

Lili Marlene

Give me a rose, and press it to my heart,

Give me a rose, before I must depart;

*Perhaps tomorrow you will cry
But later on, perhaps you'll sigh
For whom, Lili Marlene, for whom
Lili Marlene?*

*Back into battle, I have got to go;
Next to my heart, your rose is throbbing so*

*Whatever now becomes of me
I'll only smile, and think of thee,
Of thee, Lili Marlene, of thee, Lili Marlene.*

And in my dreams, I know that you are there

The lamplight still shining, upon your golden hair;

*Our tears are mingled with the rain;
I will come home and stay again*

*With you, Lili Marlene, with you,
Lili Marlene.*

Danes and Norwegians, Dutch and French have all made their parodies of the famous song, and usually it is not a lantern that hangs from the lamp-post but a pale, neurotic little man with a black moustache, and a wayward lock of hair. The singing of their versions have been a good outlet for bottled-up feelings. In the past few weeks it is doubtful if there have been many Germans singing "Lili" with much gusto—unless it is those who are so fortunate as to be languishing in prison camps waiting to return to a battered, conquered Fatherland.

THE LITTLE STATES OF EUROPE

III. LIECHTENSTEIN

This principality is rather bigger than the first two dealt with. It is the proud possessor of no less than sixty-five square miles, almost exactly one-tenth the size of Stewart Island. Lying on the right bank of the Rhine, with Switzerland on one side and Austria on the other Liechtenstein has been independent since 1866, and has over 10,000 inhabitants and a parliament (the Landtag) of no less than fifteen members, elected by direct popular vote.

At one time this Germanic state inclined to Austria, but the Austro-German combination has had so many set-backs in the past thirty years that it now rather cultivates Switzerland, as a safer bet in every way. With Swiss currency, and with its membership of the Swiss Customs Union it almost counts as a part of that State which has pursued the path of neutrality with more skill and more luck than any other in Europe. But Liechtenstein retains its political independence, and very useful it has found it. It has no standing army, feeling very truly that all the army

it could provide would hardly do more than annoy anyone who really meditated invasion. But no one does, least of all the Germans. For the Nazi Leaders find Liechtenstein very useful. They have not for a long time been quite as confident of winning the war as their statements might have led one to suppose. So they have all been busy turning themselves into limited liability companies, and most of these companies are incorporated in Liechtenstein, even though the assets are in Germany and Austria. The shares are often held by nominees who are natives of this little state. It is the fond hope of the Gauleiters, Deputy Fuehrers and so on that after the war the Allies will respect the property of so impeccably neutral a state. This frenzied activity has brought the state great prosperity. Half the offices in the main street are devoted to company lawyers' places of business, while the taxes are a most useful extra for the exchequer, and have more than replaced the profits once made out of State Lotteries, tickets for which even reached far-away New Zealand in the piping days of peace.