

A WHITE CHRISTMAS IN KRINKELTER



FITTING TRIBUTE to the men who fight on far-off fronts this Christmas is this striking photograph of Allied infantrymen moving up over the snowy wastes of no-man's-land. James Thrasher's editorial expresses our deep appreciation for the selfless service of our fighting men.

BY JAMES THRASHER, NEA Staff Writer

A white Christmas, and back home some luckier guys were having a hot turkey dinner, and a cigar afterwards, and dry clothes and a fire. But here the Krauts had forgotten to take time off for the holiday. They were hell-bent on going places and somebody had to stop them, Christmas or no Christmas.

So they walked across the fields outside of Krinkelter on Christmas, with guns slung over their shoulders and cold feet in their boots.

And some of them thought, "Well, maybe next year."

DREDS OF GERMAN MANPOWER



While Germany apparently was massing its "crack" troops behind the lines for the current counter-offensive, the Volkssturm — German People's Army comprising old men and boys — was dispatched to defend the Siegfried Line. But the above members didn't stay in the fight for long — they were captured by Allied Army Forces.

82... AND STILL SWINGING



Comic Mack celebrates 82nd birthday in Los Angeles, where he is enjoying one of his rare vacations. The only manager of the Philadelphia Athletics ever to give signs behind a catcher's mitt just as he did 60 years ago, an indication, no doubt, that he will still run the works at Shibe Park in 1945.

CANADA'S 8TH. WINNER OF V.C.



Canada's Eighth and British Columbia's Fifth winner of the coveted Victoria Cross is Pte. Ernest Alvin (Smoky) Smith, 30, the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. "Smoky," the one man Army as he is known, showed outstanding courage and determination in establishing a bridgehead over the Savio River which led to the capture of the Town of Cesena. At point black range, he destroyed two German tanks, and shot it out with the tank some infantry.

Eighth Canadian in this war to win the highest award for valor in the British Empire, Pte. Smith is the first Canadian V.C. of the present war below the rank of commissioned officer. He hails from the town of New Westminster, B.C., & Major John Mahoney, who was awarded the V.C. in July.

Twice wounded before the brilliant action which won him the Victoria Cross, Smith had been in action with the Seaforth Highlanders throughout their long and tough campaign in Sicily and Italy, with the exception of two months spent in hospital in North Africa.

He was first wounded in Sicily on August 4, 1943, and was shipped to North Africa for hospitalization. He was wounded again in February 1944, when the Seaforths crossed the shell-torn Moro river, blocking the road to Ortona.

Pte. Smith was born at New Westminster on May 3, 1914, and lived there until he enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada on March 5, 1940. He has been overseas since July 15, 1940.

"Smoky" and his two brothers are serving in the Canadian Active Army. Jack, aged 25, is with the Canadian Scottish "somewhere in Europe" and Burton, father, of three children is with the Saint John Fusiliers.

Following is the complete citation covering the award of the Victoria Cross to Pte. Smith:

"In Italy on the night of 21-22 October, 1944, a Canadian infantry brigade was ordered to establish a bridgehead across the Savio river. The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, who were selected as the spearhead of the attack and in weather most unfavorable to the operation they crossed the river and captured their objective, in spite of strong opposition from the enemy.

Torrential rain had caused the Savio river to rise six feet in five hours and as the soft vertical banks made it impossible to bridge the river no tanks or anti-tank guns could be taken across the raging stream to the support of the rifle companies.

As the right forward company was consolidating its objective it was suddenly counter-attacked by a troop of three Mark Five Panzer tanks supported by two self-propelled guns and about thirty infantry. The situation appeared almost hopeless.

Under heavy fire from the approaching enemy tanks, Pte. Smith showing great initiative and inspiring leadership led his flat group of two men across an open field to a position from which the flat could best be employed. Leaving one man on the weapon, Pte. Smith crossed the road with a companion and obtained another flat. Almost immediately an enemy tank came down the road firing its machine guns along the line of the ditch. Pte. Smith's comrade was wounded.

At a range of 200 feet and having to expose himself to the full view of the enemy, Pte. Smith fired the flat and hit the tank, putting it out of action. The German infantry immediately jumped off the back of the tank and charged him with machine guns and grenades. Without hesitation Pte. Smith moved out onto the road and at point black range with his Tommy gun killed four Germans and drove the remainder back. Almost immediately another tank opened fire and more enemy infantry closed in on Smith's position. Obtaining some abandoned Tommy gun magazines from a ditch, he steadfastly held his position protecting his comrade and fighting the enemy with his Tommy gun until they finally gave up and withdrew in disorder.

"One tank and both self-propelled guns had been destroyed by this time but another tank swept the area with fire from a longer range. Pte. Smith still showing utter contempt for enemy fire helped his wounded comrade to cover and obtained medical aid for him. He then returned to his position beside the road to the possibility of a further enemy attack.

Bridgehead held. "No further immediate attack developed and as a result the battalion was able to consolidate the bridgehead position so vital to the success of the whole operation which led to the eventual capture of a Lorgo Cosene and a further advance to the Ronco river.

This by dogged determination and devotion to duty and his own pluck, Pte. Smith has shown a superb gallantry of this private soldier, his comrades were so inspired that the bridgehead was held against all enemy attacks pending the arrival of tanks and anti-tank guns some hours later."

LOOKING DOWN IN THE MOUTH



When George Blackman, attendant at San Francisco's Fleischbacher Zoo, lost a bucket, he immediately checked up on two-ton Pebbles, the hippopotamus. Above, Pebbles says "A-a-h" to prove he didn't swallow the bucket.

OTTAWA REPORTS

That Canadian Farmers Have Achieved a Remarkable Record of Food Production During Five Years of War.

The farmers of Canada, says the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, finished the season of 1944, after five years of war, conscious that they had accomplished in five years the most remarkable job of food production on record. Production figures presented to the annual Dominion-provincial conference held in Ottawa in December told the story of this achievement.

In 1944 production was the greatest on record, more than 25% higher than in 1939. Farmers produced 10% more total milk in 1944; 10% more butter, 60% more cheese and 70% more evaporated milk. Eggs and poultry figures were the highest on record.

The Federation, as the national voice of organized agriculture in Canada, had a prominent role in the conference. The president, H. H. Hannam, who with seven members of the executive, sat at the Dominion-provincial conference table, emphasized the importance of this type of planning in production from year to year to bring farmers into partnership in planning the direction of necessary production adjustments in a constructive way. The working out of a system of floor prices was the next step, Mr. Hannam said. He added that organized marketing would need to be carried into the international field.

Of Canadian co-operative enterprises telephone services are the most numerous with a total of 8,287, according to the latest data compiled by the "Economic Annals," published by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. This is for 1942-43. Credit unions are next, numbering 1,750; dairy industry co-operatives number 446; food products, 518; petroleum and auto accessories, 400; feed, fertilizer, etc., 628; farmers' mutual insurance co-operatives, 400; coal, wood and building material, 417; clothing and home furnishings, 229; livestock, 225; fruits and vegetables, 161; grains and seeds, 105; poultry, 104; machinery, 122; fishermen, 67; hospital care, 60; miscellaneous merchandising, 635; miscellaneous marketing, 14; honey, 4.

Payment of war service gratuities to discharged personnel will be commenced soon after the first of the New Year. The re-establishment credit, it is estimated, cannot be paid until the discharged person has applied for his war service gratuity and received a statement of the amount for which he is eligible.

A blinded war veteran, Major E. A. Dunlop of Toronto, has been appointed chief of the disability training and placement branch of the Dominion Government's Department of Veterans Affairs, the minister, Hon. Ian MacKenzie, has announced. Major Dunlop lost his sight in a training accident in England when he heroically picked up a live bomb dropped by a soldier in an effort to remove the danger.

FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE



War brides who arrived in Montreal included an English girl who has become as famous for her personal bravery as for her good looks. She is Mrs. Sonia D'Artois, shown above with her husband, Capt. Guy D'Artois. Both parachuted into France to help organize Maquis resistance to the German armies of occupation. Previously they had been married after meeting at a paratroop training centre in England. Shown with them is Capt. D'Artois' little niece, Claudette Courchesne.

THEIR FREEDOMS

Someone has listed the Four Freedoms which man should assure to his animal friends. They are: Freedom from Hunger, Freedom from Thirst, Freedom from Neglect, and Freedom from Exposure.

—Halifax Herald.

Have You Heard?

A young wife, writing to announce the birth of her first child to a friend in a distant city, telegraphed, "Iain's 9." Which passage begins: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."

Her friend, unfamiliar with the Scriptures, said to her husband, "Margaret evidently has a boy who weighs nine pounds and six ounces, but why on earth did they name him Iain?"

Patron: "May I have some statistics?" Hotel Clerk: "Are you a guest of this hotel?" Patron: "Hark, no. I'm paying \$3 a day."

Pate: Lend me a shovel to get my friend out of the bog. Farmer: How far has he sunk down? Pat: Up to his ankles. Farmer: Can't he get out himself? Pat: Ah, but he fell in head first.

Uncle: "So this is the young hopeful, eh? Why, I looked just like him at that age."

What's he crying about? Title Niece: "He must have heard what you said."

To Learn Farming The Hard Way

When training of soldiers who wish to farm, is begun in Canada, one feature that should not be neglected is the care and management of farm animals, says the Hon. Duncan Marshall. If the man to undergo such training has no farm experience the only way to give such a training is on a farm where livestock is a chief feature, and the time should be taken to do this. The idea that a man unacquainted with livestock can learn by lectures is too foolish to be considered.

Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

1. If a guest makes a blunder at the table, it is necessary that the hostess do the same thing in order to put the guest at ease? 2. If a formal wedding is to take place at noon or during the afternoon, what should a man wear while attending it? 3. Is it necessary that the full name be engraved on a visiting card? 4. Should a girl write notes of thanks for bridal shower gifts that are sent to her, or is this only necessary for wedding gifts? 5. When eating cherries or grapes at the table, what is the correct way to remove the stones from the mouth? 6. Does it show good manners to send social invitations by telephone?

Answers

1. No; the hostess should ignore the blunder and pretend that she doesn't see it. 2. A customary coat, with striped trousers. 3. Yes, she must thank the donor of any gift. If she didn't it would show lack of appreciation. 4. Remove the stone with the points of the finger and place it on the plate. 5. Yes.

Something Missing: Big Ben's Chimes

When dawn came one morning last week Londoners "within range" of the Capital's famed clock, Big Ben, missed something. He was not chiming. His hands stopped for the second time during five long years of war. They were stuck at 10:47.

They remained there for more than 12 hours while men in the clock room tried to find out what was wrong. The Ministry of Works explained that Big Ben had stopped owing to a mechanical defect.

Big Ben has stopped only a few times in its 80 years. Snow and ice on the hands, a painter's ladder, a rat's nest, and a piece of Nazi shrapnel in the 1941 blitz, a workman's hammer, have been among the reasons.

Nazis Acting Like Plague Of Locusts

The Germans are "acting like a plague of locusts," striking the country of all food and movable equipment and leaving its cities in ruins, the head of the Czechoslovak Government declared for Liberated Territory charged Dec. 14.

There's 'Moon-Glow' Over South Coast

For the first time since the start of the war, blackout restrictions were relaxed last week at Dover, Folkestone, Hythe, New Romney, Lydd and other coastal towns and adjoining rural areas.

The modification was similar to the half-light, or "moon-glow," now general in London.

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