

Happy Hubbub Fills Homes of Returning P.O.W.'s

By LAWRENCE VAN GELDER

"I was so tickled to see my son get off the plane. I just sat at that television like I was glued there."

Leaning back in the easy chair in the living room of his home at 51 Plymouth Street, Montclair, N. J., 76-year-old Warren S. Doremus basked yesterday in the joy of his son's return among the prisoners of war released by the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong.

In the background, Mrs. Doremus contended with the nearly constant ringing of the telephone, accepting congratulations on the freeing of Navy Comdr. Robert B. Doremus, now 40 years old, who was navigator on a fighter-bomber shot down over North Vietnam on Aug. 24, 1965.

It was a scene repeated yesterday around the country as well as among the parents, wives, children and other relatives of 15 military men and one civilian listed by the Pentagon as living in or coming from New York, New Jersey or Connecticut.

"He was declared dead at first," recalled Mr. Doremus, a retired employe of the Bendix Corporation at Peterborough, "because when his plane was hit by a ground-to-air missile, the plane behind it could see only one parachute open, and they figured that's usually the pilot, and Robby was the navigator. But in this case they were wrong. Both of them fell."

"His wife, Dinah—she lives in Wilmington with their three children—she called us about a quarter to four this morning, because she thought we might not have seen it."

"She talked to him from the Philippines, and she told us he said he was in good health. We knew that because we saw him get off that plane. He was smiling and he gave a crisp salute. He told Dinah he was fine, except he needed some dental care."

Commander Doremus, who is the father of a daughter, 14, and a twin boy and girl, 11, will go to Philadelphia Naval Hospital for treatment and observation.

Another television watcher,

at Grissom Air Force Base in Indiana, was Joanne Byrne, the wife of Air Force Col. Ronald E. Byrne Jr., whose plane was downed Aug. 29, 1965, on a mission over North Vietnam.

"He looks just gorgeous."

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Mrs. Byrne said of her 44-year-old husband, who was born in Brooklyn and reared in Great Neck, L. I., where his father still lives. "In fact he doesn't have as much gray hair as I do."

In Greensboro, N. C., Mrs. Jean McDaniel, the wife of 35-year-old Air Force Maj. Norman A. McDaniel, whose mother, Marie, lives in upper Manhattan, was counting. "He's been gone almost seven years to the day," Mrs. McDaniel said. "I saw him on television. God, he really looked handsome!"

Mrs. McDaniel, whose husband was shot down over North Vietnam on July 20, 1966, said she was not worried about the problems many people told her returning prisoners would have.

"We love each other and that will take care of a lot of problems," she said.

There will be a quiet homecoming for John Joseph Fritz Jr., the only civilian prisoner from the tristate region. "He's not one for fanfare; he never was," his mother, Ann, said at her ranch-style home in Williamstown, N. J.

Mr. Fritz, now 37, was setting out for work as a helicopter repairman for a concern under contract to the Agency for International Development when he was taken prisoner in an ambush on Feb. 8, 1969.

Another ambush victim was Army Capt. George K. Wanat Jr., 27, whose parents live in Waterford, Conn. In Waterford yesterday, the senior Mr. Wanat recalled guarding a German prisoner during World War II and said:

"I shared whatever I had with him. I always hoped that if I were captured I would be treated the same way. I have no bad feeling toward the North Vietnamese people. God was good enough to relay my feelings to George's guards."

Captain Wanat, whose wife, Gretchen, lives in Foxboro, Mass., was reported captured last April 30 in South Vietnam, where he had been an adviser to a South

Vietnamese unit.

Others from the metropolitan region released were:

Air Force Capt. David E. Baker, 26, husband of Carol A. Baker of Westbury, L. I. Captain Baker is a graduate of Hofstra University. He was held in South Vietnam after his plane was downed on June 27, 1972.

Air Force Capt. Edward A.

Brudno, 32, husband of Deborah C. Brudno of Harrison, N. Y. A native of Quincy, Mass., and a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Captain Brudno was taken prisoner after his plane was shot down over North Vietnam on Oct. 18, 1965.

Air Force Senior M. Sgt. Arthur Cormier, 38, husband of Eileen M. Cormier of Bay Shore, L. I. Sergeant Cormier was born in Rumford, Me., and graduated from high school in West Orange, N. J. His helicopter was downed by ground fire Nov. 6, 1965, on a search and rescue mission over North Vietnam.

Air Force Lieut. Col. Willis E. Forby, 39, husband of Mary A. Forby of Phoenix, Ariz.; also listed as being from Leonia, N.J. Captured after plane was hit on Sept. 20, 1965, on combat mission over North Vietnam. Listed as a prisoner of war in April, 1970.

Navy Lieut. Comdr. Paul E. Galanti, 33, husband of Phyllis Galanti of Richmond, Va., son of Col. and Mrs. Philip J. Galanti of Gastonia, N.C. Commander Galanti, who was born in Glen Gardner, N.J., was shot down June 17, 1966, over North Vietnam. He is the nephew of a retired Bergen County District Judge, Benjamin Galanti of Lodi, N.J., and of Marinus C. Galanti, director of Fairleigh Dickinson's Wroxton College Campus in Banbury, England.

Air Force Capt. Peter J. Giroux, 28, born in Ithaca, N.Y. He is the husband of Mareyn Giroux of Oklahoma City. His B-52 was shot down



United Press International
Comdr. Robert B. Doremus
of Montclair, N.J.

over North Vietnam Dec. 22, 1972.

Air Force Col. Lawrence N. Guardino, 50, a native of Newark. Colonel Guardino, husband of Evelyn T. Guardino of Satellite Beach, Fla., was taken captive after his plane was struck on a combat mission over North Vietnam on June 14, 1965.

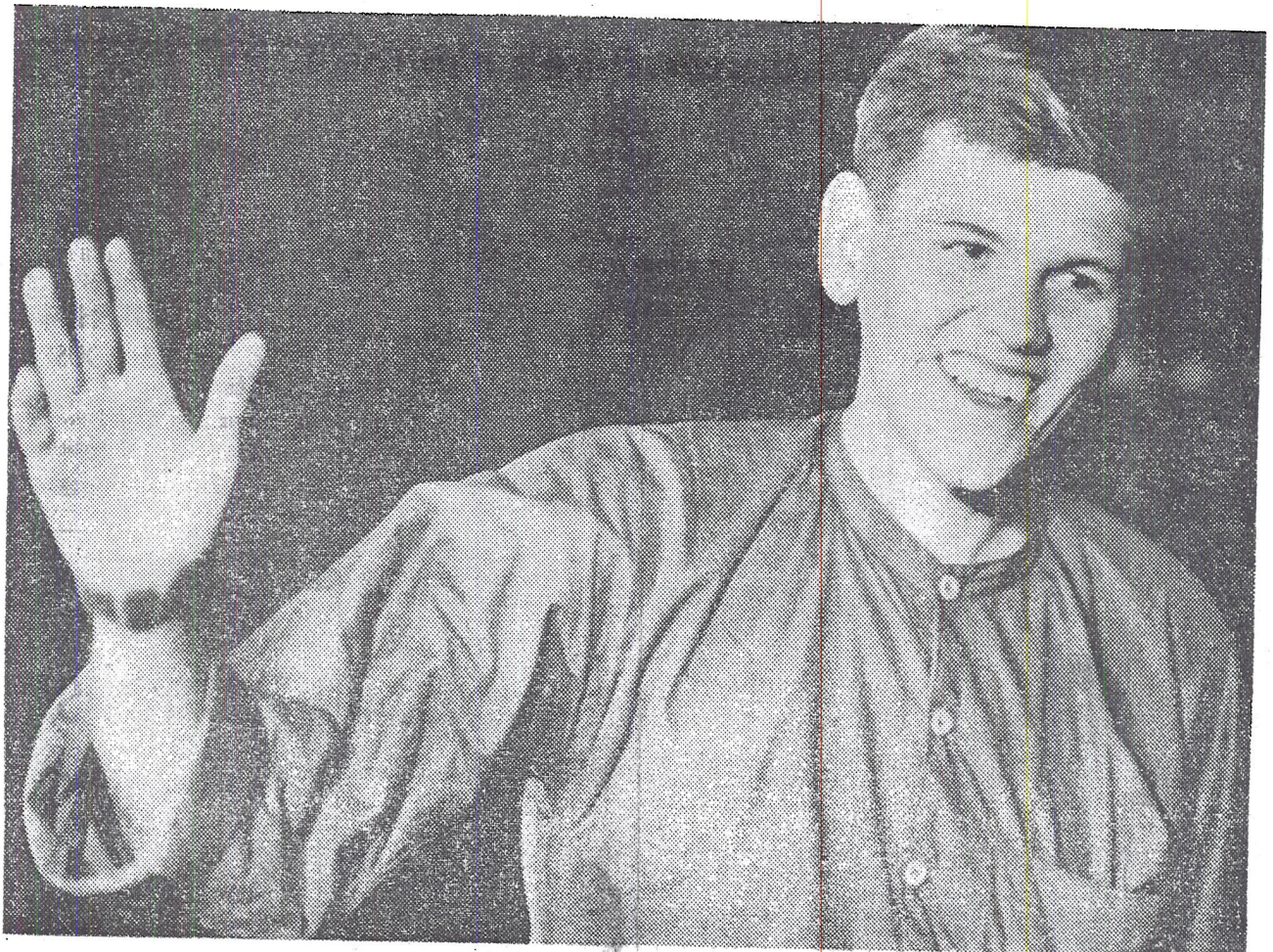
Army Pvt. Ferdinand A. Rodriguez, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesus Rodriguez of Brooklyn. Private Rodriguez was captured in South Vietnam in April or May, 1968.

Air Force Lieut. Col. Thomas W. Sima, 40, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Sima, Cinnaminson, N. J. He was captured after his plane was shot down on Oct. 15, 1965, over North Vietnam, and he was reported as a prisoner of war on Dec. 22, 1970.

Navy Comdr. Raymond A. Vohden, 32, son of Mr. and Mrs. George S. Vohden Sr. of Manasquan, N. J., and husband of Bonny Vohden of Memphis, Tenn. He was shot down April 3, 1965, on a combat mission over North Vietnam.

Marine Capt. James P. Walsh Jr., whose parents live in Winsted, Conn. Held in South Vietnam, Captain Walsh was captured Sept. 26, 1972, while serving as a pilot. In Winsted, his father said he did not know how to express his joy—word failed him.

REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST!



United Press International
Army Pvt. Ferdinand A. Rodriguez, 24, of Brooklyn, arriving at Clark Air Base, the Philippines. He was among the 16 freed prisoners listed as being from the metropolitan area.