

North Carolina—Probably rain to night turning to snow Wednesday; colder.

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WORLD AT WAR ON PRINCE OF PEACE'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

First War Christmas for America. Fourth for European Belligerents

LITTLE FIGHTING EXCEPT IN ITALY

Military Operations Almost at a Standstill—The Kaiser Has Promised a New Peace Offer Today

America's first war Christmas in many years finds the sons of the United States training in camps here and in France and guarding the ocean lanes from submarines. Today also is the fourth war Christmas for the leading belligerents of Europe and for the first time in hundreds of years, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, where occurred the most important events in the life of Him whose natal day it is, are in the hands of Christians.

Military operations are almost at a standstill except on the Italian front where the Austro-Germans persist in their efforts to break the Italian line. The British official press bureau has announced that no further official war statements will be issued until this afternoon.

Last Christmas tide the world was discussing peace terms offered by the Central Powers and it is reported that this day also may be marked by a proffer from those countries held in the sway of Prussian military autocracy. Peace negotiations between the Bolshevik government of Russia and the Central Powers have progressed so far that it is declared the Russians today will receive an answer to their terms from the Teutonic allies.

Possessing a desire for a peace which the Entente Allies say they cannot accept with honor, Emperor William declares to the world that his soldiers must bring a Prussian peace "by battering in with the iron fist and the shining sword of the doors of those who will not have peace."

American troops in France have been joined in the celebration of Christmas by French children and they send a message of cheer to those at home. American soldiers and sailors will participate in holiday festivities at various camps in England and France as well as in London and Paris and other cities and seaports.

The political situation in Rumania is said to be disturbed and the Bolshevik authorities in Petrograd have reported reports of a revolutionary plot against King Ferdinand. In the territory south of Moscow the Bolsheviks claim to have defeated 6,000 Bolshevik troops near Bielsk. The Bolsheviks also are said to have begun an attack on Khar'kov.

SOCIALIST PAPER AGAIN PUBLISHED

(By Associated Press.) Australia, Dec. 25.—The Vorwärts, the Socialist organ, reported to have been ordered to suspend publication for three days, appeared unexpectedly Sunday. It says its suspension was due to criticism of the provisioning of war invalids under the heading: "Let them go."

The Vorwärts quotes in its defense from Von Vonder, the food controller. It quotes him as denying having excused or tolerated certain conditions, alleged, but as admitting that their trading has assumed proportions which threaten to endanger the food supply.

CONSCRIPTION PLAN BADLY DEFEATED

(By Associated Press.) Sydney, Australia, Dec. 25.—Further reports from the referendum have indicated the vote against compulsory military service and defeat of the plan is now beyond doubt. The political situation is very uncertain. Premier Hughes has made no statement thus far but in certain quarters there is evidence of opposition to the continued leadership of the Nationalists, the dominant party. It is not probable that Frank G. Tudor, a former cabinet member, will be permitted to lead the Nationalists to form a government of the Labor party, giving this party an opportunity to put into effect its plans for raising troops without conscription.

CHRISTMAS FINDS PARIS TAKING ON AMERICAN COLOR

Hundreds of Soldiers and Sailors Spend Day in French Capital

A BIG DINNER WAS PROVIDED FOR ALL

Supply of Turkeys Exhausted Early by Demand for Great American Bird—Many Entertainments Given

(By Associated Press.) Paris, Dec. 25.—For its fourth war Christmas, Paris has taken on a decided American color. In addition to the 500 American soldiers regularly stationed in and around the city, there are in Paris one thousand or more on leave from camps, including a number who have seen service in the trenches. The engineer regiments serving behind the British front and who were recently engaged with the Germans are represented and there are also several hundred sailors from an American patrol fleet off the French coast.

The poultry situation the last few days was dominated by the demand for turkey, the greatest in the history of Paris. To supply the soldiers and sailors from the United States, the markets were exhausted before noon yesterday. All the American fighting men will be given a Christmas dinner as near as possible to the real American feast. The American Y. M. C. A. hotels are filled to capacity. Special entertainments were given there last night and Christmas dinners were served today. The American Soldiers' and Sailors' Club and the American University Union also are looking after as many guests as they can accommodate. The various college fraternities and alumni associations are giving special dinners and entertainments to members. At the Soldiers' and Sailors' Club each guest received a Christmas present.

No American soldier in France has been overlooked, as the Red Cross provided gifts for all of them. The American ambulance at Neuilly has a Christmas tree for the patients and the other American hospitals provided dinners and entertainment. The American field service gave a dinner to former members last night at their old headquarters.

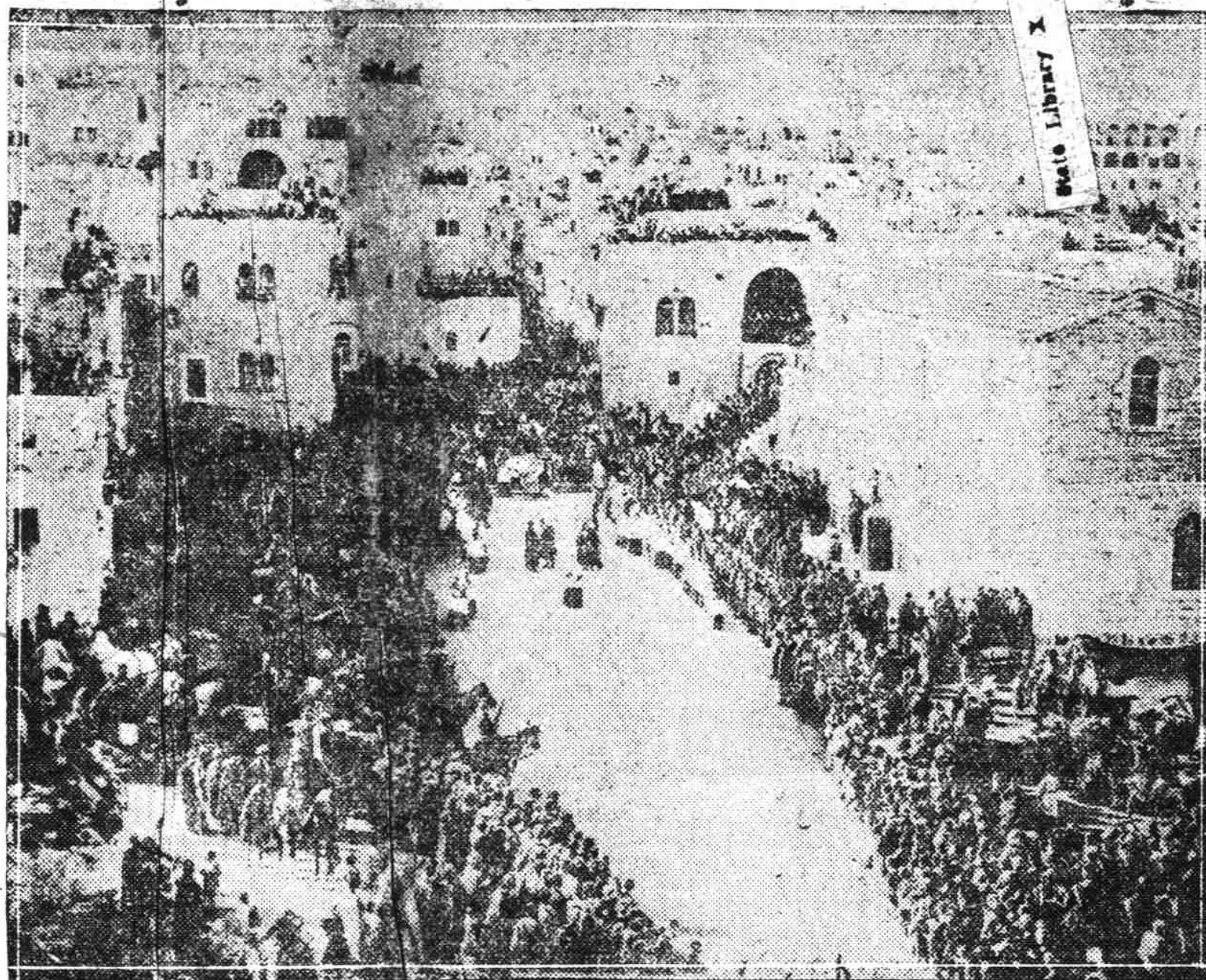
NEWLANDS' DEATH CAUSES A GLOOM

Official Washington Expresses Sorrow Over Loss of Nevada Senator

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 25.—The death of Senator Francis Griffith Newlands, of Nevada, who succumbed to a sudden heart attack at his home here last night, cast a gloom over the Christmas activities of official Washington today. Senator Newlands was stricken while at work in his office at the Senate building in the afternoon, but was able to go to his home and his illness was not generally known until the announcement of his death. The members of his family did not realize the seriousness of his condition and a physician was not called for several hours. The attacks later became acute and he died at 10:15 o'clock, Mrs. Newlands and her brother were with him when he died.

Arrangements for the funeral had not been completed today. Members of the family here awaited word from a daughter, Mrs. Edith N. Johnston, of Santa Barbara, Cal. Another daughter, Mrs. William B. Johnston, lives in Boston.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN BETH LEHEM—A DAY OF REAL REJOICING



The entire populace and residents of the cities and villages nearby proceeding to the Church of Navity for solemn ceremonies. This scene is most impressive.

CAROLINA FARMERS GOT MANY LOANS

Sixty-Eight Farm Loan Associations Joined, and \$418,430 Secured

(By Associated Press.) Washington, D. C., Dec. 25.—That the farmers of North Carolina have enthusiastically availed themselves of the opportunity to make long-term loans on their farms at five per cent from the Federal Farm Loan Bank system is shown by a report issued by the Federal Farm Loan Board reviewing the operations of the system up to December 1.

The report shows that 68 farm loan associations have been formed by the North Carolina farmers; that loans of \$6,498,219 have been applied for by these associations; that the Federal Farm Loan Board has approved loans of \$2,109,046, and that loans amounting to \$418,430 have been finally closed. The farmers of the Southeastern and Western States have taken full advantage of the Farm Loan system, while the farmers in the North Atlantic and New England States have exhibited an apparent lack of desire to embrace its advantages.

The farmers of Virginia have formed 48 farm loan associations and applied for loans of \$5,524,618; Tennessee has formed 31 associations, Alabama 59, Mississippi 95, California 74, Oklahoma 88, Colorado 99, New Mexico 65 and Washington 96.

On the other hand the farmers of Pennsylvania have formed but 10 associations and applied for loans of but \$1,252,545; New Jersey has formed nine associations; Delaware one, Connecticut one, Maine six, New Hampshire one, Vermont two and Rhode Island two.

This activity in connection with the Farm Loan Bank system in the South and apparent indifference towards it in the Northeastern States is undoubtedly due in a large measure to the fact that the Northeastern farmers have been always able to obtain loans from the banks at between 5 and 7 per cent, while in the South, the figures of the Treasury Department show the bankers have held the farmers up to an average interest rate of over 9 per cent and in many instances much higher.

Kansas has received the largest amount of loans, getting \$3,594,000, and Louisiana has received the smallest amount, having obtained only \$850, although the Louisiana farmers have formed 14 associations and applied for loans of \$2,038,161.

Up to December 1 \$29,824,655 had been actually paid out to farmers of the United States. The total of loans approved by the Federal Land Banks, including those closed and those awaiting verification of title and other formalities, is \$105,136,529.

The report also shows that the total loan applications made to the twelve Federal Land Banks has been \$19,760,740, which has been cut down by reductions and rejections to less than \$180,000,000. The interest rate under the farm loan system has been increased from 5 per cent to 5 1/2 per cent and the increased rate will apply to all applications which have not yet been approved by the Federal Land Banks.

Borrowing under the Federal Farm Loan system is done through co-operative farm loan associations organized by farmers, each association being composed of ten or more farmer-borrowers, and each group borrowing at least \$21,500. Up to December 1st the Farm Loan Board had chartered 1,839 such co-operative associations.

SHAFFER FIRST AMERICAN OFFICER TO GO OVER TOP

Former University of Chicago Football Star Tells of the Experience

FRENCHY SAID "GUESS" AND BOYS GUESSED

But Time Spent in Guessing Came Near Proving Serious to Sammie—Cut Wire Preparatory to Charge

(By Associated Press.) Chicago, Dec. 25.—Lieutenant Walter B. Schaffer, former half back on the University of Chicago football team, claims to have been the first American officer to go over the top into "No Man's Land," under the barrage of French gunners, according to a letter exhibited today by Schaffer's fraternity brothers at the Midway School.

Schaffer, in his letter, told of the manner in which the small body of American troops crept out in the night under a peppering of bullets, to cut away the barbed wire entanglements in order that a heavy assault might be made the following day.

"It was a dark night and we were told in the trenches that it was time for our start," said Schaffer. "Just as we were making final preparations, a French officer came running from an outpost yelling 'Guess! Guess!'"

"Guess what?" we asked him. "Guess! Guess!" was his only reply. "I'll bite. I'll guess your right hand," said one of my men, who looked at his clenched fist.

"Non! Non! Guess masks," shouted the Frenchman as he seized his safety helmet. "We had just time to put on our gas masks before the danger came and if we had kicked him much longer there might have been sad results. We went out into 'No Man's Land' and I know that I was the first American officer to go over the top for Uncle Sam."

MORE COAL MINED THAN LAST YEAR

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 25.—While several sections of the country actually are suffering for want of coal, mines producing bituminous coal turned out more during November than in any month in history, with one exception, the Geological Survey reported. These mines now are practically one month ahead of 1916 production and if the present output is maintained, production this year will be nine per cent in excess of last year.

This year's output in December is estimated at 502,091,000 tons.

MOTHER AND CHILDREN CREMATED.

(By Associated Press.) Greenwood, S. C., Dec. 25.—Mrs. J. L. Whitman and her six children ranging in age from three to thirteen years, were burned to death in their home near here last night. The cause of the fire is not known.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE A GREAT SUCCESS

Enrollment of 13,000,000 Recruits Brings Total to Around 18,000,000

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 25.—With an enrollment of nearly 13,000,000 new recruits indicated as the result of the Christmas drive, directors of the American Red Cross today estimated the organization's total membership at 18,000,000. The new enrollment augments a regular membership of 5,000,000, announced a week ago at the opening of the Christmas campaign.

Reports received last night announcing the success of the undertaking said the drive would be continued this week in several sections and that 15,000,000 new members, the maximum fixed by the directors probably would be enrolled.

NEW YORK ALIVE TO CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

(By Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 25.—New York's Christmas spirit today was uncheckered by war. The holiday generosity characteristic of the city, everywhere was abundant. Charitable organizations, in their work of providing dinners for the poor and homeless, reported that despite the extraordinary demands made upon everyone's finances, the calls of need were even more promptly answered than in normal times.

Unusual efforts were made to provide holiday cheer for the soldiers and sailors of the United States and the Allies. While thousands of khaki clad men from the army cantonments enjoyed their dinners at home, those who could not make the trip to far-away States, were entertained by numerous societies. Old fashioned Christmas dinners were served and presents distributed.

BROKLYN TO TRAIN AT HOT SPRINGS

(By Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 25.—The Brooklyn National League baseball team will again go to Hot Springs, Ark., for its spring training, it was announced today. The recruits have been ordered to report there on March 18.

A spring tour with the Boston Red Sox has been arranged the first game to be played at Hot Springs on March 31. Other games will be played at Little Rock, Memphis, Atlanta, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Bristol and Richmond.

EIGHTEEN KILLED IN TROLLEY WRECK

(By Associated Press.) Pittsburgh, Dec. 25.—Two of the passengers who were injured when a Knoxville street car was torn to pieces after a wild dash through the South Hills tunnel late yesterday, died in hospitals this morning, bringing the total deaths to 18. Eighty-two other persons were in hospitals, some of them so badly hurt they were not expected to live through the day. Among the dead were eleven women, nine of whom were mothers.

THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE CAPITULATED TO SAINT NICHOLAS

AMERICAN SAILORS IN WAR ZONE HAD REAL CHRISTMAS

Turkey and All Trimmings, Music, and Few Hours Off Duty

CHRISTMAS TREES ON THE WARSHIPS

Every Vessel in Harbor Had a Tree—Admiral Sims Spent Day With Jackies' Enjoying Celebration

(By Associated Press.) Base of American Flotilla, in British Waters, Dec. 25.—Every sailor in the flotilla had a real American Christmas. The sailors ate turkey and mince pie and had all the other trimmings that go with a Christmas dinner. There was music at meal time and a few extra hours off duty and each sailor was happy.

Jackie was a bit angered at old Santa Claus for being late with his parcels, letters and cards from the folks back home, but he consoled himself with the thought that he will be happy when he finally gets them.

The feature of the Christmas celebration was an entertainment at the Naval Club house. It was staged by American sailors and soldiers from the famous "Black Watch Regiment." Admiral Sims, who came all the way from London to be with his boys over the holidays, was a smiling spectator. While the show was progressing ashore, a group of 30 singers from churches made the rounds of the destroyers in the harbor singing carols. Special church services for the sailors were held ashore.

The crisp December weather seemed to enliven the holiday spirit. Every sailor fortunate enough to be in harbor had a Christmas tree. Most of the trees were of the toy variety, but they were Christmas trees. Some destroyers had trees lashed to the masthead and all were decorated. The sailors on one vessel displayed a spirit of good will by playing hosts to their officers. They decorated the ward room with holly and provided an elaborate menu, with one cigar and two cigarettes for each officer.

This is the bill of fare provided on all ships: Cream celery soup, Sweet pickles, Celery and chow-chow, Rhode Island turkey, Spiced ham, Giblet gravy, Fruit dressing, Asparagus, Sugar corn, Steamed Potatoes, Coconut layer cake, Mince pie, Fresh apples, Black coffee and cigars. Many homes near the base were thrown open to the American officers. The British admiral commanding the station was host to Admiral Sims and the highest ranking officers of the American flotilla.

WASHINGTON SPENT QUIET CHRISTMAS

(By Associated Press.) Paris, Monday, Dec. 24.—Marshal Joffre presided today at a manifestation in the Sorbonne, organized by the "Franco-American fraternity" which thus far has given aid to 47,000 French war orphans. American Ambassador Sharp sat beside Marshal Joffre. The Misses Schofield and Fell, members of the organization, made addresses. Other speakers included Louis Barthou and Eugene Briux.

WASHINGTON SPENT QUIET CHRISTMAS

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 25.—Quiet ceremonies, few in number, marked the celebration of Washington's first war Christmas. President Wilson spent the day surrounded by his family and messages from Secretaries Baker and Daniels conveying the nation's appreciation, went forward to soldiers and sailors at home and abroad.

The President, as has been his custom since coming to the White House, yesterday motored out to a country club where he plays golf and distributed gifts to about 50 children who live in the vicinity. This morning the President and Mrs. Wilson attended church and later a tree was lighted for the President's grandchildren at the White House. More than 125 turkeys were presented to White House employees as gifts of the President.

AMERICA'S FIRST WAR CHRISTMAS WITHOUT ELABORATE FESTIVITIES AT CAPITAL

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Pershing's Men Stopped Work At Sun Down and Opened Festivities

A RUSH TO OPEN CHRISTMAS PACKAGES

Truck Load After Truck Load of Presents From Home Rolled Up Behind the Lines Yesterday Afternoon

(By Associated Press.) With the American Troops in France, Monday, Dec. 24.—The American expeditionary force tonight capitulated to Santa Claus. With a light snow falling throughout the zone, every man in General Pershing's army—"dough boys," cavalry men, artillery men, marines, engineers, "mule skinner"—stopped work as the sun went down and started in to do the bidding of the jovial Saint temporarily in command.

First there was a rush to open the Christmas packages from home, for during the day, mail truck after mail truck, had arrived in the various towns, where the troops are quartered, loaded to the top with presents. The mail arrived at the base port late, and extraordinary efforts were made to get it to the soldiers promptly.

So many a lonely American fighter, who had about come to the conclusion that his friends at home had forgotten him, had cause to rejoice. With their new sweaters on, new pipes in their teeth, some of them smoking fragrant cigars, the men of the army then set to work in earnest making it merry for the children of France.

At some distance from the American zone the railway engineers at the British front and other engineers at the French front were spending their Christmas eve under fire, but even there the children of nearby neighborhoods were being cared for. It was in the headquarters town of the first division to land on French soil that the most elaborate entertainment was held, however. Because the church there was pretty small, the Y. M. C. A. hut was commandeered. During the afternoon the American officers and men worked hard erecting a gigantic Christmas tree and decorating it while sentries posted outside kept inquisitive youngsters at a safe distance. Finally the doors were opened and the procession filed in, each little French boy and girl dressed in his or her best and accompanied by the mother, or in the cases of the little refugees, whose mothers and fathers are missing, by the woman who is caring for them.

There was a tense air of expectancy until the lights were suddenly flashed on and the tree and Santa Claus revealed. The revelation was the signal for a chorus of shrill, joyful cries from the assembled youngsters, who were all eyes for the tree with its glittering tinsel set off here and there by the customary red, white, green and purple lights. Crossed American and French flags were numerous displayed and from every branch there hung boxes of candy, jumping jacks, candy sticks, drums, dolls and other play things and a plentiful sprinkling of apples and oranges. Piled high at the base of the tree there were boxes containing toy soldiers, guns, uniforms, tops, sewing sets, heavy woolen mittens, mufflers, warm coats, dresses and shoes.

Then the real, live Santa Claus, who in reality was none other than the French interpreter at headquarters, stepped out. His springing activity called forth another appreciative chorus from the youngsters, and host of khaki clad soldiers standing in the rear, some of them still covered with the mud of the training grounds, grinned as they heard the children shout.

The only reason any soldier of the division was absent from the celebration was because there wasn't room for him to crowd in. For it was the men themselves who provided the bulk of the money and they naturally were eager to see the children being made happy by the soldiers' gifts.

Each of these gifts had been intended to fill as nearly as possible the heart's desire of the individual child, and as quickly as the child's name was called from the box containing the present, the smiling, bashful young citizen of France walked up and received it. Then Santa Claus' assistants, who were certain designated soldiers, distributed the candy, fruit and small toys to all.

There were entertainments of a similar nature throughout the army zone on Christmas eve, while the festivities were planned for Christmas day at some places. The men themselves in addition to the presents they received from relatives and friends, got many from other sources, such as the Red Cross and the tobacco fund, which later distributed quantities of "smokes" on behalf of many newspapers in the United States. Despite the fact that there was a turkey famine, many of the units managed to purchase a number of these "birds" in France while others who were less quietly in their homes or hotels.

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