

ARMISTICE DAY CELEBRATION
WAR MEMORIAL

November 11, 1941
Baltimore

ARMISTICE Day, 1918, wrote a jubilantly happy ending to a war that had cost many thousands of American lives, and had drenched the whole world in the blood of its young manhood. It was a day that every American who experienced it will remember as long as memory lasts.

Armistice Day, 1941, presents a vastly different picture. But while there is no public jubilation, no frantically-happy crowds on this Armistice anniversary, nevertheless, there still is tremendous cause for heartfelt satisfaction to every true American on this memorable day.

There is real cause for jubilation today because, though nearly a score of once-free countries have been despoiled of their belongings, and of the most priceless of all their possessions, their God-given freedom, the people of America today continue to enjoy to the fullest every right, every liberty won for them, and jealously preserved for them, by our ancestors during these past 160 years.

To realize how blest we are in this respect, it is only necessary to think for a moment of what Armistice Day, 1941, means to the devastated countries of Europe. Looking back on the wild scenes of joy that transpired everywhere on that great day in 1918, it is a saddening thought, indeed, to contemplate what has happened since that time, not only to France, but to Denmark, Belgium, to Poland, to Holland, to Norway and to Czecho-Slovakia. What bitter thoughts Armistice Day must evoke in the minds of the people of those conquered countries! Or even in Great Britain, which finds herself this Armistice Day in a death struggle for survival.

The newspapers, the radio, the screen, have brought us impressive evidence of British courage to excite our admiration of Great Britain's Air Raid Wardens, her Fire Watcher her Rescue and Bombs Squads and all the innumerable specialized services which have enabled the people of Britain to survive and to preserve their morale under the most disheartening circumstances.

England has suffered and suffered mightily, but at least its people have the supreme satisfaction of knowing that England is still England, and that their freedom has been unhampered. In Paris, however, in Warsaw and in all the other capitals of the conquered countries, there is no such cause for satisfaction. Instead there is the goose-step of heavy Nazi boots.

On Armistice Day twenty-three years ago, every man who had donned the uniform of the United States felt that he could lay aside all thoughts of War, because there would be no more war. That we were mistaken then should merely serve to sharpen our alertness against the dangers of this present