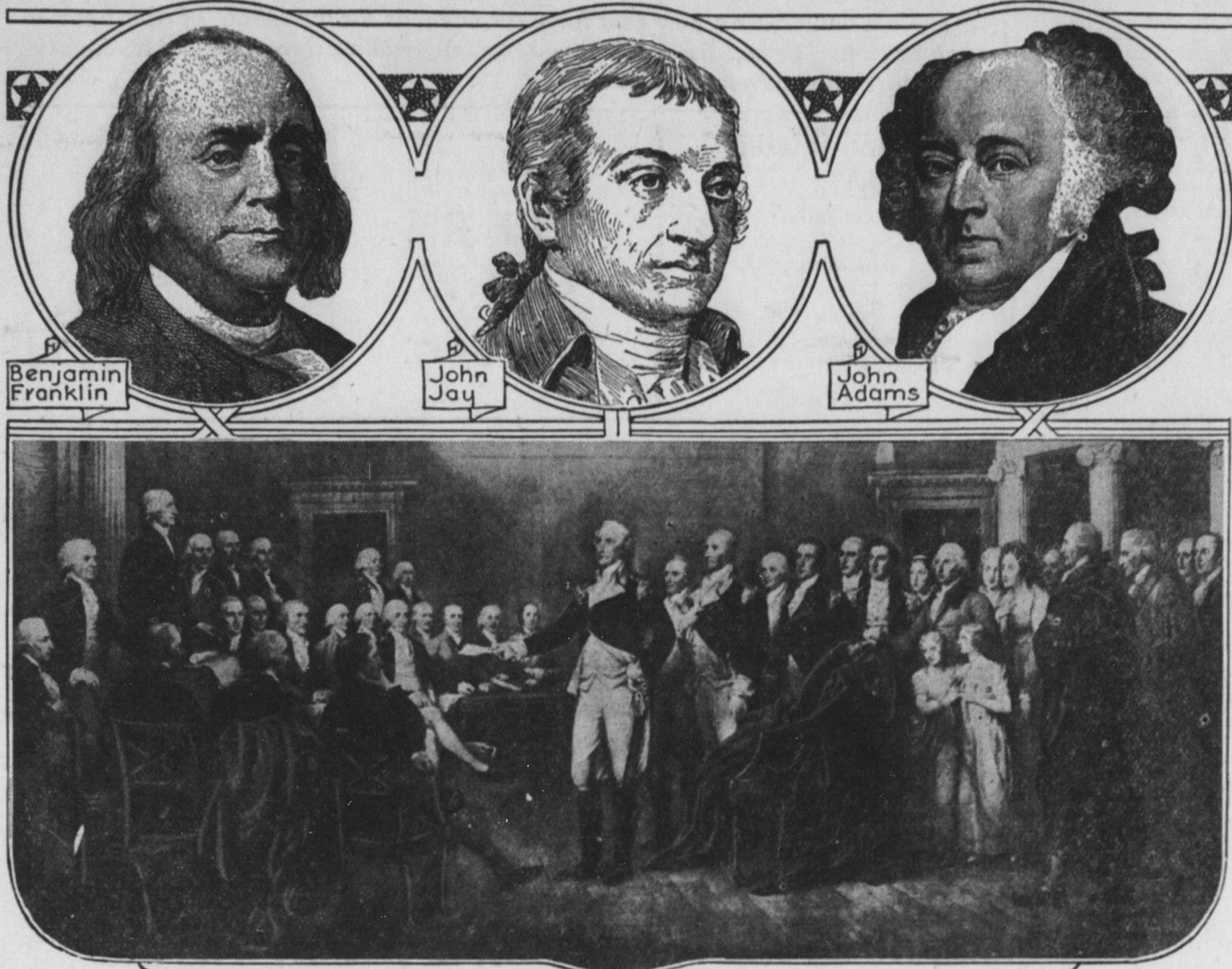


The First "ARMISTICE DAY"



Washington Resigning His Commission, Dec. 23, 1783

(TRUMBULL)

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

THE eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in the year 1918, the guns, which for more than four years had been roaring in western Europe all along the line from Switzerland to Holland, were silenced and to a waiting world was flashed the welcome message "The Armistice has been signed!" That is the event which we celebrate each year on November 11 and which we regard as the "end of the World war."

As a matter of fact, it wasn't. The World war didn't end for us officially until nearly three years later. True, actual hostilities ended on November 11, 1918, but there still remained the signing of peace treaties with our late enemies—the Treaty of Versailles with Germany on June 28, 1919; the Treaty of St. Germain with Austria on September 10, 1919; the Treaty of Neuilly with Bulgaria on November 27, 1919; the Treaty of the Grand Trianon with Hungary on June 4, 1920; and finally the Treaty of Sevres with Turkey on August 10, 1920.

Even with these treaties signed, the actual "end of the war" was still a year away. For peace treaties must be ratified by the United States senate and because the Treaty of Versailles included a provision for American membership in the newly organized League of Nations, the senate on March 19, 1920, rejected the treaty which President Wilson had presented to it for ratification. Immediately thereafter Senator Philander C. Knox of Pennsylvania introduced a resolution repealing the declarations of war and reserving to the United States all the benefits given it in the Versailles treaty. This resolution passed both houses of congress in April and May, 1920, but on May 27 President Wilson vetoed it as "an ineffaceable stain upon the gallantry and honor of the United States."

Meanwhile the Treaty of Versailles had been ratified by Germany and the principal allied powers and the League of Nations had come into existence. But when Woodrow Wilson retired from the White House, a broken man with his most cherished project rejected by the country, the United States was still outside the League of Nations, the treaty was still unratified and, officially, we were still at war with the Central Powers. When Warren G. Harding became President, the Knox resolution was revived in congress, again passed and on July 2, 1921, President Harding signed it. So July 2, 1921, rather than November 11, 1918, marked the official "end of the World war" for the United States.

There is an interesting parallel between the length of time which elapsed from the cessation of hostilities to the official end of the world war and a similar period in bringing to a conclusion the first war in which we, as a nation, ever engaged—the Revolution. Ask the average American when the Revolution ended and he will probably say: "Why, when Cornwallis surrendered, of course!" But in saying that he is just as incorrect as he is in regarding November 11, 1918, as the final curtain on the drama of the World war.

On October 19, 1781, a British army marched out from Yorktown, Va., to the tune of "The World Turned Upside Down" and handed over its arms to the combined French and American armies commanded by Count de Rochambeau and Gen. George Washington. Within 24 hours couriers mounted on swift horses were speeding northward, rousing "every village and farm" with the thrilling word "Cornwallis is taken!" Everywhere the news was received with delight by the Patriots and with dismay by the Loyalists or Tories. Impromptu celebrations in honor of the glorious news were organized in many places, but much of the hysteria and wild jubilation which swept the whole country on November 11, 1918, was lacking in October, 1781.

With no telegraph, telephone or radio or other means of quick communication there was no way of spreading the news simultaneously throughout the 13 states which then comprised the nation, hence no one day was given over everywhere to the celebration as there was 16 years ago this month. For instance, it was not until October 24, five days after the surrender, that there appeared on the streets of Philadelphia, only 200 miles from Yorktown, a broadside which said:

ILLUMINATION
Colonel Tilghman, Aide de Camp to his Ex-

cellency General Washington, having brought official accounts of the SURRENDER of Lord Cornwallis and the GARRISONERS of York and Gloucester, those Citizens who chose to ILLUMINATE on the Glorious Occasion, will do it this evening at Six and extinguish their lights at Nine o'clock. Decorum and harmony are earnestly recommended to every Citizen, and a general discountenance to the least appearance of riot.

Although the school book histories give us the impression that the Revolution ended abruptly with the surrender of Cornwallis, it was far from being as simple as all that. Charleston and Savannah were still held by the British. So was New York where Sir Henry Clinton, although outwitted by Washington in his quick dash to trap Cornwallis, still had a strong army that was a perpetual threat against the American line of defense along the Hudson.

The surrender at Yorktown was a stunning blow to British prestige, but it did not mean that the stubborn Briton was ready to give up yet. True, as our school book histories tell us, Lord North, upon receiving news of the disaster, "threw up his arms as though struck by a cannon ball and cried out: 'My God, it is all over! It is all over!'" But when parliament convened, King George III made a speech which indicated his determination to continue the war, and, hearing of this, Washington knew that his task was far from being ended. So he sent urgent appeals to the states not to relax their efforts, made plans for a stronger army than ever before and, after a brief stop at Mount Vernon and a short stay in Philadelphia where he conferred with a committee from congress on the measures necessary for the next campaign, marched his Continentals back to Newburgh on the Hudson, where for the next few months he lay watching Clinton in New York.

But Clinton showed no desire to make a move and for the next year the two armies adopted a policy of "watchful waiting." During this time there was some raiding by marauding bands of Tories and Patriots, but there were no major military movements in the northern theater of war. The conflict there had become a stalemate.

Down in the South a bitter partisan warfare was still being waged. After Yorktown, "Mad Anthony" Wayne had been sent to help Gen. Nathaniel Greene regain South Carolina and Georgia from the enemy and in a series of minor skirmishes he defeated the Creek Indian allies of the British, scattered parties of Tory raiders and ousted several small British garrisons from the towns they were holding. Then he marched against Savannah, forced the British to evacuate it in July, 1782, and joined Greene in the siege of Charleston which the British gave up in December.

So in both the North and South hostilities had virtually ceased by the middle of the year. But out in the West the war was still raging in a fearful form unknown on the Atlantic seaboard except in the blood-drenched Mohawk valley of New York. Indian scalping parties, led by British and Canadian officers, were assailing the Pennsylvania and Virginia borders and the Kentucky settlements.

In August, 1782, the men and women of Bryant's Station successfully withstood such an attack, only to have their victory followed by the disaster at Blue Licks on August 19 when the flower of Kentucky's man power was destroyed in this "Last Battle of the Revolution," so called because it was the last pitched battle between forces of any considerable size. On September 11 a wave of savage fury once more beat against the palisaded walls of Fort Henry (Wheeling, W. Va.) where Betty Zane won immortality with her dash through a hail of bullets to carry powder to the defenders of the fort. This attack was also repulsed as were others against other outposts of the frontier, but for many months afterwards there hung over the West the shadow of fear of the Redskins, a kind of fear which the Redskins had never been able to inspire in the East.

In the meantime the march of events across the Atlantic was rapidly bringing the war nearer and nearer to an end. Even before Yorktown the English nation was tired of a war which gave it more debts than victories and which had been denounced more than once by members of the Whig party. After Yorktown King George was about the only one who wanted to keep on with

the war, but eventually even he gave up all hope of subduing the Americans. However, he stubbornly insisted that he would never give up Georgia or Charleston or New York.

On March 5, 1782, parliament passed a bill to enable the king to make peace with America. Fifteen days later Lord North, bowing to the storm of opposition to the king's plan of renewing hostilities, resigned, and the Whigs, under Lord Rockingham, formed a new ministry with the understanding that American independence should be acknowledged. Rockingham died in July and was succeeded by Lord Shelburne, who was also committed to a policy of making peace.

Shelburne had been a friend of Benjamin Franklin, who was then our minister to France, and through his agent, Richard Oswald, a Scotch merchant, the British minister opened negotiations with his American friend to discuss peace terms. Franklin had the assistance of John Jay, who had been in Spain seeking an alliance with that country; John Adams, American minister to Holland; and Henry Laurens, then a prisoner in England; and during the summer of 1782 their negotiations with Oswald proceeded smoothly. Finally on November 30, Franklin, Jay, Adams and Oswald signed a preliminary treaty of peace, which was not, strictly speaking, a treaty but a protocol, the articles of which were to be subsequently incorporated in a formal treaty after Great Britain had come to terms with France, America's ally.

This protocol of November 30, 1782, is analogous to the armistice of November 11, 1918, in that, under its terms, hostilities in America were to cease at once and upon completion of the treaty the British fleets and armies were to be immediately withdrawn from every place which they held within the limits of the United States. It is also analogous in that it was the first written agreement between representatives of the two nations at war looking toward a formal treaty of peace. So November has a double significance to Americans as the "month of the armistice"—the armistice of the Revolution and the armistice of the World war.

Even with this important step taken, nine months were to elapse before the final treaty of peace was signed and another nine months before ratification of the treaty definitely ended the war. On January 20, 1783, the preliminary articles of the treaty of peace were signed in Paris. The news arrived in America on March 23, in a letter to the president of congress from Lafayette and a few days later Sir Guy Carleton, who had succeeded Sir Henry Clinton as British commander in New York, received his orders from the ministry to proclaim a cessation of hostilities on land and sea.

A similar proclamation, made by congress, was formally announced to the army by Washington. He chose April 19, the anniversary of the Battle of Lexington, as the date for this historic announcement.

After this proclamation Washington granted furloughs to most of the army and the weather-beaten Continentals scattered to their homes and tried to adapt themselves to civil life again. On November 3 the army was formally disbanded and three weeks later Sir Guy Carleton's army sailed away from New York. On December 4 occurred that profoundly touching incident in France's Tavern where Washington said farewell to his officers. He was on his way to Annapolis, where congress was in session, to resign his commission and on December 23 that historic scene, which has been immortalized in Trumbull's painting, was enacted. Then Washington hastened on to Mount Vernon, there to spend the first happy Christmas he had known for nine years.

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, another important episode in the drama of the Revolution had taken place. One September morning, to the lodgings in Paris of David Hartley, agent of the British who had succeeded Oswald, came his friend, Benjamin Franklin. The great philosopher-diplomat was accompanied by his little grandson, Benjamin Franklin Bache, by John Adams, John Jay and Henry Laurens. There on September 3, 1783, the definitive treaty of peace was signed. Early in 1784 congress accepted the treaty and in May ratifications of it were exchanged by Great Britain and the United States. The Revolution was over.

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Movies Teaching Chinese Fine Art of Osculation

In old China it was highly offensive for a woman so much as to touch the hand of any man not her husband, and for her to touch even her husband's hand in public was forbidden. In young China, when unmarried couples began to associate in public in the western manner, they scrupulously observed the taboo against even the slightest physical contact; today, however, it is very common in Shanghai to see Chinese couples, eager to imitate screen heroes and heroines, walking along the street hand in hand or with their arms around each other, and "petting" in the parks is not unknown.

Another once unsanctioned familiarity between men and women is kissing. The kiss is by no means unknown in the East, but it never has been so extensively nor so casually indulged in as in the West. No longer than ten years ago a kiss in public was more shocking to the Chinese than nudism probably still is to most Americans. Early Chinese motion pictures contained no kissing scenes; such a display in public in western motion pictures was enough of a sensation without any defiance of the national code by Chinese actors and actresses. In 1920, however, Olive Young, an American-born Chinese cinema star, ventured a kiss that was shown only in silhouette through a semi-transparent screen. Chinese audiences gasped when they saw it, even as Victorian audiences did at first hearing the word "bloody" from the stage. Today, however, kissing is almost as popular with young China as with young America, though it still is not indulged in so publicly as in Paris.

Only within the past two years the cinema has markedly altered sexual attitudes in yet another way. Somewhat earlier, when Chinese girls first began to choose their own husbands and their friends among young men they displayed a quite different taste from that of western girls. Athletes, "cave men" and similar types were viewed with disfavor, and hsiao pai mien, or "little white face"—something, in brief, like Mei Lan-fang, the female impersonator—was the ideal. So, because modern young men wanted modern girls and modern girls were few in proportion to the number of modern young men, the youths sought to conform to the feminine standards. When a foreign teacher once asked a number of his students on a beach near Shanghai why they avoided the sun they answered frankly, "If we get sunburned, the

girls won't go out with us." But men of the vigorously masculine type that are idolized by American cinema audiences are now coming to their own in China.—Wilbur Burton in Asia Magazine.

Nanking Permits Widows Freedom of Remarriage

Another step in the emancipation of Chinese women has been recorded by an order issued at Nanking by the Kiangling Hsien, or district government. Under this order a widow has complete freedom of choice whether she shall remarry or remain single.

Under the old custom a widow could remarry only under direct orders of the family of her late husband. In the Kiangling district it has been customary for families to force a widow to remarry in order that they might recover the money which her late husband had paid out to her family when she was a bride.

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