

LONDON TO TIDWORTH

Mrs. Burgess of London gets ready for stage one of the long road that takes her and her baby to America. They're among the five hundred G.I. brides and 175 children sailing for New York on the "Argentina". So far, their new homes are just names on a luggage label; soon they'll see what life in the States is like in reality. On the "Brides special" from Waterloo station, Mrs. Burgess heads out for the American Army transit camp at Tidworth.

Tidworth used to be a U.S. Military camp. Now G.I. wives and the younger generation march in with napkins, milk bottles and baby feed.

German war prisoners handle menial tasks at the camp. First reports say the Brides need all their stamina for the queues they have to stand in and the forms they fill up.

The official schedule issued at the camp warned Brides that practically all of their time would be taken up by the various stages of processing. This eats into so much time that immigration experts have been called for from Washington to speed things up. Before being G.K'd, Brides have to get their passports examined, baggage is inspected for weapons or valuables, finger prints are taken for record purposes, and their permitted fifteen pounds in cash is changed to dollars. To round things off, there's a medical and immunization.

After all that, it's billets and a spot of shut-eye for the children. Converted army lockers are used as cribs. Inspecting Brides Camp, comes the U.S. London area commander. He promised quick cutting of Red Tape - but one G.I. baby didn't seem to care.