

Wartime Life of London Family is Reviewed

Press Correspondent Tells of the Routine of Life That War Time Has Forced.

By EDWARD W. BEATTIE, JR. LONDON, Dec. 4 (UP)—A day in the life of the average London family:

7 a. m.—All clear. The siren's high note tells the city that the German raid is over for the moment. The family—father, mother, George and Gertrude—gather up their blankets and belongings in an air raid shelter near their home. Mother and Gertrude had slept in a section of three-tier bunks now being built but they were lucky. Father and George had bedded down on the floor.

7:15 a. m.—The family reaches their home, which was damaged some days ago by a bomb but not seriously. Father is greeted by his neighbor, who chose to sleep in bed last night while his family slept in the small corrugated iron shelter in the back yard. Only 15 per cent of London residents use the subways as shelters and an increasing number seek to sleep normally at home if the barrage permits.

7:30 a. m.—There is only one egg available and the family has a rationed quota of bacon, which is cooked with difficulty because the Nazi bombers have damaged the gas mains and the flame is weak. There's enough food for everybody but tea is limited.

8 a. m.—Father walks ten blocks to the bus, as compared to two blocks before the aerial blitzkrieg, and it takes him twice as long to get to the office.

11 a. m.—Mother goes shopping to buy vegetables, meat, American canned soups, clam chowder, chile con carne and some maple syrup. She puts in an advance order for a Christmas turkey at 55 cents a pound but is told that she may have to take duck.

Noon—There is no school for the children but they are required to study for a certain time each day. About 1,000,000 children are in London or other "evacuation areas" where schools are closed but the disruption of education, according to official statements, is not as serious as might be imagined.

12:30 p. m.—Mother meets the children at a restaurant for lunch, a special treat.

2 p. m.—Gertrude and George attend a performance of an abbreviated ballet in a nearby theater. Lunch-time shows, especially brief ballets and performances of famous plays, have become popular in view of lack of night life in London.

2:30 p. m.—Mother goes window shopping, often peering through chicken wire over shattered show windows or looking into a small opening left in boarded-up store fronts. She sees Christmas decorations although there is not yet any "Christmas rush" in the stores.

4 p. m.—Mother and the children get home well before dark because the raiders usually begin coming over about dusk.

6 p. m.—Dinner. The siren screams a warning that German raiders are coming. Far away the guns begin to roar.

INSURANCE AGENT ON BOND

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 4 (UP)—Insurance Agent Hallett French, 44, who wrote an \$800,000 policy on "Galloping Gertie," the \$5,200,000 Tacoma narrows suspension bridge which collapsed Nov. 7, was free on \$2,000 bail today on a charge of grand larceny.

His company, the Merchants Fire Insurance Co. of New York, charged that he had failed to remit \$70,000 in premiums, including an \$8,000 premium on the policy he issued against "Galloping Gertie" collapsing.

The company said it was unaware that it had issued a policy on the bridge. French was the company's general agent, and, as such, was authorized to issue policies without prior authorization of company officials.

The policy is binding, but company officials did not expect their loss to total more than \$200,000 because much of the bridge can be salvaged and the total loss will be prorated among 22 companies which had issued policies on it.

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FACES CONSPIRACY CHARGE

KEOKUK, Iowa, Dec. 2 (UP)—Mrs. Nonie Chapman, 43, Keokuk widow, today faced a criminal conspiracy charge in an abortive plot to slay the youthful husband of her 13-year-old daughter for \$2,500 insurance. Her daughter and two men were held as accomplices.

Police Chief E. C. McPherson said Mrs. Chapman admitted the plot when she was confronted by the statement of Winnie Thompson, 17, Keokuk youth, who said he had been "hired" to obtain an insurance policy in the name of Charles Fox, 17, Hamilton, Ill., Mrs. Chapman's son-in-law.

Police said his statement charged that Mrs. Chapman and James Landman, 56, Keokuk, had engaged him to pose as Fox in obtaining the insurance and that Mrs. Chapman intended to shoot Fox when the policy had been approved.

Mrs. Chapman told McPherson that she was influenced by Landman who, she said, had threatened her life. Landman told police he had been offered \$500 by Mrs. Chapman to persuade Thompson to pose as Fox.

Mrs. Fox, who claims to be 17 instead of 13 as reported by her mother, also admitted knowledge of the plot, McPherson said.

All were held on \$2,000 bond.

FOUR KILLED IN WRECK

BENTON, Ill., Dec. 3 (UP)—Four WPA workers were killed and twelve others injured when a WPA truck was struck at a country grade crossing near here by a one-car gasoline train, according to Franklin County Coroner D. J. Clayton.

He said the death toll was expected to mount and identified two of the dead as Henry Dare and Arthur Davis.

The injured were taken to a hospital here. Most of the occupants of the truck were said to be from Christopher, en route to a WPA road project several miles south of Benton. The truck was demolished and the dead were said to have been crushed.

GOVERNOR MAKES APPOINTMENT

LINCOLN, Dec. 3 (UP)—Governor R. L. Cochran re-appointed Dr. D. W. Hurst, Tecumseh, to a three-year term on the State Veterinary Medicine Examining Board.

ROBBER TESTS DETECTIVES

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (CP)—Tom Morrison has been robbed 10 times and twice within two weeks—with the detective bureau located 50 feet from his cigar stand in the city hall.

HELD ON TRAFFIC VIOLATION

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia., Dec. 3 (UP)—A man and a woman of Missouri Valley, Ia., were held here today after a truck had careened over a curb, killing instantly Aaron W. Thompson, 41 and injuring another person.

Emil Sulentic, 32, whose hurts were undetermined, said he and Thompson were walking when the truck loomed suddenly from nowhere. Thompson was knocked to the sidewalk.

B. E. Austin, Omaha, told police he ran to the truck and found Marilyn Barton, 19, Missouri Valley behind the wheel. Two hours later, a taxi-cab driver brought Russell Smith, 27, Missouri Valley to the police station after Smith allegedly talked "incoherently" about wanting to find his red truck. A man was seen to flee the truck after the accident.

Thompson was a Union Pacific boilermaker.

HOPPERS SHOW DECREASE

LINCOLN, Dec. 2 (UP)—State grasshopper control leader Don Whelan reported today that surveys indicated a "marked decrease" in the number of hoppers to plague Nebraska farmers next year.

Whelan said egg surveys were made in 78 of the 93 counties and that increases were found in only 20 in the central and southwestern areas.

A substantial decrease was noted in Cass county; no trouble was anticipated in Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, or Nemaha.

DIME WEDDING RINGS SEAL UNIONS IN RENO

RENO, Nev., Dec. 2 (UP)—Many of the young people who come here to be married to escape the California "sin marriage" and blood test laws, do it with dime store wedding rings.

The local 5 and 10 has done a big business in rings. About the only high-priced rings sold are to local residents or Easterners who come here.

COURT HAS COLD

County Judge A. H. Duxbury, who has been suffering from a cold for the past few days, was confined to his home this morning. The many friends of the genial jurist trust that he may be back on the job as usual in a few days.

Our stock of legal blanks is most complete.

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Corcoran, a veteran Missouri Pacific employe, had lived in Irvington for 14 years. The victims are survived by two children, Agnes, 16, and Mrs. Irene Seefus.

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Dated November 28, 1940.

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