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## American in Helicopter Downs North Vietnam Biplane in Laos

Special to The New York Times

VIENTIANE, Laos, Jan. 16—An American helicopter crewman was responsible for downing an obsolete North Vietnamese Air Force biplane last Friday, Laotian military sources said today.

The Russian-made Antonov-2 was one of two downed that day when four North Vietnamese planes made their first bombing raid on Laos, killing four Laotians.

The American helicopter, which belonged to Air America, took off while the Antonov was making a bombing run. After turning 360 degrees, the surprised crewman suddenly found himself staring through the open helicopter door at the Communist aircraft, which was flying parallel at the same height.

The American grabbed his carbine and fired a full clip at the Antonov, which immediately fell away and crashed.

"It was a lucky shot," a qualified official source said, confirming the report.

A second Antonov-2, a single-engine plane normally used for spraying crops, was brought down by small-arms fire while making a run over Muongyet in northeast Laos, close to the North Vietnamese border.

Meanwhile, Laotian military sources said Government forces were attempting to establish defensive positions near Nambac, which fell to Communist led forces on Saturday.

Reliable military sources said "there was no military reason for Nambac to fall." They said the outpost had ample supplies and ammunition.

The Laotian Army, according to qualified sources, was supported not only by its own planes, but also by United States aircraft.

Military and diplomatic sources speculated that the retreat of the Laotian Army from Nambac was in part a desire to leave the outpost because it has cost the army close to 1,000 casualties since March, 1967. It was estimated that about 2,000 troops abandoned Nambac.

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