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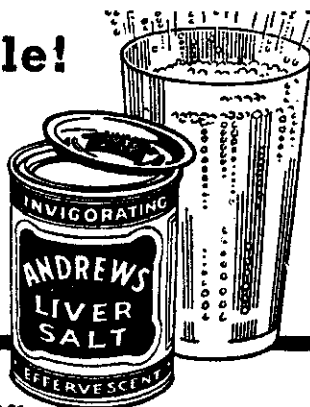
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SHORE LEAVE IN NEW YORK

*Some of the Sights Our
Men Are Seeing*

SOLDIERS, sailors and airmen who have been to New York will be interested in these extracts from the letter of a young Wellington Ordinary Seaman, H. J. D. Smith, who went to England last year to work for a commission in the Navy. So will the fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters of those servicemen.

WE anchored for the evening, and saw the lights of New York across the harbour. The next day we moved up the harbour and anchored in the East River (haunt of the Dead End Kids in the pictures). One side was beautiful with modern apartments and hotels, average about 16 stories, and the other like nothing on earth. We could now see the Empire State building, and could appreciate its 102 stories.

The coastguards came on board and photographed us, as we were aliens in the States. They came back the next morning, and we went ashore. They took us ashore in a launch, and for the 200 yards it cost 1.35 dollars; pretty hot, we thought, and it was the same to go back, but was worth it to go ashore. We went into the centre of the city itself by bus. That costs 10 cents, and you can ride all day. Everything is like that. The tubes cost only five cents, but we didn't feel up to that then. We got out at 42nd Street on Fifth Avenue and had a good look round.

We went up to the Anzac Club, and they gave us tickets to a show *Sweet Rosie O'Grady*, with Betty Grable, which wasn't bad at all. All the theatres here are terrific and continuous; they also have a stage show, featuring a famous swing band, so you will see I enjoyed them all. We went down to the Stage Door Canteen, and frankly, I was a little disappointed with it. However, they provided quite good tea with fresh milk. The milk, however, has no cream on it. We had dinner uptown at a Woolworth's store—they run a cafeteria and a restaurant in every one of their stores. They have about 20 I think, in New York, and you can get a marvellous meal there for about 40 cents.

A City of Restaurants

The city seems to be composed of restaurants, small bars and shops. The bars are very well appointed. There is no shortage of whisky. I went into Jack Dempsey's Bar with the boys. They had a band playing—all in all, a very nice place. It's on Broadway.

This Broadway is a great place. There are picture theatres in a long line for about half a mile, but strangely enough, all the opera houses and vaudeville shows are on side streets off Broadway. Paul Robeson was showing in *Othello*, but it did not appeal to me. As we had to be back on board each night by 11.0, we did not get around much until the last evening, when we had all night liberty. But the people of New York gave us a marvellous time. All pictures were free, and

(continued on next page)