



MASTER SERGEANT MAX BEILKE
He got the scroll from the North Vietnamese

Last Pullout GIs Are Back

Travis AFB

The last planeload of U.S. troops to leave Vietnam and the nation's longest war arrived here last night—very tired and very happy to be home.

"It sure was funny seeing the VC (Viet Cong) watching us while we got on the plane, when we were fighting them, just so recently," said Staff Sergeant Ray Shinsky of Wheeling, W. Va.

"It's nice."

The 52 men — and one woman — aboard the droop-winged C-141 Starlifter received a modest red carpet greeting here reminiscent of the standard Travis welcome for returning prisoners of war.

Carrying souvenir communists rifles, crossbows, tennis rackets, golf clubs and just about anything else they could handle, the men saluted waiting brass and moved on to try to go through customs inspections

like any other travelers, and find the rest of their luggage.

"I'm going to resume my honeymoon — as soon as I find my bags," said Staff Sergeant Allen McKenzie of North Highland, in Sacramento County.

The last man on the passenger list, Army Master Sergeant Max Beilke — who was presented with a scroll by the North Vietnamese on his departure from Vietnam — said he felt "great to be home. But I need two or three days to sit down with myself to really understand the significance of this moment."

Vincent Jacobucci, an Air Force sergeant major who was actually the last man to board the jet transport, said he had "no special feelings" about being the last American attached to combat forces to leave Vietnam.

He was too busy leaving, he said. *Our Correspondent*