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FIRST HOME ON WEST FRONT LEAVE

It all started this way .... Somewhere in Holland men of a 2nd Army Unit in the field draw lots at the biscuit-tin-ballet to see who shall be first for the leave trips to Blighty....

Meet three of the lucky and deserving winners .... Fusilier William Maskell of South Tottenham.... Trooper Harold Bennett of Sutton, Surrey (we shall see more of him presently) .... and Private James Moore of Filweed Park, Bristol .... Into the leave lorry for the first stage of the long trip home. To these boys - D. Day veterans all, with six months' service on the Western Front behind them - this is the beginning of a dream they've dreamt over and over again .... Now at last it's coming true.

Gifts for friends and the family .... They landed with shells and bullets for Jerry, now they're leaving with much nicer surprises for the felks at home.

At a Continental Port a ship is waiting alongside with a Band to play them on board. Never were there passengers so eager to make the crossing.

Trooper Harry Bennett has managed to get here alright.... It won't be long now chum .... It won't be long now ....

The worst part of the journey - at least for those who live in London - is over, as the leave train pulls in to the terminus where wives and sweethearts, friends and relations are waiting and cheering. The non-stop journey from Holland to home was made possible by the Military authorities and the British railways. Red tape was cut and the green light showed all the way.

Everyone's happy - and look how matey and helpful the Redcaps are.

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The last stage - what could be better than a good old London 'bus?

Welcome home and a happy New Year to you fellers.... and to all the other boys over there whose turn for leave is yet to come.... It's good to see you back again.

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