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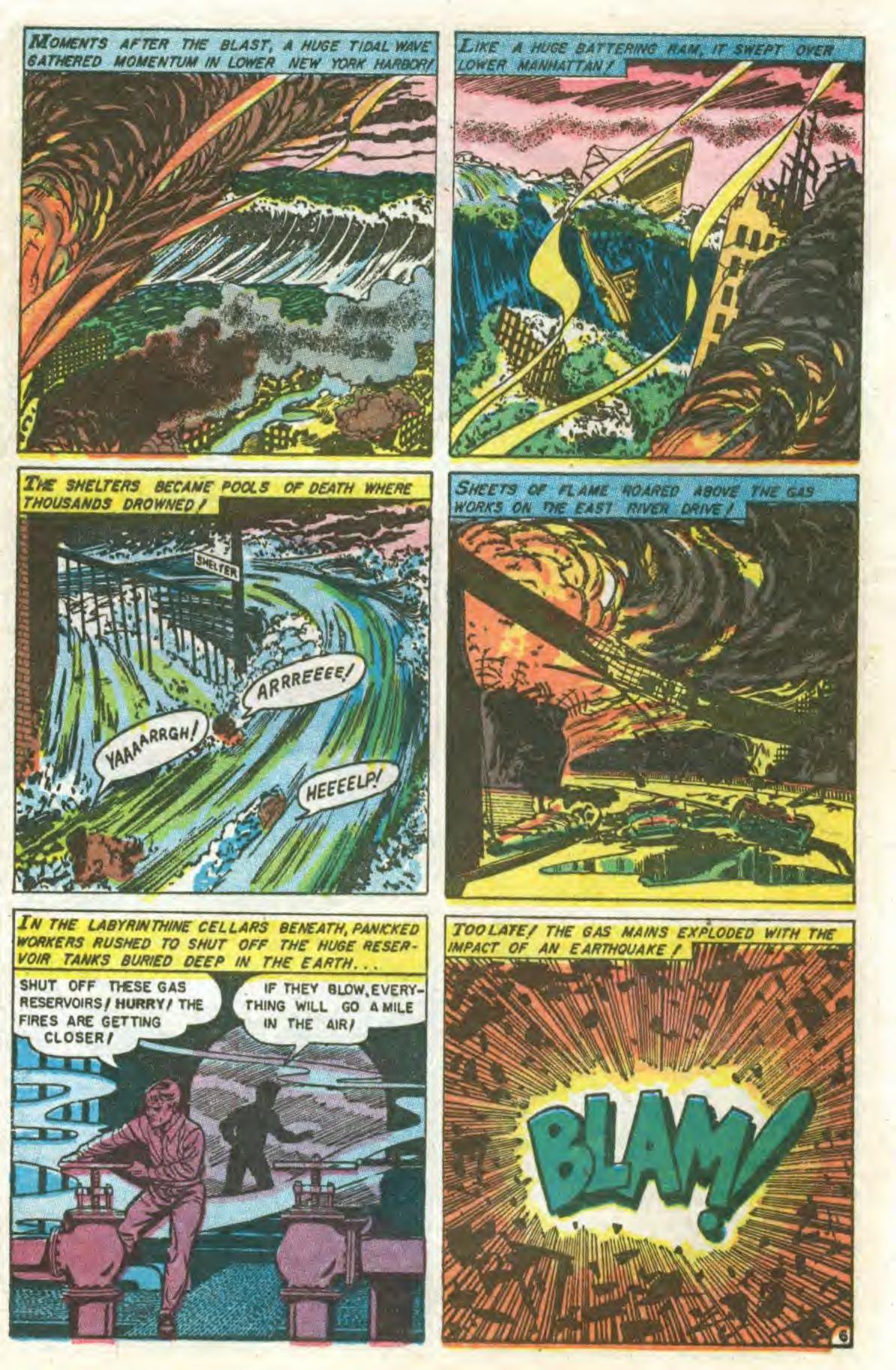
































LOOK UPON THE PICTURES OF OUR GIANT CITIES HUNDREDS OF YEARS IN THE BUILDING, SMASHED BY THE ATOM-BOMB, AND SAY : THIS SHALL NOT COME TO PASS / MORE THAN EVER TODAY, ONLY A STRONG AMERICA CAN PREVENT THIS FROM BECOMING A REALITY /



VORS OF WORLD WAR II . THE DEBRIS OF THE TERRIBLE THEN HAD NOT YET BEEN WAS ASLEEP. IN A SMALL OF TOWN, SERGEANT JEFF RAINSFORD AND HIS SQUAD WERE CELEBRATING THEIR DE-PARTURE FOR THE STATES ON

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OPERATION HAYSTACK

Lieutenant Edwards led his patrol down the hot, dusty Italian road. It would be getting dark soon, and they were due back at First Army Field Headquarters. As far as he was concerned, it had been an uneventful foray. Except for a skirmish with some Russian soldiers who had wandered off to search for loot, they'd seen nothing to indicate the Russians considered this region of strategic importance.

There was a farmhouse up the road, and just to take precautions, Lieutenant Edwards ordered his men to scatter off the road. In a moment he realized they'd been lucky. Someone had come out of the farmhouse, and Edwards sighted him with his field glasses. Then a tremor of excitement ran through him as he handed the glasses to Sergeant Jones. Unless his eyes were mistaken, he'd seen a Russian colonel come out of the farmhouse.

As the sergeant confirmed his judgment, Edwards pondered the puzzle. What would a high-ranking officer be doing along this supposedly unimportant road? Something important must be brewing.

It didn't take long for Lieutenant Edwards to make up his mind. In another hour it would be dark. He knew he wasn't going to leave that farmhouse until he found out what was happening there.

Quickly he outlined his plans to Sergeant Jones. "If there's really something important going on up there," he explained, "the place will be well defended. Twenty men would be a handful against what we can expect. Best thing is for me to creep up and reconnoiter. If I'm not back in an hour, go on to field headquarters and report what we've seen." moment, crouched in the shelter of the stacked hay near the barn. From this vantage point he could see a thin sliver of light seeping out from the shuttered back windows of the farmhouse.

The point of the bayonet at his back was sharp! He didn't dare turn around as a guttural voice rapped out what was obviously a command in Russian. Then the guard repeated it, and there was the sound of running feet as someone else came up. The second Russian soldier fronted him, and Edwards saw the blue color of the private's uniform. There was a wicked-looking Russian snub-nosed revolver in the other's hand.

For a moment Edwards wondered if they were going to shoot him right there. But then the soldier was motioning with his gun for Edwards to rise, and slowly he got to his feet, keeping his hands carefully above his head. He felt the bayonet still at his back as he stumbled toward the farmhouse.

After the darkness outside, the light of the room hit him like a shock. But then his surprise widened as he saw the place had been set up as a field office! It was humming with activity. The colonel he'd seen earlier was seated behind the desk, and suddenly Edwards was convinced he'd stumbled onto the location of the munitions dump First Army Field Headquarters had been searching for so desperately. But, Edwards thought, there was little he could do about it now!

He didn't have time to ponder it further. The guard who'd discovered him said something in Russian, and the colonel nodded. He eyed Edwards speculatively, and then he said in perfect English, "Sit

As soon as darkness enveloped the countryside, Lieutenant Edwards took off. As he approached the farmhouse, he lay flat on the ground, squirming ahead on his stomach, and lifting his rifle slightly to keep it out of the mud. Ahead was only darkness and quiet It was still; there was something ominous about it, as if unseen eyes were watching his every move. He heard the whir of planes overhead. U. S. reconnaisance, he knew by the sound of the engines, out to try to locate that munitions dump intelligence knew was in the area.

There was just this hill to get over, and he'd be approaching the rear of the farmhouse. It was almost too simple, Down on his stomach, Edwards squirmed down the hill. Still there wasn't a sound. Was it possible that the Russians had left this side unguarded? There was no sound of life around the place. He began to wonder if his cyes had been playing tricks on him before.

He'd made it down the hill, and he paused for a

down." He motioned toward the chair alongside him.

Edwards stumbled toward the chair after a final thrust from his guard. He warily watched the Russian colonel. The guard had emptied Edwards pockets, and now the colonel thumbed swiftly through the assortment on his desk. There was nothing there.

Suddenly the colonel spoke to him. "What are you doing here?" he rapped. "Who sent you? How many men are with you?" He fired the questions one after the other.

Edwards was silent. The colonel waited, and when he saw Edwards didn't intend to answer he said, "Bah! You intend to play the brave soldier, ch? We'll see how easily you'll break down!"

The questioning went on and on. Hour after hour the colonel hurled questions at him. The light hurt Edwards' eyes. The colonel looked disheveled, but somehow he didn't let up for a moment. Edwards didn't remember when the first blow landed. It came suddenly from the huge, meaty Russian who had captured him and had stood motionless by his side throughout the interrogation. But now Edwards' head snapped back under the impact of the blow. He felt blood running down his split lip. He tried to rise, and he felt someone grip his arms from behind him. The blows continued, and in between each blow the questions were hurled at him. Crazily he thought that even if he had wanted to say something, the words would never come out from between his smashed lips.

Then dimly he heard the colonel say, "Take him away. Let him have time to think what it will be like to have to return to my questioning. Bring him back in two hours."

Edwards felt himself yanked to his feet. The soldier who had been smashing his mouth helped him out. Slowly they stumbled through the dark around the farmhouse. As Edwards' eyes became accustomed to the gloom, he made out the haystack. He became aware of the activity around him. Why, he realized, he was standing right in the middle of the munitions dump! The Russians had burrowed a huge cavern in the earth in back of the farmhouse. Since the top shrubbery hadn't been disturbed, there would be no evidence of the dump from the air. No wonder recon hadn't been able to spot it! But now men were running back and forth, wheeling out barrows stacked with rifles and cartridges. These were being loaded into a truck which stood camouflaged alongside the entrance.

He felt the guard nudge him, and he trudged along with the man. Finally they came to what had been the barn. Obviously no provision had been made for holding anyone captive here. The Russian guard shoved Edwards inside, and then Edwards heard the bolt being slid outside.

2

There was nothing in the barn that could be used as a weapon, Edwards saw quickly. The place had been stripped bare. There wasn't even a window. He'd hardly finished his examination when he heard the bolt being slipped back again. He tensed with alarm as the door creaked open slightly. motioned to his wrist significantly. Edwards hadn't been wearing a wristwatch. He'd broken it and it was back at headquarters awaiting a replacement. The soldier obviously wanted to know where Edwards had hidden the watch. These men in the Russian Army were ill-equipped, and they were starved for American luxuries. They'd do anything for a watch, Edwards realized incredulously, even endanger their army.

As if to ingratiate himself, the Russian offered him a cigarette, Edwards took it, lit it, and puffed slowly, stalling for time. What should he do next, he wondered. He looked longingly out the partially opened barn door. He'd like to run for it, he thought, but there was no chance of making it. His eyes lit on the haystack near where the Russian had found the field glasses. Overhead his ears picked up the delicate throb of U. S. recon planes approaching on their way back to base.

Suddenly, as if he'd come to a decision, Edwards made a motion to the ground as if he'd toss down the cigarette. But before he ground the heel of his shoe over the butt, he'd quickly snapped in two the stiff Russian cigarette. He shoved his hands into his pockets, palming the burning butt, and motioned to the Russian with his head.

Together they left the barn, and Edwards led the way back to the haystack. The sound of the approaching planes was louder now. His timing had to be right! Just as the recon swarmed overhead, Edwards tossed the lighted butt atop the dry hay.

The Russian uttered an oath. He came at Edwards, cocking his gun, and Edwards desperately plowed into him, deflecting his aim. He heard the crackle of burning hay. If only, he thought desperately, recon would know what it meant—if only the blaze would spread and outline the activity on the ground!

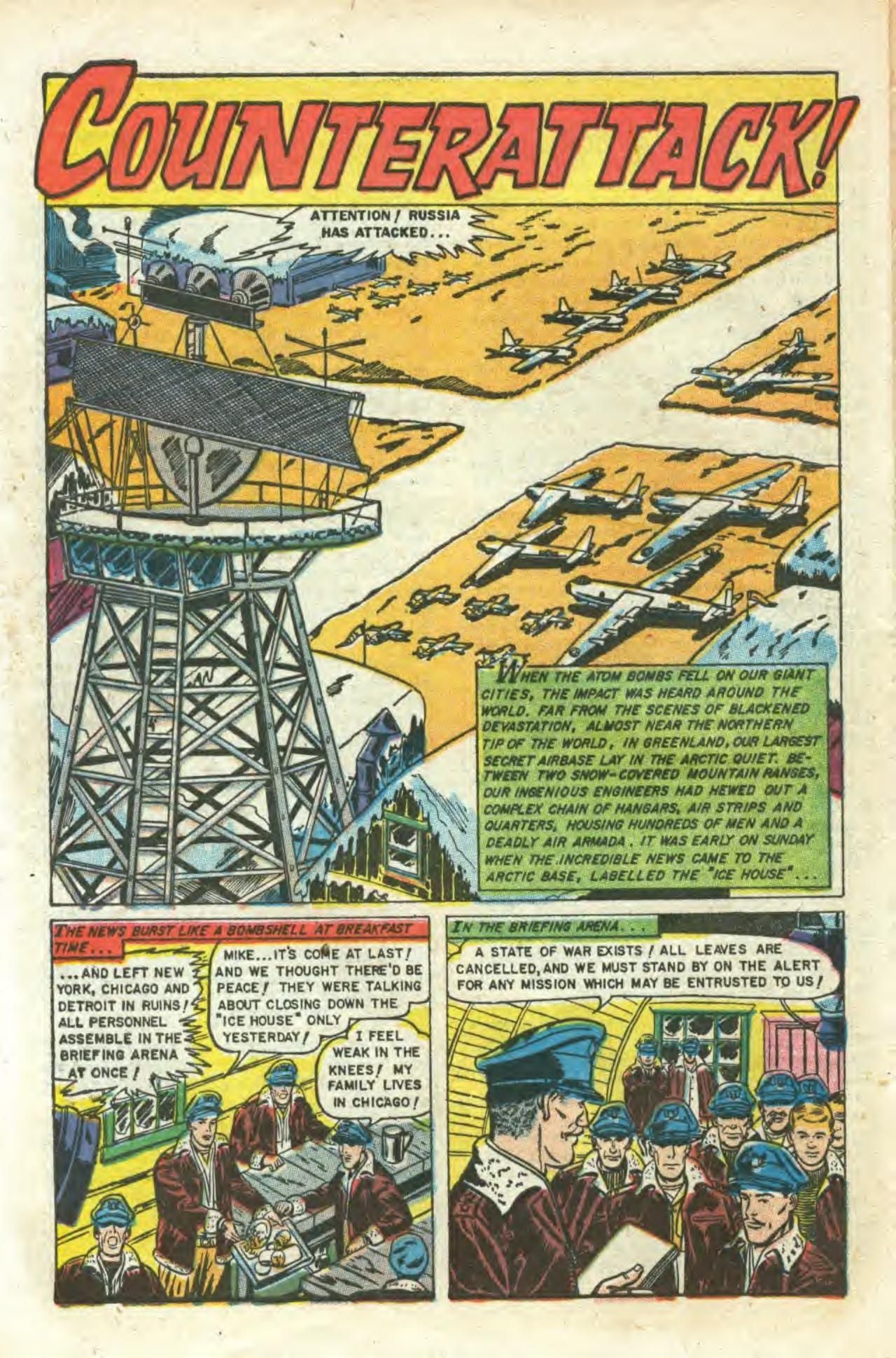
As he struggled with the Russian, he heard the sweetest sound of his career. The slow whine of the dive bombers, and then the crashing thunder as the released bombs hit their mark. Flaming debris fell, and suddenly he heard another sound—the highpitched yell of Sergeant Jones. Gunfire rattled as Jones 2

It was the second soldier that had helped capture him. The fellow came softly into the room. In one hand he was holding his cocked revolver, and in the many, Edwards saw with amazement, that the fellow carried the field glasses Edwards had dropped when the guard had apprehended him. The Russian soldier approached him with a crafty smile. When he came up close to Edwards, he motioned to the field glasses, waved the guin, and said something in Russian.

Gradually, Edwards came to realize what the sol dier wanted. He'd found the glasses, and obviously he believed Edwards had hidden some of his possessions before he'd been captured. The Russian soldier The Russian twisted free and tried to run. Edwards saw the gun in Jones' hand aimed, and the Russian toppled. Then Edwards felt Jones' pounding on his back.

Later he listened to Jones apologize for going against orders. When Edwards hadn't returned, the men had itched to go trouble-shooting. "Heck, Lieutenant," Jones drawled. "We ain't one of those sissy record keeping patrols. The only kind of report we turn in is 'mission accomplished!"

THE END













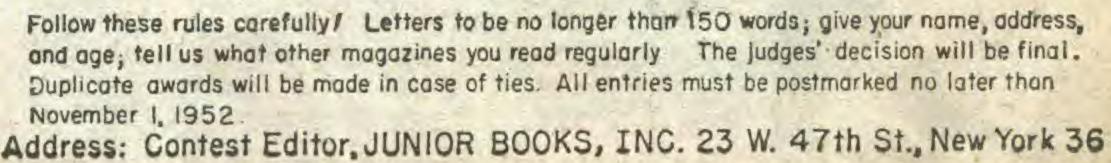


This magazine was meant to shock you -- to wake up Americans to the dangers, the horror and utter futility of WAR / Write us -- tell us how well we've succeeded, and the best letters will win valuable cash prizes?

WIN CASH PRIZES!



lst	PRIZE	1	 4	à.			\$1.	5.00
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The bonds William and I bought for our country's defense helped build a house for us!"

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Maybe you can't save quite as much as William and Rose Nysse; maybe you can save more. But the important thing is to start now! It only takes three simple steps.

1. Make the big decision-to put saving firstbefore you even draw your pay.

2. Decide to save a regular amount system-

atically, week after week, or month after month. Even small sums, saved on a systematic basis. become a large sum in an amazingly short time!

3. Start saving by signing up today in the Payroll Savings Plan where you work.

You'll be providing security not only for yourself and your family, but for the blessed free way of life that's so very important to every American.

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DOES a bulging "bay window" make you look and feel years older than you really are? Then here, at last, is the answer to your problem! "Chevalier", the wonderful new adjustable health supporter belt is scientifically constructed to help you look and feel years younger!

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