

SFChronicle
POW Stories
**'Will Shock
Americans'**

By Charles Howe

The things that were done to American servicemen held in captivity in Vietnam "will be a shock to many people in the United States," once their story is fully told, an Army captain who had been a POW said yesterday.

But until all of the prisoners come back — no sooner than six weeks from now — the Pentagon made it clear that details of captivity are going to remain under security wraps.

The occasion was one of 17 press conferences held yesterday throughout the United States by returned prisoners of war.

At The Presidio, the two Army officers, Captain Mark A. Smith and Major Albert E. Carlson, both captured on April 7, 1972 and returned home last week, an-



MAJOR CARLSON

Ex-POWs answered some questions at the Presidio



CAPTAIN MARK SMITH

swered questions as best they could.

Before the press conference began Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Powell, Army information officer, told newsmen that a variety of specific — and sticky — questions could not have responded to.

These questions, Powell said, included: "Conditions of captivity . . . treatment in captivity . . . attitudes to-

ward captors or other questions dealing with concrete conditions of captivity."

Powell said answers to these questions could well "jeopardize the return of other prisoners of war."

Declining to spell out how life was in a prison camp, the 26-year-old Smith, who was not even allowed to say by whom he was held, or

See Back Page

From Page 1

where, at one point said:

"When all (the prisoners) get back and we can talk with a free mind, we will tell all."

WOUNDS

Smith, from Hawthorne, Los Angeles county, survived with 38 wounds in his body. He told a group of more than 75 reporters that his story will be "explosive."

Smith and the 32-year-old Carlson declined to answer questions about a recent news story that several officers while held prisoner might have collaborated with their captors.

"If they violated the law," said Carlson, whose wife and four-year-old son Eric live in Pleasanton, "then I feel they should be punished." Carlson also took the same position when asked about possible amnesty for draft evaders and men who deserted to avoid combat.

TESTS

The two officers said they are receiving a battery of medical tests, including psychiatric tests, and social counseling as well. "One of my problems upon returning," Carlson said, is "helping my wife unwind after all the responsibilities she had to take on all by herself."

Both of the men said they intended to remain in the Army.