurately reflect the daily pattern of activity.

#### MIG Reported Shot Down

The report indicates that the emphasis has been on airfields, rail yards, power plants, supply depots and communications centers. But the command also reported hitting such other

things as shipyards, truck parks and air defenses. In addition, the command reported that a Soviet-designed MIG-21 jet had been shot down by an F-4 Phantom crew in the vicinity of Hanoi.

Despite statements to the contrary: from the Pentagon, a number of officers here have said that the United States has suffered much graver losses in the bombing than had been expected. Last evening the command reported the loss of another B-52 — bringing to 12 the number that the United States says have crashed since the heavy raids began — and an A-7 fighter-bomber, raising to seven the total of smaller planes acknowledged to have been lost during the operation.

The North Vietnamese say they have shot down 65 American planes during the latest raids, including 26 B-52's.

The latest downed B-52 had nearly reached Taphao air base, Major Whiteman said, when it crashed. All six crew men went down with the plane, he added, and four of them were killed and two seriously injured.

These were the first deaths of American airmen announced by the command since the bombing started.

All of the other airmen whose craft have been reported down, including the pilot of the A-7 which the command said crashed in Laos on Christmas eve after a strike in North Vietnam, have been listed as missing in action. The number of missing airmen now stands at 58, including 21 whom the North Vietnamese say they have captured.

Major Whiteman, the command spokesman was asked last evening if the American airmen had been confronted with any new weapons during the strikes but answered only "no comment." Other informed officers noted that a North Vietnamese patrol boat was reported to have been sunk east of Haiphong and that two others were damaged. They said these had been Soviet-built Komar patrol boats equipped with Styx surface-to-surface missiles, a single one of which can sink a destroyer. The officers said it was believed that the North Vietnamese had received those boats only a few weeks ago.

A spokesman for the command said that, in compiling the summary of targets and damage, staff officers had selected the targets that were thought to reflect the most significant damage and the ones on which the available information was believed to be most reliable.

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