

GREETINGS FROM OUR SOLDIERS

(Continued from Page Five)

know that someone back home remembers them.

I've been in the service since last March and so far I haven't anything to complain about.

My outfit was originally a plain infantry, but it's now a Glider Infantry. As yet we have to go aloft in a glider but we are getting our training in large transport planes.

I'm a bit pressed for time at the moment so this will have to be considered as a short note, but a hearty thank you.

I would like to thank each and everyone of you swell Mothers, but as that is impossible, I hope this will express my feelings.

Very truly yours,
Pfc. James R. Rice.

Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,
Pvt. Ben H. Starkey.

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
December 6, 1942

To the Blue Star Mothers:
I received your swell package, and wish to express my gratitude. It is good that organizations such as yours are formed, for they do a swell job of taking care of the boys in the service during the holiday seasons. I wish to thank each and every one of you, and hope you continue your wonderful work for the duration.

Merry Christmas to all!

IT'S GOING TO BE A GAY CHRISTMAS AT FORT CUSTER

Early mailing of Christmas packages to Custer soldiers will enable the branch post office here to distribute all parcels which arrive by December 24. It has been revealed by Capt. John Hebble, post postal officer, working with a staff of 9 civilians and 30 soldiers.

Smaller, better-wrapped packages, about half of them insured for amounts ranging between \$5 and \$25, are other features of the 1942 Christmas which employees

in the Custer branch of the Battle Creek post office have noticed in the occasional breathing spells during the constant flow of business.

Approximately 15 parcels to a sack, 315 mail bags were received at Fort Custer one day last week when mailing was at its peak with soldiers mailing gifts home and packages being received. The load was expected to taper off some the early part of this week and be concentrated on incoming mail, as the soldiers will have completed their mailing to get it home before the holiday.

All War Department personnel, civilian and military, who can be spared from their duties on Christmas Day will be given a holiday on December 25 in compliance with the wishes of the President, and at Fort Custer only a skeleton staff to handle emergency matters which arise will be on duty.

Employees who are required to work on Christmas will be excused for a day at a later time. The Secretary of War has announced that the observance of Christmas must be limited to one day and that regular hours would be required on both Christmas Eve and the day following Christmas.

There will be no holiday this year at New Years.

The holiday will be effective for those men on neither pass nor furlough. Commanding officers have granted 10 per cent of their men furloughs over Christmas and 10 per cent more have been given two or three day passes to cover the holiday.

Sharing in the five million pounds of Christmas turkey bought by the Quartermaster General will be the thousands of Custer soldiers in camp on the holiday. It was announced today by Col. George T. Shank, commanding the fort. The turkeys are already in ice-boxes here and overseas.

Along with the turkey, Custer troops will feast on the following: Cream of Celery Soup, Roast Turkey, Dressing, Giblet Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Head Lettuce with French Dressing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans, Baked Corn, Hot Rolls, Butter, Coffee, Mince Pie, Hard Candy.

Decoration of mess halls and barracks has been under way for a week. Varicolored paper streamers, Christmas tree lights and evergreens have transformed the standard interiors and buildings into attractive Christmas scenes.

Michigan winters affect people differently, with some people going to Grayling for winter sports and some to the South to get away from the cold, but the latest effect is a shortage of stenographers and typists in the Provost Marshal General's Unit Training Center recently moved here from Georgia.

Twenty to twenty-five stenographers and ten to fifteen typists are being sought to replace the civilian help at the Center who quit when they learned of the move from Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

About forty of the unit's civilian help braved the Michigan weather to come along with the unit, and all have stayed.

Applications for the vacant positions are being taken by the Post Personnel Office at Post Headquarters, and selected applicants are sent to the unit for training. Civil Service appointments are made to successful applicants.

CHRISTMAS STORIES REVEALED BY HISTORY

Fortunately, the "idea" in the minds of some to tell the truth to the kiddies—that there isn't a Santa Claus—hasn't catching on as well as they hoped.

Everybody—and this includes the kids—enjoys a good story, especially around the Christmas season.

Down through the years have come many beautiful stories, jammed with the kindness of the best in humanity. It is from such stories that many of our Christmas customs have come. For the observance of such customs the United States is indebted to many lands. Palestine, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Germany, England and Holland all have done their bit to contribute to our added enjoyment of Christmas customs and traditions. To the Holy Land, more than any other, all civilization is indebted for the matchless history of the Christ child.

One writer who has investigated the observance of the birth of the Christ Child has noted one curious fact. That is, Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church. Irenaeus and Tertullian, early church fathers, omitted it from the list of feasts. According to what Origen noticed in the Bible, only sinners, not saints, celebrated their birthday.

It was in the year 200 A.D. that evidence of the feast of Christmas was first noted. This was in

Egypt. And it wasn't until years afterwards that December 25 was decided upon as being the date for the celebration of Christ's birthday. During that time Christmas was celebrated on various days, one of the dates being as late as May 20. Eight hundred years after the first feast of Christmas, church authorities used the Christmas Mass, from which comes the English word Christmas. This was in 1038.

IT HAPPENED ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Ironically enough, several of the strange and important war activities have taken place on Christmas day.

One which many of the British and German soldiers of the last World War remember is the strange Christmas that took place on the 1914 front. The World war was definitely on, but for a short time, on Christmas day, there was a period of peace on earth between the fighting soldiers.

In the Flanders sector, German and British soldiers ceased firing by mutual agreement, and went over to each other's trenches and dugouts to spend the day in feasting and celebration.

A very important military event in colonial American history also took place on Christmas day. George Washington, leading his brave, but weather-beaten army of 2,400 men across the Delaware, captured the city of Trenton, N.J., which British and Hessian troops were then occupying. Over 1,500 enemy troops were captured in the surprise march.

Yuletide

This is Christmas! The laughter of millions of children of a hundred racial heritages mingles with the bells that summon the devout to worship in freedom at altars of their choice. Christmas tree lights blaze bravely through unshuttered windows. Motor cars move to friendly places. There is food in abundance, and general good will over the land. This is Christmas—in America.

Origin of Yule Gifts

The giving of gifts to the poor at Christmas time originated with

the belief that the Christ Child sometimes came to the door as a beggar.

One Liberty Vessel

It costs as much to build one Liberty cargo vessel as to build heavy tanks.

GREETINGS



THE SEASON'S GREETINGS
Farmington Lumber & Coal Co.



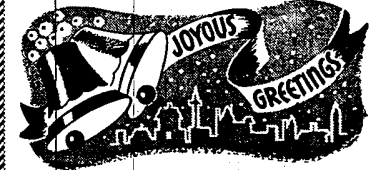
MAY THIS MESSAGE of Peace and Happiness abide with you throughout the Yule Season.
SPENCER J. HEENEY
Mortician



MERRY CHRISTMAS
Here's Wishing You all the HAPPIEST HOLIDAY SEASON
Warner Dairy Company



Just a line to extend our heartfelt thanks for your kindness to us during 1942, and to Wish You and Yours the MERRIEST CHRISTMAS of them all.
Conroy's Market



For the Season
TO OUR PATRONS
and the Promise of Our Continued FINE SERVICE
TO YOU IN '43

Howard Otis

Dodge — Plymouth

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The HANDMARK



To all those we have known and happily served during the past year. It is with great pleasure we send these greetings. Let us serve you again in 1943 as satisfactorily as in the past.



Arnold Stolz
Farmington - Redford Bus Line



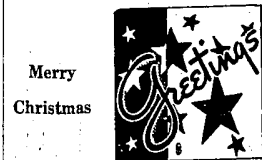
TO EACH AND ALL OF YOU
WE SAY,
MERRY CHRISTMAS
Farmington Insurance Agcy.
Edgar S. Pierce



Yes, THERE IS a SANTA CLAUS
And, with this cheering thought, we wish you A MERRY CHRISTMAS
Clarence E. Barber
Plumbing Heating



ABE JOHNSON and MARK DAINES
Kroger Managers



Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
From All of Us to All of You
OAK PHARMACY