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THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

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THIS MONTH'S COVER

We had planned to have a traditional Thanksgiving Day cover until we received the news that President Kennedy had been assassinated. We felt that out of respect for our late Commander-in-Chief we should feature his portrait on this month's Hukster.

Our pilgrim fathers knew from whence came their help and were willing to acknowledge his providential care over them. When their first crop was blessed by God with a bountiful harvest the leaders of the colony set aside a special day to worship and sing praises to the Lord of the harvest. The pilgrims knew that without God's blessing they would have perished in the new land.

Today we are just as dependent upon God as the pilgrims, but because we can go to the store and buy our food, we may not have thought about where the food in the stores came from. The miracle of the soil is still there. A seed that looks dead is planted, the rains come down and water while the sun shines and assists in the growth. Poor soil will stop the growth, rich soil with rain and no sunshine will only cause the seed to rot. Many lands today do not grow enough food to feed their people, while we in America must pay our farmers not to sow their fields with seeds for food. Can we ever be like those today who cannot feed their own people? Well, if Jewish history is correct, it can happen to us. They possessed a land flowing with milk and honey but today the new Israel is striving to reclaim the waste land. There is evidence that the great Sahara Desert of North Africa was once a fertile land but today is a great unproductive waste. America may not become a desert in my life time but I know that it could happen if God willed it to be so. We need to thank God for His blessing upon us as the bread basket of the world.

God has not only blessed us with food but He has given us the best standard of living of any country in the world. You say, "we have worked for it," but even you must realize that unless the potentials are there all the work in the world will not produce. God has given us the potentials. We need to be thankful and on Thanksgiving Day this year we should raise our voice in praise and thanksgiving to God our provider.

M. W. HOWARD
Chaplain, USN