

(Morgan Gandy)

Feb

ABOARD USS KITTY HAWK, 81 OFF COAST OF NORTH VIETNAM--01230--(UBIS)

As American strike aircraft continued to pound North Vietnam today, the second, secret fear of the pilots who survived was the threatening, intimidating anonymous telephone calls being received by their families from Vietnicks.

"Some of our mothers and wives have been ~~the~~ receiving phone calls every hour on the hour all night long by people using foul language," one pilot ~~explaine~~ explained. "Even the American public doesn't know about this."

The pilot of an ~~aux~~ three-million-dollar A6A repeat A6A all weather attack Intruder—who had flown in the first raids as airstrikes resumed against North Vietnam yesterday—said: "The wives of two of my friends have been receiving phone calls, saying in so many words, 'Your husband is a fink for fighting in Vietnam'."

(More Malloy--BD)

first add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x in Vietnam x x x

"The only reaction from the husband," he continued "was to get an unlisted phone number--which he did."

Another ~~Crusader~~ pilot--as he finished receiving his briefing in the ready room for his flight over North x Vietnam--said that his wife had also been receiving anti-Vietnam phone calls, but, he ~~xx~~ snapped, "I don't want to discuss it with anyone." He, too, had told his wife to obtain an unlisted phone number at home.

"We know that the USS Independence ran into some of this when it pulled into home port," another pilot explained. "The wives were ~~telephoned~~ telephoned and told not to meet the ship because it was showing support for our activities in Vietnam."

All of the pilots refused to give their names--and more important their home addresses--to press correspondents.

One Naval information officer said that he had to request twenty to ~~twentyfive~~ 3 fighter pilots to appear on an upcoming national American television program before finding one who would volunteer. ¹⁰

(More Malloy--ED)

second add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x would volunteer."x x x

"Of course, we pilots hesitate in talking to the press," one explained, "because we don't want to give our names and get a big spread in the newspapers for the people back home to get it. The Vietniks just look up the names in the 2 telephone telephone book, call up and cause turmoil in our families.

"Also, the enemy is using 2 phy psychological warfare and creating so much grief among the pilots if he is shot down over enemy territory.

"The Vietniks have ways of procuring so much information and feeding it to the Communists, which we haven't encountered in past wars. So they're reluctant to say anything to the press."

(More Malloy--ED)

third add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x the press x x x

Another pilot of a Crusader--which features "computerized bombing" against North Vietnam--said that his wife in Binghamton, New York, had not yet encountered any anonymous phone calls.

"The phone calls vary with the area of the country that the family is living in," one pilot explained. "It's not just New York or Pennsylvania. It's not just the Kitty Hawk--but other ships as well. It's not just officers, but also some of the enlisted men as well.

"The phone calls threaten in one way in Virginia, for example, but in another area maybe it's just foul language and intimidation. One ²phn phone call from one group threatened eventual harm to the family because the husband was over here fighting and it wasn't our business to be ²over here. ²None. None of the men like to talk about it--they just accept it as a side hazard of the job."

(More Malloy--BD)

fourth add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x the job x x x

Some of the pilots simply brushed off the importance of the
Vietniks within America; other pilots were bitter.

INTRUDER The Crusader pilot from Binghamton, New York, REFERRED TO
called the
Vietniks as "the great unwashed repeat unwashed back home."
Another Intruder pilot called them "ridiculous, but not dangerous--
just kinda stupid."

Another pilot bitterly remarked, "I wish they'd put the
Vietniks out here, give them a gun--and then we'd see if they'd
throw away the gun and put up put up placard placards. they're
~~they're just lay around the campus and can't accept responsibility."~~

(credit malloy - BD)