

Copy for Gen. Weeks
B.L.M.

TAC HEADQUARTERS ^{that} 3-A

21 ARMY GROUP.

N. 581.

5 - 6 - 45

My dear S of S

When I got back here from my visit to England I came to the conclusion that three things must be done.

1. The German population, civil and military, must be told "the form". They must be told what we propose to do with them and their country, now that we have won the war.

This I did in the "message" I issued to them on 30 May.

2. We must tell the German people why we do not fraternise with them, and why our soldiers do not talk to them and smile at them.

This I propose to do by giving them the attached. There is nothing in it that could upset anybody, or cause any political trouble.

Do you approve of my sending it out?

3. It is absolutely essential that we should let-up a little on the present complete non-fraternisation order.

In March, just before the Battle of the Rhine, I issued a card to every soldier on the subject; that order has been obeyed.

But we have now won the war and the problem is changed.

I consider we should "let-up" by bounds, or phases; if we do not, the soldiers will force our hands. We cannot expect the soldier to go on snubbing little children; he must be allowed to give full play to his natural kindly instincts. We do not want the German children to regard the British soldier as a kind of queer ogre.

I consider that Bound No. 1 should take the following form:

- (a) We should exchange normal greetings with Germans in the streets i.e. good-morning, good evening, etc.
- (b) We should allow the troops to talk to and play with little children: I suggest under 8 years old.

Do you agree?

NOTES

- A. Para 2 and para 3 above are very much inter-related.

Para 2 must come first; then para 3.

If we are to re-educate the German people, and get them to think rightly, we must gradually relax our present complete non-fraternisation policy.

I understand that IKE is in complete agreement about the children i.e. para 3(b).

- B. I will send you my suggested draft vide para 3 (i.e. Bound No. 1) in a day or two.

C. Meanwhile I would like to get on with para 2 (as per attached draft) at once. Do you approve?

Yrs ever

B. L. Montgomery

The Rt. Hon. Sir James Grigg, KCB, KCSI, MP,
Secretary of State for War,
The War Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Int 4-A

FRATERNISATION

(TO THE GERMANS)

You have wondered, no doubt, why our soldiers do not smile when you wave your hands, or say "Good Morning" in the streets, or play with the children. It is because our soldiers are obeying orders. You do not like it. Nor do our soldiers. We are naturally friendly and forgiving people. But the orders were necessary; and I will tell you why.

In the last war of 1914, which your rulers began, your Army was defeated; your Generals surrendered; and in the Peace Treaty of Versailles your rulers admitted that the guilt of beginning the war was Germany's. But the surrender was made in France. The war never came to your country; your cities were not damaged, like the cities of France and Belgium; and your Armies marched home in good order. Then your rulers began to spread the story (legend) that your Armies were never really defeated, and later they denied the war guilt clauses of the Peace Treaty. They told you that Germany was neither guilty nor defeated; and because the war had not come to your country many of you believed it, and you cheered when your rulers began another war.

Again, after years of waste and slaughter and misery, your Armies have been defeated. This time the Allies were determined that you should learn your lesson - not only that you have been defeated, which you must know by now, but that you, your nation, were again guilty of beginning the war. For if that is not made clear to you, and your children, you may again allow yourselves to be deceived by your rulers and led into another war.

During the war your rulers would not let you know what the world was thinking of you. Many of you seemed to think that when our soldiers arrived you could be friends with them at once, as if nothing such had happened. But too much has happened for that. Our soldiers have seen their comrades shot down, their homes in ruins, their wives and children hungry. They have seen terrible things in many countries where your rulers took the war. For those things, you will say, you are not responsible - it was your rulers. But they were found by the German nation; every nation is responsible for its rulers, and while they were successful you cheered and laughed. That is why our soldiers do not smile at you. You see at last in their faces what the world thinks of you. This we have ordered, this we have done, to save yourselves, to save your children, to save the world from another war. It will not always be so. For we are a Christian, forgiving people, and we like to smile and be friendly. Our object is to destroy the evil of the Nazi system; it is too soon to be sure this has been done. You are to read this to your children, if they are old enough, and see that they understand. Tell them why it is that the British soldier does not smile.
