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REPATRIATED PRISONERS OF WAR ARRIVE IN EGYPT.

The first exchange of prisoners of war reaches a happy climax as the landings at the Castle docks at Alexandria with 129 British sick and wounded and protected personnel. Most of the repatriated men have been in hospital in Naples, and the walking cases are first to set foot on friendly soil after many months in Italian hospitals and prison camps. As they land inside the carefully guarded harbour, naval and military personnel give a warm welcome to the men who are wounded in body and health, but as cheerful in spirit as ever. In most cases captivity lasted for some 18 months, and to be homeward bound now must be a wonderful moment for them.

From the ship they are escorted to a waiting Red Cross train which will carry them to Cairo - one stage nearer Blighty.

As the train draws out, there are last goodbyes to be said to the nurses who have done so much to relieve their suffering.

First stop is at Tanta station where the good news has got around and many well wishers come forward with cigarettes and comforts of all kinds.

The platform at Cairo fills with the walking cases at the end of the train journey. Their travelling brought them by way of ~~Syria~~ Smyrna, and through the good offices of the International Red Cross, they now find themselves being driven by ambulances to the Hospital at Giza.

Our prisoners were as well treated in Italian hospitals as circumstances permitted. Their rations were poor, but this was because of a general food shortage in Italy. Now, that is all part of an unenviable experience, and what counts most of all is the thought of getting home again. There seems to be a very poignant lesson to be learnt from these men. It's very often the case that those who have lost most complain least.