

The two-way traffic is flowing strongly at Panmunjom. The men who've been prisoners, on one side or the other - some of them more than two years - are at last on the road that leads home. North Koreans and Chinese many times outnumber returning United Nations prisoners, as we captured far more than the late enemy, but it's all running smoothly. Many of the Reds still show the hatred that drove them to rioting last year. They threw off their prison-camp uniforms, rather a futile strip-tease act, but they just couldn't keep their shirt on.

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United Nations men flown to Inchon had varying reports of their treatment. South Koreans had fared worst; some Americans had had shamefully grim experiences, though the few British troops returning had had little to complain about. High priority on the way home went to the wounded and sick. As soon as they arrived their names were radioed to relatives, marvellous news that at last they had come back as free men to civilisation.

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Music: FN 63
Klein
Watson
Non
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"BIG SWITCH" FIRST WEEK OF P.W. EXCHANGE

The hours of freedom at Panmunjom -- at long last return from Red captivity for men of the United Nations command. "Big Switch" they've dubbed this P-W exchange under terms of the Korean armistice. Names -- like Major John Daujet of California, first to be identified publicly -- flashed to the anxiously awaiting free world. Americans, British, Turks, Filipinos, Frenchmen, Colombians; and others; from Australia, Canada, Belgium, South Africa, and Greece -- and the hundreds of South Koreans -- liberated all!

Hungry faces, these, too many racked by disease and torture.... their stories are awful testimony to the horrors of Red imprisonment. Stories too of attempts at forcible Communist indoctrination.

By helicopter sick and wounded are moved to an evacuation hospital near Seoul everything moves with rehearsed, clock-like precision.

Others leave the neutral zone in ambulances -- and en route pass an incoming convoy with Red P-Ws. The ratio is 6 to 1 -- Chinese Communists and North Koreans released in greater numbers -- and certsinly putting on the bigger show. A propaganda display that sickens the heart of democracy, which knows too well that thousands of its sons are unaccounted for in the exchange. The United States has already warned that there will be retaliation if the arrogant Reds do not return all American P-Ws. See how the Communists have deliberately torn their clothing. See how other discard their U-N clothing issue as they enter the reception center. They know that the cameras are grinding -- that they are feeding the propaganda mill. It is for us to remember this scene, though it blackens the pages of history.

Inchon -- the beginning of the long voyage home for able-bodied freed G.I.S. This port bids them welcome. Not too long off are reunions with loved ones. ★

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Back at our exchange site, they keep coming in five weeks of Operation Big Switch! Names continue to be flashed to the outside world -- the names, and faces of men getting their first tastes of new freedom!