

Americans Got Along Best With English Kids



**ORPHAN RECEIVES SCOOTER
AT 1944 CHRISTMAS PARTY**



IN December, 1943, homesick Americans at Goxhill were hopelessly looking forward to a cold, wet and cheerless Christmas away from their loved ones. Then five hundred children from nearby towns descended on the base for a party. As a result, Christmas spirit shone out from the station. From that time on English kids were G.I. favorites and vice versa. Christmas parties for orphans were held each of the next two years, with soldiers saving up rations for presents weeks in advance. Seven children who had lost one or both parents during the war were "adopted" by Duxford units. The \$400 for each child paid for school and two meals a day for four years. Some units later added to this fund, for music lessons and other purposes. And whenever these or other kids came to the base, soldiers grabbed them up to entertain them. They knew they would have as much fun as the youngsters.