

Reds Shoot Down U.S. Skyraider in DMZ

SAIGON (AP) — North Vietnamese antiaircraft fire shot down an attacking American plane in the Demilitarized Zone, the U.S. command reported Sunday.

It was the first loss of a U.S. plane in the buffer zone between north and South Vietnam.

The plane, an Air Force propeller-driven Skyraider, was shot down late Saturday in the northern part of the six-mile wide zone.

The pilot bailed out and was listed as missing.

A U.S. spokesman said rescue aircraft received heavy automatic weapons fire which prevented them from reaching the pilot. About 100 north Vietnamese troops were spotted in the area.

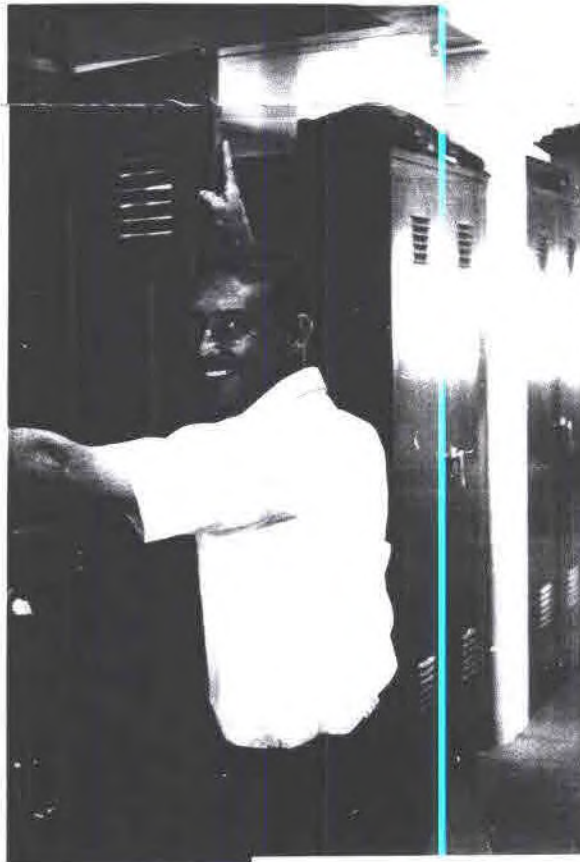
The Skyraider was hit while attacking an automatic weapons site.

(UPI reported that north Vietnam's elite 324B Army Div. has swept back into the Republic of Vietnam, and U.S. Marines were battling the communist legion just below the DMZ where the plane was shot down.

(In northernmost Quang Tri Province where they have killed 298 communists in Operation Prairie since Aug. 3, the Leathernecks called in tanks and artillery to hurl back an assault.

(The Marines reported light casualties.

(It was in this same sector of South Vietnam where, in July, seven Marine battalions walloped the 324B. U.S. spokesmen said at that time the beating broke up a communist offensive springboard and sent the north Vietnamese unit reeling back home.)



Unsuccessful rescue attempt on north edge of DMZ.

10 September 1966

Jolly Green 15 A/C 65-12783 Low Bird

P. Capt. Adrian D. Youngblood

C.P. Maj. William O. Mayfield

H.M. A2C. Rodney J. Bettevy

R.S. A1C. John F. Tobey

Jolly Green 24 A/C 65-12786 High Bird

P. Capt. Robert W. Davis

C.P. Maj. William V. D. Hickerson

H.M. TSgt. Maurice F. Tasker

R.S. A2C. John C. Jeffers

An A-1E (Hobo) and two O-1Es took hits. No hits on J.G.s

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3rd ARRGp Hist, Jul-Sep 66

Det 2-3-106-1 September

(C) Two HH-3s (call sign Jolly Green) and four A-1Es (call sign Sandy) were scrambled to search for an F-104 pilot downed west of Dong Hoi. Sandy 31 & 32 proceeded into the area of the reported beeper. While conducting electronic search, Sandy 31 was shot down and Sandy 32 was badly damaged by ground fire. Sandy 32 headed his aircraft toward a rice paddy and bailed out; five minutes later he was recovered by one of the Jolly Greens and enroute to Nakhon Phanom. A Navy aircraft sighted the wreckage of Sandy 31 and reported no chance of the pilot surviving. Search suspended for both missing pilots due to heavy ground fire in the area.

Det 1-3-56-3 September

(C) F-105 pilot ejected over the Gulf several miles north of Dong Hoi. His wingman reported a good chute and beeper and that he was circling over the downed pilot. On arrival, the rescue amphibian (HU-16) landed and deployed the pararescueman with life line to the survivor. Both were quickly pulled aboard and the HU-16 took off for recovery at Danang. Mortar fire as well as ground fire were accurately directed at the aircraft during the recovery but no hits were noted at the time.

Det 2-3-107-5 September

(C) F-105 pilot down near Dong Hoi was recovered by HH-3 helicopter using the hoist/tree penetrator; survivor returned to Dong Ha suffering only minor injuries.

Det 1-3-59-3 September

(C) The pilot of an A-1E bailed out several miles west of Hue. Two HH-3s were dispatched to the area where RESCAP reported beeper signals. Arriving on the scene, the primary rescue helicopter established voice contact and requested the survivor to release a smoke grenade. Visual contact was made and a hoist pickup was accomplished from a hover approximately 150 feet above the survivor. The recovered airman was delivered to Dong Ha in good condition.

Det 1-3-61-10 September

(C) A Navy aircraft attached to the Roosevelt with a crew of four aboard was overdue. HU-16 located the four survivors in the Gulf northeast of Dong Hoi. An open sea landing was made for the recovery and the crewmen were flown to Danang.

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