

CHRISTMAS IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING

The fact that it's Noel doesn't mean that it's heaven for the millions shopping for Christmas. The shelves in the stores present wide open spaces to the gaze of would-be present buyers. Never-the-less persistence is rewarded and thousands of people with parcels are fighting their way on to buses, taking the good things home. Hawkers with barrows full of crackers and things that pass now-a-days ⁴ as toys get prices which would have given us grey hair a few years ago.

John
Men with guns guard the turkey farms from black marketeers. Just why most of us won't so much as smell a turkey ~~at~~ ⁷ Christmas is explained by one of the higher-ups at Smithfield Market.

Youngsters on ~~the~~ ^{Model} holiday will get a big kick out of the National Aircraft Exhibition. There are two thousand *models* on view. Vice Admiral Boyd opened the show. Sent in from all parts of the country the exhibits include everything from a two-inch Tiger Moth to the latest in Jet Propulsion. One of the objects, as the Admiral pointed out, is to make the rising generation thoroughly air-minded and ^{so help 2} put Britain in the fore-front of Civil Aviation, ~~in the future.~~

The Star Exhibit, a model with remote control, was an irresistible ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ attraction to the grown-ups, but ~~the~~ children ² know that they ^{ill} ~~will~~ be able to play with the toys when the parents have grown tired of them.

1 A.

Out in Tokyo seasonal festivities included a Redeo
put on by American soldiers. Hollywood stunt man Dick
Ryan rode one of the Emperor's high-mettled steeds by
way of a curtain raiser.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

This is the one they ought to make the Emperor ride now.
It must puzzle the Japs to learn that white men do this
sort of thing for amusement.

No Circus has come to Town this Christmas but at Guildford the Canadian Forces have done the next best thing by producing the Rhythm Rodeo. All the performers, in a giant marquee to seat two thousand, are Canadian soldiers, airmen or Wacs. The Rodeo will be seen by 100,000 people before it shuts down.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Girls who have spent the last few years in uniform took part in the floor show and proved that on war service they'd lost none of their feminine charm. They provide the rhythm part of the display. After them ~~came~~ the revolving stage was occupied by Bathing Beauties, quite a rare sight for this time of the year.

The title Snow Production was given to the clever tableau of skaters which wound up a spectacular Christmas time show.

A real ice gala, such as we haven't seen since before the War opened the Christmas time festivities at Wembley. The barrel jumper ^{soon} got into his stride After a preliminary tumble.

~~The first~~ ^{consolidated} ~~in the~~ Morning item was provided by a couple of ~~some~~ who brought the house down with an original ~~act~~ tumbling act.

~~XXXXXXXX~~

Cecilia Colledge, who is European Free-Skating Champion and who would probably have been World Champion but for the War entranced the spectators but the unequalled grace and beauty of her ~~display~~ ^{display}

X The return of the Ice Rinks is one more sign that we are "slowly getting back to real Peace time condiditons. ^{7 time} It won't be the sort of Christmas we used to have, but before long we hope to put the skids under austerity, and be able to enjoy ourselves in the way we are entitled to when Christmas comes round.