

THE SALVATION ARMY COMES TO THE RESCUE OF THE ARMY/NAVY GAME 1930

The beginning of the Christmas season seems to be marked not only by the Thanksgiving Day Parade and the arrival of Santa Claus, but also by the ubiquitous presence of the Salvation Army bell-ringers.

Attractively attired in their military "fighting the devil" uniforms, they brave winter's icy winds, rain, and snow to proclaim their redemptive mission to the world and their joyful solicitation of our support.

They stir up the best of emotions in all of us and make us glad to share with the less fortunate.

Everyone seems to know of the good work of the Salvation Army in their efforts to clothe, feed and help those in greatest physical and spiritual need. Few, however, have ever heard of the Salvation Army's rescue of the Army and Navy Games in 1930.

Because of strained relations between West Point and Annapolis, the two military academies had refused to play football with each other for a period of three years. It made no difference that they saluted the same flag and even swore allegiance to the same nation. They would not meet on the gridiron.

That's when the Mayor of New York City asked General Evangeline Booth, Commander of the Salvation Army, to act as an intermediary. Requesting the teams to lay aside their differences, she persuaded them to return to the field and play a benefit game under the banner of the Salvation Army. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* hailed it as "a unique athletic episode marking the greatest service ever rendered by the game of college football to the cause of charity."

On December 14, 1930, the 31st battle between the Army and Navy teams was played in Yankee Stadium with almost 70,000 fans in attendance. Among them sat, in honor, the demure Evangeline Booth, daughter of William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army. It was her first football game ever. She had won another battle, without fighting, and nearly \$60,000 was donated to a worthy cause.

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