



# THE NEWS

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Vol. 60—No. 9,268 Phone LA 1271

ADELAIDE: FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1953

24 PAGES

Price 4d.

## CONFLICT ON POWs U.S. charges of atrocities not supported

**NEW YORK, Thurs.:** Two conflicting pictures of Communist treatment of POWs are being given by correspondents reporting on the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners in Korea.

This is pointed out in a despatch from Bill Boss, a Canadian correspondent at "Freedom Village," the UN reception centre.

Boss says that on the one hand are accounts from US prisoners of death marches and Communist atrocities, and on the other British Commonwealth accounts of uniformly decent treatment.

Boss comment coincides with statements by Pte Glenn Brown, of Seaclyde, Adelaide, and other released Australian POWs that they were treated fairly, and with a suggestion by a Christian Science Monitor correspondent that stories of death marches and brutality should be treated with reserve until more evidence was obtained.

Boss said British security officers in Korea ruled out all questions about aspects of alleged brutality.

Two out of five Australians who returned on Thursday were made available for interviews, and both were obviously apprehensive after being warned.

Boss added: "They obviously spoke under duress, and their testimony apparently could be discounted."

Now that it was apparent the US authorities were not concerned over security precautions.

wealth correspondents felt Commonwealth authorities should take the same attitude, Boss said.

A statement received from Commonwealth authorities had said that allegations of ill-treatment of repatriated prisoners had been referred to higher authority, but that information at hand was that no ill-treatment had been reported by Commonwealth prisoners so far returned.

Six British prisoners who had come from Camp No. 1 at Chongson, where 800 US and 600 Commonwealth men were housed, had said all were treated alike, Boss continued.

Pte. Glenn Brown, the South Australian prisoner exchanged in Korea on Thursday, said that the Communists "treated me fairly, same as their own," an American Associated Press despatch reported from Freedom Village today.

He said the Communist hospitals were short of sheets, but the doctors gave him sulfa drugs and penicillin. The message did not mention what Brown was treated for.

### 'Well treated'

A United Press despatch from Munsan quoted an interview with Pte. John Davis, of Maryborough, Queensland.

Davis said he appreciated the difficulties the Chinese went through to give prisoners the best possible treatment under war conditions.

In a cable yesterday from Munsan, Henry Hayward, chief Far Eastern correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, said too much emphasis was given to alleged "death marches" of Allied troops in some accounts of interviews with repatriated prisoners.

"Forced marches, it is clear, did occur, and many Allied prisoners perished as a result," Hayward said.

"But it is the considered opinion here that it would be gross exaggeration for the American public and Congressional officials to receive the impression that anything approaching the ill-famed Bataan 'death march' in the Philippines in the second world war occurred."

PANMUNJOM, Thurs. The Communists handed over the first of the latest group of Allied POWs on time today the fifth day of the exchange of Korean war prisoners.

Communists today released a Dutch sergeant, a Canadian lance-corporal, two British riflemen, 25 South Koreans, 21 Americans and two Turks.—AAP

### Australian POW on way to hospital



TODAY'S RADIO PICTURE FROM KOREA shows Pte. Eric Donnelly, one of the five Australian soldiers released by the Reds yesterday, being carried on a litter on arrival at Panmunjom. He was evacuated direct from the Panmunjom base hospital by helicopter.

## "Australia on the march"

Today News Ltd., begins a series of commissioned articles which break new ground in Australian post-war journalism.

One of Australia's most distinguished writers Mr. Clive Turnbull has spent the past three months visiting the major developmental works which are transforming Australia, and talking with the people who are building them.

The potential cost of the works he saw is estimated at £500,000,000.

These projects ranging from Hobart to the lush canefields of Northern Queensland are transforming our country at a rate which could not have been dreamed of by the pioneers and explorers three generations ago.

"Australia on the March" begins in The News on Page 13 today. The first project discussed—Radium Hill—appears in The Mail tomorrow.

The series will continue for the next two months in The News and The Mail.

Already schools and study groups have made preparations for obtaining complete sets of these articles for instruction among students.

Nowhere else can anyone obtain so complete a survey of what is happening today to shape the future of this country.

See Live History—Page 12.

## Remand on 2 murder charges

The public gallery in No. 1 Adelaide Police Court was crowded today when Joan Balaban, 29 was further remanded by Mr. Coombe, S.M. until Monday week on two charges of murder.

Balaban, chemist of Gouger street City who looked pale and sick staggered into the dock. He was not wearing a tie and his clothes were crumpled.

Many of the spectators were women. Balaban was charged with the murder of his wife Thelma Joyce Balaban 30 in an upstairs bedroom at her Sunshine Snack Shop Gouger street, City about 1.30 a.m. on Sunday, April 12.

It was further alleged that Balaban on the afternoon of December 5 last murdered Zora Kusic 29, in a shack in which she was living at the rear of a boarding house at North parade Torrensville.

The Police Prosecutor (Inspector O'Sullivan) said a further remand was necessary as the prosecution was not ready to go on.

Mr P N Wave appeared for Balaban.

## TELEVISION STUDIO IN HILLS ENVISAGED

A commercial television studio was envisaged in the hills near Adelaide, the manager of 5DN (Mr. J. S. Larkin) told the Royal Commission on Television today.

Mr. Larkin said Hume Broadcasters Ltd. expected to spend £350,000 in establishing an Adelaide station.

Principal costs were:—Transmitter, mast, building, £135,000; two studios, £45,000; five cameras, £32,000.

Mr Larkin said he was opposed to so-called cultural TV as represented by some BBC programs. He cited the televising of the play "Mourning Becomes Electra" over two nights.

The Adelaide Plains, with surrounding hills, was an ideal site for television transmission he said.

A high point in the Adelaide Hills would be a good transmission site. Studios would need to be built nearby to eliminate the expense of a link with city studios.

The operators of 5DN, Hume Broadcasters, Ltd., had applied for a television licence, and were prepared to operate in Adelaide from the beginning of TV.

This is the third and final day of the Commission's Adelaide sitting. Members of the commission are Prof G. W. Paton (chairman), who is Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University, Messrs R. G. Osborne, chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Control Board, C. B. Bednall, managing editor of the Courier Mail, Brisbane, R. C. Wilson, a member of the NSW Legislative Council and of the council of the NSW Graziers Association, N. S. Young, public accountant, of Adelaide, and Mrs. Maud Foxton, State president of the Country Women's Association of WA.

Mr. Larkin favored a television system for Australia on the lines of present national and commercial sound radio practices.

Mr Young: How many commercial TV stations could show a reasonable return in Adelaide?

Mr Larkin: The man who gets in first will make it much harder for anyone who follows. If there were, say, two stations here, more people would buy receivers.

Mr. Bednall: If only one commercial TV licence were made available in Adelaide, what would be the advantages of getting it?

Mr. Larkin: The first TV station could sign up program material and advertisers. People would get into the habit of listening to that program.

Mr. Larkin said he would prefer that commercial licences be granted to all suitable applicants.

Mr. Wilson: Would you rather have three stations struggling for a limited amount of revenue than a jointly operated station by three companies?

Mr. Larkin: We are not afraid of competition and are prepared to hold our own.

Mr. Larkin said many Adelaide business men who had seen overseas TV were anxious to advertise on Australian TV when it started.

"They don't advertise on the radio, but their products are 'naturals' for TV," he said.

(Continued on Page 3)

Is this the answer? Page 12.

## STABBING IN HOSPITAL: 2 WOUNDED

A patient allegedly stabbed another patient, then cut his own throat in a private hospital at Freeling today.

Both victims are still alive.

Johann Robert Kirchner, 90, has wounds to the face and throat, and Francesco Salvetti, 71, is suffering from a wound to the throat.

This afternoon, Kirchner's condition was reported to be serious, but Salvetti's is believed to be satisfactory.

Both are being transferred to Royal Adelaide Hospital.

### "Talking in sleep"

The incident allegedly followed an argument between the men, who shared a room at Maristowe Private Hospital.

It is alleged the attack occurred because one of the men was talking in his sleep.

When Yvonne Boxhall, a domestic, took tea to their room, she found both in their beds bleeding profusely.

Kirchner, who is well known in the district, had been living at the hospital since August, 1951. Friends said today he was an active man and had made the hospital his home.

Det.-Sgt. Eaton and Det. J. O. Giles have joined Senior Constable P. J. Schwerdt in inquiries.

## Man found in gutter

An 80-year-old man, believed to have been the victim of a hit-run driver was found lying in a water-filled gutter at Payneham at 8 a.m. today.

The man, Thomas Gilbert Higgins, of Methodist Old Folk's Home, Felixstowe road, Payneham is believed to have been in the gutter for some hours.

He was admitted to Royal Adelaide Hospital with a fractured right ankle and abrasions to the head and body.

He was found at the corner of Felixstowe and Payneham roads.

### Polio suspects

A boy, 5, from Naracoorte and a 29-year-old woman from the metropolitan area were admitted to Northfield Infectious Diseases Hospital today as polio suspects.

## MINE DETECTOR USED IN GARDEN MURDER SEARCH

LONDON, Thurs.: Scotland Yard officers today made a two-hour search with a mine detector in the garden of the home, near Blackpool, of Mrs. Sarah Rickett, 79-year-old rum-drinking widow.

She had been found dead with rat poison in her body.

Police hope the hunt may produce evidence to solve the 10-day-old death riddle of the twice-widowed, semi-recluse, eccentric widow.

Police sifted every yard of back garden, then suddenly switched to the front and probed among the daffodils, plants, and crazy paving.

They are concentrating on the belief that Mrs. Rickett was murdered.

Her recently made will is important evidence.

Mrs. Louisa Merrifield, who became Mrs. Rickett's housekeeper five weeks before her death, said: "I have no idea what the police are looking for, unless it's Mrs. Rickett's money."—AAP.

Special 16-page issue tomorrow

Soon after the Anzac Day march begins tomorrow morning. The News of 16 pages will be available with—

• Pictures and stories of men, women and events in the big Anzac Day observance.

• Last minute sporting news and comments on all runners engaged at Morphettville and Wayville, with newspaper and radio selections, and a

• Special two-page instalment of the great POW escape story, "They Have Their Exits" (begin this exciting new serial in The News today).

LAST