

The ROANOKE News

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ITS TIME TO START CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FOR BOYS OVERSEAS

"Save strong string and box material and start to plan shopping." Postmaster General Frank C. Walker advises Americans in announcing the rules for mailing of Christmas gifts for Army and Navy personnel overseas.

This year the Christmas mailing period for both Army and Navy overseas forces is the same -- September 15 to October 15. After October 15 no gift parcel may be mailed to a soldier without the presentation of a written request from him.

The great demands upon shipping and the need for giving preference to arms, munitions, medicine and food is the prime reason for the early mailing date. Moreover, gift parcels must travel great distances to reach Army and Navy personnel who are located at remote points, and frequently the transfer of large numbers to new stations necessitates forwarding of the packages and additional time is required.

"The response that our people made last year during the overseas mailing period demonstrated that they will cooperate in any measure designed for the welfare of our armed forces personnel," Mr. Walker said. "It is not easy to concentrate on Christmas gifts in the midst of warm weather here at home but our people recognized the need, and because they want the men and women who are absent from their homes to know that they are not forgotten at Christmas they took pains to assure prompt delivery of Christmas gifts.

"I know that our people will observe the overseas mailing

schedule once more this year but I do wish to stress this fact: More care must be taken in wrapping and packing parcels securely and addressing them clearly and correctly.

"It is not a pleasant thing to visit a postal concentration center and see the numbers of Christmas parcels which will never reach servicemen and servicewomen. Post office personnel have orders to do everything they can to effect delivery of such gifts, because we know how important they are to the happiness of the armed forces. Too frequently, nothing can be done.

"I am sorry that anyone ever mentioned that the size of a shoe box is the approximate limit for packages intended for gift mailings overseas. Unhappily many people became convinced that a shoe box is the best possible container. We must be mindful that these gifts must travel far, with shipping space crowded. If the gifts are to be protected in transit they must be packed in boxes made of metal, wood, solid fiberboard, or strong double faced corrugated fiberboard, reinforced with strong gummed paper tape or tied with strong twine. If both tape and strong twine are used, so much the better. If the outer wrapper is crushed -- and this is likely to happen -- the loss of contents may be prevented if fiberboard boxes are wrapped in heavy paper.

"We were unable to deliver many parcels which families and friends sent to men and women overseas last year because they were crushed in transit and the

gift and the outside wrapper became separated. We would have been able to make delivery if the address had been shown on the inside wrapper. We advise that everyone write the address of the sender and addresses inside the package as well as outside.

"Christmas gifts mean much to people overseas. Because strong twine, heavy paper and boxes and fiberboard will prove of real help in making delivery of gifts possible I urge those at home to begin saving these materials now. As time goes on they are going to become even more scarce than they are now."

Among the more important rules for Christmas mailings to the armed forces overseas are the following:

The parcel must not exceed five pounds, and must not be more than 15 inches in length or 36 inches in length and girth combined. It should be marked "Christmas parcel" so that it may be given special attention to assure its arrival before December 25.

Not more than one parcel may be mailed in any one week to the same member of the armed forces by or in behalf of the same mailer.

When combination packages are made up of such items as miscellaneous toilet articles, hard candies, soaps, etc., the contents should be tightly packed so that they will not become loosened in transit and damage the contents or the cover. Hard candies, nuts, caramels (including those covered with chocolate), cookies, fruit cake and chocolate bars individually wrapped in waxed paper should be enclosed in inner boxes of wood, metal or cardboard.

Perishable goods, such as fruits and vegetables that may spoil, are prohibited. Intoxicants, inflammable materials such as matches or lighter fluids, poisons and anything that may damage other mail also are prohibited. Gifts enclosed in glass should be substantially packed to avoid breakage. Sharp instruments, such as razors and knives, must have their edges and points protected so that they cannot cut through the coverings and injure postal personnel or damage other packages.

Relatives and friends who know that the personnel in the armed services to whom they plan to send gifts are at far distant points should begin to mail their packages on the opening day -- September 15--of the mailing period. Last year late mailings, causing concentration of great numbers of packages in the final days of the mailing period, threatened to defeat the program. It is stressed that success can be assured, with the limited personnel and facilities available, only if the public gives full cooperation through prompt mailings of the overseas gift parcels from the opening of the mailing period.

Gives Army Way Reckoning Time

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 9th--On the hunch that few things are more puzzling to layman than the Army's way of reckoning time, Colonel Francis J. Magee, Fourth Service Command Signal Officer bares these topdrawer notes on the most timely of all subjects, time itself, G. I. version.

In the first place and this is where the trouble begins, the Army must protect itself from having an order for six in the morning mistaken for an order to be acted upon at six in the evening. Hence the 24 hour clock. In the 24 hour clock system, 12 noon is 12 o'clock, just the way it's always been. But one p. m. becomes 13 o'clock, two p. m. becomes 14 o'clock (or "fourteen hundred hour," as the Army calls it), and so on.

Are you still here? Next we come to Z-time. The Army also guards against misunderstandings about the time differences that arise because, for example, it's lunchtime in Dixie when it's teatime in England. So for all the messages that go between two different time zones -- say from Birmingham to Washington--time is set down in a time reading that is constant anywhere in the world at a given moment.

The reading arbitrarily chosen for this purpose is the time of day it happens to be in Greenwich, England, which is right outside of London and incidentally is also zero longitude on your atlas. The time numbers, say 1400, are followed by the letter Z. To interpret what time that is where you are, you just add or subtract the time difference between your house and Greenwich.

So-o-o, if you live in Halifax County and you're reading this page of the almanac at seven-thirty p. m., it's 1930 for all the troops training in your region. But for the ones who are fighting all around the globe, wherever they may be, it's 2330Z. Which is a great comfort and convenience to the War Department and as such certainly seems worth putting up with, at least for the duration.

COLD MEATS IDEAL FOR PORCH PICNICS



The large variety of ready-to-eat meats available makes it possible to prepare cold meat platters with many delicious combinations. One attractive platter, shown above, is made by overlapping slices of "boiled" ham, salami, liver sausage and bologna on each half of the platter, with potato salad in the center. Ready-to-eat meats shown at right are (clockwise) bologna, liver sausage, salami, meat loaf, pressed ham, souse, frankfurters.



An Anniversary Of Achievement

Just a year ago this week American newspapers launched the Victory Pulpwood Campaign in response to an appeal from Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board.

At that time the pulpwood production picture was drab indeed. The nation's pulpwood supply had been steadily dwindling since the fall of 1942 while military and essential civilian needs for paper and other pulpwood products had been steadily rising.

Although the emergency is not yet past, we are happy to report that real progress has been made during the twelve months that The Roanoke News and other newspapers in pulpwood areas

have been supporting this war campaign.

The trend in pulpwood production has been reversed. Receipts this year are consistently better than last year and in some months on a par with 1942 when pulpwood production reached its highest peak. However, pulpwood inventories all but disappeared during the lean months of 1943 and military requirements for paper and other pulpwood products have exceeded earlier government estimates.

We are not yet out of the woods -- literally, or figuratively. In fact, WPB official report that the victory tempo of our military services has increased the demand for pulpwood -- now a war material of the highest priority.

As a pulpwood producing area this county and our neighboring counties can be proud of our a-

chievements during the past year. Without the aid of our farmers we could not have made such progress. But, like our boys in uniform, we're not celebrating yet but rather digging in for the rest of 1944 or until the war is won. Mr. Nelson, you can count on this community to cut its share of the needed 16,000,000 cords this year.

LESS FUEL OIL IN PROSPECT

Raleigh (August 9th--Kerosene -- as well as gasoline -- powers the attack.

And, with Allied offensives on the move, much greater consumption of kerosene and fuel oil will mean less available for civilians this winter.

Theodore S. Johnson, district director of the Office of Price Administration, said today this winter's supply will undoubtedly be the lowest since the beginning of the war.

Moving in advance of cold weather in an effort to avert hardships during the winter, OPA has instructed all local War Price and Rationing Board to tighten their control of kerosene and fuel oil rationing now and, at the same time, civilians were urged to cooperate fully in an effort to keep consumption down.

Local boards were instructed to screen all applications very carefully and to reduce allotments to users of space heaters to a minimum, Johnson said.

Because of the extra effort in-

volved in closer screening, sumers were urged to reduce applications to their minimum. Users of fuel oil for storage tanks to capacity by their current rationing to utilize all storage space while transportation facilities not overburdened. By Johnson pointed out, fuel may avoid being completely out of this winter.

Kerosene shortages this result from two major factors, Johnson said. First, increased production of high grade gasoline for airplanes, and has left a much smaller percentage of crude oil production conversion into kerosene oil.

Secondly, and of more importance, he said, the of military craft using fuel for power has vastly increased since last winter. Many of Navy's small vessels, particularly landing craft such as the invasion, are powered by kerosene and distillate. Many trucks and tanks are powered by Diesel motors using fuel oil.

On the civilian "front," quantities of other fuel, such as wood, have developed as war progressed, eliminating advisability of conversion of fuel oil use. Hence, District Director Johnson said, the winter to present fuel oil shortages is greater than in previous years.

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