

This is the Home Front in Belgium; Belgian children have had ~~had~~ a whip-round to send toys to the children of Britain for Christmas --- a generous gesture not far removed from tears, however our children at home certainly deserve this kind of luck once in a while; it will amaze many of them to see how much better off in this respect are these children of the Continent. ~~Nobody in Britain has seen anything like this before.~~

Now our own Home Front; survivors of the heroic Airborne Division from Arnhem have held a parade at Wellington Barracks --- they were marching to Buckingham Palace for the King's investiture of sixty-one of their number with awards for gallant service. ~~These are great examples of the epic stories of the war;~~ *- you remember -* dropped behind the enemy lines in Holland they held out against fantastic odds, while the Second Army from Nijmegen battled to reach them.

On parade with them were Major-General Urquhart, commander of the First Airborne Division at Arnhem, and --- on the right --- Lt. General Browning, deputy commander of Allied Airborne Forces. Before the march to the Palace, the two Generals talked with the men of their command. ~~It is obviously an easy comradeship between these men speaking plainly of the ~~war~~ ~~that~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~our~~ ~~reborn~~ ~~army~~.~~

Lieutenant-Colonel Paynton-Reid was one of the officers awarded the Distinguished Service Order; the Padre was the Reverend John Watkins --- his M.C. was gained under heavy fire, bringing in wounded men.

And then before leaving, General Browning spoke a farewell to his men. The speech cannot be reproduced here; but it was ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~last~~ ^{last} speech before leaving to take up his new command. ~~with the~~ ^{They} ~~parade~~ ^{marched} ~~to~~ Buckingham Palace --- led by the band of the Irish Guards. ~~They~~ ~~just~~ ~~how~~ ~~tough~~ ~~they~~ ~~were~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~hell~~ ~~that~~ ~~Arnhem~~ ~~was~~.

London didn't know about ~~this~~ this march --- otherwise London would have lined the streets to cheer. So this is our opportunity to see them --- and let them know what we think of them.

← Into the Palace --- through the gates ^{where} so many of our famous and heroic countrymen have walked. A great day, this, for those men of Arnhem; and perhaps even greater for their wives and families. Major Cain won the Victoria Cross at Arnhem; among other things, he outfought a Tiger tank single-handed.

~~Major~~ --- Major Murray, M.C., Lt. Ashwood, M.C., Sergeant Bennick, Military Medal, Capt. ~~GREENBERG~~, M.C., Sergeant-Major Stewart. With the Padre is Captain Williams, another D.S.O. As gallant a company of men as ever the world saw.

They call them Red Devils --- they wear their maroon berets with an air; parachutists, glider troops and glider pilots; who go into action where the action's hottest.

Some five hundred men altogether took part in this ceremony which recalled an epic engagement of military history. She's proud of him --- wouldn't you be!

4.15 PM.
8/12/44 Mr. Matthews.