

June 30, 1945

*hearts* General Eisenhower has taken a great hold on the ~~life~~ of all the British people. A typical story they tell: At the fall of Tunis in Africa back in 1943, a parade was held of all the forces that had brought the African campaign to a successful conclusion.

As the crack Eighth Army filed past, the Desert Rats, the Highland Division, the South Africans -- all experiences and excellent troops -- Eisenhower, as the supreme Commanding Officer, took the salute. He was heard to say after the Eighth had marched past, "To think that I, a boy from Abilene, Kansas, am the Commander of troops like those!" He never lost that humble way and therefore easily won the hearts of those with whom he worked.

Montgomery, on the other hand, while holding a unique position himself, won it the other way. Shortly before he went to take over the Eighth Army in the desert, Montgomery was heard to say, "A military career is a hard one -- you win a battle and you are a hero -- you lose one and you are disgraced."

The man with whom he talked said, "Cheer up, General, you should do well -- you have good troops and fine equipment." "But," said Montgomery with some surprise, "I wasn't talking about myself, I was thinking of Rommel."

The Duchess said that the slaughter in the first war was extreme. Of seventy-five young men that she had known in 1914, seventy were killed in the war.

Churchill in his BOOK "World Crisis" brings out the same point -- the terrific slaughter of the field officers of the British army - two or three times higher than the Germans. They were always on the defensive in the dark days of '15, '16, and '17, and they paid most heavily.

The British lost one million of a population of forty million; the French, one million five hundred thousand of a population of thirty-eight million; and the Germans, one million five hundred thousand of a population of seventy million.

This tremendous slaughter had its effect on British policy in the 30's when Chamberlain and Baldwin could not bring themselves to subject the young men of Britain to the same horrible slaughter again.

NOTE: Churchill in his book "The Crisis" brings home with great force the amazing confidence and dependence that the British have put in their fleet as their number one line of defense.