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Effective US B-52 Strikes Reported Northwest of Saigon

2. The 101st North Vietnamese Regiment has suffered heavy casualties as a result of US B-52 strikes northwest of Saigon in recent weeks, according to prisoner reports. One man, from the 3rd Battalion of the 101st, says that his unit was bombed in early October and that half of the troops in the battalion were killed. North Vietnamese battalions operating in the South normally have a strength of 250-350 men. A second prisoner reports that the 1st Battalion of the 101st was struck by B-52s in mid-October and lost 200 men killed.

3. Allied field reports indicate that B-52s did in fact strike the general area, the Boi Loi Woods along the Hau Nghia-Tay Ninh Province border, at the times reported by the prisoners. The 101st Regiment reportedly lost an additional 147 men killed in a battle near the Boi Loi Woods on 7 October. If casualties were suffered as reported, the over-all combat effectiveness of the 101st Regiment has probably been severely impaired, at least for the near term.

18 October 1968

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