

"THE TILEHURST TUNE"

May 22, 1947
J. M. Deller

We have received a letter which is a tribute to the grand fellowship which has grown up between the American Forces and the Tilehurst friends. The letter is addressed from "Holland", and reads as follows :-

"My dear Rev. Gowland,

The other evening at one of our services a man asked that we sing 'Now the Day is over' and that we use the Tilehurst Methodist tune. That man has expressed worlds in that phrase. Behind that man's request, and in all of our minds, there were visions of the many fine services that we had enjoyed together.

As we sang the song we were singing it again with all of you - the people that have become so dear to us. Although in combat and many miles from you, we were drawn closer to God and consequently, closer to you. It was like a refreshing walk down a lovely English country lane because His presence was felt everywhere.

As we sang, 'Jesus give the weary calm and sweet repose', we remembered how you had taken us into your homes and how they had become our homes since we were away from our own. We were your sons and you our mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters who cheered us when we were weary, and by making us feel at home you calmed our homesick feelings and gave us the sweet repose that only loved ones can give.

'Grant to little children visions bright of Thee', gave us visions of the children in the Sunday School and in the homes that we visited, that we learned to love, and that filled the empty spot in some of the men's hearts caused by the separation from their own children.

To the wounded man came new hope and relief from his pain because he knew that his friends at Tilehurst were singing, 'Comfort every sufferer watching late in pain'.

The assurance that you were praying for us came as we sang 'Through the long night watches, May Thine angels spread their white wings above

me, watching round my bed', and the night was not near so long or dark because of that assurance.

Perhaps you think it wrong because we were living in memories, but those memories gave us an assurance of a bright future because we know that there are fine Christian people in England working for a New World. We trust that the time will come when we can again worship with all of you, but if not I am sure that hundreds of song-leaders in churches all over the States are going to scratch their heads as the request comes in, 'Please sing "Now the Day is over" using the Tilehurst Methodist Tune'.

Sincerely,
GORDON WISEMAN"

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IN APPRECIATION AND SYMPATHY

All friends of the Church heard with regret and sympathy of the passing of Mr. Ralph, of 'Rowden', Recreation Road. He served His Lord faithfully and well throughout many years of membership in the Methodist Church. For several years he had suffered from a grievous affliction; though few men have suffered more than he did, he kept his faith to the end. To Mrs. Ralph and the family we extend our deepest sympathy and the ministry of prayer.

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ECHOES OF CHRISTMAS

Several encouraging reports and stories indicate the particular blessing which came to our Church at Christmas 1944, and we give here a few of the notes before us.

Christmas Tree
and Carol
Service

At the special service on Christmas Eve the crowd was such that several friends were seated around the pulpit. Chaplain Milnes, U. S. Army, gave the Christmas