

# POW remains arrive, mother still hopeful

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE (AP) — The remains of a Navy pilot shot down over North Vietnam have been returned, but his mother says she still hasn't given up hope that he is still alive.

Lt. David M. Christian disappeared over North Vietnam on June 2, 1965, while flying a Navy A-4 attack jet.

Following silent planeside services Wednesday at Travis Air Force Base, with color guard and honor guard, the coffin was loaded into a black hearse for the trip to the Tri-Services Mortuary in Oakland. From there they will be released to his mother, Ethel Christian of Lakeside, in San Diego County.

The body was the 10th to be identified of 21 turned over by the North Vietnamese a year ago.

Mrs. Christian said earlier Wednesday by telephone from her home that she wants the body cremated and the ashes scattered off Point

Loma, in San Diego County, by a Navy plane.

"That seems appropriate. After 22 years, it has been a long, weary time."

But Mrs. Christian also said, "You can't get rid of the hope that some day he and the others may come walking out of the jungle. With God, all things are possible."

Like mothers of others among the 2,400 servicemen missing in Southeast Asia, Mrs. Christian has tried for years to get the U.S. government to intensify efforts to account for the missing.

"I've talked a lot in the last 22 years, written a lot of letters," she said.



AP photo

**HOMECOMING:** The flag-draped casket containing the remains of former MIA, Navy Lt. David M. Christian, is carried to a waiting hearse today. Christian was lost over North Vietnam on June 2, 1965.

**NO ANNUAL FEE**