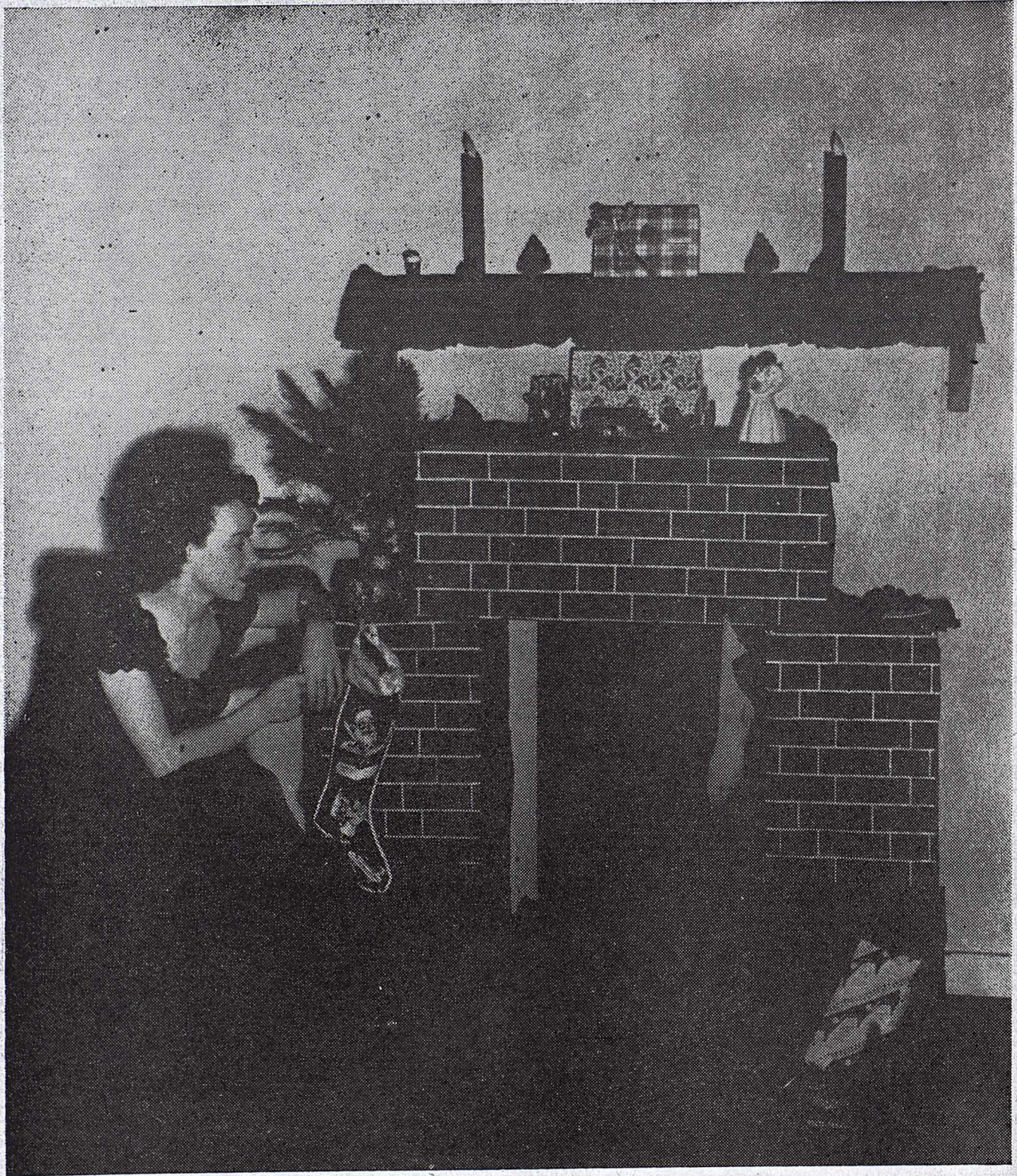


Dec 21, 1944

The Rattler Extends To All
Its Readers Best Wishes
For A Merry Christmas



NAZIS LAUNCH V-3 IN RHINE COUNTER-ATTACK

THE RATTLER PYOTE, TEXAS

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Assignment: Home

When men are at war, they think of their homes as they would of a lovely girl. Being home seems an endless beauty to them. This is because home is, as far as Americans are concerned, where there is no war. Home itself seems to stand waiting in the mind like a girl at the end of a path. Even the path to it is beautiful. Just walking down it seems a beautiful thing to do. The thought of doing it jitters in the mind and makes a man feel crazy there and light and nervous and if he were walking without any weight on his feet.

In young men going home to their girls and in less young men going home to their brides and even in older men going home to wives they long ago grew used to, the idea of going home has always seemed to come out the same—a fellow going jittery down a path, his whole mind straining on tiptoe and nothing else to him, no feeling of weight, just this jittery straining on tiptoe, giving him in himself a feeling that is beautiful and wild with strength. Then, when he gets to the end of the path and stands there at the end of it and is really up the steps and is really inside the door of his home, then . . . well, the whole thing goes up in smoke there, when the men are at war and dreaming of home. The whole thing at the end of it is just like a big golden and rosy foam of smoke in which the mind drowns.

A war correspondent tells of a young Lieutenant whose prayer was "Now I lay me down to sleep a day nearer home". That's a funny kind of prayer. But funny or not, we think if you had an ear like God you could hear the whole American Army as it puts itself away for the night, you could hear them all praying the same thing . . . now I lay me down to sleep a day nearer home.

An officer on the cruiser Helena was telling what it had been like for him to go home on leave. The wardroom of a warship is a pretty noisy place, but when he began telling of how he had walked up the steps toward his house and surprised his wife, it was all like a held breath in that room. Men quit playing cards or drinking coffee or writing letters.

And when he had finished his story nobody laughed. Some of the men went back to their cards and some to their coffee and some said very seriously that the officer had done a very wrong thing in surprising his wife like that. He should have let her know first. The discussion about the best way to come home lasted a long time, until finally somebody suggested to knock it off, there wasn't anybody going home—yet.

But the point is the hunger for home, hunger so great it takes the mind up as with teeth and shakes it and bangs it and rakes it into aching. Nobody at war expects to come home unchanged. The least that can happen to a man at war is that he gets older. But they all expect to come back to a home that is like a girl they love truly.

And if, when they do come back, home does not love them truly, and is not like a wife to them in sickness and in health, in poverty or whatever, then American men will be defeated . . . and no one can say what will come of that.

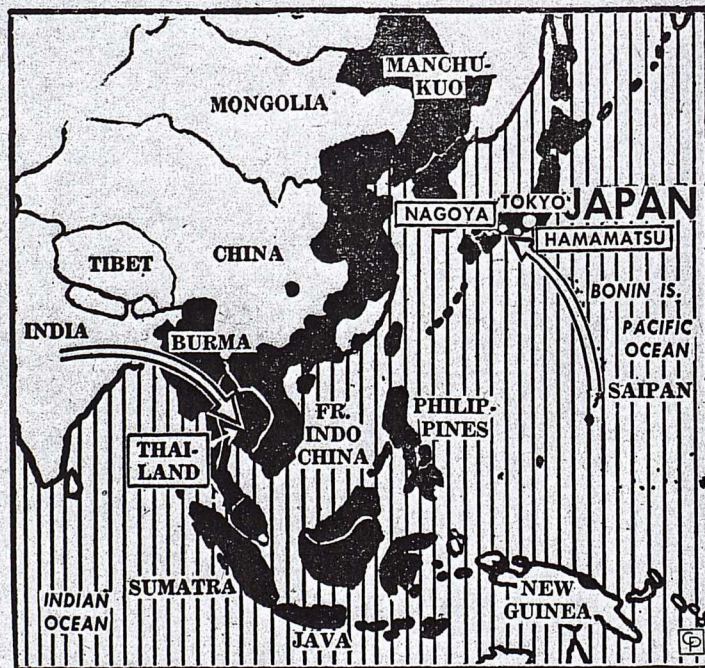
RED TROOPS CLOSE ON BUDAPEST; YANKS ADVANCE, NEAR MANILA

In the 158th week of the U.S. at War, this was the news from: THE WESTERN FRONT: Scores of thousands of crack German troops uncorked a counter-offensive that put a major question-mark to the entire western front. The Nazi might blasted with everything it had—a new V-3 weapon that shelled forward as well as rear areas, massive railway guns that bombarded positions of the U.S. 9th Army, parachute troops that German planes dropped behind the Allied lines in Belgium and Luxembourg. A cloud of official censorship obscured the complete view of this counter-attack, but officers and analysts agreed that it was "serious". This first major German counter-attack since D-day was reminiscent of the final push by Ludendorf in the spring of 1918 during World War I. But however veiled the news of the counter-attack was, its object was clear. The Germans plan to stop the Allied advance at the Rhine. How heavy the cost, how great the loss, were two questions that only time would answer. But one slim item pointed to the importance and the might of the counter-offensive. Belgian citizens were moving westward again as they did in 1940. A scorched child fears the flame and the people of Belgium knew the German juggernaut. The situation on the western front was: **Serious.**

ing toward Budapest. Soviet units were 20 miles from besieged Budapest, and the Germans had evacuated the city. From Budapest's white towers the Russian generals will gaze to the north, to Vienna, to the prize city of Europe—Vienna, greatest plum of the continent—Vienna, the city that military analysts consider more important than Berlin—and probably the Russian generals would remember the military adage of Europe since the days of Attila, the Hun—"He who controls Vienna in strength controls Europe". Vienna is but 40 miles from Budapest.

PACIFIC FRONT: Yank troops on Mindoro Isle advanced to within 145 miles of Manila. Mindoro is immediately south of Luzon, on which Manila isle is located. The enemy was still reeling from the surprise invasion of Mindoro. Meanwhile, the last garrisons on Leyte were being slowly surrounded and strangled. B-29s again hit Nagoya, starting large fires in the Mitsubismi aircraft plant; blasted Hankow in Jap-held China, in another one-two punch from Superfort bases in Asia and Saipan.

THE EASTERN FRONT: The Red Star of Russia rolled on toward its goal, Budapest. The Balkan campaign by the Russians was a blazed trail of mud and blood; but the Russians kept inch-



CONTINUING the assault against Japan's homeland and possessions, U. S. Superforts have bombed Jap-dominated Thailand after another strike at Nagoya, where a big plane plant was the target. The assault on Thailand was launched from India, the other from the B-29 base on Saipan island. (International)

FIELD PLANS HOLIDAY FETES

EM Club Goes Formal For 2 Holiday Dances

Tomorrow night, December 22, the annual formal Christmas dance will take place at the Service Club.

There will be girls and more girls, all of them arrayed in the glory of their best evening gowns.

Class A uniform will be "the thing" for all male GIs and the Pyote dance band will furnish the music from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Another formal that you want to put on your calendar in red and be sure not to miss, is now being planned. It is the New Year dance that is scheduled for the 29th of December.

This affair will run from 9 p.m. to 12:30 in the morning and the New Year will be welcomed by the revelers.

Special arrangements have been made to make the New year dance one of the gayest, most gala events in all Texas.

The Service Club has arranged to provide an extra contingent of hostesses, all looking their prettiest in their formal best and the Service Club will also provide paper caps, noisemakers, confetti and serpentine—all the things that only most expensive night club could provide.

Just as a reminder—the two dances are 1—The Christmas Formal, December 22; and 2—The New Year's Formal, December 29.

GIs May Bring Guests To Christmas Meals

Pyote Military Personnel will be allowed to bring their families and one friend to partake of the Christmas dinner to be served at all Mess Halls on December 25.

The cost will be 75c per person. Guests may also be brought to other Christmas Day meals at the same cost. GIs expecting to take advantage of this privilege must inform their orderly rooms of their intention, giving the number of guests to be expected.

TIME'S AWASTIN'!

There are only—

3



more days—

'TILL CHRISTMAS!

Sections D and E To Hold Super Pre-Christmas Party

Plans have been completed for the largest indoor party ever held at Pyote. Under chairmanship and supervision of Major C. E. Pardee, Major E. J. Sponable, Jr., and CWO J. W. Wyatt, 2500 enlisted men and guests of Sections "D" and "E" will usher in the Yuletide season at a gala party and dance to be held at the Sub-Depot Hangar, Dec. 23, at 8 p.m.

Base Meets 86% Of 6th Loan Quota

Progress of the Rattlesnake Bomber Base in reaching its announced goal of buying \$136,000 in War Bonds during the Sixth War Loan Drive were announced as "quite satisfactory" by Capt. H. D. Lucey, War Bond Officer.

Standing of various units were announced as follows:

Section	% of Quota	Amount
CCD	87%	\$8,775
B	86	1,415
M	79	2,870
F	76	9,295
Band	64	290
A	61	4,305
E	55	3,945
D	41	6,780
C	22	1,235
Total for EM	60%	\$39,010
Officers	134	57,785
Civilians	71	19,835

Base Total 86% \$116,630
Special attention was called to



the Combat Crew Section and to Sections B, M, and F, all of whom have passed the 75% mark in the attainment of their quotas. "Stragglers" are called on to redouble their efforts since the deadline of Dec. 31 is fast approaching.

It is one of the basic purposes of the present drive to increase the number of persons buying bonds regularly through allotment. Allotment standing for the Field follows:

Band	57%
Sec. B	56
Sec. M	46
CCD	24
Sec. D	15
Sec. A	9
Sec. E	8
Sec. F	8
Sec. C	4
Total EM	15%
Total officers	29
Civilians	95

In announcing the standing of the various departments of the

Air Christmas Eve Broadcast Over KOB, KIUN

One of the most unusual broadcasts ever attempted will be carried during the early morning hours of Christmas Day, from the Baptist service center at Pyote, if present plans materialize.

Arrangements are being made by the Rev. Auburn Hays, pastor of the First Baptist Church at Pyote, for a nation-wide radio hook-up. At least one 50,000 watt station will be used to carry the program, tentative arrangements having been made with station KOB at Albuquerque, N. M., a station with nation-wide coverage.

The program will feature talent from the Pyote Air Field in Christmas carols and other appropriate music.

In addition, various members of the Pyote Air Field personnel will air Christmas greetings to the folks "back home." Those desirous of participating in the program should contact the Rev. Mr. Hays at Pyote.

Programs from the service center are now heard each Sunday over station KIUN of Pecos. KIUN will also carry the early morning Christmas program from Pyote. Further details of the program will be heard over KIUN.



cue, cold cut sandwiches, and other party delicacies will be plentiful.

Special transportation arrangements are being formulated with the bus company to have extra buses run before and after the party.

Section A Paces Field Ins. Ratings For November '44

Here are the National Service Life Insurance standings of all sections of the Pyote Army Air Field for the month of November:

Section	Pct. Participating	Avg. Policy
A	94.7%	\$10,000
B	77	7,747
C	99.6	9,772
D	86.8	6,056
E	70.8	8,000
F	93.2	9,428
M	98	9,866
CCD	100	9,999
BAND	100	9,750

Standings of several sections are far below Second Air Force averages, both in the percentage of personnel participating and the amount of the policy held.

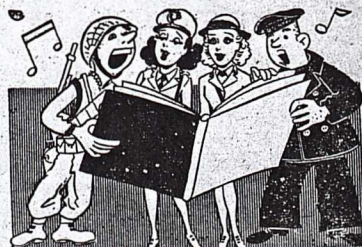
Now is the time to review your Class N Allotment and if you have failed to make one, do it now. If your policy is below the maximum of \$10,000, increase it to the maximum at once.

Field, Capt. Lucey cautioned against any relaxing in the all-out effort still needed to put the drive "over the top".



EDITOR'S NOTE

The feature on Page 8 is copyright, 1944, by Pvt. Monty Ash of this base, and well worth your reading time.



The yuletide calendar on Page 5 will keep you posted on what's going on over the holiday week-end.

THE COVER

The fireplace on this week's cover is in the Wac quarters at Pyote. Ever resourceful, the girls used GI footlockers covered with Christmas crepe to build it. Modeling the evening gown is Wac Cpl. Angela Berkenbaugh of Cumberland. She has since left for overseas duty.

GI CAROL CARAVAN PLANS TOUR

Kiddie Yule Fete At Service Club

Children of all Field personnel will be entertained at a "Kiddie Party" to be held at the Service Club Christmas eve, Dec. 24, at 3 p.m.

There will be special holiday treats prepared for the children.

Children of all Field personnel are invited to this Yuletide fete arranged by Special Services. This encompasses children of officers as well as those of enlisted men.

Games, gifts, music and several very pleasant surprises are promised for all who attend.

WASHINGTON—(CNS)—Cost of the war for a single month has been placed by President Roosevelt at \$7,500,000,000—roughly \$250,000,000 a day.

Opening the 6th War Loan Drive the President said: "That is why every war bond you buy is important."

Midland's 'Take It From Us' Plays Theatre No. 1 Tonight

Midland Field Offers Variety Bill At 8:30 p.m.

Midland Army Air Base is bringing its hit extravaganza, billed under the title "Take It From Us" to let the boys at Pyote pass judgement on just how good an evening of entertainment can be put together by the fellows and girls of a neighboring camp.

"Take It From Us" is said to have a special GI slant and since the Midland boys and the Pyote lads have a lot in common it's certain that the show will be greeted with open arms at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base.

Theater No. 1 will be used to present this offering in and there will be only one show. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m., tonight for "Take It From Us".

Singers Will Visit Towns, Serenade Base

You'll be hearing the gentle tunes of Christmas carols all about the Pyote Air Field this Yuletide eve.

A band of "merry gentlemen", the Pyote Air Field Carol Caravan, under the direction of Chaplain E. W. Norton, will travel over the camp in jeeps and GI trucks to inspire and make glad the hearts of those who'll be away from home and loved ones.

The caravan will also visit the nearby communities of Wink and Pyote to sing the traditional Christmas songs at churches, hospitals and at the homes of shut-ins which they pass in their pilgrimage.

The wandering carollers will start from the Chapel at 9 p.m. on the evening of the 24th immediately after the Christmas Vespers service. Their first stop will be at the Base Hospital and from there they will go to the towns of Pyote and Wink.

The caravan will return and will then sing at varied points about the camp.

Thirty voices will be lifted to welcome the joyous Christmas Day in this unique celebration of the holiday and the program will include all of the favorite Yuletide music.

'TO HAVE OR . . .'



Humphrey Bogart, screen tough-guy stars in "To Have Or Have Not", showing at Theaters No. 1 and 2 next Wednesday and Thursday.

Monahans USO Plans Christmas Activities

"Christmas comes but one a year and with it bringing joy and cheer" has been the prevailing spirit at the Monahans USO-NCCS Club during the past week.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the Senior Hostesses as well as the enlisted men's wives, baked cookies and made candy which will be served over Christmas. Pyote GIs and junior hostesses popped corn for pop corn balls and chains which were strung on the Christmas tree at the decorating party on Tuesday night.

Friday night, December 22, at 7:30 p.m., all the service men, their wives and children will have a get together at the club. Mrs. John Scott has planned a series of games and mixers for the participation of the entire family. Informal dancing to the "juke box" will complete the evening's program.

On Saturday, December 23, at 8 p.m., the USO-NCCS Club will be the scene for the annual Christmas formal dance. Santa Claus will be present to reward all deserving GIs.

Christmas Eve or Sunday morn-

CASUALTIES IN ETO

FRANCE (CNS)—U. S. Army casualties, excluding the Air Forces, during the operations in France, the Low Countries and in the German border region totaled 200,349, from the time of the initial landings until Nov. 1, the War Department has announced. This total includes 35,884 killed, 145,788 wounded, and 18,677 missing.

ing coffee will be served from 11 to 1 p.m. This will be followed by recordings of Christmas music. A buffet supper consisting of all Christmas goodies will be served to all. Caroling and informal singing, followed by a movie, "Garden of Allah", will take up the remainder of the evening's program.

Open House will be held on Christmas day. Citizens of Monahans will serve as hosts and hostesses. Christmas breakfast and afternoon snack will be served. Games, dancing and a drawing for a telephone call home are to be the main attractions for the evening.

Make the Monahans USO-NCCS Club your "home away from home" this Christmas season.

Theater Schedule

- Thu.—TOGETHER AGAIN with Charles Boyer and Irene Dunne. (Frothy farce about an indiscreet mayoress.) Also Community Sing and Paramount News.
- Fri.—DARK WATERS with Merle Oberon, Franchot Tone, and Thomas Mitchell. (Psychological creeper about a guy that drives a girl insane. Scary.) Also Jive-Busters and cartoon.
- Sat.—(Revival) HOLIDAY INN with Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, and Marjorie Reynolds. (Special Services brings back a special show for Christmas. Worth seeing again anytime.) Also Passing Parade and cartoon.
- Sun. and Mon.—WILSON with Alexander Knox and Geraldine Fitzgerald. (The document of World War I—one of the greatest films of our time.) Also Paramount news. (Note: Playing time is a trifle long; second shows will be slightly later than usual.)
- Tue.—(Double Feature) ALASKA with Kent Taylor and Margaret Lindsay; MURDER IN THE BLUE ROOM with Donald Cook, Anne Gwynne, and Grace (The Body) MacDonald. (No comment.)
- Wed.—TO HAVE OR HAVE NOT with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. (A Hemingway novel translated to the screen with all its sexy, hardboiled, sultry flavor.) Also This Is America and Paramount News.

Service Club

- Thu.—Sewing, 10:00 to 5:00 p.m.; EM Wives Luncheon, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
- Fri.—FORMAL CHRISTMAS DANCE, 9:00 to midnight.
- Sat.—Informal activities; community sing, letter-writing.
- Sun.—Kiddies party, 3 p.m.; (children of all military personnel invited.)
- Mon.—Christmas carols, 5 p.m.; Open house.
- Tue.—Popular Record Hour, 8 p.m.
- Wed.—GI Movies, 8:30 p.m. (Aircraft Carrier, Willie the Mouse, and USAFI).

Pyote Christmas Calendar

FRI., DEC. 22

AT THE CHAPEL

6:30 p.m., Daily Mass. Novena of the Sacred Heart. 7 p.m., Guard House Service. 7:30 p.m., Jewish Sabbath Rites. Special Cantorial Service.

AT THE SERVICE CLUB

9 to 12 p.m., Formal Christmas Dance.

AT THE MONAHANS USO

Christmas for the family: EM wives and children. Games, and prizes.

AT THE ODESSA USO

7:30 p.m., Servicemen's Council. 9 p.m., Bingo.

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

8 p.m., Christmas Program; Children's Party.

AT THE BASE HOSPITAL

7 p.m., Christmas Party; Pageant, Carols, Refreshments.

AT THE THEATERS

DARK WATERS with Merle Oberon, Franchot Tone.

CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND

Last Christmas S-Sgt. Geo. W. Swaeringin of Van Buren, Ark., had only flown nine missions.

He was stationed at a field outside London with the Eighth Air Force and when the B-17 on which he was a gunner came back from over Kiel had settled on the field on Christmas eve he thought sure that on Christmas day he'd be allowed to enjoy a well earned rest.

He'd been told of the party the Red Cross had arranged. There was a tree and presents for the English kids who were going to sing carols. The Niessen Huts had been festooned with sprigs of holly and festive red decorations.

Above all there was to be turkey for everyone. Brown, delicious, basted turkey, crammed with stuffings.

Swaeringin went to bed and slept late that morning. No use ruining an appetite with breakfast when there's going to be turkey for dinner. Swaeringin washed and dressed. Just one more hour till dinner!

And then it came. His crew was alerted. A party of new airmen to be taken on a practice mission.



SAT., DEC. 23

AT THE CHAPEL

5 to 6:30 p.m., Confessions. 8 p.m.—Till all are heard—Confessions.

AT THE SERVICE CLUB

Regular club facilities open. Yule decorations.

AT THE MONAHANS USO

Christmas Formal Dance, Pecos AAF Band. (List your name for phone call prize.)

AT THE ODESSA USO

Corn Popping and Decorations Party.

AT THE BASE HOSPITAL

Ward Visitations; Gifts to Patients.

AT THE THEATERS

HOLIDAY INN with Bing Crosby.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Sections D and E—Yule Party at Sub Depot. Nurses Quarters—Open House, Refreshments. Medics—Party at Medics Mess Hall.

The B-17, Swaeringin aboard, soared into the English sky. The sergeant's appetite for turkey when that ship landed was colossal. He rushed to the dining hall. "Any turkey?"

"All gone!"
"What 've you got?"
"Spam."

Sgt. Swaeringin is at Pyote this year. He's a flying gunnery instructor with 27 missions to his credit now . . . and this year he gets turkey.

ROGERS, MINN. (CNS)—Louis Zachman, a local farmer, hates his neighbor's bulls so much he has filed a complaint against the fellow. Zachman claims that he owns a herd of high-grade heifers while his neighbor is the possessor of a group of "low-grade" and "diseased bulls." In addition, he claims that his neighbor "knowing well the habits, instincts and inclinations" of bulls, failed to restrain the burly creatures from breaking through the fence separating their properties and "mingling" with Zachman's heifers. As a consequence, Zachman claims, the heifers have been stunted in growth.

BALBOA, CAL. (CNS)—John Vogel charges no rent to guests in his hotel. A sign hanging in the lobby reads: "If your room was worth anything, donate said sum to the USO."

SUN., DEC. 24

AT THE CHAPEL

10:30 a.m., Special Yule Musical Program. 8 p.m., Christmas Vespers Service. 9 p.m., Carol Caravan Tour. 8 a.m., 4:15 and 6:30 p.m., Sunday Mass; 11:45 p.m., Catholic Candle Light Ceremony; Singing of Carols by congregation. 12:00 Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. Confessions before all Masses. No Confessions Sunday night.

AT THE SERVICE CLUB

3 p.m., Kiddie Yule Party for all children of all post personnel.

AT THE MONAHANS USO

11:00, Brunch; 2:30, Recorded holiday music; 4:00, Christmas Carols; 6:30, Buffet Supper; 7:30, Community Sing; 8:00, Drawing for Christmas Eve phone call home; 8:30, Movie—"Garden of Allah" with Marlene Deitrich and Charles Boyer.

AT THE ODESSA USO

Open House all day; 4 p.m., Carol Sing; 4:45, Radio Broadcast; 8 p.m., "The Christmas Story; 9 p.m., Santa Claus arrives; 12 midnight, Church Services.

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

9:30 a.m., Sunday School; 3 p.m., Community Sing.

AT THE BASE HOSPITAL

9:15 a.m., Services in Red Cross Auditorium; Judging of Ward Decoration Contest.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Sec. C, 10 a.m., Christmas Services; 7:30 p.m., Vesper Services.

AT THE THEATERS

WILSON.

AT OFFICERS CLUB

9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Christmas Eve Dance.

AT NURSES QUARTERS

Exchange of gifts.

NEW YORK (CNS)—"The Smiling Irishman," a German-American used car dealer, has lost another court battle. Last year he sued "The Laughing Irishman," an Italian-American used car dealer, in an attempt to restrain the latter from using a trade name similar to his own. The other day he sued "The Happy Irishman," an Irish-American used car dealer, on the same charge. Again he lost, the judge refusing to issue an injunction restricting the Happy One from use of the name.

BUFFALO, N. Y. (CNS)—George Hazzard, 92-year-old inmate of an old-folks' home, walked 18 miles to visit his "girl-friend," a 70-year-old Buffalo waitress, and discovered she had ditched him. "I'm off women for life," he said sadly, "I'm getting too old."

MON., DEC. 25

AT THE CHAPEL

8 a.m., Mass; 10 a.m., Protestant Communion Service; 4:45 p.m., Mass.

AT THE SERVICE CLUB

5 p.m., Christmas Carol Singing; 6 p.m., Tea Dance.

AT THE MONAHANS USO

11 a.m., Holiday Breakfast; 1:30 p.m., Open House, Caroling, all-day Christmas snack; 8:30 p.m., Movie—"Garden of Allah" with Marlene Deitrich and Charles Boyer; 6 to 11 p.m., Informal Dancing.

AT THE ODESSA USO

2 p.m., Games, Songs, Refreshments; 6 p.m., Free Phone Calls Home; 8 p.m., Christmas Skit, Amateur Show, Guest Stars.

AT THE BASE HOSPITAL

Open House all day; 7 p.m., Movies—"Pardon My Rhythm"

OTHER ACTIVITIES

12:00 Noon—Christmas dinner at all Mess Halls.

AT THE THEATERS

WILSON.

AT THE OFFICERS CLUB

Open House; 4 to 10 p.m., Buffet Service.

CHRISTMAS IN BRAZIL

Turkey and trimmings with Nelson Eddy were served up before T-Sgt. Paul W. Tuley of Evansville, Indiana. Tuley last year was communications chief of the 725th Squadron with the 451st Bomb Group of the Fifteenth Airforce and he spent Christmas, 1943, in sunny South America at Natal, Brazil.

Nobody took a bite of Mr. Nelson Eddy, of course, they just filled up on the turkey and listened while Mr. Eddy entertained with song.

In 1942 Tuley was at Guadalcanal and there just wasn't any Christmas. It was heat and bugs and the ever-jurking Jap. In 1941, After the December 7th "stab in the back", Sgt. Tuley spent the Christmas of 1941 aloft patrolling the waters off Hawaii on the lookout for any new Jap attack.

Tuley has a brother who was captured at Corregidor and is now a prisoner of the Nipponese so there will be a cloud over his Yule festivity this year. He will spend this Christmas at home with his wife.



CHRISTMAS IN CHINA

"Twas the night before Christmas" and throughout the length and breadth of the China, Burma, India war theater the GI cooks couldn't find a turkey.

So when Major O. E. Vaule of Ada, Minnesota, who is now Courts and Boards Officer at Pyote, sat down to his Christmas meal at C.B.I. Air Service Command Headquarters in New Delhi he got Peacock.



"And the sacred bird wasn't so bad," says Major Vaule, although he hastily adds, "that he's sure he will enjoy his Yule turkey this year a lot better."

Major Vaule says that the Indian servants got the Christmas spirit pretty thoroughly and wherever an American appeared that day he was greeted with requests for "Bachshees" and the Indians raked in quite a few presents. Also many of them made up leis which

they presented to the Americans, always, of course, expecting to get a cash present in return.

Major Vaule will spend this Christmas at Pyote and high on the list of things he has to be thankful for is his bride, a comely young lady who became Mrs. Vaule this past September.

My Dear Colonel Duncan:

At this holiday season of 1944, I should like to personally express to you and the officers and men of your command my appreciation of your cooperation, loyal effort and zeal to accomplish effectively our arduous task of training.

May I extend to you and all personnel of your command my most sincere Christmas greetings and best wishes for a successful New Year.

Sincerely,

N. LONGFELLOW,
Brig. Gen., U. S. Army,
Commanding.

Sign In The Heavens

Superbomber—
Shaped like a cross,
Soars among the same stars
Whose crystalline light saw Golgotha.

The crew, too,
Were once babes;
Some, of lowly origin born,
Others, bred to high and lofty estate.

A battle team,
They soar o'er Pacific blue,
Following the self-same stars
That led the Magi to a crib in Bethlehem.

Bombardiers alert!
Grunners stand by their guns!
Men, in the image of Christ

Power the silver cross—battle bent!

High over Japan
Boys, turned men, strike
With bombs—flak and 50's roar
And flames consume the blessed holy night.

Violence, pain—
Like pangs of birth—
That awesome thing that flies
Carries liberty on its wings this night.

Superbomber,
Bring nearer the day,
When we to one another may,
With full heart say:
"Merry Christmas!"

CHRISTMAS IN ITALY

With heaping dishes of spaghetti and laughing bright-eyed signorines and tasty cakes and vino red and white, S-Sgt. John R. Berger of the Pyote Classification office spent last Christmas.

It was in San Severo, Italy. Berger was attached to the Third Photographic Unit of the Army Air Force. The Sergeant recalls that there were four other GIs at the party and eight men of the Royal Air Force.

There was an ancient phonograph and some precious records that had survived bombings and invasion.

The year before that, in 1942, Berger had spent Christmas in Maison Blanc, about thirty miles east of Algiers. He was billeted in the ruins left by the passing battle and as night fell Junkers 88s strafed and bombed the area for an hour and a half.

In Italy Berger felt the spirit of "peace on earth" and "good will toward men" surge within him as he ate the cakes and drank the wine and danced with the signorinas.

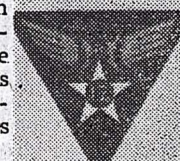
Several British officers came by and the party transferred its Yule activities to new quarters. The men drank Scotch, a gift of the officers.

Berger thought of Chicago, his home. He'll spend this Christmas there this year.

Last year as those Allied soldiers toasted one another they sang "Silent Night, Holy Night."

The song just welled out their hearts.

The blackout was so intense you could feel it and to the north cannon boomed.



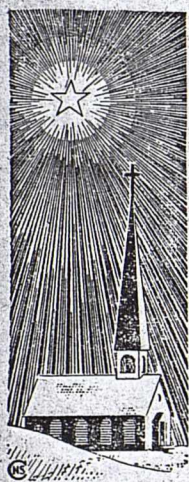
... AND MAY ALL YOUR CHRISTMASSES BE WHITE



To every Pyote GI who dreams of a white Christmas—this is the best 1944 can offer. This could be any street in any home town where "White Christmases" are an annual affair and as much a part of the Yuletide season as Christmas trees and mistletoe.

CHRISTMAS IN U.S.A.

MIDWEST . . . Christmas in the peacetime midwest was the biggest day in all the year. . . . There was almost always snow, and you scurried through the falling flakes on the afternoon of the 24th, in a hurry to finish Christmas shopping. . . . The dime stores were crowded with big women loaded down with cheery looking packages, and little kids with their noses pressed flat against store windows where a big Santa Claus laughed so hard that he shook. . . . The bars always had a big bowl of Tom-and-Jerry behind the bar—which was just the drink when you came in from the cold outside. . . . There were rows on rows of holly and wreaths down the main street—and always a thin mantel of snow covering them. . . . Homes in the residential district had special Christmas decorations, with trees, and colored lights. . . . On Christmas eve, carolers went from house to house, singing the famous Christmas



songs . . . and after they had left there was a quiet stillness in the air, broken only by the bells of St. Mary's church calling the faithful to midnight Mass. . . . Christmas morning the kids would try out shiny-new sleds, or skis, or skates. . . . And Christmas day would have a glorious ending when you would kiss your best girl under the mistletoe that

hung from the living room chandelier. . . . And Christmas was always the biggest day in all the year—with fruit cake, giant Christmas trees, and all the traditions and folk-lore that the various nationalities had brought with them from the old country. . . . And the most Christmasy item of all in the great midwest was the friendliness, the camaraderie of the Christmas shoppers; utter strangers would pass you loaded down with packages, smile, and say "Merry Christmas." . . . And if you accidentally knocked down another shopper, there was never any hard feelings. He'd get up, brush off the snow, smile and say "Merry Christmas." . . . It's all that and a thousand and one more things that make the boys from the midwest long to be home for Christmas SOON!

Rattle Snake Charmer



This week's Pyote Pin-Up is one we've been saving for a long time. It's Marilyn Maxwell, MGM starlet; and she has a sort of Christmasy look to her as though she was standing expectantly under a hunk of mistletoe and saying to you, "Well, don't just stand there!"

BROOKLYN (CNS)—When Mrs. Gladys Doherty returned to her home here from a weekend in Philadelphia, she found to her dismay that the house was missing. The building had been condemned and razed during her absence.

CHICAGO (CNS)—When a burglar entered George Haering's drugstore, 82-year-old Haering flattened him with a bottle. Then he tied the intruder, called the police "I guess I'm just too old to be afraid of anyone anymore," he said.

NEW YORK (CNS)—Mary Wilson, 19, was arrested for violation of an ordinance prohibiting smoking in stores. But that's not the story. She was smoking a huge Turkish water cooler pipe. "It was just a gag," she explained to the judge.

Christmas Music

Monday, December 24, 10:30 a.m.

At the CHAPEL

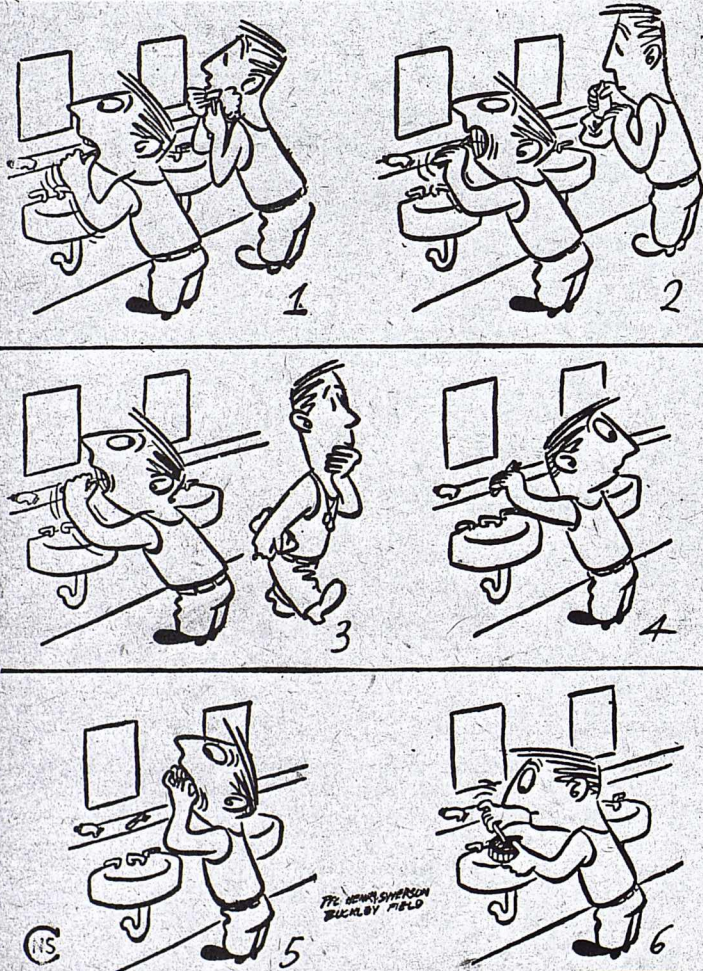
- "Sing We of Mary".....Tatton
- "O Holy Night".....Adam
- "Sleep My Little Jesus".....Wheeler
- "A Babe Holds Court In Bethlehem".....Tatton
- "None Too Poor".....Strickland
- "The Christ Child".....Tattor
- "Hallelujah" (The Messiah).....Handel

Director, Chaplain E. W. Norton

Pianist, Pvt. Talitha Collins



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Christmas Every Day!

(The following is a letter from a wife to her soldier-husband at Christmas-time. We think it expresses the thoughts of loved ones at home everywhere toward the men in service.—The Editors.)

'Excuse the interruption darling, but I've just finished putting Bill to bed. He is now fast asleep, wondering, hoping and dreaming about the presents Santa Claus will bring him in the morning. This has been a hard Christmas. There are so few toys and he needed so many clothes, but I managed to find a few things that I know he'll like. A little boy of three wants something to play with, so he now has toys . . . and clothes, which he considers a necessary evil.

This is the second Christmas you've been away, but dear you are very much with us. Every other word is about Daddy. Why is Daddy so very far away? Why is Daddy a soldier? Why can't Daddy be home for Christmas? I've tried hard to explain to him and answer all his questions, and I hope I've succeeded. I'm waiting until tomorrow to read your beautiful letter to him. I know that it will be read all day and each succeeding day, and he will learn your letter by heart. Every letter we receive from you is the same thing. "Mummy, let's read Daddy's letter again". "Wasn't that a lovely letter Mummy?" He's a wonderful child, Greg, truly wonderful and I know that you will be very proud of him.

There is so much that I want to tell you. So very much that

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS)—Arrested on a charge of running a bookie establishment in her home, a local lady had but one request to make of the judge. "Please don't take my phone away," she pleaded.



WITH A WREATH TO SGT. SANSONE,
CHIEF WOLF

Christmas Menu

- CREAM OF TOMATO SOUP AND CRACKERS
- ROAST TOM TURKEY
- COUNTRY DRESSING
- GIBLET GRAVY
- CRANBERRY SAUCE CREAMED CORN
- SNOWFLAKE POTATOES
- CANDIED SWEET POTATOES
- FRESH BUTTERED PEAS
- ICED CELERY MIXED PICKLES
- LETTUCE AND TOMATO SALAD
- ASSORTED FRESH FRUITS
- CHEERY PIE PUMPKIN PIE FRUIT CAKE
- CHOCOLATE SHEET CAKE ICE CREAM
- MIXED NUTS MIXED CANDY
- HOT ROLLS, BREAD, BUTTER
- COFFEE, MILK AND SUGAR LEMONADE

I want to hear. My thoughts are running all over the place. My thoughts wander back over the past year, and all that has been accomplished and all that has been undone. I think of all the victories abroad and the intolerance at home. Naturally Bill has asked me thousands of questions about war and why we fight and why doesn't Christmas come every day, and this evening before I read to him I tried to answer all his questions. I hope you approve of my answers. He climbed into my lap, Greg, and snuggled up to me, and somehow it was easy to talk to him that way, easy because I had you there too. I just told him that no one wanted to fight or go to war, but sometimes we must do things that we don't want to do.

All over the war-torn world today are mothers holding their little boys on their laps and praying to whatever God they might have, that war will never come again, praying that their sons and husbands will come home. Come home so that they might play with their children and teach them that war is rotten. Yes Bill, Daddy is a soldier, not because he wants to be one, but because he never wants you to be one. Never wants you to grow up and be forced to fight and kill. He and millions of other Daddys are fighting so that you can go to school, that you can be free to worship as you wish. That you will never be hungry and that you can speak freely without being thrown into prison, or beaten until you dare not speak again.

He is fighting Bill, for children all over the world, yes for French children, Russian children, Chinese and Italian children. For English, American, Negro, Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant children. Children that want to play in the sand pile, make mud pies, play ball, go swimming and do all the wonderful things that little



boys and girls love to do. He is fighting to rid the world of hate, greed and fear. He is fighting to exterminate the little men who do not believe that everyone is born with a right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

And Bill, please God that the day is not so far distant, for when that day does come, truly can it be said . . . we will have Christmas every day."

**CHRISTMAS IN
U.S.A.**

New England Yuletide is marked by strong, rugged, enduring faith. Like the rock bound coasts of the territory, the Christmas rites take on and hold a lasting enduring quality.

The customs have come down from the first settlers and they are as truly a part of New England's individuality as are the Pilgrims of historic memory.



New England has cranberry bogs, therefore the green of the Christmas tree needles will be accented by strings of cranberries.

The pop corn that the Indians showed the early settlers how to raise will also be strung and hung over the tree for decoration.

Here is the wide hearth and the open fireplace and here the horse is still hitched to the sleigh and takes the family on a visit to the neighbors to the tinkling of silvery notes.

There are several kinds of cider and punch served. There's one custom that survives in the farmhouse kitchen and the city home. A hot poker is stuck into the liquid to heat it to a palatable temperature.

**CHRISTMAS IN
AUSTRALIA**

It was the night before Christmas—and in a small Chinese boat M-Sgt. Frank E. Sutterland, of Chicago, and twenty-five other GIs were making the trip from the Island of Erromango in the New Hebrides group, off Australia, to the Island of Efate.

Some P-40s of the Seventh Air Force had cracked up and there was some important salvage and rescue work to be done in a hurry.

The Chinese

ship made land and the men fell to with a will and finished the major and vital portions of their task. Then they settled down to celebrate Christmas and they didn't do at all bad.

They ran into an Australian rancher, the only white man on the island, and they picked out a young bull, shot and butchered the animal and put their Air Corps field equipment to work turning out the Yule dinner.

The Red Cross had given out packages marked "Do Not Open



THIS CACTUS MAKES HIM SAY 'OUCH'!



Girl Friend Sends Cactus To 'Brooklyn Boy' At Pyote

"It sure is funny, the things that a girl will do," says Cpl. Pete S. Shepherd of Brooklyn, N. Y. Pete is here at Pyote in the Combat Crew Section and he's busy learning to get those B-29s where they are supposed to go and back again.

"Imagine it," he says, "just imagine it!"

"Here I get this notice that there is a big Christmas package for me at the Field Post Office. So what do I do? I rush over there—rush over there fast.

"And when I see that package my heart starts bouncing like when the Dodgers are winning.

"It's all wrapped up that package, neat and pretty. Merry Christmas it says all over the thing and when I notice the hand writing and see it's from my best girl . . . well I just couldn't wait till I could get back and see what it was she sent me! You see this girl she's different—she's not like the

other girls—she's really different.

"I figures that the package is heavy and I'm sure it's a cake or a lot of the things from Brooklyn that you just can't get here in the Texas desert. There's guys all over the barracks so I just puts the package away and lets the crowd thin out.

"I worked myself up good and plenty wondering what was inside that fancy wrapping and when I opened it . . . Well, you know I never noticed how pretty cactus was before. There's something about it that just sort of sticks to you. . . like I'm stuck on my girl in Brooklyn . . . you got to admit she's really different."

Topeka, Kan. (CNS) — Judge Walter Huxman is an enthusiastic hunter. Recently he broke his leg. But as soon as the hunting season opened, he hobbled into the woods armed with a shotgun and a cane, returning at nightfall with six birds.

Chester, Va. (CNS) — A. C. Oates, a farmer, stood by astounded and watched a 180-pound deer charge and kill a 1000-pound horse which was grazing on his farm. "I never saw anything like it," sad Oates.

**CHRISTMAS IN
NEW GUINEA**

"Sorry boys, but we've just received word that the ship bringing Christmas presents has been sunk."

That was the official Yuletide announcement made to the men of the 479th Service Squadron of the 19th Air Force at their Port Moresby, New Guinea base last Christmas.

"It was a pretty hard blow, says T-Sgt. John P. Osborne, "but our 'Jungle Juice' saved the day".



Sergeant Osborn is in charge of Section A Receiving and Shipping at Pyote this year and a heaven-sent furlough assures that he will spend this Christmas with his family in St. Joseph, Louisiana.

"In 1942, says Osborne, "we were so deep in the Australian jungles of the Cape York Peninsula that Santa Claus couldn't have found us if he had every map Rand-McNally ever produced.

"That year there was nothing even resembling Christmas. In 1943, when our outfit was based at Port Moresby, despite the fact that we had word that Japs were within thirty miles of our base and we could hear the detonation of bombs all around us, we decided to do something to sort of help the Christmas spirit along.

"The fellows saved their rations of dried prunes and raisins and apricots and we turned them over to one of the fellows who was reputed to have had some experience and skill as a chemist back in the days of prohibition.

"That's how we got the 'Jungle Juice'.

"The mess gang managed to scrape up some baked chicken for our Christmas dinner and that helped fortify us against the loss of those presents. The "juice" oiled our vocal chords and we sat around under "Red Alert" blackout conditions and sang carols.

"The roar of Zeros seemed awfully distant that night."

Los Angeles (CNS) — Because all his passengers were crowded to the front of the street car, the motorman yelled "All right, folks, there's a cigarette machine in the rear." Three persons got smashed toes in the stampede to the rear.

M'Alister, Okla. (CNS) — Mail service was gummed up here when postal authorities opened a mail-bag and molasses came pouring out. Someone in Missouri had mailed a package of the gooey stuff to a local resident, but the lid came off.

Christmas Leaves Postal Clerks 'Holding The Bag'

Mail Clerks Swamped, But Grin, Because They're Helping Nick

Down here in the Texas "Sun Bowl" Santa Claus' sleigh has a tough time getting to Pyote.

There's no snow and even the new jet-propelled "battlewagon" that St. Nick has this year would probably "foul up" in the cactus and the mesquite.

But Santa never fails the boys at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base. He's got a crew of devoted servants here just as he has at the North Pole.

They're the boys who pull Christmas gifts and cheer out of the mail bags at the Field Post Office and see that they get to the people they're intended for.

As the date of the 25th approaches, the pile becomes mountainous. But the hearts of Pyote's hardy mail crew is never dismayed.

They pitch in, they scour



around for extra help and extra transportation for theirs is a high and holy duty of the Yule season. They see that each and every piece, with its heart warming spirit of good will gets to its owner.

It's the same task they've been performing throughout the year. Nobody ever thinks of the postal crew except to suspect them of failing to deliver the letter that "you're sure your best girl would never have neglected to send".



Some regard it as almost magical the way that the letters from the four corners of the earth and the packages appear at the orderly room mail sections. And it is magic. A magic made possible by continuous sweat and devotion and organization and an occasional tear and heavy sigh.

But this is Christmas and the



By plane, by rail and by truck the Christmas packages, bringing a touch of home, the cards that remind of old and new friendships and the letters that bring a special message of yuletide cheer pour in.



... 'WHITE' CHRISTMAS SNOWS THEM!



Christmas cards sure give the spirit a lift and help build up the morale. If one is good for you, think of these boys who are getting thousands of them daily. What do they do in their spare time? You guessed it. They write more Christmas cards and Christmas messages to keep other mail clerks just as busy and happy as they are.

PITY THE POOR POST OFFICE CLERKS ...



Bundles here, bundles there, bundles, bundles everywhere! That's the life of a GI postal clerk when the happy Yule season is reaching its zenith. But nothing daunted, they just pitch in and deliver the goods for Chris Kringle.



effort must be redoubled. So we take this opportunity to express for each and every person on the base the heartfelt thanks that is merited by the



Pyote postal lads. And after the hectic job is done—**GOD REST YOU MERRY GENTLEMEN.**

St. Petersburg, Fla. (CNS) — Three days after someone had swiped Charley Granderson's extra suit, Granderson moved to a new apartment. Hanging in the closet he found his suit, left there by the vacating tenant.

LaCrosse, Wisc.—Mrs. Otis P. Quipsnack won a divorce from her husband, vaudeville memory expert. "He'd forget to wear his trousers to parties," she said.

On this page devoted to Santa's mail helpers, are pictured the clerks who are making possible your receipt of Christmas cards, letters and packages. Recognize them without the white beards?

★ ★ ★ ★ Star Dust ★ ★ ★ ★

FILM-FLAM: Eleanor Parker, the heroine who stuck to her soldier-hubby in the movie "The Very Thought of You", got a divorce from her real-life hero; he was stationed in the So. Pacific for 2 years . . . She may hit stardom when her newest film is released. She has Bette Davis' old role in the new version of "Of Human Bondage". Paul Henreid has Leslie Howards' part . . . Charlie Chaplin (For Whom the Bell Tolls) is making another movie, "Mr. Bluebeard" (Hee-hee!). His newest wife, Oona O'Neil Chaplin, plays the lead femme . . . Hollywood-talk is that Clark Gable may soon marry Kay Williams.

. . . "The Thin Man Comes Home", costarring Myrna Loy and Bill Powell is ready for release. . . Watch for "Spellbound"—probably the most terrific creeper of 1945. It stars Ingrid Bergman as the gal who is slightly nuts, and is directed by Alfred Hitchcock—suspense director in the biz. . . . In "Tonight and Every Night", Rita Hayworth does a modified strip-tease; the scene is an old burlesque act featuring Professor Lamberti, top-notch old-time comic. If the scene doesn't panic you, I miss my guess . . . Frederick March and Betty Field co-star in the film version of the stage success "Tomorrow The World", retitled for the flickers "The Intruder". It's a show that'll make ya think . . . Linda Darnell gets another "bad-girl" role in "Hang-over Square". A story of a schizophrenic, written by the author that penned "Gaslight".

CHRISTMAS IN U.S.A.

THE SOUTH at Christmastime has a few traditions that are singularly its own. And Christmases, before the war, were always spent in the time-honored way. Christmas was a day of visits, of open house, of creamy-rich egg-nogs, of poinsettia plants flowering in the windows.

The youngsters shot off fire-crackers to honor the occasion and the holiday was a banging noisy one. It was a day with a crisp, gentle tang in the air, and perhaps a few snow flurries, just a few.

Christmas was a gentle day, and of course, there were Christmas trees, decked with cookies and candies and bright ornaments. Neighbors and relatives would always drop in on Christmas afternoon to exchange gossip and gifts, to reminisce over past Christmases, to admire the tree and be treated to the handy boxes of chocolate cream candy.

Most of the large cities in the south held yuletide balls or cotillions that were the social event of the season. The young belles would prepare for weeks to look the loveliest; and the thrill of THE invitation from THE beau was one of the unforgotten events of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS IN PANAMA

For the first time in five years Pvt. Don K. Decklar of Section A and his wife are going to have the pleasure of one another's company when they sit down to their Christmas dinner this year in Pyote.

Decklar spent the past four and one half years in the Panama Canal Zone where he was attached to the 18th Service Squadron of the Sixth Air Force.



Last year he spent Christmas in the hospital.

It was the result of one of those aerial mishaps that occurred in the routine protection,

patrol and training flights in the vicinity of the vital canal area.

Despite a rather painful shoulder dislocation and a crushed hip Decklar says he managed to enjoy the holiday cheer provided for the men at Gorgas Hospital. There was a tree and children from the native schools came and sang carols and for dinner there was turkey with all the trimmings and then some.

Decklar's glad to be around Pyote this Yuletide. After all Pyote is in the United States and then there's smiling, gracious Mrs. Decklar, something else to be thankful for this Christmas.

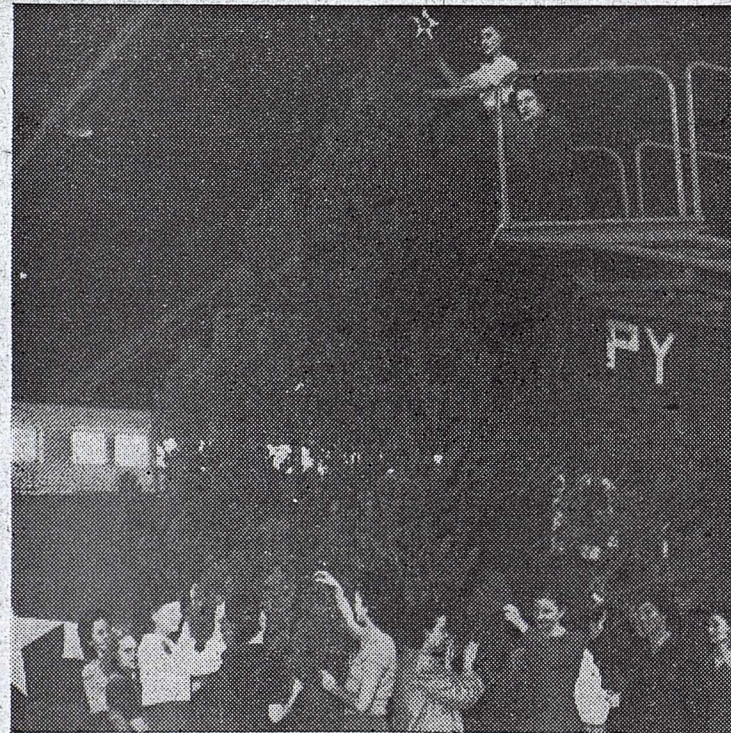
SO THIS IS PYOTE . . .



1942 . . . The first cadre arrived at the field and there was awaiting them a big Christmas dinner (with table cloths 'n' everythin'), entertainment, and even the beer that made Milwaukee famous. Pyote AAF has come a long way since that first Christmas but the old timers still talk about it.



1943 . . . Highlight of last Christmas was the appearance at the Service Club of Shirley Ross, film and radio starlet, who led the singing of Christmas carols around the big tree in the Service Club lounge.



1944 . . . Girls at the Sub-Depot hanger start to trim a Christmas tree—a tree so large that one of the airplane mechanics' ladders has to be used to put the star on the top. In the background is a B-17.

CHRISTMAS IN PYOTE '42

December 25, 1942—The Texas wind blew across the wastelands—A train came to a halt at the town of Pyote—One hundred and thirty-five soldiers, much wiser men now, than when they'd boarded the train at Boise, Idaho, got off. . . . So came the original cadre to lay its talents at the feet of a new-born Air Corps child—the Rattlesnake Air Base.

It was 10:15 a. m. and the men were hungry. They were billeted in the first barracks erected and came into Mess Hall No. 1 for Christmas dinner.



S-Sgt. A. C. (Tony) Piskorski, in charge of Mess Hall No. 1 and the gentleman who is going to dish out the fancy Christmas repast to his steady customers and guests this year tells the story of the Pyote Air Base's first Christmas this way:

"We were tired and dusty and half famished when we stepped off the train that day. We'd sung a few carols, coming down on the train, and that had boosted our morale but when we stepped off that train and the "magnificence" of Pyote struck our eyes our morale sunk to way below sea level.

"When the men walked into Mess Hall No. 1 that day the tables had been covered with snowy linen—not tablecloths, just sheets, but they looked wonderful!

"In back of the mess hall was a miracle . . . a decorated Christmas tree . . . a real evergreen. It wasn't a very big one, of course, but there it was.

"We were served a Christmas meal. It must have been good. Not a single GI griped—another Christmas miracle!

"We were all invited to a dance at Monahans at the high school that night and most of the men got transportation in Army trucks. The rest hoofed it or hitch-hiked. The people were swell. We sang carols and the good cheer just oozed.

"Next morning we were up and we pitched in—building Pyote!"

Sgt. Piskorski, who hails from Bayonne, N. J., is going to see to it that Mess Hall No. 1 is decorated for this Christmas day and if it's at all possible there's going to be a tree. Turkey? Absolutely—with all the fixings.

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—Five of the boys were rolling the bones in a back room here when 4 bandits entered, lined the players against the walls, scooped up a "pot" of \$2052 and escaped.

MAINTENANCE

To say that this week's column is the best yet would be the year's prize overstatement. We are again beseeching youse guys to help us out each week. What we are trying to say is, this column is for you and needs your support.

Maybe you have noticed the new mail boxes in the Section E orderly room. We have, and we wish to extend "thanks" to those individuals responsible for this welcome innovation.

Hangar 1 is on the verge of losing another good man to the beat-up ranks of married men. Pfc. Don Morris, versatile pencil-pusher in the engineering office, left on furlough several days ago to be married. The lucky girl is Miss Franciel Wray of Waurika, Okla., which is Don's home town. Merry Christmas, Don!

We are up to no good again. Some of the fellows tell us big romance blooms hereabouts. Since we have no info on said romance (this is probably good for a week of K.P.) perhaps M-Sgt. Wise could help us out.

Jack (Tea for Two) Martin just handed us an orange as large as a grapefruit. And it was grown in Texas he tells us! We don't doubt your word a bit, Jack, but we didn't know anything grew in Texas!

Here's a strange request. One of the fellows wanted to know why the coffee shop doesn't sell some hot chocolate. He complains that coffee keeps him awake after he gets off work. Well, the simplest solution we can think of is to save the dough and drink hot water.—R.W.T.

Three Sections Get 100% In Efficiency

For the first time in history, operational efficiency of the three training sections here was 100 per cent during last week.

All three sections racked up a perfect mark, based on the number of hours in the air available.

For the past several weeks consecutively the three sections have been scraping the top and this is the first time they've hit it.

HELP POSTMEN!

When you mail your Christmas cards this year, don't forget to seal them.

This is the advice of the Postal Officer to all military personnel. Sealing prevents envelopes from tearing apart. The free mailing privilege of servicemen applies whether envelopes are sealed or not.

Also, a request was made for military personnel to stop mailing bulky articles in letter envelopes. Such articles cause envelopes to tear apart in transit.

CTP Takes Over New Quarters; Expands Facilities, Activities

New, larger and more commodious quarters have been assigned to Pyote Air Base Hospital's Convalescent program.

CTP work quarters have been expanded just about four times over the space formerly allotted to the project. This will assure a definite rise in the efficiency of this vital activity whose slogan is: "Get well faster and return to your job."

Pyote GIs Grab Chance To Learn

Spurred by the healthy response of enlisted men and officers, Special Services is formulating plans to widen its educational program and to expand the off-duty class curriculum now in active operation.

In keeping with progressive educational practice every effort is being bent to meet the specific individual needs of Pyote military personnel. If you are interested in studying a language, obtaining high school or college credits for varied courses, or interested in further studying the specific Army field in which you are working, drop by the Special Service office and make your desires known to Pvt. Bernard Steinberg.

Classes in Spanish and Radio Code are already running full blast and new classes are being formed as quickly as sufficient pupils can be found.

Your opportunity to learn, to explore new fields and to acquire new skills is unlimited, and it's up to you not to let that opportunity slip by.

With the expanded quarters, new facilities are to be made available to the patients who will participate in the work. Plans are underway to provide a complete photographic dark room for persons who wish to indulge in photography.

A splendid special work shop of a diversified nature is also being assembled.

New quarters of the CTP will make it possible for those directing the work to save many hours that were formerly used in setting up and removing equipment used in specialized activities. The more spacious quarters will make possible the relegating of specialized apparatus to permanent rooms.

The building, taken over by CTP, was formerly used for High Altitude training. The present expanding program is under the direction of Lt. Milan Starcel and T-Sgt. L. H. Shipp.

Classified Ads

WANTED—Ride to El Paso any time after 2 p.m. Friday, December 22. Pvt. Carlos Casavantes, Instrument Shop, Sub Depot.

Chaplain's Chat

IS IT CHRISTMAS TO YOU?

By Chaplain H. W. Kuhns

Today we celebrate an occasion honored by Church and State; to-day the entire world stops to pay homage to the Prince of Peace.

We cannot overlook the true meaning of this day. We dare not close our eyes to the fact that the very foundation of Christmas Day and the joy it brings is predominantly spiritual. It takes us back to the very birth of the Saviour of the world. It reminds us that Our Saviour came upon this earth to redeem a fallen race, a sinful people. It calls to our attention the fact that Christ came to bring peace to men of good will. Good will has only one meaning—a willingness to recognize God; to serve Him by observing His laws and commands; to take advantage of every spiritual benefit instituted by the Divine Master.

Just as the first Christmas produced an effect that was ordained to permeate the hearts of all men; just as Christ came to redeem not only those with whom He lived but every human being ever to be born. Christmas Day should be for us only a renewal of the resolutions we have been keeping.

But does it mean this to you? Does Christmas, for you, mean only dry fir trees, tinkling bells, and cheap tinsel? Does Christmas, for you, mean gift giving without a meaning? Does Christmas, for you, mean a time to enjoy all the things God has given and still forget their Divine source? Does Christmas, for you, mean only the second time this year your face is seen in Church—the other being Easter?

If this day means nothing more than this, you have completely missed the spirit of it all; you are celebrating something without a meaning; you cannot say that the peace of Christ is in your heart.

Church Invites Pyote Personnel To Social

First Presbyterian Church of Monahans has extended an open invitation to all personnel of the Pyote Air Field to attend a church social to be held at the church quarters each Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

There will be entertainment and refreshments.

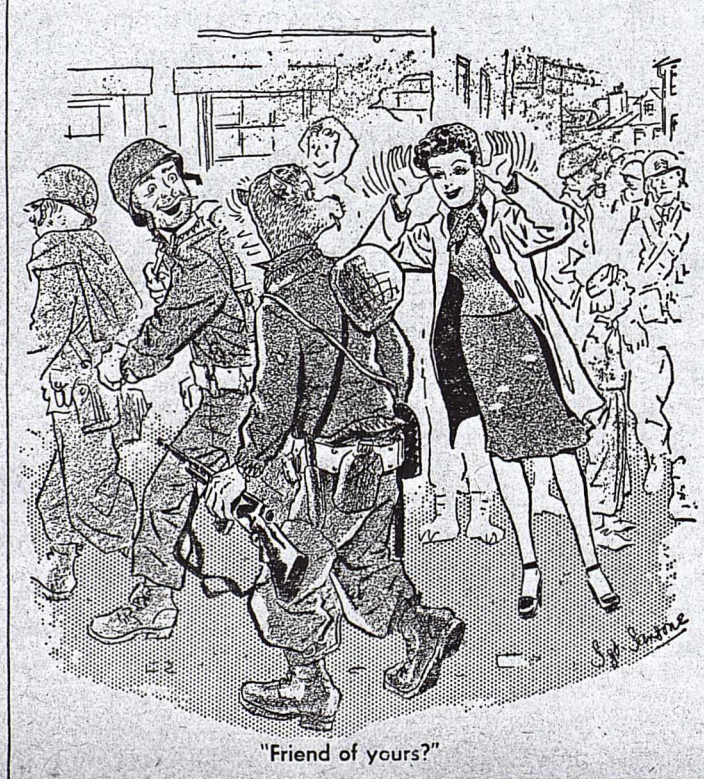
Base personnel who wish to attend this activity will be provided free transportation to and from the First Presbyterian Church.

Buses will leave from in front of the Field Chapel each Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The Wolf

by Sansone

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"Friend of yours?"

Film Studio Offers GI Authors Annual \$1500 Fellowships

NEW YORK (CNS)—Annual fellowships for service personnel, both men and women, officers and EM, who demonstrate potentialities for creative writing, are available from the 20th Century-Fox Film Corporation. The Fellowships are worth \$1500, and are payable both to personnel on active service and to honorably discharged veterans.

Here's how you qualify:

Submit a book or play, either in full draft, part of draft, or in outline form, together with at least one completed chapter (to indicate your approach to your material), to Bertram Bloch, eastern story editor for 20th Century-Fox, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City. A committee of judges will pass on the literary quality of the narrative writing, originality of the idea material and the possibilities for full-length development by the author. If your contribution is considered to have sufficient merit, a fellowship award will be made and you will then have one year to complete a full-length book or play.

At present, 20th Century-Fox contemplates award of approximately 25 fellowships, but the number may vary, depending on the quality of the submissions. The awards will be made on the basis of individual merit and not in competition with other entries.

REMEMBER?

Headlines of a year ago, as culled from the files of The RATTLER.

In one of its most famous issues The RATTLER struck back at criticism of Texas. Editor Tomme Call (Texan himself) printed pictures of beauty spots of the state. A drive was opened to grant every GI a Christmas wish. Shirley Ross, movie song-bird, promised to be on hand for the Friday night dance. (She was.) Marfa took the Pyote bucketeers in a hot court tussle. In the world news, Russia prepared a winter offensive; RAF and AAF planes continued bombing the Reich; Chinese troops recaptured Changteh. Allies continued to bomb and shell Rabaul.

The Rattler (in its Christmas issue of December 22, 1943) paid homage to the old 410 AB Squadron who arrived on the base Christmas day the year before. The first GI-Wac wedding happened on the base: Sgt. Robert Carlisle and Cpl. Ruth Armstrong. The civilian employes held a Christmas program of hymns and readings. Capt. Condy won the ping-pong contest at the field, defeating S-Sgt. Doug Pilcher. The basketball team tripped Odessa High, 24 to 21.

Tokyo No Tinderbox, Army Learns In Raids

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The OWI today quoted the Army as reporting, following the B-29 strikes at the capital of Japan that "the rather general impression that Tokyo is a tinderbox city, which could be destroyed by incendiary bombs, is one of the most inaccurate of popular fallacies.

"Metropolitan Tokyo, which includes the cities of Kawasaki, Yokohama and the naval base community of Yokosuka, has been able to withstand many bombings and fires. The significances of this is that buildings designed to withstand earthquake shocks are also well adapted to withstand bomb shocks."



Q. Some time back I got into a little trouble and drew a sentence of 30 days, \$30 and a bust from corporal at a summary court-martial. I'm not sore because I deserved it. The only thing I want to know is, will I have to make up that 30 days? I was drafted into the Army under Selective Service.

A. All men, whether regulars or selectees are required to make up "bad time".

Q. Which is the higher award, the Expert Infantryman Badge or the Combat Infantryman Badge?

A. WD Cir 408 (1c) states that the Combat Infantryman Badge is the higher award.

Q. I'm only 4 foot 10 inches tall, 2 inches too short for the Army, but, due to an error by my induction center, I'm in the Army anyhow. I've been stationed at a reception center for 5 months, wearing a uniform that's 2 sizes too large for me, and doing little else, because the Army can't find

THE CRYSTAL BALL

(Each week The RATTLER will record predictions on the duration of the war, as made by ranking men and women of our time.)

Drew Pearson, news columnist: "I predict that World War II will end in 1945."

anything for me to do. I want to know if I can get a discharge?

A. Maybe you can. WD Cir. 370 says that men now in the Army who can't meet the present physical standards for induction and who have no special Army assignment are eligible for discharge. Why not ask your CO about it?

Q. I'm a combat infantryman at present stationed with a non-combat outfit. I want to know if I'm going to lose my extra pay just because I'm no longer up front?

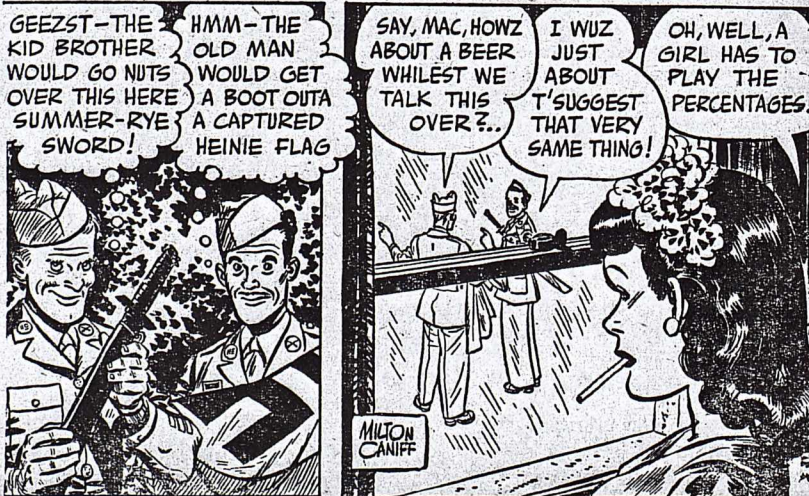
A. According to WD Cir. 408, 17 Oct. 1944, a combat infantryman's extra pay does not stop when he leaves his combat unit unless he has lost his badge for failure "to perform satisfactorily in ground combat against the enemy."

KIPLING DIDN'T KNOW AMERICAN SOLDIERS



MALE CALL

By Milton Caniff





KOOPS' KORNER

CHRISTMAS GIFT

(The Korner's Christmas gift to its readers is a bit of a poem that you guys might like to copy and send to your best girl, from yourself.)

What do I want for Christmas?
 Last summer's moon would do,
 Stars we have plucked together,
 Maybe a kiss or two.
 Tape for the hurt of broken rhymes,
 Pink lemonade with straws,
 Maybe another date with you . . .
 Is there a Santa Claus?



SUGAR REPORT

St. Louis, Mo.
 Dec. 17, 1944

Dear Koops:

I'm sitting in my hotel room, Ed, trying to make these blankety-blank hotel pens write, and occasionally glancing out the window to see those big, soft, lazy flakes of snow tumble through the skies. The streets are covered with the big white blanket of snow, beautiful snow. (And Sugar with open-toed shoes!)

I told you I'd send you a report on what's going on in the outside world and this is it.

Arrived in Fort Worth about 8 ayem and walked over to the Texas Hotel for a bite of breakfast. Two older men were at the table next to me and they turned down a second cup of coffee. Seems they had to rush over to a certain grocery store and get in line to buy a package of cigarettes. It is the only store for blocks that got cigarettes and sold out of them in 13 minutes.

Out in the lobby two matronly women were discussing cigarettes, too. I didn't get all the conversation, but one of them turned to the other and confided, "I keep my pack in the refrigerator. Keeps them fresher, my dear!"

Two sailors were stretched out in the easy-chairs in the lobby. They were spangled with ribbons and oak-leaf clusters stars—real battle-vets. They were in the midst of a serious conversation, and finally one of them said flaily, "Gee, but if I raised a moustache, my Mom'd murder me!"

The stores were filled with Christmas shoppers and red and green decorations. Counter after counter is filled with gifts for servicemen. McCrory's dime store still boasts the prettiest clerks in town. All of them are million dollar babies in the five and ten cent store.

On the train to St. Louis, two fellows—one with a guitar and the other with a harmonica—got together and it wasn't long before the whole car was singing songs.

Two Infantry men were sitting across from me when an Air Corps Captain sat down with them. One of the Inf. boys made some remark about the Air Corps getting all the glory, and the Captain leaned over, shook his head, and smiled.

"Don't believe it, soldier. Listen, the Air Corps and all the rest of us are just running interference. It's the Infantry that's carrying the ball!"

Arrived in St. Louis the following morning. And it's still the same great town. Most of the bars are serving Tom-and-Jerry, people are rushing along the streets loaded down with packages, every juke-box has Crosby singing "White Christmas", Vandervoort's big department store is all dressed up for Christmas, (I bought a giant fruit cake in there, Ed, and it tastes like Christmas, all right.)

The snow adds a yuletide touch to the street-scene; it puts a dash of color in the cheek and brings the warmth in a smile.

But somehow, Koops, something seems missing. I mean, if you don't look too close it's just like Christmas—with the little old men dressed like Santa ringing bells on street corners; with the shop windows gleaming with Christmas gifts; with the hustle of the holi-

Dusters Tie Musclemen In Blue League

The fast moving Blue Bowling League ended in a tie, with the Musclemen and Dusters winning 26 out of 36 games played. A five-game series to determine the league champion is slated for this week.

The Musclemen wound up in second place in the summer league with first place going to the Flashes.

STANDINGS

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
Dusters	26	10	.722
Musclemen	26	10	.722
Consol. Mess	25	11	.694
Flashes	22	14	.511
Hanger No. 1	17	19	.472
Aleutian Aces	10	26	.277

High Team (Three-Game)

Consolidated Mess	2748
Dusters	2631
Musclemen	2586

High Team (Single Game)

Musclemen	949
Consolidated Mess	933
Dusters	921

High Single Game

Fox	255
Kuck	246
Brown	245

High Three-Game Series

Fox	627
Comanitz	592
Kuck	580
Kane	580

Individual Averages

Fox	187.18
Kuck	180.1
Lauriello	172.23
Buffamonte	171.11
Comanitz	170.3
Novagradic	168.18
Leicht	166.15
Rostick	166.7
Kochan	166.6
Kane	165.0

The winter league will get under way Jan. 8. Those wishing to enter teams in the league are requested to see Sgt. Don White at the Rec. Hall, or consult the notice posted in the EM Bowling alley.

MORE SPORT NEWS ON PAGE 16



Take Me Out to the Bowl Game

A lot of guys in the armed forces are going to get a chance to listen to a broadcast of one or more of the Bowl games this coming New Year's Day, and, although that privilege isn't quite as good as a seat on the 50-yard line at Pasadena, it's the next best thing.

The New York office of the Armed Forces Radio Service plans to pipe the Orange Bowl game from Miami to the ETO on Jan. 1 at 1400 (New York time) and the 2d half of the Sugar Bowl game from New Orleans at about 1630. On Jan. 2, the AFRS will rebroadcast a streamlined version of the Rose Bowl game (minus the time outs and other impedimenta) to Europe at 1500. The West Coast office of the AFRS will beam the Orange Bowl game and the 1st half of the Rose Bowl tilt to the Pacific on New Year's Day.

Opponents in the Rose Bowl this year are unbeaten, twice-tied S. California and unbeaten once-tied Tennessee. In the Sugar Bowl, Duke, with a 5 won, 4 lost record, will mix with Alabama, once-beaten, twice tied. Georgia Tech (Won 8, lost 2) will meet Tulsa in the Orange Bowl at Miami.

Blue Plate Special

When Peanut, aged Shetland pony pal of Exterminator, 29-year-old winner of 1918 Kentucky Derby died, recently, Exterminator brooded all day, wouldn't eat his feed. . . . Finally Mrs. Willa Sharp Kilmer, owner of the great old champ, had Peanut's body brought to Exterminator's stall. Old Bones sniffed his pal and then, convinced at Peanut's death, ate his hay. . . . Williams College grid coach Charley Caldwell is Princeton's new football mentor. Caldwell played left half on Tigers' famed "team of destiny" in 1922, and at Williams he almost upset his Alma Mater's greatest team, the undefeated Big 3 Champs of 1935.

day crowd; the spell of the snow—but something is missing.

I think it's the fact that all of us feel that it isn't REALLY Christmas. That 1944 is just sort of pretending. Because everyone of those Christmas shoppers can't help remembering that someone won't be home to see that tree, to open those presents, to see the snow.

That a son, or a husband, or a father won't be able to make it home this year. And so, it isn't REALLY Christmas this year, for any of them, for any of us.

It's just pretending, Ed; and the presents are wrapped in crinkly paper and crisp little ribbons, and the tree is trimmed and lighted, but there's a lump in the throat, and a tear on the cheek, because we all know that it isn't REALLY Christmas, and never will be, until the boys are back.

Love,
 Sugar.

Pyote Wacs Beat Midland In Court Test

Playing a clever, speedy court game all the way, the Pyote Wac Basketball Team won a thrill-packed game from the Midland Air Base Wacs by the score of 27 to 8.

Pvt. Tacchi was a tower of strength for the Rattlesnake girls and she managed to drop the ball through the hoop for five field goals and a foul shot to account for 11 of the home team's points.

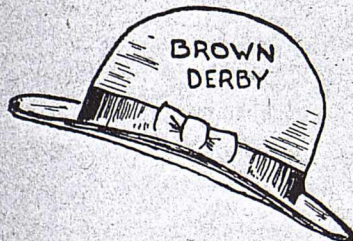
Second high scorers were Pvts. Folley and Brown who netted eight points each in their teams march to victory.

Pvt. Helene Gotch proved a valuable asset on the defense and her tight guarding was one of the reasons that the Midland tossers only managed to net eight points throughout the game.

The turnout and support for the team was splendid and encouraging. The next Wac basketball game takes place Dec. 22 when the girls play at Pecos. Next home game is Jan. 7.

The box score:

PYOTE				
	FG	FT	F	TP
Folley, rf	4	0	0	8
Rice, rf	5	1	0	11
Brown, cf	4	0	0	8
Burke, rg	0	0	0	0
O'Neil, rg	0	0	0	0
Sleser, rg	0	0	0	0
Groesbeck, lg	0	0	0	0
Ross, lg	0	0	1	0
Gotch, cg	0	0	1	0
Totals	13	1	2	27
MIDLAND				
	FG	FT	F	TP
Walthal, rf	2	1	1	5
Olesen, lf	1	0	0	2
Pollard, c	0	1	0	1
Amsk, c	0	0	0	0
Sowle, rg	0	0	0	0
Turner, rg	0	0	0	0
Sturgeon, lg	0	0	0	0
Luce, lg	0	0	0	0
McIntyre, lg	0	0	0	0
Matinis, lg	0	0	0	0
Zbosnik, c	0	0	0	0
Sowle, c	0	0	0	0
Totals	3	2	3	8



Section C is awarded the Brown Derby for the lowest percentage in physical fitness attendance.

"GIRL CRAZY" SHOWS HERE



(Above) Maxie Rosenbloom and pretty blonde ingenue Phyllis Ruth, gave out with an impromptu song-and-gag patter following the musical comedy, "Girl Crazy" (below) wherein the attractive Ziegfeld line coaxed some GIs to the stage.



Big Hollywood Bill Draws Record Crowd; Girl Crazy Presented

Hollywood sent a big double-feature to Pyote Saturday night, December 16, headlined by Maxie Rosenbloom.

The show also presented a fresh and breezy version of the Broadway smash hit "Girl Crazy."

Sub Depot Hangar was used to stage this gigantic spectacle in and one of the largest crowds in the field's history assembled to greet Maxie, the show girls and the comedians who stayed before the footlights for well over two hours.

A gigantic stage was set up by Special Services and special light-

ing was arranged. A detail of men worked all day on seating facilities. All in all, the show was presented in highly creditable and professional fashion.

Special notice must be accorded to Sue Remos, Annie Rooney, Nan Holliday, Linda Dean, and the n which they handled their in-orchestra, for the excellent way individual parts.

Maxie and his lop ears and empty head drew numerous laughs. His little blonde girl helper must also be accorded mention for helping Rosenbloom with his comedy routine. Phyllis Ruth is her name.

A bright chorus that doubled at dancing, comely bits, and acting added lustre to the presentation.

Pyote Sluggers Score Victory At Alamagordo

Pyote's leather slingers journeyed to Alamagordo Air Base and showed the lads up New Mexico way a few things about the manly art of self defense.

The five man boxing team led by S-Sgt. Fred Root trounced two men Alamagordo put into the ring, got a draw in a third set-to and the Alamagordoites failed to produce anyone to contend against two of the Pyote boxers.

In the first match, John Cavanaugh of Sec. E. KO'd Cotton Smith, the Alamagordo contender. The knockout came in the second round of their three-round match. So furious was the action that both ringmen scored a knockdown in the first round. Finally after fighting a brainy and brawny fight, Johnny Cavanaugh unleashed a right hand smash that put his opponent's back on the canvas for the count.

In the second match of the evening George Carbin of Sec. 2 defeated Jack (Kid) Lutz who Alamagordo put up to carry its colors. This was a 150 pound three-rounder that went all the way.

It was a slam-bang affair without a single dull moment and Carbin finished much stronger than his opponent and definitely in command of the ring situation.

In the finale of the evening Leroy Constantini fought a draw with Tony La Rocca, high-touted Alamagordo boy who had a string of twelve straight victories chalked up to his credit.

Constantini proved to be the unlucky thirteenth however as far as La Rocca was concerned. Both boys performed splendidly in the session and the draw decision reflects credit on the ring ability of both men.

The two Pyote boys who went to Alamagordo but couldn't find anyone to fight were Eddie Ownby of Sec. F, a 200-pounder, and Richard Smith of Sec. C, a 170-pound lad.

UNCLE SAM YOU MADE THE PANTS TOO LONG

NEW YORK—A little GI at Fort Monmouth, N. J., wasn't satisfied with the size of his trousers. He kept pestering the supply sergeant to change them for him but failed to get any action. One afternoon he walked into the supply room and pleaded timidly: "Sarge, can't I get a better-fitting pair of trousers?"

Without looking up the sergeant growled: "I can't see anything wrong with those pants."

Desperate, the GI replied: "Maybe you can't see it, but they're chafing me under the arms."