

SAMMEES SHARE YULETIDE JOYS

French Kiddies Counted in on Christmas Celebration of Pershing's Men

ONE GLOOMY FEATURE

Only a Small Proportion of Gifts From Home Delivered to Soldiers

By HENRI BAZIN

FIELD HEADQUARTERS OF THE AMERICAN ARMY, Dec. 26. The first "regular American" Christmas on European battlefields is history today, just as the first American child died at the German has become history.

Huge turkey dinners, with all the trimmings, and Yuletide entertainments delighted the stomachs and hearts of the Sammees. And they, in turn, delighted the French kiddies with gifts and fun.

ONE GLOOMY SPOT

There was one gloomy spot. Only a relatively small proportion of the soldiers received gifts from home on time because the great mass of Christmas presents for the boys were tardily delivered.

But it was a real Christmas despite the one disappointment. The best Christmas yet was staged in the marine camp where many Philadelphia sea soldiers are quartered.

The show was staged in an improvised theatre—an ancient horse market. Light hundred feet down to each side, Torrance and it went so well and the horse market was so small that the show here went nearly all day, with the promise of an "afternoon's looking" as that may see it.

Many thousands of francs were realized at the show and entertainments for the benefit of the orphaned French children. One of these shows realized \$3000 through admissions and the sale of autographed programs signed by Jeter, Pershing and other army notables.

The organized benefits for the kiddies were not all. The warm-hearted Sammees individually donated many presents for stray bits of tiny French humanity that looked so woebegone and lost in the war.

FURLOUGHED SOLDIERS BACK TO CAMP TODAY

Thousands Will Leave on Special Trains for Dix and Meade

Today will end the Christmas holiday of 8000 of Philadelphia's selected men. With memories filled with visions of the Yuletide season, pictures of home, or of relatives and friends, the boys who "came back" for the festive season, will leave tonight on special trains carrying them back to the great army cantonments.

In hundreds of homes Christmas dinners were shared with the boys in khaki who had been given a few days off duty to be back home with mother, father, sister or wife and children.

At all of the clubs, including the service clubs and hotels, special entertainments were provided for the soldiers. While they were informal, the right spirit predominated and the men were made to feel thoroughly at home.

That the 8000 men back for the day were enjoying themselves was shown by their absence from the streets. Except when seen accompanying relatives and friends, few were found in the central section of the city.

Special trains leaving the city for Camp Meade will leave over the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between 4 p. m. and 6 p. m. today. The Pennsylvania will run one special from the Broad street station. It will leave at 6 p. m.

The specials over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad will leave the Twenty-fourth and Chestnut streets station between 4 p. m. and 5 p. m. In all, seven specials will be run by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The Rev. Samuel C. Huston Dead Stricken with heart disease in the Chelton avenue railroad station, on Monday, the Rev. Samuel C. Huston, a well-known Presbyterian clergyman, died before medical aid could be summoned.

SKATING PROVES A POPULAR HOLIDAY DIVERSION FOR ENLISTED MEN



Many Philadelphia boys in the service who are so fortunate as to be at runners on the lakes around the city. The men who are here seen at the Boston Navy Yard, Newport News, the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Camp Meade.

KHAKI BRIDEGROOMS LEAD CUPID'S MARCH

Christmas Wedding Record Is Smashed by Army and Navy Gallants

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. America is not only going to war—but to the altar. Records for Christmas marriages have been broken throughout the country during the last forty-eight hours.

Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston and other cities also reported record-breaking marriage figures. Reports gathered from various cities follow: Philadelphia—All records broken: 208 licenses Monday, as against 89 in 1916.

Chicago—Two hundred and thirty-six Christmas licenses this year, as against 191 last year. About one-fourth sold.

St. Louis—Twenty-seven marriages; double that of last year. Cincinnati—Ninety-eight this year, compared with 46 last year. One-third soldiers.

SONS CHEER ROOSEVELT Cablegram From Front Increases His Christmas Joy

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—A cablegram from his sons at the front brought joy to Colonel Roosevelt.

"We heard from our boys today," he told a reporter who called him in the telephone at Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay, "and so we had a very happy Christmas."

HEAVILY SENTENCED FOR RIOT NEAR CAMP

Negro Sergeant Must Serve Five Years, With Discharge at End of Term

CAMP MEADE, Md., Dec. 26. Found guilty of participation in a riot at Shilpie several weeks ago, Sergeant Willie Watts, a negro attached to Motortruck Company No. 53, must serve five years in a military prison, forfeit all pay and allowances due him and accept a dishonorable discharge from the army at the expiration of his sentence.

Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston and other cities also reported record-breaking marriage figures. Reports gathered from various cities follow: Philadelphia—All records broken: 208 licenses Monday, as against 89 in 1916.

HOME FROM FRONT VISIT Governor of Rhode Island Returns From France—Conveyed President's Greetings

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Dec. 26.—Governor Beaman, of Rhode Island, who went to visit the American forces in France and to convey to them a personal message of greeting from President Wilson, reached port yesterday on a British liner.

PHILADELPHIAN LOSES LIFE AT FLYING CAMP

Joseph Syrad Killed by Airplane Propeller Blade at Fort Worth, Texas

NEWS of the death of Joseph Syrad, forty-seven, of 622 Vine street, Philadelphia, while in training at the aviation camp at Fort Worth, Texas, has been received by Syrad's wife here. He was killed as a result of being struck on the head by the blade of an airplane propeller.

On the same vessel was William B. Thompson, head of the American Red Cross mission to Russia, who is returning to the United States to make a report of the conditions in that country with reference to the work of his organization.

MAN TRIES TO BURN TOWER CITY CHURCH

Quick Discovery of Fire Saves Methodist Structure—Alleged Incendiary Jailed

DOTTSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 26. Charged with attempting to burn the Methodist Episcopal Church at Tower city at 4 o'clock this morning, Grant King was committed to the Schuylkill County Prison. He remarked to several of his acquaintances last evening that he would burn down the White Church, by which name the structure is known, and at 4 o'clock he tried to carry out the threat.

FIRE IN NEW CASTLE BURNS THREE HOUSES

Steel Works Engineer Diverts River Water to Check Flames—Damage \$10,000

NEW CASTLE, Del., Dec. 26. Fire estimated at more than ten thousand dollars originated in the home of James Gordy here at 3 o'clock this morning from an overheated stove.

The prisoner, Joseph Smith, 600 South Broad street, took Miss Sprague's pocketbook, it was charged, when she alighted from a twelfth street car at Market street last night in company with her brother, Wilson Sprague, Philadelphia. The man tried against her, she missed her pocketbook, which was found in the man's pocket when he was arrested. The purse contained \$28 and a silver watch.

FUNERAL OF DOCTOR SCHELLINGER The funeral of Dr. E. A. V. Schellinger, police physician of Camden and one of the most prominent surgeons and physicians in that city, who died suddenly Monday afternoon, will be held at 2 o'clock tomorrow from the home, Fifth and Cooper streets, Camden.

CHARGE NEGRO STOLE PURSE

Took it as She Was Alighting From Trolley, Police Say

A negro, accused of stealing a purse from Miss Clara Sprague, 1224 North Twelfth street, was held in \$1000 bail for court today by Magistrate Watson, at the Central station.

Advertisement for stylish shoes for stout women, priced at \$5 and \$5.50.

It will be to the advantage of the well-dressed man who assisted another man in picking up pearls outside the Lincoln Building, Broad Street above Chestnut, Tuesday, the 18th, if he will communicate with Messrs. J. E. Caldwell & Co., Chestnut and Juniper Streets.

Large advertisement for CLOVER DAY at Strawbridge & Clothier's, featuring various goods and clothing at reduced prices.

Advertisement for One Dollar For Your Old Shoes, featuring a shoe illustration and details of the offer.

Advertisement for Hirsch's 923 Market Street, featuring end-of-year clearance on silk plush coats.

Advertisement for Trains Annulled, detailing the cancellation of various train services starting December 26th, 1917.