

REFUGEE CINDERELLAS.

Inara Jenkevics and her sister Mara flew with their widowed mother to London Airport from Munich. They were in Britain at last. They'd said good-bye to the Bavarian refugee tenement, where they've lived in poverty. The dream of escape into the decent outer world had come true. To mark International Refugee Year the Daily Mirror was bringing them to London to attend the Teenagers' Ball. They're Latvians, driven from their country after the war by the Russians. Mrs. Jenkevics brought up the girls on a small widows pension, then on public assistance. Now that drab life is behind them.

At London Airport Noel Whitcomb, of the Mirror, assured them it wasn't all a dream. They were going to have lots of new clothes, in fact the ball dresses would be designed by the Queen's dressmaker. And if that isn't Cinderella come true, what is? What a long and lovely way to have come, in just a few hours; and what a novel way to draw public attention to the appalling injustice of the refugee plight. Millions like the Jenkevics family live without hope in camps, a life worse than many animals enjoy. Something like a miracle brought the girls and their mother to London.

There were stacks of shoes and other new clothing brought for them at the Waldorf Hotel, where they rested before getting ready for the ball. At last the magic hour came and the two Cinderellas were actually there, at the Teenagers' Ball. And how lovely they looked.

The 200 young people having the time of their lives were winners in the newspaper competition. Never, till a few days ago, had Mrs. Jenkevics expected to see Mara and her sister enjoying themselves in surroundings like these. Shirley Bassey was there, and so were Billy Wright and his wife Joy Beverley.

The Ball wasn't the end of the dream-come-true, either for Inara or her sister Mara, or their mother. They're going back to Germany, but to a real home, and the girls will be properly educated. Genial Harry Secombe wished them well, and so do all of us.