

Christmas Eve

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.—Luke 11:14



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A Soldier's Prayer on Christmas Day



We thank thee, Lord, for Thy protection,
I haven't said that since I was a child, Lord,
But today—on Thy day, I say it once more,
And this time, more than any other,
These thanks come from the heart.
Not so much for the Christmas dinner
Served to us here in this orchard in Belgium,
Or on a rain-soaked plain on Leyte Island,
Or in Italy, or on a ship at sea,
But more, Lord, for the richer food
That a blessed memory serves us;
The food of recollection—
Of other, better Christmas days—
Happy days with those we love,
Good cheer, and gifts, and happy greetings
Exchanged by all of us—each with the other:
And while we thank thee, Lord,
For those memories,
We reverently and humbly ask
That there may be other Christmas days
For us now so distant from our homes;
Days when we may join with those we love
In a world of peace and good will,
May sit with the families we hold dear
And give thanks, with them, once again.
Again, Lord, we thank Thee for Thy protection,
Bless those at home today,
Help them to realize that we are with them
In spirit more than ever today, and
May their day be a happy one.
Amen

—By Cpl. Alvin L. Krieg



German Thrust Now Through Luxembourg

Nazis Approaching Strategic Sedan As Other Spearheads Advance Elsewhere

Paris, Dec. 23—(AP)—A powerful German armored smash hammering forty miles across Luxembourg and into Belgium had reached within 29 miles of historic Sedan by Thursday noon, and Nazis have entered the bypassed Belgian road key of Bastogne, it was disclosed today.

Supreme headquarters said the strong central wedge of the German counter offensive had crossed 18 miles beyond Bastogne to St. Hubert, 29 miles northeast of Sedan, scene of the 1940 Hitler breakthrough, two days ago.

A field dispatch said the Germans had entered the surrounding Bastogne, four miles inside Belgium, and had won control of Wiltz, ten miles farther east inside Luxembourg. These actions also occurred Thursday.

Events of the last 48 hours still were clouded in the security news ban.

The plunge to St. Hubert marked the deepest penetration by the Germans, sweeping clear across Luxembourg and 29 miles on into Belgium.

It had sprung from Vianden, near the Dutch frontier.

The German northern wedge also was reported about forty miles into Belgium in the area west of Hergenbert and Malmedy. Supreme headquarters said that up to noon Thursday the doughboys in Bastogne still were holding out and reported Wiltz overrun, with no word of the fate of the American garrison.

But information given correspondents in the field said definitely that Bastogne had been entered and that the Germans had taken control of Wiltz.

RAF—which for three days almost completely grounded the massive Allied air forces—lifted sufficiently to permit Flying Fortresses and fighters based in Britain to hammer western German targets this morning.

RAF Lancasters and Halifaxes last night pounded Coblenz and Bingen, rail heads feeding the German offensive, and Mosquitoes punched at Nazi transports behind the Belgian battle line in 300 sorties.

German planes also were active, bombing and strafing United States battle sectors yesterday and last night.

smaller average yields on fewer acres. Reduction in acreage was ten percent, but decrease in acreage value was almost 30 percent.

PARTIES—Christmas parties were the order of the day around the square Friday as State office workers got ready to leave for the holidays.

Several departments had trees, others had a common assembly room for exchanging gifts, while some stuck by the individual hand-out method.

For the newspaper folks who regularly make the Capitol beat, high spot of the week was a bird dinner given them by Governor and Mrs. Broughton at the mansion Wednesday night.

HOMEGROWN—The governor took pride in the fact every item on the menu, except a few condiments, was North Carolina-produced, most of it coming from his own farm in Wake county—including the birds which the governor himself got. The dinner started with oysters from Carter county and ended with apple pie that had its origin in Polk county.

REPORT—The North Carolina Committee—United States Brewers' Foundation has released its fifth annual report, showing a continued improvement in the beer trade. The committee is headed by Col. Edgar H. Bain of Goldsboro as director, who has held that position from inception of the program in 1939. The report features facsimile letters from Governor Broughton and Revenue Commissioner Gill commending the committee's work, and quotes from numerous army officers and law enforcement agencies expressing similar sentiments. Emphasis is placed on the main purpose of requiring all distributors and retail dealers to conduct business on a high plane.

WARNING—T. Bodie Ward, commissioner of motor vehicles, used the last few minutes spent in his office before checking out for the Christmas holiday to make sure no automobile driver in North Carolina would have a chance to forge admission for caution and careful driving. Commissioner Ward cited all the newspapers to carry a story on the matter and he wired every radio station in North Carolina requesting them to make frequent announcements urging all motorists

(Continued on Page Three.)

Great Winter Offensive Of Russians Under Way

Pent-Up Fury Of Allied Air Power Loosed On Nazis

Paris, Dec. 23—(AP)—The pent-up fury of Allied air power shackled by a week of bad weather was loosed today against the armor of Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's drive 40 miles deep in doughboy lines, and first reports indicated a staggering blow may have been dealt the German counter offensive.

The Nazi offensive, despite its initial swift progress, has not reached the point where the high command can make the determination.

One military expert, implying that the Germans actually were falling behind on their timetable, said that in view of the early success of the breakthrough the enemy should have progressed farther than the 30-odd miles he is known to have advanced since last Saturday.

There is, however, no inclination to turn away from the fact that the situation in Europe continues grave.

The enemy by no means has committed his utmost strength to the breakthrough venture, military students here say. Sources or reinforcements, both men and armor,

Reports here early today said the long eastern front was stirring into action. Red army units of the southern end of the front drove to within 10 miles of the important Slovakian rail center of Losen, threatening to engulf a sizable force of Germans, pushed from the Hungarian Matra mountains by another Russian drive up from the south.

These sources include more or less dormant sections of less active areas, including the central Russian front.

The Russians, however, have assured their two western allies that a winter offensive is coming.

Children were selected and given to detachments of Hitler youths as targets for shooting practice, the commission said.

Many Frenchmen and Englishmen also were killed by slow degrees in a camp at Rova Rusakaya, the report said. A Frenchman was quoted as saying that when he arrived at the camp in September, 1943, there was only one water tap for the use of 12,000 persons, and the prisoners were allowed to use it only a few hours a day.

The commission's report said a typhoid epidemic was introduced in one camp by deliberately putting typhoid sufferers among healthy prisoners. It took 5,000 lives, the commission said.

The report described special measures taken on Himmler's orders in June, 1943, when thousands of corpses were exhumed and burned and the ashes sifted by special machines. By this means, the report said, 110,000 kilograms of gold were recovered and sent back to Germany.

Further official reports of these huge tank losses would mean that a decisive panzer battle is going on somewhere and the sector is not likely to be Slovakia, for it is a mountainous country not suited for tank operations.

There was a likelihood that large scale fighting was taking place in a five-mile-wide strip between Toly and the Gran rivers north of Budapest, although the high command was saying nothing about it.

Berlin broadcast described the Soviet surge in Latvia as "a big push of extreme operational importance."

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Jap Escape From Leyte Being Cut

Abandoned Jap Dead Are Being Counted At 1,800 Each Day

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 23—(AP)—American infantrymen, chasing a foe whose abandoned dead is being counted at a rate of 1,800 a day, pressed mercilessly on northwest Leyte against Nipponese retreating toward Palampou, while artillery pumped shells into that last port of escape headquarters reported today.

On recently-invaded Mindoro island there still was no ground opposition but the enemy continued its air raids, losing seven planes in combat and two to anti-aircraft fire. Two American fighters were lost.

In the bloody Leyte campaign, swiftly nearing an end, the United States 7th division was three miles beyond the Ormoc corridor, advancing westward along the mountain road toward Palampou, on the northwest shoulder of the island.

The Americans, after sealing off the corridor itself, were mopping up the bottled up Nipponese there, as well as remnants attempting to escape by sea.

Palampou is a secondary port at best, poorer by far than captured Ormoc to the south. It was doubtful that the Japanese could make good any mass escape through a rain of artillery shells and sea and air attack such as the Americans could mount from nearby bases.

Doughboys Spend Christmas In Battle For Their Lives

Superforts Meet Bitter Jap Attacks

21st Bomber Command, Saipan, Dec. 23—(AP)—The Japanese flung 130 planes, manned by first rank fliers, Friday at Superforts over Nagoya, Japan, in a frantic effort to prevent further damage to bombing or strayed aircraft factories there, but the B-29's fought them off and blasted enemy war industries over a period of two and a half hours.

The War Department at Washington said in a communique early today that not a B-29 was lost to enemy action out of a sizable force which concentrated on the already hard hit Mitsubishi aircraft works at Nagoya, a city of more than 1,000,000 inhabitants, 165 miles southwest of Tokyo. Five enemy interceptors were believed destroyed and four others damaged.

Overcast prevented assessment of results of the instrument bombing. Returning fliers expressed confidence some explosives added to the severe damage inflicted December 13 on the Hatsudoki factory of the Mitsubishi works, which produces fighters and bombers.

Tokyo radio made the unconfirmed claim that ten B-29's were shot down.

No Dispatch Christmas Day

In keeping with a custom as old as the paper itself, the Dispatch will not be published on Christmas day next Monday. It is the only day of the year that a full holiday is taken. On Tuesday and thereafter the paper will be issued as usual.

Heavy Snow Covers Western Front In Thick White Mantle

London, Dec. 23—(AP)—A heavy snowfall along the western front has guaranteed a white Christmas for America's fighting men, but in that respect alone will it be like the traditional Yuletide. A great proportion of the doughboys will be fighting for their lives.

As on Thanksgiving, turkey has been taken to the front for every United States soldier, but not all will get it on Christmas day. Most of those in the actual line will eat the usual canned ration. Their turkey will be saved and they will have Christmas dinner when they come out of battle—if they come out.

Some Germans may feast on American Christmas turkey, too. For they have captured much material in the winter offensive.

Hundreds of thousands of Christmas parcels from home already have reached the troops in France, but some soldiers are complaining they have received none and declared they must have been lost or stolen.

In his annual Christmas message to his British and Canadian troops, Field Marshal Montgomery told them that "together you and I have achieved much, and together we will see the thing through to the end."

In Britain many English families will share their Christmas rations with Americans far from home. In Birmingham more than 500 Americans will be entertained in private homes.

Hundreds Of Planes Smash At The Nazis

London, Dec. 23—(AP)—Hundreds of heavy bombers and fighters were hurled at German armored columns today as the weather improved over the Belgian battlefield after more than a week of fog and mist.

Retraining bombers rumbled into the battle and swarms of fighters dropped bombs and forth across the channel as the Allies got their good work at the advancing Germans after 72 hours of zero flying weather.

The German radio said three battle fronts came out of the west shortly before noon, but discontinued further announcement, indicating that the bombers and fighters were spilling their cargoes on the front lines.

A brilliant sunshine broke out over Luxembourg enabling the planes to roar over the German columns.

Taking advantage of better weather, which has held Eisenhower's air force log-bound for days while the German offensive proceeded, the Fortresses bombed their targets before 7:30 a. m.

However, the size of the attack was not comparable to some of the heavy blows landed in past weeks. The targets were not announced immediately.

Old State Bond Of 1910 More Than Doubled Now

BY LYNN NISBET Daily Dispatch Bureau

Raleigh, Dec. 23—North Carolina has gone through several eras of ups and downs during the past 34 years, as was emphasized Friday when State Treasurer Charles Johnson said in a letter dated May 12, 1910.

The letter was signed by B. R. Lacy, then State treasurer, and was addressed to a bond dealer requesting him to bid on an issue of four percent bonds then going on the market. Treasurer Lacy stated with some evidence of pride that four percent State bonds had "within the past eight years sold for as much as 196." Since then the State has borrowed money at six percent interest, and at the present time has some sixty million dollars to lend out—nearly fifty millions of it being invested in Federal securities that yield about two percent.

INCREMENT—Treasurer Johnson amused himself for a few minutes by figuring the present day value of that 1910 bond and found it to be 116.31. In other words, \$1,000 bond bought in 1910 would now be worth \$1,163.10. Meantime the own-

er would have collected \$1,360 in interest. Stated another way, if the bond had been socked away 34 years ago the present value with accrued interest would be \$2,523.10—more than two and a half times original cost.

CAVES—The State Department of Agriculture has just moved 25 high grade beef type calves from Alleghany county to Wake county and distributed them among vocational agriculture classes and FFA clubs for project work. Wake and adjoining counties have not gone in very strongly for beef cattle production, and the agriculture classes are trying to stimulate interest in that source of farm income.

TRUCK—Speaking of farm income, the statistical division of the State Department of Agriculture has estimated that the value of primary truck crops in North Carolina this year was \$11,577,000. This was six million dollars under the 1943 aggregate, but three and a half million above the ten-year average. Reason for the drop from last year was

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Cloudy and continued cold tonight. Sunday partly cloudy, becoming warmer in the afternoon.



It is the same old wish and the same spirit of other years that prompts again the Christmas greeting. But there is no diminishing of the sincerity that accompanies it.

With a sense of deep gratitude, the entire staff of this newspaper extends the compliments of the season to its readers, its friends and to all men everywhere—

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

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