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U.S. Infantrymen Report Killing 40 of the Enemy in Mekong Delta

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 22—United States infantrymen fought a sharp engagement with Vietcong troops in the Mekong Delta yesterday, reported today. TT T T H THTHT The United States command reported today. It was one of the hours.

ew battles during the last 24 ours.

The infantrymen were sweeping an area about five miles ortheast of Bentre, 42 miles uthwest of Saigon, when the ietcong force was detected. In hour and a half of fighting, enemy soldiers were killed, e report said United States sses were put at one dead nd nine wounded.

The United States command eported that 10 of about 30 shellings last night were directed against American military bases and troops in the ield throughout South Vietam. United States casualties n the shellings were light, acording to the report.

Three airfields were among he targets. The bast at Phuai, 13 miles south of Hue, on he central Vietnamese coast, vas hit by 15 heavy rockets. No casualties were reported.

Fields on East Shelled

The airfields at Phanrang nd Vungtau on the coast ortheast and southeast of Saion were also shelled. The only asualties were at Vungtau, here several United States rvicemen were wounded.

United States infantrymen gaged the enemy briefly 18 les southwest of Anhoa, about 47 miles northwest of Saigon, this afternoon. The American troops directed heavy artillery fire into enemy positions while helicopters fired at Vietcong soldiers trying to escape the barrage.

The bodies of 10 enemy soldiers were found, according to an American spokesman. There were no United States casualties, he said.

The American command reported that a helicopter had been shot down—the 1028th of the war—11 miles north of Tayninh. Five Americans were killed in the crash and two were wounded, the report said.

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM