

Momentary Breathing Spell on Guadalcanal Island



Typical of the ground crews' unsung heroes is this U. S. marine mechanic (left), who is checking over the power plant of a plane which has seen heroic service in the daily air battles over Guadalcanal. He plays a vital role in the air superiority held by our forces in the Solomons. Right: The sign says 42nd Street, but it's a long, long way from New York city's Times Square. The sign was posted at a marine camp on Guadalcanal.

Rest in Desert After 60 Hours of Fighting



An American-made tank, serving with a New Zealand division in Libya, halts while its crew, exhausted by 60 hours of continuous fighting, rests. This picture, received by the New Zealand legation in Washington, was taken during the Egypt-Libya offensive which has driven General Rommel and his men to El Aghella, Libya.

For Shipyard Girls



You may like the costume worn by Dorothy Dahl (left) the better, but it's incorrect for factory workers, while that at the right, worn by Michele Magnin, is recommended by male members of a joint committee on health and safety, representing the navy and maritime commission. Lingerie was considered, but dispensed with, as were cuffs. But long underwear—the old red flannel kind—will be utilized.

Santa Claus Born In Famous Poem By Clement Moore

Santa Claus was born in New York on a snowy December night 120 years ago. He sprang full grown, clad in red and white, with eight reindeer and a sleigh, from the mind of Dr. Clement Clarke Moore when he wrote his famous poem, "A Visit From St. Nicholas."

The legend of St. Nicholas had come to the New world with the Dutch settlers in the Seventeenth century. Gradually the name of that figure became San Niklaas and later Santa Claus.

There are several explanations of how Santa Claus happened to be born. One story tells that on Christmas eve, 1822, Dr. Moore was being driven to his New York home in a sleigh, and the tinkling of the bells on the horse's harness gave him inspiration for the verses.

Another story tells that Dr. and Mrs. Moore were packing Christmas baskets for the needy and found they were one turkey short. Though it was late, Dr. Moore went out to buy another. On his way home with the turkey under his arm he is said to have composed the poem.

Dr. Moore read his poem to his children on Christmas morning. When a friend had the verses printed in a Troy, N. Y., newspaper, he denied writing them, but later admitted their authorship.

The poem gained rapidly in popularity, and the picture it painted of old Santa has endured to this day.

"His eyes, how they twinkled; his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed, when I saw him, in spite of myself."

Short Course in Yule Card Etiquette

Ice 'Ain't So Hot'



Babe Susie Mapes is unimpressed with her first set of ice skates. Her mother is the former Evelyn Chandler, Ice Follies star. Here we see Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Mapes putting on Susie's skates.

Each year at this time, when Christmas cards are about to be addressed, the question always pops up in the mind: "How shall we sign them?" Here are a few hints and suggestions that will help you along in making your decision:

- If you are a married couple all you need to do is sign, "Jack and Jane." For those that would require more formal address, sign the card: "Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jackson."
- If you have a small family you can sign the card: "Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jackson, Sally and Jane." For the informal address of the cards it could be: "Jim, Mary, Sally and Jane Jackson." It is always best to put the names of the child or children next to the mother's.
- If you are a married woman, living alone, you can sign your card, "Mary Brown Jackson"—the Brown being the maiden name. The general practice in such cases is also to put in parenthesis "Mrs. Jack Jackson."
- Young ladies, single, just sign "Sally Jackson" or just "Sally." If the acquaintance is casual Sally can precede her name with a "Miss" such as "Miss Sally Jackson."

But at Christmas time, informality is the general and prevailing note. Cards addressed to your friends should be as informal as possible without causing any affront to those receiving them. If you wish you can even add your own little personal note as might a young lady to her young man. Or as one pal would to another whom he hasn't seen, or heard from for a long time.

Make Tree Fireproof This Way—It's Easy

You can fireproof your Christmas tree by a simple method of letting it absorb the proper amount of ammonium sulphate. First cut the trunk of the tree at an angle or in a "V" shape. Then weigh the tree and divide the weight of ammonium sulphate needed. Dissolve the indicated amount in water, using one and one-half pints for each pound of sulphate. Put this solution in a jar or bucket, set the tree in the solution in a cool place and leave it long enough for the tree to absorb the solution fully. Then the danger of fire is at a minimum.

'First Footing' in Britain Survives as Superstition

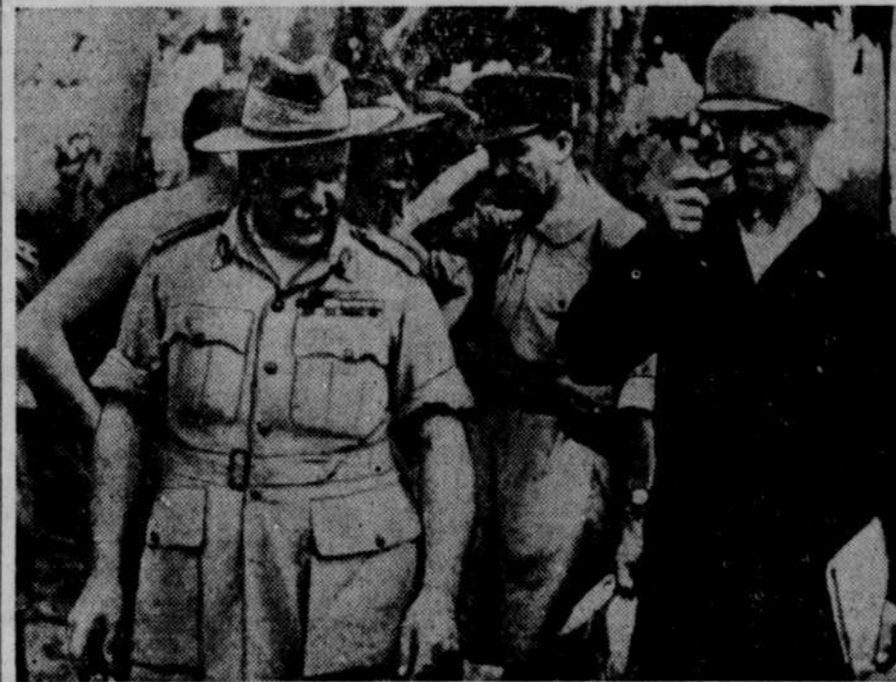
In England the superstition about the "first footing" still survives. Someone must go into the house before anyone comes out in the new year; otherwise some member of the family might pass away. Members of the family may be seen pacing up and down the walk about 10 minutes before midnight, waiting for the whistle, so he can come in out of the cold and bring good luck into his home for another year.

Getting Ready for Action Aboard U. S. Carrier



Lunch during general quarters on a U. S. fighting ship is where it happens to find you. Sandwiches, cookies and coffee—plenty of coffee, from the looks of things—refreshes the deck crew (left) of this aircraft carrier as it plows towards the enemy. Right, a U. S. sailor straightens out the belts of .50 caliber machine gun bullets—calling cards for the nation's foes—in the magazine of the carrier.

Generals Meet for Attack on Japs in Buna



At an undisclosed base, General Blamey confers with Brig. Gen. Hanford MacNider (with pipe) during preparations for an attack on Jap-held Buna, in New Guinea. General MacNider received eight wounds in this attack when a Jap rifle grenade exploded.

U. S. Army Nurses Arrive in Middle East Sent Home to Grow



United States army nurses are gradually being sent to every United Nations front. It is their job to care for the wounded and to do everything possible to make sure that injured fighting men will fight again. A group of army nurses is shown here on the East African front waiting for a train to take them to their various units.



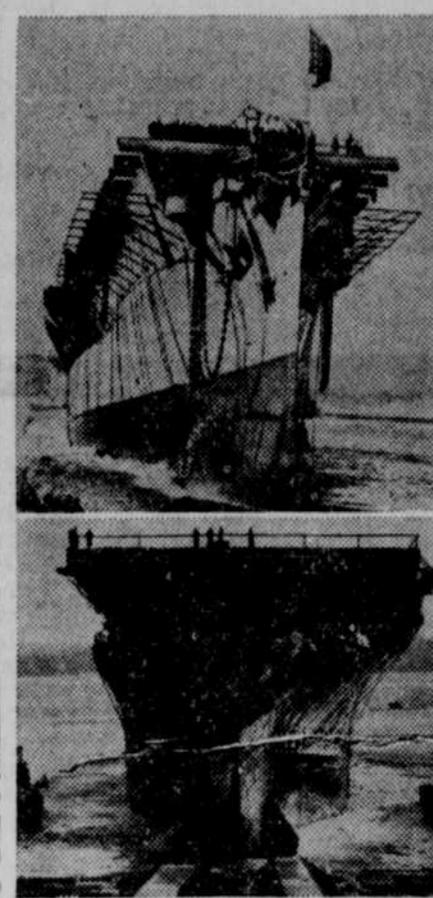
U. S. marine corps private George B. Holle, above, was sent back to his Eau Claire, Wis., home after he came to light that in spite of his six-foot-one-inch height, George is only 13 years old. Young Holle enlisted in the marine corps 13 months ago when he was but 12, and after completing recruit training last December he was sent to a South Pacific base. Here, after more than six months at this base, his age was discovered.

Yum, Yum, 30,000 Pounds of Horsemeat!



Bostonians who never ate horse meat before will now have a chance to try out this delicacy. The first shipment of 30,000 pounds of horse meat has arrived, and the whole town is talking about it. Shown above Boston butchers are inspecting the new shipment. A taste for horse meat, like a taste for olives, has to be cultivated.

New Threat to Japs



At top the new aircraft carrier, Belleau Wood, takes to the waves at Camden, N. J. The ship was named after the famous battle in France during World War I. Below: Another great carrier, the Bunker Hill, is launched at Fore River, Mass., 15 months after laying of the keel.

President Batista of Cuba Visits Miami



President Batista walks through a guard of honor upon arrival to review the officer candidates' school at retreat, in Miami, Fla., following his arrival from Cuba. On the left behind him is Aurelio Conchoso, Cuban ambassador to the United States; on the right is Dr. Jose A. Martinez, Cuban minister of state.

'Lumberjill'



"Lumberjills" are pinch hitting for the men in harvesting the state of Washington's Christmas tree crop. Here Mary Giblin trims the trunk of a young tree before shipping. About 50 railroad cars will be used for Washington's crop.

Praise the Lord and Pass the Nutrition



These regular guys from East Side, New York, are getting some practical instruction in nutrition (important during wartime rationing) in the junior chefs' class at Judson Health center. The instructor sits with her back to the camera.

Not So Sanitary



A British Tommy is shown wiping dishes with a swastika flag captured from General Rommel's Afrika Korps. Not so good, we say, as the swastika contaminates everything it touches.