

PACIFIC

Stars and Stripes



OCCUPATION FORCES
SOUVENIR EDITION

Tuesday, December 25, 1945

Schell



On this Christmas Day—the first in five years on which our guns have been silent—I join with all members of this command in thanking God for our deliverance from the death and destruction of war and pray that our merciful Lord will sustain us in our efforts to realize in the fullest the ideal which Christ brought to the world—peace on earth and to all men, good will.

Douglas MacArthur



For the first time in four years I have the great privilege of being with my family at Christmas. From home, I extend to the Eighth Army in Japan my warm personal greetings with the deep regret that you all cannot be home with your loved ones at this time.

Despite the hardships of separation, you can take pride and comfort in the thought that the holiday season finds our country at peace. My thoughts on Christmas Day are with you and I wish you all the joy of the season.

Robert L. Ketchum

A Christmas Message

Please express my sincere Christmas greetings and my best wishes to all of your readers wherever they may be. In that this is our first Christmas in five years that is free of the grim specter of World War, it should have special significance to all of our gallant men and women of the Armed Forces and should be an inspiration to all of us to do our part to insure that all future Christmases will be celebrated in the true aura of peace and goodwill between all nations and peoples.

John R. Hodge



To all members of the Sixth Army: To each of you I extend sincere Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year. May the same fine spirit and unselfish devotion to duty displayed in achieving our great victory sustain you in facing the tasks that lie ahead.

Wallisburg



The quiet and peace of Christmas are with us again after a lapse of six long years—years defiled by selfish aggressor nations dominated by vicious leaders. Today, as on every day, we pay homage to our honored dead who made the supreme sacrifice to sustain our way of life and re-affirm the fact that all men are free and have the unalienable right to self government.

It is our privilege and duty to uphold the dignity, character and ideals for which our departed comrades fought and died. By so doing, the world will be a better place in which to live by virtue of an association of unselfish, honest and considerate neighbor nations.

F. Wolfe



Improvised Santa Claus used jeep instead of sleigh to visit northern Honshu



As we worked and fought and sweated along the hot and humid jungle road from the South Pacific, we often dreamed of a "White Christmas." But it was a dream of home and few of us thought we would see snow before it came our turn to take that "last boat ride."

But this year a "White Christmas" is a reality for many of us. Much of Japan's mountain backbone—the country's core of scenic beauty—only a few miles from military installations—is snow-capped, inviting those of us who can make it to spend a day in surroundings more reminiscent of home than any we have seen since we left home.

For those of us stationed in northern Honshu and Hokkaido snow has ceased to be a novelty, for this section of Japan has been blanketed for many weeks. Snow is not merely a Christmas decoration, a Yuletide symbol; it is a factor in everyday winter life.

For all of us, this Christmas could be merrier, but for many of us, it could be no whiter.

White Christmas



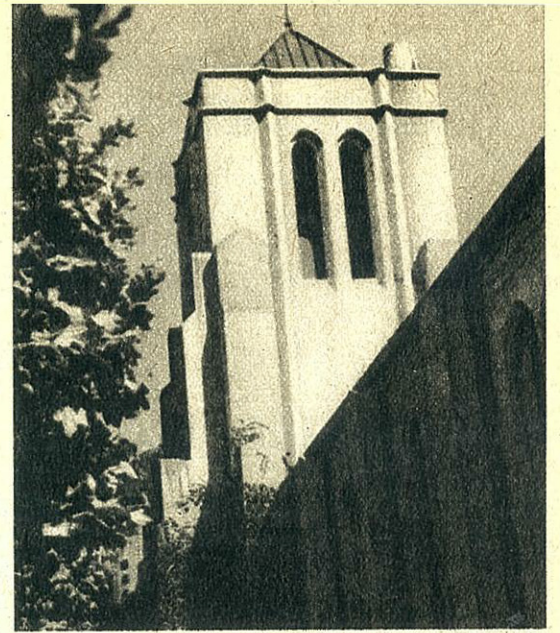
1945, Occupation Forces version of bringing in the traditional Yule tree



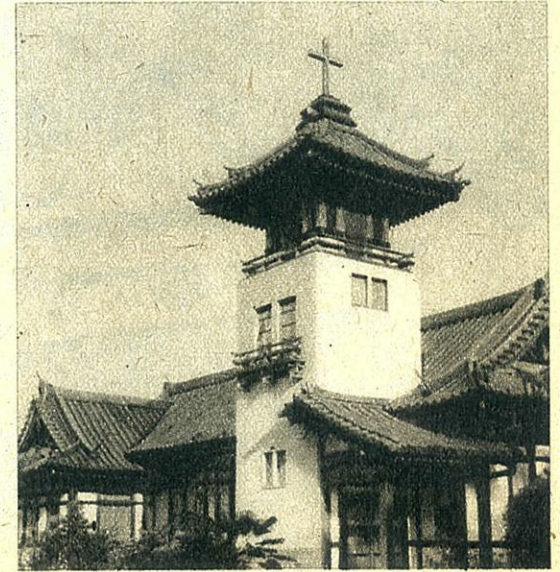
Yule Tree for the "axing" in northern Honshu



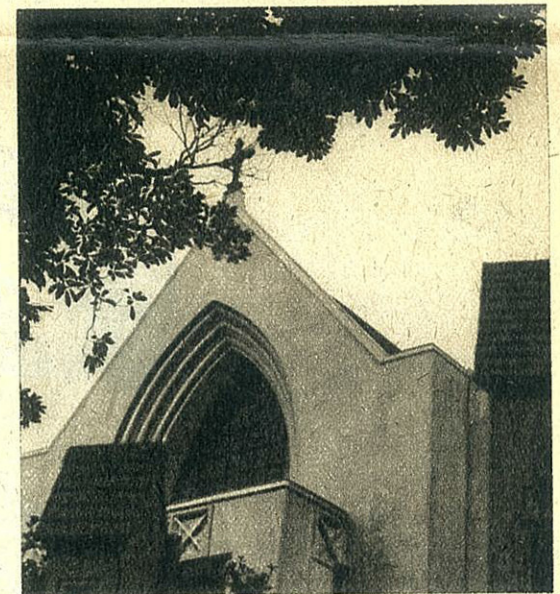
Chapel of St. Luke's Hospital (now 42nd General Hospital) in Tokyo



Japanese Christians have . . .



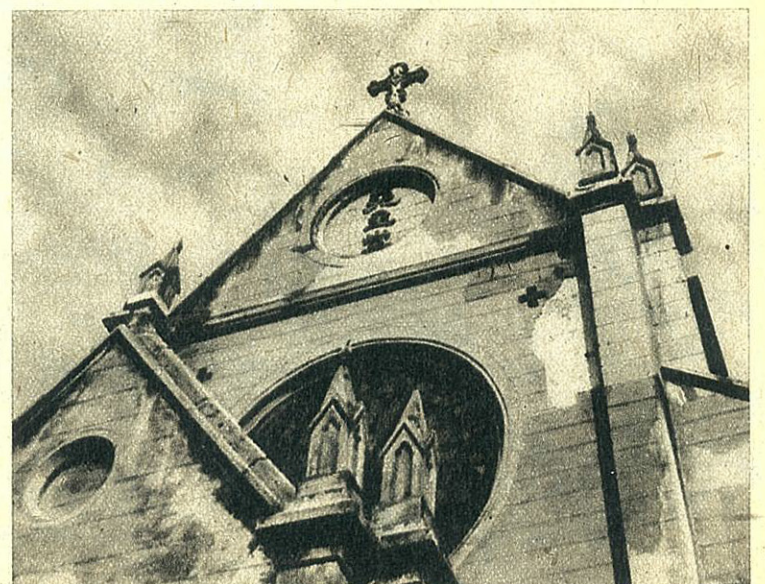
. . . their own versions of . . .



. . . the age-old church steeple . . .

Photo and Art credits: Cover and calendar by Sgt James Schell; additional art work by Cpl Gordon McGowan. Page 2: Portraits of Generals MacArthur and Krueger by Signal Corps. Page 3: All photos by 81st Division public relations. Page 4: Eighth Army public relations. Page 5: All photos by Signal Corps. Page 6: Streets scene and girls at play courtesy Ashahi Shimbun. Pages 8 and 9: All photos by Signal Corps. Page 10: Mount Fuji courtesy Asahi

Shimbun. Page 11: Feudal Castle by 98th Division public relations; Ancient Bridge by C. R. Powe, USMC. Page 12: Heinen Shrine, Choinin Monastery, Nijo Palace, Water Garden by Sixth Army public relations. Pages 14 and 15: All photos by Signal Corps. Additional photos by Cpl Leon Ray, Cpl Nick Reynolds, Cpl Bob Fodor, Cpl Angel Portillo and Cpl Julian Ely, staff photographers.



. . . which symbolizes our faith.



Over nineteen hundred years ago a Star shone over the small city of Bethlehem and Peace entered the world. This same Star is with us again. For the first time in four years we are able to celebrate the Birth of Christ in peaceful surroundings.

The Star of Bethlehem brought Peace to the world since it dissipated the darkness of hate. Christmas brings with it, as inseparable companions, holiness and happiness.

The very essence of Christmas is one of holiness because of the commemoration of the birth of Christ. It is a time of happiness, particularly this year, because of the Peace which is being enjoyed by our country. The two, holiness and happiness, are as inseparable here on earth as they are in Heaven itself.

The Chaplains of the Sixth Army wish to extend their hopes for the many blessings and joys of this Christmas to all the members of the Army and to their families.

JOHN J. F. RYAN
Sixth Army Chaplain



Peace on Earth

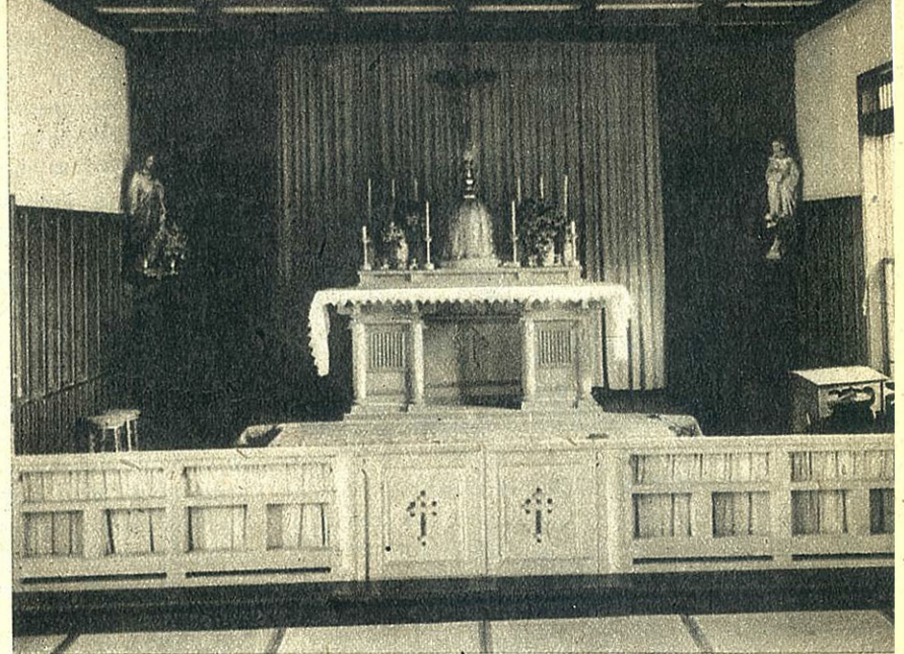


It is Christmas again and in most places there is "peace on earth." One year ago we were still engaged in the grim business of war. Mail was irregular, packages from home were delayed or lost, in many instances it was impossible to have religious services. For most soldiers it wasn't a very "happy Christmas. They were homesick, uncomfortable and tired of fighting. It was just a year ago on Christmas eve that

I sat with some men in the Philippines, gazing at a very bright star which appeared above the Eastern horizon. Somehow that star gave us assurance and hope for the future. It renewed our courage and strengthened our faith. It seemed to stand for permanency, for stability, for the real essential values in an unsteady, tottering world.

Since the day that the Star appeared and disclosed the birthplace of our Saviour, there have been wars, storms, disasters and troubles but eventually they have all passed over. The things which the star heralded to man have withstood because they are eternal. At this season of the year, we need to lift our eyes to the Star again and determine to keep our eyes fixed there—not only at the Christmas season but for all time. Then and then only we find lasting "peace and good will on earth."

YANDELL S. BEANE
Eighth Army Chaplain



Altars where American troops worship . . .



. . . in Japanese Christian churches





By SGT. ROBERT MARKS

In Japan, where Christians are a minority, New Year's Day is the big holiday, the period of celebration extending for three days. For the first time since 1941 some of the traditional festivity of the season will return to city street

and countryside alike.

On the eve of the New Year, temple bells will strike one hundred and eight times ushering in the 21st year of Showa—A.D. 1946. The one hundred and eight bells signify the "washing away" of that number of traditional evils the story of which is rooted deep in Japanese mythology.

According to the Japanese Zodiac, 1946 will be the "Year of The Dog" and everyone in Japan will officially be one year older. They do not wait for the birthdays of individuals to add on a year of age.

No Western nation makes as much of the New Year holiday as do the Japanese. It is literally a "new beginning" of all things and there is a rush to be the "first" one to do something for the first time in the new year.

As in other places throughout the world, food is the typical symbol of joyous festivity. But this year it will be lacking in any great

quantity or variety common to pre-war celebrations. Sure to be found, however, is the traditional palate-pleaser—a specially prepared rice cake.

The doorways of homes and office buildings will be decorated with pine and bamboo. And a lobster will be hung over the archway symbolizing the "old" year because of its "crooked back."

For the children there will be gifts. In the country the local fire departments will give exhibitions of acrobatics hearkening to olden days when firemen were not alone masters of pyrotechnics, but also wielders of sword and shield as defenders of the community.

This 21st Year of Showa is indeed a New Year for the people of Japan. It will give all of the people the chance to be "first"—first among the broken nations of the world to rebuild and to redevelop along the path of humanity, justice and peace.

Japanese Holiday



Father Patrick J. Byrne



Yet in the dark street shineth...

By SGT. ROLLA CRICK
Staff Writer

Japan's Christmas story is wrapped up in the rise and fall and rise again of Christianity in Japan, according to Father Patrick J. Byrne, Maryknoll missionary to Japan for the past 11 years.

"Speaking from a merchandising point of view," Father Byrne said, "Japan in pre-war days made as much of the Christmas holidays as America but it was all due to the influence of the foreigners. They knew Christmas toys and Christmas gifts appealed to their foreign population and as a result their stores were decorated in Christmas motif so that they could almost pass for any store in the United States."

"But the spirit and meaning of Christmas escaped the average person. Even the Christian Japanese did not celebrate the occasion with decorated trees at home. Trees with all their ornaments and decorations were something reserved for the United States and other Christian countries. For the natives of Japan there was only one real holiday and that was New Years, but during the war even that holiday was not overly celebrated. However, in Christian churches Christmas was celebrated in Japan as well as in other countries," Father Byrne declared.

"In pre-war days," he declared, "Kirisimasu was on the unofficial calendar of festivals with all the trimmings including Salvation Army lasses on the street corners of all the various major cities, but for the exception of the few hundred thousand actual Chris-

tians, the day was meaningless.

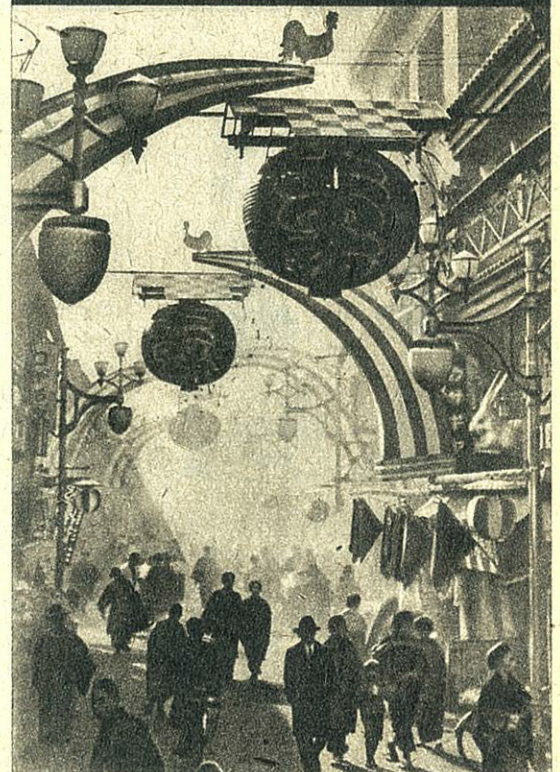
"Almost all foreigners were interned immediately in 1941 right after December 8, the day war was officially declared, hence there was so much disfavor shown to the followers of a foreign religion that there was no celebration. The government does not recognize Christmas at all because there is no place for it on their calendar."

Father Byrne pointed out that Koreans were much more interested in Christianity and therefore Christmas than were the Japanese. For seven years a missionary in Hiken, Korea, before coming to Japan, he had only praise for the interest shown by Koreans in the celebration of the birth of Christ.

"In that country the people used to walk for three days to get into town so they could help to celebrate Christmas. The men of the families would sleep on the floor of the church and the women and children would sleep with the women and children of the city. As a result, the floors of the church would be covered with the sleeping forms of men the nights preceding Christmas.

"Christmas Eve, they would decorate the churches with hundreds of lanterns and evergreen bows and there would be one grand social spree until time for Midnight mass. After mass, they would sit down to a dinner of a sort of spaghetti which they preferred cold and called guksu, followed by Santa Claus with the presents. Every man got a bag of tobacco and a pipe while the women and children would receive candy. When the celebration of Christ-

Top: Jap Children Observe New Year's.
Below: Year-End Street Scene



mas Eve was over, they would stretch out on the floors of the church until the walls would bulge with the pressure of so many bodies and there they would sleep until morning mass and would then leave late Christmas Day for their homes."

Shopping Days Are Over And U.S. Occupation Troops Are Searching Their Socks This Morning for Gifts from Home And Looking Forward to That Turkey Dinner Plus Trimmings

Christmas in Tokyo, and elsewhere in American occupation areas, is marked by the efforts of troops to make it as much like home as possible.

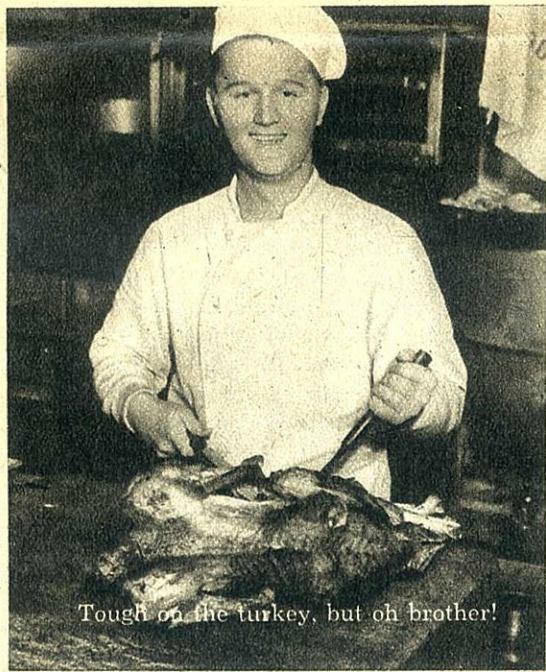
Mail of course, particularly packages from the States, is foremost in the minds of most. In past weeks, outgoing as well as incoming packages have flooded the overseas APO's. Soldiers generally open their Christmas packages as they are delivered, but they also manage to save a few to enjoy Christmas Day.

Mess sergeants have garnered bouquets from men in their outfits year after year for the real work they put in on the traditional turkey dinners, without which no American Christmas is complete. And there are always plentiful trimmings to make this one meal the most un-Army-like of the year.

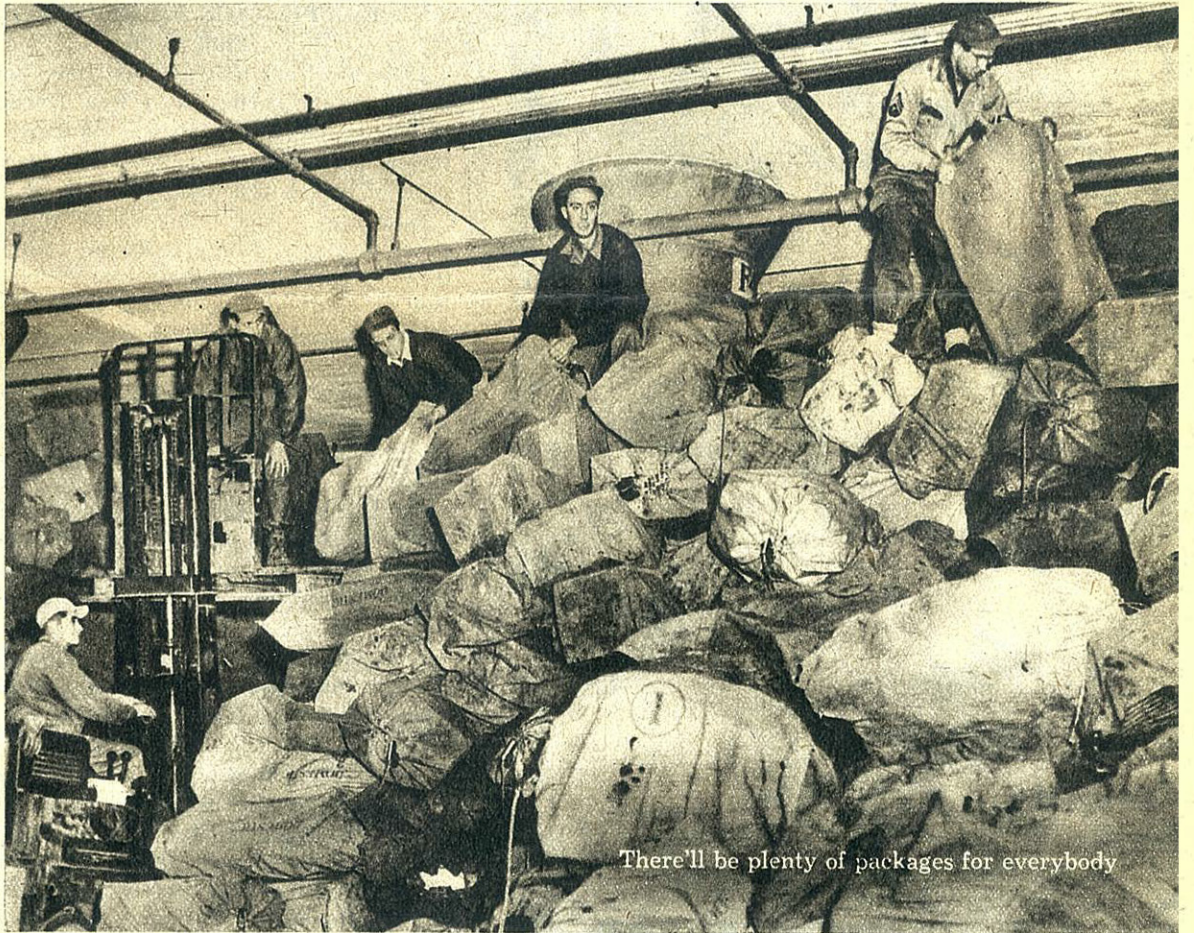
The Red Cross continues to do its part with special Christmas programs, packages and the creation of an attitude as homelike as possible.



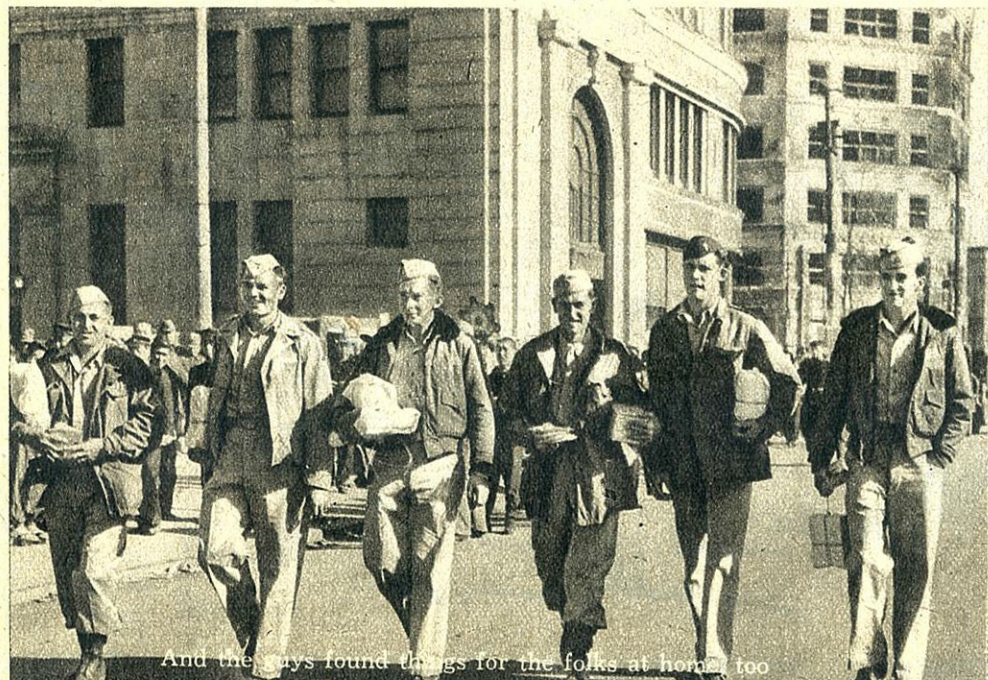
Holiday Bound



Tough on the turkey, but oh brother!



There'll be plenty of packages for everybody



And the guys found things for the folks at home, too



GI's will have gifts from Japanese school kids, too, delivered by way of the Red Cross.

Christmas 1942 we spent with our friends . . . like these . . .



. . . but we had turkey dinner—in mess kits on the ground . . .



. . . with ornaments like this . . .



Christmas

By **CPL. JACK EICHENBERGER**
Staff Writer

1945—the year that gave meaning once more to “Peace on Earth; Good Will Toward Men”—that replaced the Prince of Peace to his throne and enabled mankind to assume again a bit of its rightful dignity.

American homes today—most of them—are cheerful places, where folks are reunited with their loved ones, or know they soon will be. But at many dinner tables, there are empty chairs—places which commemorate war’s deadly toll.

America’s first peacetime Christmas in five years finds troops thinking in retrospect of the “foxhole-Christmases” men have had in past years.

On December 25th, 1941, most Americans knew there was a war on. They’d heard about “Pearl Harbor,” and some were startled to think of the huge job the little Japanese had cut out for themselves.

A lot of people were still putting their money on armchair strategists who popularized the opinion that America’s Navy would wind things up in not more than three months.

Most of the men now in uniform, and a lot who were later blown to bits on tiny atolls of which they’d never heard, were sitting comfortably at home that Christmas, rationalizing how easily the new Army could get along without them.

But the war was on. The Japs were in Maiaya, on Luzon. Manila was about to fall.

Wake had surrendered on the 23rd, and on Christmas Day, the “brightest jewel in the British Crown”—Hongkong—gave up the fight. The next day, Manila was declared an “open city,” only to be mercilessly bombed on the 27th, and occupied on the second day of the New Year.

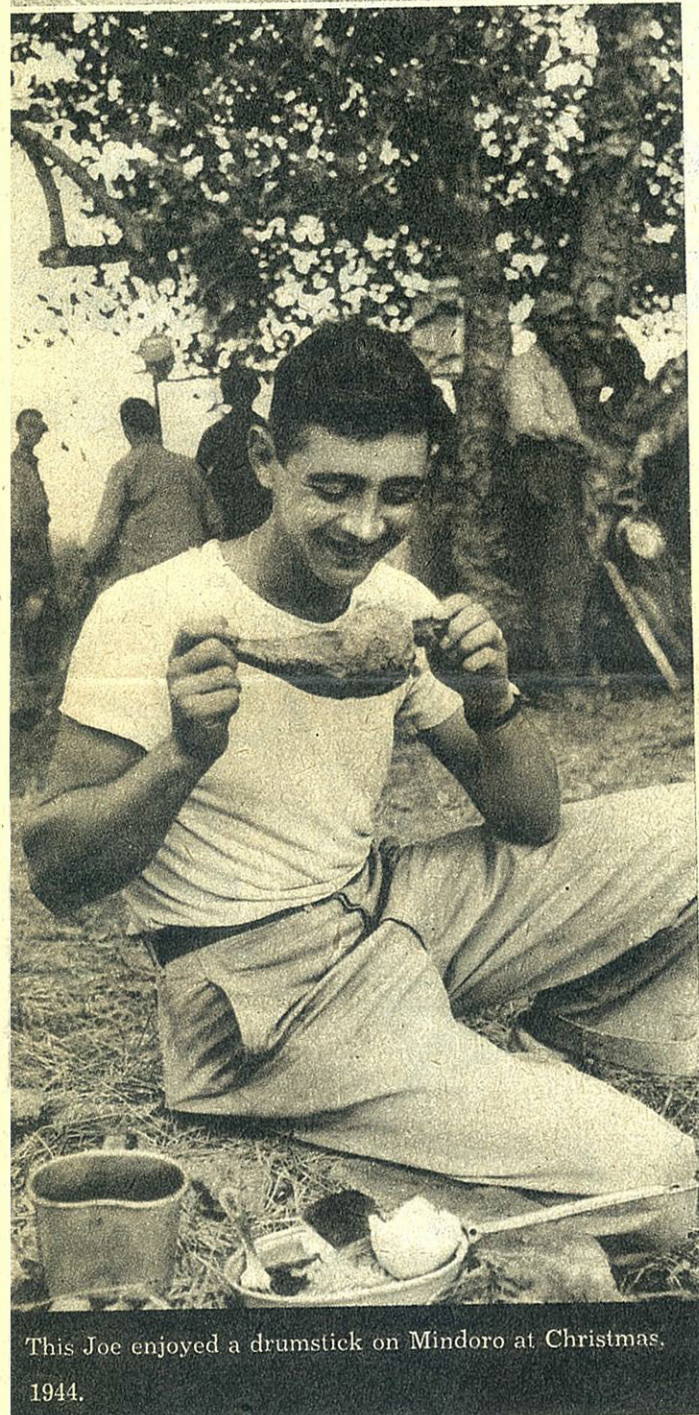
The war wasn’t waiting. It was going grimly ahead, and America had to race for its very life to catch up.

1942 saw the Jap shoot his wad. General MacArthur was in Australia plotting the “long road back.” When Christmas rolled around again, Guadalcanal was still in the headlines—the first stop on the road to Tokyo. Fighting was tough in the Buna-Gona area, and the Japs were about to feel Yankee wrath in the New Guinea offensive.

Fleet and air strength were growing and people were optimistic again, but there were still thousands of American men who must kill and kill and kill—and finally die themselves. The price for this peaceful Christmas of 1945 was not destined to be cheap.

Pougainville, the Gilbert Islands, Bismark—those were the places Americans ate Christmas dinner in 1943. And with full bellies, they hit Cape Gloucester the next day. Port Moresby was safely behind now, but who knew what lay ahead.

1944 was a big year. The mighty Third Fleet was to roam the Southwest Pacific, striking at the Jap wherever he could be hit. And there were bloodier and bloodier battles to be fought



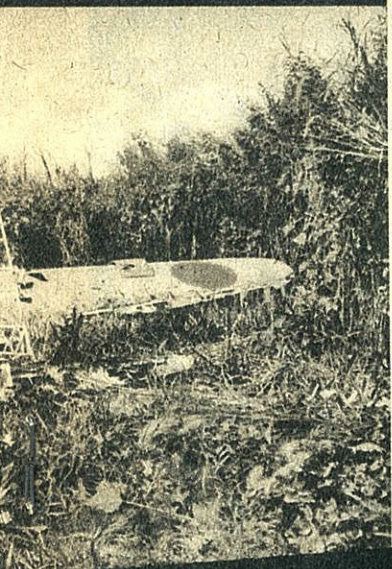
This Joe enjoyed a drumstick on Mindoro at Christmas, 1944.



but some of us found time to sing carols with Filipinos . . .

. . . and at Tacloban we fixed

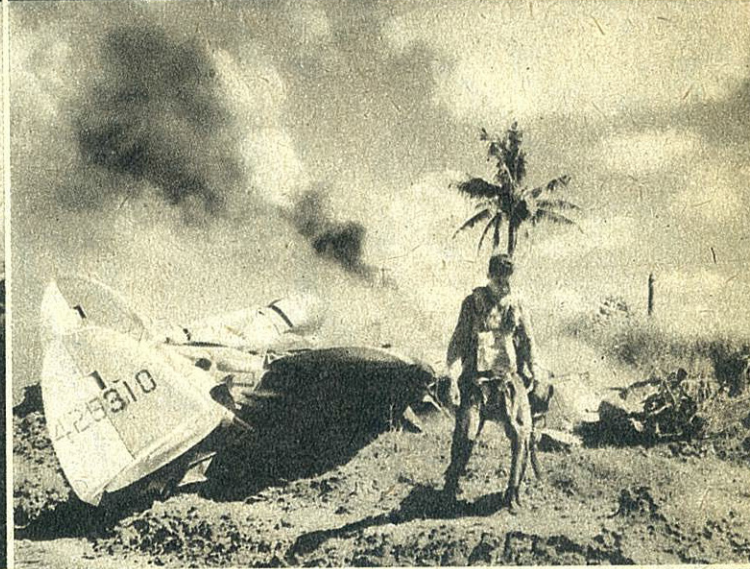
...to decorate our trees...



...but in '43, we were ready to hit Gloucester next day...



...and plenty of our own boys were hit that day after Christmas...



Past



—Eniwetok, Hollandia, Saipan, Guam, Peleliu, The Philippines were still demanding their price.

But on Christmas Day, 1944, Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger declared the Leyte campaign closed and shortly hurled his veteran troops at Luzon. Exactly two months from the "cease fire" order on Leyte, Old Glory was again waving over Manila. And Americans were dying on Iwo.

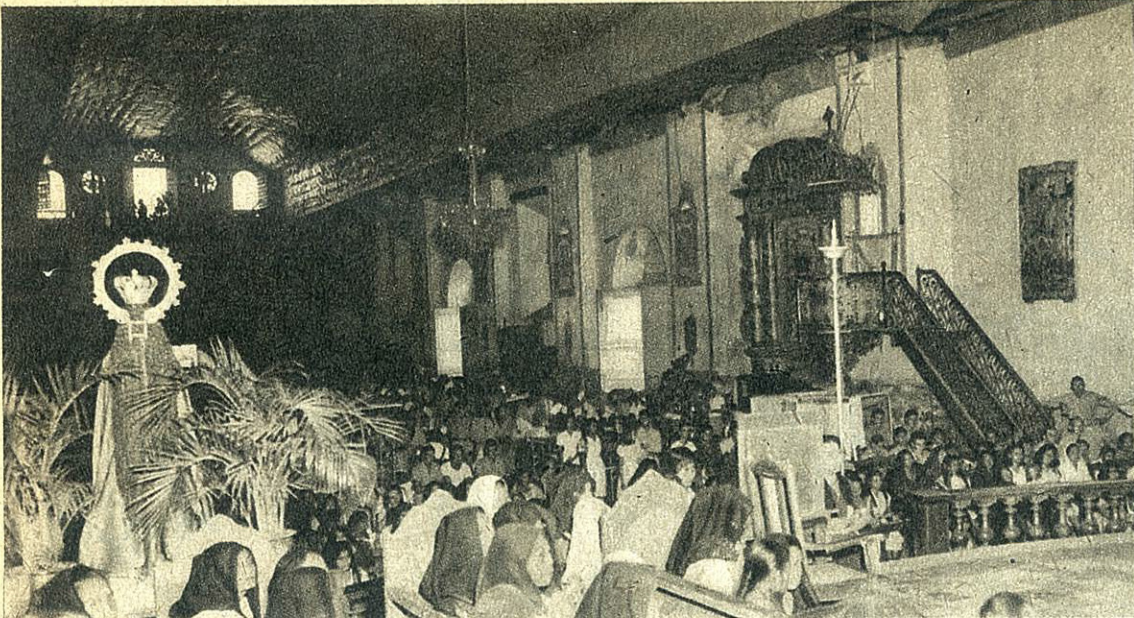
Okinawa was the next big "stepping stone," the springboard from which the biggest battle

of all was to be launched. Again the Japs made us pay dearly for every advance.

Some men credit the atomic bomb, others say it was the B-29, while many more thank God, that today finds our troops in Tokyo, not as warriors bent on killing, but as soldiers on a peaceful mission, helping to guarantee a misguided people their rights — and firmly showing them that ruthless aggression, barbarism and atrocities are things against which peace-loving people will always fight.



And some of us went to services at San Jose, Mindoro.



...in a Santa Claus for the kids.



...but later went back to swamps and streams after Japs...

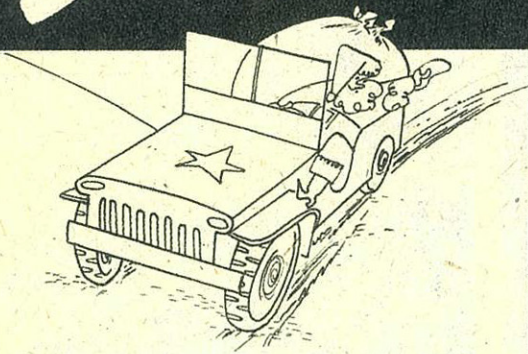


...who at times would frantically beg us to spare them.



Fujiyama, or Mount Fuji, has long been the trademark of Japan to the Western World. Sacred to the Japanese people, and looking amazingly like its postcard images, Fuji has been a source of beauty and a mecca for mountain-climbers among American occupation troops.

Japan



American GI's, used to enjoying the scenic wonders of their own native land, find many spots of almost equal beauty within the boundaries of Japan.

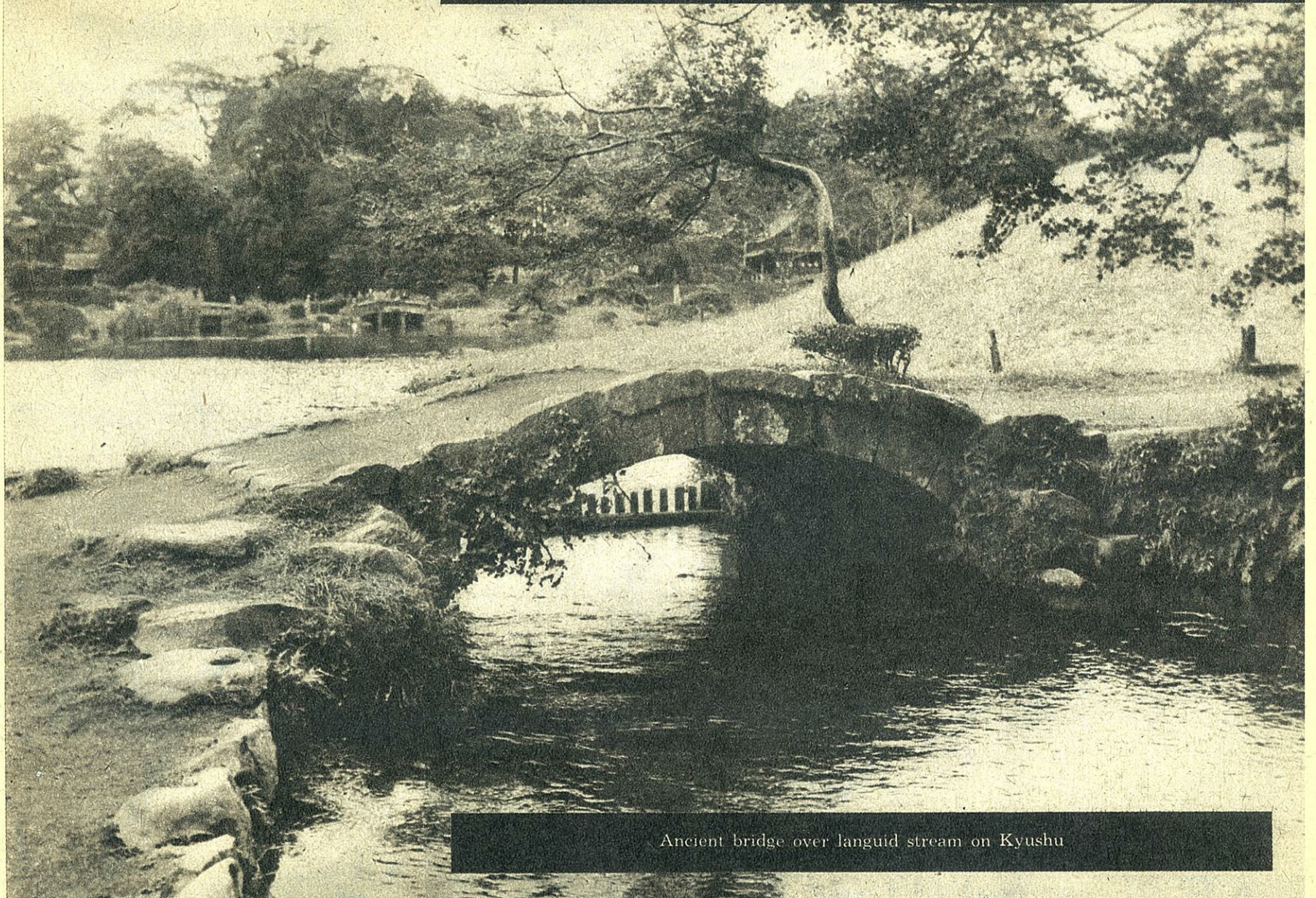
Troops stationed in metropolitan areas journey countryward whenever time allows to wonder at the contrast between bombed and burned-out cities and the peaceful beauty which was always Japan's, but which militarists chose to sacrifice.

Lakes and streams which warm the heart of the fisherman; snow-capped mountainsides and snow-bound villages which quicken the pulse of skiers; sleepy country valleys to bring back thoughts of Grandad's farm—all blend together to prove that though wars come and go, nature's basic beauty will always remain.

Little has been lost of the "Cherry Blossom Japan" which America knew in pre-war days. The majesty of Fujiyama remains.



Feudal castle at Osaka under U. S. guard



Ancient bridge over languid stream on Kyushu



Mountain climbers high in Nippon Alps

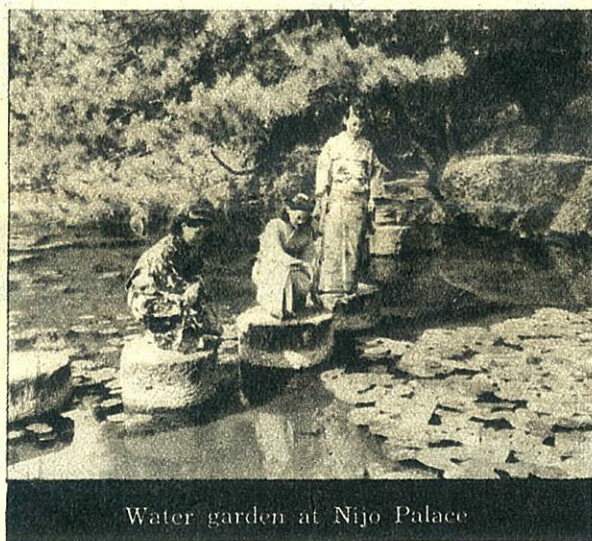


Kegon Waterfall in Nikko

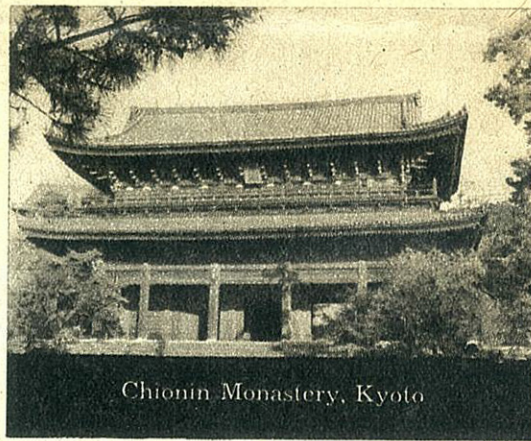
... its beauty is legendary



Heian Shrine displays Oriental architecture



Water garden at Nijo Palace



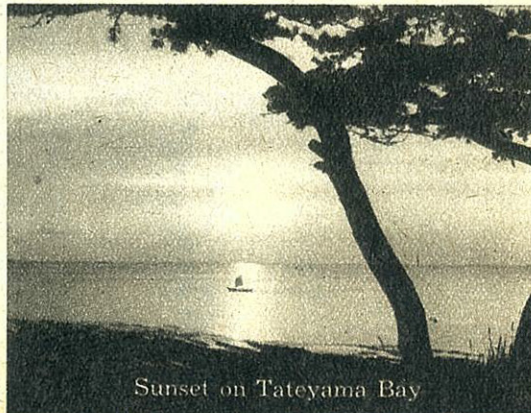
Chionin Monastery, Kyoto



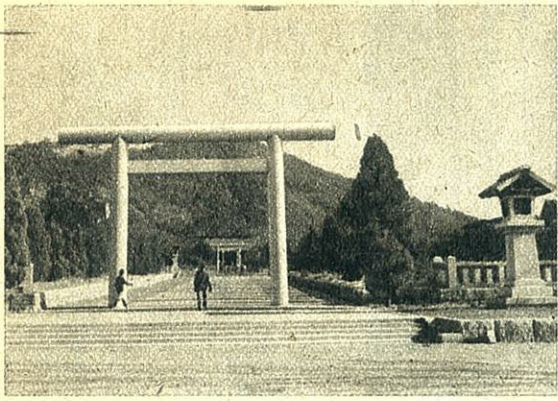
Waterfront homes on Haiki Canal, Sasebo, Kyushu



Picturesque Nijo Palace Bridge, Kyoto



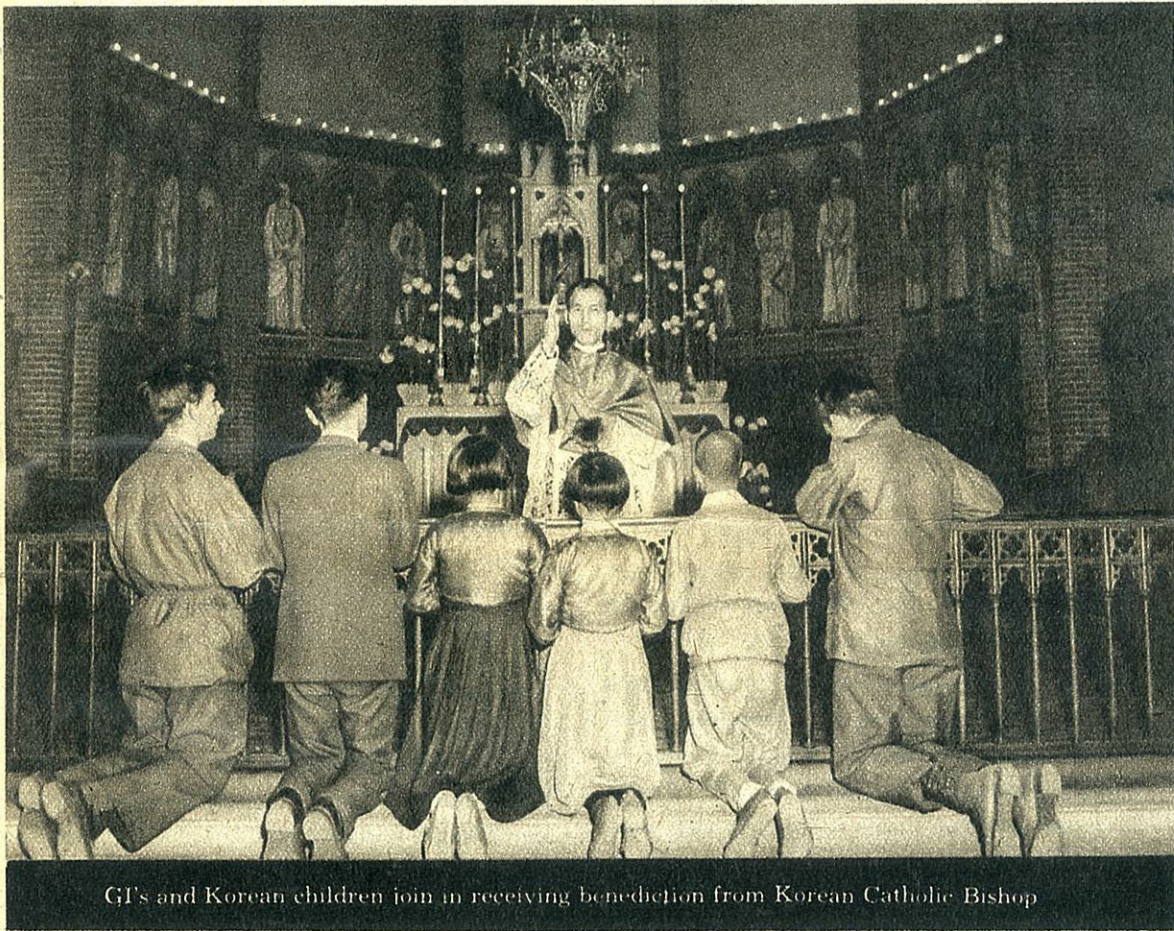
Sunset on Tateyama Bay



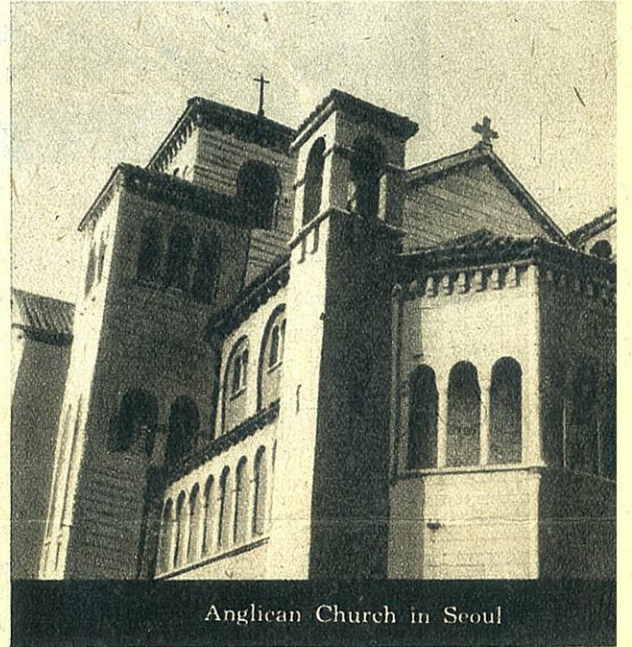
There'll be turkey-carving for troops in Korea today too



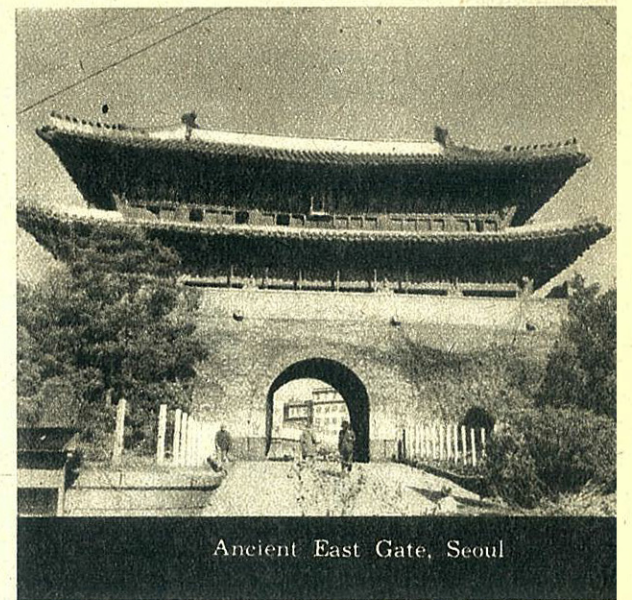
Christmas in Korea



GI's and Korean children join in receiving benediction from Korean Catholic Bishop



Anglican Church in Seoul



Ancient East Gate, Seoul



Clerks sort thousands of sacks of mail destined for Korean occupation troops



Shinto Shrine in Korea

America's top shows come via transcription



Christmas All Year Round

Music, comedy, drama, news, sports and special events programs fill the airwaves as the 18 stations of the Armed Forces Radio Network broadcast the tops in radio entertainment to occupation troops in Japan and Korea.

Taking over the number two network of the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation, the original Armed Forces Radio Network went on the air in late September operating as a seven-station network with a skeleton staff. With additional facilities and personnel made the network soon increased to its present 18-station hook-up.

The first station to be set in operation was WVTR, which took over the facilities used by the former Radio Tokyo, Station JOAK. The Tokyo station, which is a 50,000 watt at 590 kilocycles, serves the Tokyo-Yokohama area

and in addition, feeds programs to the member stations of the network from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

As occupation troops moved inland into Japan and Korea, 400-watt mobile radio stations moved right along to supply the men with their favorite radio entertainment. Today, for the most part, the Armed Forces Radio Network is using fixed stations assigned to the Americans in those cities where two or more Japanese stations had been operated, leaving one station for use by the Japanese.

Many of the stations of the Armed Forces Radio Network are assigned to large units performing occupation duties. Many such organizations broadcast the shows produced in Tokyo in addition to airing their own locally produced shows.

America's favorite radio shows—Bob Hop Fibber McGee and Molly, Radio Theater, Metropolitan Opera Hour, New York Philharmonic and dozens of other popular Stateside shows are recorded in Hollywood, the commercial deleted, and the transcribed shows are flown here weekly to entertain GIs. In addition, Armed Forces Radio produces its own radio shows such as "Command Performance," "G.I. Journal," "Mail Call," and "G.I. Jill" for broadcast to troops.

Rounding out the 16½-hour network broadcast schedule are the more and more live shows that are being produced locally by the Armed Forces Radio Network. An experienced staff of announcers, scriptwriters, producers, actors and engineers strive to place locally produced



Newscasters prepare latest bulletin from wire



Red Cross Club scene of quiz program



Staff confers on music and timing for program

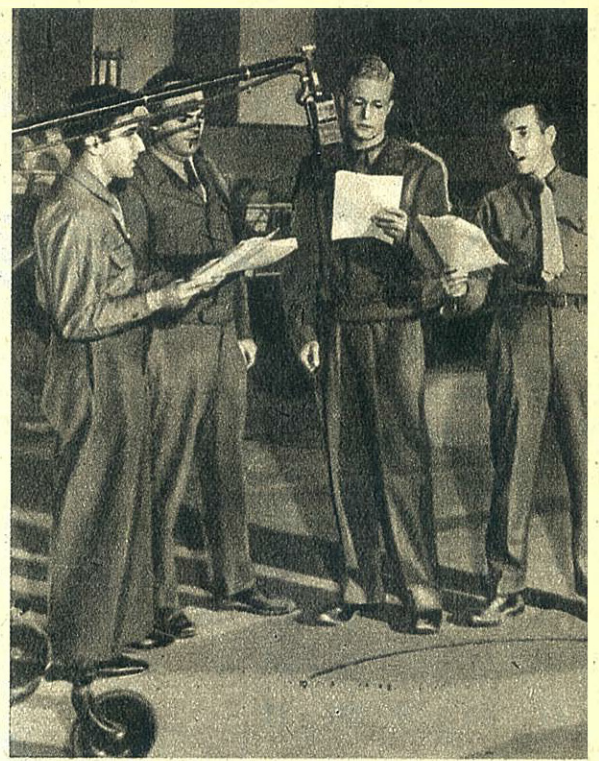
shows on an equal par with Stateside network productions. Many of the men now with army operated stations throughout Japan and Korea were "name" radio personalities in civilian days.

Among some of the locally produced shows are "On the Air," a half-hour variety show featuring talent from the 97th Division, the Fifth Air Force "Grounded Gadgets" program, the weekly quiz stumper, "Date With Your State," broadcast from the American Red Cross Club in Tokyo, and "By Lines," which presents by-line war correspondents now in Japan telling of war experiences and the stories they have covered. Also live talent musical programs such as "The Sophisticats," a thrice weekly recital by concert pianist Claude Frank, and the songs and piano playing of Walt Jeffries. The latest records made by America's name bands are heard on the daily hour-long "Tokyo Mose" show, the early morning "Rise and Shine" stanza and "Rhythm and Romance." Addicts of hot jazz get their fill with such

shows as "Off the Record" and "Gems of Jazz."

News stories from A.P., I.N.S., U.P., ANS and the shortwave stream into the newsroom of the Armed Forces Radio Network in Tokyo where news is edited and re-written for radio delivery four times daily at 7:30 a.m., 12:30, 6:00 and 10 p.m. Unit newspapers throughout Japan and Korea receive their news daily at dictation speed over the network's facilities. Late sport news, interviews with sports stars and broadcasts of Stateside football games are regular features of AFRN. Special events draw particular attention of the network as radio remotes and wire recorders reach out to the scene of action to give network GI listeners a first-hand account of special activities.

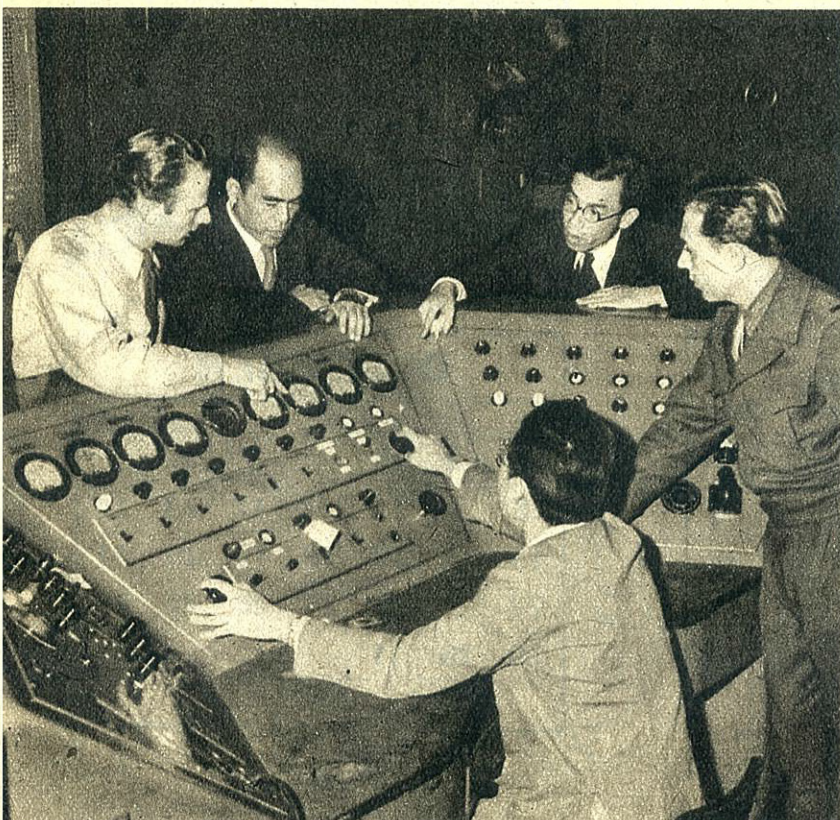
One thing is certain: Whether you're listening to WVTR in Tokyo, WVTP with the 24th Corps in Korea, or your dial is set to WVTQ in Osaka or any one of the network's 18 stations, and that is—GIs in Japan and Korea are receiving the best in radio entertainment—over the Armed Forces Radio Network.



Announcers stage Yule broadcast rehearsal



"Date With Your State" quiz show



Japanese engineer explains secrets of network control-board



Producer, engineer, writer and director keep shows going smoothly

PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

Calendar for 1946

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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31						

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				