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Immediate Release

The English and Their Country: For Overseas Forces

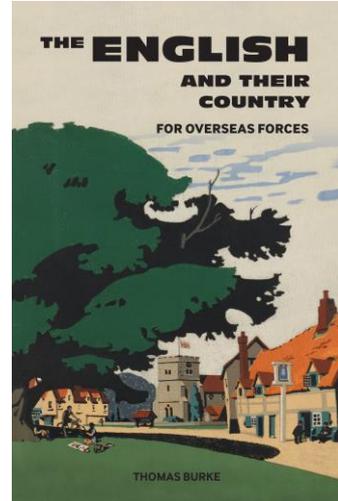
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No Englishman can defend these illogical customs, and he doesn't try. [...] He prefers to suffer and exercise his privilege of grumbling. It is all part of his individualism. – Thomas Burke

During the course of the Second World War, 1.5 million American servicemen and women travelled to Britain to serve with the Allied offensive against Germany.



For many, it was the first time they had left their home town, let alone their country. The 'little island' in which they had been stationed, with its many 'illogical customs' and stark contradictions felt both alien and impossible to understand.

To help with this culture shock, the British Council issued *The English and Their Country* in 1944 as a useful guide for overseas servicemen and women stationed in England during the Second World War. The guidebook sought to clarify some of the many peculiarities of English culture, such as: Why are the English so reserved and shy? What is the difference between northerners and southerners? Why are the English so obsessed with the weather? What is an English Breakfast?

A facsimile of the original pamphlet will be published by Imperial War Museums on 20 October.

Ranging from the differing dialects, to the temperamental climate and confusing class system, *The English and Their Country* provides a fascinating insight into English life in the 1940s and the advice given to American service personnel about how to integrate into English communities. This quirky facsimile offers a light-hearted take on English society that will delight any modern-day Anglophile.

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For further information or to request a review copy of the book, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

- *The English and Their Country* will be on sale on Thursday 20 October; cost £6.99. For further information and to pre-order *The English and their Country* please visit: iwmsshop.org.uk

IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch with six floors of exhibitions and displays; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four programme of cultural activities across the country, including the opening of brand new First World War Galleries at IWM London in 2014. For more information visit www.1914.org

