

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVIII

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1942

No. 42

You Have, Despite War's Growing Hardships, Today Something to Be Truly Thankful For

Revolutionary War Brought Freedom People Now Take as Matter-of-Fact

It was the successful completion of the Revolutionary War which resulted in the designation of a national day of thanksgiving for the benefits obtained during the year.

One hundred and fifty years ago, George Washington recommended "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity to establish a Constitution or government for their safety and happiness."

Just previous to this petition, in 1777, the 13 colonies, acting as one, celebrated a day of Thanksgiving when the British general, Burgoyne, was defeated.

True, popular tradition has it that the first Thanksgiving was held at Plymouth, Mass., when the Pilgrims had gathered in their first harvest. But the significant fact about Thanksgiving is to be noted in Washington's recommendation for a national observance of a day of thanks because of the opportunity given the early colonists "to establish a Constitution or government for their safety and happiness."

A national, truly sincere spirit of Thanksgiving was born out of the aftermath of the nation's first war.

'MOTHER OF THANKSGIVING DAY'

The daughter of a Revolutionary war army captain, Mrs. Sarah Josepha Buell Hale, native of Newport, N. H., has the distinction of being the "Mother of Thanksgiving day."

For years she tried vainly to mobilize governors of her time to have them all agree on one day which would be set aside as a day of Thanksgiving.

Finally she prevailed upon President Lincoln in 1863 to proclaim Thanksgiving as uniformly a national festival day.

Mrs. Hale, who died after 91 years of great activity, was the widowed mother of five children. She was an author, pioneer feminist, and also editor of Godey's Lady's Book in Boston during the 1830s.



G. Obbler, caught in the act of broadcasting a "fee for your lives" warning to his unsuspecting kin-folk, heard that not only is he going to get the ax, but also thousands like him. He doesn't know it, but his "goose is cooked" in so far as his life on this earth is concerned. Maybe you'll see him on Thanksgiving day. In a different pose.

Glasses and coffee cups seem to be in the way.

Food, and plenty of it before you. Enough food there to feed at least eight times more starving Frenchmen, or Poles, or Russians in territory under Hitler's oppression.

Something to be thankful for—there it is!

What do you suppose Hitler's "Master Race" in Germany would say about the "New World Order" if they had half the food in front of them that millions of Americans will have on Thanksgiving day.

Another thing: If you don't like what your congressman is doing you are free to say so. You might even write him a letter and tell him just what you think, and what you think of him. If you don't like the way the war is going you say so. You'll argue in public with someone who disagrees with you about national, state, or local political activities. Suppose you had this inherent right taken away from you. You'd be thankful for it then. So why not now?

Put yourself in the place of a conquered people or imagine yourself living in an Axis country. In those places freedom of speech is limited to saying, "Yes, yes" when permitted to hear the master's voice.

Suppose the only church service you were permitted to attend was that one in which the "gospel" of the dictator was spouted by a party sycophant. Suppose your church was no longer the house of worship you remembered it, but a meeting place, a club for those who were members of the dictator's gang.

Suppose you couldn't worship your God the way you wanted to, because

THOUGHTFUL



This young native of Thanksgiving, N. C., has paused for a moment before beginning decapitation ceremonies. He feels that he just couldn't possibly deprive the old gobbler one last meal.

that way was against the "ruler's" theory. Suppose your friend's house of worship was entered by the "leader's" mob, sacked, religious articles destroyed, and then the building burned to the ground?

That is what has happened, and is still happening, too many times in Europe since Hitler began "saving the world."

Something for you to be thankful for? There it is: Freedom to worship your God as you see fit.

This Thanksgiving day will be remembered as being an exceptional one. It will be remembered as the day when Americans were fully thankful for the many rights which in the past have been taken for granted.

Star Dust

STAGE SCREEN RADIO
By VIRGINIA VALE
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

MARSHA HUNT has learned how to find a movie actress in a big city. Recently she and Ann Rutherford were both in New York, and both on personal business trips, so they hadn't given the M-G-M office their addresses. So, though they wanted to meet, they couldn't locate each other. The day before returning to Hollywood for "The Human Comedy," Marsha, besieged by fans asking for autographs, asked one if he knew where Ann was staying. "Sure—right on the floor above you!" he replied.

And, speaking of autographs—Virginia Weidler's new picture, "The Youngest Profession," is about them. In it William Powell will appear as himself; he's Virginia's screen idol, and her efforts to get his autograph lead to a series of hilarious situations.

Success Story: In 1940 Margaret Hayes was voted the best artists' model, then the best photographers' model. She's made some pictures—had the feminine lead in "In Old Colorado" and a featured role in



MARGARET HAYES

"New York Town," and Goldwyn picked her for a principal supporting role in "They Got Me Covered." Now she's in New York for three radio shows and a Broadway stage production!

Dick Powell teaches a class in navigation between his scenes in "True to Life" at Paramount. He's an expert yachtsman, and some of the younger members of the company who are preparing themselves for flying and marine service in the war asked him to do it.

Neither Claudette Colbert nor Rudy Vallee cares for eggs in the raw—but for a scene in "The Palm Beach Story" they each were to swallow three "prairie oysters," concoctions of raw eggs, Worcestershire sauce, etc. The property man promised to fix up something that would look like the genuine article but avoid the raw egg difficulty. He did—but the substitute was apricots in root beer!

It looks as if Warner's "Air Force" might turn into one of those star-maker pictures. John Garfield and Harry Carey are the only time-tested stars of the production; the youngsters of whom Director Howard Hawks has hopes are Gig Young, John Ridgely, Arthur Kennedy, Charles Drake, Kay Montgomery, Ward Wood and James Brown. The first two have an edge on the others.

Arch Oboler, writer-producer of the weekly show "Lights Out," has a new book of radio plays, "Plays for Americans." As he's a top-notch writer for radio, aspirants can't do better than get a copy and study it. Sponsored by Radio, the plays, through agreement with Oboler, are available to any group free of royalties for the duration of the war.

Jack Pearl used to sign his name to letters, and beneath it "World's Greatest Liar." Now it's changed to "World's Second Greatest Liar." In explanation Jack says, "I couldn't be champ with Adolf around." Phil Baker ends notes with "Bye-bye. Buy bonds!"

Brenda Marshall and Osa Massen, of "Background to Danger," each has a parent in a country occupied by the Axis. Miss Massen's mother, sister and brother are in Denmark. Miss Marshall's father was managing a plantation in Negroes when the Japs moved in.

Washington Digest

Second Front in Africa Points North to Italy

Underground Anti-Fascists in Italy Want Strong Brand of Democracy for Aiding the Allies; Seek U. S. Pledge.



WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON
Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK—News of our participation in the Egyptian offensive against Rommel has not been highly personalized, but an occasional passing mention of General Brereton's Supplies Complete Maj. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton makes up for the general lack of a dramatic persona. He's a whole cast of characters all by himself, as he commands our air co-operation in the attack—with the widest and readiest grin, one of the stiffest wallops and unquestionably the most flexible vocabulary in the army. He swears in four languages, with rare improvisation and in a rasping voice which is said to be miraculously effective in hopping up fighting men. He is the commander of the U.S.A. Middle Eastern air forces, transferred from India last July.

One might call him the Larry MacPhail of the Army, as he is both restless and exultant with a fight on, or the chance for a fight anywhere in the offing. He particularly seemed to enjoy commanding America's first offensive in the war in the Far East. That was on April 2. Heading the bombing mission from India to the Japanese-held Andaman Islands, he jockeyed his B-17 right into the thick of the fracas and by all accounts had the happiest day of his life, as the Japanese were given a handsome pasting.

He hit the road to glory after a stiff jolt. He had just been transferred to the command of Clark field in the Philippines when the Japanese came, with no time to get things air-shape. The blasting of his planes and men in the hopelessly uneven contest was terrific and General MacArthur, ordering no more sacrifices, sent him to Australia with his air force and then to India. From his new base, he swarmed all over the battle area, fighting with General Chennault's Flying Tigers and, all in all, made a magnificent comeback.

From Pittsburgh, he went to the Naval Academy in 1907 and transferred to the signal corps, our fledgling air service, a year after his graduation in 1911. He fought in the air at Verdun, was shot down at St. Mihiel and came out of the war with the Distinguished Service cross, the Purple Heart, the Legion of Honor ribbon and the Croix de Guerre. Last September, in honor of his exploits in the Pacific, there was added to these the Distinguished Flying cross.

PAUL C. SMITH, quitting the OWI to join the marines, has this enterprising outfit with a fast running start and should catch their cadence *Halley's Comet* nicely. He is the young speed-ball newspaper careerist *Now Leatherneck*

San Francisco, a West coast marvel of the last few years, who not only supercharged the San Francisco Chronicle, as its general manager at the age of 29, but outshone many of the graybeards of the town in labor mediation, civic enterprise and battles for the public weal in general.

He joined the OWI in December, 1941, and became chief of its news bureau last August. It was to be expected that he would join the marines. He saw many of the global aspects of this war long before it started. The marines go places, globally, and that's always his big idea. Mr. Smith, the Halley's comet of recent newspaper decades, never went to college. From his take-off at Seattle, his home town, he worked in lumber camps, coal mines and on farms in the northern United States and Canada and later formulated and applied much of this experience in newspaper work.

In 1928, when he was 20 years old, he made a few cautious plays in the market, did well enough, and ventured into investment banking in San Francisco and New York. This turned him toward financial writing and his first connection with the San Francisco Chronicle. He became its financial editor and its general manager in 1937.

According to the report which I mention, made by supposedly authentic and authorized representatives of the anti-Fascists, the underground movement in Italy is powerful and effective; it has accomplished a weakening of civilian and military morale; publishes a large and efficient anti-Fascist press; has organized political meetings and combat groups in nearly every Italian town; has brought about unity for the first time in Italian history between the working class and the intellectuals. It has caused general inefficiency in the army, caused sabotage in the campaigns of Greece, Albania and Libya and effectively sabotaged war industries.

The members of these groups, the young men who grew up under Fascism, are not revolting to bring about a status quo ante—they are revolting against the status quo for definite aims. They want a new democratic order.

Such military information as I might offer, which has not been a part of official statements, would not be wise to print. But it is permissible to recall that the Germans claim that the British have a million men under General Alexander's command in Africa. The official accounts of the number of American flown planes in almost continuous activity over a huge area indicate that the American air force in Egypt is not inconsiderable, even in these days of giant armies and armadas.

There are diplomatic reports of apprehension on the part of the populace of Tunisia, a vital strip of territory lying along the coast of the narrow waters that separate it from Sicily, the Axis stepping stone from Italy to Africa, which hint that activities may extend even further west than Libya.

These are some of the outward signs which are there for all to see. From a military standpoint Italy is the weak sister of the Axis partnership. From the standpoint of anti-Nazi-Fascist internal subversive organization she is perhaps the strongest ally for the United Nations. An African offensive might logically end in an invasion of Italy.

The recognition of these anti-Fascist underground organizations as important elements in the general Allied offensive against the Axis can be taken as a straw showing which way the tide of war may be flowing. And they are being recognized.

One very significant development was a recent statement from London, which at first blush simply seemed to dampen any hopes that the king of Italy might be a force in bringing about a separate peace with Italy. But this negative suggestion, when taken together with certain other indications, has quite another meaning. The London report indicated that the king was no longer the "prisoner of Mussolini" he had been pictured, but really the friend of Fascism. This seemingly gratuitous statement may well have been offered as a piece of firing data for the diplomatic marksmen indicating that they must change their sights. And an inkling of just what must be done in order to obtain the support of the elements in Italy which can be of service to the Allied cause comes from an objective report on the underground in Italy. This report, originating with anti-Fascist sources in the United States, clearly analyzes who these people are, what they have already accomplished and what must be done to get their co-operation. A realistic program is laid down by inference which will not be at all palatable to the conservative or the conventional masters of official intrigue among the United Nations.

According to this report from anti-Fascist sources the underground in Italy is now composed largely of young men, born and educated in Fascism, who are working entirely from within its framework. They are members of the party because

Strong Brand of Democracy

Another point upon which some of our allies, and particularly our potential allies in Italy, want recognized by us and emphasized is the belief, many times stated but very seldom elaborated, namely, that we don't expect to go back to things as they were.

They expect democracy, but they make it plain they expect it to be economic as well as political, and they want a brand that may prove stronger medicine than everyone might care to take. The groups in Italy, like those in other countries, have forged their political philosophies in the fire of persecution.

The revolt against the physical brutalities of totalitarianism is likely to carry them far in the opposite direction. They demand an ideal of democracy hard to attain.

It becomes, therefore, a vital task of the American statesman, in assuming the necessary leadership of the United Nations against their supreme physical effort approaches, to formulate a post-war world peace ideal. If, as seems possible, the second front will touch Italy, Rome of Fascism, before it reaches the Nazi borders, the attitude of Italy's anti-Fascists must be clearly understood and taken into account.



You can imagine what the thoughts are of these two kids as they look at the giant turkey which has just been taken from the oven. It doesn't seem that they are convinced it is true—that they can believe what they see. Scenes such as this one will be multiplied thousands of times Thanksgiving day.

Now, over a century and a half later, while the nation is nearing the end of the first year of another, but far more greater, war, it seems fitting that a renewed, revitalized spirit of Thanksgiving should be observed by the people of the United States.

To some it might seem extremely illogical to suggest the nation should be thankful for its blessings while engaged in a war which really is just beginning in its intensity.

That is not the point. That is not the reason for being thankful for what we have, what we are still enjoying in the way of worldly goods to a greater extent than are our Allies—and our enemies. The reason, for a true, more sincere

SWING IT!



The quartermaster corps of the United States army is also making sure the men in the army are going to have the best dinner possible on Thanksgiving day. Many of those who get leave to be home with their parents on that Thursday will be doing the same thing these two Yanks are getting ready to do. Too bad for that turkey!