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# Farmville Enterprise

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WAR BONDS

## AMERICANS COUNTERATTACK TO HALT THE GERMAN DRIVE

### Allied Headquarters Lifts News Blackout Partially

Paris, Dec. 21.—The German army has thrown 16 divisions of from 150,000 to 225,000 men and possibly 600 tanks into its winter drive of still-mounting intensity, but American armored forces Wednesday opened a two-way counterattack with all the power they could muster against the deepest of four breaches in the First Army line.

Further enemy advances may be expected, Allied headquarters spokesmen said, and there was no attempt to shield the fact that the grave situation may become worse before it gets better.

"We are taking counter-measures, but these cannot be taken in a single day; and it would be wrong to lead people to expect the situation to be restored in a day," a spokesman said. "We are confident we are going to win this battle; but we are not going to win it this week and probably not next week."

#### More News Promised

As protests poured in from almost all the Allied world over the suppression of news of German gains on the Western Front, Supreme Headquarters tonight pulled the curtain aside partly and promised a bigger view of the situation tomorrow.

The positions of the German and Allied armies will in the future be made public once daily, it was announced—after a sufficient time lag to make sure that the enemy will reap no benefit from the information.

This time lag is expected to be between 24 and 48 hours. Tomorrow's promised disclosures, therefore, will be of positions as they stood yesterday or today.

The Supreme Headquarters answer to critics of the news blackout has been that it was imposed on the basis of opinions of generals directing the fight and that the situation was so fluid that information on the whereabouts of German troops, even if it were days late, might help the enemy.

## Greetings To Armed Forces

### President Roosevelt Issues Christmas Message

Washington, Dec. 20.—President Roosevelt and members of the high command sent Christmas greetings today to men and women of the armed forces throughout the world.

"On behalf of a grateful nation," said Mr. Roosevelt's message, "I send to the men and women of our armed forces everywhere warm and confident good wishes this fourth Christmas of war. On Christmas day, more than on any other day, we remember you with pride and with humility, with anguish and with joy. We shall keep on remembering you all the days of our lives.

"It is therefore with solemn pride that I salute those who stand in the forefront of the struggle to bring back to a suffering world the way of life symbolized by the spirit of Christmas."

In another message addressed to ill and wounded fighters, the President said:

"With a deep personal sense of obligation, I welcome the privilege of sending to you this Christmas day a message of admiration and affection. You have given of your blood and health to restore to Christmas its meaning and to make the spirit of Christmas genuinely prevail throughout the world."

"It takes courage to fight on a battlefield and it takes courage to fight from a hospital bed. We would not cheapen your hours of heroism by wishing you a 'merry Christmas,' but we wish you to know that we are with you in spirit, in comradeship and in faith."

Top military leaders including Secretary of War Stimson, Navy Secretary Forrestal, Gen. George C. Marshall, army chief of staff, and Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Pacific commander in chief, also sent Christmas messages to service personnel throughout the world.

### Good Will Among Nations

We have found in fact, not merely in theory, that in peacetime international broadcasting is the greatest single instrument created by man for promoting international goodwill.

## Watchman, What Of The Night?

In the inexpressibly dark days through which the world is now passing it is possible to look into the future and hope that war shall yet be numbered among the things that have passed away?

Each year more homes are being added to those looking forward with little anticipation and joy to the Christmas season; each year finds it harder for many to repeat the traditional greeting—"A Merry Christmas" for out of their homes have gone the sons and daughters who gave good cheer to those Christmas days of yesteryear.

Where are those feet to which they fitted skates and snowshoes and those faces which beamed with happiness as they brought out toys and goodies from their Christmas stockings? Many of those feet are marching over shell torn battle fields, today; those faces have been made grim with the cruelties and horrors of modern warfare.

There come dark moments when one despairs for the future of mankind, but they flee away before the light of one's faith in the Prince of Peace, who will some day so control the minds and fill the hearts of men and nations that there will come in very truth a "Parliament of Man and a Federation of the World."

Let us recall with Tennyson: "For I dived into the future, far as human eye could see,

Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonders that would be; Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies of magic sails,

Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales;

Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there rained a gasty dew From the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue;

Far along the world-wide whisper of the south wind rushing warm, With the standards of the peoples plunging through the thunder-storm;

Till the war drum throbbed no longer, and battle flags were furled, In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world."

Small wonder now that sometimes men and women doubt His presence and His goodness. And He too probably does not wonder that faith sometimes breaks under life's inscrutable mysteries. But He is faithful still.

"Watchman, what of the night?" The watchman said, "The morning cometh."

## Roosevelt Inspects Camp Lejeune

### Visits Combat Reservation En Route To Capitol From Georgia

President Roosevelt made a two-hour inspection tour of the vast Marine combat reservation, Camp Lejeune, Monday, en route to Washington from a three week's vacation at Warm Springs, Ga.

This was his only side trip outside of Georgia during his absence from the Capitol.

On the drive through the camp with its commandant, Maj. Gen. John Marston, the President saw among other things a group of 84 Marine wardogs parade with their trainers while TNT blasts went off in simulation of combat explosions.

Facing momentous months in the fields of war and Allied diplomacy—the beginning of a fourth term and organization of a new Congress—the Chief Executive was reported to have returned to the Capitol untanned and a few pounds heavier. He arrived in Washington by special train, Monday, and went immediately to the White House to start a routine day.

For security reasons, news of the trip was withheld until the President was back in the White House. Representatives of the Associated Press, United Press and International News Service accompanied the party.

## The Enterprise Will Take A Holiday 29th

The Farmville Enterprise will take a well deserved holiday next week and will not make its appearance again until January 5, 1945.

The Editor and entire force WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS — and — HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR.



## The FIRST Christmas

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenus was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn . . .

## There'll Always Be A Christmas

### Neither Thundering Cannons Nor Bursting Bombs Can Deafen The World To The Song Of The Angels

There'll always be a Christmas, thank God! No matter how serious our personal woes and disappointments are, no matter how sadly "man's inhumanity to man" blights the world, nothing can black out the beauty, wonderment and joy of Christmas. Above the dreadful thunder of cannons, the shriek of bursting bombs and the grim chatter of machine guns, the song of the angels over Judea's hills still rises clear and undefeated at Christmastide.

Of course, the Christmas event cannot always be the same for everybody. Time and change have their way with us in mind and body, but time and change cannot destroy Christmas nor loosen the hold that the anniversary has upon men and women and little children. Moreover, Christmas in war days is a rebuke to the weapons of the flesh and postulates anew the coming of an era when good will shall prevail . . .

What huge headlines Christmas makes in our day! We could not be unkind of it if we would. Artistic posters, store windows, books, magazines, newspapers, the radio, bright-ribboned wreaths, holly and mistletoe, community Christmas trees, star-crowned and light-flooded—all announce that Christmas is coming or is here. And written on the skies is Christmas' Golden Text: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

In 1943 there appeared a book entitled: "We Thought We Heard the Angels Sing," the epic story of eight men, including Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, who (except one) were rescued after an ordeal such as rarely is experienced by human beings. Lieutenant James Whitaker, who wrote the book, whose title because the men in that rubber boat, while facing what seemed certain doom, felt the presence of God and His angels. Who would question their feelings? Not I.

Now, the shepherds tending their flocks in the hill country near Bethlehem the night of the Nativity heard the angels' song, and what they

heard and saw and felt is forever fixed in the exquisite lyric found in the Gospel of St. Luke. It is good to believe that there will always be the reading of that Scripture passage in myriad homes and churches as the annual Christmas celebration breaks like the burst of dawn over a tired and war-ravaged world . . .

There'll always be a Christmas because there'll always be an Eternal God, a Heavenly Father yearning over His children, unwilling that one of them, even the least, should perish. There'll come such a Christmas when mankind will know a peace that it never knew before. The beloved old hymns will take on a new beauty; and if the heart of the world is chastened and penitent, the Author of Christmas will open the windows of Heaven and rain down such blessings upon us that we shall scarcely be able to receive them . . .

Another reason why there'll always be a Christmas? It is that hunger for God is implanted in every human heart. The gift of God's Son to the world is the answer to that age-old question, so plaintively asked by Philip in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, "Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us." The love of God that will not let us go, on one hand, and the yearning of humanity for God on the other, lead us to affirm with conviction that there'll always be a Christmas to revive the drooping spirits of men and charm the eyes and hearts of little children with its magic.

Now, at Christmas time, just because Christmas is Christmas, we are haunted by a fresh vision of an imperfectly remembered event that happened long ago at Bethlehem, and a life that seemed to end on a green hill outside a city wall. Thus do we find the key that opens up to us a splendid treasure house—the Gospel story, the Gospel teaching, the Christian design for living.

The familiar verses of the old hymn rise in our minds and inspire us to sing with Phillips Brooks: "O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie . . . The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

There'll always be a Christmas; but not always, let us believe, will there be a hard world to turn from the inn the Child of Destiny, and from the temple the Prince of Peace.

—Edgar DeWitt Jones.

## The Christmas Star Will Shine Again This Year

The Christmas star will shine again this year  
Among the million lights hung overhead,  
And we will pause to hear the angels' song  
And bow in worship at the manger bed.

The Wise Men made this journey long ago,  
And then returning, went another way.  
O God of all, may that be true of us  
Who worship Thee upon this Christmas Day.  
—Mabel Niedermeyer.

## Sermons To Carry Theme Of Eternal Hope Of Peace

The theme of eternal hope of "Peace on earth, good will to men," will be woven into the sermons of the ministers of the Farmville churches, Sunday, as they relay the message from the angels to the shepherds, in the Judean hills nineteen hundred years ago, and the choirs in their turn will render echoes of the song of the heavenly chorus.

The spiritual leaders will read from Isaiah's prophecy in the Old Testament and from Matthew and Luke's accounts of the Nativity, and will stress the wonder of His birth, His life and death, His power and teachings and the grave responsibility of the faithful remnant in whom lies the hope of the world today.

#### BAPTIST

Rev. Carl Rogers, of Southwestern Theological Seminary, Seminary Hill, Texas, will be the guest speaker at the Baptist church, Sunday, at the morning worship hour. Rev. Mr. Rogers married the former Miss Daisy Holmes, of Farmville.

In the evening the annual "Student Night" service will be observed at

7:00 o'clock, at which seminary, college and high school students will take part. Among these will be Mr. and Mrs. John D. Holmes, Rev. and Mrs. Carl Rogers and daughter, Mary Faye, all of Seminary Hill, Texas; Miss Frances Winstead, of W. M. U. Training School, Louisville, Ky.; Miss Margaret Tyson and Miss Mary Parker, of W. C. U. N. C.; and the following young people from the following school: Janie Kemp, Johnnie Moore, and Agnes Melton. The ushers will be Harry Davis, Allie Melton, Shelby Roebuck and Thomas Elmore. The pastor, Rev. E. C. Chambliss, will speak on the topic, "If Christ Be Lifted Up." Special music will be a feature of the program. A cordial invitation is extended to everyone.

#### CHRISTIAN

Rev. C. B. Mashburn has chosen as the topic of his Christmas sermon, "When Angels Sang." This will be delivered at the 11:00 o'clock service, Sunday, at which Christmas music will also be a feature.

At 7:00 o'clock in the evening, the Primary Department, under the direction of Mrs. Florence Thorne, Mrs. C. B. Mashburn, Jr., and Mrs. George Farr will present a playlet, "The Star Gleans." Everyone is invited.

#### METHODIST

On Christmas Eve, Sunday, from 11:00 to 12:00 o'clock, a midnight service will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, with a timely message by the rector, Rev. J. R. Rountree, and a celebration of the Holy Communion, which will as usual be open to any baptized person. The choir will render special music with Mrs. J. W. Joyner as soloist. Mrs. Joyner will sing Jesus, Bambino. Everyone is invited to participate in one of the most inspiring and impressive services of the year.

#### PRESBYTERIAN

Rev. Sidney Boone, assistant to the pastor, Rev. M. Y. Self, will bring a Christmas message and apply its meaning to the year 1944. Special music will be rendered by the choir. A Midnight Watch Service has been planned for Sunday, December 31. Everyone invited to attend.

## FARMVILLE OVERSUBSCRIBES IT'S QUOTA BY \$128,000

### Posed For The Christmas Picture

"Now, Dasher; now, Dancer; now, Prancer and Vixen;  
On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen!"

When Clement Clark Moore penned the lines of his famed "A Visit from St. Nicholas," he not only did the world a great favor by naming the reindeer if the jolly old Saint, but down the years (more than one hundred, in fact), this most favored of Yuletide poems has ever reminded its readers that "without the services of prancing 'hoofs' Santa Claus might never reach a single, down-the-chimney, destination.

With this figurative example of the important place our four-footed friends hold in the holiday program, let us cite more realistic instances of such importance.

Animals have ever been linked very significantly with the sacred setting of that memorable Christmas Eve, centuries ago, when—"As shepherds watched their flocks by night"—was heralded from heaven the most holy Birth-Announcement the world has ever received.

In song, in story, and in art such a setting has been given majestic treatment, and animal life has been highly exalted by being included in further outpourings of the three arts, as they (the arts) deal with the action of that historic hour.

With the Holy Child "cradled where the cattle fed," the cattle necessarily fit into the sublime scene of the Nativity and many quaint legends concerning the keen perception of these animals have come down to us; such as, "kneeling in adoration," before the Christ Child. Again, in "The Legend of the Friendly Beasts" (a Carol-form that dates back to the twelfth century), the donkey, the cow and the sheep are given powers of human expression, in order to voice praise, as well as speak of their individual deeds of service—the donkey carrying the Mother to Bethlehem; the cow giving up its hay for a pillow for the Child, and the sheep supplying the wool for a blanket warm.

The faithful camels that brought the star-led Wise Men to Bethlehem have also been more beautiful than one of French origin, which tells of a custom started long ago, when children placed their shoes, filled with grain on the doorsteps for these camels of the Magi, that the untiring animals might eat on their journey through the Judean country.

The Prince of Peace was born of the royal house of David, and in Biblical heraldry the device belonging to the Christ is a lion—He is the Lion of Judah; and as we celebrate the birthday of this great Creator of Christmas, whose most glorious contribution to every living creature was His boundless love, may we, in turn, be generous in our human contribution of kindness to our dumb animal friends.—A. M. Brown.

## Tokyo Attacked By Superforts

Washington, Dec. 20.—Two Superfortresses started big fires in the industrial area of Tokyo early today offensive against Japan and occupied serial offensive against Japan and occupied China, as official reports disclosed that the giant United States air fleet which bombed Hankow Monday destroyed or damaged 88 enemy planes.

The first of the two Superforts arrived over Tokyo shortly after 1 a. m., and watched fires blaze over a large area after its bombs exploded. A second Superfort, attacking nine minutes later, started 13 fires among those already blazing as the result of the first attack. It was estimated that 24 fires were caused in all.

Reports from American air bases in China indicated that devastating damage was done by the fleet of more than 250 Superforts. Liberators, Mitchells and fighters which attacked the great Yangtze River port of Hankow, Monday.

The planes destroyed 42 enemy planes, damaged 24 so badly that they probably crashed and damaged 22 less severely.

In the afternoon at 3:30, there will be a special Christmas program at Carraways.

#### CATHOLIC

Sunday Mass at 9:30 Sunday morning. Christmas Mass at 12:00 Christmas Eve, at 9:00 and at 9:30 Christmas Day. Father Benedict, priest, invites everyone to join in the celebrations.

## MacArthur Team Wins Over Eisenhower In Sales Contest

As a result of the keen interest and patriotic spirit of Farmville citizens, George W. Davis, chairman of the local Sixth War Loan campaign was able to report a total of \$385,875 rung up in Bond sales Wednesday night.

L. E. Walston, vice chairman of Pitt's War Finance committee, when contacted for a report, was elated over Farmville, with a quota of \$64,000, having purchased \$67,043 worth of "E" Bonds, which have been reported lagging throughout the Nation. This goes far over the quota but does not yet reach the goal of \$125,000 set by the campaign officials. They have hopes, however, of making the mark set by December 31.

J. W. Munden, Retail War Bond chairman, reports that the MacArthur team, with Bill Duke as captain, won the Retail Bond contest with a total of \$145,600. The Eisenhower team, Miss Mary Elizabeth Barrett, captain, rang up \$94,425 in sales; a total of \$240,025 for both teams. Chairman Munden paid tribute to the untiring efforts made by both leaders.

Campaign officials gave credit to the contesting teams in large measure for the overwhelming success of the bond drive here.

### PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S CHRISTMAS SPEECH

President Roosevelt will deliver his annual Christmas Eve radio address to the nation Sunday, Dec. 24, speaking for about 15 minutes over all broadcasting networks at 5:15 p. m., EWT.

#### POST OFFICE NOTICE!

Postmaster B. O. Turnage has announced that the Farmville Post Office will be open Saturday afternoon, December 23rd, for the convenience of the public on account of Christmas mailing.

## White Christmas Program Features Community Service

The churches of Farmville united in an inspiring and well attended White Christmas service, held in the Methodist Church, Sunday afternoon at five o'clock.

The congregation joined in singing "The Adepte Fidelis," which was followed by the reading of the Scripture lesson by Bobby Smith, prayer by J. H. Paylor, the offering, and the hymn, "Joy to the World."

Featuring the program was a play, dramatized from Raymond MacDonald Alden's story, "Why The Chimes Rang," and directed by Miss Pearl Eichelberger, with the following cast of characters:

Holger, a peasant boy, John Russell Joyner; Steen, his younger brother, Robert Pollard; Bertel, their uncle, Maynard Thorne, Jr.; an old woman, Jane Dall; minister, Rev. Sidney Boone. Presenting offerings that portrayed the moral of the story that "It is not gold, nor silver, nor rich pearls, but love, and self-sacrifice that please the Lord," were Mrs. George W. Davis, Vivian Scott, Ruth Moore, Jackie Willis, J. W. Joyner and C. S. Hotchkiss. Seleta Tucker took the part of an angel and Lorraine Butts and Janet Stansill lighted the candles on the altar.

The soft light of candles, Christmas greens and the voices of a quartet, composed of Mrs. J. W. Joyner, Mrs. A. W. Bobbitt, Charles F. Baucom and E. C. Holmes, with Mrs. J. M. Hogbood at the organ, provided a lovely setting for the play.

Scenes were the interior of a wood chopper's hut on the edge of a forest and the altar of a cathedral.

Gifts of various kinds were presented for the needy in the community and the cash offering, which will be used to purchase fuel and medicine, amounted to \$60.25.

## STORES TO CLOSE DECEMBER 25 & 26

The Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association requests that the stores in Farmville cooperate in closing for business Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26.

J. W. Munden, president of the organization announced Thursday, that the executive board had reconsidered its decision to request closing on Christmas Day only, upon receipt of a petition revealing the fact that a vast majority of its members had voted to give their employees an additional holiday.