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IT'S CHRISTMAS

For the fourth year since Pearl Harbor, a Christmas message of good cheer goes from this newspaper beyond the boundaries of its trade territory and spans oceans to battlefronts over a war-torn world. It is a sobering thought—especially since we expected many of our loved ones home by now—but certainly not a futile one. Not futile, because the sacred tenets of Christendom promise, through the very anniversary of Christ's birth being observed, a deliverance from the trials and heartaches of our troubles.

Monday, perhaps, we cannot muster the gaiety and exuberance of a peacetime, "Merry Christmas". Vacant places for stockings on mantles, missing persons about the Christmas trees and empty chairs at the dinner table will awaken dreams and memories in American hearts of loved ones now gone. Gone to far-off places where stockings are filled with only tired, tramping feet, where dugouts have no lighted trees where the turkey may not arrive!

But amid the solemnity of the occasion and the distressing evidence that the sustaining thought behind Christmas—"On Earth Peace. . . Good Will To Men"—is being violated by our enemies, there still remains hope. And hope is the flame kindling the skill and determination of our fighting men; encouraging them to prove and protect Christendom's promise of the ages so there always will be a Christmas. And Christmas to them is a merry one, a homey one, a day to sit around the house and display love and devotion with memories and remembrances. They would still have it merry in their absence.

Hand in hand with hope must go faith and it is with this abiding outlook to the future this dependence upon the stability of Americans, that The Plattsmouth Daily Journal attempts to reach our fighting men with greetings today. Many of them were our friends, our neighbors, our readers and customers and we look forward confidently to the day when many of them will be again. With our greetings goes the devout pledge that Christmas will renew the efforts of those at home to speed the day of victory.

Members of the staff of The Plattsmouth Daily Journal—and the territory correspondents and carrier boys in Plattsmouth—extend a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

'On Earth, Peace'

Throughout the world today Americans once more are celebrating Christmas, in our own homes and churches, before the altars of strange churches in strange lands, on tropic beaches and snowy battlefields, in barracks and hospitals and prison camps.

For a time their immediate feelings of anxiety or pain or loneliness will be crowded out by emotions of love and fellowship which Christmas always kindles. Wherever they are there will be the old carols, and the old familiar story with its triumphant hymn of the angelic host, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Slowly, through defeat and despair and cynicism, the Christian world has struggled over the centuries to transmute those words into reality. And two thousand years of failure, made bitter by this present and most tragic failure, cannot erase the hope that those words arouse.

Today the struggle is not symbolical but fiercely literal. The war is in a real sense a crusade. For the Christian world is battling cruel and pagan enemies whose goal has been the destruction of peace and good will and the substitution of a slavery of body and spirit masquerading as something called Co-Prosperity and the New Order.

That enemy threat is being averted, and peace will be won. With it must come good will, for the one cannot exist without the other. Never in the history of Christendom has that fact been more apparent than now, and never have the people of Christendom been more actively, acutely determined that peace shall be built upon an enduring foundation of good will.

It is a task as hard as war itself, in which men's good will must overcome their fallibility. It will need leaders as wise and courageous as those who have led our armies.

"On earth peace, good will toward men." The wonder of it is not that the Christian world has failed of achieving that blessing, but that it is still bravely trying to fulfill that promise through blood and toil and faith.

Murray Exceeds Quota In War Bond Drive

The Murray community traditionally sustained their reputation of supporting the war bond drives by going over the top on the sixth war loan drive.

Dr. G. H. Gilmore was the chairman for the drive and reports that

Thursday the community passed their goal in fine shape and are certainly to be congratulated on their success.

The quota for Murray was set at \$14,000 and Thursday the amount of \$14,362.50 had been subscribed and placed the town in the forefront of the communities of the county that have fully met their allotment.



Peace On Earth - Good Will To Men

The DAILY WASHINGTON
MERRY GO ROUND
 TRADE MARK REGISTERED

BY DREW PEARSON
 (Lt. Col. Robert S. Allen now on active service with the army.)

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WASHINGTON—It is no secret that both sides on the western front know pretty much what the other side is doing behind each other's lines. Observation planes fly back and forth, the nazis having jet-propelled planes which go well over 400 miles an hour—so fast that no fighter plane can catch them, but not too fast to take pictures of allied operations below.

U. S. observation planes, while not so fast, undoubtedly must have been good enough to note the massing of the German army opposite the First army for what was probably about a week ahead of the big nazis counter-offensive. However, it admitted that the First army was taken off guard, so no steps had been taken to prepare for the German drive. U. S. commanders apparently figured that the Germans were massing to defend against an American attack.

Also U. S. troops noted the weakening of nazi forces in the Vosges mountains to the south, which meant that the Germans left this rough snowy mountain area relatively undefended and risked everything. It was a desperate gamble similar to the 1918 Marne offensive.

Here are some of the reasons for the initial success of the daring nazi move:

1. Marshal von Rundstedt, the ablest German general, is now in complete command. He is the man who argued that the German army should withdraw from France at the time of the Normandy invasion. Erwin Rommel, close friend of Hitler, opposed and it cost the nazis about 800,000 men. Rommel's death undoubtedly is a blessing to Germany, for it leaves Von Rundstedt, a disciple of Von Mackensen in the last war in complete control.

2. The nazis have tanks superior to ours—their latest Tiger tank being almost impossible to put out of commission. Even their older tanks have been reinforced with a bulkhead in the nose behind which is poured concrete. This makes it almost impossible for shells, fired ahead on, to knock them out.

3. The nazis also have developed a new type of mortar, also have been saving their planes and put about 1,200 into battle last week end, also are using more and more robot bombs.

4. The nazis have brought up a lot of fresh troops, while our men have been fighting for six long months—ever since Normandy.

Russians Go Slow

5. Most important and inescapable factor, however, is the let-up of the red army on the Polish front, plus the stalemate of the two British armies. It was known in advance, though officially denied, that

the British would furnish only 30 per cent of the western invasion army, with an even lower percentage of replacements. American troops were to furnish 70 per cent. This is about the ratio followed.

However, it was not contemplated that the red army, after reaching the Vistula river and Warsaw, would stop and detour through Budapest to Vienna. While the Germans probably haven't been able to shift many troops from the Polish front, they have been able to use for less munitions; in other words, if the nazis had been fighting heavily on two fronts, their supply and production problems would have been terrific. As it is, they can now concentrate the major portion of their supplies on the western front.

Last fall when the red army eased up on the Polish front, highest U. S. war chiefs had their experts make a study of that front and report whether the Russians were casing up on purpose. The report was that the red army had actually tried to cross the Vistula, that German fortifications were extremely strong, and that the red army needed more supplies.

At least two months have dragged on since then. Regardless of the factors, it is no secret that U. S. military men are bitterly disappointed at the Russian delay. They have been hopeful recently, however, that with the ground frozen the Polish offensive will soon start.

It is the biggest factor to watch in the entire war.

Battle of State Department
 Senators Pepper, Guffey, and Chandler had an interesting conversation with the president when they called him on the phone to ask whether the Stettinius-Hopkins state department appointments really represented his own personal choice.

They especially mentioned to him James C. Dunn and Brig. Gen. Julius Holmes, the latter known as a strong anti-Roosevelt man, and both of them linked with the pro-Vichy, anti-De Gaulle group which snarled things up in North Africa.

Roosevelt replied that Dunn was Secretary Hull's personal choice as assistant secretary of state, and implied that a request for Dunn's promotion had been made when Hull resigned.

Regarding Holmes, the president replied that he should be given a trial, and if he didn't work out he would be removed.

Roosevelt added that he was glad the liberal senators had made the fight against the state department new executives.

"It was a very healthy thing and will put them on guard for the future," he remarked.

Note—Those who have watched Roosevelt operate over the years all agree that if there is one thing he is famous for it is failure to remove an official who doesn't function. In all his twelve years of office there have been only three known cases where Roosevelt has removed outright a relatively high official. Usu-

• BARBS

CHRISTMAS day is when the home brood really has a kick!

Look at the bright side: a jammed street car at least is warmer.

Bong! And America's top-ranking ace rings up another Jap plane!

One thing that really is a matter of life and death is the Army's call for more nurses!

The way to keep the enemy off our toes is to keep on them ourselves.

ally he shifts them to another job or promotes them.

Capital Chaff

Inside fact is that it was self-effacing brain-buster Ben Cohen who first sold Senator Joe Ball of Minnesota the idea of having a talk with Roosevelt regarding foreign policy before elections. Cohen met Ball in New York and planted the first seeds which led to Ball's famous switch to Roosevelt. . . but when Cohen passed word along to Harry Hopkins and the meeting with Roosevelt took place, Ben was left out in the cold. Harry, not Ben, sat in on the conference which made history. . . The only senator who voted against the confirmation of Ed Stettinius as secretary of state was Bill Langer of North Dakota. Since then seven senators have told him he was absolutely right. . . Senators Pepper of Florida and Guffey of Pennsylvania always have been ahead of their time when it comes to foreign policy, always have been proved right in the end. . . In May, 1940, before France fell, Pepper proposed a resolution by which France and Britain could buy U. S. army planes immediately. Other senators snorted, said it was an insult to the foreign relations committee, demanded that it be rejected in 24 hours. It was. . . the only senator who joined with Pepper in voting for his resolution was Guffey of Pennsylvania. . . at that time, as now, Pepper got no support from the White House. But a few weeks later, Roosevelt dipped into U. S. arsenals without permission from congress and rushed all sorts of munitions to Britain. This was one factor which probably tipped the scales in England's favor in the battle of Britain.

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CURLING HORNS GIVEAWAY

MT. VERNON, Ill., (U.P.)—Mt. Vernon farmers have been warned that if any of their sheep have suddenly sprouted heavy horns which curl their backs, they aren't sheep. They're aoudads, native to North Africa, which crashed the fence at the Mt. Vernon park zoo last August and which have been living on the country ever since. The two animals, a male and a female, have been seen on farms within a wide range of Mt. Vernon.

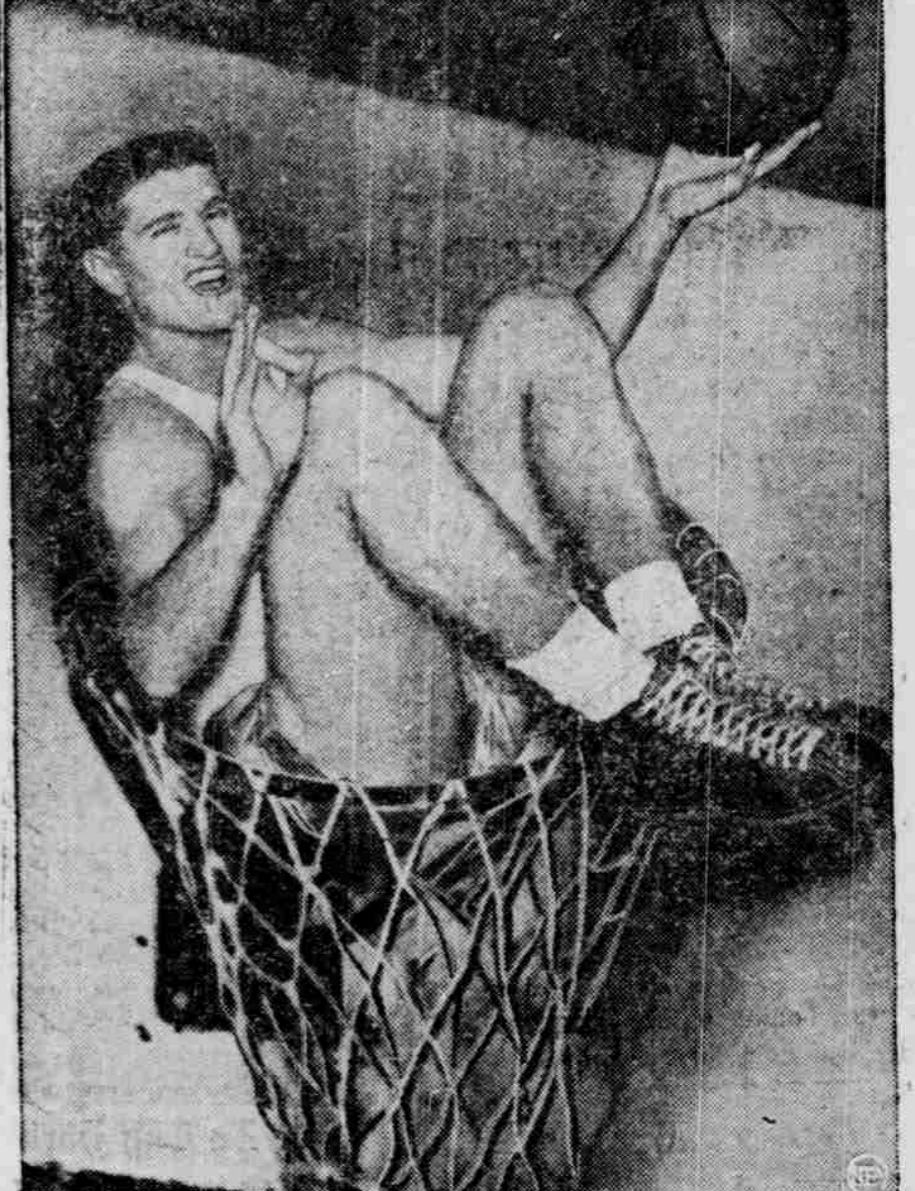
SHORT AND SNAPPY

MAQUOKETA, IA., (U.P.)—Garfield Harker had planned to hunt all day recently. But luck, or his marksmanship, spoiled his day. He shot twice into a flock of approximately 200 ducks and bagged 15 mallards—his day's limit.



Hollywood's manpower shortage was a break for actress Virginia Engels. She's pictured at left, above, as her blond, blue-eyed, dimple-cheeked self, and at right as she appears playing the part of the long-haired, bewhiskered old gent who bounces down a flight of stairs during a hot battle scene in the new western "San Antonio."

Grate Stuff



Don Grate, Ohio State forward, makes himself at home in the basket where he hopes to put many a goal in hoisting the Buckeyes to the Big Ten basketball championship.

OUT OUR WAY



A LIFETIME OF SEEING
 By Dr. LEONARD FITCH

Eyes Start Early to Dim
 of the eyes may show up as defects during the twenties. This is evidenced by statistics of visual defects. At the age of 20 years, 23% have defective vision; but at 30 years, 39%—almost twice as many—have visual defects. Occupation, as well as advancing years, changes our eyesight. Office workers, textile hands and others engaged in tasks requiring close focusing of the eyes, develop more vision defects than do policemen, farmers, and others whose work does not require great concentration of vision. Young men and women entering occupations entailing difficult visual tasks should take care that they give their vision adequate protection so that it may not become prematurely dimmed.