



ORDINARY SEAMAN SMITH
"They eat all day and night"

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most meals. One interesting thing was an automatic cafeteria; things just come out to you and you pay by a slot. The bars are open to 3.0 a.m. as a rule, and some all night long, yet I saw only one drunk person while I was in New York. Maybe the price has something to do with it. Drinks are terribly dear. A thing I noticed about dances is the fact that they never have any supper.

The cars in the streets are absolutely "super"; they are all new or nearly new—two years old at the most—and as the petrol ration for civilians is two gallons per week, there is still plenty of traffic. There are more taxis than anything else, and they are very reasonable: it doesn't matter how many passengers you have, the fare is just the same. The tubes are not as good as I expected, but are still very fast. They are only about 30 feet below the street level.

"Just Like the Pictures"

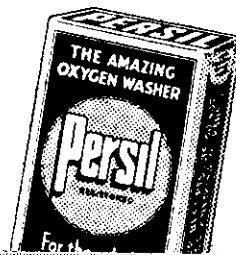
We went over the Brooklyn Bridge one day and had a look at the slum quarters of New York. They are exactly like those scenes shown in the pictures with tenements and cellars, kids playing in the streets, and the proverbial man with a barrow. These are to be seen on most street corners. They sell apples, etc; an apple costs five cents. A thing that seems strange to me is that I have yet to see a butcher's shop as we know them at home. Their cakes, on the other hand, are very massive things, like those pictured in magazines, built up layer on layer. Everybody seems to eat immense slices of cake (with a fork) at the least excuse; they eat all day and night.

I don't think the service clubs are as well appointed as the American Red Cross one in Wellington. They are used chiefly as distributing points for tickets for shows, and so on. If you pick your night, you can see anything for nothing. I was disappointed in not being able to see a game of American football or basketball, but there was a rodeo on at Madison Square Garden featuring Roy Rodgers, the cowboy film star. There was no burlesque on while I was there, but the floor show they put on at the Stage Door Canteen is very good. One night I was there the Ziegfeld Follies Company put on the show, and artists from one of the night clubs or shows are there every night. However, I saw no Hollywood personalities.



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