

(MORGAN GANDY)

ABOARD USS KITTY HAWK (UPIS) They treetopped back through the bla ck clouds of North Vietnam today and, said one pilot, "America can no longer turn back. It's either victory or defeat."

Through ~~of~~<sup>2</sup> orangeballs of anti-aircraft artillery and fiery ground mortars, the American planes raced ~~in~~ towards their military targets at double the speed of sound.

And, some, too, did not~~trp~~not turn back.

At least one Navy jet was shotdown—but American rescue crews in bomb-laden fighter aircraft held an hour-long hit-and-run duel with North Vietnamese shoreline gunners. The gunners mostly lost; the American A-1 Skyhawk pilot was recovered in good condition.

Still the pilots returned cursing their luck and the ~~weather~~ weather.

(More Malloy--BD)

first add—morgan gandy—saigon

x x x good condition x x x.

At 8:30, through the semi-sunshine, the ~~beinn~~ <sup>2</sup>beginning of the ~~mission~~ missions ended the ~~thirty seven day stand~~ "stand-x" "stand-down" in the American airwar in N<sup>o</sup>rth Vietnam.

"For thirty seven days we watched the bombing pause and we thought it was good," one ~~jet~~ jetpilot reported, "and then we watched the news get blacker and blacker when Hanoi ~~wouldn't want peace~~ didn't want peace. We knew we would have to again ~~go~~ go on the missions we'd rather not ~~not~~ <sup>get</sup> on."

And, so, too for America.

(More Malloy—BD)

second add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x for America. x x x

Throughout the day, the ~~giant's~~ giant steam catapults  
launched plane after plane from the four-acre ~~deck of~~  
~~attack~~  
deck of this ~~giant~~ aircraft carrier--the flagship of ~~the~~  
Seventh Fleet's ~~striking~~ <sup>CRUISING</sup> striking force--~~is steaming in the~~  
twenty twenty five miles north of the ~~seventh~~ seventeenth  
parallel at the mouth of the Gulf of ~~Tonkin~~. Tonkin. One  
destroyer, the USS Moore, protected the northern flank  
of the giant floating airbase while another, the USS Hubbard,  
lapped along to the east. Aye sister ship, the attack  
aircraft carrier the USS Ranger, ~~was~~ was conducting  
similar airstrikes against North Vietnam from another  
location.

(More Hail--BD)

"The Cat Company"--catapult men in green sweatshirts--  
calculated deep within the bowels of the ship the necessary  
steam pressure needed for the ~~mammoth~~ thick steel catapults' <sup>CABLES.</sup>  
to lash off the ~~decks~~ the myriads of jet and conventional aircraft...  
the droopynosed, double-the-speed-of-sound FFF444 Phantom, the  
banana-shaped A6A Intruder all-weather attack bomber with  
"computerized bombing" equipment....the needle-nosed ~~1~~ RA5C  
repeat ~~SA5C~~ RA5C twin jet reconnaissance aircraft...the  
faithful A1 Skyraider of Korean War vintage, so old the pilots called  
them "Spads...the delicate E2A repeat E2A Hawkeye, called the  
"Super Fudd" which is a flying radar station.  
Throughout the day, beavies of planes swarmed in the  
skies as aircraft were launched to North Vietnam every hour--and others  
awaited their turn to land in a screeching, hissing roar on the  
flightdeck.  
(more HAIL)

third add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x for from another location. x x x

The order of President Lyndon B. Johnson ~~XXXXXXXX~~ to resume bombing of North Vietnam was received on the USS ~~the~~ Kitty Hawk in the evening of ~~Saturday~~ Sunday, January thirty. By eleven ~~ppmm~~, the American pilots were called to their ~~main~~ "ready rooms" for briefings; by two ~~ayem~~ in the chilly damp darkness the special~~l~~ reconnaissance aircraft packed with multi-million dollar ~~feder~~ radar, electronic hardware "and exotic black boxes," were launched as a prelude to the lethal airstrikes. <sup>~~floating city~~</sup> from this ~~carrier~~ carrying ~~conventional~~ ~~two conventional~~ two <sup>~~terrier~~</sup> ~~terrier~~ missile launcher batteries capable of <sup>~~hurling~~</sup> ~~launching~~ supersonic surface to air missiles. The strike aircraft also carry air-to-air missiles with conventional warheads--and "we neither confirm nor <sup>~~possess~~</sup> deny that we ~~are carrying~~ nuclear striking capabilities," an official source explained.

(More Malloy--BD)

fourth add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x source explained. x x x

In one of the six air-conditioned ready rooms--the briefing  
lan<sup>2</sup> lounges--Commander Royce Williams, 40, commander of the  
supersonic Phantom jetsquadron--described the first mission  
over North Vietnam that left the Kitty Hawk at 8:30 ayem.

He crouched on the floor and fingered his orange  
baseball cap with golden letters: The Fighting One Fourteen--  
Honorary Aardvark.

"This hat is a gift from the other ~~my~~ squadron--this briefing room is  
<sup>is</sup> ~~because I'm now in~~ Aardvardk Heaven," he explained. "We were  
assigned sectors for the bombing raids--and we shared some of these  
sectors with the Air Force and planes from other ships. ~~We~~  
My squadron had an assigned area--to find lucrative targets. I  
don't know if we should say it--but we couldn't find the targets.  
We went over the targets but because of the weather we weren't  
successful...so we took our alternate target."

The closed-circuit television in the ~~froom~~ of the room  
showed more aircraft taking off for North Vietnam; other pilots  
filed their de-briefing forms and sipped coffee as he talked.  
in /a "Aardvardk Heaven."

(More Malloy--BD)

fifth add--morgan gandy--saigon

xxxxardvardk heaven x x x.

"We were notified last night that the bombing raid would be commenced. This came as ~~no surprise~~ aye surprise and ~~it~~ was held secret," he explained. "There was ~~no~~ information before that.

"I got up at five aye aye--one thing we all need is sleep--had a quick breakfast of my usual eggs and started preparing for the flight x eye was to lead at ~~5:30~~ <sup>at 5:30</sup>. I had to collect my flight gear from the other x squadron rooms and I had to dash around to do that and then we finished the ~~break~~ briefing and went to the aircraft.

"The weather over the target was terrible, with very low clouds. This was the absolute minimum and we ~~first~~ flew in at fivehundred feet above the ground. Our mission was armed reconnaissance on roads and railroads, but we couldn't do that so we took out ~~alternate~~ alternate target. But the alternate target--a bridge--wasn't there. It was a pontoon bridge. They expected we were coming in and they put it somewhere else," he moaned.

"We encountered aye normal amount of groundfire-- I suppose, although this was my first flight into North Vietnam. But it's what I expected--I was in combat in Korea."

(More Malloy--BD)

sixth add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x in Korea x x x.

He described the groundfire as medium anti-aircraft artillery and automatic weapons.

"I wouldn't describe these flights as routine," he continued. "They all depend on the area and the amount of enemy opposition-- and the other consideration is the weather. If we have to go low, we are within the danger of their guns.

(More Malloy--BD)

seventh add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x their gung guns x x x.

Four decks ~~away~~ below, the whomping ~~boom boom~~ boom of landing jets ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~deafening~~ <sup>followed by the</sup> hissing, screaming jolt as the cabled catapults jerked the plane to a ~~halt~~ <sup>jerking halt</sup> within several hundred yards. The sound ~~deafening~~ was deafening.

Commander ~~MMH~~. CCC. Cook, --called "the chief ~~Arb~~ Arab-- and commander of VALL5, known as "The Arabs," described his rescue operation to save the downed pilot of the U. S. Navy AAA44 4 Crusader.

"Our mission was to fly rescue alert from 0830 to 1300," he began. "I took my picnic lunch with me--a sandwich, apple and juice-- and it was a picnic alright.

"We stayed off the coast (of North Vietnam) with the ~~amphi~~ amphibious aircraft, in case there was ~~an~~ a rescue to be made over water, and I'd vector him in for the pickup of the ~~pilots~~ downed pilots.

"But, in this case, I had just finished my picnic and we had a report that Garfish 407 (the ~~downed~~ Crusader) was down and the ~~airman~~ pilot was definitely in the water. He was ~~through~~ throwing flares in the water--about eight mil eighty miles north of here--and other aircraft from the USS Ranger were flying cover above him.

(More Malloy--ED)

eighth add--morgan gandy--saigon

above him. x x x

"Two of us proceeded ahead with the amphibious aircraft to the vicinity of the downed <sup>2</sup>pilot and his wingman was circling above him and three Al Skyhawks were also circling above him. The amb amphibious aircraft made a quick run to pick him up and as he came around to make a landing we received groundfire from the shore. It was large exploding shells from the water, <sup>landing</sup> about three hundred yards from the aircraft that was picking up the pilot. BOMBs and

"My wingman and I suppressed the groundfire with our rockets," Cook continued, flinging off his orange "Arab" insigniaed cap. "The three Al's still had ammo on them, even though they had been on a strike mission and they joined us over the area east of Dong Hoi.

"The Communist gun positions are all over the world. They had gun positions along the beach."

None of the pilots who flew the missions wanted their home addresses to be published because "our wives are getting threatening phone calls at home from the anti-Vietnam people." The pilots held the Vietnicks in mild <sup>2</sup>contempt.

(S (More--Malloy--BD)

nighth add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x mild contempt x x x.

The heart of the ~~atle~~ air attack capabilities of the U. S. Navy Seventh Fleet revolves around Task Force 77 and the two aircraft carriers, the USS Kitty Hawk and the USS Ranger. (The third carrier--the ~~2~~ unique nuclear-powered USS Enterprise is currently in Hong Kong).

Task Force 77, consists of more than thirty ships, ~~oncs~~ consisting of defensive missile frigates, cruisers, carriers carrying surface to air missiles and ~~half~~ destroyers. The task force posture ~~inx~~ covers a circle roughly ~~1~~ several hundred miles in dia meter from the ~~northwestern~~ South China Sea bordering the northern provinces of ~~Northern~~ South Vietnam ~~is~~ on northwards towards and into the ~~inf~~ renowned Gulf of Tonkin, near the Chinese Communist island of Hainan.

The defense includes three ~~finix~~ vast fluid lines--the aircraft carriers and their protecting destroyers, "the ~~radar~~ pickets forward radar picket destroyers, called Tomcats ~~becuse~~ because they ~~2~~ scope around by themselves all night up in the Gulf of ~~Tonking~~ Tonkin" and then a line of several missile ships. ~~Thax~~ Included in the defensive positioning are general purpose anti-submarine fleet destroyers and aircraft (no enemy submarines have been sighted in the South China Sea).

"Our destroyers are just ~~only~~ general purpose tin cans with radar sets on them," one sailor flipped blasely.

(More Malloy--ED)

tenth add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x flipped blasely x x x.

patrols  
Airborne ~~starts~~ on aye twenty four hour aye day basis  
of flying electronic ears and eyes provide another shield of  
the defensive layout of the Task Force; the incoming intelligence  
material is <sup>AUTOMATICALLY</sup> funneled into systematic computers so that answers  
to specific questions can be <sup>OBTAINED</sup> ~~answered~~ within a millionth of a  
second.

"But, none of this helps to find the individual bands of  
guerrillas filling through the jungle," one sailor explained.

(Endit--Malloy--BD)