

ICE-CAP MEN HOME

A cold wind sweeps the airfield at Topcliffe, Yorkshire, as an aircraft brings eleven young Britons home after an adventure in the Arctic that has made newspaper headlines throughout the world - and here they are, back in old England after a long absence.

Brian Fussey greets his mother, and here's Major Barker-Simpson, one of the three who were injured when their transport plane crashed on a Greenland ice-cap.

Greeting his wife and son is Frank Burke, another of the men whose courage in the frozen North is partly revealed by these scenes, taken by an Air Ministry cameraman who flew in with the rescuing aircraft.

For ten days, aircraft flew from Thule airfield to drop supplies to the twelve men whose Hastings transport plane had crash-landed trying to provision members of the British North Greenland Expedition. There on a frozen plateau, with the temperature at 30 degrees below zero, these twelve men huddled in their smashed aircraft, living on the food that was dropped to them, and warming themselves against the cold gales by draping parachutes inside the fuselage.

Day after day, aircraft from the American base at Thule, an airfield nine hundred miles from the North Pole, flew over. Medical supplies, stoves and tents were dropped and gradually a little settlement was built.

The days grew longer and more monotonous. Three of the party needed medical attention - and all were impatient to leave this icy wilderness for home. Then, on the ninth day of their isolation, another aircraft flew over. It seemed different to the others they had seen, for it was an amphibian. And then it came in to land to rescue the wounded.

Jerry cans filled with fuel for the rescue-aircraft's take-off went spinning down from a height of fifty feet to be retrieved out of the snow. Meanwhile another aircraft had already landed and had picked up the rest of the party.

Snow was already gathering against the wrecked Hastings as the rescue planes turned towards Thule. And those on board breathed a prayer of thanks to the Americans whose flying skill had brought them off the icy wasteland. One of the twelve, an American, stayed on at Thule to receive medical care. Back in Britain, Flight Lieutenant Clancy, their leader, talks of a fear they all had:

**NAT. SOUND**

**Now Major Barker-Simpson speaks for the injured:**

**NAT. SOUND**

**Britain salutes their courage and cheerfulness in the face of such great danger.**