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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Pathé's magic carpet whisks us to New York for the mammoth Christmas parade. Colossal rubber balloons and all the tricks of showland help make the holiday bigger and better than ever.

Day and night - it's all the same when you're celebrating. At Hollywood's Santa Claus Lane, a lot of old friends join in the fun. Jack Benny and Rochester. Then come rubber-tongued Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy.

The funny men put on a riotous performance - take off those whiskers, Red, we know you. All over the world, you can't resist Christmas. For British service men overseas, toys for the kids at home are priority number one. Treasured presents in many a Christmas stocking came from Haafi gift shops. The local kids look on, but the soldiers' thoughts are far away - by his own fireside and the folk to whom his presents have gone.

And now a last minute exclusive report from New York on the flow of presents to Britain's toy-starved children. Saying "Thank you" for American gifts is Lady Halifax.

SPEECH

The Christmas atmosphere got into everything. From London's buses and trams, finalists lined up to find the Queen of the "Clippies". Evelyn Dall and Peggy Ashcroft were the judges.

Beauty Queen or not, there's a 97 bus waiting next morning for its conductress. With a ten pound prize and a husband due for leave, this was Mrs. Churchill's lucky Christmas.

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PANTOMIME

Pathe takes you back stage as Panto time returns to the theatre. The familiar magic of Cinderella is back in Jack Hylton's show at London's Adelphi theatre. On stage or off for the next few weeks its panto for breakfast tea and supper. From Cinders and Prince Charming, to Bud Flanagan in his favourite role as Buttons the cast took time-off to put on a special show for our Christmas edition.

(SOUND)