

Powder Red Weapons Site

Jets Touch Off 70 Blasts at DMZ

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SAIGON—U.S. jets set off 70 explosions Sunday in a massive strike on North Vietnamese weapons parked just off the northern edge of the DMZ.

Air Force fighter-bombers from four bases raided flatbed trailer trucks carrying SAMs or long-range artillery.

"They could have been setting up a SAM site," a Thunderchief pilot reported after the strike.

The trucks were guarded by 37mm anti-aircraft positions. Three of the flak sites were knocked out.

F105 Thunderchiefs and F4 Phantoms from bases in South Vietnam and Thailand struck the jungle clearing.

"The FAC (forward air controller) marked the target for us and after our first roll-in, he said we got 12 explosions right away," a pilot said.

Four trailers—each carrying tubular cargo that could have been missiles or guns—were hit and at least two of them destroyed.

The Air Force said its planes flew 103 missions over North Vietnam Sunday. Navy jets flew 31 missions.

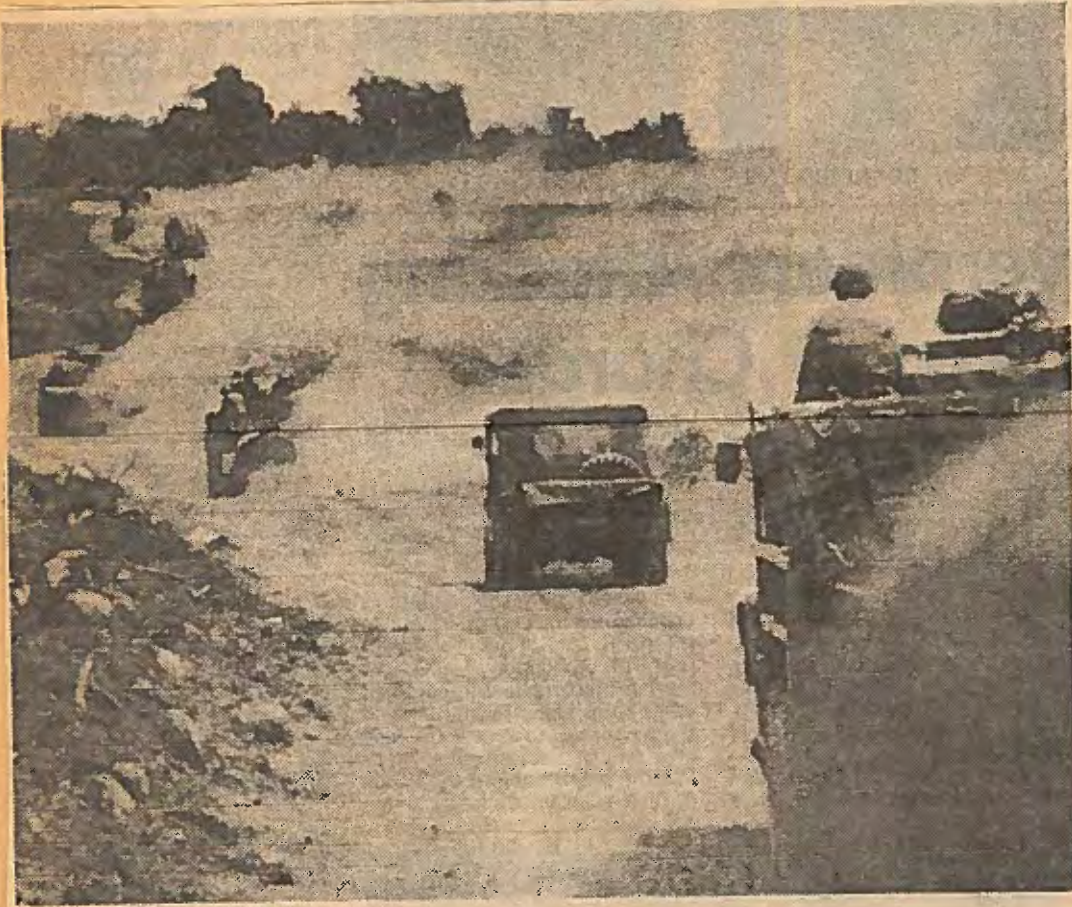
In other action, Air Force Phantoms from Thailand touched off 21 fires when they fired rockets and cannon into trucks parked 22 miles northwest of Dong Hoi.

Navy A4 Skyhawks from the carrier Constellation destroyed four buildings in a storage area three miles southwest of Thanh Hoa.

An Air Force Phantom was reported shot down Sunday over the southern panhandle. Both crewmen were reported missing.

Another plane was reported shot down six miles east of Con Thien, near the DMZ. U.S. headquarters said the plane, a Marine O1 Bird Dog, was hit on a reconnaissance mission. Both crewmen were rescued.

B52s bombed enemy routes near Khe Sanh, at the northwest corner of South Vietnam, twice Sunday night and hit enemy bases near Da Nang, at the Laotian border west of Kontum and near Vung Tau on Monday.



Run to DMZ Raises Dust

Red dust obscures the ridges along the unpaved road between Con Thien and Dong Ha as U.S. Marines make their daily supply run to the

embattled outpost near the DMZ. The high-speed run provides the defenders with food, water and ammo. (AP Radiophoto)

THIS WAS THE ONE THAT HIT US DAY AND NIGHT FOR 5 DAYS BEFORE THEY FOUND IT

Jets Hit Haiphong Fuel Depot

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — Navy jets bombed a fuel depot and a missile site Sunday four miles from the center of North Vietnam's chief port of Haiphong.

Carrier-based planes triggered a large explosion and destroyed two missiles at the Loi Dong petroleum depot northwest of the city.

The raid was the fifth strike on the fuel dump but the first since the end of May.

In air action Saturday, Air Force jets destroyed a North Vietnamese heavy artillery piece firing across the DMZ at the Marine base at Dong Ha.

Directed by forward air controllers, the Air Force Phantoms also knocked out two other artillery sites in the same area at the northern edge of the DMZ.

Navy jets flew the first U.S. strike Saturday on the Ban Yen Nhan army barracks and missile depot 14 miles southeast of Hanoi.

Pilots said their bombs heavily damaged missile sheds, a barracks and a support building.

A defending SAM site near the barracks was reported heavily damaged by 750-pound bombs.

Prop-driven Skyraiders hit other SAM sites 28 and 31 miles northwest of Haiphong.

Poor weather Saturday kept all U.S. strikes south of Hanoi. Pilots flew 97 missions.

B52s hit enemy routes in the A Chau Valley near the Laos border Saturday night and bombed communist bases along the coast near Tuy Hon twice Sunday.

Elsewhere Saturday, U.S. pilots flew 529 sorties in the south. U.S. Army copter gunships killed 37 enemy soldiers.