



COMZ

CADENCE



CG's Christmas Greetings

As we enter the holiday season, I thank each member of the U.S. Army Communications Zone, Europe, military and civilian, for the loyal and devoted service you have given in the past year. The success of our mission, as a force for Peace, rests on the efforts of each of you.

In an uncertain world, the wonderful spirit of Christmas never dies among free men. Mrs Anderson and I join in wishing you and your loved ones all the joys and blessings of Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year.

WEBSTER ANDERSON
Major General, USA
Commanding



Merry Christmas



Your G-1 Reports...



Christmas Time!—and we begin to recall the brightness and wonder of other Christmases we knew at home. Remembering them, we may realize for the first time that we are spending this Christmas where many of the Christmas customs we have enjoyed so long originated.

A reminder of how and where some of these customs started, plus learning about the customs and traditions of the countries in which we reside, will help us all enjoy this season a little more.

The use of pines and cedars for Christmas trees is usually credited to Germany.

The legend is that Martin Luther, walking through a pine forest, was inspired by the sight of thousands of stars sparkling through the branches. On his return home, he cut down a fine tree and covered it with small candles so his children might know what the heavens looked like.

Although the Christmas tree is rapidly becoming a popular home decoration in France, the most traditional item to be seen is the "Creche," or Nativity scene.

The Creche includes the manger, along with clay figures of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the animals, the shepherds, as well as various dignitaries and tradesmen. These clay figures are made in Provence where the making of religious figures has been an art for many centuries.

In Germany and some parts of eastern France Dec 6 is celebrated as St Nickolaus Day.

St Nickolaus visits the children in their homes and if they have been good during the year, fruits, nuts, cakes and candies are left in their shoes, placed carefully under the bed or by the front door. If they have been bad, they receive a bundle of switches.

St Nickolaus is usually portrayed as a stern old man with a long beard, riding a horse with a sack over his shoulder. French children do not hang up their stockings but they put their shoes in front of the fireplace. It is the custom in certain parts of France to place a carrot and a lump or sugar in the shoes for "Pere Noel" to feed his donkey.

The words of the beautiful carol "Silent Night" were born over a hundred years ago in the village of Arnsdorf, Austria, written by the parish priest, Father Josef Mohr, and put to music by his organist, Frank Gruber.

Although centuries ago a "carol" was a group dance accompanied by a joyful song, it later came to mean the song itself—the singing of joyful news.

The idea of Christmas cards comes to us from England, when in 1846 a gregarious Englishman named Sir Henry Cole fretted over the familiar problem of too many friends to greet personally at Christmas time.

He commissioned a London artist, John Calcott Horsley, to do a jolly old English Christmas scene and had it printed along with a "Merry Christmas" message. This idea caught on so fast that the very next Christmas nearly every one in England was doing the same thing.

In France, the gayest celebration of the year is "Reveillon" which begins right after midnight mass on Christmas morning. Children are allowed to stay up and open their gifts and all enjoy a huge French dinner.

In the restaurants champagne flows like water as the people feast on pate de foie gras, roast turkey, chestnuts, and "buche de Noel," the huge cake

which is the center of every Reveillon table.

It is a festive occasion for the city dweller and farmer alike, and is celebrated in the same manner in winter resort chalets around Mont Blanc, Mont Dore or in the Pyrenees, where many spend their holidays.

Wherever you spend your holidays, we sincerely hope you will join all your neighbors in a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

AWAF Committee To Nominate Chairman And Vice Chairman

PARIS—Appointment of a nominating committee to propose candidates for chairman and vice-chairman to be chosen during the April 1965 Conference of American Women's Activities in France (AWAF) in Orleans was made here last month by Mrs Charles R. Kinney of Vitry-le-Francois, 1965 chairman.

Nominating committee chairman will be Mrs Reginal E. Ivory of Paris, vice-chairman for 1965. Mrs Joseph H. Heiser Jr., of Orleans will serve as adviser to the nominating committee, with Mrs J. L. Clark Jr., Paris area representative, and Mrs Harry Corkill of Evreux-St. Andre as members.

Sgt Maj's Colorful Military Career Marked by Ability to Get to Top

INGRANDES—A colorful military career is drawing to a close sometime this month in Poitiers with the retirement of Sgt Maj Willie Johnson, the first E9 ever to retire at Hq, USA Garrison Activity, Poitiers.

The outstanding feature of Sgt Maj Johnson's 23½ years of service has been his ability to reach the top fast.

In 15 months after his original enlistment in June 1941, he rose from private to 18-year-old master sergeant, the grade which he held until the Department of the Army created the supergrades in 1958.

He was one of the first to receive the E8 rating when the new system was established.

His career includes over four years of combat during both World War II and the Korean Conflict.

In June 1941, Sgt Maj Johnson, then Pvt Johnson, was as-



Sgt Maj Willie Johnson

regardless of their age or the length of time they have been married provided it has been medically established that the wife is absolutely and definitively incapable of giving birth to a child.

The adoptive parent must normally be at least 15 years older than the adopted child. If the adoptive parent is adopting the child of the other spouse the minimum difference of age required is only 10 years. In both cases, special exceptions may be made by the President of the French Republic.

Generally, the adoptive parent may not have any legitimate children or grandchildren on the date the adoption proceedings are instituted.

signed to Co D, 28th QM Regt, which later became the 28th Trans Bn. He was with the 28th when the battalion landed in North Africa in November 1942, to start its long three-year drive across North Africa into Italy, France and finally into Germany.

He participated in every campaign in which the battalion engaged during World War II, earning six battle stars.

In the spring of 1959, he was again assigned to the 28th Trans Bn then in Orleans. In April 1960, the battalion Hq was moved to Poitiers where the "top soldier" has been ever since.

Then nine months later, in June 1959, MSgt Johnson became Sgt Maj Johnson.

Librarian's Notes

Special Services Libraries Offer Books on Berlin in Bondage

By Helen M. Nelson
Bremerhaven Librarian

Pillaged, raped, almost completely wiped out by war in 1945, Berlin has managed to rebuild and to regain its position as one of the loveliest cities in the world even though it is cut in two by a horrible wall of hatred, called by Berliners the "Wall of Shame."

COMZ Special Services Libraries have many books about Berlin and its people. For an understanding of the situation immediately after the war Frances Faviell's book *The Dancing Bear* is one of the best. Mrs. Faviell, the wife of a British official, arrived in Berlin in 1946, after the first madness of Russian raping and looting was over, but before the Iron Curtain had completely isolated the Eastern Zone. Mrs. Faviell writes intimately of the people she met, those who became her close friends and those whose callousness horrified her. Her book is a moving one that gives a clear picture of why the Berliners have been able to endure and to rebuild their war-shattered city.

For an understanding of the situation before the outbreak of World War II there is William L. Shirer's *Berlin Diary; the Journal of a Foreign Correspondent, 1934-1941*, and *End of a Berlin Diary*. These two books give an excellent day-by-day account of Hitler's rise to power and the events that ultimately lead to war.

Divided Berlin, the Anatomy of Soviet Blackmail by Hans Speier is an account of the events leading to the building of the "Wall of Shame." Mr. Speier analyzes the situation beginning with the Soviet demands for a "demilitarized Free City" of Berlin in 1958 and he traces through the reasons for the inability of the East and West to agree on the restoration of Germany as a state. Mr. Speier's account is very clear although perhaps a little one-sided.

For a blow-by-blow account of the taking of Berlin by the Russian troops there is *Berlin Story of a Battle* by Bernard Tully. In journalistic style

through eye-witness accounts he tells in minute, horrifying detail the experiences and reactions of soldiers and civilians during the battle and after the final conquest.

Still another history is *The Defense of Berlin* by Jean Edward Smith. In this serious documented account of Berlin's history from World War II to the present, Smith discusses the deterioration of the Western position following the Vienna conference and pinpoints significant differences in the approaches of the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations in dealing with Berlin.

The most recent contribution to the literature about Berlin is Leon Uris's epic novel *Armageddon*. As in his previous books, Mr. Uris's fiction is almost nonfiction and he is strongly championing a "Cause" — this time that the Allies were sleeping when they allowed Russia to enter Berlin first and alone. Still he knows how to hold the reader's interest and he makes one want to read further into the history of Berlin to discover how much of his account is factual and how much pure fiction.

These books and many others plus the current magazines are available at Special Services Libraries to inform on the events of today which will be the history of tomorrow.



DIAL SMILE—Miss Janine Jorge was selected as the Ingrandes Voice With a Smile for November. She is 20 years old.

Learning the Law

French Adoption Laws Explained

By The COMZ SJA Div
In France, any person may adopt or be adopted. A French citizen may adopt a non-French citizen or be adopted by a non-French citizen.

An adoptive parent must normally be at least 35 years of age. However, there are three exceptions:

A couple married for more than 8 years, one of whom must be at least 30 years of age, may adopt a child.

A person over 30 years of age who has been married for more than 8 years may adopt the children of his or her spouse.

The adoption by a married couple of a child or the adoption of the child of one spouse by the other may be authorized

Comz CADENCE

MAJOR GENERAL WEBSTER ANDERSON.....COMMANDING GENERAL
Major Pearl Fuchs.....Information Officer

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