

8/19/69
Infantrymen

Rush To Aid

Battered Gls

SAIGON (AP) — Hundreds of U.S. infantrymen were rushed to the rolling foothills 30 miles south of Da Nang today to relieve two American companies badly battered by a North Vietnamese force seven times their size.

Associated Press Correspondent Richard Pyle reported that the two companies from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, totaling 177 men, had suffered about 40 per cent casualties—15 men killed and more than 50 wounded. But American officers said the outnumbered infantrymen together with American bombers and artillery had killed 148 North Vietnamese.

Smaller Fights

Three other smaller fights also flared in South Vietnam's northernmost provinces from south of Da Nang to the demilitarized zone 200 miles to the north. U.S. infantrymen and Marines reported killing a total of 173 North Vietnamese in the northernmost provinces, while U.S. casualties were put at 16 killed and more than 70 wounded.

Fighting also continued on a smaller scale in the Saigon region, with four skirmishes ranging from 20 miles south of the capital to 80 miles north of the city. Two Americans and 22 enemy were reported killed and 13 Americans wounded.

In another section of the country, the central plateau, heavy B52 raids indicated a new enemy threat was developing. As many as 40 of the big bombers dropped 1,250 tons of bombs along the Cambodian border about 135 miles northeast of Saigon. It was the heaviest air attack in the area in nearly two months.