

Bitter Crew Of POWs Arrive

By FORREST EDWARDS

PAMUNJOM (AP)—A bitter band of die-hard Americans came back from their Red prison camps today—vowing vengeance on weaker comrades who turned to communism under pressure.

They spat out "progressive" as a dirty word, and wore with honor the badge of "reactionary" fastened on them by Red Chinese who clubbed and tortured them but did not break their spirits.

One tough American had to be held back by force when he spotted a "progressive" at the Freedom Village reception center.

"I'll get that s.o.b. when I get home," he said.

One hundred Americans came back from the North, along with 24 British, 25 Turks and 230 South Koreans in the seventh day of the Korean War prisoner exchange.

Meanwhile, 328 Americans repatriated earlier sailed from Inchon aboard the troopship Gen. Nelson M. Walker for the voyage of 14 to 15 days to San Francisco's Golden Gate.

All were classed as healthy.

The ship originally was to sail several hours later, but its orders apparently were changed.

A plane bearing 17 seriously ill Americans, all litter patients, landed at Honolulu for a night of rest before continuing homeward. It is expected to arrive at Travis

Air Force Base near San Francisco about 6 a.m. Wednesday.

The first week of exchange has brought 648 Americans of the 3,313 the Reds say they hold. A total of 2,372 Allied captives have been returned. The Reds listed 12,763.

The U. N. Command has returned 19,406 of its 74,000 Red prisoners.

Another 100 Americans, 250 ROKs, 25 British and 25 Turks are scheduled to return Wednesday.

The latest group of Americans released won the "reactionary" honors the hard way.

There were bitter men among the first groups last week, but few matched the anger of the last groups.

They spoke with passion of those who have suffered.

"If any progressives got on the boat with me," said one, "They'll be shark bait. They are hated worse than the Chinks."

"If I met one in a bar, I'd hit him in the mouth," said another. "One of us wouldn't walk out—and it wouldn't be me."

American officers and newsmen were startled at the violence of the reactions and immediate steps were taken to keep some of the groups separate to prevent possible bloody clashes.

After months and years behind the Red curtain, many still had courage to defy the Communists.

For mocking at Red propaganda lectures, disputing Communist lies and standing up for their legal rights, these men said they received special attention of their guards.

The "ice bath"—standing barefoot for hours on the frozen Yalu River... choking confinement in crude, one-man dungeons... beatings and clubbings... hanging by the arms with... starvation... and deliberate withholding of medical care from the "reactionaries."

But bitter as the men were against the Chinese Communists, they hated the "progressives" more.

"There were stool pigeons in my own squad," said Cpl. Robert A. Ginn of Columbus, S. C., with hate in his voice.

"Two men squealed on one of our friends, and the Chinks sentenced him to a year in jail two weeks ago."

With Ginn were two Americans with the same last name but not related—Sgt. Harold M. Keck of Bethlehem, Pa., and Cpl. Clyde A. Keck of Sparta, Mich.

It was one of these three who broke toward the "progressive" and who was restrained by an Army officer. The officer would not say which he grabbed, however.

Ginn and the two Kecks estimated that about 10 per cent of the Americans they saw had "gone progressive."

Other former prisoners have told of seeing "progressives" back on the U. N. Side.

Estimates of their numbers have varied considerably and some repatriates said it was hard to tell whether a fellow prisoner really swallowed the Red line or just played along for better treatment.

Durkin Stand-In Among Plumbers Hits GOP Rule

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of Labor Durkin's stand-in as head of the Plumbers Union (AFL) lashed out Monday at what he called the "pattern of plunder" of the Eisenhower administration.

Writing in the current issue of the union's journal, Peter J. Schoemann said:

"Today, the pattern of plunder is designed to eradicate national gains such as the minimum wage law, unemployment compensation, public power development, public housing, social security, etc. These are all under attack. Certainly the public climate forbids the expectation of further advances. We will do well to hold our own."

Durkin, the only Democrat in the Eisenhower cabinet, is on a four-year leave of absence as president of the union. Schoemann is acting president.

Ed Hillock, editor of the journal, told a reporter that Durkin has severed all connections with the international union in order to serve in the cabinet.

Resale of US Feed Discounted

ALBUQUERQUE (AP)—Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (D-NM) has discounted reports that Texas stockmen are reselling government drought emergency feed at a profit.

"Isolated instances of abuse of federal aid to stockmen may occur," Anderson said. "But the county committees are checking each applicant carefully, and very few of such incidents will occur."

Anderson said he believed the drought program is "well and carefully administered."



FOOD FOR THOUGHT, FOR REDS—West Berlin's mayor, Ernst Reuter, left, watches as a resident of Germany's Soviet-controlled zone jams his suitcase with food from an "Eisenhower parcel." Faces of the hungry visitors to West Berlin have been blocked out, to prevent recognition and possible reprisal by Communist authorities.

Moscow Hits Pledge To Rhee

LONDON (AP)—Moscow radio today interpreted the pledge of prompt resistance to any new Red aggression in Korea—signed by the United States and 15 allies—as giving South Korean President Syngman Rhee a green light to scuttle the truce.

The agreement, disclosed last Friday, was initiated by all the U. N. members with fighting forces in the truce-bound peninsula. It declared they "should be united and prompt to resist" any renewal "of the armed attack" in Korea.

The Russian broadcast said: "This declaration invites the inference that any armed provocation by the Syngman Rhee clique could be sufficient for the frustration of the Korean armistice."

"This is precisely how Syngman Rhee interprets this declaration," it added.

The 16-power declaration expressed determination to seek in good faith a Korean settlement and warned that the "consequences of a breach of the armistice would be so grave that, in all probability,

Phone Employees Strike Over Heat

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP)—Some 1,200 employees of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. in Austin, Waco and San Antonio, Tex., walked off their jobs yesterday protesting lack of air conditioning in their exchanges. Temperatures soared over 100 degrees, the workers said.

Austin's Bell employees voted to go back to work today pending negotiations for installation of air-conditioning facilities.

There was no indication when the other employees would return.

Identification Of Dead Pushed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon is speeding the identification of Americans on the list of 1,050 non-Korean captives reported by the Reds to have died in Communist prison camps.

The list, supplied in accordance with the armistice terms, reached Washington over the weekend. But the Defense Department

said public identification will be withheld—and even the total number of Americans listed—until exhaustive checks have been completed and all families of the men notified.

Red China's Peiping radio station reported last night that 1,050 non-Koreans had died in captivity. It also said the United Na-

tions Command had reported 8,440 Communist prisoners who had died while in U. N. hands.

Even if all of the dead prisoners reported by the Reds were Americans, which is highly unlikely, the number falls far short of the 8,705

U. S. servicemen listed by the Pentagon as missing in action.

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