

07

3.13 PM. HOMECOMING OF KOREA P.O.W.

A FOUR ENGINED HASTINGS TRANSPORT PLANE CROSSED THE SOUTH COAST OF ENGLAND AT THREE O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON AND INSIDE IT A SHOUT OF 'BLIGHTY, HOME AT LAST!!' WENT UP FROM A SCORE OF THROATS. THEN FOR ANOTHER 20 MINUTES THE SPRING GREEN FIELDS OF ENGLAND UNROLLED LIKE A TAPESTRY BENEATH THE ENGINES OF THE PLANE BEFORE IT WAS DUE TO REACH LYNEHAM, THE LONDON AIRPORT OF THE R.A.F, SET IN THE MIDST OF THE WILTSHIRE DOWNS.

IT BROUGHT HOME TO LAUGHING AND CRYING WIVES, MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN 22 BRITISH SOLDIERS WHO, ONLY A FORTNIGHT AGO, WERE PRISONERS IN THE HANDS OF THE COMMUNISTS IN KOREA.

THEY WERE AMONGST THE FIRST BATCH OF UNITED NATIONS TROOPS EXCHANGED UNDER THE SICK AND WOUNDED PLAN AND THEIR FLIGHT HALF WAY ROUND THE WORLD BEGAN IN JAPAN ON SATURDAY.

OF THE 22 REPATRIATED MEN, EIGHT WERE STRETCHER CASES AND THE OTHER 14 ABLE TO WALK. THERE WERE FIVE MEN FROM LONDON AND ELEVEN OF THE 'GLORIOUS GLOUCESTERS'.

AT THE AIRPORT TO GREET THE MEN OFFICIALLY WAS LT GENERAL SIR ERNEST DOWN, C-IN-C, SOUTHERN COMMAND, WITH LT GENERAL SIR EDWARD WETHERall, COLONEL OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT; LT COLONEL D.B. GRIST, A COMPANY COMMANDER WITH THE 1ST BATTALION THE GLOUCESTERS DURING THE INJIM BATTLE; AND GENERAL SIR JAMES STEELE, COLONEL OF THE ROYAL ULSTER RIFLES.

NOTT

3.19 PM. ADD HOMECOMING.

THE MEN ON BOARD THE HASTINGS TODAY WERE:

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT-

CORPORAL WILLIAM GREENAWAY, STRAMORE ROAD, GUILDFORD, COUNTY DOWN;
CORPORAL L.A. MANLEY, STRAND ON THE GREEN, CHISWICK;
LANCE CORPORAL WILLIAM G. SWANCOTT, BLACKHOUSE ROAD, WARLEY, OLDBURY, WARWICK;
PRIVATE WILLIAM COX, CORNWALLIS GROVE, EDMONTON, LONDON;
PRIVATE G. CHAMBERS, CHEPSTOW ROAD, FERGUSON LANE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE;
PRIVATE A. HAWKINS, ALBANY STREET, TREDWORTH, GLOUCESTER;
PRIVATE D. LARGE, VALLEY COTTAGES, GUITTING TOWER, CHELTENHAM;
PRIVATE A.E. HUNT, EARLHAM GROVE WEST, WESTON-SUPER-MARE;
PRIVATE H.J. BROWN, STEVENS FIELDS, KINGSLEY, BORDON, HANTS;
PRIVATE E. HARTLAND, WESTBURY STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON;
PRIVATE J.T. READ, BRIDGE STREET, LEOMINSTER, HEREFORDSHIRE.

WELCH REGIMENT:

PTE P. BOOTH, THE LANE, WESTMANCOTE BREDON, NEAR TEWKESBURY.

ROYAL ULSTER RIFLES:

RIFLEMAN R.F. ROBERTS, HOOKS RD, PECKHAM, S.E.15;
RIFLEMAN W G POLLARD, RALEIGH RD, HORNSEY;
RIFLEMAN J.N. MCNALLY, WATT ST, RAVENHILL AVE, BELFAST;
RIFLEMAN G.L. HOBSON, HARRISMITH RD, LIVERPOOL.

3.26 PM ADD: HOMECOMING.

ROYAL NORFOLK REGIMENT.

LANCE CORPORAL RG.T. GUESS, PEARTREE ROAD, LUTON.

ROYAL FUSILIERS.

FUSILIER G.S. HODKINSON D.C.M ARNOLD ESTATE, DOCKHEAD, BERMONDSEY.

8TH HUSSARS.

TROOPER E. O'DONNELL, LANGTREE STREET, PARR, ST HELENS, LANCASHIRE TROOPER A.E. SURRIDGE, PARKFIELDS, ROYDON, HERTS; TROOPER A. CALVERLEY, WOODEN ROAD, ROCK FERRY, BIRKENHEAD.

ROYAL ENGINEERS.

SAPPER R. MILNES, WADSWORTH STREET, DENABY MAIN, DONCASTER.

THE HASTINGS TRANSPORT ARRIVED OVER LYNEHAM AIRFIELD AT 3-17 PM AND LANDED SIX MINUTES LATER.

X-DF8440
1/5/53

INTERVIEWED AS PER NUMBERED.

With the compliments of Public Relations Southern Command.

The prisoners of war returning by air to Lynham on Friday 1 May will be:-

The Gloucestershire Regiment.

Cpl William Greenaway, 1 Stramore Road, Gildford, Co. Down.
Cpl L.A. Manley, 14 Strand-on-Green, Chiswick.
L/Cpl William G. Swancott, 95 Blackhouse Road, Warley Oldbury, Warwick.
Pte William Cox, 12 Cornwallis Grove, Edmonington, London N 9. - 2 letters with wife
Pte G. Chambers, 58 Chepstow Road, Ferguson Lane, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Pte A. Hawkins, 47 Albany Street, Tredworth, Gloucester.
Pte D. Large, Valley Cottages, Guitting Power, Cheltenham.
Pte A.E. Hunt, 5 Earlam Grove West, Weston-super-Mare.
Pte H.J. Brown, Stevens Fields, Kingsley, Bordon, Hants.
Pte E. Hartland, 32 Westbury Street, Wolverhampton.
Pte J.T. Read, 23 Bridge Street, Leominster, Herefordshire.

The Welch Regiment.

Pte P. Booth, The Lane, Westmancote Bredon, near Tewkesbury.

Royal Ulster Rifles.

Rfn R.F. Roberts, 9 Hawks Road, Peckham, S.E. 15.
Rfn W.G. Pollard, 65 Raleigh Road, Hounsey.
Rfn J.N. McNally, 7 Watt Street, off Ravenhill Avenue, Belfast.
Rfn G.L. Hobson, 65 Harrismith Road, Liverpool.

The Royal Norfolk Regiment.

L/Cpl R.G.T. Guess, 17 Peartree Road, Luton.

The Royal Fusiliers.

Fus. G.S. Hodgkinson, DCM, 77 Arnold Estate, Dockhead, Bermondsey. → Mother
→ 2 MOTHER.
8 Hussars.

Tpr E. O'Donnell, 41 Langtree Street, Park, St Helens, Lancs.
Tpr A.E. Surrige, 75 Parkfields, Royden, Herts.
Tpr A. Calverley, 11 Wooden Road, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead.

Royal Engineers.

Spr R. Milnes, 11 Wadsworth Street, Denaby Main, Doncaster.

30 April 1953.

With the compliments of Public Relations Southern Command.

The prisoners of war returning by air to Lyneham on Friday 1 May will be:-

Hand of Sister in Law
4/16
Sister
1 x 5
Sister
mother

The Gloucestershire Regiment.

Cpl William Greenaway, 1 Stramore Road, Gildford, Co. Down.
Cpl L.A. Manley, 14 Strand-on-Green, Chiswick.
L/Cpl William G. Swancott, 95 Blackhouse Road, Warley Oldbury, Warwick.
Pte William Cox, 12 Cornwallis Grove, Edmonington, London N 9.
Pte G. Chambers, 58 Chepstow Road, Ferguson Lane, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Pte A. Hawkins, 47 Albany Street, Tredworth, Gloucester.
Pte D. Large, Valley Cottages, Guitting Power, Cheltenham.
Pte A.E. Hunt, 5 Earham Grove West, Weston-super-Mare.
Pte H.J. Brown, Stevens Fields, Kingsley, Bordon, Hants.
Pte E. Hartland, 32 Westbury Street, Wolverhampton.
Pte J.T. Read, 23 Bridge Street, Leominster, Herefordshire.

friend 2 x 5
mother
friend

The Welch Regiment.

Pte P. Booth, The Lane, Westmancote Bredon, near Tewkesbury.

Royal Ulster Rifles.

with Rife
Rfn R.F. Roberts, 9 Hound Road, Postham, S.E. 15.
Rfn W.G. Pollard, 65 Raleigh Road, Hoxsey.
Rfn J.N. McNally, 7 Watt Street, off Ravenhill Avenue, Belfast.
Rfn G.L. Hobson, 65 Harrismith Road, Liverpool.

The Royal Norfolk Regiment.

L/Cpl R.G.T. Guess, 17 Peartree Road, Luton.

Commas
below
6
Close friend

The Royal Fusiliers.

Fus. G.S. Hodgkinson, DCM, 77 Arnold Estate, Dockhead, Bermondsey.

1 x 2
mother
mother

8 Hussars.

Tpr E. O'Donnell, 41 Langtree Street, Patr, St Helens, Lancs.
Tpr A.E. Surridge, 75 Parkfields, Royden, Herts.
Tpr A. Calverley, 11 Wooden Road, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead.

Royal Engineers.

Spr R. Milnes, 11 Wadsworth Street, Donaby Main, Doncaster.

30 April 1953.

Diary

25/4/53 - No.4

RETURN OF RELEASED PRISONERS-OF-WAR

The War Office and the Air Ministry state that the United Kingdom prisoners-of-war released by the North Koreans are leaving Japan on Saturday by Hastings aircraft on the first stage of their journey home.

It is anticipated that the majority of those released on 20-21st April will be on this plane. The next-of-kin will be informed by the authorities in London as soon as the complete passenger list has been received. The homeward journey is to be made in an accelerated flight but to a schedule which will give them adequate rest en route after their trying experiences in confinement.

The party is expected to reach this country on Friday, 1st May.

It is hoped that by early next week letters will be received by the next-of-kin concerned notifying them of the approximate time the plane is expected so that near relatives desiring to do so can be at the airfield.

WAR OFFICE

URGENT. MU Partington. Paramount

Whitehall 9400.
Exts. 65 & 368.

WAR OFFICE, S.W.1.

28th April, 1953.

Recd.

29.4.53. All.

Dear Sir,

The first party of released prisoners of war from Korea are due by Hastings aircraft at Lyneham on Friday, 1st May, about 3.20 p.m. (weather and other circumstances permitting).

After they have been welcomed by their relatives, the walking cases will be available for interview by the Press in the lounge.

In view of their past experiences and tiring journey, it is requested that interviews should not be prolonged beyond half-an-hour, and I am sure you will accept this request as reasonable in the circumstances.

Photography will be available on both the tarmac and in the lounge.

Applications for passes to enter the airfield should be made to the Information Office of The Air Ministry, Whitehall.

Should there be any appreciable alteration in the time of arrival notification will be given to the agencies for circulation.

Major Merrill, P.R. Officer, Southern Command, and Capt. Brooker from P.R. War Office, will be in attendance at the airfield and also Air Ministry, Public Relations Office.^F

Yours faithfully,

John McCulloch

(John McCulloch)
Chief Press Officer.

The Editor.
The Art Editor.

rev
25/4/53.

HOME

come all but two—and the man who took this picture



P.O.W. CAMP PICTURE (from left): Fusilier George Hodkinson, D.C.M., Private F. Booth, Lance-Corporal E. Guess, Private H. J. Brown.



PRIVATE WILLIAM COX, of Lower Edmonton, London, is interviewed near Munsan after being freed.



Rifleman Spencer.

Private Large.

Sergeant Lucas.

TWENTY-TWO British prisoners of war freed at Panmunjom are scheduled to leave Japan at 8.30 a.m. today for a week-long flight to their waiting families.

Officers at Iwakuni air base said 15 walking patients and seven stretcher cases who had already had a medical overhaul will take off in a four-engined Hastings aircraft.

The exact time of arrival in Britain is uncertain, but should be on "Friday or Saturday next."

The official list of those who will board the Hastings disclosed the two remaining of the first 24 repatriates are Private Raymond Fish, of King's Lynn, and Sergeant Wilfred Lucas, of Hammerden, Stonegate, Sussex.

With the returned men came the top picture of four of them in a prison camp—taken by photographer Frank Noel, who is himself still a prisoner.

Among those who will be on the plane:—

Pte. William Cox, of Lower Edmonton; Fusilier George Hodkinson, of Bermondsey, London; Pte. Peter Booth, of Tewkesbury; L/Cpl. Robert Guess, of Luton; Pte. H. J. Brown, of Kingsley, Hampshire; and Pte. D. Large, of Cheltenham.

Rifleman E. I. Spencer, of Liverpool, was one of four prisoners freed yesterday.

THE MAJOR HIS WOUN

ON the night of June 26-27, 1952, a British patrol in the Korean no-man's land entered a minefield whose marking had been destroyed