

CLOUDBUSTER

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"For Blessings Restored"

Cadets, enlisted personnel, officers and the public are invited and enjoined to attend Thanksgiving Day Vesper Services next Thursday, Nov. 23, at 1900 in Memorial Hall.

In his annual proclamation, setting the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day, President Roosevelt urges a nationwide reading of the Bible from Thanksgiving to Christmas. The President's proclamation:

"In this year of liberation, which has seen so many millions freed from tyrannical rule, it is fitting that we give thanks with special fervor to our Heavenly Father for the mercies we have received individually and as a Nation and for the blessings He has restored, through the victories of our arms and those of our allies, to his children in other lands.

"For the preservation of our way of life from the threat of destruction; for the unity of spirit which has kept our Nation strong; for our abiding faith in freedom; and for the promise of an enduring peace, we should lift up our hearts in thanksgiving.

"For the harvest that has sustained us and, in its fullness, brought succor to other peoples; for the bounty of our soil, which has produced the sinews of war for the protection of our liberties; and for a multitude of private blessings, known only in our hearts, we should give united thanks to God.

"To the end that we may bear more earnest witness to our gratitude to Almighty God, I suggest a Nation-wide reading of the Holy Scriptures during the period from Thanksgiving Day to Christmas. Let every man of every creed go to his own version of the scriptures for a renewed and strengthening contact with those eternal truths and majestic principals which have inspired such measure of true greatness as this Nation has achieved.

"Now, therefore, I Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America,

The Battle of Antwerp

By LT. (JG) WILLIAM SHANAHAN, USNR
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The successful conclusion of the battle of Antwerp marks the greatest allied success on the western front since the breakthrough at St. Lo. The significance of the British victory has been obscured by the announcement that American troops had begun a new offensive around Metz, yet both events are closely connected. By driving German troops from Walcheren Island in the estuary of the Schelde, and clearing the banks of the river itself, the great port of Antwerp has been opened for the supply of allied armies. The long and tenuous supply line from Cherbourg to the western front can be supplemented by more direct communications over Antwerp and the long-awaited general offensive can begin.

When the Germans began their retreat to the Westwall in August, they evacuated Antwerp so hastily that few demolitions could be carried out among the docks, quays, and harbor facilities which have made Antwerp one of the greatest ports in the world. But Antwerp is an inland port connected to the sea by the Schelde River, and the Germans retained control of the river and also the large island, Walcheren, which dominates its estuary. Before any allied freighters could make use of the port the desperate German defense along the coast had to be overcome.

Casualties Were Heavy

The British campaign to free Antwerp was exceedingly hard fought. South of the Schelde the Germans contested every yard, fighting in the incredibly sticky mud which has always been the curse of a campaign in the Low Countries. Two amphibious attacks on Walcheren Island were made by the British, one at Flushing on the south coast, and the other at West Kapelle. Despite support fire from the battleship Warspite and the monitor Erebus (15" guns), the force attacking West

Kapelle suffered virtual annihilation when the landing craft were fired on by 250 mm. coastal batteries. Four-fifths of the landing craft were sunk; British commentators report that the casualties exceeded those at Dieppe. Eventually beach-heads were established at both places and Royal Marines mopped up the German garrisons. These British operations unquestionably will have more value than the landings on Walcheren in 1809, which failed to drive Napoleon from the Netherlands.

V-1, V-2 Weapons Fail

Though the German batteries along the Schelde and on Walcheren now have been silenced it is reasonable to assume that block ships have been sunk and mines have been planted in the river. The Schelde itself is silted easily and some dredging may be necessary before cargo ships can approach Antwerp. Notwithstanding these difficulties, Allied harbor clearing experts probably will have the port ready for use early in December. Both V-1 and V-2 have been fired on Antwerp by the Germans but neither of these weapons has been sufficiently destructive to hinder a modern military operation.

The expenditure of effort in the battle for Antwerp is indicative of the value of ports to our armies on the Western front. Since D-day the bulk of supplies has poured in through Cherbourg and the emergency harbors created along the French coast. Brest was smashed in the hard fighting that preceded its capture and German garrisons still hold St. Nazaire, Lorient, and La Rochelle. Now a great deal of the burden can be shifted to Antwerp, which is nearer England and in the midst of the great belt of railways which governs military operations on the western front.

. . . On The Lighter Side . . .

An officer's wife asked a little grocery boy in Paris his name. "Humphrey," answered the boy, and added that the last name was Bogart. "Humphrey Bogart, eh?" said the Brass's wife. "That's a pretty well known name."

"It darn well ought to be," the boy agreed. "I've been delivering groceries in this neighborhood for four years."

Happy prospective bride to girl friend: "I don't know a thing about him—except that he wants to get married."

* * * * *

Daffinition—Allotment: An arrangement whereby the government guarantees that some of a GI's money is spent on the woman entitled to it.

in consonance with the joint resolution of the Congress approved December 26, 1941, do hereby proclaim Thursday the twenty-third day of November, 1944, a day of national Thanksgiving; and I call upon the people of the United States to observe it by bending every effort to hasten the day of final victory and by offering to God our devout gratitude for His goodness to us and to our fellow men."

Rear Admiral O. B. Hardison, USN, Chief of Naval Air Primary Training, sends the following message:

"As we remember on this Thanksgiving Day the events of the past 12 months, we are

grateful beyond measure for the good fortune which has attended our efforts in the prosecution of the war in every area, and for the progress our nation and allies have made on the way toward final victory.

"It is especially appropriate that this Thanksgiving Day should be marked primarily by a Universal acknowledgment of our gratitude to Almighty God.

"In our humble gratitude to God for the abundance of His strengthening grace in the past, may we find the source of renewed strength and courage for every demand which the future days and years may hold."