

Hanoi Introduces New War Prisoners

Tokyo

"Merry Christmas and keep on praying so we can all be together soon."

Addressed "to my wife Jane and my son Chris," this message was broadcast by Radio Hanoi yesterday for Captain Terry Mercer Gelonex, a B-52 pilot and one of 15 airmen identified as new prisoners of war by the North Vietnamese. He was listed as from Detroit.

The men were reported as having been captured since massive bombing of North Vietnam was resumed Monday and are in addition to six POW airmen identified on Tuesday.

PARADED

Gelonex 28, was one of eight men paraded at a news conference in Hanoi. He and five others took the opportunity to send messages to their families. Most included assurance that they were being well treated by their captors.

"They are treating me very well. To my family, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year," said Major Richard Edgar Johnson, 36.

PRISONERS

Captain Carl Thomas Wieland, 26, said: "Dear Mom and Dad. Please don't worry about me too much. I was not hurt except for a minor burn. When I was captured, I was treated very well by the people who captured me. Our treatment has been very good."

Hanoi gave these identifi-

cations of the prisoners and information on their capture:

Johnson, downed Monday at Vinh.

Wieland, an A-7 pilot from the carrier America, downed Wednesday at Haiphong.

Gelonex, a B-52 pilot based on Guam, downed Wednesday at Vinh.

Lieutenant Michael Robert Martini, a B-52 navigator based on Guam, downed Wednesday at Haiphong.

Captain Kenneth Hill Higdon, an A-6A navigator from the carrier Enterprise, downed Wednesday at Haiphong.

Captain Gordon Ross Nakagawa, an A-6A pilot from the Enterprise, downed Wednesday at Haiphong.

Lieutenant Paul Louis Granger, copilot of a B-52 based at Utapao, Thailand, downed Wednesday at Ha Bac.

Captain Lynn Richard Beens, a B-52 navigator based on Guam, downed Thursday at Hanoi.

Technical Sergeant Roy Madden, a B-52 mechanic based on Guam, downed Wednesday at Vinh.

William Arcuri, a B-52 copilot from Guam, downed Wednesday at Vinh.

WOUNDED

These ten were identified in a group at a news conference attended by eight of them. Madden and Arcuri were too badly wounded to appear, Radio Hanoi said. It

did not describe their injuries.

A group of five men identified in a later broadcast were:

Lieutenant Colonel John Harry Yuill, a B-52 pilot, Service No. 393-34-9910.

Captain David Ian Drummond, B-52 copilot.

Lieutenant Colonel Louis Henry Bernasconi, B-52 navigator.

First Lieutenant William Thomas Mayall, B-52 navigator.

Master Sergeant Louis Edward Leblanc Jr. Service No. 039-20-6324.

DOWNED

The broadcast said all were downed yesterday in a pre-dawn raid on Hanoi. All but Leblanc were listed as based at Utapao, Thailand, and captured in the Hai Hung Province southwest of Hanoi.

Leblanc was picked up in Ha Tay, northwest of Hanoi. His base was not given.

DESTRUCTION

Radio Hanoi said the five "had taken part in a pre-dawn B-52 raid against populous areas in Hanoi which caused heavy destruction to many inhabited quarters and public utility establishments, including the Bach Mai Hospital, the biggest polyclinic in North Vietnam, which was almost completely demolished.

"Appearing before a battery of cameras in their flying suits or prisoners' garb, the newly captured American pilots thanked the Vietnamese people for having treated them well and were allowed to send messages home on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year," the broadcast said.

The messages were not carried on the broadcast monitored in Tokyo.

Additional personal messages from the earlier group were:

Granger, 24: "This is to my dear wife, Leslie. I want her to know that everything is fine and the people are treating me well. I love her a lot. Thank you."

Nakagawa, 37: "I'm all right, except for possibly a fracture of my right arm. I've been told the doctor will look at it later. My treatment by the North Vietnamese has been humane."