

# War Prisoner Issue Continues To Snarl Russian-West Ties

By CHARLES M. McCANN  
United Press Foreign Analyst  
Ten years after the end of World War II, the war prisoner issue is still snarling Russia's relations with countries in both Asia and Europe.



The prisoner issue could become a major obstacle to the conclusion of the peace treaty now being negotiated between Russia and Japan in London. It could also prevent the establishment of normal relations between Russia and West Germany, for which the Kremlin made a bid when it invited West German Chancellor Konrad Ad-

ner to Moscow. It is possible, to, if not probable, that the general question of prisoners will come up during the Big Four conference in Geneva. It may not come up during the first or "summit" phase, which President Eisenhower is to attend. More likely, it would crop up during the second phase, in which the Big Four foreign ministers are to negotiate on specific questions.

The Russians undoubtedly are aware of this, and undoubtedly they hope fervently that by some chance the fate of the prisoners will be ignored.

Can Show Sincerity But if the men in the Kremlin really are sincere in their expressed desire to reduce world tensions, they could make a fine start by releasing some of the foreign victims they hold in slave labor camps.

Japanese government records list 1,452 Japanese war prisoners known to be alive in Soviet prison camps, about 1,000 held in the island of Sakhalin off the Siberian coast, and 10,090 who were known to be alive in prison camps as late as 1950.

Austrians recently released by Russia estimated that between 5,000 and 6,000 Japanese including diplomats as well as military men are still held in camps and prisons situated in places all the way from Moscow to the Pacific Ocean.

The details of West German Chancellor Adenauer's negotiations with the Russians remain to be fixed. It is still not certain,

by the way, whether he will accept the Kremlin's invitation to visit Moscow or will insist that the meeting be held somewhere else—say in Berlin.

Asks for Clarification A recent dispatch from Bonn, the West German capital, said that Adenauer wants several points in Russian-German relations clarified. Point No. 1, the dispatch said, is whether Russia will agree to release all German prisoners.

German official sources estimate that more than 20,000 Germans, soldiers and civilians, are still held in prison camps in Russia and its satellites. Austrians whom the Russians

have released tell of many German generals and other senior officers held in special camps in the Moscow area. Thousands more are held in other camps. Adenauer is not the man to leave this issue unsettled when he talks to the Russians.

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## Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

Ever wondered how those down-to-earth expressions, which have their origin in the outdoors, got their start in our language: "Mad as a hatter." It means, of



course, someone who is utterly insane—supposedly as insane as a hatter. But how come? Hatters have no edge on being crazy—in fact, many a hat wearer must be crazier than the maker of the hat!

Actually, this term got its start from a reference to snakes—"mad as an adder"—adder being an old word for viper, and "mad" used to mean venomous. Put the two together and you have—poisonous as a viper. From this, the expression changed gradually and mistakenly to "mad as a hatter."

"Fine kettle of fish." This expression had its origin in Scotland—from where a lot of good things come. When out on a boating picnic it was the custom to cook the catch of fish on the spot in a great kettle. A few basic seasonings were added. What with the exercise in the outdoors, hearty appetites and the delay attending most outdoor cooking, guests were extraordinarily hungry and ate the dish with gusto. However, when attempted at home the recipe fell flat—as so often happens with good outdoor dishes—and the result was usually pretty sad. Hence the term—a fine kettle of fish—was actually one of derision.

Buy a "Pig in a poke." When you buy such a pig you are buying something sight unseen. How did this expression get that way? From colonial days when baby pigs were auctioned already wrapped for carrying. Occasionally an unscrupulous farmer would substitute a cat for a pig in the poke, or bag.

Now when an alert bystander gave away the dishonest farmer's deception, then he gave away the secret—in short, he "let the cat out of the bag," or poke. That means we have gotten two very old American expressions by way of one poke.

"Cool one's heels." The expression hails from the day when

horses were the chief means of transportation. When a horse became too hot from a warm day's travel, the considerate rider would stop at an inn and while he regaled himself slightly saw that cold water was poured over the animals' hocks to cool him off—much as we let cool water run over our wrists when we are hot in summer. Hocks and heels are sometimes called the same. Now, the term means to be kept waiting, cooling one's heels.

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## Willamina Crash Claims Two Lives

McMinnville—(U.P.)—A one-car crash Monday night fatally injured 29-year-old Donald David Ellingson of Tillamook and his 10-year-old son Jimmy Donald Ellingson.

Another son was taken to a Portland hospital with critical injuries and Mrs. Ellingson and a third son were in serious but improving condition at a McMinnville hospital.

The crash occurred at 8:45 p.m. on Highway 18, five miles west of Willamina. Police said the Ellingson's 1950 model car failed to negotiate a 45-degree turn and plunged out of control. The family was heading toward Tillamook. State police officers said they believed Mrs. Ellingson was driving when the accident happened.

Taken to Providence hospital in Portland was Terry Dean Ellingson, 7. He suffered head injuries and a broken left leg. Mrs. Vivian Marie Ellingson, 26, and her three-year-old son, Van Lynn, were listed by McMinnville hospital attendants as "improving."

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