

U.S. Airfield Shelled In Separate Action

June 24, 1967

SAIGON (AP) — North Vietnamese regulars caught a 130-man company of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in an ambush Thursday, killing 76 American paratroopers and wounding 24.

The bloody fight in the central Highlands was disclosed Saturday by the U.S. Command in a delayed report. Estimates of enemy dead were 400 to 500.

In Saturday's action, Viet Cong guerrillas shelled a U.S. airfield with an estimated 100 rounds of mortar fire, wounding 40 Americans, U.S. headquarters reported Sunday.

Headquarters said the Communists fired on the air base at Dau Tieng, about 48 miles northwest of Saigon, just before midnight Saturday. Extent of damage to planes and airfield facilities has not been determined, the U.S. Command said.

The shelling was the only significant ground action reported in South Vietnam.