

MiG KILLS OF 1967 (MAY–DECEMBER)



1 May 1967

A-4C BuNo 148609
VA-76 – USS *Bon Homme Richard*
(CVA-31)

Lt. Cdr. Theodore R. Swartz
(Sun Glass 685)

A-4C-DL-148609
Aircraft Destroyed: MiG-17
Weapon: Zuni Rockets

BuNo 148609 is seen here wearing the markings of VA-12 flying from the USS Shangri-La (CVA-38). (Takafumi Hiroe)

A former F-8 Crusader pilot, Lt. Cdr. Theodore R. Swartz, flying from the USS *Bon Homme Richard*, became the only Douglas A-4 Skyhawk pilot to down a MiG-17 during the Vietnam War. What was most unusual about the engagement was the fact that he brought the MiG down after firing three separate Zuni rockets at the enemy aircraft. As a rule the Zuni is used as an unguided air-to-ground weapon. Lt. Cdr. Swartz's A-4C became a MiG Killer on 1 May 1967.

1 May 1967

F-8E BuNo 150923/150303
VF-211 – USS *Bon Homme Richard*
(CVA-31)

Lt. Cdr. Marshall O. Wright
(Nickel 104)



F-8E-CV-150923
Aircraft Destroyed: MiG-17
Weapon: AIM-9D

The top and middle photos were taken during May 1967. NP/110 is shown here (top) armed with four Sidewinder missiles and is spotting on the port bow catapult for launch in May 1967. In the middle photo BuNo 150923 (top) and another VF-211 F-8 are heading back to the USS Bon Homme Richard. The bottom photo is of BuNo 150303, taken by Tom Hansen (USAF) during the summer of 1967 at Da Nang Air Base. If you look closely under the open cockpit you can see the small silhouette of a MiG painted on the aircraft. BuNo 150923 was shot down over South Vietnam by anti-aircraft fire on 20 June 1972. (P. Mersky Collection/T. Hansen via D. Hansen)



During an escort mission for a flight of A-4 Skyhawks that were flying an Iron Hand mission north of Hanoi, Lt. Cdr. Mo Wright of VF-211 downed a MiG-17 that attacked one of the A-4s. According to Air Force Capt. Ron Lord, who was serving an exchange tour with VF-211 and who witnessed the engagement, “It was a beautiful hit; the MiG just came apart at the seams.” This is another MiG kill mission in which there is a question as to which F-8 Lt. Cdr. Wright flew. Cdr. Peter Mersky in his outstanding book, *F-8 Crusader Units of the Vietnam War* (Osprey Publishing), identifies the aircraft as F-8E BuNo 150923, while others identify the aircraft as BuNo 150303.