

SPEARMAN V.C. COMES HOME

Arriving 24 hours late from Korea, Pte. Bill Speakman, V.C. King's Own Scottish Borderers lands at Lynnham. On the left is the red ribbon. Later the King will decorate Bill, who now receives the welcome of the Mayor of Altrincham, himself a war hero. The Army sent Bill home because they didn't want to lose him. At Hill 217 he proved himself a born leader. Meanwhile, in Altrincham, Moss Lane neighbours help to get Bill's home ready. It's a big day in Cheshire to welcome the local boy; and five-thousand school children have a day off to cheer their own hero. It's a great day for Bill, but he has one message for all; don't forget the boys in Korea, they're doing a tough job and they're doing it well.

In front of the Town Hall there's a crowd of more than three thousand. There's a thrill to see the ordinary man who proved himself no ordinary man at the moment of greatest danger. Here to greet him is Sergeant Thomas V.C. of Stockport who won his Cross in the North Staffs regiment in 1918. When Bill Speakman left home to join the Army seven years ago, he could not have dreamed that one day his town would turn out to do him honour.

MAYOR OF ALTRINCHAM

"This is indeed a pleasure, a unique occasion and an exceptionally pleasurable one that I have now to do, that is to introduce you to a local boy, a soldier, and indeed a very gallant soldier. One who has earned the most meritorious distinction that anyone can earn, the most coveted of all honours, the Victoria Cross."

BILL SPEARMAN

"There is not really very much I can say, words will not express my feeling for the way you have treated me today, but there is one thing I can say, it is good to be back and thanks a lot."

But to Private Bill Speakman, home means Moss Lane, the neighbours and above all - Mum. The Army has big plans for Bill's future; they need leaders like Private Speakman, V.C.