

Tales of Three Men from Britain

Cape Times Aviation Correspondent.

THREE men, each with extraordinary experiences in his life, arrived in Cape Town in a private aircraft this week. Each had been ordered by his doctor to leave England for six months. Unable to obtain passages they bought their own aircraft, a Percival Proctor V, and, with one of them as pilot, flew to South Africa in search of sunshine and food.

Here are pen cameos of the three men:

Invalid No. 1.—Mr. C. H. Burns, author and former army officer, is considered by doctors to be a miracle man. Seven years ago he was thrown while riding and broke his neck at the top vertebrae and lived. For years he was in hospital but now he is almost fully recovered.

When I saw him yesterday he said he was still making good progress. But he still walks with the aid of a stick and has not recovered the full use of his neck muscles.

His dream of training horses and conducting a riding stable, however, can never come true.

Invalid No. 2.—Mr. W. A. Strang, a Scottish wool merchant, was in Denmark on business when the Germans overran the country in 1940.

He was arrested as a spy and sent to a concentration camp in Germany. For four and a half

years he was moved from camp to camp, frequently being beaten up and, in his own words, "having a rough time."

While in one camp he helped Douglas Bader, the legless pilot, to make one of his escape attempts. Later the Germans removed Bader's artificial legs to immobilise him at night.

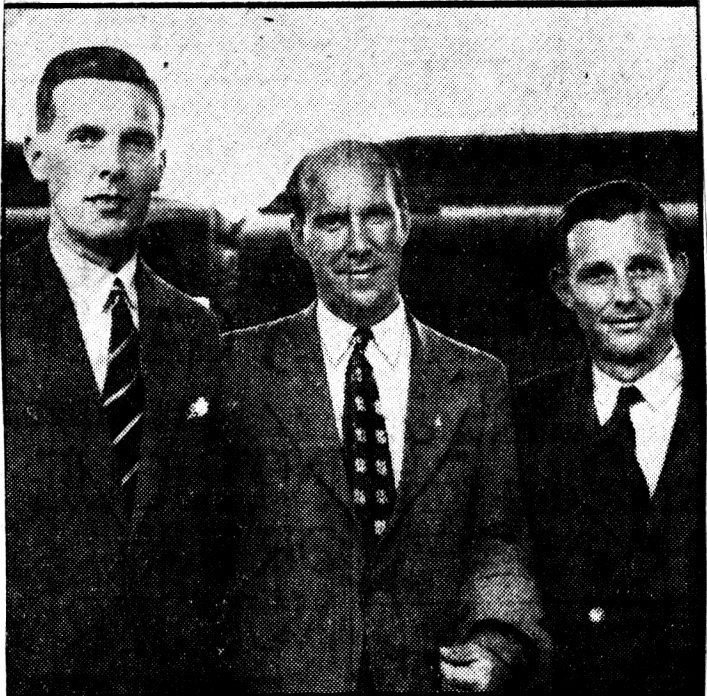
Invalid No. 3.—Mr. P. S. Foss, the pilot of the party, was formerly an R.A.F. group captain.

After being one of the first airmen to bomb Hamburg and Berlin and in the first bomber unit to operate from Malta he was given the task of organising the R.A.F. ferry service which afterwards became Transport Command.

As Group Captain, Operations, during this period, he arranged Mr. Churchill's priority air passages to Casablanca, Moscow, Yalta and the Middle East.

Picture on page 5.

IN UNION FOR HEALTH



Banished from Britain by their doctors, these three bought an aircraft in which they arrived in Cape Town on recuperative leave this week. They are (left to right) Messrs. C. H. Burns, W. A. Strong and P. S. Foss. Report on page 1.