

Weekly War Diary for 1938
Extracted from the Wilts and Gloucester Standard by Peter Grace

1/1/38

Advert

Mr Shallis 59 Chesterton Lane Cars for Hire 4 ½ d per mile
(Mr Shallis was an ARP Warden. His house (No 59) still had white paint on the stonework of the door surround at least as late as 1986.)

8/1/38

Education

Advert

St Michael's School (now Watermoor House) advertises for pupils

Military

Advert

Serving the State with Pay

If duty to the state fails to stir the conscience it will appeal to the pocket – Welfare State dulling duty to the State!

Tradesmen between 19-42 yrs and non-trade needed in category C of the Supplementary Reserve, receive a bounty of £15 to £20 according to trade in quarterly instalments in arrears. Drivers of H Vs £6 per annum. They will not be required to train and not liable for service unless the Army Reserve is called out by proclamation. They will not be called in aid of the Civil power.

Men required in various trades:

Royal Corps of Signals

Linesmen, despatch riders, instrument mechanics, operators signals, saddler and harness makers, electricians, fitters signals clerks, fitters signals signalmen (group E)

Royal Army Service Corps

Blacksmiths, electricians fitters – technical, mechanical, transport, clerks, turners, drivers I.C. clerks (supply)

Royal Army Medical Corps

Nursing Orderlies, clerks, operating-room assistants

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Blacksmiths coppersmiths, drivers, mechanics, electricians, fitters (general) instrument mechanics, shoemakers, turners, wheelers, wireless mechanics, drivers I.C.

Efficient men are particularly required as nursing orderlies in the RAMC. Driver candidates must be experts on heavy vehicles of 3 tons and upwards. Applications can be made at the nearest Recruiting Office.

Sport / RAF

RAF South Cerney recorded as top of Div 1 of the Cirencester and District Soccer League

15/1/38

Sport / Recreation

Rugby, soccer and boxing reported

22/1/38

Classified Adverts

German Girl

Fluent English seeks post with family, care of children in exchange for hospitality and pocket money. (Box 64)

Sport /RAF/ Censorship

Football report and result of Wednesday's cup tie at South Cerney with another RAF unit as opposition ended in a goalless draw.

29/1/38

Political

Cheltenham MP Mr L Lipson, giving a talk on the international situation, stated that war was not inevitable.

Air Raid Precautions [ARP]

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

Will you please allow me to announce to all volunteers who have not yet received any training in 1st Aid that a class will commence on Wednesday Feb 2nd at 8pm at the Congregational Schoolroom Dyer Street.

The course will be a short one of about 6 weekly lectures designed specially for ARP volunteer. It is also intended to feed another class in Anti Gas training. There will be no charge for either course. Volunteers will be welcomed from Cirencester and from the villages. Village Organisers and Parish Clerks are requested to limit their parties to six people, men and women. It would greatly help too if everyone would accept this as official notification of the course.

Yours faithfully

J T Evans Hon Clerk

Orders for the Week

British Red Cross Society [BRC] Women's VAD Glos 84

Orders for the week ending Sat. Feb 5th

Mon Jan 31st Team Practice Bingham Library 6.30pm

Wed Feb 2nd Ciciter Cup Competition practice Bingham Library 6.30pm

Thurs Feb 3rd ARP Lecture Bingham Library 3pm 2nd Lecture

Sat Feb 5th Team Practice Hospital 6pm

Mary Pollard Commandant

5/2/38

Orders for the Week

B Coy 5th Bttn Gloucestershire Regiment

Annual dinner at Tuck's Restaurant Stroud Sat Feb 19th 7pm Dress blue patrol if in procession or Drill order with belt and frog. Bus will leave Bingham Hall 6pm. Sharp Kits will be drawn from store on Mon Feb 7th between 7pm and 8pm also Wednesday night.

WRS Bathurst Capt. O.C. B Coy 5th Bttn.

BRC Women's VAD

Orders for the week ending Sat Feb 12th

Mon Feb 7th Team Practice Bingham Library 6.30pm

Wed Feb 9th Ciciter Cup practice Bingham Library 6.30pm

Thurs Feb 10th ARP 3rd Lecture Bingham Library 3pm

Mary Pollard Commandant

12/2/38

Orders for the Week

Week ending Sat Feb 19th

BRC Cirencester Women's VAD

Mon Feb 14th Team Practice Bingham Library

Wed Feb 16th Ciciter Cup practice Bingham Library 6.30pm

Thurs Feb 10th ARP No Lecture Gas van outside front entrance to Regal Cinema 3.15pm

Those attending must remember to bring their respirators.

The following appointments have been made in the detachment. Mrs Adamson and Miss E Griffith to be Section Leaders. Seniority to date from Jan 22nd

Mary Pollard Commandant

Crime

Cirencester Licensing Sessions

There were 14 cases of drunkenness during the year, 7 residents and 7 non-residents. This was an increase of 11 on the previous year largely attributed to the imported labour at local aerodromes.

Complaints received for rowdiness after 10.30pm during June July and August were of temporary character. The rougher element of the aero workers had now left the district.

Superintendent JH Jocham's Report

19/2/38

Crime / RAF

Court case

Thomas Bland labourer from South Cerney Camp was fined £1 for being drunk and disorderly

Bibury W.I.

Dr Westwood gave a talk to Bibury W. I. On Wednesday at the Village Hall on the subject of ARP.

Tetbury Rural District Council [RDC]

Administration of the ARP Scheme

The Clerk read a communication dealing with a new scheme for the administration of ARP measures in the County. This will be known as the County and City of Gloucester ARP Administration Scheme 1938 and under its proposals each Local Authority will now be responsible for the organisation of ARP in its district. 6 members of the RDC would be elected to serve as the local committee. This replaces the previous scheme. Instead of 7 areas there would now be 4.

Medical / The Isolation Hospital

Letter to the Editor

Mr White contended that nowadays it was even more important that Cirencester's Isolation Hospital should be retained with the population around Cirencester increasing and the establishment of a number of aerodromes in the area.

BRCS Women's Voluntary Aid Detachment [VAD]

Orders for the Week

Orders for the week ending Sat Feb 26th

Mon Feb 22nd Team Practice Bingham Library 6.30pm

Wed Feb 23rd Ciciter Cup practice Bingham Library 6.30pm

Thurs Feb 24th ARP 4th Lecture Bingham Library 3pm

Mary Pollard Commandant

26/2/38

Territorial Army

Captain Hon WRS Bathurst steps down from Commanding B Coy 5th Gloucestershire Btn (Territorials)

Lt Col Pardoe has also just retired as C.O. of the Battalion.

RAF / Casualties /

Kemble aerodrome firm fined £50 for failure to provide a guard rail and toe board. Report on a fatal accident when Thomas A George was killed on November 16th 1937 during the building of a hangar known as X hangar. He fell and hit his head on railway track. The firm's name Messrs JL Kier and Co of London. William Douglas Walsh was resident engineer from Kemble aerodrome.

5/3/38

Cirencester Rural District Council [RDC]

New ARP Scheme

Adopting the new County and City of Gloucester ARP Administration Scheme 1938 Cirencester RDC at their meeting on Monday did not see eye to eye with the Cirencester Urban District Council [CUDC] in their request for representation on the Area Committee to be based on rateable value and not as on population as previously. The UDC requested that they should have 5 representatives on the committee against the RDC's 4, but the RDC decided to ask for equal representation.

At the request of the Gloucestershire County Council consideration was given to the County and City of Gloucester ARP Administration Scheme. Capt AH Shakeshaft the County Organiser explained the scheme. He pointed out that the new scheme as set out before them involved certain changes one of which was the fire precautions scheme became the responsibility of the Local Authority and not the ARP Area Authority. Various changes had been made in size of areas. Previously there were 5 areas; now they visualised 15. Old area 7 consisting of Cirencester UDC and RDC and Tetbury RDC has been divided into two areas, the CUDC and CRDC form one and Tetbury RDC the other. With regard to the finance, the Government is going to pay 70% leaving 30% to be found by the Central Authority out of general rates. Capt Shakeshaft explained that the CUDC had considered and adopted the scheme in principle but they requested that they should have 5 representatives instead of 3 and the CRDC 4 members. This request was based on rateable value and not on population as before added Capt Shakeshaft.

The Central Authority does not wish to interfere as long as an amicable agreement can be made. If not the Central Authority will have to arbitrate. After discussion the Council decided to adopt the scheme in principle and that they should have equal representation with the CUDC or area committee.

Political

W.S. Morrison MP (Cirencester & Tewkesbury) speaking in the debate on the resignation of Mr Eden was for continued conciliatory talks on the European situation. The common people of Germany and Italy do not want war. The Government's rearmament policy was right but was not inevitable.

Retail

Advert

Leonard Jones

No tips from Mussolini Thank you

In offering a silver christening mug to the first baby born in this district after 5.50pm on Monday next we are not taking a tip from the Italian dictator and trying to produce a series of mass weddings or a rise in the birth rate – rather not! The idea came from next week's visiting film "A Star is Born".

ARP

ARP Mobile School first visit to Cirencester district.

The Gloucestershire ARP Mobile School made its inaugural tour on Thursday evening through the villages in the Cirencester neighbourhood. The school is a converted motor bus designed by Capt A H Shakeshaft County Organiser and is fitted up with folding blackboards, charts and apparatus necessary for ARP Lectures. It has been externally painted yellow and along each side of the vehicle runs the inscription Gloucestershire ARP Mobile School. The Central Authority decided that the inaugural tour of the School should be made in Area No 7 Cirencester Urban and Rural Districts as an expression of their appreciation of the work that has been done by the Area Authority. Shortly after 7 o'clock on Thursday evening the School arrived at North Cerney met by Mr George Rumbol, Chairman of No 7 Area., Mr JT Evans Hon Sec of No 7 Area, Capt Shakeshaft, Dr Gladstone and eleven volunteers for ARP from North Cerney, Calmsden and Woodmancote. Already in the School were volunteers who had been picked up at Colesbourne and Rendcombe.

It had been arranged that Col J. P.B. Robinson of the Home Office, ARP Regional Inspector should formally open the School but unfortunately he was ill. Capt Shakeshaft explained to his audience of

volunteers all comfortably seated in the School, that the tour was experimental. The school was one of only two of its kind in the country and thought to be the first on the road. It was intended to serve rural areas. ARP had been going on in this country for nearly two years and a certain amount of headway had been made in the towns. The big problem was the rural areas. This was an attempt to solve it. It would train volunteers then to educate the general public.

Declaring the School open Mr G Rumbol thought they should thank Capt Shakeshaft for devising such a wonderful idea. It showed that Central and Local Authorities are doing all that is possible to organise ARP work and between the two he thought they would receive A1 instruction. The opening ceremony over Capt Shakeshaft gave the first of 10 lectures.

Air Raid Precautions [ARP]

Letter to the Editor

Archibald J Mc M Yair of Poulton Vicarage, Fairford points out that ARP should not be left solely to voluntary effort. Full time officials should be appointed.

12/3/38

RAF/ Casualties

Fatalities at local aerodromes

Swindon man's death at Kemble

A young carpenter Charles Newport aged 24 died when he fell from a trestle on a hangar at Kemble on Tuesday. He fell 40-50ft from W shed. There was another fatality at Hullavington.

Propaganda

Naked Truth

The latest German story tells of a man who was thrown out of a Berlin Fancy dress ball when he appeared in the costume of Adam and said he represented the Nazi raw material problem.

B Coy 5th Btn Gloucestershire Regiment

Orders for the Week

Drill

Cirencester Detachment will parade for drill at 7.30pm Wednesday March 16th. Dress Musketry Order also details on claiming travelling allowance and camp, also repairs to equipment and clothing.

BRCS V.A.D.

Wed 16th practice for the Ciceter Cup

Thursday 17th ARP Exam

Chit Chat Column

The Chit Chat column refers to the Government's conscription pledge and national ARP

ARP

CUDC Meeting

Volunteers for ARP work in Cirencester are urgently required

The Chairman appealed to all men and women over 30yrs to interest themselves in the matter.

Volunteers for ARP

The Chairman said that he had received a letter from the Home Secretary : In view of the widespread interest aroused by last night's broadcast appeal to all citizens to take their place in ARP Services I hope that all authorities are making arrangements to enrol volunteers and communicate with them as soon as local courses of instruction have been organised.

The Chairman appealed to all over 30 to come forward. He suggested opening the offices on Wednesday and Thursday evening to give information and for enrolling.

Mr Rumbol Chairman of ARP Area Authority said they were disappointed by only 45 volunteers after the meeting in the Corn Hall. In the villages they had done well. Anti gas courses were being held and the BRCS had obtained a certificate for proficiency in chemical warfare. Arrangements had been made for staff at the Memorial Hospital to receive anti-gas instruction. Mr Rumbol said he would come on Wednesday and Thursday to give information. Mr Winstone said people would come forward. When they knew what they had to do.

19/3/38

ARP

Letters to the Editor (précis)

Volunteers wanted

Dear Sir

May I once more use your columns to appeal to Cirencester Urban and Rural districts for volunteers for ARP.

The Home Secretary's appeal on Monday shows how serious the situation is. Hundreds of volunteers over 30s are needed for

- 1 Staffing First Aid posts and anti-gas treatment centres - men and women
- 2 Air Raid Wardens to act as civilian police among people they know well. Men of mature age would be better.
- 3 Men, preferably with building experience to form rescue and demolition squads.
- 4 Men to form squads for decontaminating roads etc.
- 5 Men and women who possess cars, motor cycles or bicycles who would be prepared to act as messengers to HQ in the event of a breakdown in telephone communication.
- 6 Men and women prepared to drive ambulances, cars etc.

All volunteers will be trained for work at the earliest possible moment. Some 250 have already attended First Aid and anti-gas classes and lectures on anti-gas training. The need for more volunteers is more urgent than we can express. For information, official of the Area Authority will be at the Municipal Offices Wednesday and Thursday 23rd and 24th March 6pm to 8.30pm and each afternoon from 2pm to 4pm. of week ending March 26th or volunteer forms can be obtained from the Municipal Office Cirencester.

J.T. Evans
Hon Clerk Area Authority No.7

26/3/38

Photograph (BRC)

The BRC Cirencester VAD (men) who won the Junior Cup in the County Championships at Cheltenham. W J World, E S Cook, Commandant G Walker, H F Burton, B W Freeth, Captain S G Smith, E F Marsh.

ARP

Letters to the Editor

Gloucestershire ARP Area Authority 7

Sir

The Area Authority No 7 desires to express its pleasure at the number of volunteers enrolled this week. It is regretted that even yet the required total has not been reached. Will those who have already taken out enrolment forms kindly return them to me. Those who have not already obtained forms can do so on application to the Municipal Offices, Cirencester.

Thanking you Mr Editor for your kindness in allowing me to use your columns.

J.T. Evans
Hon Clerk Area Authority No.7
Municipal Offices
Cirencester
March 24th 1938

RAF / Casualties

Fatality at Minchinhampton Aerodrome (Aston Down)

While engaged in fixing shuttering to the roof of one of the hangars in the course of construction of Minchinhampton aerodrome on Wednesday, Ivor John Wixey a Welshman fell 50ft to his death. Wixey 25 was a worker transferred to Stroud from a distressed area. He is believed to have fainted.

2/4/38

Cirencester British Legion

A large company attended the annual dinner. Following the custom recently adopted there were few speeches most of the after dinner period being devoted to entertainment. The President welcome Major Wolley who read a letter from the County Chairman which said that the National Executive suggested that branches should not only take an active part in defence measures but also take a lead. He congratulated the local branch for their ready response to help with ARP.

ARP

Cirencester Rural District Council [CRDC]

ARP

The Chairman reported that a telegram had been received the Home Secretary with regard to enrolling volunteers for ARP. All the parishes had been circulated with enrolment forms. The Council were informed that the CUDC had equal representation on the Area Authority. Capt. F B Swanwick was appointed representative on the Area Authority.

Picture (CUDC)

Mr A J Matthews Chairman of the CUDC cutting the first sod on Tuesday evening for the building of Chesterton Estate a £70,000 scheme to build 150 houses.

Empire Day

Advert

Saturday May 28th 1938

Don't forget to keep this date free and come to RAF Aerodrome South Cerney

Open 2pm to 6.30pm Numerous interesting Ground Events and Spectacular Flying Displays.

B Coy 5th Btn Gloucestershire Regiment

Orders for the Week

Now in Command Captain A A Scott vice Captain Hon W R S Bathurst to Territorial Army Reserve 12th March.

Drills - all ranks are warned that trained men must perform 20 drill i.e. 10 attendances of 2 hours prior to annual camp to qualify for pay whilst at camp. Dress for all parades will be service dress uniform etc

9/4/38

Summer Time

Summer time commences at 2am on Sunday next April 10th.

ARP

Report that Lechlade ARP Lectures by Dr Morgan had been well attended.

British Legion / ARP

Following the Annual Dinner, the general meeting endeavoured to enrol members for ARP. Brig Gen Price, President was in the chair. He introduced Mr Evans Hon Sec ARP Area Authority No 7. Mr Evans sketched the history of Gloucestershire ARP and explained that the present confusion would be cleaned up in a few months as a great deal of reorganising was going on. All villages would be made self contained and able to defend themselves in time of emergency. Experts say that mustard gas requires immediate remedy and there would be little use in setting up hospital accommodation in Cirencester to deal with the whole area. Parishes had been circulated to earmark a building suitable for

easy rapid and cheap conversion to a First Aid and anti-gas treatment centre. He then outlined the need for volunteers. (as in letter in WGS dated 19/3/38)

He then stated: We are about to draw up a scheme for Cirencester. At the moment there is no clear cut policy but it will be an enlargement of the scheme adopted in the district. We shall have First Aid posts in the towns, we shall want a large number wardens, rescue parties etc. The Chairman said that as the aerodromes in the district were only training ones there was only small risk of air raid but he thought the area might receive refugees from Gloucester and Bristol two large aircraft manufacturing areas. Mr Evans said that that point had not been considered by the Local Authority and was a good one. He said however that Cirencester was of strategic importance on the main road from Southampton to the Midlands and on the Bristol to London road. Further up country there were the main roads from South Wales to the Midlands and the aircraft works at Filton and Gloucester. Also quite near was the railway works at Swindon. He said that due to the inaccuracy of bombing Cirencester would get its fair share. It was decided to send an enrolment form to every member of the Cirencester branch of the British Legion.

Admiral Potter Chief ARP Warden in the area pointed out that it was no good just signing they had to take it seriously. To qualify for almost all services under ARP courses had to be taken but they were not difficult. If a war does arise it will be good to have some anti-gas training. These lectures are important. It is easy to go to a lecture but many don't go to all 6 which is disappointing. "If people say ARP is all rubbish I hope you will not spend very much time with them.

ARP (RSPCA)

Animals and Air Raids

So long ago as March 1936 the RSPCA made representations to the ARP department of the Home Office on questions of animals in raids.

The Society feels that it cannot advise the use of gas masks for dogs and cats. Domestic pets should be put into a household gas proof room. Masks were used for messenger dogs in the last war but suffering might be caused to dogs and cats particularly cats in getting them accustomed to gas masks. There had been many offers to act as animal wardens and once wardens etc. for humans had been sorted out the Society would be glad to avail themselves of the same. Experience in human aid would aid animals. Copies of the Societies ARP Committee statement issued a year ago are available.

16/4/38

Sea Cadets

It is proposed to start a Navy League Sea Cadets Corps in Cirencester and District. Will any ex naval men or anyone interested please communicate with A G Shave (ex RN) 19 Cotswold Avenue.

ARP (Humour?)

Not Interested

Asked by a shop assistant in a certain stores whether she would like to inspect their model anti-gas room a customer replied that she was not interested. "because we have electricity in our house."

23/4/38

ARP

Under the auspices of the Gloucestershire Branch of the BRC a course of instruction on ARP will be given at the Bingham Library gymnasium Wednesday evening commencing next Wednesday at 8pm. The lecture will be given by Cpl. R Townsend of the RAF. The course is open to all members of the men and women's VAD Glos 84 Free. There is a nominal fee of 2s to non members.

30/4/38

ARP

A Cirencester meeting

Owing to the Act of Parliament passed in 1937 the ARP Scheme Gloucestershire has been revised with Cirencester Urban and Rural amalgamated to form Area No 6 instead of part of No 7.

On Wednesday the inaugural meeting of the Area Authority was held at the Municipal Offices, Cirencester. Mr G Rumbol, former Chairman of No 7 Area was elected as Chairman of No 6 Area. Mr G M Scrutton was elected Vice-Chairman. Mr Evans the former Hon. Sec. was elected the new Hon. Sec. Captain Shakeshaft County Organiser for ARP outlined the revised scheme and pointed out that the County had given back as much control to the Local Authority as was possible under the Act. Major Wolley and the BRC were to be asked to provide advisory members, Mr Evans said that 373 volunteers had been enrolled.

7/5/38

RAF

New Houses for Kemble Aerodrome Workers

Cirencester to provide 100 dwellings

Cirencester UDC at a special meeting agreed to accede to an Air Ministry request to provide 100 houses in the town for men who will be stationed at Kemble Aerodrome. Enquiries are to be made with regard to the acquisition of a site adjoining the Chesterton housing estate where 160 houses are being built. The Council will allow the houses for Kemble Aerodrome staff to be built by private enterprise but it will be resp[omnsible for the provision of houses if they are not erected privately.

Air Ministry Requirements

The following communication signed by Mr F Bosworth was received from the Air Ministry:

With reference to previous correspondence and discussions with officers of you Council concerning the provision of houses for civilian employees to be employed by the Air Ministry at Kemble, I am directed to make the following observations for the information of the Council.

The equipment unit to be opened at Kemble in July (approx) 1938 will be a permanent unit of the RAF not built solely for the present emergency. It will be manned solely by civilians who subject to satisfactory service will be permanently employed. They will therefore wish to make their homes in the neighbourhood. The unskilled and semis skilled will be recruited locally (140) from men already housed. It will be essential to import about 170 skilled tradesmen, aero fitters etc these require housing. Their weekly wage will not be less than 65s and a good proportion will earn more. They will therefore be in a position to pay an economic rent. Of the 170 about 130 will be married men. It is clear therefore that there will be need for over 100 houses. The Department will be glad if the Council can assist in national rearmament by supplying housing. The plans and layouts of the existing scheme are regarded as excellent by the Air Ministry. The Ministry of Health have agreed to further the scheme. It has been found on similar RAF units that the skilled workers desire to purchase houses eventually. The Council was asked to arrange for such sales.

Mr Bosworth said that the Air Ministry did not want the men at Kemble to be considered outsiders but as ordinary citizens of Cirencester and from a business point of view it would be good to have these permanent high class workers in the town.

Councillor's views

Mr Winstone felt that the Council would whole heartedly support. It was something this little town could do to support the nation. As far as building, the Council preferred private builders but would do it if they were not interested. The scheme would help many traders. "The men will be admitted into the community as citizens and treated as honourable men and the people of Cirencester would do all they could to make them comfortable and happy. He wanted the Air Ministry's assurance that in 5 years the houses would not be left empty. He thought Chesterton a good spot as services were available it had come at an opportune moment. Mr French as a businessman gave whole hearted support.

Mr Bosworth felt that the people in this country would not let any government disarm in face of the present European menace. Mr Legg asked if the CRDC had been approached as Cirencester was a long way from the scene of action. Mr Bosworth said that the Ministry had made a general approach to all authorities but experience showed that men would not like to live in the wilds and wives want to be near the Cinema and the shops. They want to be close to a decent town. Mr Winstone said they were talking of an influx of about 560 people, commercially this must be a tremendous asset to the town. Mr Legg asked about building on the camp. Mr Bosworth said only a small number of houses would be built for those who could not leave the station. The resolution was carried unanimously and it was

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Empire Air Day (RAF)

Plans for the South Cerney Display

As the Air Ministry have abandoned the RAF Hendon Display the Empire Air Day assumes greater importance. The public not only see a comprehensive flying display but will be allowed flights in civilian aircraft. In addition to a general flying display visitors may inspect sick quarters, barrack blocks, NAAFI, airmen's cook house, ration store, gas chamber, aeroplane engine repair sheds, photographic section, camera obscura and parachute section. On exhibition will be an aircraft park with the most modern aircraft, ground and air machine guns, camera gun, bombs, gas masks, photographic equipment, oxygen apparatus, electrically heated clothes, wireless telegraphy and radio telegraphy equipment and fire apparatus.

(*spies please note!)

Visitors are reminded that no cameras will be allowed on the station. Among the flying programme will be an attack on a fort by 3 large twin engined bombers and single seater fighters. Supply dropping by parachute and message picking up by aircraft. Syncro-aerobatics by fighters, an attack on a target towed by an aeroplane formation flying, a display of upside down flying. Those interested in ARP will be able to see an anti-gas demonstration given by the RAF personnel.

14/5/38

Economics

Big gains for ex soldiers

Over 3,000 ex service clerks employed by the War Office in London and the provinces have been transferred from the weekly wage category into the salaried class with a substantial rise in pay which is estimated will be worth an extra £200,000 per annum.

BRCS Women's VAD

Orders for the Week

Wednesday 18th Anti-gas lecture Bingham Library 8pm
War Office Inspection 2nd June

Politics

Cirencester and Tewkesbury Conservative Association

At the annual dinner of the Cirencester Conservative Association in his speech Mr Morrison MP for the constituency referred to agriculture and the national defence. Much thought would be needed on home food production.

Food Production

Article Review

In Practical Farming by A Lancaster Smith author of "Farmer's Pie", he gives thoughts on town and country in air raids. The country will need to provide a haven for evacuees. Increased planning for food production and communications will be a priority. New road networks are needed as already underway in Berlin and Paris.

21/5/38

CUDC Meeting

There was no objection to the bus service between the Market Place, Chesterton and Watermoor.

ARP Wardens

A letter was received from Col F Pardoe accepting the invitation to be Chief ARP warden for Cirencester.

ARP

Great Western Railway Plans for ARP

Schools of instruction are to be set up at key points to provide ARP training. Plans are being prepared for shelters, First Aid and casualty clearing stations on company premises.

Empire Air Day (RAF)

It has been decided to close shops in town for the Air Day from 1pm to 5pm on Saturday 28th

ARP

Minety

An ARP observation post has been erected on Sawyers Hill and local volunteers had their first instruction there last week

28/5/38

ARP

Chit Chat Column

The Chit Chat column reports on Sir Samuel Hoare's review of ARP nationally, which is disappointing in that as yet 400,000 have volunteered instead of 1,000,000.

ARP

CRDC

The Council was informed that Mr C O Fletcher of Cirencester Fire Brigade agreed with the scheme in respect of the ARP Act 1937 and that the scheme had therefore been sent to the CUDC for incorporation within their scheme

ARP

Advert

Fire pumps for ARP

Hundreds of trailer fire pumps incorporating Austin 7 power units are now in the course of manufacture. Mounted on trailers for towing behind cars 2 or 4 men could carry it. It lifts up to 24 feet.

The Cotswold Garage
Cirencester Ltd
Main Austin Dealer

ARP

Examination Results for Cirencester

On May 2nd at the conclusion of the 10 lectures a VAD exam for anti-gas was held and 62 certificates awarded. The holder being entitled to wear the ARP badge which will be issued shortly. Certificates to:

Mr Partridge Brimpsfield, Mr W Westlake Downs Farm, Mr Shufflebotham Ewen, Mr W O Compton Ewen, Rev S Brown Royal Agricultural College, Miss H Wykeham –Musgrave Baunton. Mrs E M Barker Trinity Mill Badgendon, Mrs Chadwick Badgedon Rectory, Mrs Dean Badgendon, Mr H Sparrow 16 Ampney Crucis, Mr E Tremaine 28 Ashcroft Villas, Mr AC Harris 55 Hillcot Hill Ampney Crucis, Mr ES Plowright 44 London Road, Mr T Richards Kemble, Mr GP Jackson Bingham Library, Miss Ryman 52 Ashcroft Road, Miss FW Bridges Barnsley, Mr Thomas London Road, Mr C Cave Watermoor Post Office, Mr B Gassman 76 Dyer Street, Miss K Bishop 109 Victoria Road, Mr LW Jones West Market Place, Major Miller Barnsley, Mr Clayfield Purley Road, Mr Biggs Kemble, Mr D Barker Bagendon, Miss E Duncan 1 Church View Cirencester, Mr G Godwin Church Farm Preston, Mr F Huck Church Farm Preston, Mr A Maslin 45 Purley Road, Mrs M Manners Syde, Mr D Free 40 Cricklade Street, Rev G Harvey Watermoor Parsonage, Miss Holland 49 Victoria Road, Mrs A Noble 5 Victoria Road, Mr A Noble 5 Victoria Road, Mr A Carey Badgendon, Miss E Barnsley Sapperton, Mr A Bradly Kempford, Mr Moore Stephens Quenington Court, Mr F Bullock Kempford, Miss E Hiron Frampton Mansell, Miss R Jones Woodcote Frampton Mansell, Mr A B Cutter 11 The Mead, Miss Noel Platt Kempford Manor, Rev A Ruck The Rectory Sapperton, Mr W Hiscock Church Farm Poole Keynes, Mr G Burton Syde, Mr A Gold Syde, Mr H Osborne 42 Dyer Street, Mrs Wathen Poulton Garage, Mrs Grimson Sapperton, Mrs Cripps Sapperton, Mr and Mrs Marriott Frampton Mansell, Mrs J Harris Quenington, Mr J E Harris Quenington, Miss F Orledge Clarke The Downs Chalford.

There had been an earlier Short course but no exams held

4/6/38

Sea Cadets

Meeting in the Bingham Hall

At a meeting in the Bingham Hall it was resolved to form a Division of the Cotswold Navy League Cadet Corps. Major Bell thought the proximity of the town to the sea was irrelevant. The aim was discipline and organisation not necessarily to join the Navy but entry was easier. Mr Belcher is to be the Hon Treasurer, Mr Rumbol offered for temporary Hon Sec.

Empire Air Day (RAF) (ARP)

23,000 visited the Empire Air Day. There was a mock raid by 6 Fury aircraft with the casualties treated by Area 6 ARP Squad assisted by the Cirencester Women's VAD Glos 84 and Cirencester Men's VAD Glos 11. The mobile ARP van attended and people were able to inspect the gas masks.

BRCS Women's VAD

Orders for the Day

Wednesday Anti-gas lecture Bingham Library 8pm

ARP

VAD War Office Inspection

There was praise for the Cirencester VAD at the Annual War Office Inspection at the Rover Camp, Whiteway Farm. A simulated road accident was dealt with by the Women's VAD Glos 86 Commandant Miss Pollard and Men's VAD Glos 11 under Mr G Walker. The gymnasium was used as a temporary hospital. (photograph issue 11/6/38)

11/6/39

BRC Women's VAD

Orders for the Day

Wednesday 15th South Cerney Gas Chamber

RAF

Advert

An advertisement for apprentice clerks who may later volunteer as pilots

18 /6/38

ARP

Draft scheme for Cirencester Area

The draft scheme for ARP work in No 6 Area was outlined by Capt E S Martini Divisional Officer at a meeting of the No 6 Area Authority at Cirencester on Wednesday night. Capt Martini said for the purposes of the scheme 6 Area comprising Cirencester Urban and Rural Districts would be divided into 4 sectors with the Centre at Cirencester, Fairford, North Cerney and South Cerney. He outlined various services and the question of manning them.

Mr C Adams asked whether the numbers involved would include military age. Capt Martini said yes. If they were called up at least their service would have got underway. He emphasised that it was voluntary, people could leave if they wished. Admiral Potter Chief Warden for the Area explained that for appointing wardens the Area was divided up into 13 groups and for each group he had "got some gentlemen to volunteer as Head Warden. 11 had already attended a special course and trained a Head Wardens. Appointments made:

Chief Air Raid Warden Rear Admiral L F Potter Mawley House Quenington

Head Air Raid Warden Cirencester Colonel F L Pardoe The Bartonbury

Fairford Rev F A Gibbs the Vicarage Fairford

Hatherop and Quenington and Meysey Hampton Captain E Richards South Hill Meysey Hampton

Lechlade Mr G B Metcalfe Claydon Farm

Kempsford Mr E T Clark Cox's Farm Dunfield

Down Ampney Poulton and Driffild Captain S Dennis Down Ampney House

South Cerney Preston and Siddington Captain E T Cripps M C South Cerney Manor

Ampney St Peter Ampney St Mary Ampney Crucis and Barnsley Lt Colonel Macleay Eastington House

Somerford Keynes Poole Keynes and Kemble Captain Foyle Fawcett Manor House Somerford Keynes

Coates Rodmarton and Sapperton Captain F B Swanwick Foss Hill Coates

Baunton North Cerney Bagendon and Rendcomb Mr G G Gilmour White Hammerstone House North Cerney

Colesbourne Syde Elksone and Brimsfield Lt Colonel Elwes D S O Colesbourne

Daglinworth Winstone Duntisbourne Abbots Duntisbourne Rous and Edgworth Mr G M Scrutton

Dower House Daglingworth

Colonel Pardoe who was appointed Deputy Chief Air Raid Warden spoke of his work in Cirencester

2/7/38

Fire Service

Confusion over the financing of the Auxiliary Fire Service

There have been problems with recruitment in Fairford and the same in Lechlade Kemble and Coates. The ARP is already calling for volunteers especially as young men would be needed. There was a conflict of interest between the ARP and Auxiliary Fire Service which had been separated by the Government.

BRC Women's VAD

Orders for the Day

Wednesday 6th July Anti-gas exam Bingham Library 8pm. No more orders until September

9/7/38

ARP

Exercise

The ARP put on a mock raid in Cirencester Park on the camp ground. 3 aircraft from South Cerney were used. A trailer pump was used by 3 firemen in protective clothing. A First Aid party of 4 women arrived in a private car. There was a simulated gas bomb attack. 2 gas bombs were dropped. A warden using a respirator detected gas and sounded the alarm. Gas was then detected in 2 craters. The Decontamination Squad was then summoned by runner. The Squad came in full protective clothing including masks. They sealed the craters off and put out warning signs. The warden checked the craters then sounded the all clear with his bell. Those taking part were personnel of No 6 Area ARP, RAF South Cerney, Fire Brigade 1 member of Gloucester brigade 2 from Cirencester, air raid warden and runner, First Aid party ambulance and decontamination squad BRC VAD 84 also took part. Captain Martini the Divisional ARP Officer gave a running commentary on the display using an amplifier. Captain Shakeshaft of County ARP was among those present.

RAF Advert

Advertisement for the new RAF School at Cosford for training fitters, riggers and flight mechanics.

23/7/38

Politics

Sir Percy Hurd MP asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education if Education costs should be kerbed in view of defence costs.

ARP

Progress Report

The progress report on the Urban District stated that the Area had been divided into 6 sections in charge of section wardens responsible to the head warden for the organising and recruiting of his section.

Section 1 Stratton Major H Rycroft

Section 2 Bowling Green Mr H St G Rawlins

Section 3 Cecily Hill area Brig General Hankey

Section 4 Dyer Street area Major C Gouldsmith

Section 5 Watermoor Rev G Harvey

Section 6 Chesterton Major Letts

Each section is divided into sectors. Each sector administered by a post under a senior warden assisted by 2 wardens and 2 runners. In the case of a sudden emergency Cirencester possesses an ARP Warden Service though incomplete and largely untrained that would be able to prevent the risk of much panic.

Some volunteers feel hurt that having taken courses and exams their services have not been utilised or serve under unqualified senior wardens. Also large numbers feel annoyed that their service does not seem to be required. In the first case the emergency of the situation meant using those suitable in their own area. The County is making provision for more classes as soon as possible in September. As far as the second, all will be needed not only as wardens but as fire fighters, casualty services,

decontamination squads, messengers, rescue parties etc. The organisation of these is not yet complete. All will need to be staffed with reserves. The Home Office lays down that all services must have 100% reserves. Others will be invaluable in fitting gas masks and filling in householders cards. So don't think you're neglected but volunteers should apply for courses.

F L Pardoe

Head Warden

30/7/38

ARP

Women's Institute (W I)

At Birdlip W I a letter was read out from the National Federation of W Is advising that as an organisation they would not be undertaking ARP work although individuals could.

Fire Service

CRDC

The Fire Brigade Committee dealing with the Auxiliary Brigade thought Mr Fletcher of Cirencester Brigade had "rather big ideas" in respect to manning levels. He wanted 6 fully trained men at each centre. Mr Dalton of the committee suggested 3 fully trained and 3 others from villages outside. The report was adopted.

This issue also contains the layout plan for Chesterton Estate

6/8/38

ARP

Gloucestershire ARP

Geoffrey Lloyd of the Home Office congratulated Sir Fredrick Cripps D.S.O. JP on the exemplary scheme for Gloucestershire Central Authority. It was first to be formerly approved by the Secretary of State.

ARP

South Cerney

Capt E T Cripps gave a talk to South Cerney W I and British Legion in the Village Hall South Cerney. He talked on (1) What to do in the event of an air raid. (2) How to protect one's self and home. (3) Of gas masks and how to use them. Also different bombs and their effects.

Letter to the Editor

Complaint from "Small House Owner"

The vast council building will blight the value of other property. In ten years aircraft could be made obsolete by death rays meaning empty houses where the aircraft workers live!

13/8/38

Letter to the editor

Reply to Small House Owner

Mrs B Parker hits back at Small House Owner. Houses should have been built years ago for the present residents in dangerous crowded conditions.

RAF

South Cerney

Sir Kingsley Wood Secretary of State for Air visited No 3 Flying Training School South Cerney and inspected the school. During his inspection he saw the link trainer.

20/8/38

ARP

Agriculture

In Practical Farming A Lane Smith referred to ARP and Livestock advocating purpose built shelters for some.

27/8/38

RAF

Kemble

Kemble construction contractors Kier Co fined £20 for breaking electrical regulations.

Propaganda (RAF)

Religious Film for the RAF recruits

Air Ministry Chiefs approved the making of a Religious film "Crossbeam" the idea of an RAF Chaplain to counteract "communist influences which recruits in common with the rest of the country's youth no doubt encounter".

Transport (RAF)

Messrs G J Miller and Sons by arrangement with Bristol Tramways and Carriage Co will operate the Cirencester to Kemble Aerodrome service from next Monday August 29th and new hourly service from Cirencester Market Place and Chesterton Watermoor and Stratton when they are inaugurated.

ARP

Gas mask safety

A correspondent offered reassurance that gas masks are efficient. Rumours of failed tests should be ignored. The conditions of the experiments were far more severe than would be encountered in an air raid.

3/9/38

Crime/ Court case

A Cerney Airman was sent to prison for 1 month car stealing. There had been 4 other cases that month. It was getting rather too frequent.

10/9/38

Propaganda

A former soldier visits Germany

A former soldier stationed at Cirencester in the 1st World War had paid a visit to Germany. He spoke at a meeting at Stratton organised by Mrs Barnfield for St Dunstan's. Mr A C Evans from Newport, blinded at Gallipoli said that the Germans had been most friendly and despite Britain being a stumbling block over the return of former German colonies the young German people are anxious to be friends with Britain.

17/9/38

RAF/ Casualties

RAF Pilot's death near Cirencester

Acting pilot Robert Ernest Winter aged 21 of Liverpool, stationed at No.3 Flying Training School South Cerney was killed when the plane he was piloting crashed at Ampney St Mary on Tuesday afternoon. He was flying solo in an Airspeed Oxford on an altitude training flight when his machine was seen to go into a spin and crash into a meadow near the Cirencester- Quenington Road ½ Mile from the Red Lion Inn.

ARP

Letter to the Editor

Distribution of Gas Masks

Dear Sir If, in the case of an emergency arising it should be necessary for a general distribution of gas masks, volunteers with a car or light van will be required for each parish in the Cirencester RDC to collect gas masks at Cirencester and deliver them to ARP wardens in their respective parishes.

Volunteers for this work are asked to send their names to the Transport Officer for ARP at the Municipal Office Cirencester.

Yours faithfully

N Hathaway Transport Officer

G Rumbol Chairman

ARP Cirencester No 6 Area

Housing (RAF)

CUDC

The Clerk reported that formal loan sanction had been given by the Ministry of Health for the erection of 129 houses, also 30 houses ready to be let on the original Scheme on Oct 3rd.

Politics

Premier flies to Germany

Report of Mr Chamberlain's exchange of views with Hitler after the weekend of crisis over the Sudaten Land.

24/9/38

Politics

Striving for Peace

Report on Mr Chamberlain flying again to Germany. That talking together is a good sign. The Prime Minister asks for a state of orderliness

1/10/38

ARP

The European Crisis

Preparations in Cirencester

Precautionary measures in case of air raids have been intensified in Cirencester during the past few days in common with other centres in the County as a result of the development of the International Crisis. No 6 Area ARP has been active but events have speeded up the machinery. Cirencester Authority is now ready for an emergency. At the beginning of the week the executive and officers of the authority decided that their plans should be accelerated. On Tuesday the public were notified that on Wednesday and Thursday there would be facilities for fitting respirators (gas masks) at 6 centres in the town and that air raid warning tests would be made on Wednesday morning. It has been arranged to use the fire siren at the Police Station as the signal sounding in a distinct manner to avoid confusion. Three short blasts on the siren were used followed by a one minute blast. This signal was repeated twice. Reports from the public reveal that while it was heard clearly in some distant parts of the town it was not heard at all in others. There is no need to worry as Air Raid Wardens will blow their whistles as an additional warning. The ARP requests that the public should be fitted with respirators met with a ready response on Wednesday. At all the centres at Lewis Lane Boy's School, the Church Hall, Powell's Boy's School, Powell's Infants School, Stratton Church Room and the Gym at Oakley Hall volunteers were kept busy throughout the afternoon fitting on gas masks, checking and booking and issuing tickets. It is stated that 50% of the population of the town was fitted on Wednesday. The biggest part of the remainder on Thursday afternoon and evening. People who by any chance missed the opportunity need not worry, contact your section warden and he will arrange it.

A Reporter's Eye view

"I visited various stations on Wednesday afternoon and watched people of all ages and classes fitted. 100s of people arrived at the station at 2pm the arranged time of opening. Although volunteers worked with efficiency and despatch many had to wait their turn. But no one seemed to mind that at all. Throughout the afternoon streams of people tried on the grotesque masks. Some people not unnaturally treated the matter rather soberly, others laughed and joked – not facetiously but in a light hearted spirit which is characteristically English when grim realities have to be faced. Children generally regarded the whole thing with mixed feelings. It is understood that some 30,000 respirators are on order for Cirencester area and these will be assembled on arrival at the Old Brewery Maltings. They will then be distributed to the public.

Trench Shelters

Apart from the question of gas masks the ARP workers have been busy in other directions and following Home Office instructions gas proof trenches are being dug in certain parts of the town. The first trenches were begun in a field at Chesterton near Mason and Gilletts factory on Wednesday morning. A number of workmen are employed on this site, one shift working by day and a second by night. A mechanical excavator is in use. It is understood that further trenches will be dug at Stratton end of town. At a meeting in the Bingham Library on Monday night volunteers were enrolled to staff a Casualty Service Station which Dr Grove White is organising at the Bingham Hall. Mrs Pardoe is the First Aid Commandant. Dr Grove White explained that the station was a unit to deal with ARP casualties not serious enough to require hospital. He pointed out that injuries would be caused by flying bricks, by being overthrown and other effects of the bombs. People would not necessarily be

“laid out”. There was also the possibility of gas attack. People might have a bit of trouble from the gas and also be injured. Some others might be burned. The station would have to cater for all cases. The Hall would be laid out specially for males and females. He pointed out how volunteers could help. A number of volunteers were enrolled. Since then there has been intensive training and good progress is being made.

Fire Precautions

What of the Auxiliary Fire Service [AFS] ?

In this section again training has been going on for some months. There are 36 Auxiliary Firemen as well as a number of other volunteers who will act as lorry drivers, messengers and pickets. The volunteers are very enthusiastic and have made excellent progress in training. Chief Officer Fletcher of Cirencester Fire Brigade who is in charge of the service reports that his Corps is up to Home Office standards. He has a very enthusiastic and efficient assistant Second Officer E Skinley of Cirencester Fire Brigade. The Fire Service Corps will be given a test on Saturday.

Demolition and Rescue Work

Working in cooperation with the Fire Service in case of emergency will be the Demolition and Rescue Squad, which has an executive staff of experts who can deal with questions relating to buildings, sewers, water mains supplies and electricity cables, gas mains, and reservoirs in the area. Arrangements have been made with the main garages and engineers in the area for the provision of breakdown equipment and gangs necessary for speedy removal of debris. Volunteers used to building work, road repairing and dealing with various public and domestic services are also available. Mr Eric Cole is Chief executive of this section of ARP work. The Decontamination squads trained by Mr Wentworth Jones are trained and prepared. These of course deal with the effects of gas attacks. During the week there has been a flood of ARP volunteers for all branches of the work.

ARP

Advert Jeyes Fluid

Householders are advised to have in the house a bottle of Jeyes fluid The Best \Disinfectant

Politics

LATE NEWS! New Understanding Between England and Germany

A message received this afternoon at our office from London States: The Czechs. Accept the Munich Plan. Chamberlain and Hitler signed a declaration emphasising that Anglo German relations are of first importance. They regard the agreement as symbolic of the desire never to fight each other again.

Military

The formation of a women's organisation to perform non-combatant duties with the Regular, Territorial Armies and the RAF in time of national emergency was announced by the War Office.

Medical

Reference to Dr Adams As Chief Medical Officer

ARP

Letters to the Editor

The sequence of warning and all clear signals is given below. An air raid warning will be a fluctuating signal of varying pitch for two minutes on the normal fire siren at the same time two “runners” will proceed on bikes to Watermoor and Stratton giving short blasts on their whistles. These will be taken up by the wardens in the vicinity until the warning is generally known. On the conclusion of a raid the “All Clear” will be given on the siren as a continuous blast for one minute. If there is any fear that gas may have been used people should not at once go into the streets. The wardens and gas detection squad will first ascertain if gas is about, if so warning rattles will be used. The Decontamination Squad will then either disinfect or rail off the infected area and when they have done so give the Local all clear signal by means of hand bells after which everyone can go on as usual. All those who are in the streets when the Air Raid Warning is heard should go at once to their own homes where they should remain in their gas-proof rooms or dug-outs where they exist until the danger is past; or if they prefer and are in the vicinity to the trenches which are being dug at the

Bowling Green and in Mr Burge's field by the Canal Bridge at Chesterton. A rehearsal of the Warning and All Clear signals only will take place at 10 o'clock tomorrow Saturday Oct 1st .

J J Jotcham Chief of Police
G Rumbol Area 6 ARP

Politics

The American Embassy in London advises all USA citizens "who have no compelling reason to continue their sojourn here" to arrange to return to the USA.

Agriculture

Advert

Join ARP Now

As a precaution against high prices and inferior service let us quote you for your Farm Requisites – from milking pails to tractors. Ploughs, Cultivators, tractors etc in stock for immediate delivery. Aubrey Rees and Sons Whiteway Works Cirencester Tel 76 and 75.

ARP

Advert

BRCS

A course of instruction on 1st Aid will be given on Tuesday evening at 6.30pm beginning on October 4th also a course on Home Nursing Thursday afternoons 2.30pm beginning October 6th. Both courses will be given at the Bingham Library. Members of VAD Glos 84 free non members 2/- each course.

ARP

Advert

Area 6 Authority

Vans, cars, utility vehicles etc with or without drivers are urgently needed. Offers should be made to the undersigned at Cotswold Garage, Cirencester.

ARP

Notice

Warden's Badges

Warden's badges and cards of appointment will be issued in the course of next week to all Cirencester Warden's who are qualified to receive them, that is those who have passed the necessary exams and have been actually appointed as a warden. Any warden presenting his card of appointment for inspection at the Municipal Offices Gosditch Street between 9 am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm will be given his badge.

Signed F L Pardoe

Head Warden

Cirencester

Military

Long report on how to join the National Defence Companies of the Territorial Army set up to protect important points in Great Britain as far as possible in the home neighbourhood.

Particulars from R A Burton ex 5th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, 52 Dyer Street, Cirencester

Politics / Post Munich activity

ARP

Long article entitled "Peace Preserved" based on the Prime Minister's efforts on the Sudetan Question. Ends : Though the tension of the last few days is replaced with general relief the British Government continues its precautions. All through the British Government continues its precautions. All through last night the digging of trenches and sandbagging of buildings in big cities continued.

Trench digging also continued in Cirencester during the night and the announcements in other columns show that the test signals and emergency call for fire fighters will be put into operation tomorrow.

When things looked black on Wednesday Cirencester experienced a feverish demand for rooms or flats or any other accommodation on the part of persons anxious to quit London and other great cities. One amongst the many callers at the office expressed consternation when she learned of the presence of aerodromes in this district.

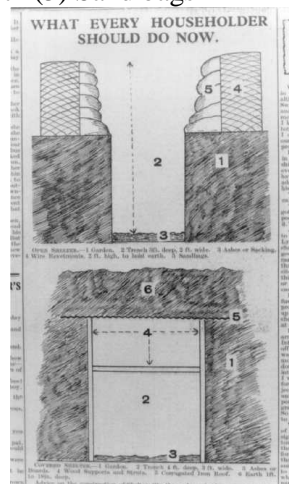
Arrangements have been made in the Fairford and Lechlade district and in Cricklade for the billeting of some hundreds of children from homes in the case of evacuation from the big cities.

ARP

What Every House Holder Should Know

An illustration of how to construct an open trench shelter and a covered shelter.

An open shelter in the garden (1) The garden (2) Trench 3 feet deep 2 feet wide (3) ashes or sacking (4) Wire revetment 2 feet high to hold earth (5) Sand bags



Covered shelter in the garden. (1) The garden (2) Trench 4 feet deep 3 feet wide (3) ashes or boards (4) wood supports and struts (5) corrugated iron roof (6) earth 1 foot to 18 inches deep.

Advice on the construction of shelters like those shown in these rough sketches which are easy to make and effective in protection against bomb splinters and gas may be obtained from Major C C Gouldsmith or A G Garrett ex Sgt Major Royal Field Artillery.

- (1) If you have not already done so get fitted for a gas mask. When distributed the greatest care must be taken of respirators. Do not expose them to strong light or heat nor carry them by the straps. They should be placed in boxes and kept in a cool place.
- (2) Arrange to have windows and skylights completely covered at night so no ray of light can be seen from outside. Lights in entrance halls should not be used during an air attack
- (3) If you have a garden prepare a small trench as protection from blast and splinters. The accompanying illustration will help you do this.
- (4) See that your wireless set is working or arrange to receive wireless messages from a neighbour should an emergency occur.
- (5) Prepare your refuge room against the effects of high explosive, gas and incendiary bombs. A dry cellar or basement is best, but any floor may be used. Paste paper, linen or other material over the windows to prevent glass splinters being blown into the room. Close mesh wire netting fastened behind the windows will help. Ground floor windows can be protected by filling bags or old boxes with earth and piling them up against the lower part of the window.
- (6) Refuge rooms should be sealed against the entry of gas. Be prepared to block up every crack and crevice in walls floors and ceilings with putty or pulp made of softened newspaper. Stout paper pasted over key holes and window frames will keep out gas. In an emergency the chimney should be stuffed with paper, rags or sacking and the front of the fire place sealed with plywood if possible.

- (7) Make an air lock by nailing a blanket or rug to the doorframe on the outside if the door opens outwards. At least 1 foot should be allowed to trail on the ground.
 - (8) A piece of wood padded with felt or cloth should be nailed to the floor so as to press tightly against the entrance door when closed.
 - (9) Plants and flowers should not be taken into the room.
 - (10) Smoking should be strictly forbidden
 - (11) Provide yourself and your children with something to do, books to read or games to play.
 - (12) Clear the loft or attic of inflammable material. If possible cover the floor with sheets of iron or asbestos or with 2 inches of dry sand or dry earth if the floor will bear the weight. It is good to apply two coats of lime wash to woodwork to prevent fire.
 - (13) See that you have a box or bucket of dry sand or earth with a long handled shovel to deal with small incendiary bombs.
 - (14) In any emergency have some get-at-able buckets of water about the house.
 - (15) Find out where the nearest warden's post and first aid posts are. If you have no phone find out where the nearest one is.
 - (16) Find out where the nearest public shelter is and if you have no emergency room in your house go there with your respirator when the alarm goes.
 - (17) Should the alarm go when you are away from home ask a policeman or warden to direct you to the nearest public shelter or trench.
 - (18) In an emergency everyone should have their respirators with them never allowing them to get out of reach.
 - (19) Keep calm. The services for your protection are well organised and efficient.
 - (20) Do all you can to help neighbours particularly the aged and those with children.
-

8/10/38

Advert

Peace is the outcome of good friendship. Many a good friendship has commenced over a glass of Stroud Beer.

Cirencester Bull Club

Notice

Cirencester Bull Club sent a message of appreciation from their Annual Dinner to Mr Chamberlain saying that they had unbounded confidence in him.

ARP

Women's Institute [W I]

ARP matters were discussed at the WI s at Coulsbourne, Stratton and Baunton.

ARP

Letters to the Editor

Wiltshire County is still trying to drum up volunteers for ARP

Propaganda

Article "Living in a Nazi School"

Mr Malcolm Prescott of Tetbury give his impressions of a month's stay in a Nazi school at the end of 1936 in Ilfield on the fringe of the Hartz Mountains. He was favourably impressed by Hitler's achievements.

15/10/38

Agriculture

Mr Boutflour addressed the Watermoor Unionist Club on agriculture in wartime. They discussed whether live stock food production meant foodstuff would have priority. He came out on the side of human food and maintaining a high amount of surplus fertility of land.

**Evacuation
Letter to the Editor**

Billeting Scheme

Sir, I have before me the evacuation plan for London published 30th September. It says similar schemes are being drawn up for other cities. There was more than one rumour that one of these was preparing to evacuate to Gloucestershire and many were registered with the Women's Institute [WI] which most gallantly undertook the thankless task. As a matter of interest I have worked out what would happen to my own establishment under the above plan. If Mr Chamberlain had not so wonderfully come to our rescue.

The proportion of adults to children seems to be given as 3 to 1 the latter separately dealt with. It is reasonable to expect that the bulk would be mixed adults, infants and older children; it is with the adults we are concerned. Here there is no guarantee as to good character, cleanly habits or freedom from disabilities, disease and vermin. One must envisage a "mixed bag" suddenly dumped upon one in the general scramble. Incidentally there appears to be no provision to stop the influx of "undesirables" and one must expect at least a sprinkling of individuals merely out for a free adventure, and what they can scrounge; disease and uncleanness seem inescapable. So much for the plan as it seems to stand. My house has 20 habitable rooms and normally 6 inhabitants this gives me a ration of 14 refugees. To cope with these my wife would soon find herself single-handed. I myself am liable to be called up on a Reserve and would in any case be occupied with ARP. My maidservants were not engaged to remain under such conditions. Though hoping to be engaged on more useful war work, she alone would remain 14 – 1.

For the protection of my belongings against this horde there are my outside staff trained as Air Wardens though some of them might be called away. Legally or no I would instruct them to act as police for our proper policeman is stationed dearily 5 miles distant. These distances are a serious aspect. Refugees are expected to buy their own food but the nearest shop of any kind is 4 miles distant. If in need of money they apply to the nearest Ministry of Labour Office 8 miles distant. True a bus runs on the main road 2 miles distant – if it still ran and they would walk so far. One gives facilities for cooking. Here like many others we only have a small anthracite cooker (an Aga in this case). They would not understand it even if it had the capacity, which it hasn't. That means odd cooking in various rooms and fire danger. Luckily I have facilities for locking away my valuables, which many haven't for my fire and burglary policies would clearly be invalidated and I doubt whether cover would be obtainable at all under such uncontrolled conditions.

For this lot one would draw a total of 70s per week for adults or 42s if they were children – one would rather someone more deserving earned the money.

I have refrained from unnecessary comment and only venture my opinion that this sort of thing won't "win the war" and my pious hope is that Gloucestershire may be able to obtain "something different". Having given away household secrets I enclose my card and remain.

Yours Truly

Country Householder

October 9th 1938

PS Since writing the above I have been able to ascertain that the census of accommodation taken by the WI was for the purposes of information only and canvassers were given to understand that the refugees would be "probably women and children". These last words do not guarantee whatever; and I have no doubt that their census, being based on the London plans of 1 refugee per room would have been made compulsory. I asked my Billeting Officers for the full scheme. At the same time I made the extraordinary discovery that three adjacent parishes to my own escaped scot free because they happen to possess no WI branch of their own.

**ARP
Letter to the Editor**

Cirencester First Aid Post

Dear Sir,

Certain changes in Cirencester's First Aid Post have become necessary owing to the fact that the County Authority has decided that all casualty services should be under the control of BRCS or St

John's Ambulance Brigade. Liaison Officers will now undertake the arrangements for courses in First Aid and Anti Gas training and also the exams at their conclusion.

I feel sure that all members of the Cirencester First Aid Post will conform loyally to these regulations and by doing so will ensure the success of an undertaking which has been so successfully begun.

Yours Truly

Sybil Pardoe First Aid Commandant Area 6 Authority, Bartonbury, Cirencester Oct 23rd 1938

Politics

Mr W S Morrison (MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury) on the Crisis

Mr Morrison speaking at a meeting in Kempsford was optimistic over the new European set up (partitioning of Czechoslovakia) . The foundations have been laid for peace. Our rearmament is defensive rearmament.

League of Nations Union

Advert

What is Happening?

What is Happening?

What is Happening?

In the Middle of Europe

Hear Mr Alec Wilson at the Bingham Library on Friday October 21st 8.00pm

League of nations Union Cirencester

Industry / RAF

New Aircraft factory announced at Gloucester

Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister for Aircraft production, announced that a new aircraft factory to cost 1 million pounds is to be built at Gloucester. Also balloon training depots at Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Hull, Newcastle, Plymouth, Southampton, Glasgow and Cardiff.

Sea Cadets

Letters to the Editor

The Cirencester Sea Cadets are to hold a Trafalgar Day Concert to raise funds for uniforms and equipment. World famous artists billed (but not named). 23 members have joined to date in Cirencester.

ARP

Letters to the Editor

Cirencester's First Aid Post

Dear Sir,

A meeting was held tonight Thursday in the Bingham Library under the heading ARP. From the general feeling of the 33 at the meeting the letters stood for All Round Personalities. If the gathering met for the safeguarding of our country they should be prepared to think nationally and not to allow personal feelings to deter them from the great need to be prepared for an emergency.

It was stated that there may be every reason why the First Aid Post cannot carry on under the same lecturer and that is a matter to be regretted but surely country come first. Let Cirencester's First Aid Post be a credit to the town and may they work with the St John's Ambulance and BRCS. They will help each other and world affairs must not be hampered by any internal feelings of jealousy. Mere trivialities are not worthy of our old and famous town and the honours of the evening go to Mrs Pardoe for conducting the meeting so well and for the neutrality that was admired by both sides of the rather difficult and thorny fence.

Yours very truly Ex Service Cirencester October 13th 1938

22/10/ 38

Agriculture

W S Morrison is to speak on Agriculture and the Crisis at Southrop and Coln

Medical Advice

That Crisis Throat

Medical Authorities agree that the reaction which set in after the prolonged anxiety of the crisis period is responsible for an epidemic of relaxed throat in all parts of the country particularly in towns. A doctor says that the worry undoubtedly contributed greatly to the wave of throat trouble we are experiencing. To combat it the best plan is to take things as easily as possible, eat sparingly, take plenty of nourishing drinks particularly milk and cocoa and above all banish anxious thoughts and fears.

Propaganda

“How Peace was Preserved” is a new pamphlet issued by Government sources.

ARP

Letters to the Editor

Mr Evans wishes to thank all who have enrolled. Pressure of work makes acknowledgement individually impossible. 6 instructors are now hard at work training volunteers. It is hoped that all volunteers will receive some training.

ARP

Letters to the Editor

Cirencester's First Aid Post

Sir,

Ex Serviceman missed the point. Personalities and lack of loyalty were not the cause of dissent at last Thursday's meeting. Gloucester is to blame. They said that Cirencester was to have a First Aid Station, casualty posts, and decontamination station and then left us in the lurch. When war seemed imminent a lady and gent stepped into the breach. It was running nicely with a loyal band of helpers. Gloucester then gave it to the BRCS. Now the only lectures available are arranged for one section of society. The majority who work from 9am to 6pm were not considered. So in the Red Cross we saw red tape with things going on as they were before the crisis with the prospect of more dilly-dallying, months between lectures and nothing at the end. That's why we were disgruntled

Yours, Three Loyalists

29/10/38

ARP

National Snipit

ARP workers are urged to prepare a register of bikes to be used for getting through in a time of national emergency.

ARP/ Evacuation

Cirencester Rural District Council

The CRDC resolved that the evacuation organisation should be incorporated in ARP for rural areas and gas protection take a back seat. It was said that town ARP could not be applied to rural areas.

Politics

Cirencester Branch of the Women's Conservative and Unionist Association

At the Association's meeting on Wednesday letters were quoted written from Germany saying that Mr Chamberlain was a wonderful man.

Cirencester Sea Cadets

Trafalgar Day Concert

Earl Bathurst inspected the Sea Cadets at the Trafalgar Day Concert at the Bingham Hall last Friday evening. The concert was organised by Mrs Sidney Allen of Amberly. Front of House was full but the capacity of the Hall was not "severely taxed". Artists of eminence in the musical world included Albert Sammons violin soloist – slo work with Thomas Beecham and the BBC, London Symphony,

Philharmonic, Halle and other orchestras. Kenneth Ellis well known Bass and Evelyn Amey, pianist of Queen's Hall fame. They gave solo and combined items including Brahms's Sonata in A major (Op78) given by Albert Sammons and Evelyn Amey.

During the interval Captain J C Hayes County Commissioner of the Sea Cadets explained the objects of the Corps, emphasising discipline in training including compass reading, rope splicing, elementary navigation, PT and use of arms. The Cirencester Division has a nucleus of a very good Bugle Band but the talent at present exceeds the instruments available. It is hoped to provide more as funds permit.

5/11/38

ARP

Billeting Scheme

Letters to the Editor

“The Country Householder” (not verbatim)

Since I enjoyed the hospitality of your columns three weeks ago the Anderson Report has appeared and one at least derives a morbid satisfaction in the knowledge that one's conjectures were correct. The report admits that compulsory billeting could become necessary if voluntary options failed, especially with the children. Here lies the salvation for the remote and or many roomed householder! Moreover voluntary service denotes willing cooperation (often in the last war, free of cost to the state); compulsion on unreasonable lines – one might have said confiscation and maltreatment of one's women folk at home – denotes sullen non cooperation, if not open revolt. Voluntary, even free cooperation will be forthcoming all right given decent treatment and a square deal. It is clear that “unnecessary hardship” was never the real intention even of the Home Office. It is obvious that the very last wish of the Local Authorities most especially in Gloucestershire – would be to impose upon and exterminate

Yours truly

The Country Householder

Evacuation / Refugees

Letter to the Editor

The Stranger in Our Midst

Complaint against the Bruderhof purchase of Oaksey Manor and Park Farm

Why should overpopulated England provide homes for Europe's “unwanted”. Why should they take jobs when our own unemployment is increasing? If they say they have no money how can they buy farms etc. points constantly being put to this correspondent.

- (1) On what grounds is the Bruderhof allowed here by the Home Office? If as they assert they have no money how can they find thousands to buy farms and a manor house?
- (2) Where do the purchasing funds come from? Who is behind the movement and what is its object?
- (3) Why should these people, openly pacifists, come and settle down here in the midst of an armed camp with three large British aerodromes in close proximity?
- (4) Is it any asset to the country or for our own benefit?
- (5) Where do funds come from?

“You may give and assist who you please” Yes but not at the detriment of our own countrymen – not if you are a genuine Englishman!

W B Wilson

Fairhaven Oaksey October 31st 1938

12/11/38

Evacuation/ Refugees

Herr E C H Arnold Leader of the Bruderhof at Ashton Keynes answers critics in an address to Rotary

English people have been employed in building and farming at Ashton Keynes but farmers cannot get local labour because they are working on aerodrome construction. Funds come from donations from

Europe and others in England and Quakers and other Bruderhof type groups in the USA. There are aerodromes everywhere. The Bruderhof's Home Office permit has to be renewed every twelve months.

Evacuation/ Refugees

Letters to the editor

A letter on the same theme as Herr Arnold's defence with criticism for Mr Wilson was published written by Mrs Gertrude Wood member of the Council of the Women's Guild of Empire.

Remembrance Day

The report on the Remembrance Day Parade noted that the Cirencester Sea Cadets paraded for the first time and for the first time the Auxiliary firemen [AFS] were wearing their new uniforms for the first time. The men of the regular Fire Brigade were also on parade.

19/11/38

Evacuees / Refugees

Letters to the Editor

Continued controversy over the Bruderhof Mr Wilson's reply is on similar lines to his first letter and is supported by a Mr Cuss from Cricklade.

ARP (not verbatim)

Common Sense about ARP

The revival of the Militia campaign was right to suggest forming armed village units with anti aircraft weapons. This would make flying dangerous and bombing less accurate. It would also provide the basic structure for the anti aircraft services. Evacuation would be difficult, staying put is the answer.

Local Political

Medical / Transport

CUDC Meeting

There were objection about the proposal to close the Isolation Hospital as the local people would have to be taken to Stroud. There was a long discussion on a proposed One-Way traffic scheme in Castle Street. the matter was deferred.

26/11/38

Evacuees / Refugees

Letters to the Editor

The Bruderhof controversy rumbles on. Mr Wilson and Mr Cuss are attacked by Gertrude Wood again and R H Rhimes of 24 Overhill Road.

3/12/38

Evacuees / Refugees

Letters to the Editor

Mr Wilson has another go at the Bruderhof repeating his previous themes.

10/12/38

ARP

Notice

Will all wardens who are in possession of certificates kindly call at the Municipal Offices before the end of the month to receive their badges and cards of appointment as badges which are not claimed within a reasonable time may have to be returned to Gloucester. Wardens are reminded that it will be

necessary for them to produce their certificates at the Municipal Offices before receiving badges and cards.

F L Pardoe Head Warden Cirencester

Evacuation / Refugees

Extensive report of Bruderhof Wedding * to be inserted ASP

National Service

AS PER Sir John Anderson's Scheme, A National Service Organisation will be set up in the next six weeks with local committees to direct those who wish to give up some leisure time to serve in Territorials, Reservists, ARP, Nursing etc. Booklets will be delivered to every home.

24/12/38

Evacuation

CRDC Meeting

"Worried about evacuation" document presented by Captain Swanwick

The influx of evacuees would paralyse rural communities. Farmers could not farm, ARP could not be undertaken we should be nursemaids. Take a house with 2 people 2 servants and 2 spare rooms. 6 or 7 would be billeted. Children would be homesick, some would be delicate, some clean, some not and its question whether the servants would stay. The Chairman was glad the Minister of Health would take over from the Home Office they know where water supplies are etc. On the proposition of Captain Stanwick a resolution was passed pressing the Minister of Health for information on the question of evacuation and compensation for damage caused by evacuees.

Medical

The Committee of Cirencester Memorial Hospital have decided to install a Keepalite emergency lighting system in the hospital should there be a failure in electricity supply at any time.

31/12/38

ARP

More Common Sense on ARP

We rely on the telephone and telegraph system for early warning. The slightest disturbance of our climate disrupts this, as witnessed during the last fortnight and at a time of mobilisation of the British Legion and Police Force when a partial breakdown of telephones greatly hampered those responsible for selecting the force. We should bury all electricity wires for the above reason and as safety for our Air Force. We can give £20 million to Czechoslovakia when the safety of our own should be considered. Sir John Anderson it would seem desires to bury our urban population in steel casements to please steel interests in the City and go down in History with the Hindenburgh and Maginpot Line. It would be more effective to bury the electricity wires of the countryside.

ARP

ARP Recruits

Latest Home Office figures show that over 200,000 are still needed for the Auxiliary Fire Service. In other sections of the organisation such as Air Raid Wardens and First Aid the number of recruits is a little short of the approved strength.