

NYTimes APR 2 1973
Last P.O.W. Feared a Vietcong Trick to the End

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines, April 1 (AP)—Gaunt and chalk-faced, the last known United States war prisoner in Indochina ate his first American dinner in nearly three and a half years tonight after a release that until the last minute he feared might be a trick.

Capt. Robert T. White of the Army, 32 years old, who comes here from Newport News, Va., flew from Saigon after his release in a Mekong Delta village. His Vietcong captors said it was "only meters" from where his reconnaissance plane was shot down Nov. 15, 1969.

"Even at the transfer site he was not sure he would be

**Army Captain, Three Years
a Captive, Is Gaunt and
Pale on His Release**

released," said a United States information officer who flew to the Philippines with Captain White. "It was not until Lieut. Col. Larry Robeson took his arm and said 'Let's go to the plane' that he realized he was a free man."

Captain White was said to be in good spirits and generally good condition after he checked into the hospital at Clark Air Base. He ate steak for dinner

but was described as too tired from his three-day journey to the village where he was released to begin immediate medical tests.

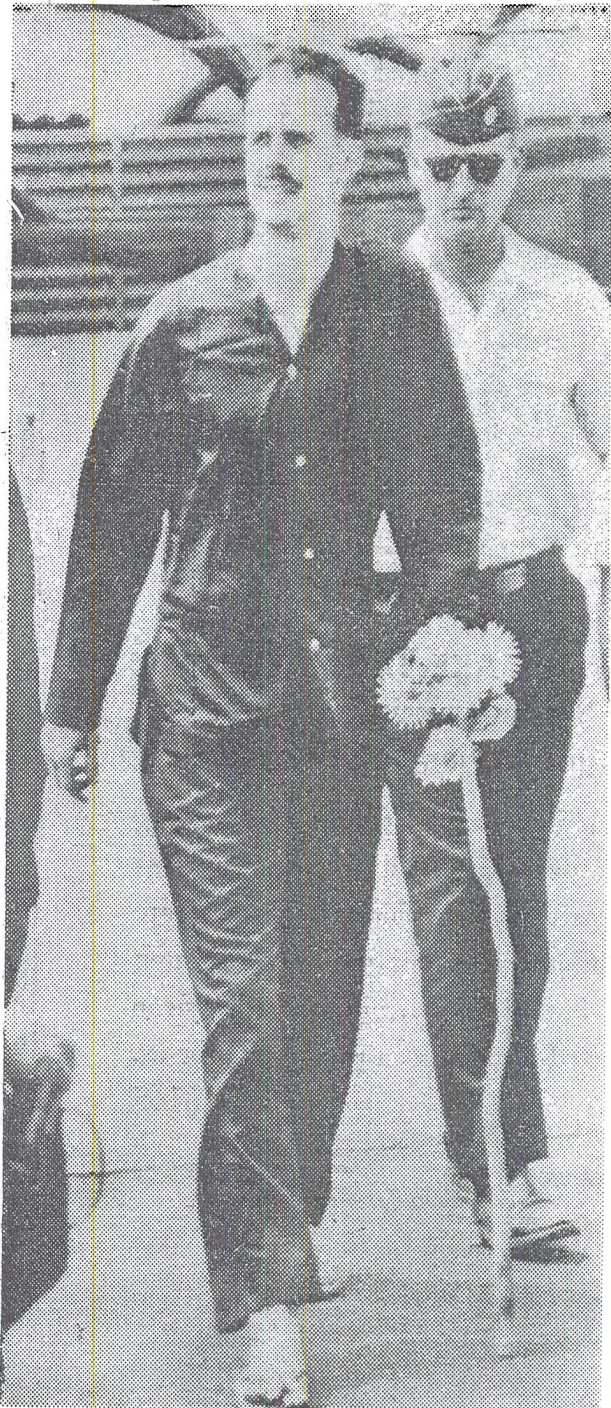
He limped but it was not announced whether he had any injuries. He was expected to be on his way to a reunion with his wife, Judith, by Wednesday.

Last Group Reaches U.S.

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif., April 1 (UPI)—The last group of prisoners of war came home to the United States today to close out Operation Homecoming, which brought back 587 men freed from Communist prison camps.

NYTimes

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Associated Press

LAST P.O.W. RELEASED: Capt. Robert T. White, a pilot captured in the Mekong Delta on Nov. 15, 1969, walking to a plane at Tan Son Nhut Airport in Saigon. Plastic flowers are gift from the Vietcong. Details on Page 2.