

North Viet Troops Attack Americans

SAIGON (AP) — North Vietnamese troops made more attacks on U.S. troops south of Da Nang today and battled American infantrymen trying to reach the wreckage of a helicopter downed with eight Americans aboard.

Military spokesmen said 198 North Vietnamese had been slain in four days of fighting near Hiep Duc, a district capital 30 miles south of Da Nang. Sixteen American soldiers were known dead and another 66 wounded.

Firing machine guns and rifles, the North Vietnamese attacked before dawn today, killing one American infantryman and wounding 14 others before withdrawing.

No Bodies Found

"No enemy bodies were found in a sweep of the battlefield," U.S. headquarters said.

Later today, another sharp fight broke out about seven miles away, and the action was continuing at last report.

Another seven U.S. soldiers and Associated Press photographer Oliver Noonan, 29, of Norwell, Mass., were reported missing after their helicopter crashed in the area Tuesday.

Two companies of American infantrymen ran into a firefight at dawn when they moved into the rugged area to search for the missing men. Moving behind a shield of artillery, they had advanced only half a mile by midafternoon and still had another half mile to the wreckage of the helicopter. The going was slow because of sporadic fighting.

It was one of three helicopters shot down Tuesday and today, raising to 2,923 the number of American helicopters reported lost in the Vietnam war. One chopper shot down today crashed into a patrol of the U.S. 4th Infantry Division in the central highlands, killing three infantrymen and wounding six others. The crewmen of the helicopter were not hurt, the U.S. Command said.

The U.S. Command reported 28 enemy rocket and mortar attacks on allied bases and towns during the night, with four Americans killed and 21 wounded. Among the U.S. posts hit were two U.S. Marine bivouacs

demilitarized zone northwest of the U.S. Marine outpost called the Rockpile. Two Marines were killed and eight wounded in a brief firefight this morning. Headquarters said enemy losses were unknown.

South Vietnamese headquarters reported 29 civilians wounded when two buses ran over land mines in the Mekong Delta south of Saigon.

U.S. headquarters also said nine Americans were killed and five wounded when an American tank fired on U.S. troops during a North Vietnamese attack on a base camp 60 miles north of Saigon Tuesday. An earlier report said only two were killed.