

P.O.Ws HOME

A Hastings aircraft arrives at Lyneham airfield in Wiltshire bringing back twenty-two British soldiers from Communist prison camps in North Korea. All were released under the sick and wounded exchange agreement. The crowd surges forward as the open doors reveal the stretcher cases.

The walking wounded are first to leave. Eagerly they seek their wives and sweethearts in the crowd - their loved ones who, for many months, have smiled at them only from treasured snapshots. The weary days of captivity are forgotten in the joy of reunion.

Now come the four stretcher cases - and even for them the pain and suffering they have endured, and still endure, are swept away, for they are home at last.

His mother and fiancée greet Lance Corporal Guess, whose home is in Luton. Seeing his two-year-old daughter Linda for the first time is Rifleman Roberts from Peckham. A Private in the Glorious Gloucesters, Enoch Hartland, will soon be home in Wolverhampton.

Private Brown of the Gloucesters was captured two years ago. From the same regiment is Corporal Hunt who states that he had very fair treatment during captivity. Reunited with his wife, Private William Cox says that he was also a captor for five years after Dunkirk:

Int: That makes quite a long trip inside doesn't it?

Cox: Seven years.

Int: That's far too much. I suppose you are glad to have him back.

Mrs. Cox: Yes.

Twenty-year-old Fusilier George Hodgkinson (here with his mother) was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal as soon as he was released:

Hed: I don't know what is planned for me I'm sure.

Int: What are you going to do when you get him home?

Mother: Well, tonight there's nothing much doing. Tomorrow night is a family reunion to start off with. Next weekend the bereaved are going to do something.

Int: That's good.

Mother: Yes, there are going to be quite a few celebrations to take place.

Sapper Milnes bids his mother a farewell as the men board a coach that is to take them to hospital for immediate examination. First reports indicate that all have been treated better than was feared. Now most of the released men have rejoined their loved ones in their own homes again.