

What Thanksgiving Means to the Boys in Our Navy

Of course there will be a "real feed," with turkey and everything, wherever it's possible on land or sea. And at the naval training stations there will be special doings to help the lonely lads forget to be homesick.

By RHYS G. THACKWELL

More than 200 years ago John Alden and his little band of Puritan followers in New England passed a terrible year of famine and sickness that nearly wiped out the colony. But the pendulum swung. Health conditions improved. Clearings were enlarged. The drought broke. Good crops were raised. A beautiful harvest was stored against the winter. And then the Pilgrims turned their thoughts to God. Their hearts were in gratitude. They appointed a day for public thanksgiving. Every year since, when the harvest has been gathered, the people of the United States have observed Thanksgiving day—since 1863 on the last Thursday in November. The following article concerning the observance of the day in the navy this year was prepared by a direct descendant of John Alden.



AR from their homes, perhaps for the first time in their young lives, many thousands of young American sailors will forget on Thanksgiving day all of the serious business of war. Thoughts will be of home. It will be a day of meditation for the men of the great fleets which are aiding the allied nations in exterminating Prussianism from the earth. It will be America's first Thanksgiving in this great world war. At the training stations, on the ships which patrol the coast lines, in the submarines which move about a hundred feet below the surface of the water, and on the great battleships on the high seas Thanksgiving day is to be observed as it never before has been by the boys and men who are dedicating their lives to America's cause. It will not be merely a day of sensuous pleasures, of stuffing oneself with foods to please the taste; rather it will be a day of mental inspiration, of a spiritual gratification, of thoughts of home and those who are dear.

In a general way the stories of how Thanksgiving is observed in the two branches of the American fighting forces do not differ. Soldiers who are yet in this country will perhaps be given furloughs so that they can be with their families or other relatives on Thanksgiving day. Sailors and marines who are detailed to the training stations may be invited out for the day or they may gather in the big mess halls for a program. But the lads who are far away from their loved ones, those who are on the high seas, will experience a feeling entirely new to them. And it is going to have a tremendously important influence, too. Perhaps you have wondered some time or other why the tight-fitting blouse, the black handkerchief, and his snaky little white cap seem to give the jackie a more youthful appearance than the khaki or olive drab do to the soldier.

It is not a deception resulting from a marked difference in the uniforms. Rather this apparent boyish appearance of the jacksies in comparison with the soldiers is a reality. The jacksies are just boys—the brightest youth of America, who, before they have attained their manhood, are offering their lives to make this country secure from Prussianism and to establish peace throughout the world.

A spirit of youth permeates the United States navy—an atmosphere which perhaps is not to be found in the army. Most of the boys, who are being trained to man the battleships, and the majority of those who already have met the German fleet in sea battles, are scarcely out of their teens. There is a fascination for the sea, for the experience of moving about on the waters and being constantly in danger of attack from beneath the sea or by hostile ships—a something which holds a peculiar charm for American youth. And so it is that the American navy is composed of a great host of young men—youth who seek adventure, those who are eager to avenge the terrible atrocities wrought by Germany.

Months have passed since many of these young jacksies, transformed in an incredibly short time from schoolboys to fighting men-o'-wars-men, left their mothers and their fathers to join other youths in protecting our country from the ravages of a barbarian foe. Their activities have been so strenuous that few have had the time or the inclination to meditate about their homes. But all of these boys have been separated from their own people long enough to give them a sincere longing to visit again hometown and to see mother.

Men of the army are better able to combat a feeling of homesickness than the jacksies can because the soldiers have come, as a general rule, from the offices, from the cares of business, from colleges, and from situations which have, in their very nature, separated the men, more or less, from their family interests. Should this statement sound exaggerated and false let me amend it somewhat. The soldiers probably are more accustomed to absence from home than are the sailor boys, most of whom came directly from the influence of their mothers and who are all by themselves for the first time in their careers, confronting some of the bigger problems of life.

And so it is that this Thanksgiving the many thousands of American boys who are fighting in the first line of defense are going to experience a great mental awakening—a spiritual change, which might not have come to them under normal conditions until they were much older in years and experience. It will be perhaps their first Thanksgiving day on which they have actually taken the time to meditate over the blessings for which they should give thanks.

The boys probably have not previously had occasion to appreciate the home influence. They will rejoice in the knowledge that the United States now has a navy which measures up to the best in the world. They will be glad because they



know that this country is aiding the allied nations in exterminating so-called "kultur" and in establishing peace on earth for centuries at least. The boys will give thanks because they have been privileged to give their services, their money for Liberty bonds and their lives, if necessary, to bring to a close this worst struggle of all the ages.

At the naval stations elaborate programs have been prepared. Mrs. William A. Moffett, wife of the commandant of Great Lakes naval training station, early conceived the idea of giving a big Thanksgiving dinner to the 20,000 boys now training there. Actuated by her splendid mother spirit, Mrs. Moffett confided her wish to some of her friends.

"Can't we do something to bring home a little closer to the boys for just one day?" Mrs. Moffett asked. "Many of the young boys actually need to pass Thanksgiving in a real home—they have been separated from their own people so long that their hearts are calling out for a glimpse into a home where there is a mother, father, some noisy children and home-cooked food."

Mrs. Moffett's idea quickly became popular. A committee was formed to secure the boys who were to accept the scores of invitations from Chicagoans and other hospitable people along the north shore of Lake Michigan who showed a desire to entertain the jacksies on Thanksgiving day. Chaplain Charles W. Moore lent his aid in selecting the boys for the invitations. More than 1,000 young men were granted liberty to visit the homes where they are guests of honor for a real Thanks-

giving dinner. Most of the boys are to be taken to church services before the dinner. Automobile rides and other forms of entertainment constitute the afternoon program. Probably every boy will feel an impulse to write a message to mother.

What is being done at Great Lakes, where the largest naval training station of the world is located, is typical of the programs at the other training stations.

On every battleship guarding our coast lines, in every submarine craft which bears American sailors, or every other ship manned by the blue-jackets at least a portion of Thanksgiving day will be devoted to meditation. Religious services will be held on many of the ships.

Turkey dinners with several courses, topped off with ice cream or other delicacies, are to be served to all of the navy men. And as they eat the boys will appreciate as never before the significance of Thanksgiving and the turkey dinner. They will better understand the hardships which the Pilgrims endured in order that they might establish a people who should be at liberty to worship as they saw fit.

And as they think of the fortitude of the men who fought hunger, and cold, and disease, and death in order that somewhere there should be a country where people could be assured of liberty, the jacksies sincerely offer up their gratitude to the power which has made it possible for them to aid in preserving this nation from the loss of that priceless liberty.

WHAT WAR DID TO ROME

Rome in the days of Augustus was a city of more than 1,000,000 persons, and it did not have a single hospital.

The city was built mainly of brick, with narrow, tortuous streets. But it had some broad and well-paved thoroughfares, the fashionable avenue being the famous Appian way, which was the metropolitan terminus, so to speak, of one of the great military roads that radiated from Rome as a center to all parts of the empire.

The houses of the rich, and even those of the fairly well-to-do, were supplied with running water. No modern system of aqueducts surpassed that of ancient Rome, and the water was distributed to dwellings by underground pipes that furnished the fluid through lead pipe connections to tanks elevated on pillars at regular intervals along the street. From these tanks lead pipes carried the water to the houses on either side, which were provided with faucets and basins like our houses of today.

This in itself is a very interesting fact, because even two centuries ago there was no such adequate system of water supply for cities anywhere in the civilized world. In respect of this important item of civilization, the destruction of Rome by war put the world back about 1,800 years.

When Julius Caesar first visited Alexandria in Egypt, the occasion on which he was captured by the Greek charms of Cleopatra, he found there so complete an underground water-supply system that the city seemed "hollow underneath."

The aqueducts of ancient Rome, substantial remains of which still exist, supplied numerous street fountains, at which the people drank, and, much more important, the enormous bath buildings, erected and maintained at fabulous expense by various emperors.

There were no street lamps. Soldiers employed as policemen carried torches through the streets. It was a method corresponding nearly to that in use in European cities a couple of centuries ago. Stoves were unknown and dwellings were heated with braziers of charcoal. Olive oil lamps and candles of tallow and wax furnished domestic illumination. House furniture—sofas, chairs, bedsteads and what not—much resembled in pattern what we have today, and for the rich was no less luxurious.

Grain was ground by watermills and windmills. Boats on the Tiber carried mill wheels that were driven by the current of the river. Chickens were hatched by incubators on a great scale for market. Ice obtained from mountain heights was stored in summer time for winter use.

A big book might be written about the "modern

conveniences" enjoyed by the ancient Romans. They were wiped out, together with nearly everything that was worth while in the way of civilization, by barbarous tribes, whose notion of warfare was "frightfulness" carried to the ultimate extent. These tribes were largely the ancestors of the present-day Germans. What they are today they were then. And what they did to Rome and to the civilization of which Rome was the dominant center put back the progress of the world just about eighteen centuries.

An Odd Fish--The Sea Horse

If mermaids were no bigger than some fairies, they might have horses to ride. The sea horses are creatures familiar enough, though most people have never seen one alive. Summer visitors at the seashore find them for sale—very dead, and dried—at shops that specialize in marine curios.

The sea horse (naturalists say) is one of the most ancient of fishes. It is one of nature's oddest imitations—a "camouflage," so to speak.

It has a horse-like head, and its body is so shaped as to resemble the neck of that quadruped. But really, when one comes to examine it, the thing it counterfeits is the "knight" piece of the chessboard.

The sea horse has a tubelike snout, at the end of which are the mouth and jaws. Its head is topped by a sort of coronet. Clad in a complete suit of armor plates, it cannot flex its body like other fishes, and its finless tail is of no use for locomotion.

It feeds on small shrimps and other crustaceans. Occasionally, uncoupling its tail from the supporting plant, it swims slowly, not like other fishes, but always in a vertical position, its back fin vibrating rapidly.

Like other fishes, the sea horse possesses an air-bladder, which is always distended by a quantity of gas so exactly adjusted for equilibrium that, if a single bubble no larger than the head of a small pin be extracted, the creature falls to the bottom and must crawl about until the wound is healed and a fresh supply of gas has been secreted.

But the most remarkable point about the sea horse is that the male is provided with an external stomach-pouch, in which, at the mating season, the female deposits her eggs. The lining membrane of the pouch secretes a nutritious fluid on which the young, when hatched, are fed. When they are big enough to take care of themselves, the father sea horse rubs his stomach against a winkle shell or some other convenient object, and by this means forces them out into the water.

PRO. ITS BY LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS

STATE TREASURY IS BENEFICIARY OF UNUSED MONEY

NEWS FROM STATE CAPITAL

Items of Varied Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources at the State House

State Auditor W. H. Smith has given out a statement which he has prepared for his biennial report, showing the state treasury is enriched \$164,952 by appropriations which were made by the legislature of 1915 and which were not used. The appropriations lapsed into the treasury and can be used to tide over the state's general fund, which has been growing low, until new taxes begin to pour in.

The largest appropriation to lapse was for \$50,000, made to indemnify the owners of live stock who lost stock through the inroads of the foot and mouth disease, which was causing alarm over the country at that time. The foot and mouth disease outbreak did not extend to Nebraska.

Over \$32,000 of the sum appropriated for state-aid bridges lapsed into the treasury, and the state superintendent allowed \$13,318 of his funds to lapse. The superintendent's funds for the present biennium are large enough to permit him to pay out for the purpose which the 1915 appropriation was made.

Following is the list of the larger appropriations and the amount which lapsed:

Appropriation	Lapsed
Legislative expenses.....	\$112,000 \$2,432.00
Governor's office.....	22,300 1,748.00
Auditor's office.....	39,630 3,771.00
Attorney general.....	25,000 2,901.00
Land commissioner.....	25,000 75.00
State superintendent.....	202,280 15,318.00
Supreme court.....	110,780 1.83
Railway commission.....	96,920 1,489.00
Board of health.....	19,770 1,354.00
Live stock commission.....	65,160 8,617.00
Printing bureau.....	31,700 2,662.00
Labor bureau.....	14,180 2,711.00
State library.....	18,000 2,543.00
State-aid bridges.....	150,000 32,827.00
Historical society.....	30,000 2,348.00
Banking board.....	78,800 2,441.00
Prevention of foot and mouth disease.....	50,000 50,000.00
State farm paying.....	35,000 2,267.00
Board of mediation.....	500 500.00
Pump irrigation.....	15,000 2,703.00

Alleges Defrauding of State

In a letter to Attorney General William E. Reed, Governor Neville calls attention to the alleged defrauding of the state in the sum of about \$1,000 by padding the record of meals furnished companies of the Nebraska National Guard during the mobilization last spring.

The proprietor of a Lincoln restaurant is named by the governor as the man said to have thus defrauded the state. The man is already under arrest by federal authorities, and awaiting trial in federal court, on the charge of defrauding the government in the same way after the state troops were mustered into United States service.

Three vouchers are said by Governor Neville to have been issued for amounts in excess of the price of meals actually furnished certain companies of the Sixth Nebraska when those units were being held in Lincoln for the muster. The total fraudulent excess is alleged to be \$1,000.

No Special Thanksgiving Menu

There will be no special Thanksgiving dinners for some 10,000 inmates of the fifteen state institutions under the direction of the state board of control. It has been announced, as a measure of war economy.

With prices of foodstuffs going higher and some of the institutions facing deficit because of the cost of living, Commissioner Mayfield, writing to all of the superintendents of the institutions, notifies the heads that no warrants will be approved for customary Thanksgiving delicacies.

Not only will the board taboo the usual Thanksgiving dinner, it is stated in the letter, but there is a possibility that the usual Christmas festivities will have to be eliminated this year.

Color blindness, which impairs the vision of a railroad man to such an extent that he can not distinguish the correct tints of lantern and flag signals used in the movement of train locomotives, is declared by the Nebraska Supreme court to constitute total loss of sight in both eyes, entitling the afflicted workman to full recovery under the disability clause of an insurance policy.

Urgent Need for Firemen

The radio branch of the navy at Lincoln is about to close up. Naval Recruiting Officer Brady has received word that none need apply for enlistment in this department unless they are exceptionally well qualified for this branch of service. A large number of students who wished to receive the experience in this branch enlisted in the radio service and the branch was not long in filling up.

Officer Brady, of the naval station, however, says that there is an urgent need for 2,000 firemen in the navy.

Scabies Quarantine Lifted

Owing to the world shortage of meats and the national food administrator's desire to encourage the production of beef and pork animals, the Nebraska live stock sanitary board has called off the scabies quarantine for cattle which has been in effect in the northwestern part of the state for ten years. Cattle may now be shipped freely from the territory referred to. The state veterinarian's office says this is a war measure along the lines recommended by federal authorities.

To Promote Vocational Education

State Superintendent Clemmons, a member of the board created by the last legislature, has issued a statement showing how the sum of \$1,100,000 will be distributed among public schools of Nebraska during the next ten years to promote vocational education.

Under the Smith-Hughes act of congress, provision is made for education in trades, industrial or manual training, home economics and agriculture. Nebraska being an agricultural state, the most money will be spent along these lines.

Country schools, especially the consolidated and rural high schools, will receive strong support in all branches mentioned except trades, which belong more particularly to the sphere of city schools.

For every dollar the United States government contributes to the maintenance of such instruction and training, the state must furnish an equal amount.

For agricultural education the total amount to be expended is \$617,000; for trades, manual training and home economics, \$258,180, and for vocational subjects, \$226,000.

Must Give Registration Number

Owners of automobiles may on and after November 24 pay license fees to county treasurers if a plan evolved by Secretary of State Pool is carried into effect. Mr. Pool has written county treasurers as follows: "You may be occasionally requested to take license money for 1918 automobile plates before the present year closes. In order to assist you and at the same time accommodate those who desire to pay early, I have thought best to advise all county treasurers that beginning November 24 you may send to this office the 1918 applications but they must be enclosed in a separate envelope which is plainly marked on the outside 'For 1918.' Do not send any to us previously to November 24 as we will not be prepared to handle them. Also, in every instance you must give the registration number that is to be renewed, otherwise the application will be returned to you. If you will take up the question of dealer plates immediately with the dealers and have them renew and you will send their applications to us in a separate envelope as soon as you receive them, it will assist us materially in being ready to send out the dealer plates by the first of the year. Be sure to make your orders for 1918 specific."

State Exempt from the Tax
A certificate to be used by state officers and employees for presentation to railroad ticket agents is being printed. The certificate states that the ticket was bought for the use of the state of Nebraska and not for private purposes, and is exempt from the tax imposed by the federal act of October 3, 1917. These certificates will be used later by the railroad companies to explain to federal inspectors why a revenue tax was not collected on the sale of railroad ticket. The federal law imposes a war tax of 8 per cent upon tickets for transportation by rail and a tax of 10 per cent upon sleeping car tickets. Five thousand printed certificates of this nature are to be printed for the use of state officers and employees traveling on state business.

Issues State Mineral Leases
At a recent meeting of the state board of educational lands and funds thirty-one mineral leases were issued to applicants. Most of these cost the applicants a fee of \$3, of which \$1 is the fee necessary to obtain a mineral lease to an entire section of state land. Although all these lands are under prior leases, the state board alleges it has power to issue other leases covering the subsoil on these same tracts. The greater portion of the leases were issued to persons who hope to speculate in the chances of finding oil on state lands, and the balance are given to potash speculators.

Fuel for State Institutions

Heavy shipments of coal, sufficient to guard against any possible shortage, are now on their way to state institutions, according to word which the board of control has received from E. E. Howell of Omaha, the state purchasing agent. The shipments include state penitentiary, 27 cars; Lincoln insane hospital, 17 cars; Beatrice institute for the feeble-minded, 10 cars; Omaha school for the deaf, 5 cars; Nebraska City school for the blind, 5 cars; Orthopedic hospital and home for dependent children, 3 cars; girl's industrial school, 3 cars; Milford home for women, 3 cars; Milford soldiers' home, 3 cars.

War Courses at State University

"War courses" will be introduced by the University of Nebraska as a means of giving the boy and girl back home a chance to work on the farm and keep up their school work at the same time.

Beginning December 3 a special semester of school will open in practically every department. This semester will dismiss early in the spring before planting operations and every student who completes the course will receive credit for one semester, or one-half of an entire year's work.

At the same time comes the announcement that the Christmas vacation at the state university will be shortened one week, and other vacations proportionately, cutting off two weeks at the end of the university year.

The special semester will be independent of the regular school year and will last seventeen weeks, closing early in April. The school of agriculture at the state farm will hold a special session at the same time but it will last thirteen weeks, closing early in March.