

**KIRKCALDY PRISONER IN ITALY  
ARRIVES HOME****Wounded Near Tobruk**

Pte. Douglas H. Stocks, of 15 William Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife's only repatriated prisoner from Italy, arrived at his home on Thursday.

After being badly wounded in the leg, Pte. Stocks was captured by the German Afrika Corps and taken to an Italian hospital. This was in November, 1941, when the 8th Army, under General Auchinleck, was fighting against great odds, both materially and in man-power. The experience, however, was invaluable, according to Pte. Stocks, and was the making of the present Army.

Following his capture he was taken by plane to Derna and then by an hospital ship to Italy.

"In Italy conditions are poor," he said. "Food consists chiefly of rice and macaroni, medical supplies are limited, and the morale of the people is low."

He stressed the importance of the grand work being done by the Red Cross in the way of providing the prisoners with parcels. Owing to the lack of transport, letters and parcels from home were not very regular. On one occasion, on awakening in hospital every prisoner found a new pair of pyjamas by his bedside, thanks to the Red Cross.

After his experiences in Bari Hospital, it was with almost unbelievable joy that Pte. Stocks heard that he was to be one of the prisoners chosen to be repatriated.

The first part of his journey coincided with an R.A.F. raid on Italy, and one of the two trains was held up for the whole night in a tunnel. On arriving at Lisbon the prisoners were given a great time, being entertained to a grand dinner by British people there. Regarding the Portuguese people, he maintained that they were definitely pro-British so far as he had seen them.

The journey across the Bay of Biscay was uneventful, the time being passed by attending cinema shows, and of thinking about what they were going to do when they got home.

Before taking part in the fighting in the Middle East, Pte. Stocks also served in Syria, Cyprus, Palestine, and Iraq.

Before the war he was employed by the Fifty Shilling Tailors, High Street, Kirkcaldy. He was educated at Kirkcaldy High School.