Christmas 1945

This Christmas 1945 is the greatest Christmas of our lives. This December 25 will not only be remembered in the future years as one spent at sea somewhere between Guam and San Francisco on a non-graceful OY3. There is a deep warmth to Christmas even out here. There is the warmth of memory. We look back and see other Christmas seasons and we remember the little things once taken for granted and sometimes even considered silly. The hanging of stockings, the gathering and distribution of presents, the tree, the flash and glory of downtown displays.

We hear coming out of the past the sound of voices raised singing the old carols for an even older Christmas. Songs that now stir up fond thoughts. We can not express in words the depth and goodness of Christmas. Each man has his own picture from his storehouse of life, his memory. To describe is futile.

Today we are again gathered under conditions which serve to mock our sense of Yuletide beauty. Yet we are thinking of far more pleasant thoughts than last year or the year before. For this year the war is no more, on board are over a thousand traveling the last miles of their last cruise. We look forward into a world, though scarred and bleeding, nevertheless, a world in which PEACE is not just a noble experiment. Our future in direct contrast to the Christmas of the last years is filled with hope of youth. We now see the end of one road and the beginning of a broad highway of life. We are thankful for this PEACE and this new vista of life. This Christmas 1945 is the greatest Christmas in our lives.

Our Thanks

Our thanks to these men for their time and labor they have given in publication of the ISLAND ITEMS:

F.J. GALLAGHER A. LIPSEAN
A.J. FROST S.B. VROOMAN
J. STEPPENMAIR J.R. NESIC
R.J. POGEIS R.M. DETMERS
A.A. GAGNE

Special mention for G.Q. MILLER who assigned the Christmas menu.

He has previously worked in commercial art for several periodicals in the N.Y.C. area. Intends to re-enter this field when he leaves the Navy.
Hospitality Afloat

According to the opinion of the passengers the S.S. A as a transport seems to be doing fairly well. Mingling among them our roving reporter heard various comments about the ship which rate this lumbering mass of welded steel pretty high. Of course it isn’t a luxury liner but when compared with other types of transport she is OK.

One large bos'n beamed a smile and said his only complaint was the water situation. He realized, however, that the ship’s water supply was never designed for such a large number of men.

Contrary to the caustic opinion of the crew concerning the chow all the passengers agreed that it was some of the best they have had since leaving the states. One man remarked that our chow lines were the shortest he had seen in two years.

An obvious salt, flexing his muscles on the flight deck, answered our request for his opinion by stating he had been on many transports in his time and that this was a palace beside an APA. He said, “On them things ya get two small meals a day and have to eat them standing up.”

The space, fresh air, and good rations were rated as excellent by two returning high point men. As a sideline they were asked if many men were shipping over out on the islands. They answered that a large number of men, mostly low point personnel, were making the big step.

One man commended the officer and crew of the ship for their good will and obvious effort to make things easier. Though this is a heck of a way to spend the holidays he believed they could be made a great deal worse by non-cooperation.

Most of the passengers are going back for discharge though there is a liberal sprinkling of re-enlistments. All are just biding their time until the Golden Gate swings open and they are STATESIDE.

Tradition Pays Off

(SEA).—The Navy tradition that the first enlisted man who salutes a brand new officer receives a dollar from him has proved profitable for nine seamen at the officer training school at Notre Dame. Recently when the Navy commissioned 950 ensigns there the nine enlisted men lined up outside the hall. They departed later with tired arms but $100 each.

This tradition which started at Annapolis has spread throughout all the Naval Officer Training schools. It has been estimated that several hundred thousand dollars has changed hands this way.
Born is the King of Israel

The First Noel
THE CHRISTMAS STORY

AND IT CAME TO PASS IN THOSE DAYS THAT THERE WENT OUT A DECREE FROM Caesar Augustus, THAT ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE TAXED. AND ALL WENT TO BE TAXED, EVERYONE INTO HIS OWN CITY, AND JOSEPH ALSO WENT UP FROM GALILEE, OUT OF THE CITY OF NAZARETH INTO JUDEA, UNTO THE CITY OF DAVID, WHICH IS CALLED EMMAUS, TO BE TAXED WITH MARY HIS ESPoused UNDER THE NAME GREAT WITH A CHILD;

AND SO IT WAS THAT, WHILE THEY WERE THERE, THE DAYS WERE ACCOMPLISHED THAT SHE SHOULD BE DELIVERED, AND SHE BROUGHT UP HER FIRST BORN SON AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER; BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN;

AND THERE WAS IN THAT SAME COUNTRY SHEPHERDS KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT, AND, LO, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME UPON THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE ABOUT THEM; AND THEY WERE SCEAK AFRAID, AND THE ANGEL SPOKE UNTO THEM, SAYING:

"FEAR NOT: FOR, Behold, I BRING YOU TYPINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE. FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD, AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU: YE SHALL FIND THE CHILD WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, LYING IN A MANGER.";

AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL A MULTITUDE OF THE HEAVENLY Host PRAISING GOD, AND SAYING,

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE TO MEN OF GOOD WILL.";

AND IT CAME TO PASS, AS THE ANGELS WERE GONE AWAY FROM THEM INTO HEAVEN, THE SHEPHERDS SAID ONE TO ANOTHER,

"LET US NOW GO EVEN UNTO EMMAS, AND See THIS THING THAT I HAVE SEEN PASS;

WHICH THE LORD HATH MADE KNOWN TO US;

AND THEY CAME WITH HASTE AND FOUNTAIN, AND JOSEPH, AND THE BAMB, LYING IN THE MANGER, AND WHEN THEY HAD SEEN IT, THEY MADE KNOW ANGEL THE SAYING THAT WAS TOLD THEM CONCERNING THE CHILD, AND ALL THEY THAT HEARD IT ansch DISTRICT AT THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE TOLD THEM BY THE SHEPHERDS, BUT MARY KEPT ALL THESE THINGS AND CONSIDERED THEM IN HER HEART,

AND THE SHEPHERDS RETURNED, GLORIFYING AND PRASING GOD, AND SPEAKING OF ALL THE THINGS THAT THEY HAD SEEN AND HEARD, AS IT WAS TOLD UNTO THEM.

NOW WHEN JESUS WAS BORN IN THE TOWN OF JABRIN, IN THE DAYS OF HEROD THE KING, HEROD, THERE CAME WISE MEN FROM THE EAST TO JERUSALEM, SAYING,

"WHERE IS THA THAT IS BORN KING OF THE JEWES? FOR WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR IN THE EAST, AND ARE COME TO WORSHIP HIM;"

THEN HEROD, WHEN HE HAD PRIVY CALLED THE WISE MEN, ASKED THEM DIRECTIONS WHAT TIME THE STAR APPEARED, AND HE SENT THEM TO TELLSHEM, AND SALT,

"GO AND SEEK EASILY FOR THE YOUNG CHILD; AND WHEN YE HAVE FOUND HIM, BRING ME Word AGAIN, THAT I MAY WORSHIP HIM ALSO;"

WHEN THEY HAD SEEN THE STAR, THEY WERE EXCITED; AND TO THE STAR, MUCH AS THEY SAW IN THE EAST, BEHIND THEM, THEY CAME AND SEEN OVER WHERE THE YOUNG CHILD WAS. WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR THEY ENVISIONED THEIR INCREASING GREAT JOY; AND WHEN THEY WERE COME INTO THE HOUSE THEY SAW THE YOUNG CHILD WITH MARY, HIS MOTHER, AND FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPPED HIM; AND WHEN THEY HAD OPENED THEIR TREASURES, THEY PRESENTED UNTO HIM GIFTS; GOLD AND FRANKINCENSE AND SPICE, AND HAD A NAME OF GOD IN A DREAM THAT THEY SHOULD NOT RETURN TO HEROD; THEY DEPARTED UNTO THEIR OWN COUNTRY ANOTHER WAY.

AND WHEN THEY HAD DEPARTED, HEROD, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARETH TO JOSEPH IN A DREAM, SAYING, "ARISE AND TAKE THE YOUNG CHILD AND HIS MOTHER, AND FLEE INTO EGYPT, AND BE THOU THERE UNTIL I BRING THE WORD: FOR HEROD WILL SEEK THE YOUNG CHILD TO DESTROY HIM;"

AND HEROD, WHEN HE SAW THAT HE WAS MOCKED, WAS EXCEIVINGLY WROTH, AND SENT FORTH, AND Slew ALL THE CHILDREN THAT WERE IN EMMAUS, AND IN ALL THE COASTS THEREOF, FROM TWO YEARS OLD AND UNDER, ACCORDING TO THE TIME WHICH HE HAD DELICENTLY INQUIRED OF THE WISEMEN.
The Common Man Speaks

This month the ship's bell was conducted again so that the ship's personnel might be allowed to present their opinion on some phase of shipboard activity. Rather than ask specific questions, the method used for this issue was to approach a person and ask his general thought on the topic of the month. This month the process of news dissemination was considered. Are you satisfied with the present method involving the printed press news and the nightly news broadcasts? Which do you think does the most good and is the most essential?

These were some of the questions asked. In general the present system was complemented.

C.G. THOMSON, signalman, stated that he rarely listened to the news broadcast but said he always reads the press news. He added that more information should be included in the press news.

R.H. SNIDER, mailman, replied that he was in favor of both the press news and the broadcast, however he prefers the latter. He listens every night and thinks that a good job is being done.

E.W. WATSON, ship's store, theman that handles the local department store, said, "News is very essential...a great moral booster...couldn't get along without regular outside news." He considers the present work being done as excellent.

E.A. KINLEAD, O&SR, answered that the only thing he could see wrong was that there has not been nearly sufficient home news and too much space was devoted to the atomic bomb and other worn topics. He added that he listens every night and appreciates the labor put on the press news.

Other men contacted all agreed that a fine job is being done by the radio men and yeoman on the press news and by the broadcasters. All of them believe that it is a necessity and should be continued.

Navy Reduced

A few months ago the navy had at sea a tremendous power of combat and auxiliary ships which has today dropped to a zero fraction of that strength. Of 101 aircraft carriers only 18 are now in fighting trim. Only 16 out of 22 battleships and 34 out of 55 cruisers are ready for wartime sea duty.

The navy is averaging more than 1,000 discharges a day and is rapidly scrapping and selling amphibious craft that is no longer needed. It is expected that the tremendous task of getting the navy on a Peace man-machine will be half completed by the middle of February. Admiral King has broadcast the fact that the navy could not fight a large battle.

More Good News

Good news for all servicemen about to be discharged was laid on the President's desk on December 21 in the form of a bill extending GI benefits.

With the President's signature all ex-servicemen who attend school under the GI Bill of Rights will receive $55 a month if single and $90 for those having dependents; previously the amount paid was $50 and $75 respectively. The loan provisions were also liberalized.
Latest on Leave Prospects

In order to dispel much of the scuttlebutt that is going wild about the ship the Exec revealed what he knew about various topics which are of vital interest to the crew. The primary point being the possibility of leave.

First he made it definite that nothing certain concerning a yard period is a certainty as yet. It is very possible that the ship could again proceed to sea after the essential repairs have been effected. Such activity could be completed in a few days.

Then he went on to paint the brighter possibility, namely that of an extended yard period of 30 to 50 days with the accompanying leave. Only those men rating leave, will be able to leave the ship. Precedence will be given those who have been aboard the ship since the commissioning or just following. All men who have been aboard for this period have received only 10 days of leave and therefore deserve an extended time of 30 days. Consideration will be made for men now living on the East coast so that they may have the same amount of time at home as those men in the West. The ship's crew will be divided into three watches. The degree of leave you rate will determine your section.

Those who have had 30 days leave within the last three months will receive no leave so that a longer period may be granted men who have not had much leave.

He emphasized that it depends entirely upon the Commands which control this vessel's activities whether or not a yard period will be authorized. A ship does not request a yard period; it merely submits a damage report and a list of necessary repairs to the proper authority. In our case this has been done. It is hoped that a yard period will be granted. He also remarked that our routine overhaul period is due next March.

On the subject of decommissioning he simply stated that this ship is to be part of the inactive fleet. When it will be placed in such a category is unknown. It is expected that as soon as the transportation problem is eased we shall enter our post-war status.
**Christmas Day**

For the second time this year, it is away from home for the holiday season. This year no leave was taken, but this year, a broad program of celebration has been planned.

On the morning of Christmas Day, there will be services on the hangar deck and in the squadron ready room. At noon, the traditional all-cast Navy show was held. Though many of the small things of a Christmas dinner under the present circumstances it will be more than welcome.

In the evening a Christmas program for all hands will be held on the hangar deck. Carols will be sung by the choir and a really varied and brightly amusing program will be given for the entertainment of participants and audience.

The Chaplain has been the guiding spirit and hopes that all will remember this Christmas with some pleasure despite the conditions.

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**Records To Lend**

For the eleven owners of record machines, aboard ship a service has been recently started which has proved popular with the crew. Over 250 recordings are made available to these men and the many that share their listening pleasure. Simply by going to the librarian and choosing from an itemized list these records are loaned for a period of two weeks or longer.

There is a large selection to choose from and no man need be afraid of running short. Albums of Kate Smith, Wayne King Waltzes, The Merry Widow, Tommy Dorsey, Theme Songs, Western Songs are available for the asking.

After a choice has been made the librarian fills out a chit which is presented to the owner of the particular recordings, and a loan is made. The whole activity was made possible through the cooperation of all owners of records. By being pooled in this manner a wider field of entertainment is assured.

**All Hands Who Have Abilities And Talents Who Can Sing, Play Musical Instruments, Or in Any Way Provide Entertainment, Contact the Chaplain or Kinne.**
LOCAL SPORTS

This month I have a comment about a local sport: a star on the basketball team and steady highpoint man. Many are growing weary of hearing his name so reported each evening after a game when the newscaster comes on the air. Always he is listed as the high point man. It never fails.

Why doesn't the rest of the team get chance to come out ahead sometime? There are many excellent players such as Urquidi, Davis, Lenick, Galbreath, Tiley and others all of whom are very capable to carry through as high score men if but given the chance. Many times they are not allowed to play a game through.

True the team has won the huge majority of the games that have been played but it has been the team as a whole which has been responsible for this phenomenal success. Each man from this steady high point player to end of the list equally should share the honors and be granted equal opportunity at these honors. IN THE OFFICE OF MANY A NEW NAVY IN SHIP BOARD SPORTSеньш иdie SHOULD REJOIN. PERHAPS THEY ARE MIGHT. LET'S WAIT AND SEE.

Have You Read This?

Have you ever come to the finish of a book sorry to see it end so soon; sorry that your pleasure is curtailed. Many have. In the library there is a book which has been discarded as the greatest novel about the sea that has ever been written. A dashing story of an English naval captain during and before the Napoleonic Wars which is crammed full of the adventure and love of that era. This novel has the advantage of being of such a length that it does not end suddenly, cutting your reading pleasure.

Captain Horatio Hornblower is the story, four books in one binding, that carries you to South America, to the Mediterranean, and to France where the Captain is made a prisoner and then escapes. It tells of his love for the sister of the Duke of Wellington and how he pursued that love sometimes a little hotly. As a sequel the Library also has Commodore Hornblower which relates his adventures in the Baltic Sea. These novels have all the essentials of excellent entertainment written by that master of story telling, C.S. Forester.
WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST BY BEING IN THE NAVY?

1. STRETCH WILMES ---- "My Hair"
2. L. M. GLASSFORD ---- "Applejack"
3. BULL FLOWERS ------ "Freedom"
4. C. J. THOMAS ------ "Sacktime"
5. R. A. ROMITI ------ "Civilian Saturday Night"

(1) A man with a moustache.
(2) A bottle of "XXX".
(3) A man and woman in a city.
(4) A person sleeping on a bed.
(5) A man and woman in a room with a TV.