

TWO DOWNED U.S. PILOTS CAPTURED OUTSIDE HANOI

[Article by Nguyen Thanh: "Gia Lam Captures American Pilot"; Hanoi, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 31 July 1972, pp 1,4]

On 30 July, Hanoi was once again filled with hatred and avenging itself on U.S. aircraft that had come to commit crimes in the locality. At 1000 hours, while in the fields of Townships D. and P. in Gia Lam District outside Hanoi, the cooperative members were busily transplanting rice when the U.S. aircraft roared in. The capital protection units opened fire. Our bullets rose into the sky. An aircraft was hit....

"An aircraft is falling...."

The cooperative members in the fields and in the villages in Townships D. and P. cheered as if they wanted to break their throats. The aircraft emitted smoke, then fell straight down, and crashed headfirst into a dike, rupturing it. Two parachutes, one red and one white, suddenly appeared and floated earthward.

The red parachute drifted toward the fields in Township D. Bui Si Van, Secretary of the N. Village Party Chapter and militia members Bui Van Luan and Nguyen Van Tieu grabbed their guns and ran through the rice fields toward where the parachute was descending.

Bui Van Doan, a wounded soldier just recently released from a military hospital, had received permission to visit his family when he saw the aggressor pilot parachute. He immediately grabbed his wife's gun and ran after the militiamen. The pilot was surrounded by four men. He was very obstinate. The moment he reached the ground he switched on his signal radio to call for a rescue and, at the same time, began firing toward the militiamen. The bullets sang by Bui Van Luan's temples. Luan raised his gun and fired three rounds to suppress the pilot's fire. The pilot drew his hand back and decided to fire toward Bui Si Van, the party