

Reds Return 392 Allied War Prisoners Thursday

PANMUNJOM (AP)—The Communists gave back 392 Allied war prisoners today. Two already are dead and others were gaunt and haggard, but many returned to freedom laughing and shouting. Seventy Americans came out of Red prisons. Forty-two of them were sick or wounded.

The Communists said they would send back 400 more Allied captives tomorrow in the third day of the Korean War prisoner exchange. Eighty-one will be Americans, bringing the total for three days

to 221. One South Korean died in a Communist ambulance en route to Panmunjom today. Another died shortly after. Still other ROK soldiers were reported at the edge of death. They looked pitiful.

Some Americans appeared in good shape and the 25 British and 25 Turks all appeared healthy. U. S. men told of torture in North Korean stockades. They told of hunger and beatings and buddies who died.

Many of the diehard Red prisoners sent north broke into a frenzied demonstration as they left U. N. hands. They howled, screamed, ripped their clothing and went back to communism nearly naked. Two failed in an escape attempt.

One Red smashed an American ambulance driver in the nose. They threw boots, clothing and other gear at U. N. personnel. One officer was hit in the mouth and suffered a split lip.

The U. N. Command protested sharply. A U. N. officer said later the Communists told him "they would take measures to see that incidents do not happen again." The outbreaks obviously were set up for waiting Red photographers and newsmen.

One American ambulance driver said they had orders not to make any moves against the rebellious Reds. He said they were told to grin and bear it. Some of the South Koreans angrily tore off their clothing and shouted at Red personnel, but they did not attack them. One South Korean spat at a nearby Communist officer.

A pain-wracked South Korean summed up the ROK feelings as he muttered a curse: "May God damn the Communists!"

In general, the Americans appeared to be somewhere between the good health of the British and the ragged condition of the ROKs. Medics rushed some seriously sick or wounded Americans directly to hospitals while others appeared in excellent condition.

This aftermath of war already has raised galling questions: Why had the Reds held back these sick and wounded men from the disabled exchange last April? (In Washington, Sen. Potter (R-Mich.) demanded a senate investigation.)

What about the stories from two U. S. officers who said the Reds

only days ago sentenced a U. S. lieutenant colonel and other officers to prison terms for "instigating against peace?"

The Reds had no answers, and, for the moment, neither did anyone else.

The Red Peiping radio said only that all sick and wounded non-Korean prisoners of war were given a medical checkup before their departure for Panmunjom and that "most of them had only minor ailments."

Maj. Gen. Choi Suk, in charge of receiving returned ROK prisoners, said angrily the latest group of South Koreans "are worse, more ill, than those returned to us in Little Switch (the April disabled exchange)—and they were ill long before Little Switch."

The Communists handed these men back without comment. One of the first Americans freed in the second day's exchange was Lt. Col. Thomas D. Harrison, highest ranking U. S. officer yet to return. The 32-year-old Clovis, N. M., fighter-bomber pilot is a second cousin of Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison, who helped negotiate the armistice with the Communists.

Col. Harrison said the communists tortured him cruelly to get military information.

He said he didn't tell even though he was starved, smothered with a

wet towel and jabbed with lighted cigarettes.

A B29 co-pilot, Lt. Samuel E. Masenburg of Detroit, told of four days of continuous torture when the Reds "battered me around... slugged me... gave me no food." His frost-bitten hands were tied behind his back, he said, but he didn't give the Reds any information.

Others told of the chill early days of the war, when Allied troops died in the far north, cold, hungry and beaten.

Their stories of Red savagery were emphasized by a new Army censorship rule that permits a returning prisoner to tell only what he has seen first hand.

Maj. John C. Harlan, 48, of Institute, W. Va., told newsmen he knew of U. S. officers the Reds have tried and are trying on charges of "obstructing the peace." Harlan returned Wednesday.

His story backed up that of Maj. John Dajau of Richmond, Calif., who told newsmen Tuesday the Reds had sentenced some "high-ranking" American officers to prison only two days before the exchange for "instigating against peace."

The second day of "Operation Big Switch" went much as the first one.

The Allies handed over 2,760 Reds in exchange for the 70 Americans, 250 South Koreans, 25 British, 25 Turks and 12 others of various Allied nations.

The Reds gave no explanation why they returned only 392 captives, 8 short of their promised 400 daily.

The first 42 Americans who came back were listed by the Communists as sick and injured. Many of these quickly were put aboard helicopters and rushed to hospitals.

However, the remaining Americans appeared to be in better physical condition than the previous groups, although almost all looked worn and tired. They waved and smiled broadly when they arrived at the reception

camp aboard Russian-built Molotov trucks. One wore a bright yellow shirt and jumped lightly to the ground.

Another answered cheerily as his name was read from the war prisoner roster and jumped down, saying, "Make way for a free man."

A U. S. Negro stood pitifully in the back of the truck carrying him to freedom after other prisoners had disembarked. The young soldier did not answer his name.

Marine medical corpsmen boarded the truck to help him off. He stepped from the rear of the truck and would have fallen on the crushed rock roadway but more Marines caught him and carried him inside the reception tent.

Many of the South Koreans arrived singing. One attempted to swat a North Korean with a towel but missed.

A South Korean soldier on a litter told of almost reaching freedom during the April exchange of sick and wounded. He was brought from a Red prison camp to Kaesong. He and "a few" others remained heartbreakingly close to freedom all during the exchange of sick and wounded but the Reds finally returned them to prison camps and kept them there until now.

Meanwhile, the first group of Americans released Tuesday had started their long trip home.

Twenty-one sick and wounded Americans and 50 other disabled Allied troops arrived in Tokyo Wednesday for hospital treatment. The able-bodied Americans were taken to Inchon on South Korea's west coast for processing, rest and relaxation while awaiting transport back to the United States.

Pennsylvania's Governor Urges Prison Overhauling

SEATTLE (AP)—Gov. John S. Fine of Pennsylvania called today for a complete overhaul of the American penal system to end bloody and costly violence within prison walls.

He told the closing session of the National Governors Conference that the states must work out uniform penal policies throughout the country in answer to the "alarming wave of prison revolts."

The Pennsylvania Republican, in a prepared speech, advocated a thorough study of the entire penal machinery to include convictions, sentences, treatment of inmates, paroles and rehabilitation.

"I do not believe," he said, "we have to spend the staggering sum of 40 or 50 billions of dollars for new prison construction throughout the United States that a few penal authorities suggest as necessary."

On the political side, there was plain notice by Gov. James F.

Byrnes of South Carolina that he and other Southern Democrats are not ready to bury the States Rights movement and return to the national party.

He told a news conference yesterday: "Our people, from the Potomac to the Gulf (of Mexico) have declared their independence."

Byrnes, secretary of state under President Truman, asserted a bit of his own independence by saying that President Eisenhower's popularity in the South is greater than ever.

He said he would not go as a delegate to the next Democratic National Convention if the party continues to insist upon an advance pledge of support.

In today's discussion of prison reforms, Gov. Fine urged steps to improve living conditions, food and recreational facilities and install inmate industries.

Yes, he said, prisoners are entitled to a "reasonable degree" of comfort. But, he added, they must be treated firmly at all times.

In that connection, he said the question is sometimes raised. Is it proper to negotiate with nutters in time of prison strikes?

Decisively, he said, adding: "That is the position I took when we were confronted with riots in Pennsylvania. I did not deviate from that position."

"I would not compromise. The rioters were told they had to surrender unconditionally, and we made that ultimatum stick."

Two North Korea POWs Try to Flee

PANMUNJOM (AP)—Two North Korean prisoners of war tried to escape today shortly before they were to be exchanged, American guards used clubs to subdue them after they were caught.

The North Koreans leaped from a truck carrying them to this exchange point.

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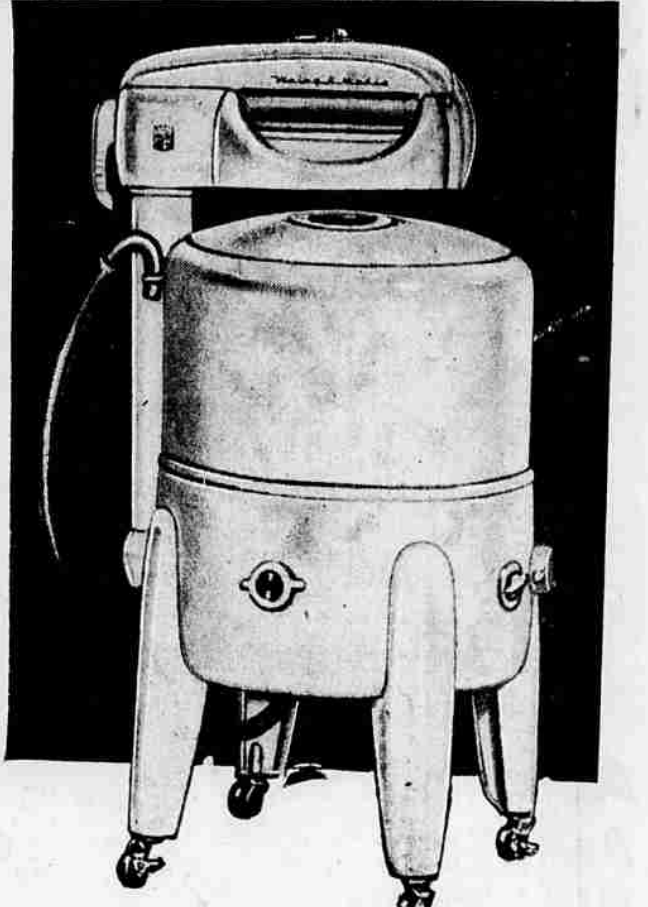
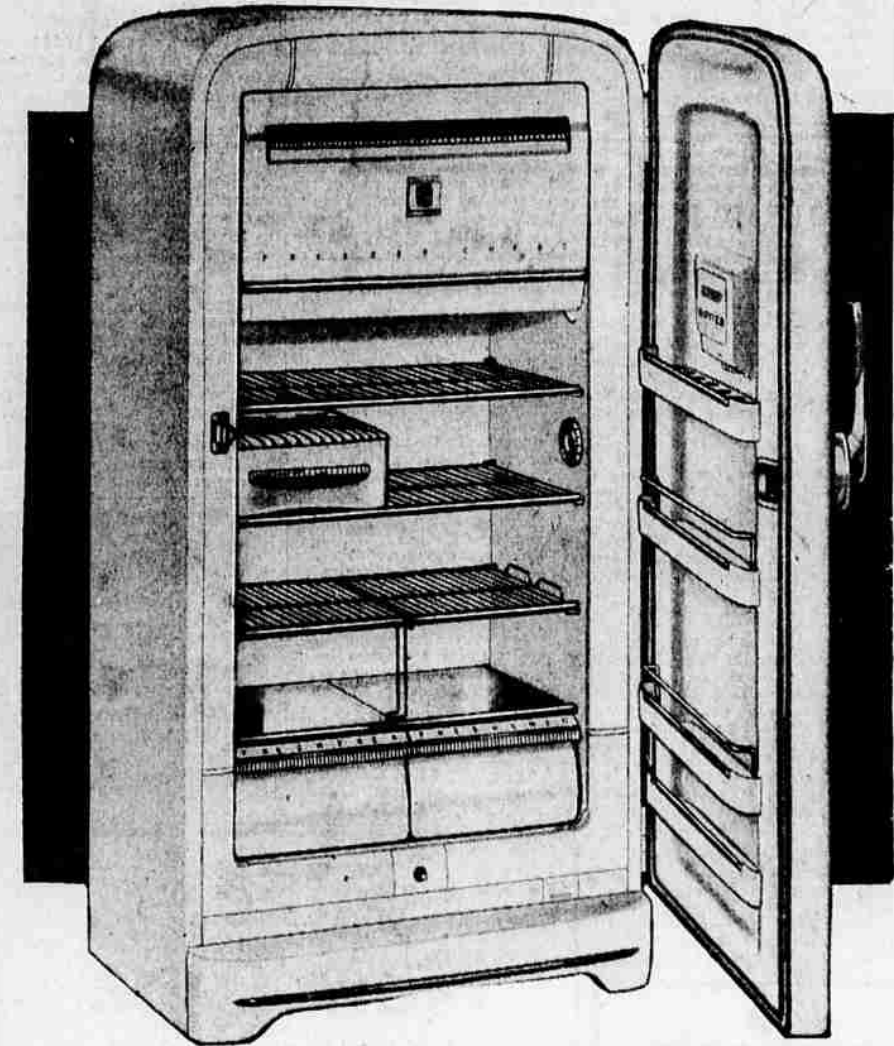
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