

## STATISTICS

## Accidents Kill More Persons Than Bombing

➤ SINCE the beginning of the war, the German Luftwaffe has killed 43,000 English civilians in the greatest mass air raids the world had ever seen. During the year 1941, we killed 102,500 fellow Americans through accident alone. In addition, 9,300,000 were injured, 350,000 of them permanently disabled.

The direct ascertainable cost of all these accidents was \$4,000,000,000. The indirect costs in human suffering, lowered efficiency, decreased production, etc., cannot be measured.

One out of every 14 persons residing in this country was killed or injured during 1941, and about 4% of the national income went to pay the bill, the National Safety Council reports.

The automobile as usual was the chief offender, rolling up a score of 40,000 dead, and 1,450,000 injured. The bill was about \$1,900,000,000.

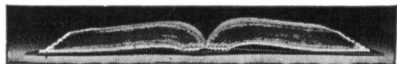
But accidents in the home were not far behind, killing 31,500, injuring 4,650,000, and costing \$600,000,000.

After all, the factory seems the safest place to be. Only 18,000 died, and 1,600,000 were wounded on the production front. But the cost was higher. They are more valuable men. They receive better care so they may return to the front soon. The cost was \$850,000,000 and 460,000,000 man-days, or the work that 1,500,000 men would have done throughout the year.

That men working amid whizzing and roaring machinery, white-hot furnaces and on high scaffoldings should be safer than at home or on the streets, is largely due to the fact that workmen, like soldiers, can be trained to protect themselves, to use the safety devices provided, and largely compelled to do so.

*Science News Letter, September 26, 1942*

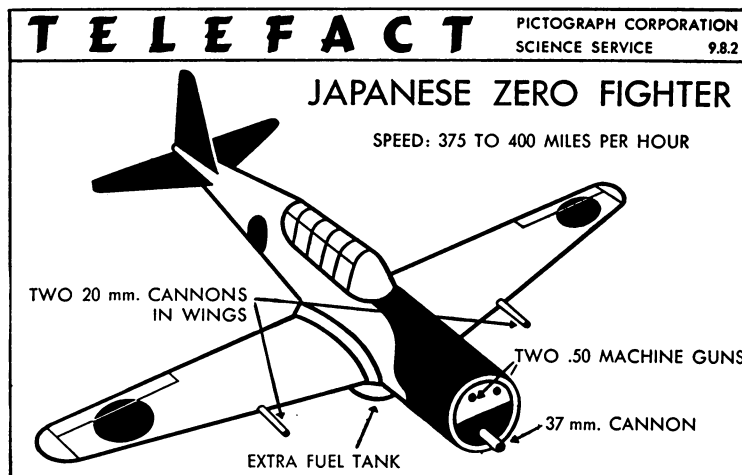
## Keep your copies of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER safe and sound in our special binder . . .



PRODUCED BY GILMER

With SCIENCE NEWS LETTER stamped in gold on front and spine, this excellent buff buckram binder costs \$1.50 postpaid. Snap new issues into the cover with a little unbreakable hooked wire. Remove any issue you desire and reinsert it just as easily. Holds 26 copies, opens freely, allows pages to lie flat, strong enough to last for years. We will refund your money if you are not satisfied. Send check or money order to

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C.



## POPULATION

## Outliving Expected Life

➤ FANTASTIC as it may sound, we are outliving our expectation of life.

Men and women born in 1876, for example, had an expectation of life when they were born of 41.4 and 44.6 years respectively on a statistical basis. But the average length of life for men and women born that year turned out to be 46.3 years for men and 50.6 years for the women, statisticians for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company point out. The figures are for England and Wales but the principle applies in this country as well.

This extra lease on life has been gained because of the advances of science and the standards of living.

The United States today has 2,900,000 more potential soldiers, men between 20 to 44 years old, than it would have had if it had not been for these life-saving improvements.

Many a man alive today knows that he owes his life to an operation or medical treatment—the sulfa drugs or insulin, for example—which has been de-

veloped during his lifetime. Many thousands of others owe their lives more indirectly to the advances of science. Of the 900,000 men and women aged 65 years alive in the United States today, 300,000 owe their lives to such advances. If conditions prevailing at their birth had continued, those 300,000 would not be alive today.

The term “expectation of life” is not always used in its exact sense, the life insurance statisticians point out.

“Strictly speaking,” they state, “the expectation of life at any age is the prospective average number of years of life remaining to persons of that age, provided that the death rates at each age remained constant at their prevailing levels. Thus, if we say that the expectation of life for a white male 10 years old in 1940 was 57 years, we mean that the members of the large group of boys of age 10 in that year would, on an average, survive 57 years, if the death rates at each age of life remained unchanged as of 1940.”

*Science News Letter, September 26, 1942*

One-fifth of the world's population live in *India*.

In Britain, seven ounces of *calcium carbonate* are added to each 280 pounds of wheatmeal flour, the type now used for bread.

*Carnauba wax*, from the leaves of a Brazilian palm, is highly useful industrially because of its unusual properties, among which is a viscosity three times that of beeswax.