

Freed Russian POWs in Worthing [two pages]

Worthing Herald February 2nd 1945

S EVERAL HUNDRED RED ARMY MEN, RELEASED BY THE ALLIED LIBERATION ARMY ON THE WESTERN FRONT, ARE QUARTERED IN THE WORTHING AREA. THEY WAIT REPATRIATION TO THE SOVIET UNION.

Many of the men fought with the French Maquis and helped prepare the way for the rapid advance of the Allied armies in their great sweep through France and Belgium.

A Lancing man, Mr Oliver Bell, who worked in the Soviet Union during the first Five Year Plan, and who speaks Russian well, told me this week (writes a "Herald" reporter) that the men had told him something of the terrible ordeal through which they have been since their capture on the Eastern Front.

Many were taken prisoner in the early days of the Nazi invasion of the Ukraine. They have been in prisoner of war and labour camps in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Belgium, France and Holland.

BROKE FREE

"They sensed that the Allied invasion was coming even before D-day, and they organised themselves. As the Liberation Armies swept eastward, many of them broke from their camps and joined up with the French Maquis, who supplied them with arms. In this way they helped clear small towns and villages of the Germans before the British and American armies arrived."

These Red Army men, dressed in British battledress, have been a familiar sight in Worthing streets during the last week or so. They sing lustily and well in harmony as they march along.

During the recent heavy falls of snow in Worthing, a squad of about 70 of the men helped Cor-

poration workmen clear away the snow from some of the streets. I am told that the men are glad to have some useful work to do, and enjoy helping their British friends in any way they can. In Yorkshire, I understand, they helped in harvesting turnips.

A party of about two hundred attended a local theatre on Monday night.

Worthing people are anxious to entertain the Red Army officers and men, but so far it has not been found possible to make arrangements, much to the disappointment of organisations like the Worthing Anglo-Soviet Friendship Committee. Failure
Continued back page, col. 3.

RED ARMY MEN IN WORTHING

(Continued from page 1)

to make plans for the men's entertainment is, I can state categorically, not the fault of Worthing people.

At one of the big hotels where the Red Army men are quartered the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes are hung one on each side of the Red Flag. Close by is a big map of the Eastern Front. Large red arrows point the position of the victorious Red Armies' sweeping advance into Pomerania and Brandenburg.

Always there is a closely knit group of Russian soldiers around the map.

The big red arrows are now very near to the heart of Berlin—and of Germany.

© Worthing Herald

Wartime West Sussex 1939 – 1945
POWS AND REFUGEES
Worthing Herald, February 16th 1945



RUSSIAN DANCE to Russian music. Red Army men, quartered near Worthing awaiting repatriation, initiating an onlooker into the art of their traditional dances.

THE 750 odd repatriated Russian prisoners of war released by the Allies and now rejitting at Worthing with British battledress had a pleasant surprise yesterday.

Today is Red Army Day, the twenty-seventh anniversary of its foundation. But these ex-prisoners had a preliminary thrill when a convoy of American Army Air Force lorries drew up outside their headquarters.

They were loaded with cigarettes, candy and cookies, a present to the Red Army from the soldier technicians of No. 2 Air Base Depot, Air Service Command.

Within 48 hours of an appeal for funds the G.I. Joes had contributed sufficient to provide 4,000 packets of cigarettes, 5,000 packets of candy and 50,000 cookies.

Solemn-faced Tartars, Mongols, Siberians, Ukrainians and Usbecks blossomed into smiles (see picture below) as the Americans broadcast the packages.



© Worthing Herald