

SONGS OF TWO WARS

"Hymn of Hate" to "Boomps-a-Daisy"

MARCHING through France singing the old favourite "Tipperary" and two songs of later vintage: "Ole Faithful" and "Boomps-a-Daisy," the British Expeditionary Force has had a rapturous welcome from the French people. The cables tell us that the Tommies were "assisted" in their songs by the throngs which marched with them.

The story of how "Tipperary" became an established favourite during the last war has been told many times and its repetition is hardly necessary.

In the case of "Ole Faithful," this song is one of Jimmy Kennedy's greatest successes and is most popular with radio listeners. Jimmy Kennedy also wrote "Roll Along Covered Wagon," "The Isle of Capri," "Play to Me, Gipsy," "Red Sails in the Sunset" and "Cafe Continental."

Irishman and Linguist

Kennedy, who was born in County Tyrone in 1902, is a Bachelor of Arts of Trinity College, Dublin, and an expert linguist. He is devoted to his hobbies of gardening, motor-ing, and golf, and lives at Walton-on-Thames. He is an authority on Western fiction. His library contains six or seven hundred books of this type, and he has read them all.

The explanation is that one day he will have a ranch in Western Canada. Even as a schoolmaster, when he taught languages before writing best sellers, he began saving to start a ranch in a small way. Now, his plans are more elaborate. The ranch is an ambition which he had long before he began writing songs, but it has still to be realised.

Exports "Hill-Billies"

That is why he writes so many "hill-billies" and exports them to the United States. Once when tuning into America on short wave, he heard a rodeo in Nevada using his "Roll Along, Covered Wagon" as its signature tune. What a thrill!

Jimmy Kennedy must be unique among composers, for when he is not writing music himself, he is providing lyrics for the music of others. One of the distinguished people with whom he collaborated in this strange fashion was her late Majesty Queen Liliuokalani of the Hawaiians.

Liliuokalani, first Regent, and later Queen of Hawaii in 1887, made music her hobby, and composed many of those typical airs with which the strummers strive to enchant us to-day. Mr. Kennedy plays airs over on the piano, waits for an inspiration, and then writes suitable words.

Together with Michael Carr, his collaborator in "Ole Faithful," Kennedy is proving the most formidable problem to American



HAYDN

He wrote the music of "Deutschland Uber Alles"

publishers that Britain has provided for over twenty years.

Boomps-A-Daisy

"Boomps-a-Daisy" is Annette Mills's latest popular dance success, and was written last February. As recently as the end of July she said that it was very popular with the Services, who among countless other radio listeners, have tuned in, learned the words, learned the tune, and learned the steps of this most recent ball-room favourite. Little wonder the Tommies sang it marching through France.

That a woman should be the composer and lyric writer of one of the "hits" with the British troops at the outset of the Nazi war is significant.

Three Further "Hits"

Latest advices from England make mention of three other songs that have made a big hit with the soldiers. The first is "Beer Barrel Polka." This song is written in common time, and has recently been an enormous seller in both England and America. As the rhythm is particularly suited to military marching, it is predicted that this will be one of the outstanding War Songs of the year. The words have a strong appeal to the soldier:—

*Roll out the Barrel,
We'll have a barrel of fun.*

Then there's "South of the Border," in Tango Rhythm, which is also enjoying a huge vogue. Soldiers are singing it, everybody is humming or whistling it in the

streets, and it is featured by every top line act. Gene Autry recently arrived in London with "his horses and everything," and the song simply "made" his personal appearances.

Gene Autry was brought up on his father's ranch, took a railway job, then began song writing. His theatrical career started in radio, and this led to film work, since when he has risen to stardom. An American publisher was so impressed with "South of the Border" that he took it back home to introduce it there.

Another new English wartime song is "Handsome Territorial," which is fast claiming public attention. This is after the type of the "Good-bye Dolly Gray" of the Boer War, and "If You Were the Only Girl in the World" of the Great War. It is a new dance in six-eight time (which makes it excellent for marching) and the actions of the dance include saluting and other soldier actions.

German Songs

The two main German soldier songs are "Deutschland uber Alles" and the "Horst Wessel" song.

The tune of the former has a history. The famous "Emperor" String Quartet of Joseph Haydn was composed at the instigation of Count von Saurau, Imperial Chancellor and Minister of the Interior.

The Count writing in 1820, said: "I often regretted that we had not, like the English, a national air calculated to display to all the world the loyal devotion of our people to the kind and upright ruler of our Fatherland... I caused that meritorious poet Haschka to write the words and applied to our immortal countryman Haydn to set the music, for I considered him alone capable of writing anything approaching the English 'God Save the King' Such was the origin of our National Hymn."

The national air, which was fashioned from a Croatian peasant tune, is used by Haydn in the second movement of the "Emperor" Quartet, hence its title. Upon it are built a set of variations. Haydn was particularly fond of the melody.

The Emperor was enchanted with the air when it was sung on his birthday in 1797 at the National Theatre in Vienna. His Majesty sent Haydn a gold box adorned with a facsimile of the Royal features as a special mark of appreciation for his composition.

Five days before Haydn died he was carried to his pianoforte for the last time and solemnly played the Emperor's Hymn