



WHEN YOU GET HOME

TO nearly everyone this business of going home, so long awaited, is something of a mystery. The voyage will be simple. It will be the voyage out in reverse, in every way. There will be no black-out and no prohibition of smoking on deck and the fresh air in the living quarters will be so much fresher.

But just what happens when you get home? The arms of a loving family, certainly. Still, that is only the photographer's slant on arrival. What else is there? This query is answered by information just received from New Zealand giving full details of the very latest arrangements.

When a draft reaches shore its members are sent to their homes. The only ones who are medically boarded before going home are those who live in the depths of Waikikamukau and other remote spots and who will not be anxious to make the trip back to town for the sake of a mere board. The rest will very soon be notified of the time and place to report for medical boarding. This is a distinct win as a matter of fact, as overseas leave does not begin until the day after that set down for the board. However, merely not turning up for the board does not extend your leave.

Before disembarkation everyone gets a leave pass and ration and cigarette coupons for a week. The cigarette coupons are for cigarettes at army canteens. In civilian shops they are not rationed (officially), but they are very scarce. The full ration coupons are issued by your area after you have been medically boarded.

You also get, on arrival, your first and probably your last free telegrams,

two in number, to tell your friends and relations that you are on the way.

Everyone knows the leave regulations, namely two days for every month overseas with a minimum of fourteen days for six months or less, or twenty-eight days for over that period and a maximum of ninety-one. The free railway pass which is issued covers the whole period of this leave and includes your wife if you are married, and your mother if you are single. Young mothers are quite common nowadays but don't strain the guard's credulity too far. In the case of soldiers discharged or placed on indefinite leave without pay pending discharge, rail passes may be taken at any time within twelve months of the date of discharge or release.

You may, of course, become ill on leave and in such a case you either report to, or ring up Area Sick and Wounded Office, or if the matter is urgent the nearest public hospital, while where you are seriously ill or too far from either of these places you can call in a convenient doctor.

And don't forget that the Area Office also wants to know if you change your address permanently while on leave since it is responsible for your administration during that time. It is responsible also for discipline.

Last of all your Area Office is the place to apply should you find the prospect of leaving the army more than you can bear. It will also act as fairy godmother in respect of supplying you with Form OF 18 which entitles you to one-third of a gallon of petrol for each day of leave with a 30-gallon maximum, a fair and even generous arrangement.