

Ex-POW Mum During N.O. Visit

DEC 27 1972
DEC 27 1972

By BERT HYDE

A young American airman, shot down over North Vietnam and held a prisoner of war until Sept. 17, is in New Orleans today visiting relatives, but he isn't talking.

Lt. Norris Charles, his wife Olga, and their 3-year-old daughter, Kirsten, arrived yesterday and will spend a week at the home of Mrs. Charles' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. Cook, 1622 Mirabeau Ave. The Charleses reside in San Diego.

Neither Lt. nor Mrs. Charles would talk to reporters on their arrival, claiming they are under orders to grant no interviews.

"Orders, you know," explained Mrs. Cook, who recently retired as a teacher at the J. C. Ellis School in Metairie. "We're just so glad to see them. I know you understand why they are not permitted to give you an interview."

Visiting with the newly returned couple are Mrs. Charles' twin sister, Mary, her husband, Thomas Robinson, of Washington, D. C., and several other relatives.

Charles was one of three Americans shot down over North Vietnam who were released before television cameras in Hanoi last September. He had

Turn to Page 2, Column 1



**Former
POW**

LT. NORRIS A. CHARLES, wife OLGA and daughter KIRSTEN are spending part of the holidays in New Orleans with Mrs. Charles' parents. (States-Item photo)

Continued from Page 1

been a prisoner since Dec. 30, 1971.

Mrs. Charles went to Hanoi to meet her husband.

Charles' letters to his wife, telling her to "keep the faith and continue to pray that I'll come home to you and our baby," were delivered to Mrs. Charles in California by actress Jane Fonda, former Atty. Gen. Ramsey

Clark and U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy after each made trips to North Vietnam.

Besides these contacts, Mrs. Charles had heard from her husband one other time, when she received a letter through the mail.

The Charles family came to New Orleans following a visit with relatives in Florida.