



Back From Jap Prison—Marine Private First Class Gene A. Fleener, of Newburg, Iowa, is shown resting at a naval hospital in Pearl Harbor before undertaking the last leg of a journey that brought him from Japanese prison camps to home. Fleener, a prisoner for nearly four years, was captured by the Japs at Wake Island. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fleener, of Newburg.

4 Years In Jap Prison

—7945—
**Marine Gene Fleener
Is Home; Worst Treat-
ment Last Two Months**

Marine Private First Class Gene A. Fleener, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fleener of Newburg, Iowa, stopped at a naval hospital in Pearl Harbor en route to the United States after nearly four years in Japanese camps for prisoners of war.

Fleener, captured when Wake Island was surrendered, is one of a group of repatriated Allied military prisoners being returned from Japan to the United States. He stopped here for a brief rest before beginning the last leg of his flight. He arrived home in Newburg recently.

The Iowa Marine, who said he was beaten by the Japanese aboard ship en route to a prison compound near Shanghai, and after he had arrived at his first destination, said that his worse experience came during the last two months of the war.

Taken in the early summer of this year to Hokkaido, northernmost of the Japanese home islands, he was put to work in a coal mine which had been condemned as unsafe. Fed on a near-starvation diet, he was compelled to work long hours despite his weakness from hunger.

Fleener said he believed few of

his comrades could have lived through the rigors of winter under the conditions imposed on them by the Japanese.

The Newburg man said that on his return to the States he is planning to return to school to complete his education.

—★—