

Mrs. Alvarez Tells Of New Marriage

By Rick Carroll

The woman who was the wife of Navy pilot Everett Alvarez Jr. of San Jose for two months before he flew off to Vietnam and a North Vietnamese prison more than eight years ago calmly disclosed yesterday that she has remarried.

"I just fell out of love with Everett," the former Tangee Alvarez said quietly.

And two years ago in June, she went to Tijuana and married the man she now loves.

She got a Mexican divorce from the prisoner who is one of the longest held POWs, and she and her new husband honeymooned in Carmel.

"I'm very happy now — and I don't regret one bit what I've done.

"Just because I divorced Everett doesn't mean I don't have compassion for him. Every time a prisoner is released I keep thinking, may-

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be, finally, this time he'll come back."

But when Alvarez finally does come home, she noted, "it won't change anything between me and Andy."

She met Andy, her new husband, four years ago when the girl with whom she was sharing an apartment while she attended a beauty college in Walnut Creek introduced them, she said.

By then, she had been waiting four years for Lieutenant Commander Alvarez, a prisoner since he was shot down in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964.

"I waited for him very faithfully all that time," she said.

She could hardly remember what Alvarez looked like by then and she had to "take his picture out and look at it to remember."

She waited so long she started losing faith, she said.

So she began dating Andy. She waited two more years

before she finally decided to get a Mexican divorce and re-marry.

"I took my time and decided Andy was what I wanted."

Tangee, now 32, told her story of her long wait and her new love in the San Leandro home of her attorney, Howard Silberman, who is now trying to get her a California divorce from Alvarez in Alameda County Superior Court.

It was the first interview she had granted since 1969.

She just wants to lead a normal life, she said, so she didn't give the last name of her 27-year-old new husband, a \$900-a-month auto parts salesman.

They live in a rented house somewhere in the Bay Area, she said, with their year-old daughter, Tara.

Although she is very happy, now, her long wait and her decision to divorce Alvarez and remarry has "been like a nightmare."

When she finally decided to get married again, she returned all the wedding gifts

she and Alvarez received to the pilot's mother and anything she had that had been his.

"I didn't want to keep anything. It wouldn't have been right.

The Navy, of course, cut off her \$600 to \$800 per month allotment after her Mexican divorce and re-marriage.

The former Mrs. Alvarez said she has never hidden the fact of her re-marriage, but has honored her mother-in-law's request "not to tell Everett."

She stopped writing to him when she went to Tijuana and his mother, Mrs. Everett Alvarez Sr. of San Jose, informed her prisoner son of

POW Wife's Story



By Larry Tiscornia

THE FORMER TANGEE ALVAREZ 'I waited for him very faithfully all that time'

his wife's remarriage.

In a letter her former husband later wrote to his parents, she said, Alvarez stated:

"I hope her present husband loves her as much as I did."

"That shows what a wonderful person he is," said the former Mrs. Alvarez. "And when Everett comes home I hope he will find someone to make him as happy as I am."

She knows what all the

other wives of American prisoners are going through "because I lived it," Tangee said.

"But I'm not the same person now. He's not. He can't be."

The last of the 33 letters she received from him was dated February 24, 1970, she recalled.

It said, "I'm still hoping we can take that honeymoon real soon. All my love, Everett."