

# The Yanks and Tommies Are Good Neighbors

By RICE YAHNER  
Wide World Features

WITH THE US ARMY IN NORTHERN IRELAND—A peep-sight of the American and British army that has been training together more than eight months to open the roads to Paris, Berlin, Rome and Tokyo . . . From the topside of a peep—a wee cowering contraption that's nothing more than a wheeled engine giving you everything but comfort—you can go any place, see everything. And this is the picture:

The British and Americans, different in background and training, mutually respect each other's abilities and are determined to finish the "mess" at the first possible moment.

American equipment, from mess pans to the biggest field guns and their prime movers, stands out. British discipline is universal and automatic. Americans, freer and easier, encourage initiative and individuality if it contributes to the success of the team.

On both sides the prospect of anything but ultimate and complete victory, whatever the cost, is never considered. And I'm talking about the men in the ranks whom I pick up in my peep all over northern Ireland when they're on the way to "town" on a 24-hour pass or going on leave. Anytime the "brass hats" are ready the soldiers are ready.

The men of both armies get along, whether training together or relaxing. Americans share their "wealth" (to the British) of cigarettes, chocolate, beer, etc.

American sergeants, following a British tradition that gives them their own mess and therefore permits what amount to club facilities, entertain their "opposite numbers" in the British outfits with fried chicken and all the trimmings. And then they are invited to roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, or curried mutton and rice, that the British sergeants probably skipped a month on rations to provide.

Of course, NOT every American is a pal of the British. NOT every American soldier is a pal with another in the same uniform.

There have been brawls and one or two tragedies. But both British and American officers and non-coms who were in World War I tell you the two forces are brotherly compared to the feeling that existed between them a quarter of a century ago.

American soldiers admire the ability of the British to "take it." Paid much less, the British soldier does what he can with what he has.

One evening, coming out from town, I picked up an American soldier who started talking about what a great time he had had on a couple of pounds that evening. A couple of Tommies joined us. One said he had been most

fortunate that day. He'd been to town, had tea, won a few bob from other soldiers at billiards, and was on his way back to camp with the day costing him only a shilling.

The American didn't talk much the rest of the way home.

## More Songs To March by Held Needed

LANSING, Mich.—(AP)—The nation's war effort needs more marching songs and less boogie-woogie, Dr. Joseph E. Maddy, president of the national music camp at Interlochen and chairman of the Michigan defense council's committee on wartime civic music, asserted here.

"The national airs of our enemies are marching songs, those of America and England are not," Maddy declared. "Hitler claims his soldiers march 33 per cent farther when they sing as they march. We've got to develop a fighting spirit here at home."

Dr. Maddy proposed, in a report to the council, that marching songs be played and sung in schools between classes, at theaters between shows, at eating places during meals and at factories between shifts and during lunch periods.

## This Private'll Look at Coat Next Time!

BOISE, Idaho.—(AP)—Private Howard Gamble, a newcomer to Gowen Field and the armed forces, was working in the inspector's office under Lt. Col. Carlos M. Reavis when mess call sounded.

Gamble grabbed the nearest coat and hurried to dinner. He was only a bit puzzled when several enlisted men and officers rendered him snappy salutes.

He was practically overwhelmed when, as he entered the hall, someone barked out "Attention!" and several hundred men stood at attention while he took his seat.

His messmates, however, soon advised him he couldn't expect that deference hereafter even if he did carry silver leaves on his shoulders. They suggested, also that he return Colonel Reavis' coat. He did.

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