

James V. Bryson

## **Bryson Meets Remarque**

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## Bryson Meets Remarque

»All Quiet« Author Moved to Tears

Jas. V. Bryson, managing director of Universal, returned to London yesterday after flying to Germany, where he met Erich Remarque, author of »All Quiet on the Western Front,« and discussed with him his next work, which Universal have secured by contract.

Back in Wardour Street, Mr. Bryson said:

»At 10 o'clock on Sunday morning I met Erich Maria Remarque. He was driving a Fiat car and with him was his wife and Otto Klement, his agent and manager.

»At 10 o'clock precisely he drove into Munster, in the south-west of Germany, unheralded and unconcerned. From whence he came I knew not, but it was sufficient that coming towards me was the most talked of man of this decade. He was, in fact, Paul Baumer, of the Book and Film, come to life.

»As I have said, he cannot possibly have any idea of his international repute ; he is almost too timid to shake hands. He is the most retiring and reticent celebrity I have ever met.

»I had with me the film we have made from his book.

»Salutations being over, he walked straight into the theatre, and immediately this story of his war years and his comrades began to unfold itself upon the screen. The result was astonishing. Remarque seemed turned to stone !

»It was terribly moving; I could well imagine the conflict taking place in his mind. Was it any wonder that Remarque walked out of the theatre with tears in his eyes ?

»An hour later at the Kaiserhof, during lunch, he told me, through his interpreter, that he considered it a very beautiful production.

»We then discussed his next work, which my company have secured for picturisation. The tentative title is › Kamerad,‹ which will probably be changed.

»It deals, he told me, with the lives of those boys who passed through the conflict of 1914 – 18 and survived to reap whatever reward might await them.

»Remarque assured me that its difference would be so pronounced and its intensity so much greater than › All Quiet ‹ that he would rather not discuss it.

»The short space of time I had spent with this remarkable man convinced me of his sincerity and ability to produce another monumental epic of the war and its aftermath.

»Remarque is 32, but only looks like a boy of 17.

»His manager told me that from all over the world inquiries reach him for Remarque's address from prominent playwrights, authors and journalists beseeching him daily for interviews.

»Remarque, however, is terribly pressed for time finishing his second work, which Universal, having made › All Quiet,‹ will make into an all-dialogue screen production. The MS. was promised originally for July 1st, but that date has been extended to October 1st.

»»All Quiet on the Western Front < has now been translated into 37 languages, and has circulated to nearly 4,000,000. In England alone over 400,000 books of the 7s. 6d. edition have been sold, which I am reliably informed is the record for any work sold in this country.

»I hear that the *Daily Mail* have purchased the serial rights of Remarque's second work. I am sure that they have obtained a story that will be without parallel or precedent.«