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COMBINED SERVICES HANDOUT

Two hundred and sixteen wives and children of Service families who embarked for Egypt on 'The Empress of Australia' on 8th October have now returned on the same ship to this country. With them are 416 wives and children who embarked at Port Said, and who voluntarily accepted lower-deck accommodation in order to return home.

The decision to send back the families who had set out from this country was a direct result of the crisis in Egypt which came to a head on 15th October, exactly a week after the 'Empress of Australia' had sailed from Liverpool.

Many Service families in the Canal Zone are living in accommodation which they have hired privately from the Egyptians. To facilitate the protection of these families during the disorders prevailing in the area it was necessary to concentrate them in military contonment areas which could be easily protected, and which contained such official quarters as exist. This necessitated relinquishing civilian accommodation that had been earmarked for the incoming families.

The full resources of the Services are in operation to ensure the comfort and convenience of the families that have come back. They are being assisted by Welfare Officers, and representatives of S.S.A.F.A. and the W.V.S. to solve individual family problems arising out of the unexpected return. Families who have places to go to will receive travel warrants, and an **advance** of cash where necessary, to enable them to reach home without delay. Others will be accommodated in Family Hostels or hotels until they are able to find permanent accommodation.

The following list shows the composition and place of departure of the Service families on board.

	R.N	ARMY	RAF
Left Liverpool on Oct 8th and now returning	----	59 wives 69 children	39 wives 49 children
Joined ship at Port Said	3 wives 3 children	88 wives 79 children	120 wives 124 children
Joined ship at Farmagusta	----	8 wives 10 children	1 wife 1 child