

News dispatches from Pan Mun Jom emphasize the clock-like precision of the exchange of prisoners. They hand over so many, we hand over so many. Liaison officers at tables, check the lists. Our own returning captives pass through FREEDOM GATE, while a batch of Reds moves over to the enemy side. The proportion, five to one, one hundred of ours, to five hundred of theirs - all, checked off and delivered. Business like, neatly planned. But the news reporters over there think it is a bit mechanical and soul-less.

This is especially true of the third day of the proceedings, which is beginning in Korea. The third batch of prisoners returning to our side are all South Koreans -- no Americans. No captive G I's coming back, -- with cheers and laughter. More of these will be repatriated on subsequent days of the prisoner exchange.

Today's news merely emphasizes that element of -- contradiction. Some American prisoners, whose release was in the news this morning, tell of Red atrocities, a new and ugly feature.

~~stories related by returning Americans,~~ They say
~~they were in~~ ^{there were} -- death marches, in which -- prisoners,
too sick and ill to march, were murdered. One
American soldier says that Russian officers urged
the Chinese guards to shoot the captives. Still
other accounts tell of prisoners dying of semi-
starvation.

On the Red side, the Chinese radio ^{reports} charges
American mistreatment of Communist prisoners. ~~The~~ ^a
British Communist reporter, representing the London
Daily Worker, ^{declaring} ~~charges~~ -- that returning Reds looked
like victims of Nazi Concentration camps.

^H But, these charges and counter charges
^{unofficial} come in personal stories. Thus far, no accusation
of atrocity has appeared in the discussions of
the negotiators in charge of the prisoner exchange.

On the other hand, many prisoners continue
to say that they were treated well. One, today,
told how, on the way to a Red camp, the guards ousted
Korean peasants from their cottages so that the

prisoners could have shelter^T in these. Another says:
"We had plenty of everything. Sometimes, I ~~had~~ ^{ate}
better than the Communist doctors and guards.

One of the curious personal stories is related by Private Tibor Rubin of Long Beach, California. He was in the First Cavalry, when captured -- and he's Hungarian, not an American citizen at all. ^{HP} Today Private Rubin told how, back in the days when the Nazis grabbed Hungary, he was thrown into a Hitler Concentration Camp -- coming to the United States, after the end of the second World War. That gave him a peculiar status among the Reds. Legally, he's a citizen of Hungary -- and Hungary is now Communist. ^{HP} So they urged him to register as -- a Hungarian. But he always wrote -- "American". This on the basis that he hopes to become an American citizen. They offered to liberate him, and send him back to his native Hungary. But he refused. He says he was well treated, with one

exception. In ^a~~the~~ thick Hungarian accent he says:
"There was one loud-mouthed Communist guard who acted
as a political instructor. He said he was going to
shoot me and smash me to pieces. But", adds Private
Rubin -- "he was just a wind bag."

(The puzzle continues, with new indications
that the Reds ~~in the exchange of ill and injured,~~
may be holding back some of the prisoners. American
soldiers, whose release was in the news this
morning, continue to tell of comrades left behind in
hospitals and prison camps -- comrades worse off than
those taken to Pan Mun Jom. ^R This is the more
striking because of descriptions we have of the
latest batch of ill and injured, -- ~~handed over.~~
They arrived much more cheerful and gay than those
brought in, the first day. They ~~cheered and~~ laughed
and joked. Not one -- a stretcher case. They all
marched across under their own power, though one
was on crutches. "In fact" says the dispatch from

Pan Mun Jom, "most of them looked in such good health that it raised again the question -- why they were being returned, when it is reported that other U N soldiers far more seriously wounded and sick are being kept in Communist prison camps. The dispatches raise the question -- without being ~~xxxx~~ able to suggest an answer.)

FOLLOW KOREA PRISONERS

In Washington, Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire says that the Senate will want "all available information" on stories about the mistreatment of allied prisoners of war. The Senate is gravely concerned about reports indicating that more than five hundred captives perished in "death marches". Then, there is the matter of prisoners in bad shape, reported to have been held back by the Reds -- in the prisoner exchange.

At Pan Mun Jom, Communist newsmen tell American correspondents that the accounts of prisoners held back may derive from the fact that the ones left behind are stretcher cases -- to be included among those exchanged later in the week.

In Washington, military authorities say that it is impossible, right now, to form any sound judgment of the charges that are being made. They say they'll have to wait until the prisoner exchange has been completed -- and until the liberated captives have been questioned carefully by military officials.

KOREA PYONGYANG

In Moscow today, seven Britons ^{told} ~~tell~~ of experiences in Communist Korea. ^{Seven} ~~They are~~ civilians headed by Captain Vyvyan Holt, former British Consul General in Seoul. Interned since the beginning of the Korean war, now released and on their way home. They spent nineteen days recently, in the capital of Red Korea, and say: "There is nothing left of Pyongyang."

They tell of utter devastation, the Red capital having been hit repeatedly by U.S. bombers. "There ^{are} ~~were~~ no houses", they declare. "Just tunnels."

They say that while they were there, Pyongyang was bombed several times, and they took refuge under ground. The only human habitations are -- below the earth.

"One day" they relate a Brigadier came into ^{our} ~~their~~ underground shelter and ~~xxx~~ said that through the good offices of the Soviet government, ^{we} ~~they~~ would be released. ^{ff} Soon they were homeward bound through Soviet Russia.

KOREA OFFENSIVE

From Washington, a dispatch stating that a big offensive in Korea was called off by General Matthew Ridgeway, then our Supreme Commander in Tokyo. This is the ~~MM~~ offensive that General Van Fleet ^{says} ~~said~~ he wanted to launch when he was Commander of the Eighth Army in Korea -- when he had the Reds on the run, just before those futile armistice negotiations began. ^R Van Fleet proposed a drive, all out, on the ground -- coupled with an amphibious operation, landing behind the enemy lines. Something like those famous Inchon landings hurled by General MacArthur. But Ridgeway cancelled the Van Fleet plan -- largely, ~~as~~ we are told, because he thought it ~~MM~~ would involve ^{heavy} ~~large~~ casualties.

This account was given to a Senate Committee recently by General Lawton Collins, ~~as~~ Army Chief of Staff -- now revealed.

ARMY

Washington gives us a story that might be headed -- the old army game. A Congressional investigator stated^S that the Army spent forty-five ~~thousand~~ million dollars for soldiers overcoats, without paying much attention to the bids, or anything else. That much in a hurry to place the orders.

P Why the rush? Well, according to the investigators, the Army wanted to spend the money before a military appropriation expired. If they hadn't placed the orders, the money might have gone back to the U.S. Treasury.

Investigator Lewis Lapham told a Congressional committee today that more than a million two hundred thousand overcoats were purchased ~~in Nineteen Forty-Six. Later, the Army found it had~~
When the Army had
on hand, a million ~~overcoats~~ that officials didn't know about. Moreover, those new ~~overcoats~~ overcoats ordered in such a hurry, were found to be no good for combat soldiers in Korea. All this -- combined

with the shortage of overcoats at the war front.

Sounds like the old army game -- at its
worst.

OIL

The Department of Justice today filed a suit against five major oil companies -- under the anti-trust Law. Charging -- that they took part in an international oil cartel.

This is a civil suit -- taking the place of possible criminal action, under the Anti-Trust Law. The government contends that for twenty-five years, ever since Nineteen Twenty-Nine, the five big oil companies have had agreements with foreign concerns to control production, fixed prices and divide the world markets among themselves.

PLANE

Today brings no explanation of the airline crash in San Francisco Bay last night.

In the control tower in Oakland, Robert O'Neil was on duty, and tracking the incoming plane on a radar set. When suddenly, the image on the radar screen - "just disappeared".

"I looked out of the window" says O'Neil, and saw a terrific explosion on the Bay. It was immediately followed by a bright gasoline fire -- which lasted very briefly, it went out within ten or fifteen seconds." Fire extinguished, apparently, as the plane sank in the water.

Help was called immediately and two of the ten persons aboard were saved.

HELICOPTER

There's one bit of news today that suggests a terrifying combination. ~~and~~ it would be hard to imagine a more fearful twist of drama -- an air crash in conjunction with a giant forest fire.

Four army helicopters were flying from El Paso, Texas, to Tucson, Arizona, -- when one, with four Marines aboard, was forced down in the Chiricahua Mountains, near the border of New Mexico and Arizona. In a ~~an~~ canyon, the flying machine was caught in a powerful downdraft of air -- common enough in the gorges of the western mountains. The helicopter crashed.

~~That was the early news today, which~~

TR The news

added -- that the crash was in an area of a tremendous forest fire. *a*

~~The~~ tempest of flame -- sweeping through the woods and brush of the mountains. The rangers ~~decide~~ ^{call it} ~~is it~~ the worst forest fire in the history of Southeastern Arizona. *P* Later news today stated that two Marines were killed in the helicopter

mishap. -- ^Tthe two others escaped, one slightly
injured; ~~the other~~ ^{one} unscathed. The survivors have been
picked up -- as the giant forest fire ~~xxxx~~ rages
in the Chiricahua Mountains.

But now, the rift is being healed --
thanks to that private soldier of the Revolutionary
War.

POETRY

Bismarck, North Dakota, is having a battle of poetry -- between the beer drinkers and the bar tenders. Recently, the taverns of Bismarck raised the price of a bottle of beer from twenty-five to thirty cents. Which made the customers angry, and they are now replying in verse. A committee of beer drinkers has had cards printed, each with a rhymed couplet like the following:

When beer must sell for thirty cents
I'll brew my own and save expense

These they are distributing in the bars, *and*
~~The tavern keepers held a meeting last night, to~~
~~consider the situation. They seem a bit~~ *are* ~~worried~~
by the poetry ~~that is being~~ hurled at them. They
don't like the literature when a card is handed to
them like the following.

If my two bits won't buy a beer
I'll drag my trade away from here.

Well, its enough to drive a man to poetry
and I can only say --

My time is up and in my place

Here is our favorite -- Nelson Case

— —
Beg Pardon - I'm in a ^{lizzy} whirl
I should have said - our Ivory Girl.