

Christmas Story Has Fresh Appeal in War

Dickens Still Reminds Soldiers Of Day's Tender Meaning to All

By H. B., Hdq. Co., SCU
The Christmas thoughts that follow are occasioned by a question which was asked some time ago at a meeting in England. A prominent American was speaking and the English people present wanted to know why certain Americans disliked them. Among their questions was this one:

"Knowing the hatred that Dickens once roused in Americans, is Dickens still read there?"

What a question! It was in 1842 just a century ago, that Charles Dickens came out with his "American Notes." He had traveled about the United States considerably and had written his impressions. They were honest and not flattering. To quote the author himself, in another book:

"As I have never, in writing fiction, had any disposition to soften what is ridiculous or wrong at home, I hope (and believe) that the good people of the United States are not generally disposed to quarrel with me for carrying the same usage abroad."

No doubt Americans were offended. Dickens had been welcomed and honored widely in this country, as a famous English author, and his observations seemed ungracious. But that was long ago. Few read "American Notes" nowadays and those who do are probably amused and inclined to believe that the report by Dickens was not far wrong.

For example, the manners of Congressmen in those days were not exactly polished. They must have been crude, judging by the records, and now, after 100 years, it seems sensible to enjoy such a passage as this:

"I was surprised to observe that even steady old chewers (tobacco) of great experience are not always good marksmen, which has rather inclined me to doubt the general proficiency with a rifle, of which we have heard so much in England. Several gentlemen called upon me who, in the course of conversation, frequently missed the spittoon at five paces; and one (but he was certainly shortsighted) mistook the closed sash for the open window at three.

"On another occasion, when I dined out, and was sitting with two ladies and some gentlemen around

a fire before dinner, one of the company fell short of the fireplace six distinct times."

Possibly Englishmen, reading "American Notes" nowadays, suppose that such conditions still prevail at Washington, but certainly they are wrong in suspecting that Americans bear the English any ill-will because of what Dickens wrote about our manners in the early days.

Read at White House

On the other hand, and especially as Christmas approaches, Americans feel kinship with the British people, and a warm affection for London town, because of that perfect Christmas book which Dickens wrote — "A Christmas Carol." Year after year the President of the United States has read the story aloud, at the White House. Year after year, more children have found in the book a treasure outlasting all of their other gifts. Next to the Gospel account of the Nativity, at least, it is the most cherished of all the tales of Christmas.

Perhaps no other book in our literature has made London seem so real to so many people and surely no other has so richly conveyed the charm of the Anglo-Saxon Christmas at its best. The hearts of old and young are touched perennially by Tiny Tim's faint call, "God bless us, everyone," and at every holiday season innumerable children, reading the book for the first time, have rejoiced in the metamorphosis of old Scrooge and have shared his profound relief that it was not yet too late to keep Christmas day.

But for us at camp the book should have special appeal. I remember how it impressed me in the Alabama training camp where I passed a Christmas Eve before going to France in the other war, and again how it moved me at Rome, in Christmas of 1921.

For the Ghost of Christmas Present takes old Scrooge to remote places, and shows him people far from home, still all keeping Christmas.

Remember how they stood on a bleak and desert moor, and entered a mud and stone hut where miners lived? "But they know me, Seel!" said the Spirit to Scrooge and showed him "An old, old man and woman, with their children and their children's children, and another generation beyond that, all decked out gaily in their holiday attire. The old man, in a voice that seldom rose above the howling of the wind upon the barren waste, was singing them a Christmas song; it had been a very old song when he was a boy, and from time to time they all joined in the chorus. So surely as they raised their voices, the old man got quite blithe and loud, and so surely as they stopped, his vigor sank again."

It's Christmas Everywhere
Then they visited a lighthouse and a ship at sea:
"They stood beside the helmsman at the wheel, the look-out in the bow, the officers who had the watch, dark, ghostly figures in their several stations; but every man among them hummed a tune, or had a Christmas thought, or spoke below his breath to some companion of some bygone Christmas."

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His comrades congratulate Sergeant Clarence D. Leach, Timber Wolf division artillery men, on being awarded the soldier's medal. From left, Technician, 5th Grade, William O. Skaggs, promoted from private for beating out a fire in Leach's clothing; Leach, Corporal Glen A. St. Marie; Corporal Frank M. Arnold and Technical Sergeant William J. Sweeney.

More damage than our enemies can do--

There is a stark truth with such grave possible consequences that every adult in the land must be made to understand it; and soon.

Make the situation personal, and the exact nature of this almost universal guilt becomes sharper. Take out \$18.75 from your wallet or handbag. Last week or last month you earned that much (no doubt far more) over and above what you need to live upon. With it you could have bought a War Savings Bond that would mature at \$25. Perhaps you intended to. Nevertheless you did not. And by that sheer neglect you forced the Federal Government to create exactly \$18.75 of new money to pay war bills—bills which could have been paid with that money you now hold gingerly in your hand. Nor is this the full story. Month after month—by not using your excess earnings to buy WAR SAVINGS BONDS—you keep forcing the Government to create just so much new money to make up for your delinquency. Simultaneously tens of millions of others are guilty of the same destructive procrastination. These multitudinous little sins of omission, on the part of millions of whole-hearted patriots, can easily add up to as much disaster as anything the Germans and Japanese can do to destroy American civilization! **THINK CLEARLY, SAVE, FOR A "CLASS A PAY RESERVATION."**

OFFICE OF THE WAR BOND OFFICER
CAMP ADAIR, OREGON

mas day, with homeward hopes belonging to it. And every man on board, waking or sleeping, good or bad, had had a kinder thought for one another on that day than on any other day in the year; and had shared to some extent in its festivities; and had remembered those he cared for at a distance, and had known that they delighted to remember him."

No author ever gave us a more vivid idea of the universality of Christmas among the peoples to whom it can mean anything at all. Take this:
"The Spirit stood beside sick beds, and they were cheerful; on foreign lands, and they were close at home; by struggling men, and they were patient in their greater hope; by poverty, and it was rich. In almshouse, hospital and jail, in misery's every refuge, where vain man in his little, brief authority had not made fast the door, and barred the Spirit out, he left his blessing, and taught Scrooge his precepts."

Cooking With Gas
By T. S. Rolland C. Rogers
Of Cooks and Bakers School

One hundred fifty alarm clocks stationed at Camp Adair went on furlough this week but authorities warned that the vacation would be brief.

The clocks are the personal property of members of the December graduating class of the Camp Adair Branch, 9th Service Command School for Bakers and Cooks, which, according to Major W. H. Feldmiller, Assistant Commandant, is the largest cooks class yet graduated by this branch.

All but six of the graduates are Air Corps men who are headed for air force kitchens all over the world where their alarm clocks will compete with plane motors as wakers-uppers.

The December graduates include privates first class Augustino Ardito, Louis Masell, Albert Marcotte, Salvatore Siano, Henry Sellner, James A. Pierce, George W. Kizer, Windal Driskell, Raymond Chicoine, Curtis Cavin, John Cat-

mond, Alexander G. Aguilar, Innocent Andrede, John Hayes, Granville E. Polley, Francis C. Mitchell, Thomas D. Marzell, Charlie R. Carroll, Garland E. Enyart, Hugo J. Lazzaroni, William C. Ludwig.
Joe A. Romero, Henry E. Shipley, Otis M. Wood, Marvin Brown, Albert L. Jones, James Roy Price, Joseph A. Thomas, Miguel M. Carrasco, Clarence L. Dixon, Leo E. Drorsier, Cecil H. Snyder, Charles E. Bartlett, Sam Dotson, Eloy J. Zamora, Laverne Olsen, Anthony Fisses, Jr.
T 4th Jaren P. McNeil, T/6th Thomas F. Cussen.
Pvts. Grant L. Allgaier and Claire L. Hutchins.

The most sparsely populated country in the world is Australia, with two persons per square mile.

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outfits in the news columns of The Sentry. Turn your stuff in to the Camp Public Relations office, where it goes through censorship and is prepared for publication.

Looking For a Telephone?
The Camp Adair Service Men's Telephone Center (with 14 booths) is located on Theatre Av. (Central Area) opposite Theatre No. 4. Trained attendants are on duty from 1000 to 2300 daily and 0900 to 2300 Sundays and holidays. They'll assist you gladly.
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CAMP ADAIR THEATRES

Weekly Program for Theater No. 1

Thursday, December 3—
● WHO DONE IT (Abbott and Costello)
MARCH OF TIME
MOVIETONE NEWS
Saturday, December 5—
● BOSTON BLACKIE GOES HOLLYWOOD (Chester Morris-Richard Lane)
● X MARKS THE SPOT (Jack LaRue-Neil Hamilton)
Tuesday, December 8—
● GENTLEMAN JIM (Errol Flynn-Alexis Smith)
THE DUMBCONSCIOUS MIND
Friday, December 4—
● THE MOON AND SIXPENCE (George Sanders-Herbert Marshall)
OUR LAST FRONTIER
A HULL OF A MESS
Sunday-Monday, December 6-7—
● ROAD TO MOROCCO (Bing Crosby-Bob Hope)
SO THIS IS AMERICA
MOVIETONE NEWS
Wednesday, December 9—
● FOR ME AND MY GAL (Judy Garland-Gene Kelly)
MOVIETONE NEWS

Weekly Program for Theaters No. 3 and 4

Thursday, December 3—
● THE MOON AND SIXPENCE (George Sanders-Herbert Marshall)
OUR LAST FRONTIER
A HULL OF A MESS
Sunday, December 6—
● GENTLEMAN JIM (Errol Flynn-Alexis Smith)
THE DUMBCONSCIOUS MIND
Tuesday-Wednesday, December 8-9—
● ROAD TO MOROCCO (Bing Crosby-Bob Hope)
SO THIS IS AMERICA
MOVIETONE NEWS
Friday-Saturday, December 4-5—
● WHO DONE IT (Abbott and Costello)
MARCH OF TIME
MOVIETONE NEWS
Monday, December 7—
● BOSTON BLACKIE GOES HOLLYWOOD (Chester Morris-Richard Lane)
● X MARKS THE SPOT (Jack LaRue-Neil Hamilton)

Weekly Program for Theater No. 5

Thursday-Friday, December 3-4—
● THE NAVY COMES THROUGH (Pat O'Brien-Jane Wyatt)
ODDITIES
MOVIETONE NEWS
Sunday-Monday, December 6-7—
● FOR ME AND MY GAL (Judy Garland-Gene Kelly)
MOVIETONE NEWS
Wednesday, December 9—
● NIGHTMARE (Diana Barrymore-Brian Donlevy)
ANDY PANDA'S VICTORY GARDEN
THE SPORTS I. Q.
Saturday, December 5—
● GENTLEMAN JIM (Errol Flynn-Alexis Smith)
THE DUMBCONSCIOUS MIND
Tuesday, December 8—
● BOSTON BLACKIE GOES HOLLYWOOD (Chester Morris-Richard Lane)
● X MARKS THE SPOT (Jack LaRue-Neil Hamilton)

THEATER LOCATIONS AND SHOW TIMES

	1st performance	2nd Perf.	Mat. Sunday
No. 1—Ave. C & S, 7th St. Phone 2243	1830	2030	1400
No. 3—Ave. D & N, 7th St. Phone 3293	1800	2000 (No Mat.)	
No. 4—Theatre Ave. Ph. 2940 (Theater Officer)	1845	2045	1400
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