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RETURN OF 'GLORIOUS GLOUCESTERS'  
- COL. CARNE INTERVIEW

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Int. "When you are ready, Sir. Yes, as much voice as you can -

Carne: --- statements have been published in the Press about the treatment of POWs by the Chinese. I think the general impression which has been gained from those statements is a correct one. ----- again not so accurate.

I am going to give you my own opinions of those two sides. Having done so I shall feel I have made my contribution to the Press, and if you have any questions to ask I hope you will put them to some of the other Officers and Men. Well --- efforts made by the Chinese to improve the lot of their prisoners, and there is no doubt that <sup>though</sup> they did make such effort it wasn't entirely for humanitarian reasons; it was in accordance with their policy, the policy governing the treatment of prisoners, and this had a definite political motive. The re-education was carried out by means of lectures and discussions, but the study programme set was abandoned in the spring of 52. The reason for abandoning this method of indoctrination was perhaps because the lectures aroused a lot of hostility and thus defeated their object. Perhaps it was thought that the removal of this re-education might correct favourable conditions for the acceptance of the more insidious teaching of the various papers, books, magazines, which were provided. --- the Chinese methods of punishment were often primitive, and several officers and men which are unlikely to endure the system --- in Britain. The thought or fear of such punishment undoubtedly provided indirect pressure on some prisoners, and this was unquestionably part of the systematic attempt to obtain converts to communism or, less ambitiously, to sow little seeds of doubt --- which might produce its flowers. Although I have made no direct enquiry as to their political opinion, I think that impression is ~~incorrect~~ <sup>incorrect.</sup>

To my mind the vast majority of the men appear to have been affected very little by their captivity. They are just the same good lot of fellows they have always been, and I am quite certain that their families will agree that there is nothing strange about them politically or otherwise. --- when all is said and done perhaps the majority of men will agree that <sup>by</sup> my summing-up of the result of the experience, I have gained an added pride in being British - and I have lost a lot of weight."

Int: "I want to ask you one or two personal questions. Col. Carne will you please tell us how you spent your time."

Carne: "Most of my time carving, carving stones."

Int: "Have you kept any of the carvings, Sir?"

C: "Yes, - that is - one or two ----"

Int: "You were able to read. What did you read, Sir?"

C: "Well, I didn't read very much - communist literature is not very attractive, and so, even before my eyes started failing I was busy most of the time carving."

Int: "How did you keep track of time and dates, Sir?"

C: "I had a 51 calendar which I crossed off each day, and the following year I re-corrected it again, and so on."

Int: "----- keep up <sup>your</sup> ~~some~~ spirits for 19 months."

C: "Well, a lot of the credit goes to the carving, I think, taking as much exercise as possible under the circumstances." ---

Int: "Briefly, Sir, can you tell us what you think about the Glos's?"

C: "I think they were magnificent before they were captured, and from what I have heard the vast majority kept their end up amazingly well, and I am terribly proud of them."

Int: "Thank you, Sir, and good luck. Thank you."

Int: --- this tender, it is out of home -- what have you been doing to pass the time on the journey?

C: "Well, we have had a very pleasant voyage indeed. Everybody on the ship looked after us very well. Everybody very kind. "

Int: "Have you been doing any of the carving which you did during your captivity, Colonel?"

C: "That ~~was~~ was definitely a prison occupation. I have given this up for good."

Int: "---- how do you feel now that you are really within sight of home almost at Southampton docks?"

C: "Well, this is the day we have been waiting for for a very long time, and I am sure it is going to live up to our expectations."

Int: ? "Anyhow, the weather is exactly right ---- it is only 7 oclock, it is a fine morning and there is Southampton. What are you ~~you~~ looking forward to most, Colonel?"

C: "I think getting away with my wife."

Int: "Yes, I am sure."