

OPERATIONAL
TOP SECRET
REF ID: A68475
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DATE: 11/01/01

NAVY
SERVICE

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TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
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UNCLAS IF YOU RUC
ATTN: [REDACTED]

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ADDRESS COPY TO LIAISON
MOSCOW DOMESTIC SERVICE IF RUSSIAN (NO 015 8 DEC 67 L-
(FROM THE PRAVDA REVIEW)

(HEAD "MISSILES IN THE AIR" IS THE TITLE OF A PRAVDA DISPATCH BY IYAL SIDNEY (PHONED) FROM HANOI AND IS DEVOTED TO THE HEROIC DEFENDERS OF THE DRV CAPITAL. AS EARLY AS A FEW MONTHS AGO THE AUTHOR RECALLS, THE U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TRIED TO PROVE THAT THE USE OF SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES AGAINST THE AMERICAN AIR FORCE IN NORTH VIETNAM WAS OF SMALL EFFECT AND HAD NOT BEEN JUSTIFIED. THIS FALSE STATEMENT WAS TAKEN UP WIDELY BY THE WESTERN PRESS.

HOWEVER, HERE WE HAVE ANOTHER INTERVIEW - "600R LINE?" JOHN SIDNEY (PHONED) - RANK - MAJOR (JUNIOR) IN THE U.S. NAVY - JOHN SIDNEY (PHONED) EJECTED HIS 230 TWENTYTHIRD PILOTIC SORTIE OVER THE DRV IN THE SILVERY REEDS OF A LAKE NEAR HANOI INTO WHICH HE JUMPED BY PARACHUTE FROM HIS PLANE-COVERED AIRCRAFT. THE MAJOR DOES NOT REMEMBER MUCH OF WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE TERRIBLE HIT BY THE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE WHICH HAD ACCURATELY HIT THE TARGET.

YOUR OPINION ABOUT HANOI'S ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE? VERY DENSE FIRE AND EXCEPTIONAL ACCURACY IN HITTING. DURING OUR LAST SORTIE OUR GROUP OF 23 TWENTYFIVE AIRCRAFT LOST THREE. I HAVE NEVER YET COME ACROSS SUCH POWERFUL DEFENSIVE FIRING. AS FAR AS THE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES ARE CONCERNED, I BELIEVE THEY HIT THEIR TARGET ACCURATELY AND WE FREQUENTLY FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID BEING HIT. I HAD APPROACHED MY TARGETS WHEN I SUDDENLY SAW THE MISSILES COMING TO MEET ME; THEN I FLEW A BUNCH OF SHATTERING STRENGTH; FOR I HAVE BEEN TAKEN PRISONER.

DOZENS OF PILOTS CAPTURED ON HANOI SOIL ARE FORCED TO ADMIT THAT THEY HAVE NEVER YET SEEN SUCH A POWERFUL ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE. (NO 015 8 DEC 67)

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