

Lt. Audie Murphy Knows What G.I. Wants-And it Isn't War

By LT. AUDIE L. MURPHY

As Told to WILLIAM BARNARD

FARMERSVILLE, July 7. (AP)-- You hear all sorts of things about how returning doughfoots have changed, and should be pampered.

That is mostly malarkey. There is nothing wrong with the average U.S. fighting man that six months of home cooking won't cure.

But you can write this down with your red pencil. Your soldier has learned to think and when he gets home he will be thinking things over.

He knows what he wants.

The other day I turned 21 and now I have to vote. I'll sure use it.

I don't want to see this country caught asleep at the switch again.

Maybe all these peace conferences will turn out to mean something. If they don't, we ought to be ready.

(Editor's note: Lt. Audie Leon Murphy of Farmersville, Tex., back from Europe, is the most heavily decorated U. S. soldier.)

As far as real brotherly love between nations is concerned, I don't think I'll live to see it. I can't picture myself or any other soldier who fought over there going back to Germany as a tourist. The guys who fought the krauts will always hate the krauts. If they don't then they didn't know what they were fighting for.

I say we ought to stay in Germany a long, long time. We ought to take democracy over there. It will work on Germans the same as it will work on anyone else.

I fought in the same foxhole with a German-American boy and I went on many a patrol with him. You couldn't ask for a better fighter. If he had been born in Germany, I'd have been shooting at him instead of with him. It's all in where you were born and how you were raised.

Now I don't think the fellows I fought against could ever become law-abiding citizens. We shouldn't worry about those guys now; they are hopeless. What we should worry about are the ones 10 years old up to 17. They weren't old enough to take a beating in the Army but they were old enough to absorb Nazi teachings. They'll give us trouble.

We ought to reform German schools and homes and politics. The devils have to be taught to respect other peoples' rights. Right now, all they know is force, and we ought to apply it, plenty. And we shouldn't ease up--it makes me sick to hear what clean people the Germans are and what tidy homes they have. Well, I know of a mother and daughter over there who were clean people and had a tidy home. They also had lampshades made out of human skins.

The biggest thing I am rooting for is universal military training after the Japs are beaten. Every boy should have a year of it

when he turns 18. The training should be just as much like the battlefield as possible. There should be a lot of infiltration courses and physical hardening and live ammunition should be used in working out all combat problems.

Every day on the battlefield you learn something new. You'd never learn it all if you kept at it 10 years. Training should be designed so that the soldier learns more and more in practice and less and less on the battlefield. What he didn't learn in training and learned in battle killed many a doughfoot.

Something a guy doesn't know may cause him to goof off his life. A man in the Third Division saw a shoe mine and didn't know what it was and kicked it. It blew his foot off. He lost a foot because of something he didn't learn in the United States.

I learned more in three months of training in Africa than I learned in six months in the states. In Africa they knew what to train for. I learned there to hike five miles an hour--almost a trot until you got used to it. In fact it was called the Truscott. I learned to go 24 hours on a canteen of water and the weather was really hot. That's the kind of training that gets a guy ready for really tough battlefield work. A year of it wouldn't hurt any boy and some day it might save his life.

Anyone who saw V-bombs knows there is no such thing as isolationism any more.

I saw many a doughfoot die to get that European war over with. I don't want another one and there are a few million other soldiers who feel the same. Maybe we can help to make enough noise to keep America awake.