



Yuletide Goose

► TURKEYS were abundant in most markets this year, to meet the needs of Yuletide feasting. Tremendous numbers of them were killed and sold for Thanksgiving, only a month or so ago, yet the market display cases were again stacked high with dressed turkeys, and you could hear the gobblings of penned live birds wherever you went a-shopping.

Turkey for Christmas is pretty much an American institution. Our forebears in Europe, where the Christmas feast originated, feasted on goose—unless, indeed, they belonged to the wealthier nobility and could afford swan or peacock. But for the solid franklyn and the substantial burgher, goose was the bird, as all accounts of Yule feasting, from Chaucer to Dickens, will well attest.

The goose meant more to our ancestors than the turkey does to us. The present-day American home gets turkey twice a year—at Thanksgiving and Christmas. For most modern small families a turkey is just too big; even the “streamlined”

birds recently bred by Department of Agriculture scientists bulk a bit large on an apartment dinette table. Our forefathers and foremothers had bigger families, did more work out-of-doors, and lived in chillier dwellings, so they could use more meat—and fatter meat, too. They ate goose often; the Christmas goose was merely the biggest, best-favored bird in the flock, set apart for the special occasion.

Moreover, the usefulness of the goose was not finished when the last bit of meat had been picked from its bones. Usually there was a good deal of surplus fat, and this, carefully saved up in a jar, was used for choicer cooking, where something finer than lard was called for. Goose-grease with various home medications added also became a whole series of sovereign remedies. Even yet, many a balding elderly citizen can remember how he got goose-grease and turpentine rubbed on his chest for coughs and colds.

The goose also yielded fine down and small breast-feathers for the voluminous feather-beds in which our ancestors slept. (Literally in them, for you sink into a thick feather-bed until you think you are going to smother!) And not satisfied with that, our ancestors pulled another feather-bed over the top, in lieu of blankets or quilts. Country folk in Europe still sleep that way.

Finally, the stiff quills of wing and tail had their uses. Skillfully cut with pen-knives, they became pens—the only pens that were known for centuries. Trimmed otherwise, they winged the clothyard shafts that made the bowmen of England and Wales both famous and feared throughout Christendom and deep into Heathenness. Thus the goose, despite its undeserved reputation for silliness, had its place in the tactics of war and at the council-table where treaties were signed.

*Science News Letter, December 29, 1945*

## RADIO

## Shoran Made Bombing Possible in Overcast

► A LITTLE-KNOWN radar navigational device called “Shoran” was used with remarkable success in bombing German targets through overcast in the last stages of the war in Europe and permitted bombing comparable with the accuracy of that in clear weather obtained with the famous Norden bomb-sight.

Shoran was one of the last radar systems applied tactically in Europe and was put into use only six months before the Nazi surrender. It was started, however, at Wright Field in 1939, in a search for an efficient short-range air navigation system. The Radio Corporation of America took up the problem, and the system is the result of cooperative work by Army electronic experts and scientists of RCA.

Ground stations are required for Shoran operation and a special airborne computer unit is essential. The system requires accurate maps and mathematics as well as suitable locations for the ground equipment. As its name implies, Shoran is short-ranged and is successful only if the range from ground station to target is not more than 250 miles, and if the computations on the airborne computer are carefully and accurately made.

For bombing operations, location of the bomb release point is accomplished by means of electrical waves instead of by optical bombsight. When used as a bombing device, a computer unit to determine distances, speed of approach, and bomb release point is added to the primary navigation equipment.

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*Aluminum* is very active chemically but tarnishes only slightly in air.

## ERRATA, Vol. 48, Nos. 1-26, July-December, 1945

PAGE	TITLE BEGINS	CORRECTIONS
44	Boric Acid Treatment	Line 6, D for R.
48	Special Radio Receivers	Line 8, after batteries, insert or operate on.
130	Worm Is Both Father and Mother	Line 1, to read, live in river and lake bottom mud.
170	Precious Waste Products	By-line, Mooers for Moores.
172	Super-Rough-on-Rats	Par. 2, lines 3 and 4 to read, it was one in a series of toxic.
183	Nests with Awnings	Lt. Aldrich for Dr. Aldrich.
213	Attacks 1,000 Homes	Par. 2, lines 2-3, was comparable to for exceeded; lines 4-5, War for German blitz.
227	Carbon Dioxide for Polio	Par. 2, line 8, G. Peyton Kelley for G. Pelton Kelly.
272	Measurement Lamps	Photograph shows an U.H.F. triode transmitting tube.
309	Chemical War on Allergy	Par. 3, line 6, departure for department.
317	Simplest Engine	Line 3, after recently, insert during the meeting of the Soaring Society of America.
338	Arsenic Poison Remedy	Par. 8, line 4, benzylbenzoate for methylbenzoate.
341	Atom Bomb Nobelists	Col. 3, line 29, exclusion for exclusive.

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