

FREEDOM COMES TO ALLIED PRISONERS.

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The sight of Beirut meant freedom to 75 British prisoners of war captured by Vichy forces during the Syrian campaign, and sent to France. Some of them, taken just before General Dentz asked for armistice terms, were flown to Greece whilst terms were actually being discussed. From there - amongst them Indian officers - they had been taken across Europe, through Germany to France. When his perfidy was discovered, General Dentz was himself at once detained, together with 25 Vichy staff officers. This prompt realistic action had the desired effect, and the prisoners were soon on their way back to freedom.

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Meanwhile in Jerusalem, where his enforced stay had been made as easy as possible, General Dentz learned that Vichy had released the prisoners, thus ending his own detention.

At a London station, 200 French soldiers celebrated the end of almost incredible adventures. They had escaped from Germany. After a meal prepared and served by their countrywomen of the Free French forces, they left for a camp.

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At the camp they told their stories. In small groups they had broken out of Nazi prison camps. Hunted by the Nazis they had struggled across Germany through February snow. At length they crossed the Russian frontier, they told General Petit, who welcomed them at the camp. The Soviet, then neutral, was bound to intern them. When Hitler struck at Russia, they were set free. Now once again they are in the fight.

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