

12 MORE P. O. W.'S LAND AT M'GUIRE

Group Includes 2 Civilians
and Man Held Longest

By RICHARD J. H. JOHNSTON

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McGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N. J., March 19—Ten military servicemen and two civilians, all former Vietnam war prisoners, arrived here by transport plane shortly after 3 P.M. today.

Among them was Army Maj. Floyd J. Thompson, a 39-year-old career officer who was born in Englewood, N. J. According to information made available here today, the slight, freckle-faced officer was held longest in captivity of all American prisoners in Vietnam. He was an observer aboard a military plane that failed to return to its base on March 26, 1964.

Major Thompson, who was the first off the C-141 transport plane, saluted the four-officer official reception party at the foot of the ramp. After saluting the welcoming party and the colors, he stepped to the batter of microphones and said:

"To say mere words are inadequate to express emotions would be the understatement of the year."

Taken to Valley Forge

Major Thompson, a veteran of 17 years of service, was taken from here by helicopter to Valley Forge Army Hospital in Pennsylvania, for medical evaluation. His wife Alyce, and their three daughters live in Hudson, Mass.

Also taken to Valley Forge were Maj. Floyd H. Kushner of Danville, Va., Sgt. Peter E. Drabic of Union Bridge, Md., Sgt. Julius W. Long Jr. of Pulaski, Va., and Sgt. Don A. MacPhail of Chelmsford, Mass. The men had been held prisoner for periods ranging from three to five and a half years.

Three other Army men in the returning party arriving here were taken by plane to the Army's hospital at Fort Gordon near Augusta, Ga. They were SPECIALIST 6 John G. Sparks of Chatanooga, Tenn.; Sgt. Thomas J. Davis of Clayton, Ala., and St. Isaiah R. McMillen of Midway, Fla.

Other Returnees

The other military returnees were a Marine Corps captain, Bruce R. Archer of Pensacola, Fla., who was transferred to the Navy Hospital at Camp Lejuene, N. C., and an Army chief warrant officer, Francis G. Anton, of Willingboro, N. J., who was sent to Patterson Army Hospital in Eatontown, N. J.

One of the civilians who arrived with the military group was identified as Philip W. Manhard of McLean, Va., who was described as a State Department foreign-service officer. The date and the circumstances of his capture were not disclosed. With him was Eugene A. Weaver of Kenosha, Wisc., who was identified simply as a "State Department employe."

The question was raised later as to whether Mr. Weaver was an employe of the Department of State at the time of his capture in Vietnam. No further details were disclosed about the two men, who were taken to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.