

GI's From West Front Arrive In Holy City

By RELMAN MORIN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23.—(AP)—American soldiers, who only days ago, were slogging through the bloody turmoil of war on the Western Front, arrived in Jerusalem today to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.

They came by airplane directly from the scenes of the world's greatest conflict to the site of history's greatest miracle. Yesterday they heard the guns of war and the shrieks of the wounded and dying; tomorrow they will hear the hymns of rejoicing. They have seen death; they come now to see the birthplace of the one who promised eternal life.

There will not be as many of them for this sixth war Christmas as during the others.

Army authorities and the Red Cross said between 500 and 600 are expected as against over 1,000 normally.

Planes are arriving here not only from the battlefields of France and Italy but also from North Africa, the Mideast and the bleak shores of the Persian Gulf but only a few can come. The war is near its climax now.

There are not any generals here this year and only a few high-ranking officers. Most of these khaki clad pilgrims are plain soldiers.

If you have seen the average G. I. on his usual leave behind the lines, brimming with life and high spirits you would not recognize him here. Something of the ancient mystery of this place seems to touch him the moment he steps down from the army bus bringing him in from the airport.

First he is a little disappointed—he does not see Christmas trees and the familiar red and green ornaments, tinsel and artificial snow and all the things he is accustomed to find in shop windows.

Then he goes along the street to the Y. M. C. A. where the Red Cross is quartered. There he finds a tall tree, appropriately strung with electric lights. He begins to feel more at home.

At the Red Cross arrangements are made to take the soldiers to Bethlehem where guides take them into the cool high-roofed Church of the Nativity. They descend a short flight of stone steps to the spot where the manger originally stood.

A bright metal star inlaid in the rocks marks the place.

A soldier nudges a sergeant. The sergeant takes off his weathered overseas cap, fumbles and drops it.

They all will be coming back to Bethlehem Sunday night, Christmas Eve. Relays of Army buses will bring them from Jerusalem. They can not be billeted in the little village because every one of its 60 spare rooms and hotels is filled.

The soldiers will hear and see the midnight mass in the church. They will hear the joyous swelling strains of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing Glory to the Newborn King." A choir of 2,000 voices all Polish officers and men will sing the Christmas songs in their native language.

The silvery sound of Bethlehem's bells with an American choir singing inside the church will be broadcast to the world.

In addition to the religious activities a round of social events has been arranged for the G. I. pilgrims ending with a big Red Cross dance Christmas night—but the important moment for them all will be at midnight Sunday at Bethlehem.

A adult has ordinarily 28 pounds of blood, and at each pulsation the heart sends 10 pounds through the veins and arteries.



Dear Folks :

*I see the sparkling Christmas tree at home,
The decorations hung with wistful care,
And know that as you fastened each in place,
You wished (as much as I) that I was there.*

*For duty's call has brought me overseas
And I will stay until the job is done;
But we who serve a road have come to know
Preserving our traditions can be fun.*

*But as the family is gathering
To celebrate this holy Christmastide,
I, too, will be engrossed in contemplation
Of the Star, still serving as a guide.*

*And so you bravely trim the tree at home,
And I can see it, though we're far apart,
For through improvisations over here
I feel its warm reflection in my heart.*

T/4 Alice E. Hesse, Allied Force Headquarters, Italy

Col. Dave Schilling, Fighter Group Chief, Is Top European Ace

LONDON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Col. Dave Schilling, who commands an ace fighter group in Europe, became the leading ace in the European theatre today by getting five German planes, making his total bagged 34 1-2—of which 24 1-2 were in the air and 10 on the ground.

The 26-year-old Traverse City, Mich., pilot led his group into one of the fiercest dogfights of the war when they tangled with 250 German Messerschmitts and Focke Wulfs and shot down 35 of them.

In his lifetime O. Henry wrote 600 pieces of original fiction.

Greetings

We desire to extend to you Greetings of the Christmas Season and to express our sincere wishes for your prosperity in the coming year. May the cordial relations existing between us continue.

Rogers Grocery
Harbor Island



To all the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, WACS, WAVES, SPARS, and to all the many thousands of men and women in the United States who are working for Victory . . . our very best Christmas wishes and our heartfelt hope that the coming New Year will bring complete Victory.

To our employees, Customers and Friends who are sharing the burdens of war we extend our wishes that Peace will soon come and bring joy to your homes.



BLOCK'S CANTFADE SHIRT CO.

Red Cross To Broadcast Greeting To Prisoners

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The International Red Cross will extend Christmas greetings via shortwave to the more than 3,000,000 prisoners of war held by belligerent nations around the globe.

In addition, the American Red Cross has cabled Christmas greetings to all American prisoners of war and civilian internees.

The message to be broadcast in a wide variety of languages through the international committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland, follows:

"The international committee of the Red Cross wishes to convey at this holiday season, to all prisoners of war and civilian internees scattered throughout the war-torn world, a cordial message of comfort.

"The committee is well aware of your sorrows and anxieties. It also realizes how much more painful the absence from home becomes with the passing of time.

"With that thought in mind, the international committee of the Red Cross and its three thousand collaborators in Switzerland and abroad devote all their energies to bring you help and assistance and they all send you, as well as

COST OF LIVING Increase Of One Tenth Of One Per Cent Reported

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The Bureau of Labor Statistics index of living costs rose one-tenth of one per cent between mid-October and mid-November.

This put the index at 126.5 per cent of the 1935-39 average, 1.9 per cent above the level of a year ago.

Secretary Perkins' monthly report, released today, estimated that items covered by the index represent 70 per cent of the expenditures of families who had incomes ranging from \$1,250 to \$2,000 in 1934-36.

PATCH'S GREETING

General Of Seventh Army Deplores State Of War

WITH THE U. S. 7TH ARMY, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Lt. Gen Alexander M. Patch sent the following Christmas message to his men today:

"This year many of you will be spending your Third Christmas far from your homes and your loved ones. You have become accustomed to living among strange foreign surroundings during past Yuletide seasons. It is not expected that this year will be very different and I cannot wish for you the impossible—that you will pass a merry day—I can merely extend my thanks and appreciation for your splendid achievements in speeding the day when we can be reunited with our families so we may once more say 'peace on earth, good will toward men.'"

Banquet For Roosevelt And Truman Is Planned

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—A reception and banquet in honor of President Roosevelt and Vice President-Elect Truman will be given by the Democratic Presidential electors the night before the inauguration.

Michael Francis Doyle, of Philadelphia, chairman of the Electoral College, announced the affair will be given January 19.

Members of the cabinet, the Supreme Court and high military officers have been invited.

On the following day, Doyle said, the President will give a reception at the White House to which the electors have been invited.

HAVING A BRIDGE PARTY?

SERVE

ROYAL CROWN COLA

BEST BY TASTE-TEST

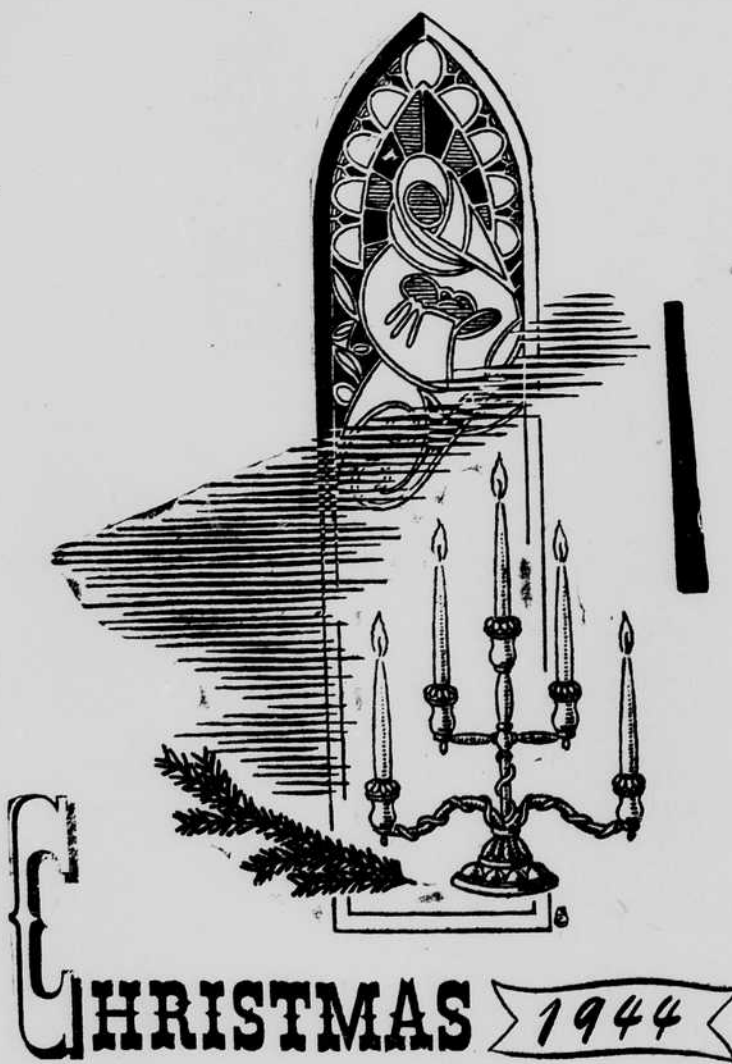
2 FULL GLASSES 5¢

NEHI BOTTLING COMPANY
New Wrightsville Highway



The Torch of Liberty symbolizes our faith in freedom for all. Its fulfillment is our Christmas wish this year.

MILLS and ALLEN
Purina Dealer



This year, as in all preceding years, we want to join the many good friends who wish you prosperity and happiness for the coming New Year. We send our 1944 Christmas Greetings to you, filled with a sincere appreciation of your patronage during this past year.

Conscious of the handicaps and misfortunes of war, we pledge our full cooperation to the task of helping achieve final victory and peace.

HYMAN SUPPLY CO.

TO OUR CLIENTS
and All Whose Needs
We Have Had Opportunity
To Serve In 1944

Our Wish

For You In The New Year
Is

Good Health and Peace from War
Moore-Fonvielle Realty Company

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Waddell Watters Jocelyn Peck