

Ernie Pyle in England

## 'Blitz a Failure So Far and London Is Not Knocked Out'

(Continued from Page One)

buildings, Regent and Oxford Streets (great shopping centers), Pall Mall and Piccadilly, Parkland and Leicester Square, the Strand and Holborn Circus. And the best way I can describe it is to say this: You may walk a block or two without seeing a single wrecked building. Then occasionally you will see a block that is half wiped out. But the typical block in the West End would have two buildings completely wrecked by bomb or fire, and half a dozen damaged but not destroyed. That still leaves a lot of whole, sound buildings.

You are impressed to see how little effect a bomb has on a building unless it is a bomb of the very greatest weight. A big modern building next door to us took a heavy bomb right on top, yet it stands there today whole and beautiful, only slightly damaged.

STEEL AND CONCRETE and stone usually stand up. It is the old, age-worn buildings of brick and dry mortar that have gone down in heart-sickening heaps.

Much of the damage is not visible to a person walking down the street. I was in a plant the rear part of which had been blown to the ground, yet from the front it looked untouched. A house next door to doom may get nothing more than broken windows.

The Savoy Hotel, for instance, stands up as big as life, but it has been hit more than once.

Yet the service—food, light, drink, politeness—goes on absolutely as usual, even to the floor porter complaining this morning that I hadn't put my shoes out for him to shine.

The damage is terrific, but what impresses me most about it, and the point I want to get over, is this—it doesn't make any difference! That sounds cold and heartless. But honestly, it's the way the British look at it. They don't feel that they have been hurt at all.

An American newspaper friend of mine who has been here through it all says the most impressive thing to him is the way secure people have abandoned their property sense. They can see their buildings go up in smoke, their savings blasted to bits, and apparently they don't care so long as "we get that guy in the end."

My first days here were consumed in getting all signed up and identified, something that is very necessary in a warring country. And now I have so many papers that I've had to buy an extra wallet, a leather case so big I have to carry it in a side pocket, and it is already stuffed full.

First you register with the police and get a booklet with your picture in it. You have to give them your whole life history. If you move, they must be notified.

"And Don't Lose Your Booklet!"

Then there is the national registration. Here you get another booklet, and boy don't you lose it. Then you get your food-ration book. Then you report to the Ministry of Information and get a pass with your picture in it. Then the ministry gets further cards permitting you to stay out after midnight and enter prohibited areas, such as zones of military action.

Everywhere you go people are nice to you. At the police station it took half an hour to get my business done because a policeman had to tell me about the bombs in his neighborhood. I have never seen policemen at home so friendly and helpful.

And it wasn't just because I was an American. For I watched them at other desks, where other foreigners were registering, and these got the same courteous treatment.

My particular policeman lives in a quiet suburb on a rise of ground, with a good view. And he said that the night before I arrived London was a sight to see, with searchlights and noise and fires all over town.

He said a bomb hit his block not long ago and wiped out 13 houses. But only five people were hurt and nobody killed.

On my second afternoon here I got a haircut. The barber talked all the time, and for once I enjoyed it. He knew instantly that I was an American. We all look alike to me, but these Londoners can tell an American a mile off.

It didn't take the barber long to find out that I had just arrived and that my first two nights in London had passed without a single bomb being dropped. He said we'd have some before many nights.

"And I'll tell you," he said, "if you don't get a little windy your first night then you're not much of a man. A fellow who doesn't get his wind up at the first experience isn't a man at all. He's just an animal with no nerves in his body."

He's Not Afraid Any More

I told the barber I was all prepared to be London's biggest coward. He said not to be ashamed if I was scared and did something silly. He was an air-raid warden at night in his home suburb, he said, and what did I suppose he did in his very first raid? He dived for the nearest underground shelter.

When he got down there, he said, he realized that there was no place for a warden to be, and he was so ashamed he took off his badge so people wouldn't know he was a warden.

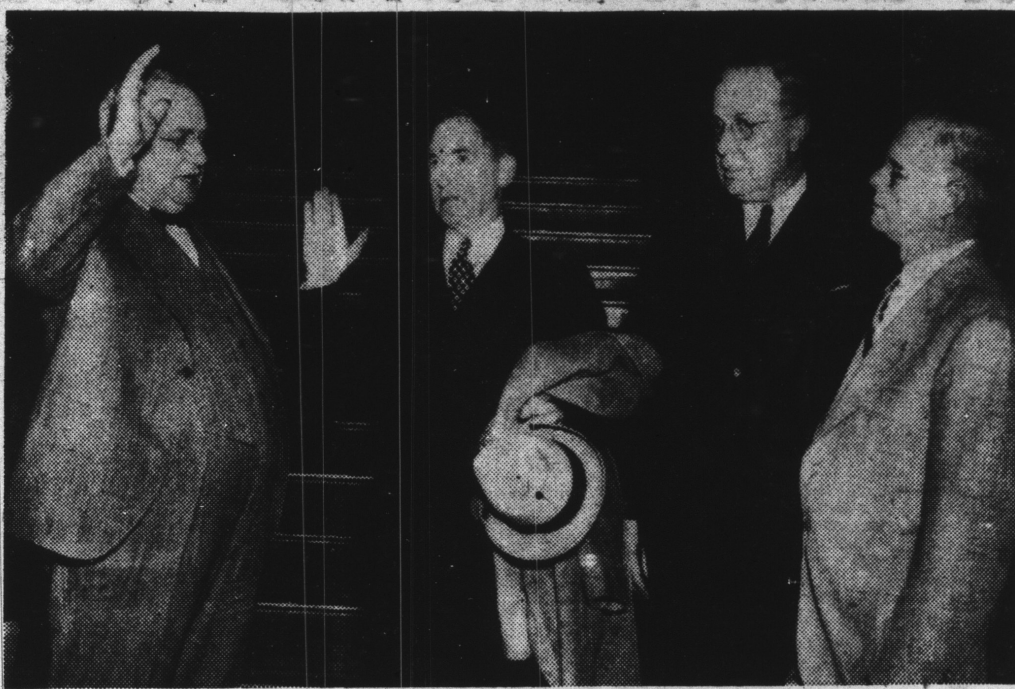
He's not afraid any more at all. I'm mighty glad I got a haircut. The barber was a great solace. Before that I had been afraid of bombs, and also afraid to have anyone know I was afraid. Now I'm only afraid of bombs.

## RAIL WORKERS GET 7 MILLION PAY RAISE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (U. P.)—Wage-Hour Administrator Philip B. Fleming today ordered wage rate increases of more than \$7,000,000 annually for 70,000 railroad workers, including Red Caps, Pullman porters and dining car waiters.

March 1, also will affect track, shop and terminal workers, watchmen, office and other railroad employees. It is the third largest wage increase ordered by the administration. The order will make effective recommendations of the Railroad Carrier Industry Committee for minimum wages of 36 cents an hour for employees on trunk line railroads and 33 cents an hour for short lines.

## As Three Assumed County Offices



As the Republicans moved into the Court House yesterday, Judge Dan V. White of Municipal Court swore in three new G. O. P. County officers. They were (left to right) Paul R. Brown, surveyor; Dr. R. B. Storms, Coroner, and William T. Ayres, Commissioner.

## NEW PROTESTS ON BINGO CITED

Better Business Bureau Says '12 Places' in City Advertise Games.

(Continued from Page One)

Itin said that a petition is being circulated seeking to enact a law legalizing bingo in Indiana "only for the benefit of church and fraternal organizations."

"We believe," the bulletin said, "that out of fairness to those church people who are opposed to bingo gambling, the petition should specify what churches are in favor of it. As we recall, the Indianapolis Church Federation has gone on record as being opposed to any form of gambling or legalization of lotteries."

Chief Morrissey said he was not advocating any such law but pointed out that with the 1941 session of the Legislature coming up, now is the time "for people to straighten out the bingo situation if they are interested and want to play it legitimately."

He said he had a copy of a state law which permits people to play bingo under a permit for charitable, church or fraternal organizations.

The Better Business Bureau explained in its bulletin "it is not the purpose nor the responsibility of the Bureau to enforce laws against lotteries or gambling, but in our efforts to promote clean merchandising and curb unfair business methods, we are compelled to oppose gambling or lottery schemes and gift enterprises when used as sales promotion plans."

"In doing so, however, when we ask a small merchant to discontinue such practice," we run into an embarrassing question when he says, "why do you pick on me, a little fellow, when big-time bingo games and other gambling or lottery schemes are conducted without interference by certain churches, lodges, brotherhoods, societies, private individuals and others?" We'll admit that the question is a tough one to answer to his satisfaction.

Most of the Bureau's investigation was made by Toner M. Overley, manager, who was out of the city today.

## ASCAP Exempts Library on Ban

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY of Composers, Authors and Publishers has issued free licenses for the use of its music to the Indianapolis Public Library, Cadle Tabernacle, Purdue University and Evansville College, according to John G. Faine, ASCAP general manager.

Mr. Faine said "this is being done by us in conformity with our desire to serve the public interest."

## GOP SEEKS CONTROL OF ATTY. GEN. POST

(Continued from Page One)

Mr. Schriker will have control of only four functions of government—State Police, Alcoholic Beverages Commission, Clemency Commission and the Adjutant General's office.

Other departments will be grouped under the four other executive divisions whose controlling boards would have Republican majorities.

The division and proposed members of each board are:

Department of State—Mr. Tucker, Lieutenant Governor-Elect Charles M. Dawson, Republicans, and Mr. Schriker.

Department of Audit and Control—Mr. James, Mr. Dawson and Mr. Schriker.

Department of Treasury—State Treasurer-Elect James Givens, Republican, Mr. James and Mr. Schriker.

Department of Works and Commerce—Mr. Dawson, Mr. Givens and Mr. Schriker.

Under this setup, Mr. Dawson would have the lion's share of control among Republicans, thus strengthening the political position of State Senator William E. Jenner and the forces who backed his unsuccessful race for the G. O. P. Governor nomination.

Mr. Jenner is majority floor leader in the Senate and his campaign manager, Frank T. Mills, of Campbellsburg, is majority leader in the Lower House.

Mr. Dawson was aligned with Mr. Jenner in the pre-convention campaign.

## War Moves Today

By J. W. T. MASON

United Press War Editor

Mussolini's first public admission that Italy cannot meet the British and Greek offensives unaided came today with the official Rome announcement that German air squadrons will proceed to Italy for operations in the Mediterranean basin.

It is not to be expected, however, that the Italians in Albania and North Africa can regain the offensive through strengthened air power.

German help will necessarily be limited because of Hitler's pre-occupations elsewhere. At the same time, there are difficulties in Albania and North Africa which seriously interfere with air attacks by Italian planes, despite the fact that Italy's air force is understood to exceed 5000 planes.

The bombing of Greek cities early in the fighting has been the only conspicuous aviation action by the Italians.

When fighting developed in the Albanian mountains, the Italian air superiority over the Greeks did not make a serious impression. The high peaks and deep narrow valleys through the mountains greatly interfered with airplane activities.

It is difficult to the point of impossibility for an air force to work great damage against an enemy force operating in mountainous terrain. The coastal road through Albania is practically the only open target for airplanes, except the Adriatic ports which have been sub-

jected to British and Greek air bombardment.

The new German planes will find the same difficulties in the Albanian mountains that have confronted the Italians. The Nazi airmen have had more experience than the Italians in air combat and so should make somewhat better showings.

They might protect the Albanian coastal centers better than the Italians, but it will be surprising if they can have any decisive influence on Greek mountain operations. The Germans will find Albanian flying conditions different from what they were in Belgium and northern France where the tide of battle was largely turned by Nazi air supremacy.

In North Africa conditions of the terrain are much better for the

German airmen than in Albania. The problem in Libya, however, is different. It concerns both the limited supplies of gasoline and oil and the presence of some of the best British fighting planes.

The British captured large quantities of airplane fuel and lubricants during the Italian rout from Western Egypt into Libya. These supplies must have been heavy since they had been concentrated for the Italian offensive which was waiting only for the arrival of mechanized vehicles from Italy.

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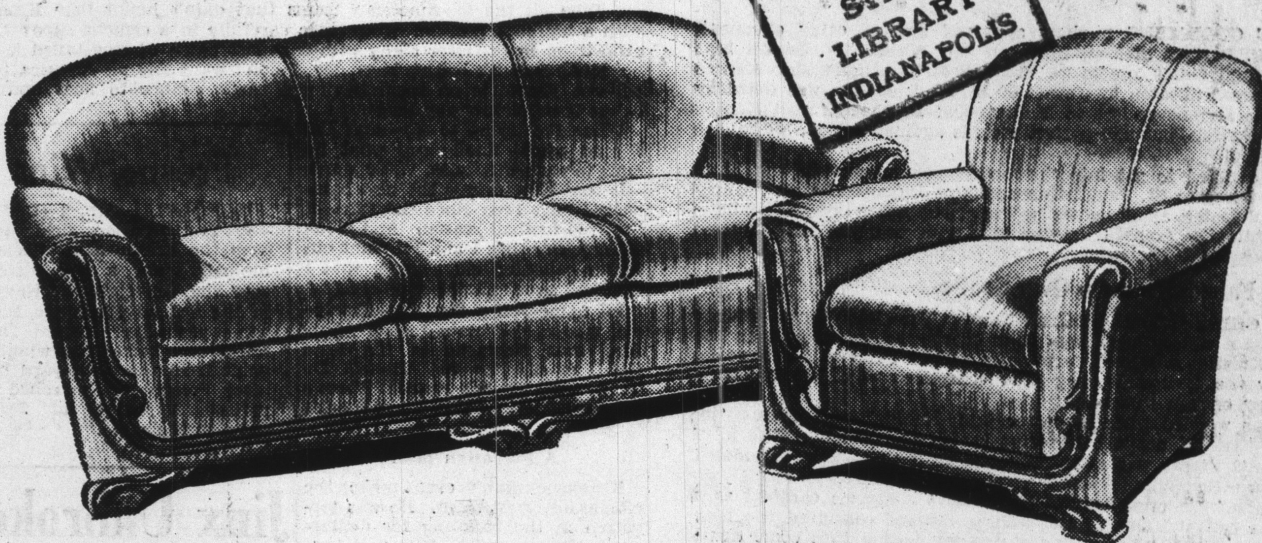
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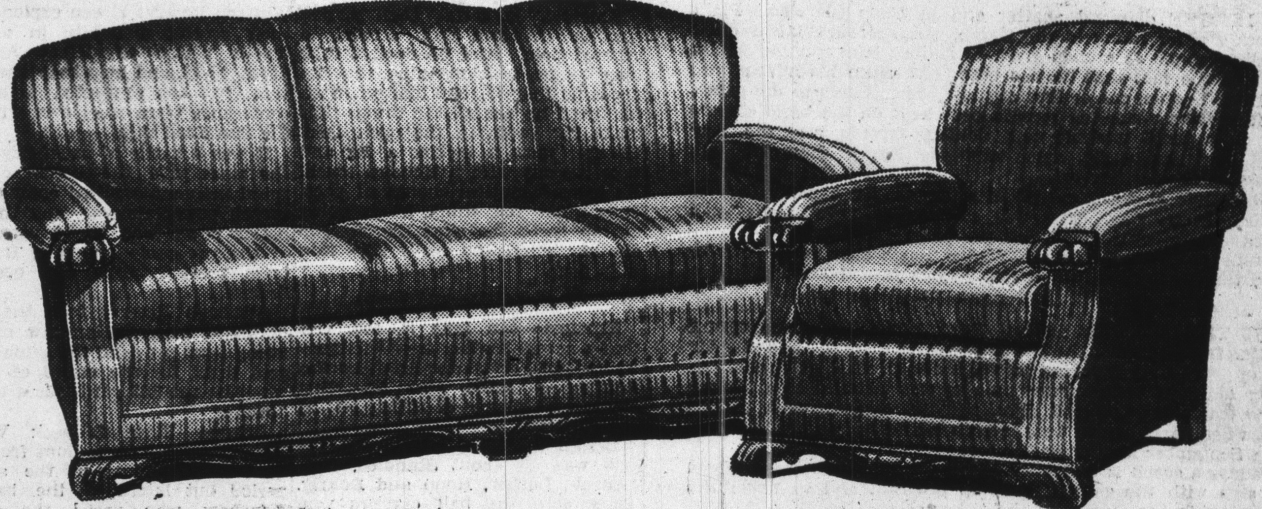
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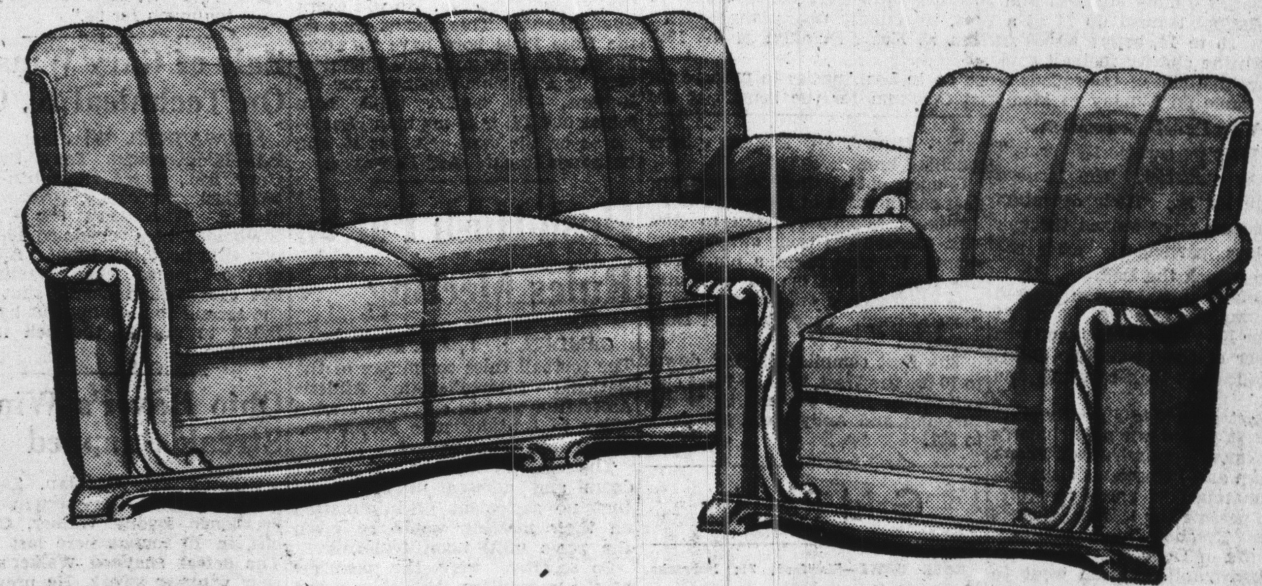
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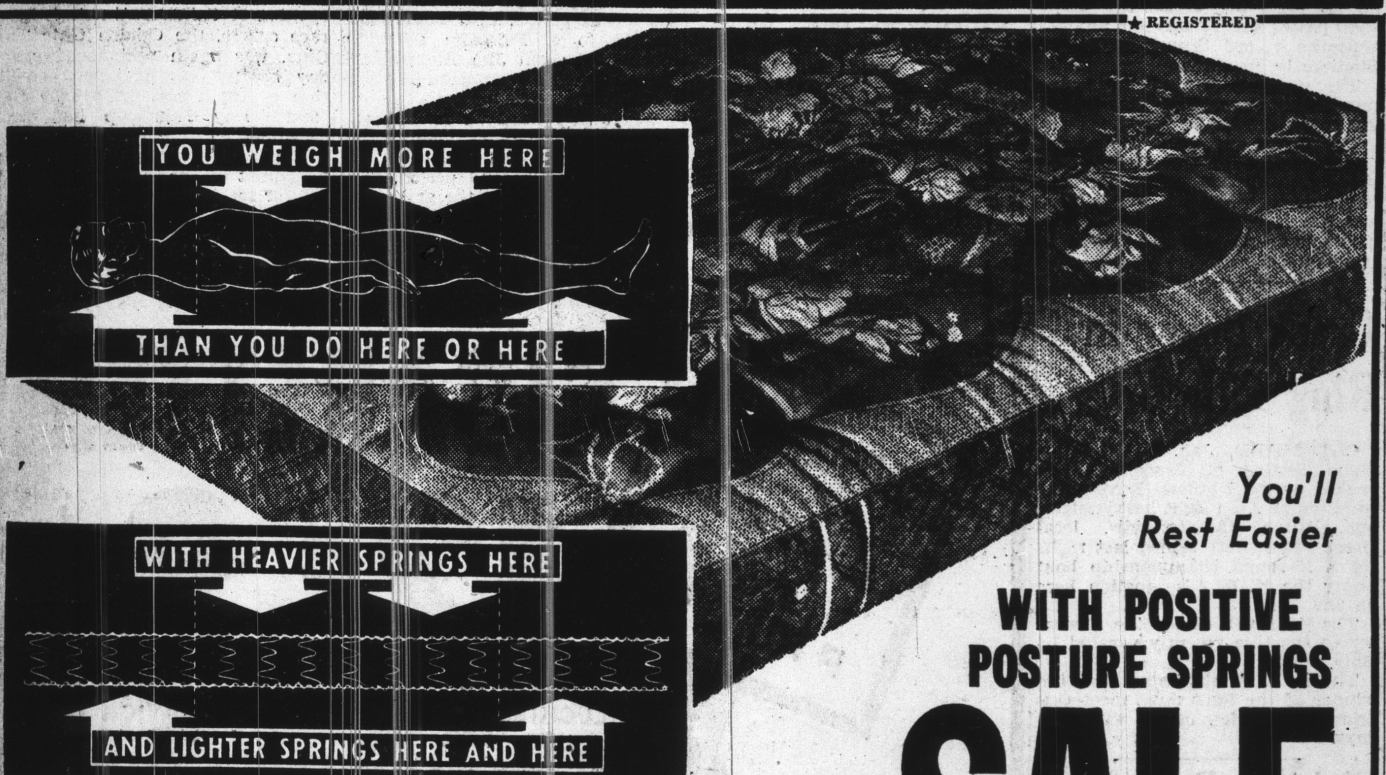
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