

18 Ex-P.O.W.'s Return To U.S. From Far East

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif., Feb. 20 (UPI)—Eighteen American prisoners of war, released a week arly by Hanoi as a goodwill gsture, flew home today to their first view of the United States in more than five years.

The former prisoners, all Navy and Air Force fliers captured by the North Vietnamese in 1966 and 1967, left Clark Air Base in the Philip-pines after rushing through medical and dental chacks in 44 hours.

They spent about an hour at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu on a refueling stop and were greeted by about 300 persons.

One former prisoner — Capt. Joseph Grecca, 32 years old, of Bloomfield, N.J. — was left behind at Clark Air Base after suffering a malaria attack. The Air Force captain's condition was described as "not serious" but he was advised "not to travel for the time being," an Air Force spokesman said.

The 20th member of the group flew home alone yesterday to the bedside of his critically ill father.

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