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IT COULD BE WORSE



So runs the verse in the shyned notice to Hitler amid the ruins of this bomb-blasted London store. This is just one of the little gestures to be seen everywhere in London, which go far to nullify the attempts of the German raiders to crack the people's morale.

"I SAW DEATH In Wholesale Quantities"

By PAUL MANNING

NEA Service Staff Correspondent

LONDON, May 29.—Peacock Alley at the Ritz—that's where we met. The girl ambulance driver was in uniform, and this was her night off—so she wanted to celebrate.

But one hour was all the celebration lasted because 30 minutes after the air raid alarm sounded it was evident that this was no ordinary blitz night. The German bombers were coming over in waves, and by their sound you knew the planes were the big four-engine jobs.

They were coming over at a great height until they reached the center of the city and then they would dive in long, roaring glides until

And this night the young little Captain, Midame O. C. she is called by her subordinates, did not object to a man not in uniform helping out.

EACH RUN WAS 'A NIGHTMARE'

Climbing in, we headed for a large public air field shelter which had been hit. There were more than 60 injured stretchered out along the street and as the wardens continued to dig they uncovered more.

Some were already dead and many, you knew, wouldn't last the trip out between the shelter and the hospital.

That trip, and the others which followed, was a nightmare. The girl was good, though. On the trips when she was at the wheel, which

job of transporting the injured morning. Then it all began to taper continued on until nine in the off and with the day shift scheduled to take over, we returned to the station.

A TRYING ORDEAL FOR AMBULANCE GIRLS

She was tired, of course. So was I. Everyone was. But sitting around in the big living room of the house which it is unit used for an ambulance station, you couldn't help marvel at the job these girls were doing.

For most of them, it was the first time in their lives they'd really seen death in wholesale quantities with no punches pulled. But they were standing the ordeal



(Illustration By Carol Johnson)

It seemed they were just skimming the rooftops—though actually they always leveled out at around two or three thousand feet.

After three bombs had rocked the hotel, each time stopping the babble of talk that always runs through a big dining room, she left the table to telephone the station of her ambulance unit, which is a No. 1 danger spot in London during a raid. The station stands between

STATION IS HEMMED IN BY FIRE

When she returned, we left for the station. Her unit was being swamped with casualty calls and I wanted to see what driving in an ambulance really meant during the blitz hours when first you see life, and then you see death.

The station was not on fire when we arrived, but it might just as well have been. It was in the triangular corner of three fires—a garage, a paper warehouse and a freight yard which made three fiery beacons and turned night into day. There was an ambulance at the curb which we learned was now available. A short 40 minutes before, two girls had decided to double up in one ambulance because trying to drive around bomb craters and rubble in this section during a blitz is a two-person proposition. They had made one trip to the hospital and were returning for another load of injured when a bomb, the one you never hear of, struck the right front fender. Not even the fender was left, but the next day one of the wheels was found in the middle of the next block.

So that was the ambulance that was available, the one this second girl had left parked by the curb. Was most of the time, she never got rattled. Not even when we would be going slowly down an

open street and suddenly find the street no longer open because high explosives had cut a crater deep center.

When that happened, I'd climb out and try to find a way round, or else an alley cutting into the next block. Usually, though, it meant turning the ambulance in the middle of the road and heading back to the last cross street.

We made that first trip to the hospital all right, and the fifteen or more which followed. At 3:30 in the morning the tempo of heavy bombs seemed greater. We were no longer clearing the air raid shelter, because long ago that job had been taken care of with the help of half a dozen other ambulances. So it was purely spot work by this hour.

FIRES' WEIRD BEAUTY FALLS ON THEM

We'd return from the hospital to the ambulance station and wait for a call from some air raid warden whose crew of men had just finished digging through to people trapped beneath the timbers of the home.

The wait was never long, however, because the telephone was always ringing. Then it was out in the shrapnel and bombs again—only by now there was no thought of danger because every movement had long ago become automatic.

Even the drive down the avenue flanked by fires and the streaming water which firemen continued to play upon each inferno had lost its effect of deathly beauty.

Twice, after 3:30, when we passed such fires, we stopped and went over to the ever-present mobile canteen for hot tea. Along about five the German stopped their bombardment and returned to their home bases, but the fire, stilling around like this, though immediately after a heavy night, they were inclined to go to

RECREATION-ROOM IN BASEMENT GAINS STEADILY IN POPULARITY

The basement today is firmly established as the "rumpong room," "club room" or play room. The space beneath the house has become almost as important as that above grade.

Any home is enhanced by enough space to be turned into a recreation room.

The minimum size which will adapt itself to use for this purpose is about 11 by 14 feet. The most popular basement play-rooms run about 12 by 18 feet. A two-storey house is likely to measure close to 26 by 25 feet at the foundations, while a bungalow measures some 28 by 30 feet at a minimum. Therefore space below grade usually can be divided into one part for the heating plant, water heater and laundry equipment, and one for games, lounging or workshop.

Central Stairway
Many new houses are being built today with the stairway from the first floor in the middle of the basement space and the heating plant tucked behind the stairs, out of the way. The stairs make a natural division, while a heavy equipment is of the modern type enclosed in an attractive metal jacket, a partition is not even necessary.

The floor of the playroom may be painted or dyed, covered with asphalt tile or special moisture-resistant linoleum block or a wood-finish floor may be laid. If you are painting be sure to treat the concrete first with a solution to kill alkali, then use the type of paint which will hold up best under possibly damp conditions. Cement paint, concrete dye and special rubber-like paints are some which are made for this purpose.

Can Use Wood Floor.
A wood floor may be laid with an air space between it and the concrete base.

When it comes to equipment, the most a "red" for is a bar and a built-in bench and table-

pieces—just a little. "You become a little hardened after a while," one said, "but that is only when you're working. Later, like now, you know you'll never get used to the sight of violent death—never, even if this war lasts another thousand years!"

DONKIN PASTOR ACCEPTS CALL TO NEW POST

GLACE BAY, May 28.—Rev. W. T. Mercer, who has been pastor of St. Luke's United Church at Donkin for the last eight years, has accepted a call to the United Church at Mount Stewart, P. E. I. It was learned today.

Rev. Mr. Mercer is well known and popular in Donkin and surrounding communities, and has taken a leading part in all community undertakings since his arrival here eight years ago.

In 1937 he was a candidate for election to the provincial legislature as a representative of Cape Breton east. He contested the seat on the Labor ticket.

During the recent War Services drive Rev. Mr. Mercer organized the campaign in the Donkin district and with a capable committee assisted him, exceeded the quota set by a considerable sum.

WALL - CABINETS IMPORTANT IN UP-TO-DATE KITCHENS

Perhaps the greatest interest shown in home modernization nowadays is centered in the kitchen. Now with house furnishing firms offering new and clever ideas, you might consider the kitchen among the first features for improvement.

One feature of a modern kitchen is to have all the utensils and supplies behind doors and out of sight, but within easy reach. The answer to this is wall cabinets.

Another feature is a sink of ample size, with a large drain-board on both sides if possible. A useful combination with the sink is an electric dish-washer with a cover that between times is used as a drain-board.

Ranges Much Improved
The working centre of the kitchen is the range, of course. Gas, oil and electric ranges are so made that the oven can be held at any desired temperature for any length of time.

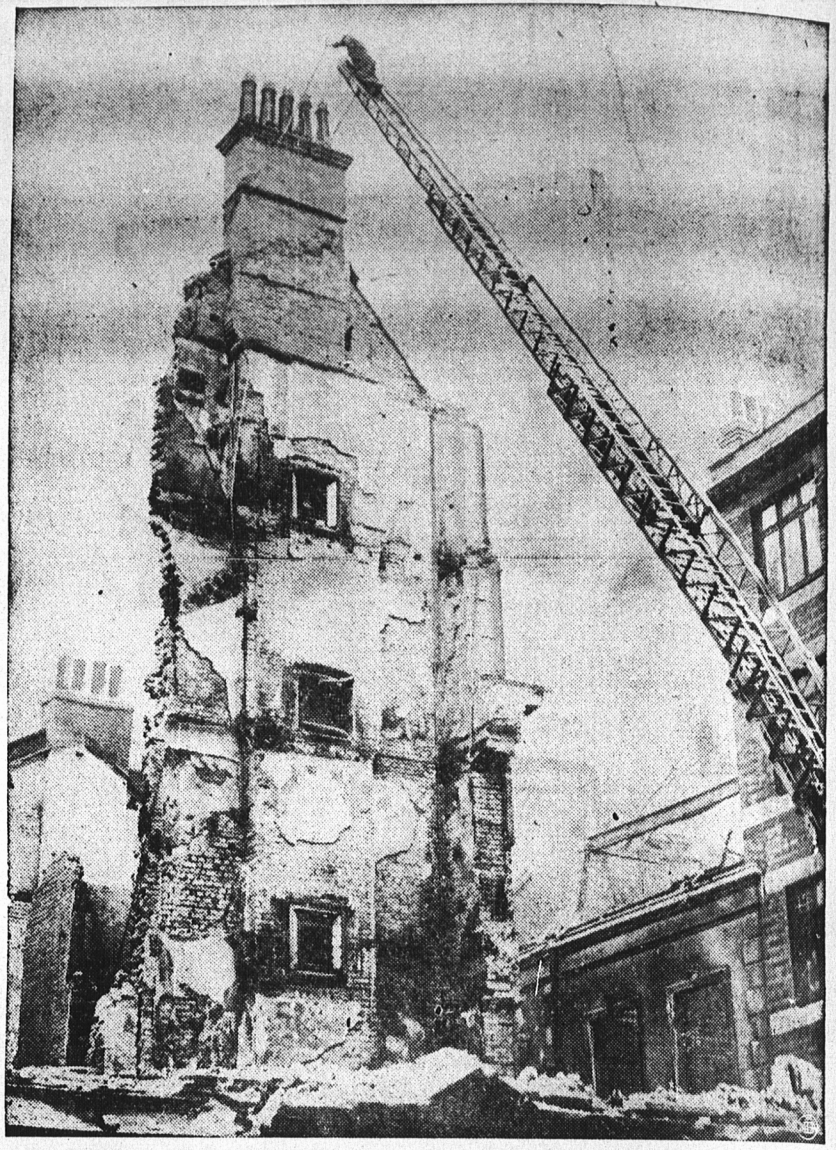
Coal ranges have been developed to throw less heat into the room. For a small house you can get a coal range that will also heat the house in winter, either by hot air or by hot water.

The arrangement of range, sink cabinets, mechanical refrigerator will depend on the design of the room, the positions of doors and windows, and the position of the kitchen to the dining room.

The walls and ceiling must be proof against damage from steam and spattered grease. Glazed tile is too costly for many homes, unless there is little wall space to cover. But there is a special grade of linoleum that makes an excellent finish, and there are substitutes for tile, made of thin cement sheets with the exposed surface enamelled in color.

Another good covering is var-

TALL JOB IN LONDON



Spectacular picture illustrates one of tough jobs left for Londoners after the bombers have gone. A demolition worker goes way up there on a giant crane to fix steel cables to the wall of what was an office building before remains are pulled down.

nished wallpaper, which, after being hung and dry, is given a further coat of spar varnish.

For a kitchen, a tile floor has the advantage of being easily cleaned, but, being hard, may not be easy on the feet. This can be

overcome by providing mats of linoleum or rubber in front of the range, the sink and the work table.

With all the electrical appliances that can be so useful in kitchen, any plan for moderniz-

ing should include rewiring to provide plenty of outlets at convenient places. The wiring should be sufficiently heavy to permit the use of a number of appliances at one time.

Clean-Up Begins in Bombed London As Soon As Embers Cool



"Good-by, Piccadilly"—Just in the sense of the war's marching song (LEFT). As soon as the bombs cease and fires are put out the work of clearing debris gets under way. Pedestrians, no longer shocked by such sights, saunter by. When St. Bartholomew's church was ruined in a recent London raid Corp. C. I. Morrison, a Canadian soldier and his bride, Miss Helen Fowler, went right ahead and received blessing of Rev. A. Bason (BOTTOM). Great blocks of stone crushed this ambulance (RIGHT) during a raid on London, May 10. Fortunately the ambulance was carrying no injured when crumpled by falling walls.

CHAPEL IN BAKERY

LONDON.—(CP)—Bomb-proof away below street level the bakery at Gatti's restaurant now a Y.M.C.A. centre is used for Sunday services with a cross in front of the huge ovens.

MORE AND MORE BABIES
Germany's birth rate in 1940 exceeded all previous years.

By George McManis

BRINGING UP FATHER

