

TOMMY'S SLANG TO BE KEPT IN FOND MEMORY

War Dictionary of Words and
Phrases Being Compiled
for British Museum.

SEEK HISTORY OF ORIGIN

LONDON, Jan. 7.—An effort is to be made to preserve in the British Museum the war-time slang of the British Tommy. For the benefit of the students of the great war a dictionary is in the course of compilation dealing with the many words and phrases born of the war.

The secretary of the Imperial War Museum has issued a request for notes on the subject giving the slang terms used in the British army, together with the meaning of the words and, if possible, their derivation.

Much of this slang was a legacy of the old regular soldier at Messina and originated in the army in the East. The most popular and the most romantic and sentimental slang term of the lot undoubtedly was "blighty." That is now almost universally used. It is derived from the Hindustani and means home.

However, the history of such expressions as "kip," "posh," "wangle," "eyewash," "swank," "square pushing" or "wind-up" is not yet written. The secret service is airdropping a most carefully collating his data. In his request for data the secretary very naively suggests "that of course, many of the army terms are not polite and hardly fit for publication."

As a rule, however, the slang of the British Tommy has a much more whole-some derivation than most of the French "argot" or "tranches."

ONLY ONE

TRENCH LANGUAGE.

Perhaps the most astounding thing about the army slang of the British is the generality of its uses. Those known to Great Britain know that the dialect of two countries is alike. That of course, the Lancashire dialect is as different as possible from that of his neighbor, the Yorksireman, while the troops from Northumberland were completely and wonderfully unintelligible to the rest of the British army. Many of the Welsh regiments, too, could speak no other language but their native Welsh. Yet the language of the trench was the same for all.

Take all a "brass hat" was a staff field officer. True the Scotsman put two extra "r's" into it and the Northumbrian, as "brass hat, brass general" the "r" and made it appear like—well, certainly nothing which could be printed.

Some of the examples are as follows:

Air-fappers—army signallers.

Archie—an anti-aircraft gun. (Probably a name of aircraft.)

Bally—bully-beef, dried corned beef.

Buchsheen—anything which is to spare or can be borrowed. (Derived from the Arabian beggars' term, backsheesh.)

Blighty—home. (Hindustani.)

Bray—a young woman. (Arabie.)

Cushy—soft. (Derived from cushion.)

A cushy wound is a slight wound.

Cushy job is a task which can be performed sitting down.)

SOME HINDU,

TOOK—to look. (Hindustani.)

Eyewash—over-education, generally in some scheme to hoodwink a general.

Emma Gees—the signaling term for the initials "M. G." i. e., machine gunner.

Jerry—a German soldier.

Klip—to sleep; a bed.

Lancejack—a lance corporal.

Leaf—leave of absence. (Corruption of leave.)

Monjy—bread, or something to eat. (Corruption of the French.)

Posh—ultra smart.

Padre—an army chaplain.

Quarterm—blocks—the quartermaster.

Reef—cavall—an army policeman who wears a red cap.

Scupper—to wipe out completely.

Square pushing—to walk out with a sweetheart in a soldier's best uniform.

Sapper—an engineer.

Snoke—the regimental bootmaker.

Snips—the regimental tailor.

Wangle—to achieve an object by doubtful means. "Wangling leaf" means to get leave of absence by giving a false reason.

Wind up—to be nervous and apprehensive. It does not necessarily mean to be frightened; many of the bravest soldiers confessed to having "the wind up." In the officers' mess it was known generally as the "vertical breeze," or the "draught."

HAMPERED IN DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCES

Germany's Chemical Advance-
ment Hindered by Lack
of Equipment.

Scientific Germany is somewhat like a broken man, who has been sick and is now living on his stored vitality of past years. It must not be said that the patient will not recover, but just now scientifically he is largely relying on the achievements of better days before and during the war. There is a tendency to capitalize the things that were developed then.

The dearth of equipment, books, supplies and all the things that make up a workshop for scientists is a real one, not only chemically but in all scientific lines. The talk of poor conditions that we have been hearing is more than mere bluff.

Many of the largest universities and research laboratories whose names were awe-inspiring in chemical circles before the war, had practically no American scientific literature since the beginning of the war in 1914. And it is a financial impossibility for them to obtain foreign publications without spending money. The banks have been much more among the months of the world that when it gets outside of its own country's borders it can hardly demand anything. Not to know what the chemists of other nations have been doing for seven years is a serious handicap to the work of German scientists. It is declared that in all Germany there is but one set of the Physical Review, the Journal of the American Physical Society, complete to date. The lack of chemical literature is believed to be just as great.

Universities are having a hard time of it financially. University salaries and grants are notoriously hard to increase in this country, and the conditions are similar in Germany. One of the Institutes of the University of Bonn on the Rhine has had a superficially generous increase in yearly funds from the pre-war sum of 17,000 marks to 170,000 marks, but this becomes small indeed when it is learned that it costs 50,000 marks to heat the buildings of the Institute.

What the German universities lack in funds and equipment they have a tendency to make up for in students. The research laboratories at Leipzig are declared to be very crowded—Watson Davis in the Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.

St. Louis Gamblers Hampered by Closing of Night & Day Bank

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 7.—The operations of the gambling fraternity of this town are likely to be hampered for a while, due to the closing of the Night and Day Bank, according to members of the police gambling squad today.

The bank, which was established in 1911, was purchased to a great extent by gamblers who found its late evening hours a great help in putting their winnings away where the marts couldn't get at them, and on occasion, in getting enough funds quickly to continue their "little game." Half a million dollars of gamblers' money is said to be tied up in the closed bank.

The tie-up of these funds, however, will not put the gamblers out of business, it was said, as they had accounts in other banks.

LLOYD GEORGE PLANS PARTY TO WIN ELECTION

**Collapse of Coalition Does Not
Mean Downfall of
Welshman.**

KEEN OPPOSITION SEEN

LONDON, Jan. 6.—The political future of the prime minister is the most talked of subject throughout Great Britain. When he appeals to the country for a new lease of power within the next few months, will he be able to retain his position?

The coalition government is quickly breaking up. It is hated by Liberals and Tories, while Labor will have nothing to do with it. It is so unpopular that no candidate at an election dare brand himself as a Coalitionist.

Neither the Irish settlement nor the results of the Welshman conference have improved the standing of the government in the slightest degree.

DECIDES TO FORM PARTY OF HIS OWN.

Therefore, the Premier, without a party or organization of his own, finds himself apparently tied to a mass of unpopularity which must break into its component parts—thus ceasing to exist and be either singly or as a whole, shown under in the coming fight Lloyd George will be a leader without a party. Therefore he has decided to form a party of his own.

To do this he has had to find his chief adherents. First of all he has picked those members whom he does not need.

Of these, Austen Chamberlain comes first. He is a Liberal and will permeate the new party with the old. Then comes Curzon comes next.

Useful in some ways, he is a Jonah when it comes to active politics. Balfour doesn't matter either way—he is a very old man. Worthington Evans, secretary of the war department, and Stanley Baldwin, secretary of the board of trade; Lord Lee of Fareham are three fairly able mediocrities.

THE IN TRAINING FOR THE LEADERSHIP.

The two men whose cooperation stood out as absolutely necessary are Winston Churchill and Lord Birkenhead. Next to the Premier they are the two most powerful forces in British politics. Both are marked out for the premiership, and Lloyd George says that he does not mind which gets it after he is through with the job. Then came Sir Robert Horne, who, within a few years has risen to be chamberlain of the exchequer. Next came the two very able anti-labour Jews, Sir Alfred Mond and Edwin S. Montagu, and so on to the second tier. Together these represent Liberalism and Toryism in and about equal sections. Their one party principle is allegiance to Lloyd George, coupled with success at the forthcoming election.

The program will be of a gently progressive nature, but strongly anti-socialist and anti-communistic. Opposition to Bolshevism will be one of its chief planks. Moderate socialism will loom large. This party Lloyd George will lead unchallenged. It will undoubtedly attract an enormous amount of support throughout the country, particularly among women, to whom the old party names mean little or nothing.

On these lines the Premier believes he can again keep the country at the election which is at hand. Consequently he looks forward to another long term of untrammeled power.

BUREAU SENDS \$596,868 ABROAD EVERY MONTH

American War Veterans in 86 Foreign Countries Re- membered.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7—World War Veterans who cast their destinies with the American flag and who now reside in foreign countries receive a total of \$566,000 every month from the United States Veterans' Bureau, according to an announcement by the bureau.

The disbursements are sent to eighty-five foreign countries to meet the allotment and allowances, insurance and compensation claims of the men who served with the American expeditionary forces in France, the announcement said.

Italy, the land of sunshine, music and spaghetti, receives the largest part of the money sent out. Checks aggregating \$215,917.86 are forwarded each month by the bureau to satisfy the various claims of American veterans and their dependents now residing in Italy.

Ireland, traditionally famous for her fighting men, ranks second in the amount of money received by former American soldiers or their dependents.

A total of \$67,421.81 finds its way monthly to the shores of Erin, where former members of the American fighting forces have taken up their abode.

Former American soldiers or their dependents who now live in Germany receive checks every month totaling \$3,36,000 in compensation for their injuries or losses.

Another very civilized spot under the sun is represented on the disbursement lists of the bureau. One man, on the remote Island of Tahiti, in the Pacific, receives a check each month calling for \$47.74. Five checks are sent every month to Asia Minor, four to Egypt, one to Esthoni, ninety-one to China, twenty-eight to Japan, eight to the Island of Trinidad and eleven to Barbados.

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—Advertisement.

Indiana Daily Times, Saturday, January 7, 1922.

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