

A JERSEY P.O.W. AMONG RELEASED

Freeing of Navigator Brings
Happy Tears in Linden
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There were tears and laughter in the Linden, N. J., home of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Coker yesterday as their son, Lieut. George T. Coker, began his long journey home from the Vietnam war.

The Cokers saw their 29-year-old son on television as the Navy officer alighted at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines with 105 other American prisoners of war released by Hanoi, and later they had a 20-minute telephone conversation with him.

"We're more than delighted," said Mr. Coker in a telephone interview. "When we saw him, he looked very good and after talking to him I would say he's even better than he looked."

Lieutenant Coker, an aircraft navigator who attended Rutgers University, was shot down and captured on Aug. 27, 1966. He was one of four prisoners of war from the metropolitan area included in yesterday's release.

Mr. Coker, who works for the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corporation in Newark, said the family had been able to write to the lieutenant. He had written to them, but he did not receive any of their letters in the last year.

The family, including four brothers, a sister, and 20 nieces and nephews—five of whom the flier has never seen—sent some of his favorite oatmeal cookies to await his arrival at Clark. They also sent captioned pictures of his younger relatives so he could identify them when he came home.

When Lieutenant Coker arrived at Clark, he was wearing homemade shoulder marks showing his rank. "He was very proud of that," said Mr. Coker. "He asked us if we saw them and told us they were made clandestinely while he was in prison. It was to show that he's going to for his country, which he is."

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Lieut. George T. Coker, whose parents live in Linden, N.J., arriving at Clark Air Base in the Philippines after his release. The former P.O.W. said he made the shoulder boards in prison and donned them on the plane.