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FIRST POWs SHIP HOME.

The 22,000 ton troopship Asturias moves slowly into Southampton Docks. For more than 500 of the men on board it is the end of a long journey - a journey that has brought them from prison camps in Korea, home again to their loved ones.

Eagerly the men swarm to the rails of the trooper as wives and sweethearts seek the faces of the men for whom they have waited. For many months, and in some cases for years, 8,000 miles have been between them. Now the anxiety, the fears, the loneliness have almost ended.

Anxiously they search among the crowds - and then an answering wave tells them what they have waited long to know: all is well with the folks they left behind. From a compound in Korea, to Blighty - the journey is over.

A sudden cloudburst sends bandmen hurrying for cover. Yes, its the old country all right - you don't get weather like this anywhere else in the world. But nothing could dampen their spirits right now. Their boys are back - and here they come.

In a moment, the months of weary captivity are forgotten. The privation and hardships, the suffering and frustration are swept away in the breathless joy of reunion. Home again are men of the Northumberland Fusiliers, the Royal Leicesters, the Ulster Rifles, the Royal Artillery, and the Gloucester regiment, the grand and glorious Gloucesters - men who added a new and shining chapter to the history of our fighting services.

During their imprisonment, most of the men were forced to attend lectures on Communism by their captors. In many cases, refusal led to severe punishment. Recently, frequent reports have stated that many Britishers have now turned Communist as a result of these lectures, and there has been a rumour that nearly half of those aboard the Asturias are Red sympathisers. Here's an opinion of these reports by ex-P.O.W. Sergeant E.M. Smith of the Gloucesters.

Corporal Upjohn, also of the Gloucesters, tells of the hardships he endured in Communist hands.

Devonian Corporal Holdham, recently awarded the Military Medal, also speaks of harsh treatment.

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Private Widzhe from Wakefield sums up the opinions of the majority of the men.

To be home again - to be among their own people - to walk in freedom, without fear - such is the future for the boys who've come back. And perhaps these precious things shall also guide the footsteps of the few, the very few, who have fallen victim to a new, insidious horror of modern warfare.