

LINES AND VOICE.....STAGG.

ISSUE 1446.

MUSIC BACKGROUND.....SEE CUE SHEETS.

TUES. 5th JAN.

D-DAY MEN WELCOMED HOME!

Two thousand people nearly raised the roof of the London Terminus when the leave men came home. It was nearly seven months since they embarked on the invasion of Europe, and successfully brought off one of the most hazardous operations in military history. These were the first men to come home. The spectators at the Station gave voice to the gratitude felt by the whole country.

Much water has flowed under the bridges since the never to be forgotten D-Day. What deeds the British Army has accomplished in half a year; first gaining a bridgehead against the strongest forces the enemy could muster, then fighting him back to Holland and the German border. Such, baldly stated is the achievement in which the men now on leave played apart.

(CV para) They had their days of triumphant, when all went well, and as always in war days of peril, when nothing would go right. Arrhom, Walchoron, Nijmegen, the Sheldt -- never before has a British army crowded so much into so short a time.

They balloted for leave. Each unit was told how many men it was allowed and they drew lots for the lucky numbers. It will take some months for leave to be given to all. Obviously only a fraction of the British forces on the Western Front can be spared at any one time. The fortunate men packed their equipment, ready for the transport detailed to take them to the embarkation port. Their joy can be well imagined. Into six months they have crowded experience enough for a lifetime.

PAGE 2...cont.

Rigid censorship forbids anything but the briefest glimpses of the Journey Home. They were coming on short leave. There is no tonic for the fighting men like a holiday in the land he loves. May it not be long before they come home for good.