

GEN. EISENHOWER TOURS FRONT

WITH LT. GEN. DEMPSEY

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for Combined Press & Radio

Second British Army
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Today General Dwight D. Eisenhower, American Supreme Commander of all the Allied forces, was enthusiastically acclaimed by officers and men of the Second British Army.

From this ovation, it was clearly apparent that General "Ike" has cemented the bonds into a greater strength than ever before.

At every stop along the Supreme Commander's tour, the cheers of both troops and civilians echoed the tremendous unity of the Allied cause. The beaming faces of the fighting British Tommies reflected the indefatigable determination of the two great English-speaking nations to break into the inner recesses of the Nazi nut-house and crush, once and for all, the very last of its would-be Napoleons.

General Eisenhower was accompanied today by Lt. Gen. Dempsey, commander of the Second British Army. For the second consecutive day, the Allied commander's tour was crowned with the crimson-gold of autumn sunshine.

In his usual swiftly efficient manner, General Ike swept through another crowded day of visits and inspections.

He was introduced to Lt. Gen. Ritchie, commander of a British Corps, by General Dempsey at the corps Headquarters, and then, later, to the senior officers of the staff. He inspected troops of the Headquarters.

He was taken to a bridge, where a particularly fierce skirmish had been fought between Allied and Nazi forces, and he was shown grim evidences of the battle.

He saw various mine-clearing methods demonstrated by members of the Royal Engineers.

He proceeded to a brigade Headquarters, was introduced to the brigade commander and his officers, and inspected troops of the formation. Later he had tea at the Headquarters.

He visited a divisional Headquarters and inspected another line-up of troops, after which he watched men of the division demonstrate how to mount mortars and crash into action.

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He moved on to the main divisional Headquarters and inspected still another group of troops.

He visited a unit of Royal Artillery gunners on their site of actual operations.

He watched a road-building demonstration by men of the Royal Engineers.

He inspected a guard of honour, composed of troops of a recce regiment, and then had dinner.

He looked over a captured German Panther tank and he went through the Churchill Club - a place of relaxation that men of an armoured brigade maintain.

But these are merely the cold facts of the day's activities. When exposed to the infectious grin and personality of the Allied commander, they take on the expansive warmth of his own native Texan sun. One look at that moon-glow face and the British Tommies of the Second Army front, like innumerable others before them, were won over to the down-to-earth Hun-buster.

He had a word for everyone possible, and his interest in both men and equipment was obvious and sincere.

Among the troops he spoke to at a Corps Headquarters were Sergeant G. Hallam, Derby, and Private R. Williams, of North Wales.

With Sappers J.S. Simpson and R. Lockhead, both of Manchester, who were demonstrating one of the mine-clearing methods, the general got half down on his knees and questioned them extensively on the details of their work.

Later, at the inspection of troops of the brigade Headquarters, he talked for some time with Private A.K. Thomas, of South Wales, about the Welsh lad's service in India.

At the divisional Headquarters, General Ike got really chummy with Sergeant J. Miller, of Glasgow, when he discovered that the sergeant had been attached to the U.S. Army in Africa. Further questioning revealed the fact that the General had been in Africa about the same time.

General Ike perked up like a Cocker turned loose in the underbrush when he moved onto the R.A. gun site. He got down in a 25-pounder pit with Lance - Bombardier H. Brown, Newport, and Gunners W. Green and L.A. Allis, both of London, and he wanted to be told as much as possible about the gun and the gunners themselves. Afterward, the General noticed the Africa Star on B.S.M. J. Armour, of Glasgow, and he talked over the days of the Rommel battles with the serjeant-major.

While being conducted about the various gun positions by Captain M. Joy, of Bentley, Hants, General Ike became aware of a pile of sugar beets in the field. Immediately he began to explain to the captain the difference between the Dutch beets and the American variety.

Driving across the flat Holland countryside after dinner, with the occasional black silhouette of a windmill pasted against the sky, the Allied chief saw scenes of recent warfare. Knocked-out tanks lay grotesquely about the fields, burned and rusted, like great crippled mechanical beetles. In several places, cattle bloated with death pointed their stiffly distended limbs toward the horizon.

General Eisenhower spoke with many men of a famous regiment. Included among these were Sergeants A. McKie and A. Malatim, both of Glasgow. Sergeant H. Jackson, a former policeman from London, explained the intricate mechanism of some bridging equipment to the General.

The Churchill Club, which General Ike inspected and praised, is in charge of Sergeant G. Light, of London. Guardsman H. Charge, also of London, is the bartender.

This club was organized recently by the men of an armoured brigade. They maintain it themselves. An average of 600 troops are served each night with cakes and tea or beer. Reading, writing and games rooms are also available.