

Uncensored POW Mail Called Big Break For Red Spies

Hint Reds Bend Ears Of POWs on Party Line

By PETER GRUENING
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MUNSAN, Korea, Jan. 2—

The United Nations delegate

conducting talks on prisoner

exchanges says there are

strong indications the Commu-

nists have tried hard to convert

Allied captives to communism.

Rear Adm. R. E. Libby, one-

man United Nations sub-delega-

tion, said he would be "very much

surprised" if the Communists

don't censor prisoner mail. He

again accused the Reds of having

stalled on the prisoner issue.

The slight, little U. S. admiral

said he could not predict how

soon the prisoners would be ex-

changed.

"You can be sure that we will

continue to do everything in our

power to secure the return of

Allied prisoners of war as soon

as possible," he said.

Adm. Libby said the United

Nations would speed the prisoners

to their families as soon as pos-

sible after their release. He also

said the higher percentage of

British, French and Turkish mis-

sing listed among the prisoners

might be an "attempt to create a

division in the ranks of the

United Nations."

Here are the questions and

answers:

Q—When can we expect our

men to return?

A—I dare not predict for fear

of being wrong. I would not

want to be guilty of raising false

hopes. Even if I guess correctly,

it would not reduce the period of

waiting.

Q—Will the sick and wounded

come first?

A—We continue to press for

an immediate exchange of the

seriously sick and wounded in

accordance with Articles 108 and

110 of the Geneva Convention.

By immediate I mean right now.

The Communists evade the ques-

tion. The Communists, however,

have indicated a willingness to

give priority to the sick and

wounded once an armistice agree-

ment becomes effective.

Q—Are the Communists stalling

on the prisoner exchange issue?

A—There may be a better word

for describing what the Commu-

nists appear to be doing; but I

cannot think of one.

Q—Will they censor prisoners'

letters?

A—I would be very much sur-

prised if they didn't.

Q—What will we do if we find

that some of the prisoners have

been murdered?

A—That question will have to

be answered by someone other

than myself, I don't know.

Q—Can we send parcels to our

men?

A—As you know, arrangements

have been made for the exchange

of mail. We haven't discussed ex-

changing parcels because we

couldn't be certain the Commu-

nists could handle the distribu-

tion and delivery problem.

Q—Will our prisoners be sent

home immediately after their re-

lease?

A—My responsibility as dele-

gate is arrangements concerning

POWs up to and including their

release. However, I'm certain

those who take over from there

will do everything possible to re-

unite the men with their families.

Q—Have the Communists tried

to convert our men into Commu-

nists?

A—All we know is what they

tell us, and the Communist dele-

gate takes a lot of credit for the

effort they have made in this

direction. The inference is strong

that they have done so.

Q—Why do you think there is

so much lower a percentage of

American prisoners than there

are British, French and Turkish?

A—Assuming the Communist

figures are true, I do not know.

But I do not think the Commu-

nists would overlook any oppor-

tunity to attempt to create a di-

vision in the ranks of the United

Nations.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2—Communist spies in the United States have an excellent new means of getting military information to their bosses in Red China—in letters to American prisoners of war.

There is no U. S. censorship

of this mail.

Anybody can pick out a name

at random from the prisoner-of-

war lists in the newspapers and

send off to this name information

of value to the Communist fight-

ing forces.

The letter would never reach

the addressee, of course, but

would be confiscated and read by

the Communists, who, naturally

have tight censorship of every

thing coming over their borders.

Army Secretary Frank Pace

said today he didn't know this

mail was not being censored by

the U. S.

"I can see danger in it—very

definitely," he said.

Mr. Pace added he would check

with Army information officials

to see what could be done about

it.

Chance of Lifetime

Meanwhile, a spokesman for

the Army Information Office said

it was his impression the matter

was discussed at a staff meeting

some time ago. At that time, he

said, it was decided that there

would be no censorship of mail to

prisoners of war "because of the

personal nature of the mail."

This decision may be in good

taste, but it gives the Reds the

chance of a lifetime to pick up

U. S. secrets. Also, there are the

bits of military information a

bona fide relative might let slip

into a letter to a prisoner.

Then there is the opportunity

for Reds here to work on the

morale of the prisoners by telling

them lies about conditions at

home. As for any money sent to

prisoners, it is certain this would

be appropriated by the Reds.

Top priority is given the mail in

the San Francisco Post Office, but

there is no comparison of ad-

dresses with prisoner lists, and

no check to determine if a let-

ter is sent by a relative.

Letters to prisoners began to

trickle into San Francisco shortly

after last June 22, when the De-

fense Department announced it

was hopeful of establishing com-

munication between prisoners and

families.

At that time, the department

announced that it couldn't guar-

antee delivery but that families

could address letters as follows:

Name, rank, serial number, care-

camps by American prisoners;

World Peace, Peiping, China.

The return address was to be

put on the envelope and the words

"prisoner of war" in place of a

stamp. Letters were to be short

and were limited to one per

month.

How Mail Travels

Here is what happens when you

mail a letter to a prisoner of war:

First, all such letters are han-

dled in this country as air mail.

They go to the San Francisco Post

Office, to be sorted in a building

on the waterfront called the

Postal Concentration Center, where

all Far East military mail is

handled.

Prisoner mail is put into pigeon-

holes labeled Army Post Office

100. Each day an orange pouch is

made up of mail then on hand—

about 4000 letters have been han-

dled in the past three days. The

pouch is locked and can be opened

only with a key in Tokyo.

The pouch then is flown to Ja-

pan by Military Air Transport

Service. There it is separated from

other mail and delivered to Com-

munist authorities in Korea.

Reports U. S. Culls Letters For 'Red' GIs

By United Press

TOKYO, Jan. 2—A radio cor-

respondent said tonight that let-

ters from American war prison-

ers in Korea to their people at

home are being opened and read

by Allied officers here.

The letters are not censored

but are examined at supreme

headquarters for information

they may contain, NBC Corre-

spondent Irving R. Levine said.

"Special officers now are read-

ing all letters sent out of Red

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Nothing Cut Out

"Before air mailing the letters

to POWs' families in the United

States these officers look for in-

formation in the letters includ-

ing any evidence that the douch-

boy has succumbed to the Com-

munist line.

"Not a word is cut out before

air mailing them to anxious

families, but passages of interest

are copied.

The officers copy into indi-

vidual files anything the GI pri-

soner writes that indicates Com-

munist indoctrination has taken

effect. On the basis of these files,

each released POW will be ques-

tioned on his prison camp activity.

Specialized Trained

Teams of U. S. officers—espe-

cially selected and trained—now

are ready to interrogate our sol-

diers after they are released.

"When they are set free, the

prisoners must reply whether they

believe what they wrote—or if

that was just the price of getting

the letter out.

Before a GI prisoner will be

allowed to leave Korea he must



ACCUSED SITTER—Delora Mae Campbell, 16, accused of strangling 6-year-old Donna Joyce Isbell in Los Angeles, shows little emotion as she tells how she knotted a sock about the child's neck. Delora Mae, who had been employed as a baby-sitter, told police of a strange "vision" that led to the slaying after she had watched a psychological murder story on television.

\$290, Ring Stolen

Approximately \$290 in cash and a child's diamond ring were taken by burglars from the Richard Middleton residence, 3548 Sher-

man Dr., while the owner was away over the holidays, he told police today.

The burglars were taken to the police station after they were arrested.

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