

London Calling!

*F*EW New Zealanders there are who have not felt at one time or another a keen desire to visit Britain and meet its people. Now several thousand members of 2 NZEF are being afforded an opportunity to spend a fortnight in London or in whatever part of the country they choose, to visit relatives and friends, and to meet the people who have given so much to the world and who have fought so heroically to preserve their way of life.

It is not in many ways the ideal time to visit England. Not only is it winter but it is a difficult period of transition for Britain. She is emerging from six years of war into an almost equally trying period of peace, when restrictions on food, clothing, fuel and luxuries far from being relaxed are in many cases being tightened. New Zealanders will find that Britain will still be wearing her war-time garb, the scars of bombing will still be visible, and, in spite of their desire to give New Zealanders a good time and make them feel at home in Britain, the people generally will be tired of having soldiers of other lands in their country and will be longing to resume their normal peacetime lives. They will find it difficult, too, to entertain on a scale that they would like. But all the same they will make every effort to show their regard for the soldiers of New Zealand as they have done in the case of the Dominion Air Force and Naval personnel throughout the long years of war.



Most soldiers who are granted English leave will have some idea of their itinerary before they leave Italy. In fact, it is desirable, if the most is to be made of the leave, that each man has a set programme and does not attempt to do too much during his fortnight in England. There will be many who will concentrate on London and will content themselves with a thorough exploration of the city and with short jaunts into the neighbouring counties. But there will be others who will wish to make a brief stay in the capital and then set off for other parts of England or on visits to Scotland and Wales. Whatever his plans, the soldier would be ill-advised not to spend several days in London and become even slightly acquainted with the greatest city in the world.

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London! What historic names, buildings, and events the very word calls to mind: Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, the Tower, St. Paul's, the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, the National Gallery, the Strand, and, of course, the Thames and the