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ALLIED SERVICES' CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS  
AND GREETINGS

Christmas Mail for the sailor....No matter how tough the weather, Santa Claus must get through. Out at sea, the U.S. Navy postman draws alongside and the sacks go across on a breeches-buoy....Greetings from home and letters from all the girls in all the Ports.

It's different, of course, in the Army.... This is one of the many Military Post Offices dealing with thousands of letters and parcels of all shapes and sizes destined for troops 'over there.'

At this particular Post Office in Belgium, English-'speaking' Belgian girls lend a helping hand with the letters.....In Holland, members of a Canadian Forestry Unit make sure of a good supply of Yule Logs for the boys....Gathering Winter Fuel is child's play to them.

Christmas Trees are not forgotten....And willing shoulders carry them back to brighten up the wards of hospitals.

Wounded Tommies get together with the Nurses to decorate the trees. Resourceful as always, they make a real show of it....out of the most unlikely materials, and a lot of ingenuity.

Christmas parcels arrive at a point not far from the front.... There's not much time wasted in finding out what's inside. A parcel from home is everybody's business....and there's never any lack of volunteers to make short work of the contents.

A special day for the kiddies of the low countries is St. Nicholas Day.... And the Army sees to it that they aren't disappointed.... St. Nicholas, who has gifts for the good children and his servant Black Peter, who, so legend has it), takes the bad kids away in his bag, sets out in a jeep to a party organized by the troops....

A Dutch Marienette Show is one of the high spots.... and do the little 'uns love it!

The boys have saved their rations, particularly their sweet rations to give the kids a wonderful treat. They've made toys for them out of whatever odds and ends they could get their hands on, and they act as mothers to them.....

Of course, we wish they were home for Christmas - but their thoughts are of home, as General Eisenhower and this little informal gathering will tell you.

Gen. Eisenhower:

"I have asked you men to meet on this spot to-day so that I can be perfectly certain of saying 'Merry Christmas' to one man, one sailor, one soldier, one airman of the United States, France and the British Empire. I am going to ask one of you men to send Christmas greetings to the people back in the United States.

American who has volunteered to speak:

"I wish everyone at home a Merry Christmas and hope we shall have a happier Christmas next year."

Gen. Eisenhower:

"All right you step back. Let me speak to the British boys. This country and mine have been partners for three long years in this War. This is the best Christmas we have seen yet, and let's hope that when the next one comes around we'll all be back with our own people. I am going to ask one of you men to send New Year and Christmas greetings to the people at home. This time let's pick the sailor."

SAILOR SPEAKING:

"Well, Merry Christmas to everybody at home. Keep on sending the shells, and I hope that next year we'll all have Christmas together."

A FRENCHMAN SPEAKS NEXT.

Gen. Eisenhower:

"Now the Canadians:- You're alone here from Canada?" (Canadian answers 'Yes Sir'). Gen. Eisenhower: "Well, it's up to you then to say 'Happy New Year' to your people at home, and my neighbours in the North American Republic."

CANADIAN SPEAKING:

"A Merry Christmas to everybody at home, and the best Christmas present you can send us is more shells, and next year we'll all be together."

Gen. Eisenhower:

"Thank you men and a Merry Christmas to all of you."

Men answer:

"Same to you, Sir."

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