

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. Crops were enlarged. The drought broke. Good crops were raised. A bountiful harvest was stored against the winter. And then the Pilgrims turned their thoughts to God. Their hearts welled in gratefulness. 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.

FAR 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 saucy 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 jackies in comparison with the soldiers is a reality. The jackies 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 jackies, 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 jackies 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 jackies 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 Thank-

sgiving 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 jackies 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 horse 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, uncoiling 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 is 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.

Presents That Will Please

BEDROOM FINERY.

Every Christmas is greeted with dainty new boudoir caps and jackets, sometimes designed for wear only in the bedroom and sometimes meeting the requirements of the breakfast table. Here is a pretty jacket made of



wide pink ribbon and lace which may be slipped on over the nightdress or petticoat, for bedroom wear. The cap is merely a band of wide ribbon with frill of lace at each edge headed by a fancy braid.

HOMEMADE CHARACTER DOLLS.

Carl and Pat along with Gretchen and Hortense, are making eyes at us this Christmas, inviting us to inquire into their merits. They belong to a new order of the beloved rag dolls that have always held the warmest corner of little folks' hearts.

These dolls are made of discarded socks or stockings and stuffed with



cotton. White socks are used for the heads and colored ones for the bodies. Fancy stitching with heavy mercerized cotton or yarns, outlines the jackets, makes ties and garters and represents buttons. The eyes, nose and mouth are outlined also in black and red.

Two-toned silk socks, usually in a bright color on the wrong side are much sought after by the makers of these jolly looking character dolls.

SOLDIER'S PORTFOLIO.

A small, neat portfolio to carry stationery, pen and pencil for the soldier is one of the gifts that can be made for him at home. It is a simple affair, of substantial brown denim, and requires nothing else but thread and snap fasteners, to make a very complete and handy writing case.

As shown in the picture, the case is about ten inches wide and sixteen inches long. One side of it holds three blotters that make a good support for the writing tablet in cramped quarters



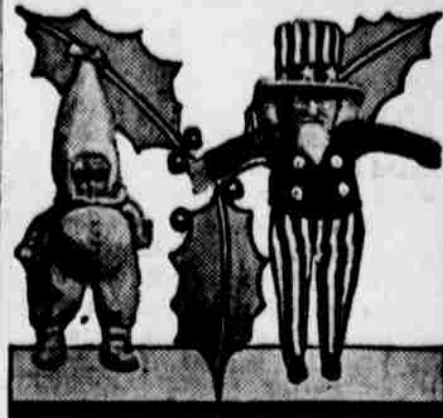
where there is no table. On the other side are compartments for paper, envelopes, post cards and stamps. A narrow strap of the denim, is sewed down at the center to carry pen and pencil. Ink can be carried in solid form now. It comes in small sticks that dissolve in water. The case fastens with strong snap fasteners as indicated in the picture.

It is a good idea to embroider the initials on belongings made for the boys in the service because so many kits and portfolios are alike in all de-

tails. Besides it is another evidence of thoughtfulness on the part of the donor.

REMEMBER THE BABY.

Even the baby is to have a patriotic bent given to his affections, by means of toys this year. Uncle Sam appears among the clever, home-made Christmas dolls, that reveal a rubber ball somewhere in their anatomy. They have limp bodies, stuffed with a little cotton and are dressed in cotton fa-



rics, as cotton flannel, elderdown or percale.

In the Uncle Sam doll the ball is used for the head—but in the other one it makes the body. This doll is dressed in blue elderdown and has a row of the tiniest pearl buttons down its rotund tummy. When the ball is punched the doll squeals—much to the surprise and delight of his babyship.

WISHBONE THIMBLE CASE.

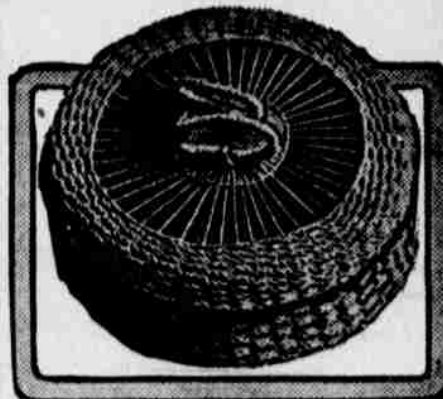
A pretty thimble case, made of a wishbone saved from the wreck of the Thanksgiving turkey, is something new. Heavy silk or mercerized cotton is used for crocheted lace to make a wide border about the wishbone. It



is crocheted with a beading to carry baby ribbon that is run through it and made into three little bows as shown in the picture. A tiny bag, to hold the thimble, is suspended between the ends of the bone and the pretty gift is suspended by ribbon hangers.

WORK BASKET OF PAPER ROPE.

No gifts are quite so much appreciated as those which show the painstaking work of the giver. The pretty work basket, pictured above, is such a token of warm friendship as every

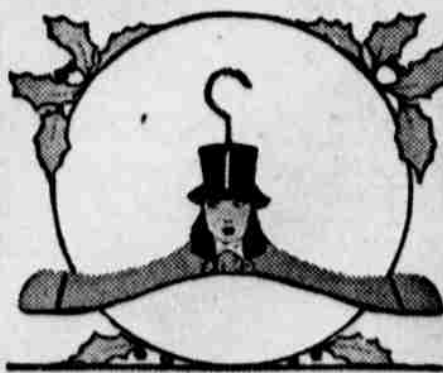


woman might wish to give to someone near and dear to her.

It is made of paper rope in gray and lined with rose-colored silk. It is an achievement to be proud of and a gift to cherish. Little pockets, set about the lining of the basket at the sides will carry all the tools for sewing. They are made of the rose-colored silk.

NOVEL COAT HANGER.

Another of those pretty novelties made of painted wood appears in the coat hanger shown above. These hangers are shown in the stores, painted white with the figure outlined on them



in black, ready to paint in any colors one may choose. This one pictures a girl in smart riding hat and black collar with white stock. The face and arms of the hanger are to be painted according to individual fancy.