

## AUSTRALIAN WIVES OF DUTCHMEN

### RETURN FROM N.E.I.

#### PRESSMEN BARRIED FROM WHARF

BRISBANE, Dec. 10.—Pressmen today eluded the guards and entered Pinkenba wharf through a gap in a wire fence to interview Australian wives of Dutchmen who returned from the N.E.I. with their husbands to settle in Australia. There were 150 Dutch settlers aboard the vessel Tasman which berthed at 8 a.m.

Relatives and friends were allowed on the wharf, but Pressmen were excluded and guards were placed at the entrance. The Dutch representative in Brisbane (Colonel J. Verwijts), who was questioned when he left the wharf, said that the ban was imposed for "military" reasons. After waiting for two hours the Pressmen entered through a gap in the fence. Once aboard the ship they were allowed to remain. Dutchmen aboard regarded the ban on the Press as stupid and unfair.

About 30 of the Dutch settlers will remain in Queensland. The others will leave to-morrow by rail for Sydney and Melbourne. The Australian wives said that they were glad to be back again. They said that they were treated well by the Dutch people, but living conditions in the N.E.I. were poor. A great deal of tinned food was used.

Mrs. D. Deblauw, who spent 10 months at Biak, said that she never wanted to return to the N.E.I. She added: "Life there was a real experience. I was never actually hungry, but it has taught me to be less selfish."