

CARLE ABRAMS SPEAKER WHEN GIFT IS PRESENTED TO MAYOR

Lieutenant Colonel Carle Abrams, according to letters read here the past few days, had in Paris on official business, was returning to Winchester, land, to close up the American part there, after which he was to return to Paris again for duty.

The following article from the Winchester Chronicle will be of interest to friends of Colonel Abrams.

To all people everywhere who feel the good feeling between the British and the American people that has been fostered in the past five years.

The article mentioned follows: One of the happiest and most successful features associated with the side of the marorality during past four years has been the "Atmies" which his worship and the press (Mrs. Edmeades) have organized for the purpose of fostering friendly relations between the British and American civilians.

The pleasure derived from these gatherings has been borne home to the representatives of every military unit stationed here a time to time, and none have been more cordial in their acknowledgment than officers in the U. S.

The latest to be in charge at the fall down are the officers having to do with the repatriation of British soldiers, and it was with special reference to these that the mayor and mayoress gave an "Atmies" at the Guildhall on Monday, April 14, at 4 p. m. to 7.

To meet them were invited the officers of the British forces (headquarters Winchester area) and the American naval force (Eastleigh), officers of British units in the Winchester area, the Hampshire depot and rifle depot, the heads and members of the staff of the Red Cross hospital (including the Lady Portal, Mrs. Yorke, R. R. C., and Mrs. Charles Warner, chairman of the committee of the Royal Hampshire County hospital), members of the corporation and ladies, and a few others who have been identified with the work, the company numbering all about 400.

The occasion was made memorable by a spontaneous and unlooked for act of kindness on the part of the American officers, who took the opportunity of presenting to the mayor a tangible proof of their appreciation of the citizens on behalf of American officers.

It will, therefore, be interesting to give the names of the officers of the U. S. A. attached to the headquarters at Winchester who were present: they were Lieutenant Colonel Carle Abrams (in command), Lieutenant Jones (adjutant), Lieutenant Colonel W. S. Desombre, Captain Hotchkiss, Captain Carter, Captain Gebers, Captain Wells, Lieutenant McMillan (chaplain), Lieutenant Trotter, Lieutenant Kane, Lieutenant Luke, Lieutenant Butcher, Lieutenant Clements, Lieutenant Jordan, Lieutenant Bell, Lieutenant Smith, Lieutenant Osgood.

The assembly was in the large room, where parquet flooring had been laid dancing. Old Glory and the Union Jack were side by side on the top curtain of the platform, and there were some choice floral groups.

The mayor and mayoress welcomed the guests on their arrival. A howling tea there was a short concert, the program opening with a solo by that clever instrumentalist, Corporal Morgan, R. B., the accompaniment being played by Mrs. D. Edmeades. The artists from London were Miss Jean Sterling, who sang three songs (playing her own accompaniment)—"An Emblem," "Hear You Calling Me," "I Hid Myself"—and Percy Kahn and Miss Joan Hoare in ragtime duets, "Me My Girl," "Derby Day in Dixie," "Take You Back to Italy."

Following the concert program, Lieutenant Carle Abrams, U. S. A., stood on the platform in front of the national flags, and, after one or two genial words, asked the mayor if he, too, would come forward and say "I feel lonesome." The mayor came down from his box in response to the request, Colonel Abrams addressing him: "We will soon haul down Old Glory for the last time of this present occupation in England and taps will sound for American soldiers in your midst. For, contrary to Rudyard Kipling's predictions, our occupation is not to be permanent. We are going to take to America your flag of Winchester, which we have prized so highly, to find its resting place in our own ancient and honorable city of Winchester, Virginia. Had not discretion been the better part of valor, we would also be carrying home with us the key to the great castle of Winchester. Some of our young men have succeeded in forging keys to the hearts of your young women, and are taking keys, hearts, and all home with them to add to the millions of British who now make up the best citizenship of our great land. We are sorry we can not take you all home with us—we would like to do so. Those who have failed to center their affections on one certain young lady failed because they have been too promiscuous in their affections. They have

learned to love and honor you all and to love this beautiful country. So if we fail in our desire to take you with us we will all hope to return some day to visit you, coming with more peaceable objects, and to find your country recovered from the terrible experiences of the past five years.

To you, honored sir, we owe an especially large debt of gratitude, both personally and as the official representative of the people of Winchester, for the uniform, courtesy and hearty welcome shown our officers and men as they passed through England in a never ending stream for the battlefields of France. Of over 1,000,000 men who went through England 400,000 were visitors to Winchester, some tarrying for but a day, and then rushing on in the night for the front, anxious to be at the great task awaiting them; others have remained here for a week or more; and some few of us have been privileged to live in your midst for more than a year. We have been entertained and feted by you, we have been admitted to your beautiful homes and enjoyed your lavish hospitality. Realizing that we were entire strangers, in whom such as you had no interest, but were receiving us as the representatives of a sister nation at war with the common enemy of mankind, we appreciate the more the spirit which caused you thus to receive us with open arms.

Regardless of the length of our stay, each American who was for a time your guest has gone away with a feeling of gratitude for the warmth of feeling extended him. It is my belief that in the arduous year and more that has passed you have wrought better than you knew. Nearly half a million men returned to their homes, scattered in every village and hamlet of our vast country, cannot fail to exert an influence that will be for the lasting good of all mankind. The last vestige of prejudice and misunderstanding between the two great English-speaking peoples of the world has been wiped out. You have learned that the men of that great western republic were not the wild and woolly savages you had some of you thought them to be. We have learned that in truth of our own flesh and blood, speaking the same language, thinking the same thoughts, looking and acting alike, and your men fighting with the same courage, zeal and high ideals as ourselves. The unity of thought of the future and amity of action of these nations not only guarantees a lasting peace and harmony between them, but presents a front to the world that will defy any future autocratic power or ambitious monarch to again dare to over-run civilization and to trample underfoot the freedom and Christian-

ity which centuries of struggle have given us (applause).

By your untiring zeal and service in behalf of our American troops, as well as your own, for so long, to the great sacrifice of your own interests and pleasures, you have indeed been an important factor in the winning for the side of right and justice in this great world war. You have figured prominently, and will be remembered for a generation by thousands of grateful Americans for the part you have taken in welcoming them to England, and sending them away happier and better soldiers for their brief visit. You have been an important factor in building the future amity and accord between the two great nations that is to mean so much to the world, and that you are having a part in the formation of that league of nations in which we are placing so much hope for the future to protect the rights of the weak and to prevent future bloodshed. We, the American officers of World War I, have learned to love and honor you, and will leave behind us a lasting memory of your tact, courtesy and untiring efforts in our behalf. We, therefore, present this solid silver salver as a slight token of our esteem and gratitude. Did we carry out our desires it would indeed be a marble bust placed by us in the Hall of Fame as a reminder to all future generations of what you have

working zealously in the service of his country and of justice for all mankind may accomplish (loud applause).

Colonel Abrams then handed to the mayor a large silver salver of beautiful design and workmanship. Below the American arms was the following inscription:—"From the officers of the American Mess, Morn Hill, to the Right Worshipful Alfred Edmeades, in honor of the Mayor of Winchester, in grateful appreciation of his courteous hospitality and cooperation in military affairs, February, 1919."

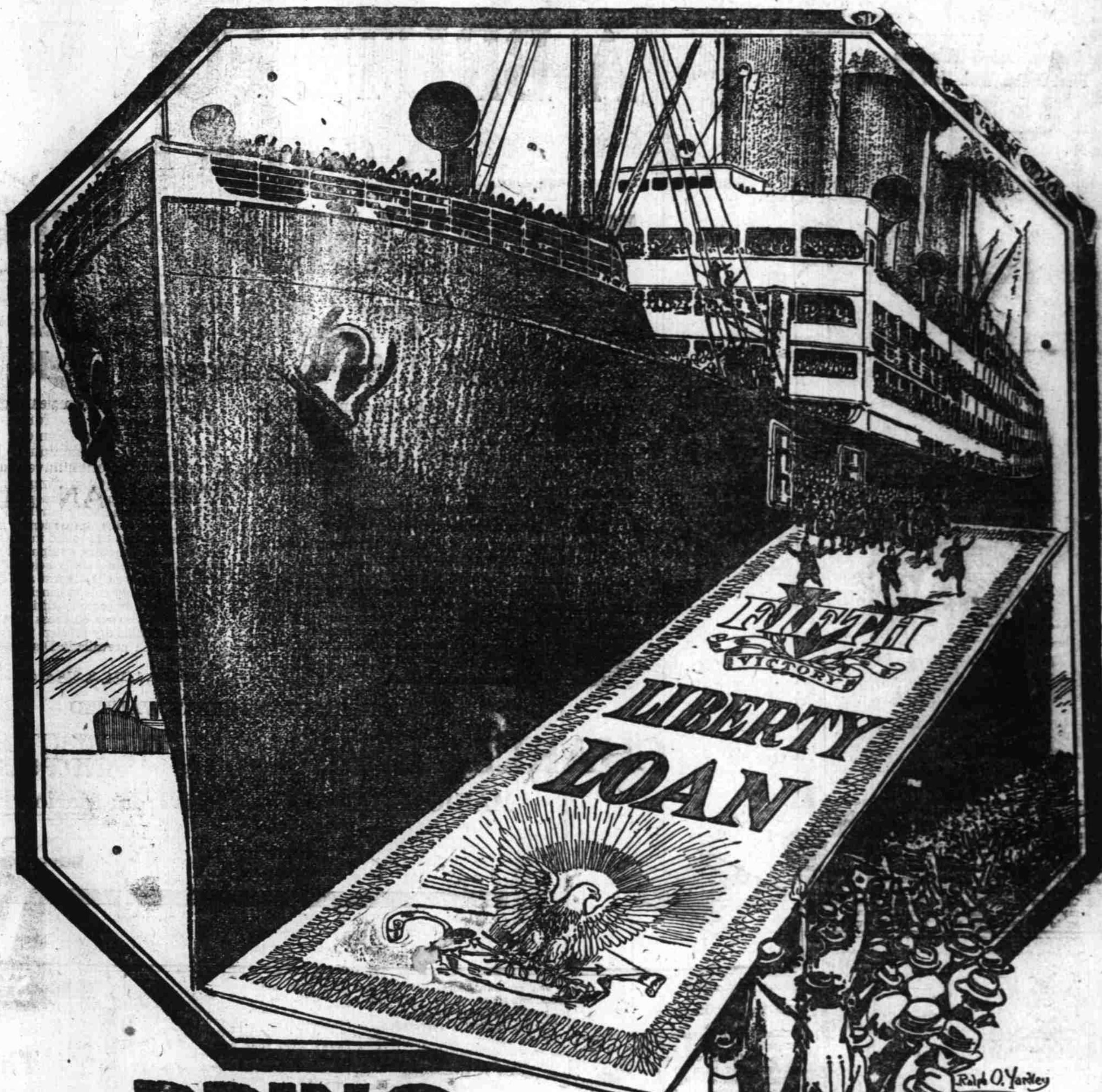
The mayor, speaking in acknowledgment, said he could hardly picture a much more embarrassing position in which a person of retiring habits and disposition (laughter) could find himself placed than to stand before an admiring—other-wise—audience, and to listen to language such as Colonel Abrams had used. He did not think he should have been able to do so out for the fact that he knew perfectly well that words of Colonel Abrams addressed more definitely to him as representative of citizens of Winchester were intended for the citizens, and were not intended merely for their representative (hear, hear). That entire-

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