

DOWN 2 MIG'S OFF U.S. SHIPS

TASK FORCE JETS ENGAGE RED AIRCRAFT IN SEA OF JAPAN

Russian-Made Fighters Only A Few Seconds Time From Vessels When Downed

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (AP) -- The Navy reported today that two Russian-made jet fighter planes had been shot down at sea only 35 miles – just a few seconds' flying time from U.S. Task Force 77 off the east coast of Korea.

A third Russian-made aircraft was damaged in the action, which took place late yesterday, the navy said. It placed the scene in the Sea of Japan, about 100 miles southeast of Chongjin. It said two navy jet pilots shot down the two MIG-15s.

Although navy planes were credited with one of the first downings of a MIG jet in the Korean War – in the autumn of 1950 – navy and marine air encounters with the enemy fighters have been rare, only five MIG kills having been credited to navy and marine pilots throughout the conflict.

The navy had few details of the action but was able to report that four Panther jets flown by pilots of reserve squadron 781 from Los Alamitos, Calif., fought the battle near the task force late yesterday. One of the American planes was hit during the encounter but was able to return to the carrier Oriskany, floating home base for the squadron.

One MIG pilot was seen bailing out. A second red plane was last seen in a steep spiral dive and smoking badly. A third MIG broke off the action after having been damaged.

The pilots credited with the kills were Lt. I. R. Williams and Lt.(J.G.) J. D. Middleton. Lt. (J.G.) D. M. Rawlings accounted for the damaged MIG.

SEOUL, Nov. 18 (AP) – South Korean infantrymen in savage hand-to-hand fighting today blasted Chinese Communists off a vital knob on blood-soaked Sniper ridge, lost to 175 screaming Reds a few hours earlier.

Even as the battered Chinese reeled back from Rocky point, a new red build-up was spotted at the northern end of sniper. Allied warplanes, tanks and artillery hammered the Communists with high explosives and searing napalm.

The bitter fighting for the Kumwha ridges on Korea's central front roared into its 36th straight day when 80 Chinese attacked Rocky point at dawn. The point is an important knob on Finger ridge, which juts out from the main line of Sniper.

Elsewhere along the frozen front, ground fighting was limited to minor probes and patrol actions. The temperature dropped to 21 degrees above zero (F), coldest of the winter.

WINTER COLD HITS FIGHTING IN KOREA

Seoul, Korea, Nov. 9 (UP) – Cold weather kept the fighting in Korea to the minimum as United Nations and communist troops sparred lightly at Finger ridge and Bunker hill.

Allied tanks rumbled out of their positions across frozen rice paddies to blast Chinese bunkers near Panmunjom – forgotten armistice village.

One officer said the raid was “just to let the Communists know we are still here.”

Fighter-bombers and Superforts did heavy work, flying more than 1,000 sorties against red positions and supply concentrations deep in North Korea.

Fifty buildings at Kyomipo and 20 at Chaeryong were demolished in the raids. Both targets were on the “marked for destruction” list.

Three hundred Chinese troops attacked Fungger ridge under 2,500 rounds of their artillery but retreated 40 minutes later.

At the same time, a surprise attack by about 200 Reds was easily pushed back by Allied infantrymen at Bunker hill.

Depending on being undiscovered, the red force slipped across no-man’s land and hid at the base of Bunket hill. But alert Allied machine gunners caught them coming up the slopes and sprayed them with deadly hail.

Action was light on the remainder of the 155-mile front.

Eighth Army headquarters reports show 5,781 communist dead or wounded for the first week of November.