

Pacific Admiral's Son Is on the Release List

SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 12 (AP)—A Navy pilot among the American prisoners to be released Wednesday is the son of the admiral who directed some of the heaviest bombing raids over North Vietnam.

Lieut. Comdr. John S. McCain 3d, 36 years old, was shot down in his Skyhawk jet by a surface-to-air missile over North Vietnam on Oct. 26, 1967, eight months before his father, Adm. John S. McCain Jr., took over in Honolulu as Commander in Chief of United States Forces, Pacific.

Commander McCain had previously escaped death on the carrier Forrestal on July 29, 1967, as he was about to take off for a raid against North Vietnam. Fierce explosions set off by faulty rockets killed 132 of his shipmates. But Commander McCain leaped from his plane and scrambled to safety below deck.

"After seeing all that burning napalm and the carnage that those bombs left on the deck," he said later, "I am not sure that I want to drop any more of that stuff on North Vietnam."

Apparently, duty and family heritage overcame his doubts; within three months he was parachuting from his Skyhawk to captivity in North Vietnam.