Vol.1.No.7. Tuesday, November 12th,1940. PRICE 3d.

All Monies Received from Sales of this News-sheet will be given to 'The St. James' Bomber Fund'

THE ST. JAMES' LYRE AND PICCADILLY GAZETTE

The Non-Official Organ of the A.R.P. Posts, at St. James', City of Westminster, and of the Air Raid Shelters within this area.

Telegrams: "SNORER" Telephone: 0000

Edited by "Pluto" and published weekly during the Blitzkreig season at Post 5, A.R.P., Cleveland Yard, St. James', S.W.1

BOMBER FUND TOTAL TO DATE £160.10s.6d.

Though bombed and machine-gunned
Our houses in ruins
Our homes and our churches
But dust heaps and rubble
We surely can stick it.

Born though we may be
Within the sound of Bow Bells
In England or Scotland or Erin or Wales
Now Londoners all, sisters and brothers
We'll stick it.

ON THE PICCADILLY FRONT.

SHELTERITES This is your paper. If you have a worth-while criticism or suggestion to make we will see it gets proper publicity.

The Blitzkreig has now been on for more than two months. It would be interesting to know WHY no arrangements have yet been made about the provision of hot tea for those who have to spend twelve hours a night underground. We read about it in the papers but that is as far as it gets. It is a simple matter and it is a scandal that nothing so far has been done.

We have now started canvassing the businesses, firms and residents of St. James' and Piccadilly to give their support to the Bomber Fund. A cheque for £25 from Mr. Frank Partridge, the well-known art dealer, has given a splendid lead.

There is not the slightest doubt that many firms and shops in St,James' are having a very bad time. Yet, with only an occasional exception, we find them most willing to give their help. We are asking them to give gifts in kind so that we can hold a Christmas Sale on Wednesday and Thursday, December 11 and 12. Further particulars will be given later.

Don't forget to buy the specially designed Blitzkreig Xmas cards we have for sale, priced at 2d. and 4d. each. All profits go to the Bomber Fund.

It has now become the fashion for certain well-known people to go on a kind of night-tour of the shelters. These shelter-tourists are often "deserters" from London - well-to-do individuals who think their skins are safer in their country houses rather than in their London homes. One might have expected many of these persons to have set an example and stuck it out in our city. After all there is plenty of social service they could perform. If they were to spend a night or two actually sleeping in an underground shelter it might give them a better idea of what their fellow-citizens have to endure. As it is we rather resent these social prowlers .

At the present time in St. James' practically every wealthy resident has "deserted". In the case of women and children, the aged and infirm, there is a valid excuse. But in many cases their evacuation hardly squares up with this statement by Mr. Bevin "There was no time to think of mere wealth, privilege, place or party. They must claim from every citizen the best he could give They must not stop to ask "What can I get out of it?" They should ask,"What can I put in as my contribution to secure ultimate victory?"

Our suggestion to provide accordion music in the Piccadilly Underground shelters has, unfortunately, been turned down by the L.P.T.B. We regret this because we think that music is one of the best methods of keeping up the spirits and morale of those persons who have to spend many hours nightly under unpleasant conditions. We are often reading about the various amenities which are to be provided for shelterites, but they are a mighty long time coming. Perhaps this is because our Prime Minister mentioned the war lasting until 1944 and the Powers-that-be consider there is no necessity to hurry.

ST. JAMES' PERSONALITY PARADE. No.7. Mrs. Rosa Lewis.

How long Mrs. Rosa Lewis and her famous Cavendish Hotel have meant LONDON to many thousands of Englishmen in all parts of the world it would be ungallant to say. Her hostelry is certainly one of our city's great meeting places, an institution which is unique of its kind. It still carries on, for it would take much more than Adolf Hitler and his Blitzkreig to evacuate Mrs. Lewis. Kindly confidant and adviser to thousands of her friends she stands for the Spirit of London. Bombs may fall on the Cavendish and all around, but its owner stands firm. No coward soul is hers.

WE SOLICITED FROM THREE DIFFERENT NEIGHBOURHOODS IF THEY HAD GOT A BOMBPROOF SHELTER, AND WE HAD THE FOLLOWING REPLIES -

FROM SUBURBIA:

We've got a bombproof shelter
It's a lovely place to see
It's a bit of old iron near the garden wall
And it measures six foot three
We have our air raids every night
Dad blows a whistle, and we run with might
In our little short shirts without a light
To our little bombproof shelter.

FROM CLUBLAND

We've got a bombproof shelter
It's near St. James's square
We must not say just where it is
Or the Germans would be there
We go down there to save our skins
We don't like the noise
By "Gad" the Dins
And we don't like sitting on safety pins
In our little bombproof shelter.

THE EASTENDER:

We've got a bombproof shelter
At least it was O.K.
Till a few H.E's and a big land mine
Fell near it one fine day
We picks outselves up with a start
Puts back the shelter, Yus part by part
They can break our necks but not our heart
In our little bombproof shelter.

IS IT ONLY A RUMOUR -

That the War Office are now using this slogan "Join the Army and Live in Peace?

That a beautiful negress in Piccadilly asked a lonely officer whether he would like to go home with her?

That he replied he did not want to go to Africa?

That the City of Westminster is considering making the West End police Honorary Shelter Marshals?

That Lord Woolton is shortly coming to sample the "Shilling" lunches which some of the West End Clubs are now offering their members?

That Lord Astor last week bought a copy of this News-sheet and remarked that it was far more amusing than The TXmXs?

That a flunkey at the Ritz asked the A.F.S. whether their boots were quite clean when they arrived recently to put out a fire on the roof?

That a local bombed shop hung out a notice - "Alterations by Hitler".

WHY PICCADILLY?

It is strange that the origin of the name "Piccadilly" has never definitely been settled. There are several theories. The most likely one seems to be derived from the fact that early in the 17th century a well-to-do London tailor, Robert Baker, built his country house on a site about where the London Pavilion now stands. At that time "Pickadels", as fashionable ruffs and collars were called, were used on mens' clothes. It was thus a jocular allusion to Baker's trade which caused the public to call his home "Pickadel Hall", just as they might have called a pork butcher's house, "Sausage Hall". At that time it was not unusual to apply such descriptive names, especially to well-known resorts.

SHELTER RECIPE No.7. by M.A.Meazza - Chef Apéritif Grill

Sauté d'Agneau (Lamb) Fermière

Cut the lamb in thick squares , cook in a little dripping or any fat available. When slightly coloured add tomatoes, cover with good stock and boil. Prepare some carrots, potatoes, turnips (all olive shape or squares), and small onions. Cook for five minutes in fat then add to the saucepan with the lamb, cover with lid and cook for forty minutes.

OUR SHELTER BED-TIME STORY.

Doctor - to New Recruit. "Are your bowels all right?"
Recruit: "I haven't been dished out with them yet."
Doctor: "I mean, are you constipated?"
Recruit: "No, I volunteered."
Doctor: "Don't you know the King's English?"
Recruit: "Is he?"

SHELTER MENTAL TEST No.5. (Answer at foot of page 4)

Jones arrived at a restaurant to arrange lunch for his party. "How many of you are there?" asked the proprietor. "Well, we represent father, mother, uncle, aunt, sister, brother, nephew, niece and two cousins." What was the fewest number that could be in the party?

THE HIGH COST OF KILLING.

It cost about 3s. to kill a man in Caesar's time.
The price rose to about £600 during the Napoleonic wars.
In the Boer war it was about £2,000.
In the last World War the figure rose to £4,500.
In the present war the cost is estimated to be not less than £10,000.

MURDER IN ST. JAMES' SQUARE.
Our Air Raid Shelter Mystery.

by Harold Horatio Haddock.

Editor's note We had intended concluding our serial this week. The enormous popularity, however, of this murder story has made us request Mr. Haddock to continue indefinitely his gripping drama.

Sixth Instalment THE VAMPIRE STRIKES AGAIN

The first flush of dawn was creeping over the sky. At the A.R.P. Post there was tremendous excitement when the news of the two murders was known. Warden Snooper who had been relieved by Warden Scrounger at his lonely vigil, guarding the dead body of murdered Warden Patterfoot, was the hero of the Post. There was even talk of his being given a stripe - a distinction he had constantly longed for but never achieved. As Snooper told his simple tale the other wardens shuddered with terror. "Where are the police?" demanded Warden Hillbilly. "We may find ourselves all murdered."
Police! Police!! The word passed rapidly among the frightened wardens. Why not call in the police to solve the mystery? Watching their panic-stricken faces Snooper smiled. He could see that their fear of THE THING had overcome their usual common-sense.
"Don't you realise," he whispered, "the 'All-Clear' has not yet sounded?" Smiling wanly the other wardens understood. They must wait awhile for the police.
"Who speaks of calling in the police?"
It was Post Warden Dumpty's harsh voice speaking. He had approached unobserved and now stood looking at Warden Jiminy Cricket who stood trembling with a guilty shame.
"Nonsense; we shall not call in the police," continued Dumpty. "The affairs of the Air Raid Shelters are not their concern. We shall deal with this matter ourselves. Snooper and Cricket, go and fetch the corpse, and the rest of you get out on your sectors."
With a look of malignant hate at Cricket he stalked out of the room. Obeying orders Snooper and Cricket set out. Cricket was shivering like an aspen leaf, but Snooper was full of splendid courage. In three minutes they reached the Shelter in St. James' Square. There was no sign of Warden Scrounger.
"Scrounger, where are you?" cried out Snooper in a clear, firm voice. A mocking, echoing laugh came from the near-by trees.
Sensing some dreadful tragedy Snooper dashed to the place where he had left Patterfoot's body.
"It's gone, it's gone, he screamed.
"Here's Scrounger", piped Jiminy Cricket. Snooper turned round. Sure enough lying at Cricket's feet was the dead body of Scrounger. His toothless mough was gaping, a horrible grin overspread his face, an empty rum bottle clutched in his hand. Beside him lay a strange instrument. Snooper immediately recognised it to be a vampire knife.

Next week: "The Mystery of the Headless Corpse".

We understand that the Nobel Peace Prize will be awarded this year to the Italian Navy.

"Those who prate about a better social order after the war are talking mischievous nonsense. However the war ends, we shall be an impoverished nation. We shall all have to work harder and spend less". Dean Inge writing in Evening Standard.

"But a man whose actions do not agree with his words is an annoyance to me." Plato.

Answer to Shelter Mental Test Four in the party.

THE MEDICAL COLLEGE.

From DEAN SIR GIRLING BALL, F.R.C.S. ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, WEST SMITHFIELD, E C. 1. TELEPHONE: NATIONAL 4444

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL
Sir Girling Ball, Dean.

After a tremendous effort it has been possible during the past year to build up an organisation which, although not as good as in normal peace time, has gone a fair way towards producing efficient teaching facilities for the students through the whole of their medical courses. This result has been brought about by the magnificent co-operation between the students and teachers, who merit the best thanks of the College authorities for their combined efforts.

The College is now starting on a new session of work under even more trying conditions than last year's. To run a medical college in the front line demands the greatest courage and determination; but with renewed and even greater efforts, if those concerned are willing to put their shoulders to the wheel, it can and shall be done.

The organisation which has been built up will be maintained as far as possible.

The pre-clinical students have already gone back to work, some of them completing their first year's work and others the second.

The clinical students are still distributed in three Hospitals, and so far as the outside hospitals are concerned the present arrangements will be maintained and, it is hoped, will be improved. Improvements in details must be made and the College authorities will do everything they can to help.

The greatest difficulty, however, is going to be in the old Hospital, standing as it does in the very centre of the forefront of the battle. During the past year it has been possible to accommodate a large number of students in the Out-Patient Departments, hitherto regarded as an essential part of the students' education, and with certain clinical facilities provided in the wards by those patients whose admission was essential, In recent weeks, however, while the bombardment of London has been going on, the number of In- and Out-Patients has diminished to small figures, and it has become almost impossible to find sufficient material for teaching purposes,, It seems likely, therefore, that it may be necessary to redistribute the students throughout the Sector, as was done last year. It is hoped, however, that a little patience will be exercised until it is seen whether or not things are going to settle down. The students must try to get through as many of their appointments as they can, and they will receive the sympathetic help of the Dean and the Warden to aid them involving their difficulties. If conditions are going to remain as hectic as they are now, then those who still have to complete their courses will have to have arrangements made for them; but if conditions settle down, the Departments will carry on as before,,

The one point which must be instilled into the minds of both students and teachers is that the greatest effort must be made to carry on medical education. The students must remember that they are doing a piece of work which is comparable with that of the soldiers, in that they are providing the medical service of the future and, in the case of the senior students, the near future. The medical services are sure to lose heavily during any active period of warfare and their numbers must be replaced. It is therefore incumbent on every student to become qualified as quickly as possible. For the same reason, it is necessary for the teachers to make additional efforts; they are fewer in numbers than in normal times and have thus been, called upon to work harder; they are now faced with a new difficulty, namely the lack of teaching material. New methods of teaching will have to be devised to meet the occasion; these will probably be more, in the nature of demonstrations than those which, are normally practised.

It is no business of mine to preach, but at the beginning of this session at Bart's it is my duty as the Dean of the Medical College to stimulate everybody to put his heart and soul into his job, he must make the greatest effort in playing his part in helping to win the war. Bart's has never failed in the past: let it not fail now.

Letter from Mary to Paul about the bombing in York a year after the end of the London Blitz.

1 Vernon Road
Leeds
6th May 1942

To Paul at 77 Abbotts Road

Dear Paul

How are you getting on and is Gwen keeping well ?
Before I forget, many thanks for telling us about Dumbo We loved it. Quite one of the best. Interesting to see some of the ideas left over from Fantasia. ie the Drummers Dream. Mrs Dumbo was charming, also Dumbo and weren't the other elephants bitches- superb ! Don't tell Michael but we both thought Dumbo like Sybil. I think it was the innocent shy blue eyes.
I'm glad you went to see Mrs Winn I expect Joan was as jealous as stink of Gwen. (Mrs Winn was Sybil's, mother and Joan her younger sister. Sybil was Paul's sister in law)
Interested to hear about S's natural hair. It will be queer not to look out for our little Blondie when the boat comes alongside. I don't know how much Colin told you about York, so forgive repetition. A lot of friends homeless or with only one or two rooms which may not be habitable. Friede, her mother, Wares, Walter Crossly, Mary Cobb, Ferry's, Craigs, Maclellan, without doors and windows. Dr and Mrs Craig were protected by their billiard table after which he operated for 14 hours – heaven help the patients. Though a good effort on his part, poor old boy. I didn't get back until Saturday afternoon. Each day seemed to get busier than the last. Especially as Mrs G walked out on us! When his team ended her husband insisted on her leaving with him on the Friday or so she says. Everyone seemed to have worked well and I didn't hear a grumble from the many people I dealt with. All very patient and grateful for any help. A big bosomed bitch pranced past my queue to the back of my desk. I didn't send her to the end of the queue as I thought she might be one of the workers with a message. In a haughty voice she said "I have a good suggestion to make. Why don't you send then homeless women into our homes as servants." I told her a few of the reasons, but could not have been as rude as I would have liked, being in uniform.

Three of our hostels were put out of action but the others worked well. The Friday night, I moved in and stayed with the Donald Grays. How none of them were hurt by glass is a miracle. The first bomb before the sirens dropped on a house exactly opposite.
Roger the youngest flung his glass covered bed clothes back and raced in bare feet along corridors though to the school down the main staircase and down again to the shelter under the school before anyone else could turn round.
I wondered whether to sleep in the shelter with Kathleen and the boys but it was rather crowded and exactly like my pet nightmare so decided to sleep in the fire watching room with Donald and a couple of FANY fire watchers. One was tough, one refined but the refined voice cam a bit unstuck when she asked me the time in the middle of the night. (FANY = First Aid Nursing)
We are expecting Douglas up to assess the damage at Bootham School. He will stay here. I haven't had an SOS to go back yet but I expect I shall put in at least one day, more if I don't stop then Mary Cobb had a nasty turn. Her aunt took some persuading that it really was an occasion for getting out of bed and they only got to the shelter under the flats just in time. She said Innes was fine as a warden. When they came out of the shelter there were five mangled corpses of wardens in the hall of the flats including Harold Colman who did the alterations to Aumitts. She worked like a slave at the WVS without spending a moment on her own wrecked home. She looked a bit shaken and told someone she couldn't have carried on if I had not turned up. So I suppose I was some use. They all said "we knew you would be here". Mary had to beat up Mrs G that morning to leave her flat and report for duty. So I suppose Mrs G just isn't any good; a pity especially as everyone will say it was her lack of class. Which of course isn't true as others work well proves. I don't think I have ever felt more tired by the time I got back here. Interviewing is exhausting work and some of the poor things are hopelessly incoherent and long winded. I was entirely alone in our department for a time with the queue getting longer and longer rather like a nightmare. I do hope I haven't made too many errors in the official billeting form or my name will be mud. No help at all from Fishbury Office.

7th May

As previous arranged many thanks for your letter to Colin. We had been hoping to hear about the vivas. If you worst fears are realised about pathology can you take it alone ? I am glad you have seen Montague again and had such a nice weekend. What is his girl like. I hope you will feel better when that tooth is out. Poor Gwen coping with your pain – stoppers. I have heard that the military in York far from being a help have been a nuisance. We have a sample. We had orders to open up an empty house as a hostel and collected staff to do this. They reported back to me that they had found some fierce ATS officers (ATS = Auxiliary Territorial Service) so they went to General Bartholomew the Region Commissioner. They returned in triumph to the officers with the keys of six army houses which the commissioner had handed on for the civil population. Mrs Crieghton had been fine. She had even managed to get extra soup out of the food contrroller. This was suggested as soon as soup rationing came in , but was turned down.

Nothing will do these dear Yorkshire women more good that than being able to clean up their houses. I regret to say some people have been very bad about taking people into their houses, though at the same time a lot of people came to the office to offer houses. Where everyone is going to live permanently I can't imagine including many of our own friends. Our own street only suffered from broken windows. As fas as I can make out, the hit was on the swank flower shop opposite Colin's garage. Do let us have the exam results as soon as you can.

I hope you are feeling more perky angain Gwen now.

I have a touch of lumbago, the first attack for years.I managed to avoid getting stuckwith struggling to do exercises , rather painful but I think it does good.

I wish the weather would get really warm. No letter from S.A. for about 7 weeks.Have you heard.

Dearest Love

Mary.

PS thanks for the Lancets and Journal

York Bombed

Early in the morning of Wednesday, April 29, 1942, York suffered its worst air raid of the war. It wasn't entirely unexpected. In the previous few days, the Luftwaffe had attacked two other cathedral cities, Norwich and Bath.

These were the so-called Baedecker raids. The story had it that Hitler, enraged by the RAF's attacks on Lubeck and Rostock, picked up a Baedecker guidebook and ordered that every historic place in England marked with three stars be bombed in retaliation.

Unopposed for much of the York raid, the German aircrew dive-bombed ordinary streets, strafing them with machine gun fire. The assault had greater aims than to terrorise the civilian population and lower morale, however. The Luftwaffe bombarded strategic targets – the railway line, the station, the Carriage Works, the airfield. York Minster was not touched. More than 70 German planes were involved in the raid: Junkels, Heinkels and Dorniers. Allied planes shot down four enemy aircraft. Beginning at 2.30am and finishing 90 minutes later – although the official all-clear was not given until 4.46am – the raid left 92 people dead and hundreds injured.

Across the city there were scenes of devastation. Houses were destroyed, schools wrecked, the Guildhall and St Martin-le-Grand Church on Coney Street burnt out. The Bar Convent had collapsed, killing five nuns. Pavements were littered with rubble and shattered glass. Huge craters scarred the streets and Clifton airfield.

That morning the city went back to work. As the Daily Mail put it: 'The gates of York still stand high, like the spirit of its people who, after nearly two hours of intense bombing and machine-gunning, were clearing up today.'

http://www.historyofyork.org.uk/themes/20th-century/york-bombed

Notes by Gwendoline Rowntree regarding the details of the Blitz in 1940 to 1941

HE means High Explosive

Aug 18	Blitz on Croydon (Kenely and Biggin Hill)
Sat Sept 7	Day aid 300 bombers – docks – Woolwich and Surrey docks and riverside boroughs
Sept 8	Night 171 bombers 335 tons of HE & 440 incendiaries - mostly docks
	Raids continued nightly with one exception from Sept 8th for 65 nights. 8th and 9th Sept 842 civilians killed and 2347 seriously injured in London
Sept 9	Day -200 bombers to London Night -195 bombers 232 tons of HE & 289 incendiaries -Docks and East End.
Sept 10	Night - 148 bombers 175 tons of HE & 318 incendiaries
Sept 11	Day -heavy attacks on London and Southampton
Sept 12	Night - only 43 bombers over London 53 tons of HE & 61 incendiaries
Sept 13	Night - 105 bombers 123 tons of HE & 200 incendiaries
Sept 14	Day – Heavy daylight raid on London Night - 38 bombers 55 tons of HE & 43 incendiaries
Sept 15	200 bombers escorted by 700 fighters sent to London in broad daylight Night - 181 bombers 224 tons of HE & 279 incendiaries
Sept 16	Day - Minor raids Night - 268 bombers 334 tons of HE & 391 incendiaries
Sept 17	Day – Minor raids Night - 300 bombers 350 tons of HE & 628 incendiaries
Sept 18	Day – Last big daylight raid - 70 bombers Night – Heaviest night raid on London yet. 300 bombers 350 tons of HE & 628 incendiaries
Thursday Oct 8th	P & G met at Gt Eastern Hotel and went to Dirty Dicks
	Steady raids from then on, of varying intensity Jan – March 1941 a lull- Started again March 8th (120 bombers to London)
Oct 15 and 16	Termini at St Pancras, Marylebone, Broad Street, Waterloo and Victoria all put out of action – Also traffic to Euston, Cannon St., Charing Cross and London Bridge reduced to 1/3 normal

	A bomb burst Fleet St. Sewer pouring water etc into the railway tunnel between Farringdon St. and Kings Cross. 3 large water mains fractured 900 fires in London area 6 "major" 430 killed 900 seriously injured
Dec 29	The Great Fire – Only 136 Bombers 127 tons of HE and 613 incendiaries. (Dec 8th 3188 did far less damage) but on the 29th Dec City buildings were locked, water mains were bombed, tide absolutely low so no water.available and there was a 50 mph westerly wind. Great destruction – 8 Wren churches and the Guildhall (see communiqué 19)
1941	Big raids were on:
Jan 11	Bank Crater
March 3	After a long lull raid on London and the Bethnal Green Disaster. – 178 killed, 60 seriously injured – disaster caused by panic.
Mar 19	479 bombers dropped 467 tons of HE & 3347 incendiaries
April 16 The Wednesday	685 planes dropped 685 tons of HE & 4200 incendiaries
April 19	712 planes dropped 1026 tons of HE & 4252 incendiaries
May 10	541 bomber sorties on London 1436 killed 1800 seriously injured 2000 separate fired, 5000 houses totally destroyed, 12,000 homeless 507 planes dropped 711 tons of HE & 2393 incendiaries

During the bombing Aug 10 – May 41 over
43,000 civilians were killed
51,000 seriously injured
88,000 slightly injured

Predicted figures were much higher
750,000 beds were provided for casualties
6,000 were only required in the event.

13th June 1944 Flying bombs started – about 2400 on London in a month

During the course of the 2nd World War 52,000 civilians were killed and 63,000 seriously injured by bombs A further 8,500 killed and 23,000 injured by V1's and V2's and long range guns.
Worst period was blitz in the final 4 months of 1940 with 22,000 killed ans 28,000 seriously injured.

The chances of a civilian being killed as a result of attack were just less than 1 in 800 and of serious injury 1 in 500. In London Civil Defence Area, however, there was a 1 in 200 chance of being killed and a 1 in 160 chance of serious injury.