



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: A. M. Mitchell, P.G.M.

"Peace on Earth"

Dear Brethren:

Although Christmas in the English speaking world means Festivity, Happiness and Joy, especially to the young folk, I trust that while we in this Jurisdiction make merry in tranquility and peace, we will not forget those in far off Europe to whom this joyous occasion will be just another day of suffering and torture, and in particular our own people in the British Isles—loved ones, friends, our Masonic Brethren and their families, who must to a great extent forego their accustomed festivities. Amid the roar of cannon, the drone of enemy planes and the explosion of bombs, will they, one wonders, hear the message of the Angels as clearly as they did in years gone by—"Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men"?

But Masons in Alberta can to some extent bring joy, encouragement and comfort to our Brethren in Great Britain by giving of the material substance with which the G.A.O.T.U. has been pleased to bless us. Yes, Brethren, that ancient Yuletide Message can, for them, be greatly amplified, even amid the din of strife, in their realization that they have not been forgotten by their kin across the ocean. The Ten Thousand Dollars I asked for in my last message is a long way from being realized yet, but there is still time if you act promptly. This request is made of you as a Masonic duty.

I seem to see the Three Wise Men following the Star, carrying carefully and guarding jealously their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, driving their willing mounts with greater speed, stopping for naught except to inquire where the Prince of Peace lay, to whom they wished to present their gifts with love, devotion and humility.

We, as Masons, may think of ourselves as these Wise Men, for have we not learned the great truths of life in our Lodges. And shall we at this Festive Season present again to our suffering Brethren Masonic gifts of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth? The Three Kings not only presented gifts but dedicated themselves to a higher and nobler service. So to us this should be an appropriate time to remember our Brethren in their distress and dedicate ourselves anew to further heights of Masonic effort, towards that New Day of which the Angels sang long ago.

Duty, honour and gratitude at such a time bind us as never before to our trust. I pray we may be unswerving in the discharge of our Masonic obligations, for none of us can gainsay that the Spirit of Yuletide—that of giving—is after all identical with our Masonic ideals.

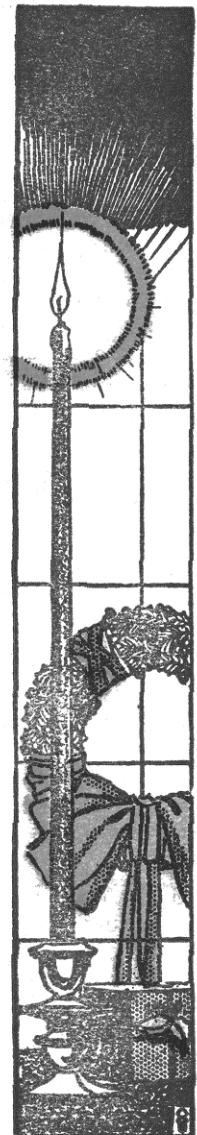
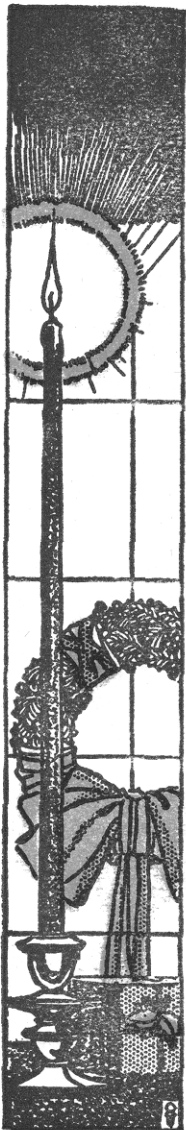
Brethren, let us pause and gather new strength for the struggle, even though the clouds hang dark and low, implementing the joy, inspiration and sense of co-operation that you have given to me since assuming the exalted office of Grand Master. And let us together reflect on the message of Christmas and of the Great Shepherd, who demonstrated throughout his earthly life "The Brotherhood of Man" as the practical outcome of a Divine Fatherhood.

So with gratitude and joy in my heart at this Festive Season, I extend to you and yours, and to our Brethren in the Services at home, at sea or in far off lands and their loved ones who have been left behind, the old, old message—

"Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men."

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

GEORGE F. ELLIS,
Grand Master.



CHRISTMAS, 1941

TRADITION relates that upon a certain memorable evening in the long ago, a great light shone in the heavens and the sweet sounds of an angelic chorus filled the vault of the night.

Another great light fills the selfsame sky tonight, and sounds, far from angelic, rend the darkness. Men on wings set the flaring terror and drop the missiles which, crashing and tearing in demoniac uproar, bring death and destruction to unfortunates below. There is no glory in this kind of a Christmas. How can we celebrate it?

The perfunctory exchange of greetings, the giving and taking of trumperies, the formal little printed good wishes seem all too fatuous when life and liberty are at stake. Is there nothing good about Christmas 1941?

There is!

Consider that Christmas is the season wherein there is a tremendous outpouring of the spirit of human goodness, the season when, perhaps, mankind demonstrates more than at any other how far it has moved from the primeval ooze. It matters not whether we recognize the season with the formality of sectarian ritual or with the plain sentiment of common men, there is the same generous feeling abroad and the same spirit of tolerant human relations between man and man which we as Masons epitomize in our ancient trinity of brotherly love, relief and truth.

True it is that desperate hands are striving to cancel all the upward progress man has made, and by destroying freedom of thought and word and deed, enslave the world in the blackness of a caveman night.

Here then is the eternal conflict of light and darkness, now bright, now grim and terrifying. We have no doubt which shall eventually prevail. *Fiat lux!* Let there be light.

Is it not meet that for the space of the Christmas anniversary we pause to catch our breath, to speak with friend and neighbor, to demonstrate our goodwill, to give of our portion and speak of the truth as we know and see it? Indeed it is, and this is why we should recognize the ancient festival of Yule.

Dark days lie ahead, the leaders say, darker than we have ever known, but we see at the end of the long tunnel of time a bright beckoning, the light of the future falling upon a brave new world. We must struggle toward that light as best we know how, fighting the devils which beset us until the battle has been won, and giving of our best meanwhile for the succor of those who bear the brunt of Armageddon.

But this is Christmas. Good-will to all men of good-will, and a stout heart and a strong hand against

those who plot the destruction of that good-will. There is no religious formulary in this, only the spirit of human decency raised to the highest levels we know, and the grim determination to maintain those levels or perish in the struggle.

Let us celebrate, not in any spirit of carnival, but in the spirit of free men who pause, sword in hand, to reassure themselves of the values for which they fight and give themselves to carry on. Celebrate, not in any riot of feasting, but in recognition of the weak, the helpless, the poor and the suffering, above all of the comrades who struggle in the van, and celebrate in thankfulness that we may still seek the truth in our own way as free men.

Brotherly love, relief and truth, good-will to all men, tolerance, freedom, liberty, humanity, all are beacons on the heights. We have seen them in part. We struggle toward them through the darkness. The ultimate spirit of Christmas beckons at the end. Falter not. A Happy Christmas, can still be yours and every man's.

A.M.M.

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UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

Enemy action, increased calls for charity and backbreaking taxes have not succeeded in suspending Masonic activity in England. In accordance with its usual custom, the United Grand Lodge of England met for its regular quarterly communication early in September. The Grand Lodge convened at 12:30 p.m. so that blackout conditions would not interfere, and the business was conducted with dispatch.

The United Grand Lodge has also announced that the *Masonic Year Book for 1942* will be published as usual.

The death of Maj. John Boyd, M.C., who had been Grand Tyler of the United Grand Lodge for the past fourteen years, was announced at the communication. No details were given. He had been a faithful and popular Mason for many years, and his death was a blow both to the Craft and to the British Army.

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Affability, mildness, tenderness, and a word which I would fain bring back to its original signification of virtue—I mean good nature—are of daily use; they are the bread of mankind and the staff of life—*Dryden*.

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Our success will be assured if we set our minds to the tasks and problems confronting us with a full appreciation of their seriousness and a confident belief in our ability to win.—*York Rite Trestle Board*.

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Be not merely good; be good for something.

—*Thoreau*

"THE GREATEST OF THESE . . ."

1. SCOTTISH RITE MASONS VOTE \$1,000,000 FOR WAR VICTIMS

FOR the relief of Freemasons, their families and friends, victimized or imperiled by war throughout the world, the sum of one million dollars was appropriated in a resolution passed by the Supreme Council, 33°, A. & A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., at its morning session, Wednesday, October 22, 1941.

This huge fund will be administered by Grand Commander John H. Cowles, 33°, upon consultation with the Finance Committee composed of Chairman William P. Filmer, 33°, San Francisco, Calif., Charles F. Buck, Jr., 33°, New Orleans, La., and Frank C. Patton, 33°, Omaha, Neb.

The resolution condemned the dictators, now engaged in trying to suppress the Craft, and called attention to the part Freemasonry has played in the founding of the Republic and the leaders it has contributed throughout the nation's history. The resolution called attention to the epic struggle now going on in the world—"the Biblical Battle of Armageddon . . . being waged between the free people of the earth and those who would enslave mankind—to determine whether liberty shall live or die.

"RESOLVED, that the sum of One Million (\$1,000,000.00) Dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated out of the funds of this Supreme Council, for the aid, assistance and relief of the institution of Freemasonry, its members, the members of the families of Masons and their friends wheresoever located who have been or may be the objects of persecution in the War Zones or who have suffered or now suffer as a consequence of the action of dictators or autocratic rulers, said funds to be expended by the Sovereign Grand Commander upon consultation with the Finance Committee, and through such agencies, at such times, and in such amounts as he may deem expedient and wise."

2. MASONIC AMBULANCES ARRIVE IN CHINA

Nine ambulance chassis, shipped to China by way of Rangoon by Scottish Rite Masons of the Southern Jurisdiction, have arrived there and been equipped for service, according to word received by Supreme Council, 33°, A. & A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

All ten were sent in the care of Wang Chunhui, who until recently was Minister of Foreign Affairs in General Chiang Kai-shek's Government. He resigned to become Secretary General of the Supreme National Defense Council of China.

He received the 32nd Degree of the Scottish Rite on the Altar of Heaven in the Temple of Heaven at Peking, China, and was one of the five permanent members of the World Court at The Hague before the outbreak of the war with Japan, after which he resigned and entered the service of his country.

3. SCOTTISH GRATITUDE

The Grand Lodge of Scotland has intimated at a quarterly communication of the Lodge in Edinburgh that a further donation of £1,118 had been received from the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. There was a previous donation of £2,236.

4. ONTARIO DOES ITS PART

Beginning on September 1st last, the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario set an objective of \$10,000 per month for their British War Relief fund.

"This amount will be divided according to the exigencies of the situation existing in those three Grand Jurisdictions. The Masons of the British Isles have not asked for anything. This is spontaneous giving on our part."

5. THANKS FROM ENGLAND (OUR FUND OF 1940-41)

"I have this morning received a further cheque for £4,400 from the Grand Lodge of Alberta towards our War Relief Fund. I cannot tell you how greatly we appreciate the kindness and sympathy of our Brethren overseas, and the very valuable aid which has been given to us will bring relief to many families on whom the burdens of War have fallen most heavily."

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

(Sgd.) SYDNEY A. WHITE,
Grand Secretary.

6. ALBERTA BENEFICIARY REPORTS

A letter from V. W. Bro. R. J. Dawes, England, reports that early in July enemy action partly destroyed the buildings in which Mrs. Curtis' room was situated, and she had to be content to temporarily take up her abode in a room on the ground floor, from which the proper occupant had fled. She was in great distress and asked for help in obtaining clothing. Needless to say, the Benevolent Board took prompt action to relieve the wants of this our sole direct beneficiary in the war zone.

7. A DISTRICT CHAIRMAN PUTS A FEW QUESTIONS

R. W. Bro. R. G. Thomson suggests that each of us ask himself the following questions when called upon to contribute to our own Alberta War Distress Fund:

Is it for a good cause?

Is there a danger of worse conditions in Britain or even in Canada?

Are we in Alberta well off at present?

Is it a Masonic duty to help those in distress?

In the history of the Grand Lodge of Alberta there have been but four appeals made to the members in the past, for the Hillcrest Disaster, the Benevolent Fund, the Drouth Relief Fund and for last year's

Defence Fund. Don't you think we have been fortunate?

Would a little aid for Christmas be appreciated by the helpless victims of the Hun?

"I read somewhere that getting on our knees and asking Providence to help everybody, was not half as manly as standing on our own feet, and reaching out a helping hand to those in distress."

R. G. THOMSON,
Chairman Dist. No. 3.

APPRECIATION

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I take this opportunity to acknowledge the many messages of sympathy and good wishes that came to me during my illness from the District Meetings, from the Lodges and from individual brethren, often accompanied by flowers, books and other kindly mementos of their fraternal regard. Their brotherly thought did much to alleviate the tedious hours of recovery and I do not doubt materially shortened the period of convalescence.

To answer so very many letters I find is almost impossible and I must therefore ask my brethren to accept this brief, but sincere, acknowledgment of their kindness.

J. H. W. S. KEMMIS,
Grand Secretary.

FREEMASONRY IN FRANCE

Vichy Government Suspends Noted Masons From Office

Listed as Masonic dignitaries, five French army generals and a member of the State Council, the court which decides on claims against the State, have been suspended from their offices by the Vichy government purely because of their Masonic membership.

The State Council member is Henri Mouton, and among the generals were Joseph Hassler, Divisional General, and four Brigade Generals. Four other Generals in the Service of Supplies and the Medical Corps have been placed in retirement, also for reasons of their Masonic connection.

The Vichy government has announced that lists of names of former Masonic officials and members of the fraternity are being published daily, but recently names of only a few prominent persons have been made public. Louis Louis-Dreyfus, banker and former newspaper owner; Benjamin Jammy-Schmidt and Georges Levy-Alphandey, Deputies; Basil Malakoff, lawyer and former Deputy, and Vladimir Marinovitch, a diplomat, have been among those mentioned.

These Masonic lists are believed to be the result of research by Bernard Fay, librarian of the French

National Library, who is in charge of the Craft documents seized when the Nazis invaded France. M. Fay wrote a book, *Revolution and Freemasonry*, in which he speaks in complimentary terms of Freemasonry, although he is not and never was a member of the Masonic Fraternity. M. Fay has been ordered by Vichy to organize a museum devoted to the banned secret societies. Masonic documents and paraphernalia will be prominent in the museum exhibits.

Paris Editor Defends Craft from Attacks by Bernard Fay

Marcel Deat, editor of *L'Oeuvre*, Paris newspaper, jumped to the defense of Freemasonry in answering a recent charge by Bernard Fay, head of the French National Library, that the Craft was largely responsible for the fall of the Third Republic.

M. Deat took the position that it was a mistake to lay the collapse of the French Republic at the door of Freemasonry and that the wholesale dismissal of Craft members from government posts was a grave injustice.

Typical of Vichy's attitude was Fay's remark that most men who have renounced Freemasonry since Hitler's conquest of France are in reality working against their country. Taking a cue from the Nazis, the Petain government has sought to shift the blame of French defeat from national decadence and fifth column work to the Craft.

Fay's position is a complete about face from his earlier views. His *Revolution and Freemasonry*, published in 1935, was favorable to Masonry. His change of heart appeared only after Hitler conquered France.

He is believed to have prepared the list of French Masons, recently published in Paris newspapers, from membership lists seized when the government suppressed the Craft. At present Fay is preparing a Masonic museum from documents and paraphernalia appropriated by Vichy.

The controversy between Fay and Deat arose when Fay wrote the Paris editor a cunningly worded letter asking if "some of the numerous Masons who surround you or have followed the lecture series you gave for lodges" could help assemble the new Masonic museum, designed to ridicule the Craft.

Deat, refusing to step into the trap, denied ever having been a Mason and blasted Fay in an editorial. He labelled him the "Jesuit disguised as a librarian" and consigned him "to the dust of his archives with his letter pinned to his backside while awaiting the imprint of my shoe."

Vichy's growing persecution of Freemasons follows the familiar pattern of the dictatorships. It is believed that harsher measures will be taken against the Craft if resistance to Petain's regime continues to grow.