

This is the film record of the days in Northern France and Belgium when defeat of the Northern Allied Armies was averted by a miracle of fighting genius. The order to withdraw was given; the most brilliant rearguard action in military history began as the British Expeditionary Force fell back towards ~~Dunkirk~~

Warplanes of the Allied Air Force played their part in the withdrawal. R.A.F. fighters were constantly in the air beating off the attacking bombers with huge losses to the enemy. But they were heavily outnumbered. This action brings home more clearly than ever the need for more and more planes. There was not a man nor a machine in the Royal Air Force that did not perform superlative feats of arms in this battle. But there were not enough. We must have double, three times and four times our present strength in the air. And if we work we know we can

get ~~to~~ it

Now to Dunkirk. In the port were ships of every shape and size, taking off the men of the B.E.F. and their French comrades. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ And once again the Navy has earned undying gratitude. Under a hail of shell-fire and bombing and machine-guns, the warships sent over a terrific barrage of protection

Dunkirk was still holding out while tens of thousands of our troops embarked for Britain. Tugs, trawlers, pleasure steamers --- little ships of all kinds came out loaded with soldiers --- battle-worn, dog-tired, hungry but undefeated.

669
B.E.F. HOME FROM FLANDERS. (2)

Their spirit was never broken. Their ranks were solid to the end. And they ^{had} inflicted terrible losses on the enemy as they fought every inch of the ~~way~~ road back.

So they came across the Channel --- many of them wounded, but all of them cheerful. More nurses are wanted --- trained nurses, assistant nurses, nursing auxiliaries. If you are not already working in a hospital or district nursing, ask your medical officer of Health how to join the civil nursing reserve.

Still they come. They have the true tradition of the Old Contemptibles. As they fought like tigers under Lord Gort they earned themselves ~~the name of the Unbreakables~~ a new name --- the Unbreakables.

In the British way, they even brought their animals out of that inferno.

So from the harbours they finished their journey by rail in Britain. Tired, ^{many} ~~many~~, many of them wounded and terrifically hungry --- but there was a non-stop buffet all ready for them.

And somehow from this grim reverse of fortune, we have gained confidence. The old false complacency is gone --- but we have been given real proof that Britain is unbeatable. These men have been through a hell that is beyond any man's imagination, but the courage that brought them through has no equal in any race on earth.

B.E.F. HOME FROM FLANDERS (3)

669

These are not carefully-selected pictures.... they have been chosen at random. There is not a man who looks dismayed by the most terrible battle of all time. No --- you can't beat a nation that breeds men like these.

We throb with pride to think that these are ^{men of} our own kin. Now we must be worthy of them. When they return to battle they must be armed with such powerful weapons as the world has never seen. We must give them more tanks, more guns, more aeroplanes. This is a war of machines --- they are worthy of the best our great industry can provide. We at home must fall in in the war of production.... take to heart the words of the Minister of Labour, Ernest Bevin.