

Furlough in Bournemouth



On the southern coast of England, overlooking the Channel, Bournemouth stretches along miles of pine-clad cliffs and sandy beaches. It has a population of 135,000 and is unique in that it combines the sophistication of a city with the gaiety of a beach town and the quiet charm of country club life. Theatres, concerts, movies and shops vie with the outdoor lure of tennis, golf, horseback riding and all types of water sports. The encircling formation of cliffs which temper high breakers make swimming ideal.

The American Red Cross and the 77th Special Service Company of the U.S Army have gone all out to provide the best accommodation and everything possible in the line of relaxation and recreation for American Service personnel on leave. Special Service has broadened the scope of recreational facilities by furnishing buses for sightseeing trips, procuring pre-release movies, arranging Town Hall dances and shows, furnishing bicycles and a wealth of sports equipment. They have set up recreation centres where thirsty men can get an ice-cold beet. Here also are coke bars, libraries and P.X's.

Exclusive civilian hotels have been turned into American Red Cross Clubs. Most of these luxuriously furnished clubs are high on the cliffs above the ever-fascinating waters of the Channel.

The lounges, games rooms, dining rooms and many of the bedrooms face south, are sun filled and have beautiful views of the sea. There are many balconies and porches for sun lovers. Swim-suits are furnished - also quarts of sunburn lotion! The men wander about in all sorts of attire - a refreshing change from military life.

Every need is taken care of: tailoring and pressing, barber shops and army medical dispensaries are in the clubs. Besides clean sheets, hot baths, meals and snacks, the clubs offer dances, movies, billiards, ping-pong and other games, books, recordings both popular and classical, musical instruments for jam sessions. On the club grounds are tennis, horseshoe and badminton courts and miniature golf, so the men have every type of indoor or outdoor activity or inactivity to enjoy.

Furlough: Leave of absence, especially that granted to a member of the services or a missionary: a civil servant home on furlough



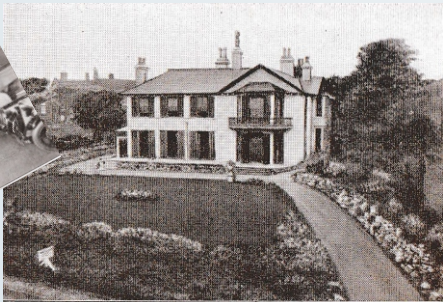
The Marsham Court had been the first hotel to have hot and cold water in the bedrooms. A year later the hotel was the American Red Cross headquarters and the HQ for the land registry and issuing instructions to only use the night lights provided in an emergency as they were difficult to obtain.



The Lounge Ballroom, Marsham Court

Marsham Court Through The Ages

Garage and Chauffeurs



1918 - 13 Bedrooms



1936 - 110 Bedrooms

A Twin Bedded Room with Sea View



Fountain positioned where the Wedding Pagoda now stands



1923 - 41 Bedrooms



2002 - 87 Bedrooms

The Sunken Garden where the Swimming Pool now sits



Dancing in the Terrace Ballroom



1929 - 74 Bedrooms



2018 - 95 Bedrooms

The Rear Entrance

