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Cambodians Report 5 U.S. Raid Errors

By The Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Aug. 9—American air strikes killed Cambodian Government soldiers and civilians in at least five bombing accidents in the last two weeks, Cambodian military sources said today.

Three of the bombing errors came before the B-52 strike that left 145 dead and 280 wounded on a government base at Neak Luong on Monday, the worst

bombing accident of the Indochina war.

On Tuesday, an American F-111 struck a Government-controlled village on an island near Neak Luong, killing 8 persons and wounding 16.

Other United States bombing accidents have been reported at Prey Beng 15 miles northeast of Phnom Penh on July 29, and at Setbo 13 miles southwest of Phnom Penh July 30.

Sources said that at Prey Beng 3 Cambodian soldiers were killed and 10 wounded and 4 persons were listed as "missing" and probably dead. At Setbo, eight soldiers and eight civilians were wounded and four persons were missing, the sources said.

At Prateah Lang, site of heavy fighting for several

Continued on Page 7, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

weeks, American jets were reported to have damaged an armored personnel carrier, killing 3 Government soldiers and wounding 11.

The sources said this bombing occurred last week but they did not give the date.

"The first three errors were



The New York Times/Aug. 10, 1973

Government forces opened highway to Neak Luong.

caused by the normal fatigue of war," said a military source. "Cambodian controllers gave the wrong map coordinates."

One Raid Error Denied

Col. David H. E. Opfer, a United States Air Force attaché, denied reports that American planes were responsible for killing 15 civilians in the village of Veal Shou, three miles from Phnom Penh, on Sunday. Colonel Opfer said the Ameri-

can officials at Nakhon Phanom Thailand, informed the embassy here that no United States air strikes went within half a mile of Veal Shou.

Meanwhile, in a report on the current fighting, Col. Am Rong, chief spokesman for the Cambodian military command, announced that Government forces had reopened Route 1 to Neak Luong, 32 miles from Phnom Penh.

Supported by heavy American bombing, Government columns from Phnom Penh and Neak Luong linked up at the Mekong River town of Dei Doh, 26 miles southeast of the capital, the colonel said.

It has been at Dei Doh that river convoys from the South Vietnamese border have frequently been ambushed by Vietcong and Cambodian insurgent gunners. The Government operation is designed in part to ease their journeys.

Rebels Form an Arc

The north and northwest thrusts by the insurgents toward Phnom Penh are reported poised in an arc about 15 miles from the capital.

Despite the bombing, the insurgents have been able to rout a defense force of 100 men at the international radio transmission center near the airport, and blow it up, cut minor highways sought and southeast of the city, and strike at the Government relief forces, and infiltrate increasing numbers of men and materials into the capital. Estimates of commando forces now in and around Phnom Penh range as high as 1,000.

In addition to the infiltrators, the Communists are reported to have amassed a force of 50,000 men, according to American estimates, but this figure is lower than estimates by representatives of other Western nations here.