

Our War Album.--13. Co-ordinator of Defence



Lord Chatfield

Appointed in January 1939 to the responsible post of Minister for Co-ordination of Defence, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Chatfield entered the Navy in 1886 and was First Sea Lord from 1933 to 1938. He was knighted in 1919 and granted a peerage in 1937.

Photo, Hay Wrightson

EASY FRENCH PHRASES FOR BRITISH SOLDIERS-2.

Below are given vocabularies and simple phrases which the soldier in France may find useful while in billets. Where distractions are few, a game of cards or chess is a welcome diversion. Included also is a vocabulary of useful tools for the benefit of the handy-man.

BEFORE starting on your journey you may want a meal. In all large stations there is a **BUFFET**. At small country stations there is generally a **BUVETTE**, where drinks, but no meals, except perhaps sandwiches, can be had.

THE MEAL *Le Repas (Ler Repah)*

A cup of coffee	Un café un kaffay
White coffee	Café au lait or Café crème Kaffay oh lay Kaffay kraym
Bread	Le pain ler pen
Butter	Le beurre (ler burr)
Roll	Le petit pain (ler ptee pen)
A glass of beer	Un bock (small) (un bok) Un demi (large) un dmee
A glass of white (red) wine	Un vin blanc (rouge) Un ven blan (roozh)
A ham sandwich	Un sandwich jambon un sandveech zham-bon

(A more complete vocabulary is given under "Hotel" in the section "ON LEAVE")

YOUR billet will very often be one of the barns attached to a French farm, or if you are lucky you may be quartered in the house itself. In either case there are sure to be certain subjects about which you will want to tackle the good lady of the house (or her daughter).

IN BILLETS

Le Cantonnement (Ler kan-tonn-man)

Would you mind sewing on this button?
Vouslez-vous me coudre ce bouton, s'il vous plaît?
Voolay voo mer koodr ser boo-ton seel voo play

Could I trouble you to darn this sock for me?
Cela vous dérangerait-il de me repriser cette chaussette?

Ser-lah voo day-ran-zher-ay-teel der mer pre-zay set shoh-set

Might I dry my clothes in front of your fire?
Puis-je sécher mes vêtements devant votre feu?

Pweezh sesh-ay may, vayt-man der-van votr fer

Can you lend us two chairs . . . a table?
Vouslez-vous nous prêter deux chaises, s'il vous plaît . . . une table?

Voolay voo noo pray-tay der shayz seel voo play . . . een tahbl

We will take great care of them
Nous en prendrons grand soin
Nooz an pran-dron gran swen

Billeting order
Le billet de logement
Ler bee-yay der lohzh-man

To allot billets
Répartir le cantonnement
Ray-par-teer ler kan-tonn-man

To pitch tents To strike tents
Dresser les tentes Plier les tentes
Dressay lay tant Plee-yay lay tant

Town hall Signboard
La mairie L'écriteau
Lah may-ree Lek-ree-toh

Watering place (for horses) The well
L'abreuvoir Le puits
Lab-er-vwah Ler pwee

The barn Straw
La grange La paille
Lah granzh Lah pai

Is there a bath in the house?
Y-a-t-il un bain dans la maison?
Ee-ah-teel un ben dan lah may-zon

At the end of the street
Au bout de la rue
Oh boo der lah ree

I shall come back soon . . . in half an hour
Je rentrerai bientôt . . . dans une demi-heure

Zher ran-treray bee-en-toh . . . dan zeen dermee urr

We are billeted on you
Nous sommes logés chez vous
Noo somm loh-zhay shay voo

Where is the stable?
Où est l'écurie? (Oo ay lay-kee-ree)
Ou est l'ecurie? (Oo ay lay-kee-ree)

Good bedding for the horses
Une bonne litière pour les chevaux
Een bon litayr poor lay shevoh

A GAME OF CARDS

Une Partie de Cartes Een partee der kart
A pack of cards *Un jeu de cartes*
Un zher der kart

To shuffle the cards *Battre les cartes*
Battr lay kart

To cut the cards *Couper les cartes*
Koipay lay kart

KEY TO PRONUNCIATION

French Vowel Sounds are represented thus:

a as in cat ay as in day
ah " " father ai " " in quite
er " " her father (but the "r" is not pronounced)
ee " " bee i as in bit
ee denotes the French "u"

This sound does not exist in English and is pronounced by making the sound "ee" with the lips rounded and pushed forward as when whistling.

o as in not oh as in home
oo " " boot

The Nasal Vowels. These again do not exist in English. They are spelt in French:

an, am, en, denoted by *an*
em, in, eim, ein, aim, sin, " " *en*
on, om, " " *on*
un, um, " " *un*

If these syllables are pronounced as denoted, and uttered through the nose and mouth simultaneously, you will get very near it.

E.g. The French for "a good white wine" is *un bon vin blanc*

Pronunciation by this system: *un bon ven blan*

We advise you, if you cannot get a French friend to pronounce these words for you, to listen to similar sounds on the French wireless, which will help you considerably.

Consonants.

These present little difficulty, but in the simplified pronunciation system note that

r is trilled or rolled as in Scotland and Northumberland

r is not pronounced

s is always as in sister

zh is the s we get in pleasure

Trump . . . L'atout (Latoo)
Hearts Diamonds Spades Clubs
Coeurs Carreaux Piques Trèfles
Kurr Karoh Peek Trayfl
Ace King Queen Jack
L'as Le roi La reine Le valet
Lahs Ler rwah Lah reyn Ler valay

To deal the cards *Donner les cartes*
Donnay lay kart
A misdeal *Une maldonne* Een maldon

A GAME OF CHESS

Une Partie D'Echecs Een partee deshek

A chessboard . . . L'échiquier
Lesh-ee-kyay

Pawn Knight Bishop
Le pion Le cavalier Le fou
Ler pee-on Ler ka-va-lyay Ler foo
Rook Queen King
La tour La reine Le roi
Lah toor Lah reyn Ler rwah

To be in check Check and mate
Etre échec Echec et mat
Aytr eshek Eshek ay makt
White Black
Blanc (Blan) Noir (Nwahr)

KITCHEN UTENSILS

Articles de Cuisine Ahr-teeld der kwee-zeen

Jug (large) . . . Un broc (un brökh)

A water jug . . . Un pot à eau

Un poh-tah oh

Pitcher . . . Une cruche (Een kreesh)

Glass . . . Un verre (un vayr)

Knife . . . Un couteau (Un koo-toh)

Fork . . . Une fourchette

Een four-shett

Spoon . . . Une cuillère

Een kwee-yayr

Cup . . . Une tasse (Een tass)

Saucer . . . Une soucoupe

Een soo-koop

Bowl . . . Un bol (Un bol)

TOOLS IN COMMON USE

Outils D'Usage Courant Oo-tee dee-zahzh
koo-ran

Pickaxe . . . Une pioche (Een pee-osh)

Hatchet . . . Une hachette (Een ahshet)

Hammer . . . Un marteau (Un mahr-toh)

Saw . . . Une scie (Een see)

Spanner . . . Une clef anglaise

Een klay an-glaz

Wrench . . . Une molette (Een möh-let)

Screwdriver . . . Un tournevis

Un toor-ner-vees

File . . . Une lime (Een leem)

Brace . . . Un vilebrequin

Un veel-brer-ken

Bit . . . Une mèche (Een maysh)

Plane . . . Un robot (Un rahböh)

Chisel (Cold chisel) *Un ciseau (ciseau à froid)*

Un see-zoh (ah frwah)

Spirit-level . . . Un niveau à bulle d'air

Un neev-ah ah beel dayr

Plumb-line . . . Un fil à plomb

Un feel ah plon

Pincers . . . Les tenailles (Lay ter-nai)

Pliers . . . Les pinces (Lay pens)

Gimlet . . . Une vrille (Een vree)