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BAGS FROM BURNA

The liner Strathmore slides into harbour at Southampton, a boatload of men with but a single thought - home. Men wearing the crossed keys shoulder flash line the deek rails; the second Division is back after three and a half years service in India and Burma. Many famous regiments are represented, the Reyal Scots, Worcesters, Dorsets, Hanchesters, Nerfolks, the Durhams and the Gamerons. They came back to bands, flags and speeches, and after three years of steaming jungle even an English Nevember day looks pretty good.

They weren't allowed to disembark until early the next meraing. These lucky enough to commendeer the Strathmore's portholes managed to call out a message or two to the folks waiting on the wharf. A few hours later, the Winchester Castle brought more Crossed Keys men, lifting the day's total at Southempton to 6,000. With Christmas just around the corner demob groups getting nearer every week and a basin full of leave to look forward to - they portray the true happiness of hemocoming.