



Inside this issue:

Military Terms, Abbreviations, Acronyms	1
Hospitality to Strangers	1, 2, 4
Did You Know: Facts About Pearl Harbor	2, 3
Clep-a-Thon: Educational Opportunities	2, 3
Military Events on Christmas Day	3, 4
This Day in Military History (will return in 2017)	

MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

I Corps: a major formation of the United States Army Forces Command (also known as "America's Corps") headquartered in Joint Base Lewis-McChord Washington

ICAD: acronym for the Integrated Control and Display systems used in V/STOL (vertical and short take-off & landing) aircraft

ICBM: acronym used to refer to an InterContinental Ballistics Missile

ICON: acronym for Imagery Communications and Operations Node employed by the US Army tactical network



Colonel (Ret) Steven D. Martin
Phone: 919.817.0706
stevedebmartin@gmail.com

Words to Ponder:

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

~ Luke 2:11

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Pray for our Deployed Members:

Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family: US Army, serving the Lord in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin
Andrew Folz: US Air Force, deployed overseas

Together in Scripture Reading:

This month:
the book of Second Thessalonians



Hospitality to Strangers

Colonel Steve Martin

By Christmas 1941, America had begun to transition into its wartime footing necessitated by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and Germany's declaration of war on the United States. To this point, the American economy had begun to make great strides and the promise of prosperity had begun to make the all-to-recent realities of the "Great Depression" fade into memory. However, the sudden crisis of war on two fronts exposed our lack of war preparation and necessitated rationing of critical goods and supplies. Ration books were issued to families limiting food, clothing, shoes, coffee, tires, gasoline and other essentials. Goods were rationed based upon the size of the family. Posters were displayed across the nation showing servicemen and the slogan "Do with less so they'll have enough."

Christmas of 1941 was also a time of hardship and anxiety as the nation gathered men from every community to fill the ranks of the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. Training camps were being constructed across the nation so that America could quickly mobilize and train hundreds of thousands of men, transitioning them from civilian life into the rigors of military service. Trains crisscrossed the nation filled to capacity with men traveling to here-to-fore unknown locations that would soon become military communities. Most families were affected by this large mobilization - traditional Christmas gatherings had empty chairs around the table for the first time in over twenty years.

The small community of North Platte, Nebraska was



Elaine Wright, c. 2014

typical of communities across the nation with a number of her native sons gone off to war. These families felt the emptiness of loved ones gone for the first time over the Christmas holiday. North Platte was also a brief stop on the main east-west rail lines and the rail cars were often filled with servicemen. A small group of citizens decided to do something special for these servicemen passing through their community. On Christmas Day, 1941, the North Platte community took sandwiches and bottles of cold milk to the trains that passed through giving out as much as they could during the brief ten minute stop. When word of their hospitality began to spread, more and more people began to volunteer for the work. What began with a group of five people soon became a community project supported by hundreds.

The North Platte stop soon became very popular among servicemen, not only for the treats given out, but also for the genuine show of respect and love demonstrated by this community. Not only did this effort provide a much-needed service to numerous servicemen, but it also helped to bolster and encourage the community itself during difficult times. When Elaine Wright, one of the faithful canteen workers, was notified that her only son had been killed in action, it impacted many in the community. A few days later, Elaine showed back up at the North Platte depot to continue her responsibilities as a volunteer. Other volunteers were shocked that she would return so soon after her son's death. She broke the silence saying, "I can't help my son, but I can help someone else's son."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'Trains crisscrossed the nation filled to capacity with men traveling to here-to-fore unknown locations that would soon become military communities.'



DID YOU KNOW: LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS ABOUT THE PEARL HARBOR ATTACK

Editor's Note: This month will mark the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, igniting America's entrance into World War II. Here are some little-known facts about the attack, adapted from an article by political writer Derek Butler (part 2 will be next month).

There is a conspiracy theory that FDR provoked the Japanese attack in order to sway American opinion and make it possible for the U.S. to enter the war. However, mainstream historians now reject this theory as fringe fanaticism; as there is little evidence to support it.

America broke a Japanese code which revealed that Japan planned to occupy northern China. U.S. responded with the famous Hull Note, which demanded removal of Japanese forces from French Indochina and China. Many believe the Hull Note forced Japan to go into war against America.

The crew of the ill-fated USS Arizona were slow to defend their ship. This was due to the fact that the crew had been granted permission to sleep in that morning – having won the dance contest held the night before.

The radar station in Oahu, commanded by Lt. Kermit Tyler, had picked up the Japanese formation the morning of the attack. Since the crew was still in training, none of them had ever seen such a large formation of planes flying so close together before. Because of this, the crew thought such a flight was impossible and the equipment was malfunctioning.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Charlsy Panzino

Clep-a-Thon: Educational Opportunities

Editor's Note: The following was adapted from an article posted by Charlsy Panzino in the *Military Times*, May 2016. Clep-a-Thon saves troops combined \$265K and 30-plus years of classroom time.

At Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, service members saved more than \$200,000 in tuition assistance and more than 30 years of classroom time in just two weeks.

Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Taylor helped organize the Clep-a-Thon at Landstuhl, where service members could take as many College Level Examination Program and DSST tests, formerly known as DANES Standardized Subject Tests, as they wanted.

The idea came about after University of Maryland University College Europe opened a national testing center at Landstuhl.

"That's what kind of started the whole idea of hosting an event

where soldiers, airmen, Marines, sailors and even civilians and their dependents can stop in and have walk-in testing services," Taylor said.

The first weeklong Clep-a-Thon was held in June 2015 and the second in December, with more than 300 test-takers showing up total. About 482 exams were taken with a passing rate of more than half. UMUC provided the facility and the front-desk personnel who checked in test-takers.

'The \$265,600 saved in tuition assistance is based off the TA cap of \$250 per semester hour and an average \$80 per 3-hour course for books.'

Normally service members have to contact the testing center and schedule an appointment, Taylor said. With the Clep-a-Thon, they could just walk in, and there was no cap on how many tests someone could take.

"Soldiers would take a test, pass it, and get that confidence" to take the next, more difficult test, he said.

Air Force Master Sgt. Tyler Szymanski, a clinical medicine flight chief at Landstuhl, said he passed 10 of the 12 tests he took, which earned him 30 credits. He said getting these tests out of the way saved him a year to a year and a half of schooling.

"Tuition assistance will currently cover seven classes a year for the school I attend," Szymanski said. "The additional three classes would have cost me nearly \$1,900."

Taylor said the event helps knock out general-education classes. Between both events, 960 college credits were earned. Based on a full-time student workload of 30 credits, 960 college credits saved about 32 years of classroom time — nearly double that when you consider TA authorizes only 16 credits per year. The \$265,600 saved in tuition assistance is based off the TA cap of \$250 per semester hour and an average \$80 per 3-hour course for books.

"Rather than spending a year, you can do it in a day," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Hospitality to Strangers

Such selfless sacrifice was characteristic of this patriotic and loving community. North Platte was not just another stop along the east-west rail lines; it had become a haven of refuge for the weary traveler. Throughout the war, this community of twelve thousand fed hundreds of thousands of troops passing through without benefit of government aid and in spite of food shortages and rationing. They gave deeply and sacrificially of themselves to be a help to others.

We live in a time of such prosperity that it is sometimes hard to imagine the difficulties and sacrifices of previous generations. Our forefathers did so much with so little - sacrificing so

that subsequent generations could live in peace, comfort, and prosperity. When we hear stories of these fellow-Americans' sacrifices, it should prick our conscience. We do so little with so much.

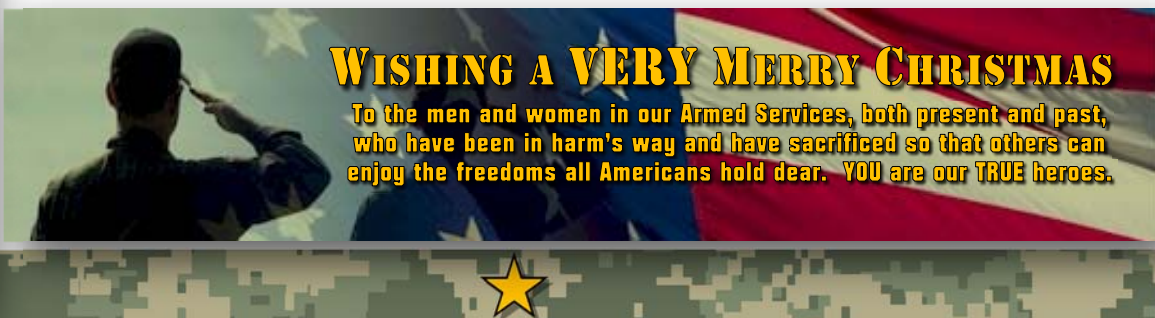
Many times over the years, I have read the account of the birth of Jesus. He did not arrive with the fanfare of a king, but into a cold, cruel world under very difficult circumstances. Until recently, it's been easy to look upon this as an oft told story with little relevance to the world we live in today. However, examining it closer shows how very relevant it is for this twenty-first century we live in. Luke chapter 2 tells us: "And so it was,

that, while they were there (Bethlehem), the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." If we were to encapsulate scripture into today's news brief, it might read: "An infant son was born in the far west corner of Asia, into a part of the world where he was not welcomed. He soon became a refugee into Africa in order to escape persecution and threats to his life." Does that scenario resonate into our world today?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

WISHING A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

To the men and women in our Armed Services, both present and past, who have been in harm's way and have sacrificed so that others can enjoy the freedoms all Americans hold dear. YOU are our TRUE heroes.



Military Events on Christmas Day

Pierre Bienaimé

Christmas is one of the most celebrated holidays on earth. But that doesn't mean that conflicts simply freeze every December 25th. Here's a look at some of the major military events that have fallen on Christmas, a date with a surprisingly rich history.

1776: George Washington Crosses the Delaware River

Important events in both of America's most formative wars (the Revolutionary War and the Civil War) took place on Christmas.

Washington led his troops across a 300-yard stretch of the Delaware River in the dead of night between December 25 and 26, 1776.

The surprise move would put Washington's men a 19-mile march away from a garrison of Hessians (German mercenaries hired by the British to help them in their effort to retain a hold on the rebelling colonies) that the Continental Army took completely by surprise.

The Hessians' quick surrender at the Battle of Trenton would be the first of two rebel victories in New Jersey (the other being the Battle of Princeton a week later) as the Continental Army regained control of the colony. This effectively reversed the British drive that had pushed the rebels across New Jersey in the previous months. The daring crossing of the Delaware (*depicted above*) ended up being one of the turning points of the war.



1868: US President Andrew Johnson pardons former Confederate soldiers

Nearly a century later, on Christmas Day of 1868, US president Andrew Johnson extended a full pardon and amnesty "to all and to every person who, directly or indirectly, participated in the late insurrection or rebellion."

The internecine war had ended more than three years earlier, taking more American lives than any other conflict in history. But Union general

Ulysses S. Grant's scorched earth tactics late in the war left much of the south in ruins, and the country emerged from the war in a state of deep division.

Johnson had been a Tennessee congressman, senator, and governor before joining Lincoln's presidential ticket. He was tipped in part to attract southern votes. Yet at war's end he seemed bent on imposing harsh conditions on the defeated half of the country.

The day after being sworn in as the nation's president, he asserted that "treason must be made infamous, and traitors must be impoverished." But according to the History Department at North Carolina State University, Attorney General James Speed tempered

Johnson's punitive intentions: "Mercy must be largely extended. Some of the great leaders and offenders only must be made to feel the extreme rigor of the law," Speed advised.

Southerners enjoyed only conditional and limited pardoning (depending on their station during the war) — at least until this blanket amnesty on "the 25th day of December, A. D. 1868."

1914: German, British, and French soldiers make temporary peace to celebrate Christmas together

On Christmas Day in 1914, the first Christmas of World War I, soldiers left their trenches to observe the holiday in peace. In the midst of war, soldiers laid down their arms to sing Christmas carols, play soccer, and barter with the cigarettes and sweets they'd received in care packages from the nations they served (*pictured below*).

In some places, the truce was limited to an occasion for each side to bury their dead strewn in no man's land, the stretch of earth between opposing trenches that too often served as a killing field. In others, the skirmishing continued.



But some made the Christmas Truce of 1914 what it was: An odd yet heartening case study in how people react to the pressures of war.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Clep-a-Thon

Taylor said troops are aware of what CLEP is but that many don't take advantage of the tests or understand how testing out of courses can benefit their lives.

"It gets them much closer to their degree," he said.

Szymanski said there's no faster way for service members to progress in their schooling.

"The Clep-a-Thon earned my associate's degree that day and made it to where I was only one year off from my bachelor's."



(continued from page 2)

About the author: Charlsy Panzino covers veterans education, employment and transition issues, as well as travel, entertainment and fitness.

Email her at cpanzino@militarytimes.com.

For more information, visit www.militarytimes.com

Did You Know: Facts About Pearl Harbor

(Continued from page 2)

The United States aircraft carriers, the primary target of the attack, were not at the base at the time. Because of this, the Japanese canceled a planned second attack.

There were two waves of Japanese airplanes which came to Pearl Harbor. The first wave of the Japanese fleet came at 7:55 and, an hour after, the second wave. The attack destroyed 188 airplanes, 3 cruisers, 8 battleships, 3 destroyers and 1 minelayer.

Kazuo Sakamaki, the commander of Japanese submarine HA-19, was the first prisoner of war of World War II. His submarine was captured and later on taken on tour across the United States.

Shortly before the attack occurred, radar detected the fleet, but the detection coincided with the arrival of a flight of B-17 bombers scheduled to arrive. Command staff was aware the B-17s were scheduled to arrive, however were forbidden from saying anything to the crews about it, for security reasons.

An African American cook on board, Doris Miller (*pictured below*), fought with courage and later on was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions beyond the call of duty. If you've ever seen the movie "Pearl Harbor," this part was played by Cuba Gooding Jr.



CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Friendship Baptist Church
5510 Falls of Neuse Road
Raleigh, NC 27609

Phone: (919) 876-0585
Email: fbcmail@fbcweb.net
Website: www.fbcweb.net

COLONEL STEVE AND DEBORAH MARTIN

Phone: (919) 817-0706
stevedebmartin@gmail.com

Editor in Chief:

Joe Perez (perez@usa.com)

Contributing Author:

Don King (dking010@nc.rr.com)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- Cheryl Blake - 2
- Shirley Owens - 12
- Garrett Huskey - 19
- Porsha Parchue - 27
- Lily Salerno - 30

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- Todd & Tammy Huskey - 19
- Joel & Chris Harris - 23
- Kiah & Cassia Reece - 23
- Andrew & Annette Parchue - 28

MILITARY EVENTS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

(CONT'D. FROM P. 3)

PAGE 4

1941: Japan seizes control of Hong Kong at the expense of the United Kingdom

Japan's aggression during World War II began well before the attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1931, Imperial Japan invaded Manchuria, a vast coastal region in northeast China. In 1937, it made advances on the rest of the country as well. But it wasn't until 1941 that Tokyo confronted the West with its imperial ambitions.

And though American involvement started with the Pearl Harbor attack, the surprise assault was immediately followed by Japan's invasion of Hong Kong, a British holding, in late 1941. Hundreds died in the eighteen-day battle for Hong Kong, and more were wounded or incarcerated in POW camps. Some would never return. Japan announced the surrender of the colony by radio broadcast on Christmas Day, 1941.

1941: Admiral Émile Muselier captures Saint Pierre and Miquelon, an archipelago near Canada, for the Free French Forces

The North American continent does not feature as a hot spot in the events of World War II. But soon after France's fall to the Nazis, the colonial governor of a few small islands off the coast of Newfoundland started working with the resistance.

Writing back to the Vichy government (the Nazi's puppet regime in France) Baron Gilbert de Bournat wrote of "British pressure to rally to the British or de Gaullist causes." That pressure would have found sympathizers on the islands. Its population was originally mobilized, in 1939, to help

defend France's mainland, and some ship-owners docked there refused to return to Vichy France.

On Christmas Eve, 1941, a small task force under Admiral Émile Muselier (*pictured below*) stormed the island under the cover of night. They met no resistance and the island's administrative centers were taken within an hour, eliminating what otherwise could have served as a Nazi outpost deep among Allied nations while giving the Free French cause legitimacy.

"By five minutes past midnight on December 25 the story of the invasion was telegraphed to Canadian and American newspapers," according to Douglas Anglin's "Free French Invasion: The St. Pierre and Miquelon Affair of 1941."



Hospitality to Strangers

So how is our attitude toward immigrants, strangers, refugees or aliens to our land? Have we closed the door to the inn? Do we meet their needs, lift them in prayer, or do we despise and mistrust them? In Leviticus 19: 33-34, God told the children of Israel: *"And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."*

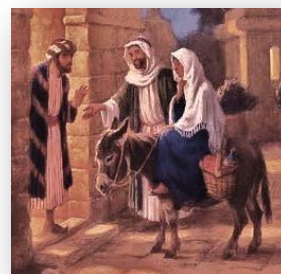
Jesus Himself gave a strong message on the subject in Matthew 25: *"For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it*

not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."

Our country, and the world at large, is struggling with immigration and refugee issues that are rife with political rhetoric and implications. We as Christians can easily get caught up in the political drama and lose sight of the fact that there are real people and real families at the heart of the conflict. Who will minister to their physical needs and who will minister to their spiritual needs, telling them of their need for a Savior? During these vexing times, we have not only an opportunity, but indeed a responsibility to those who are suffering around us and within our ability to provide assistance. Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem and Jesus was subsequently born there as a result of political maneuvering (census for the purpose of taxation). Their family be-

came refugees to Egypt as a result of a political conspiracy to take the life of the young child. Do the words of Jesus in Matthew 25 reflect His firsthand knowledge of those who are suffering among us today? I believe that they very pointedly do!

We should pray for our leaders to have Godly wisdom in how to best resolve the complex issues of those strangers and refugees we find among us. However, we as Christians also have a responsibility to have compassion on those who are suffering and in need; lest we too be guilty of saying, "there is no room at the inn!"



MAILBAG FOR ANDREW FOLZ

For those who would like to drop Andrew Folz a note or Christmas Card, his deployed address is:

Andrew Folz
1 ECEG
Unit 61239
APO AE 09309-1239

Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

First of all, thank you to all who attended our recent Yellow Ribbon Ministry Luncheon. It was one of the larger gatherings we've had with several first time attendees.

Please continue to pray for Ashley Huskey as she is being treated for vasculitis. Please keep Phil Wagher in your prayers for continued health and strength.

Andrew Folz, son of Ken and Cheryl Folz, recently deployed overseas with the Air Force. Please keep

Andrew and his family in your prayers during this period of separation. Please continue to keep Brian and Ivey Palmer in your prayers as they minister to soldiers and families at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin. Also, Brian is up for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and that may necessitate a transfer to a new location. Please keep them in your prayers! Finally, Deborah and I want to wish each of you a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

~ Colonel Martin

