

**Weekly War Diary for 1939**  
**Extracted from the Wilts and Gloucester Standard by Peter Grace**

**7/1/39**

**Economics**

**Letters to the Editor**

**War and Property**

“Wave” of Cirencester states that Lloyds give only a 32% chance of this country being at war in the next 12 months. A householder in time of war with the cessation of building would hold a commodity with scarcity value. The question is to estimate how much property would be left in a habitable condition. Since aerial bombing is not as fatal to humans who take precautions it is a different matter with property. It would seem wise to sell as others did six months ago before prices fell. Local Authorities with large schemes to be in a delicate position.

**RAF**

**400 pilots required to complete record intake**

The Air Ministry announces that 400 short service commission pilots who will enter from civilian life to complete the largest intake of short service officers for any year in the history of the RAF. The grand total hoped for would therefore be 1,700. Between 17½ and 25yrs with approximately standard school certificate and medically fit.

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**14/1/39**

**Politics/ ARP**

Long report on the Prime Minister meeting with Mussolini in Rome. Chit Chat reports Sir John Anderson’s spirited reply to critics of ARP at Westminster.

**ARP**

An ARP device for auto switching off street gas lamps will be on show in Engineering and Hardware Section of the British Industries Fair in Birmingham next week.

**ATS**

**Women’s Auxiliary Territorial Service [ATS]**

Speaking on the West of England programme from Bristol on Thursday, Lady Apsley broadcast a talk on the ATS of which she is Senior Commandant for Gloucestershire. She said that it had been called into being and Gloucestershire she had to raise eight Companies. Three types of women were needed, drivers, clerical and general duties (cooking, form filling, store keeping, orderlies etc.) They can be married or single between 18 and 25 yrs old. Each ATS Company is attached to a Territorial Army unit for peace time training and will work with it in time of war.

Of the eight companies for Gloucestershire, one will be in Gloucester the rest in and around Bristol. One is a clerical company of highly skilled women to work at Southern Command with HQ in Salisbury. One a local service company which will stay in Bristol. These companies are affiliated to 66<sup>th</sup> Anti Aircraft Brigade 6<sup>th</sup> Gloucestershire Regiment (who are going to be tanks). The 4<sup>th</sup> is to be a Searchlight Regiment and so on. Women will give an hour or so of free time for training in PT anti-gas field cooking First Aid and so on. The only obligatory thing is a fortnight’s camp in two years.

**Entertainment/RAF**

For the visit of Bertini and his famous band next Thursday in the Corn Hall buses will be laid on from Swindon and Stroud with specials to RAF South Cerney.

**Entertainment / RAF**

**Advance Notice - Empire Air Day**

Empire Air Day will take place on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be an increased number of stations open due to the expansion of the RAF.

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**21/1/39**

**Transport**

A meeting of the Cirencester Traders Association decided that One Way Traffic was undesirable. HGVs should be diverted from main streets and traders and shoppers observe a time limit on parking. (There was quite a heated discussion)

**RAF**

**Formation of the Auxiliary Air Force Reserve**

The Air Ministry has announced the setting up of the RAAF for ex airmen to return in case of emergency. They must be under 53yrs old and sign on for 2 years. For peacetime training airmen will be issued with overalls, brassard and forage cap. Full uniform will be issued if called out for service and a bounty of £2 per year paid in arrears in November of each year.

**Evacuation**

**Letters to the Editor**

Mr Scrutton Chairman of the CRDC writes explaining the need for advanced planning for evacuation of particularly children to country areas. The Government has asked all Rural District Councils to cooperate in working out what accommodation would be available. Representatives would call in the next month to ascertain accommodation possibilities. There would be allowances of 10s 6d per child with 8s 6d per child where more are taken. Children would be moved school by school with their teachers.

**Transport / Evacuation**

**CUDC Meeting**

At the meeting of the CUDC it was decided not to proceed with the One Way traffic system. There was discussion about suitable volunteers to take a census and visit householders in connection with evacuees. 3,000 letters had been sent out to explain Government requirements.

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**28/1/39**

**Evacuation**

**Letters to the Editor**

In his letter to the Editor Mr Elwes says that he is quite sure that the women of the countryside will work during time of war but not to scrub or clean for a lot of idle, probably undesirable and possibly alien, or semi alien refugees from the big cities. Bombs are not the problem, but starvation and panic. Immigration should be stopped and agriculture expanded. The last thing an intelligent enemy would do would be to destroy our civilian population. The objects of bombing are:-

- (1) destruction of war materials and stores
- (2) disablement of armed forces
- (3) causing panic. Therein lies the danger of liquid mustard gas which disables. No provisions have been made against it, the chief protection being eye shades of which there seems to have been no issue.

**Evacuation**

**Letters to the Editor**

Mr Wearing of Tunbridge Wells feels a certain amount of sympathy with a previous correspondent, Mr Swanwick but he must remember that no government would be so unwise as to settle children near the airfield obviously known in Germany.

## **Evacuation**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **E.C.B.T.**

A correspondent E.C.B.T. states:-

- (1) Water and sanitation in the countryside had not been considered nor the poor medical services.
- (2) In return for full board a meagre 10s 6d and 8s 6d were to be received to say nothing of the damage to property and women's nerves.
- (3) It might be necessary for our own children to mix with undesirables and share all household utensils and facilities.
- (4) What about our own children coming home from boarding school and men coming on leave.
- (5) The burden is all on the women. It will be interesting to see women's votes in coming elections.
- (6) They will not be able to volunteer for WAAC WRNS WRAF and WATS
- (7) Now the Prime Minister has gained breathing space perhaps more reasonable scheme can be produced.

## **Evacuation**

### **Letters to the Editor**

J Goudie of 65 Castle Street castigates certain members of the RDC, UDC and gentlemen farmers (note they had petitioned parliament re evacuation scheme)

Why should the pressure of their social position should exempt them from national duty. They don't think of the poor people who will have to live them.

## **Evacuation / Refugees**

### **Letters to the Editor**

Dear Sir

With reference to the announcement in your paper of the sale of the Oaksey Manor and Park Farm to the Bruderhof.

There are many in the district who, by virtue of their love for England as the home of the English look with increasing anxiety on the encroachments of the Cotswold Bruderhof and the growing incursions of aliens of all nationalities in our midst. The foreign population in this country everywhere creeps up silently in numbers. Can this state of things tend to our ultimate good as a nation? Is it not time that some strict and very definite limit should be imposed? We are well aware of the hardship to which refugees are exposed - those expelled from Germany. Italy, Austria and Czechoslovakia but is there any reason why a small and already overpopulated England should be expected to receive, welcome and aid all the rest of Europe's unwanted?

## **Evacuation / Refugees**

### **Letters to the Editor**

The "Little man of Cirencester" is ready to do his duty both to king and refugee and if the "country" is not then let's have it compulsory as soon as possible.

## **Evacuation/ Refugees**

### **Letters to the Editor**

Mr Wilson (Oaksey) referring to the Daily Express of January 23<sup>rd</sup> (this itself referred to the petition to Parliament re evacuees by some local gentry) He says that it misrepresents those whom they term "Cirencester Snobs". Why not set up camps where all would get the same treatment not according to the family they are billeted with. He then hits out at the Bruderhof. They would become a hindrance and burden they are all pacifists and of no use at all in time of war. They would have to be put under guard in camps. Their buildings could then be used for a large children's centre.

## **Crime / RAF**

RAF acting Corporal Darrell Clarke from South Cerney was sent to prison for seven days for taking and driving away a motor car.

## **Evacuation**

### **CRDC Meeting**

At the meeting of the CRDC there was a long discussion on the evacuation and it was decided to ask the Ministry of Health to supply further information.

- (a) Will the population to be evacuated be divided into (1) Those suitable for billeting (2) Those unsuitable for billeting
- (b) How is a householder to get rid of undesirable evacuees at short notice.
- (c) Will compensation be paid in respect of damage to houses furniture gardens and livestock.
- (d) What was the insurance position in respect of companies and future theft.

Also with the reduction in ARP wardens who would keep order.

## **Evacuation**

### **“Cirencester and Industrial Evacuation” Text of Memo sent to the Ministry of Health**

The text of a Memo sent to the Ministry of Health covers points already expressed in other letters to the press etc.

- (1) Working patterns would be interrupted.
- (2) Incompatible families would have to exist together.
- (3) School children would be in the house 17 out of 24 hours a day.
- (4) Compulsion is contrary to English nature.
- (5) Some houses and cottages are unsuitable due to isolation and water and sanitary accommodation.
- (6) Damage will be done in every house. The cost of compensation might be more than the cost of building camps.

Alternative suggestions

- (1) Voluntary billeting would eliminate those physically and temperamentally unsuited to taking evacuees.
- (2) Recipient areas should be extended to reduce density.
- (3) Evacuees should be graded as suitable and unsuitable. The latter to be housed in empty houses or camps to be built to accommodate them under supervision. In the case of school children by teachers.
- (4) That considerable numbers could be accommodated in the mining valleys of South Wales from which many of the population have been transferred and which are not dangerous areas. There, there are empty cottages and thousands living on the dole who would be glad of billeting money and schools with ample accommodation.

## **ARP**

### **Fire Brigade**

#### **Volunteer Firemen Wanted**

About 100,000 men have now started or completed training for the Auxiliary Fire Brigade [AFS] which wants recruits between 25 and 50 yrs old. In most fire brigades the men after training are enabled to get experience by taking part in the ordinary work of the fire brigade dealing with fires. Their task in the event of an air raid would be to patrol the streets in vans with trailers so that any fire that broke out could be tackled as soon as observed. It is proposed to establish the service on such comprehensive lines that in residential areas every street would be visited by a patrol once in ten minutes.

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4/2/39

**National Service**

**Letters to the Editor**

Sir

I am one of many who would report to National Service but cannot see how.

The Guide says

The training is only spare time etc. and therein lies the first difficulty. We do not leave business till 7.00pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Friday 7.30pm and Saturday 8.00pm. Thursday is the only day we have a few hours to ourselves from 1.00pm. Living in the country I have a garden at home and allotment and usually depend on my ½ days for digging and planting etc. Here there are none to train (that I know of). Would the Government bear transport expences? The Guide I find very disappointing. It certainly doesn't offer much choice for shop assistants, cashiers and the like, who are equally anxious to do their bit.

Yours faithfully

Richard Hamilton

## **Evacuation**

### **Letter to the Editor**

#### **Cirencester and the evacuation** (not verbatim)

As a Walean I was disgusted by Captain Swanwick. If the evacuees are dumped in Wales as suggested people from the valleys would extend a helping hand from their pitiable dole. But compare for a moment 1,000 refugee children in a smoky already overcrowded mining valley with beautiful roomy residence of Cirencester and district. Captain Swanwick wants to know if the Government will reimburse him for damage. Our refugees would be, unprotected innocent mothers and children and not cattle. Our united duty in time of war is to guard help and protect our rising generation. Young lives lost are not regained. Such trivial worries as damaged furniture or an occasional stripped apple tree could easily be overcome. We pray that war will be averted but should it materialise I am confident that Cirencester, like thousands of other places, would welcome with open arms those evacuated from their little heavens called home.

Yours faithfully

J H Morris 6 Park View

## **Evacuation**

### **Letter to the Editor**

Captain Swanwick reiterates his old arguments concluding that camps must be built. They would not be wasted if war did not come they could be let to the working classes for Summer holidays. The many millions of working classes who cannot afford other holiday facilities could have Summer schools, physical fitness classes etc.

## **Evacuation**

### **Letter to the Editor**

Mrs Gertrude Wood of the Women's Guild of Empire asks if evacuees might object to having to live in the country. Firstly town folk in the home of a country snob may not wish ant kith or kin to work on the land. They may wish to risk air raids in preference to inconvenience and poor sanitation.. many people who call themselves Christians start when they walk into church and end when they come out. The world is in sore need of practical Christianity. Let us better the conditions of our poorer brothers though it may cost an extra penny on the rates and have better houses for people working on the land. Then we wont have so many to house from the towns if the emergency arises.

## **ARP**

### **ARP Badges**

Badges and Cards of Appointment are now available for all wardens who have received certificates after the last exam. They will be issued to warders at the Council Chamber on the presentation of their certificates and on signing an official receipt form and card of appointment.

F L Pardoe Head Warden Cirencester

## **ARP**

### **Air Raid Warning Signals**

It is notified for the information of all who may be interested that the test of the audibility of the Fire Brigade alarm signal for air raid purposes will take place at 1.00pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> inst. The official warning signal will be given i.e. a fluctuating blast of 2 minutes duration.

F L Pardoe Head Warden Cirencester

## **Politics**

Mr Morrison (MP) has a new post as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to assist in the coordination of defence.

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**11/2/39**

## **Politics**

### **Is it Peace**

Mr Brian Goddard of the Commonwealth Society gave an address to Rotary entitled "Is it Peace?". In it he said he did not think the present armed truce was peace and there was a likelihood of another crisis shaking Europe within a few months.

### **Women's Voluntary Service for Civil Defence [WVS] for Cirencester (not verbatim)**

A meeting was held on Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Abbey to explain the duties and start a centre of WVSCD in Cirencester. This is a direct response to the Home Secretary's request in a letter to Lady Reading in May 1938. In addition the WVS is asked by the Ministry to assist with the Hospitals and evacuation services. All activities of WVS are set out in the National Service Guide and where centres have been started they work in close cooperation with and approval of the Local Authority. They function as recruiting and advisory depots. Gloucestershire is divided into 15 areas with Cirencester area 6. The first request for help came from the CUDC for volunteers for help with the billeting scheme. Ten ladies gave names to visit 100 householders. A committee was formed which aimed at including representatives of every organisation in town with a small executive of about eleven ladies who will endeavour to approach every woman in Cirencester who has not already promised her services to encourage her to give time to ARP, refugees or Hospital Services. It is understood that those promising to take a refugee have done enough but can do more if desired. For advisory purposes there should be a weekly office day at the Abbey on Mondays 1.00am (misprint) – 1.15pm. when the committee will give advice and enrol volunteers.

E Mabel Dugdale Area Organiser for Cirencester town

### **Women's Voluntary Service for Civil Defence for Cirencester RDC**

Cirencester Rural District Council branch of the WVS under the chairmanship of Lady Cripps with the help of Mrs Chester – Master as secretary has undertaken the task of obtaining details of available accommodation for refugee children from Birmingham. A meeting was held at Ampney Park with representatives from every village in the Rural area present also was Mrs Colchester Weymss County Chairman WVS and Mrs Scrutton Chairman of the RDC. The latter asked for help in undertaking the work. The following volunteered.

Barnsley – Mrs Godfrey Miller	Ampney Crucis – Lady Cripps and Mrs Champion
Ampney St Peter – Mrs Macleay	Ampney St Mary-- Mrs Mc Taggart
Driffield – Mrs Henley	Hatherop and Quenington -- Mrs Potter
Kempsford – Mrs Northern	Lechlade – Lady Stephens
Maiseyhampton – Mrs Richards	Poulton – Mrs Cartwright
Down Ampney – Mrs Dennis	Bagendon and Woodmancote – Mrs Claud Robinson
Brimpsfield – Miss E Ticehurst	Colesbourne – Miss Elwes
Daglingworth and Duntisbourne Rouse – Miss Joan Scrutton	Edgeworth—Mrs Cadbury
North Cerney – Mrs Gilmour White	Winstone – Mrs Mewburn
Syde – Mrs Crewdson	Rendcomb – Mrs Lee-Browne

Baunton – Miss H Wykeham – Musgrave Elkestone – Miss Wilkes and Miss Bliss  
Ewen – Mrs Abel Smith Somerford Keynes Mrs Roberts and Mrs Huntingdon  
South Cerney – Mrs Smyth Siddington—Miss W N Cave  
Preston – Mrs Sprot Coates – Mrs Swanwick  
Rodmarton and Tarlton – Mrs Guthrie Frampton – Miss Jones  
Sapperton – Mrs Jewson

The work is in progress and there have been practically no refusals. The response to shelter children from danger zones was remarkable.

Fairford is organised by Lady Hirtzel with her committee. In addition to evacuees the committee will be responsible for all aspects of the National Service Guide. HQ for the WVS will be Ampney Park. Lady Cripps Area Organiser and Mrs W A Chestermaster Secretary Oxford House Cirencester will be glad to answer all enquiries.

### **Medical / ARP**

The new Keopalite emergency lighting system has been installed by Williams and Ford in the Memorial Hospital at a cost of £77.

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**18/2/39**

### **Evacuees / Refugees**

#### **Cotswold Bruderhof and Oaksey Villagers**

Members of the Bruderhof met villagers from Oaksey at a meeting in Oaksey village Hall on Wednesday evening. The hall was crowded and many stood. Mr Arnold Mason of the Bruderhof presided and the speaker was Mr Bruce Sumner another member of his group. He explained that their history goes back to the first Christians. They hold all in common and give to members according to their needs. They came to Ashton Keynes in 1936. The Home Office were acquainted with the nature of their work and the Ministry of Agriculture advised them on farming questions. It is an economic advantage to the neighbourhood with over 3,000 visitors. Financial help comes from the USA, Holland and Switzerland. They have bought Oaksey Park Farm to allow for an increase in English members. The existing workers can stay until they find work. The Bruderhof are ordinary people with a number of families. They are law abiding and loyal to the King and honour the government of the country we are in. There are 230 people in all, 80 married people, 70 British born subjects and some 60 aliens including 144 Germans (misprint?)

#### **Question Time**

Mr Wilson thought that their religious principles were quite beside the point.

“You say you were refugees driven out of your own country. Is it right to say you were outlawed because you refused to obey the regulations of the one who is set in authority over Germany who suspected you also I imagine of being more or less Communist. Did you not come to England because you knew it was a safe country to?” He also went on to say that their principles prevented them defending this sheltering country

Mr Mason – said they could not include NAZI teaching in their school. Everything they had said that evening made it obvious that they had no Communist or any political connection.

Mr Wilson – How can you justify yourself in taking the bread out of the mouths of Englishmen?

Mr Mason – We have tried to show that the Bruderhof is not a liability but an asset.

Mrs A D Godwin – What is your attitude towards dumb animals.

Mr Mason – We treat them as decently as possible, as decently as you all here would.

Mrs Godwin – Would you object to a visit from the RSPCA.

Mr Mason – He would welcome it very much.

Mr Oliver Greenslade – Why buy property away from the highways?

Mr Mason – The Ashton Keynes Bruderhof was right by the main road.

Another asked what they would do if attacked by an enemy.

Mr Mason – They would not take life.

Mr Wilson – What would happen to the Bruderhof if war broke out.

Mr Mason.- I have no idea, we should very much like to know.

**Evacuees / Refugees**  
**Letters to the Editor**

Mr Wilson has a go at Mr Rimes and Mr Hayward. He says that the standards of the Bruderhof do not find acceptance with all Englishmen. If war came the Bruderhof – Rimes – Hayward axis would put up a poor show against the Rome Berlin Axis. He goes on at length to define aliens ending with a blast at pacifist aliens hiding behind the forces of the home country.

**ARP**  
**Letters to the Editor**  
**Bombing Mentality**

Evidently one of our main problems with ARP is going to be our national mentality. Our people have been reading day after day for months of the massacre of women and children in Spain by the Italian and German airmen, but the mass of them do not believe that the same thing would be done here. They assert that fear of reprisal would prevent it; sadistic delight in such orgies is so alien to our whole mentality that it becomes incredible. But they must realise that there are other types of mentality and one type is revealed by the famous Italian's published account of his own exploits in Abyssinia. A few words from it will suffice.

“We set fire to wooded hills, fields, little villages.....It was most diverting .....God how they ran! .....It was most amusing ..... About 5,000 of them came to a sticky end.”

The sooner our people realise the full meaning of this, the safer they will be. But how are murderers to be appeased.

L W Lyde The Old House Cirencester

**WVS for CD**

A meeting was held of Cirencester Town Branch of the above at the Abbey Cirencester on Monday with Mrs Dugdale in the chair. The following representing local interests have consented to serve on the committee. Mrs Westmacott, Mrs Pardoe, Mrs Westwood, Mrs Jenks, Miss Pye, Miss Peach, Miss Pollard, Miss Cambray, Mrs Franklin and Mrs Rycroft. The executive committee is Mrs Berleley Stephens, Mrs Maxwell, Mrs Hankey, Miss Cambray, Mrs Appleton, Miss Mavrojani, Mrs Vernon, Mrs de la Hey, Mrs Ellett, Mrs Jones, Miss Newcombe and Mrs Grove White.

One immediate duty is to canvass Cirencester for volunteers. In order to deal with the evacuee children any woman not enrolled in any scheme is asked to contact a member of the executive committee, or to call at the Abbey any Monday between 12 o'clock and 1.15pm.

**Evacuees / Refugees**

Dr Liepman gave an address to Rotary in reference to Jewish and Non-Jewish Aryan Christian Refugees, in the Bingham Library on Wednesday. After explaining the plight of such people he asked the Rotary to consider setting up a committee similar to the one in Oxford for such a purpose. There would be three aims. (1) to give domestic work to suitable refugees. (2) guarantee provision for children for a number of years.(3) the maintenance of aged couples so that they might spend their remaining years in peace.

**Evacuees**

Cricklade and Wooton Bassett RDC meeting recorded criticism of the Evacuation Scheme.

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**25/2/39**

**Evacuation**

**Letter to the Editor**

**Bruderhof Meeting at Oaksey (not verbatim)**



I asked why farms weren't bought near roads. No answer was given except that it suited their purpose. The attire of members of this mysterious Community is grotesque. Several unable to speak English got lost and arrived at Mr Telling's farm at Minety between 7.00 and 8.00 am. Imagine a woman in a certain condition opening the door in mid-winter to be confronted with such a spectacle. The results would be serious. I told their leader it was custom to put bells on sheep which strayed and the reply so I understood was that it would be done in future. I also warned these intruders that if they were caught "straying" on my land they would be dealt with summarily. I have no room or sympathy with people who won't fight to protect the country which foolishly gives them shelter – and I have not forgotten that before the Great War we were swarmed with spies.

Yours truly

O Greenslade, Cloatley Farm, Hankerton

## **Evacuation**

### **Letter to the Editor**

#### **Bruderhof Meeting at Oaksey**

Sir, By an overwhelming majority the inhabitants of Oaksey petitioned against a Bruderhof settlement in our village. The Rector of the parish signed the petition. The Bruderhof held a public meeting in the village last week. The Rector was present. The Vicar of Kemble a parish some 4 miles away accorded a very hearty vote of thanks to the Bruderhof for their "sincerity of purpose". From a clerical point of view what an indiscretion indeed, what a farce. Perhaps the Vicar of Kemble might give the Bruderhof in view of their "sincerity of purpose" a pressing invitation to have the settlement in his parish instead of Oaksey.

Yours etc.

Petitioner Oaksey

## **ARP/Evacuee Camps**

Captain Swanwick addressed Cirencester Rotary Club reiterating his proposals for evacuee camps to be used as training camps if there was no war. Anyone with vision would have put camps before gas masks and steel shelters. On ARP he said people were getting fed up with marking time and services overlapping they should be carried on but with an increased Territorial Army which would revive the old 1914-18 spirit of good fellowship and the fighting spirit. Get concert parties going and the spirit of camaraderie they got in the army. If a crisis came these men could be put in the "panic areas" where they would inspire more confidence than civilians with badges and rattles and "all those whistles and that sort of thing". Mr Berkeley proposed a vote of thanks saying he had done a public service by bringing forward these matters and a number of his ideas bear a good deal of investigation.

## **Orders for the Week**

### **ARP**

All future notices for ARP workers in all departments will appear in this position - under Orders for the Week.

## **Entertainment**

### **Drama League Festival for Cirencester**

Drama lovers in Cirencester and district will be delighted that a similar festival to last year's will be held on Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Bingham Hall. The Cirencester public have been denied seeing a flesh and blood show since the production of "Spring Tide" by Cirencester Drama Club and Customary Play on behalf of Cirencester Cricket Club had to be cancelled because of ARP activities.

## **Housing**

### **Council building at Chesterton Stops**

Wheatly's the contractors for the Chesterton site have filed for bankruptcy with 100 subcontractors laid off. The Council will continue with the work which is hoped to be completed on time.

## **RAF**

### **Advert**

The RAF has an advert in the classified ads. for aircraft-hands. Elementary education sufficient, no previous experience needed. Age 18 to 35.

### **WVS for CD**

An office for the above will open at 7 Dollar Street by kind consent of Messrs Sewell Rawlins and Perkins, every Thursday afternoon from 2.00pm to 4.00pm

The announcement is followed by an appeal to women to enrol for whichever duty serves them best. M Barnard Hankey Hon Sec Cirencester Town Branch WVS

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**4/3/39**

### **Evacuees / Refugees**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

Mr Goudie attacks Mr Greenslade over his Bruderhof letter stating that Mr Greenslade's attack was incoherent. It is not a crime to grow a beard or get lost or ask the way. Since the district is used to the sight of these people the hypothetical woman would be unmoved except by a desire to help. It used to be the custom to put a mask on consistent chatterboxes, unfortunately not today. Spies remain inconspicuous, the Bruderhof could hardly be called that. At the beginning of the last war all spies were quickly rounded up unfortunately spy hunters were not and they got in the way of the security forces.

### **Evacuation / Refugees**

#### **Letter to the Editor**

An incoherent letter was published claiming to be from the mother of the daughter in a "certain condition"

### **Evacuation**

#### **CRDC**

Cirencester RDC Support Captain Swanwick with a memo to the Government on camps for refugees.

### **Orders for the Week**

#### **ARP**

ARP Badges and Cards of Appointment will be available at the Council Chamber for those who originally held Casualty Certificates and have qualified as Air Raid Wardens on presentation of their certificate

which will be issued to them by Section Wardens in the near future. FL Pardoe

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**11/ 3/39**

### **Propaganda**

#### **Advert**

Part of an advert

DICTATOR DEFIED! That least considerate of dictators Clerk of the Weather becomes little more than a joke when you step out in a stylish Wayfarer. Wayfarer Raincoats 30/- Belted model 32/6 Scotts Tailors Castle Street.

#### **ARP**

From ancient to modern --- Earl Bathurst has kindly permitted the use of the Old Museum for the storage of respirators and ARP has now taken it over. It is expected that 29,000 respirators will be in store within a fortnight.

### **Military**

#### **Sea Cadets Parade and Dedication of new colours**

At the Cotswold Sea Cadets Parade and dedication of new colours for the Gloucestershire Division, the Cirencester band of 18 under Bandmaster C Lissimore took part. This was in addition to 27 Cadets under CPO Shave who also took part.

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**18/3/39**

**Housing**

Chesterton Housing Scheme has resumed with new contractors taking over with extended time.

**ARP (Photos)**

**Fire Brigade Home Office Inspection**

4 photographs of the Regular and Auxiliary Fire Fighters taken at the Home Office Advisor's inspection at Cirencester. (1) Members of the Regular Fire Brigade (in brass helmets) and Auxiliaries.

(2) Lt Guy Symonds Home Office Advisor, Mr A J Matthews and Mr GM Scrutton Chairmen of CUDC and CRDC (3) Auxiliaries on a "real fire engine for once" wearing soft hat uniforms. (4) The trailer pumps and smart staff of the Auxiliaries in their steel helmets.

The report on the Home Office inspection gave congratulations all round to the 12 Regular members and 52 Auxiliaries. They were as good as anywhere. The inspecting Officer said they carried their uniforms well, London could do no better. Often small places could teach larger a thing or two. The appliances exhibited were the new Leyland motor fire engine, an even more modern Coventry Climax trailer pump, the 1914 motor engine and horse drawn manual. Although the trailer was mainly for ARP it would be useful for rural fires. Mr Fletcher was congratulated by Mr Matthews on behalf of both Councils as was Mr Townsend the gas instructor. After the inspection and a demonstration they paraded to the Municipal Offices for Auxiliary men who had completed a course in anti gas training and the Auxiliary Fire Service to receive their certificates and badges.

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**25/3/39**

**ARP**

The Chit Chat Column reports on continued talk of muddled ARP schemes

**Orders for the Week**

**ARP**

It is possible that in the case of an emergency a large number of gas masks might have to be assembled quickly when wardens are engaged in other things. It is desired to enlist men and women willing to give their services. Anyone willing please attend Lewis Lane School between 7.00pm and 9.00pm Thursday March 30<sup>th</sup> when instruction in the assembling of gas masks will be given. It is hoped that all Wardens will attend to refresh their memories and instruct others.

**WVS**

The Hon Sec will be away during April so the Office at 7 Dollar Street will close until further notice Any correspondence should be sent to Mrs Gordon Clark, Red Lodge Stratton  
Signed M Barnard Hankey Hon Sec.

**Military**

**ATS**

**Letters to the Editor**

Lady Apsley appeals in order to get the ATS up to strength. Officers are needed. "We still require personnel of a good type who can reach Cheltenham, Gloucester or Bristol for their weekly drills. If you sign on and train now you will be an NCO and NCOs become Officers."

## **Refugees**

Mr Wearne of the Refugee Committee which had been set up to outline the plight of refugees from Europe appealed for help in finding homes for (1) Children up to 16years (2) Trainee boys and girls 16 to 18years and (3) adults.

Mrs Leonard Jones Secretary

## **Politics**

### **Letters to the Editor**

(Outline of letter)

In view of the failure of the Prime Minister's policy and the untrustworthy nature of Hitler people should sink their differences and a national Government should be formed. Signed Maurice Rimes, Cirencester Patrick Seily, Hatherop C H Hall, Fairford C M Cadogan, Quenington

## **RAF**

### **Coates' Airman's death**

Former member of the Gloucester Hussars Pilot Officer Joseph Benjamin Raven of Coates stationed at Wittering was killed when a Blenheim bomber he was flying with a fellow officer crashed near Leamington on Monday.

**1/4/39**

## **Politics**

Mr J A Cole defends the Prime Minister. He should not be made a scape goat or people make political capital out of the situation. The magnificent response to National Service and today's announcement of a doubling of the Territorial Army give the lie to ill-considered assertions.

## **Orders for the Week**

### **ARP Area 6 mobile First Aid Parties**

Personnel from the Men's VAD may not now be available for mobile First Aid parties in case of emergency. Volunteers are urgently needed. Please apply to the First Aid Commandant Bartonbury, Cirencester.

## **Politics**

### **Rearmament**

The centre pages of the Home and Empire magazine are devoted to an illustrated article by Rt Hon. WS Morrison MC KC MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on "Full Speed Ahead With Rearmament".

## **Food**

### **Important reserve**

Advice about food storage—Every housewife these days asks should she build a stock of emergency food. Advice is available.

- (1) There is no objection to the accumulation of a small stock in peace time.
- (2) Preserved food stuffs are most suitable not forgetting flour, biscuits, suet, tea and sugar. These should be replaced after a suitable period. Storage places should be dry and tins with tight lids used.

## **Evacuees**

### **CUDC Meeting**

The census revealed that 3,105 persons could be reasonably accommodated. People had volunteered to take 1,210 unaccompanied children 113 teachers and helpers and 291 children with parents. Other people had arranged to house 827 relations and friends. Helpers with the census are to be sent a letter.

As the plans of the Government are so advanced it was decided that no good purpose would be served by the UDC supporting the proposals of Captain F B Swanwick.

## **Evacuees**

### **CRDC Meeting**

The Council was informed that Captain Swanwick was to present a paper on his scheme at the Annual Council of Rural District Councils Association in Torquay in June. The Ministry of Health circular has informed the RDC that they had to prepare a scheme for evacuation. Details would be given at a conference in Gloucester. Mr Biddulph, Captain Swanwick and the Chairman to form a sub committee to prepare this.

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**8/4/39**

### **Casualties**

A glider pilot was killed at the old Australian Flying Corps Aerodrome at Leighton.

## **Military**

### **Rations**

Lord Apsley in the House of Commons debate spoke for provision of more iron rations for mobilised troops in an emergency including meat cubes and Horlicks tablets as used in the 1<sup>st</sup> War. He also spoke on problems of low flying. Many trainee pilots flew low to find their way. He had suggested painting the names of railway stations on their roofs.

## **ARP**

### **Shelters**

A correspondent reports on the proposed deep air raid shelters in London and suggests that Anderson shelters are safer. Deep shelters could be death traps for large numbers if bombs were developed.

## **Navy**

### **War training for the Merchant Service**

9,000 merchant sea officers have been trained by the Royal Navy in the last two years.

## **Military**

### **We Want the Men**

Entries for the regular forces for the present year total 4,850 officers 76,000 men. The Army require about 2,000 officers and the Navy including the Royal Marines about 950 as many as 40,000 other ranks needed for the Army and 18,000 each for the Navy and RAF.

## **RAF**

### **Accident**

Sgt T H Nichols escaped serious injury when his Oxford crashed in Minute Lane, South Cerney. He overshot the landing ground during night flying operations.

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**15/4/39**

### **Politics (photograph)**

### **Food Supplies**

Photograph of Mr Morrison MP and family as he becomes food controller responsible for the distribution of food in time of emergency.

## **ARP**

### **Gas masks in museum**

The Supply of 23,000 gas masks for Cirencester last weekend and are now stored in the Old Bathurst Museum. The work of assembling them will begin in the near future.

### **Evacuees / ARP**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

City dwellers have the protection of deep shelters in tubes, sewers etc. but country folk have to trust to providence. Yet they evacuate children from town to country!

---

**22/4/39**

#### **RAF**

Civilian wireless operators are to be employed by the RAF to boost numbers. They will work in stations at home as near to where applicants live as possible.

#### **ARP**

##### **Gas Mask Assembly**

The task of assembling gas masks started on Wednesday and is continuing until next Wednesday when it is hoped to complete the task. 27,750 to be stored in the Museum. About 40 volunteers supervised by Mr Townsend worked on them. Stacked on massive iron shelves, the masks are in 4 distinct sections. Assembly is difficult but care is essential. The parts are taken from packing cases. The first job is fitting the valves to the metal containers. The containers are placed on a special device and the rubber face piece attached. The whole is then passed along the line to have a strong rubber band to hold the face piece in the correct position. Here again a special contrivance makes the task easy, by pressing the lever the bands automatically fix themselves. The completed masks are placed in specially constructed cardboard cartons, each of which is stamped to indicate the size of the mask. 2,000 were assembled on Wednesday.

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**29/4/39**

#### **Clothing Supplies / ARP**

##### **Notice**

So busy are waterproof garment workers in meeting orders for ARP clothing that there may be a shortage of machinists in the mac and raincoat industry.

#### **RAF**

##### **Advert**

Do your National Service with the RAF Voluntary Reserve [RAFVR] (Ground Section) at your local RAF Station. Volunteers are now wanted for training as aircraft-hands, drivers, equipment assistants, cooks and butchers, aged 18 to 50yrs. Clerks 18 to 55yrs free training, expense allowances, annual gratuities. Apply to your nearest RAF Station. The Commandant RAFVR Carrick House, Lypiatt Row, Cheltenham Tel Cheltenham 52250

#### **ARP / Evacuees**

##### **Annual Meeting of CRDC**

At the Annual meeting it was announced that a scheme is to be put in hand to set up a Fire Brigade at Fairford after a meeting between the Clerk of the RDC and the Home Office ARP representative. The chairman reported that provision for 1400 evacuees would be arranged 640 school children with 64 teachers and helpers. 500 children pre-school and 200 other persons. They would be detrained at Cirencester Town Station and arrive over four days. Transport to parishes would be arranged by the Transport Commissioners. The reception officer would be the Clerk assisted by the Rating Officer and Sanitary Inspector. There is no official intimation regarding equipment – blankets and mattresses yet received. Mr Dalton said that he thought some form of compulsion should be brought in. People had refused to take children others said their families and friends were coming. He thought in this

people were thinking of possibilities rather than probabilities. He thought that the Government should act to ensure an equal burden should be shared by all. He wanted the Council to consider a resolution to allow for compulsory billeting of children. The Chairman said that there was no shortage but he could put it to next months Council. Mr Dalton said the war might be over by then. The Chairman said they ought to wait and see before compulsion, it would go smother than they thought.

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**6/5/39**

**Propaganda**

**Advert**

Rally in SELF DEFENCE, Drink "Home Brewed" or "All Bright" always. Stroud beers are always acceptable in an emergency. Local Rep. Mr W J Clarke, 81 Purley Road, Cirencester

**RAF**

**Advert**

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**ARP**

**Shelter Speed Up**

Within the last fortnight the rate of distribution of free steel shelters by the Government has risen from 60,000 to 80,000 per week. Shelters for sale to other members of the community will be available when the free distribution has been substantially completed which is expected to be in the course of a few months.

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**13/5/39**

**Police Force**

**Special Constabulary Reorganisation in Gloucestershire**

**Recruits wanted for this body (not verbatim)**

Colonel W F Henn Chief Constable of Gloucestershire is reorganising Gloucestershire's Special Constabulary. The age limits fixed from 30 to 65yrs. The Special Constabulary is to have a separate entity while collaborating with the Regular Police Force and in actual service the officers and men will be under the Regular Officers of similar rank.

Col J L Sleeman C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., M.V.O. of Verlands, Painswick is to be Chief SC and the Staff Officers at HQ Mr W W Jessop 1 Church Street, Cheltenham Mr J E Mckeeon Craigmount, battledown, Cheltenham and Capt. C C Naumann, Campden House, Campden. Special Superintendent for C Division Brig. Gen. RCA McCalmont E.V.O., D.S.O. Adelstrop, Morton in Marsh (for Chipping Campden Moreton Stow and Bourton) Col A T Payley C.M.G., D.S.O. Coxwell House (for Northleach Fairford Cirencester Tetbury and Birdlip. Peacetime training 12 hours per year. It will not interfere with ARP. In the event of war constables would be released for ARP duties.

**Evacuees /Refugees**

**Appeal**

Let them smile and play again – Support Mother's Day for Refugee Children – Save 1,000 children on Mother's Day. The Lord Baldwin Fund for Refugees is trying to raise money to save 500 Jewish children and 500 Christian refugee children.

## **Military**

### **The "Old Sweats"**

Middle aged and elderly men who served in the Great War are offering in considerable numbers for the Territorial Army. Many are unsuitable but the authorities are recommending them to seek opportunities for National Service in the Civil Defence unless suitable for the home service branch of the Territorial Army if they are between 45 and 51 yrs.

## **ARP**

### **Advert**

ARP Dark blinds of all widths 1/6d per yard. C E French and Sons Cirencester

## **RAF**

### **Advert**

#### **Empire Air Day**

South Cerney will be among the 78 aerodromes including 63 RAF to be open for Empire Air Day on May 20<sup>th</sup>

## **RAF**

### **Advert**

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## **Military/ Supplies**

### **Clothing the new armies**

Recent increases in the Regular and Citizens Armies has boosted many trades. Mills in the West Riding of Yorkshire are working overtime producing the khaki cloth. Orders for nearly 1,000,000 pairs of boots are being prepared during the next few weeks in manufacturing centres.

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**20/5/39**

### **Conscientious Objection**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

The logic of Conscientious Objection

Sir, Conscientious Objectors are logical and should be entitled to police protection

Any genuine and sanely conscientious objector must endorse this.

S Claude Tickell Vicar Latton Cum Eysey, Cricklade

## **Military**

### **Millions for Camps**

Big contracts have been placed with the War Office for the construction of the first batch of camps for the New Army. One camp to be completed by August is for £1,750,000 another for about £650,000 is for a camp to hold 2,200 militiamen on a site near Devizes. The construction is to employ 2,000 men

## **RAF**

### **Advert**

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27/5/39

**ARP / Military  
CRDC Meeting**

The Rural District Council agreed to allow officers leave of absence to join H M Forces in time of emergency.

**New ARP Scheme**

A new scheme in connection with ARP (appended report) from the existing members of the Joint Committee was received.

**ARP Organisation**

(1) Consideration was given to the enclosed resolutions which were adopted at a joint conference held in Gloucester on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1939 dealing with a) organisation b) appointment of ARP Sub controllers  
(2) Notification was received that the CUDC had resolved to take the entire responsibility for ARP in their own area. It was resolved to make full recommendation to the RDC.

- (1) RDC to do likewise with mutual assistance in emergencies.
- (2) A Sub Committee called the CD Committee to be established with 8 members with 4 co-opted members in addition.
- (3) The members nominated were Mr G M Scrutton, Mr E W Radway, Capt C Robinson, Capt F B Swanwick, Mr N Hathaway, Col A Palmer, Col D Macleay and Mr H L Elwell/
- (3a) Capt Swanwick suggested that the committee meet together with Admiral Potter as soon as possible.
- (4) The new committee to co-opt 4 other members.
- (5) The Clerk Mr J A Hall to be Clerk to the CD Committee.
- (6) An additional clerical assistant to be engaged.
- (7) The Clerk is to purchase a new typewriter at £26.5s
- (7a) Rear Admiral Potter to be appointed Co-ordinating Officer.

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**RAF**

The Air Ministry announce recruiting at 1,149 last week compared with 404 in the corresponding period last year. This is a record entry.

**RAF**

20,000 visited the Empire Air Display at South Cerney where there was formation flying by Hawker Harts and Avro Ansons. Airspeed Oxfords and Hawker Hurricanes were also on display.

**Army**

There has been a fine recruiting record in the six weeks from April 1<sup>st</sup> when the forces expansion began. 139,000 officers and men joined the field forces of the Territorial Army, doubling the existing strength. 9,000 joined the Anti Aircraft branch bringing the total strength to 90,000.

**RAF**

**Advert**

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## **Police Force**

### **Special Constabulary Training Cirencester Sub Division**

Lectures as under at Cirencester Police Station at 7pm

June 22<sup>nd</sup> Appointment and Conditions of Service. Lecturer the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire County Police Force.

July 6<sup>th</sup> Organisation of the Force

July 20<sup>th</sup> Duties

August 3<sup>rd</sup> Instructions relative to duty

August 17<sup>th</sup> Traffic

August 31<sup>st</sup> Emergency Regulations etc.

## **Evacuation**

### **Gloucestershire Evacuation Plan**

At a meeting of the Gloucestershire Education Committee it was reported that in the event of war the evacuees to be received by Gloucestershire would be children from London and Birmingham.

London to the Cirencester Urban and Rural Council areas, North Cotswolds, Northleach and Tetbury. Birmingham to Tewkesbury, Charlton Kings, Stroud, Cheltenham Rural District, Dursley, East Dean, Gloucester, Lydney, Newent, Chipping Sodbury, Stroud Rural District and Warmley. About 17,000 children in Birmingham from secondary, commercial, private and elementary schools will be affected. At the moment the number of children to be evacuated from London is not known.

## **Army**

### **Territorial Army Expansion in Gloucestershire**

The territorial Army Association has just issued the following list showing the distribution of Territorial units to be raised in the County. The list shows a considerable expansion by the inclusion of several new units among them Surveying, Royal Engineers, Tank and Searchlight units. Cirencester is concerned only with a new Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment provisionally entitled 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment and 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucestershire Hussars – HQ. HQ Squadron, 1 squad Bristol, 1 squad (less 2 troops) Tetbury, 2 troops Stroud valley, 1 squad (less 2 troops) Cirencester. 2 troops Fairford. 2<sup>nd</sup> Gloucestershire Hussars – HQ Squadron, Gloucester 2 squadrons Cheltenham. 1<sup>st</sup> 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Tank Regiment – Bristol. 2<sup>nd</sup> 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Tank Regiment (less 2 companies) – Bristol : 1 company Chipping Sodbury – Yate : 1 company Winterbourne – Stoke Gifford. 76<sup>th</sup> Anti Aircraft [AA] Regiment Royal Artillery – Bristol. 98<sup>th</sup> AA Regiment Royal Artillery HQ 1 battery. Cheltenham 1 battery – Moreton-in-Marsh. 1<sup>st</sup> : 3<sup>rd</sup> Survey Regiment – Bristol. 2<sup>nd</sup> : 3<sup>rd</sup> Survey Regiment – HQ 2 batteries Bristol : 1 battery Stroud. 1<sup>st</sup> 48<sup>th</sup> (SM) Divisional - HQ 1 Field Company, 1 Field Park Company – Bristol 2<sup>nd</sup> 48<sup>th</sup> (SM) Division Royal Engineers – 1 Field Company – Coleford – Lydney. No 2 Company 5<sup>th</sup> AA Division Royal Signals – Bristol. 66<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment – Bristol, 1<sup>st</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment HQ, HQ Company 1 rifle company – Winchcombe – Tewkesbury, 1 rifle company – Cinderford. 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment (provisional title) HQ, HQ Company. 2 rifle companies (less 1 platoon) - Stroud – Dursley : 1 platoon Wotton –under- Edge: 1 rifle company (less 1 platoon) – Cirencester. 1 platoon Northleach, 1 rifle company – Berkeley – Thornbury. 46<sup>th</sup> AA Brigade Company RASC Bristol. 14<sup>th</sup> (SM) Field Ambulance RAMC – Bristol. 4<sup>th</sup> AA brigade workshops RAOC – Gloucester.

## **Family History**

### **(Grace family) death of Harriet Austen**

Thanks - The sons and daughters wish to thank friends and neighbours for the flowers and kind sympathy on their sad bereavement.

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3/6/39

RAF

Letters to the Editor

Letters include thanks for the support on Empire Air Day from Group Captain D Iron Commanding No 3 Flying Training School, RAF South Cerney.

## **Pacifism**

### **Conscientious Objection**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

The logic of Conscientious objection. Charles Mould of Tetbury points out all the benefits a Conscientious Objector misses the comradeship and "glories of war". He tends to get a risk free job then shout like fury when victory comes.

## **Refugees**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Aiding Refugees**

A M Ware Chairman, H Costley – White Vice Chairman, Graham H Castle Secretary, Community House Gloucester are appealing for homes for refugees from Europe. The number is 600,000 men, women and children suffering racial, political and religious persecution. These include Jews and Christians.

## **Refugees**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Who will help ?**

Mrs Eleanor Leonard Jones of West Market Place, Cirencester of Cirencester Refugee Committee asks for household employment or short term accommodation for example :

Mrs S age 46 believed to be an excellent cook and housekeeper. Entirely alone in Vienna and without friend. Husband in England. Could be employed by herself or with her husband as handyman.

Hans K aged 16 must leave Austria by 30<sup>th</sup> June or will go to a Concentration Camp. Temporary hospitality wanted until trainee position available.

Walter and Otto K aged 19 and 18. German, similar to Hans K above. Both boys have been in farming. Comprehensive details are readily available from Rev E C Wearne of Barnsley or Mrs Leonard Jones.

## **Orders for the Week**

### **National Service**

Full particulars as to how to join the Regular and Territorial Forces, all branches of ARP, the National Defence Corps, Special Constabulary and all other services of National utility will be available during the month of June on Tuesday and Friday between the hours of 6.30pm and 7.30pm at the Urban District Council Office in Gosditch Street when a representative of the County National Service Committee will attend to give any information required. Heads of services will much assist if they call at the offices at the above hours and make known any special requirements they may have.

Arthur J Matthews Chairman Cirencester Urban District Council.

## **ARP**

In order to replace wastage and maintain sufficient reserves a number of Air raid Wardens are still required for all parts of Cirencester more especially for the Watermoor Area. Applications can be made to the Municipal Offices at any time.

F L Pardoe Chief Warden

## **RAF / Agriculture**

### **Fatal Accident**

#### **Cirencester man killed, aeroplane strikes a tractor**

Mr Albert Phipps of Midland Road Cirencester was killed in an unusual accident while working at Brize Norton Aerodrome on Thursday. Our Witney correspondent telephoned. Mr Phipps was driving a tractor across the edge of the flying field when an aeroplane struck the tractor and Mr Phipps

was killed. The undercarriage of the plane, a Spitfire of the plane was damaged but the pilot, who is understood to be a Pilot Officer from Duxford Aerodrome managed to land the machine.

Mr Phipps was a married man with two children. He had been living with relatives at Lechlade in order to be nearer to his work and it is understood that his wife and children had been staying with him at Lechlade this week. An inquest is being held today (Friday) (Pilot reported 10/6/39 to be Fl Lt J B Coward 19 Squadron RAF Duxford)

## **RAF**

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## **Pacifism**

### **Conscientious Objection**

#### **Conscientious Objection and Quakers**

The Society of Friends meeting in London set up a special committee to watch the interests of young Quakers and others taking a stand on Conscientious Objection under the Military Training Act. A resolution was passed expressing the Society's determination to work for the repeal of the Act and stating that the Society was deeply concerned with the moral wrong done to young men into whose normal life will come training in the art of killing. The conscience clause though welcome in itself did not mask the Act's true nature.

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**10/6/39**

## **Pacifism**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **The Military Training Bill (not verbatim)**

**Dear Sir,**

Speaking at the Annual General Meeting of the Cirencester and Tewkesbury Conservative Association recently held at Cheltenham, Mr Morrison compared compulsory military training with compulsory education. There was nothing different in asking a man to have military training for six months from forcing a boy to go to school until he is 15 or 16.

It is obvious that the two are not comparable. Military training is for destruction. Education makes a boy useful in the community. Mr Morrison says that compulsion will create a better feeling amongst every section of the community. But will it create better feeling internationally which is badly needed. Preparing to kill breeds hatred and disregard for human life.

F C Ryman, 41 Norfolk Road, Maidenhead, Berks

## **Pacifism**

Messrs S L Robinson, R E A Ind, W W Gardner, H H Miles and W J Holmes of Minchinhampton send a manifesto issued by the Peace Pledge Union reaffirming the complete renunciation of war and refusal to support or sanction another, expressing fear of the dangerous uses to which a conscript army might be put in time of internal economic or industrial crisis and demanding the abandonment of all preparations for war.

## **Women's Land Army [WLA]**

### **Letters to the Editor (not verbatim)**

Dear Sir - It has now been decided to go ahead with the recruitment and training of this body and we the undersigned have been appointed Chairman and Secretary for this County [Wiltshire]. We have a number of applications but nothing like the number that would be required in an emergency. Any girl who is interested may like to know that the following have been so far appointed to the County

Committee and these ladies will readily answer any questions. Lady Lucas, Woodgate Manor; Salisbury; Mrs Awdry, Little Cheverell, Devises; Mrs Whatley, Burderop Cottage, Swindon; Miss Gifford, Longmead, Lockeridge, Marlborough; Miss Pease, Spaxall, South Newton, Salisbury; Miss Rudman, Church Cottage, Lynham, Wilts. Tractor drivers are especially wanted. The Ministry of Agriculture will give training to candidates aged between 20 and 30yrs. They will be asked to serve a weeks training at an Agricultural institute and a week on a farm. We all realise that a short period of two weeks will not turn a girl into a skilled farm worker but it will serve as an insight and test her suitability. We are anxious for names of farmers who will train the girls as their own reserve labour. G Methuen (Corsham) Chairman K Mc Neile (Bromham) Organising Secretary.

## **Army**

### **Big recruiting jump**

During the three months from February 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> about 168,000 men applied to enlist in the Territorial Army, stated Mr Hore Belisha in the House of Commons. The number of recruits finally approved was 62,965 as compared to 24,254 in the corresponding period last year and 18,220 in 1937.

## **Army**

### **Registering for the Militia**

#### **A "Standard" reporter looks forward to an experience "Few grumbles at Cirencester"**

Last Saturday was Registration Day and thousands of young men of militia age from all over the country took the first steps towards joining Britain's new conscript force. To prevent a rush at the various exchanges during any particular day each youth had instructions as to what time he had to register and in this manner the task was carried out quickly and efficiently. Conscientious Objectors had to declare themselves and were given a special form to fill up and return within fourteen days. They will then be formally registered and what happens to them will depend on the military tribunal. What were these young men who have been called upon to leave their jobs and civilian life for six months to undergo military training thinking of the scheme. That is what I endeavoured to find out as I talked to some as they arrived at Cirencester Labour Exchange writes a Wilts and Glos Standard reporter.:

Cirencester's complement is not a large one something between eighty and ninety registered here today but if the whole of Britain's youth regards the Military Training Act in the same light as them there will be few grumbles, for with but one or two exceptions they offered no objection to the Act. My own turn to register came early in the day almost the first of the bunch. The office was almost empty and the staff of two officials and two lady assistants were easily able to cope with the demands. Name ? Age ? Occupation ? These were the first three questions fired at me. My birth certificate sufficed to answer the first two. Tour employer? Any preference for any particular service? – RAF Thank you just sign at the bottom please. Five minutes after the first question the battery had ceased. Having expressed a preference for the RAF I was handed a further set of papers to take away with me on which to make my application for admission to this branch of the forces. I spoke to several of the other young men waiting their turn. The first thing that struck me from their answers was an almost universal agreement with the scheme and secondly the predominating preference for the RAF. One of them said I don't mind a bit. I think that six months military training will do most of us the world of good. We shall return to civilian life much more physically fit and with our outlook on life broadened Considerably. I've been working on the aerodrome earning over £3 a week, said another. So I expect I shall find it a bit hard living on 1s 6d per day. Otherwise it won't be so bad. Another joined in, I am looking forward to it immensely. Military life today is not so bad as it was a few years ago. I'm sure we'll be treated with some degree of leniency. There was one grouse. It seems to me that the Government have chosen the wrong age altogether. Thousands of young men have just finished their apprenticeships and started on their careers at 20 years of age, said one. Even if we do get our jobs back - and I expect their will be a lot who won't get a square deal – we shall have forgotten a good deal of what we have learnt. For my own part, I'll admit I hated the idea at first but now I have come to regard it as not so bad after all. It will at least be an experience and one that can harm no one.

## **Orders for the Week**

### **National Service**

Full particulars as to how to join the Regular and Territorial Forces, all branches of ARP, the National Defence Corps, Special Constabulary and all other services of National utility will be available during the month of June on Tuesday and Friday between the hours of 6.30pm and 7.30pm at the Urban District Council Office in Gosditch Street when a representative of the County National Service Committee will attend to give any information required. Heads of services will much assist if they call at the offices at the above hours and make known any special requirements they may have.  
Arthur J Matthews Chairman Cirencester Urban District Council.

## **ARP**

### **First Aid Lectures**

Any wardens who can do so are particularly requested to attend a short course in First Aid which is now being given at the Bingham Library. The three remaining lectures will be given on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> and the following two Tuesdays at 7.45pm. This will probably be the last opportunity which will occur for wardens to attend one of the three courses during the present Summer.

Section Warden's Exercise. The Section Warden's exercise will take place next week as follows 11E (Watermoor Section) Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>. All other sections Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>. Time for all sections 8.30pm to 9.30pm. All Wardens are especially requested to attend these exercises which will form the basis of future training.

F L Pardoe

## **ARP**

### **ARP Exercises "Black-out in July"**

The first in a series of ARP exercises and demonstrations for the Wardens of Cirencester Group took place in Cirencester on Wednesday evening and will be followed by others on the three next Thursdays with a local "Black-out" on the night of July 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> from Midnight to 4 am and a County Black-out on the night of August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday's exercise was carried out under the supervision of Capt. A S Martini Divisional Superintendent ARP. It took place in Earl Bathurst's Park. A Number of streets were outlined on the ground with string, houses being represented by cars. The whole routine of the action from the warning signal to the actual air raid was demonstrated by local instructors. Eventually a bomb was dropped which injured two boys on bicycles. A First Aid Party from the casualty services arrived in two cars, treated the injured boys – one with a broken arm the other with cuts on the forehead – and removed them to the First Aid Post. An incendiary bomb then fell and the wardens assisted by the "householder" extinguished the fire by means of a hand pump. Later the "all clear" signal was heard and was repeated by the Wardens on hand bells.

## **RAF / Agriculture**

### **Fatal Accident**

The report of the funeral of Mr Phipps the Cirencester man killed, by an aeroplane striking his tractor included the fact that the funeral was conducted by Captain Archer and Lieutenant Butcher of The Salvation Army.

## **Military and National Service**

### **National Service in Cirencester**

Col Pardoe outlined the function of the new information bureau to open at the Municipal Offices. He also said that Cirencester was to lose its connection with 5<sup>th</sup> battalion Gloucestershire Regiment and a new styled 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion was to be formed. Cirencester was to have 1 company less 1 platoon to be furnished by Northleach. Captain designate of Cirencester Company to be Mr R G Gunter of Withington. Cirencester was also to have a squadron of Gloucestershire Hussars less 1 troop from Fairford.

## **RSPCA**

### **Animal Welfare**

In view of the Chairman of the RSPCA Sir Robert Gowers representations to local authorities to have protection of animals included in ARP it is interesting to note that Gloucestershire has 18,839 horses employed in agriculture.

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**17/6/39**

### **Evacuation**

#### **Evacuation Scheme for Cirencester** (not verbatim)

Miss M Hankey gave details of the Evacuation Scheme for Cirencester as drawn up by the WVS to Cirencester UDC on Thursday

#### Report

Following the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> may we were asked to

- (1) Provide reception personnel to meet evacuees at the detraining station.
- (2) Provide Billeting Officers
- (3) Provide a central place or places for (a) light refreshment (b) issue of emergency rations (c) a centre for billeting officers.
- (4) Set up a welfare committee, to appoint visitors to assist the committee.
- (5) Organise a communal centre for mid day meals and recreation.

The WVS agreed to try and construct some workable plan based on a provisional figure of 450 school children and 50 helpers or teachers and 200 mothers with 300 under school age children. The evacuation is expected to take place over four days. 800 will arrive on the first day. The Urban District will take 450 school children and teachers and helpers with the remainder going to the Rural District. On the second day all the evacuees will be for Tetbury and the third day all will go to the Rural District. On the fourth day 200 mothers and 300 children to the Urban District the remainder to the Rural District.

The evacuees will be met at Cirencester Town Station by voluntary staff of sixteen with an organiser in charge. This number has been arrived at because the LCC are sending down evacuees from London in parties of 50 (45 children 4 helpers or teachers and 1 head of party). There will be 16 parties in all of which 6 i.e. 300 evacuees will go to the Rural District 10 i.e. 500 evacuees to the Urban District. Therefore each member of the station personnel will be in charge of 1 party.

Members of the staff will wear red armbands for Urban and white for Rural. As the Rural Organiser has asked us to provide and instruct the whole of the station personnel, 6 members of staff will be allotted to the Rural Area, 10 to the Urban. This personnel is complete, each member has received detailed instructions. The personnel of the Urban District will escort the evacuees to the Corn Hall main entrance to be met by volunteer staff, 4 organising distributors and 3 assistant distributors as in the case of Stratton no assistant distributors are required arrangements will be slightly different,

The Corn Hall will be divided into 4 parts, one for each school area with the names of the streets thereon and a different colour will be hung on the wall in an appropriate position. On arrival the evacuees will immediately sit down to refreshments at trestle tables running the length of the Hall arranged in areas. The station personnel will help distribute the food. Each school area is in the charge of 1 organising distributor with an assistant distributor. In each school area with the exception of Stratton the Billeting Officer and Assistant Billeting Officer will be assembled. Each Billeting Officer and assistant will wear a disc coloured in accordance with the colour of the school area bearing her number, assistants will add the letter A to the number. The organising Distributor will get in touch with the head of each party in her school area and allot the requisite number of children and teachers or helpers to each Billeting Officer in turn. Each Assistant Billeting Officer will give out coloured discs numbered according to the Billeting Officers disc. Each disc will bear on the right hand bottom corner a number in accordance with the number of evacuees allotted to each Billeting Officer. EG. Billeting Officer X may have 15 evacuees to billet so the evacuees will be numbered 1 to 15. As soon as the Billeting Officer has been put in touch with her evacuees the assistant distributor will issue the discs to be hung around the evacuees necks. The Billeting Officer and Assistant Billeting Officer will then march their party past the ration table to see that evacuees collect rations and leave by the back door of the Hall. An official will check each party as it leaves. A coordinating officer will be in the Hall to deal with any emergencies.

In the case of Stratton the Organising Distributor will collect the requisite number of evacuees then after refreshments collect the rations then take the evacuees by bus to Stratton Church Hall where they will be sorted and billeted by independent staff in a similar way.

The Billeting Officers and Assistant Billeting Officers number 81, of which 77 will serve on the first day and 56 on the fourth. The reason for the large number is that time is important in order to get the evacuees housed over night. Given these figures the average number of evacuees each Billeting Officer will be responsible for is 7.

All these officers have been instructed as follows: each Billeting Officer and Assistant Billeting Officer will have a list of houses in each street to which they are to take their evacuees. The Billeting Officer will be responsible for filling up the necessary forms. When the Billeting Officer is filling the forms in one house the Assistant Billeting Officer will go down the street with the rest of the evacuees, putting each in the right house, her duties are then complete. The Billeting Officer will then follow filling in the forms. She will return to the Corn Hall and give the forms and counterfoils to the Clerk of the Council. In the case of Stratton a representative has been chosen and approved by the Clerk of the Council to receive the forms etc. Only slight alteration will be needed on the fourth day to deal with mothers and babies. Each volunteer will wear a WVS badge. The scheme for mid day meals is still in the course of preparation.

Mr Matthews gave a vote of thanks as did Mr Newcombe. Miss Hankey thanked the Council and Mr Wilkinson (Clerk) and the Council staff.

### **Crime / Army**

#### **Petty Sessions**

Phillip Masterman of the Royal Tank Corps was summoned for driving a light tank without reasonable consideration for other persons on the road. P C Holtham said he wanted to overtake but no action was taken. The tank driver said he did not hear the horn above the noise of the tank. The case was dismissed. He had been instructing the Gloucestershire Yeomanry in tank driving at Cirencester.

### **Orders for the Week**

#### **ARP**

The warden's exercise next week will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 8.30 to 9.30pm instead of Thursday. At this to alarm and raiders past signals will be sounded on the fire alarm. The night rehearsal of Black-out for Thursday is cancelled and its place taken by another exercise, details to be announced.

F L Pardoe

### **Police Force**

#### **Special Constabulary Training Cirencester Sub Division**

Lectures as under at Cirencester Police Station at 7pm

June 22<sup>nd</sup> Appointment and Conditions of Service. Lecturer the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire County Police Force.

July 6<sup>th</sup> Organisation of the Force

July 20<sup>th</sup> Duties

August 3<sup>rd</sup> Instructions relative to duty

August 17<sup>th</sup> Traffic

August 31<sup>st</sup> Emergency Regulations etc.

### **National Service**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

Mrs Gertrude Wood of Causey Barn, Eastleach says that the Military Training Bill should go further to provide the nation with universal training to defend our liberty. Why not a Women's Home Service Corps trained in domestic science, nursing and physical culture. Training could be done in the holiday camps we hear so much about. "I hope the Military Training bill is a forerunner of much bigger and wider plans to teach our people how to serve God and man.



## **RAF**

### **Advert**

An advertisement for apprentice clerks who may later volunteer as pilots

## **Fire Service**

### **CUDC Meeting**

Mr French put forward the scheme to purchase a second-hand 30 hp car to tow the Auxiliary Fire Service trailer pump at £40. Up until now they had hired a car. A Government grant would buy it. The Council adopted the scheme.

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**24/6/39**

## **National Service**

### **Letters to the Editor**

Mr Stanley R Robinson, The Cross, Minchinhampton tells Gertrude Wood that we had better train for peace rather than training men to kill each other. How can we obtain peace by preparing for war?

## **Sea Cadets**

### **Talk to Rotary Club**

Mr Hayes of Dursley addressed Rotary asking for more support for the Sea Cadets. They had an excellent Band and Wireless section but apart from Mr Arthur Belcher there was no other help. Officials were badly needed.

## **Orders for the Week**

### **ARP**

There will be an Air Raid exercise at 8.00pm Friday 30<sup>th</sup> for staff of the sub control only. On Tuesday July 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a rehearsal of an Area Black-out which takes place following the weekend. It is hoped that ARP services will cooperate in this rehearsal, further details to be issued.

## **ARP**

### **ARP interest reviving**

#### **Report Centre Exercise at Cirencester**

There was a buzz of excitement in Cirencester on Wednesday evening. The nerve centre of the ARP was tested at the Municipal Offices and eventually will be accommodated in the basement with 6 inward phones and 1 outward. At about 8.30pm the fire alarm sounded an air raid alarm. Immediately the staff of the centre went to their stations. Messages soon began arriving the first by cyclist then the telephone trilled and four telephonists were kept busy. Messages were reduced to a formula to facilitate despatch, reception and subsequent action.

“Report Centre” called the receiver. “Air Raid damage” answered the reporting warden adding the number of his post, position of occurrence, type of bomb used and number of casualties and whether any one was trapped, the service mains damaged, names of roads blocked, position of unexploded bombs [UXBs] and other information. Special forms allowed information to be recorded in quadruplicate and passed on in a minimum of time. While the “OC Centre” decided the action required the duplicate forms enabled a summary of the information to be quickly tabulated while as quickly moveable flags are placed on a 6ft X 6ft map to show at a glance the area of the damage and disposal of repair services at the moment. There are 7 wards or areas in the Cirencester Urban District with 27 warden’s posts. Between them over 30 messages were received in the hour while outward messages went to AFS, First Aid parties, Decontamination squads, electricity and gas main repair squads and others at the OC’s disposal which were despatched here and there at his discretion. The situation was immediately visible in the Report Centre.

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There were little hitches of course. Agitated Wardens sometimes poured their woes into the ear of the telephone exchange operator without waiting to be connected to the centre.

Major Ennis Divisional ARP Officer, who is really keen on his job was quite pleased. He thought it good for a first time effort but thought the rush of messages was too great for the beginning.

The all clear sounded at 9.15pm bringing out a number of cyclists who were disappointed because there was no fire to witness.

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**1/7/39**

**ARP**

**CRDC Meeting**

**ARP Organisation**

- (1) Air Raid Wardens - My Council understand that subject to their not exceeding the authorised number of posts viz 25 and Wardens viz 75 they may arrange to distribute wardens over the Rural area as they deem fit. Therefore they propose to arrange at least 1 fully equipped warden per village with more than 1 in larger villages and unequipped reserves and assistants in all villages according to size and population. One Wardens Post may serve a number of smaller villages.
- (2) First Aid Posts - Concern of the Council for the small number of posts allowed for ie 6 meant that they proposed to have these in larger villages and towns with groups of one or two trained personnel with basic equipment in each village to deal with gas alarms etc. These would not be charged to the public purse.
- (3) Mobile services – These to be based mainly in Cirencester. There was no objection to decontamination because it is not regarded as urgent. But there was a proposal to set up a local ambulance and rescue party for Fairford and Lechlade. It was pointed out that the proposed peace time Fire Brigade being set up for fighting fires at Fairford and Lechlade would be based in Fairford and at least one light rescue squad should be based on Fairford
- (4) Report Centre and Sub-Controller – endeavours would be made with the CUDC to set up at least one Report Centre at the CUDC municipal Offices for the Rural Area and if possible for the joint services of one Sub-Controller assisted by a Plotting Officer with the intimate knowledge of the Rural Area.

The Chairman said that the aim of the Civil Defence Committee was to get back to the parish organisation that was broken into about 18 months ago. The necessary confirmation was given.

**Auxiliary Fire Service Organisation – Explanation required.**

A letter from Capt. E T Cripps of South Cerney addressed to the CUDC was brought forward at a meeting of the joint Committee of the Cirencester Urban and Rural District Councils on September 1939.

I was asked to represent South Cerney which was an outpost serving South Cerney, Somerford Keynes, Ashton Keynes and Poole Keynes. The recruitment was placed in the hands of wardens in my case South Cerney, with instructions to get in touch with wardens in the parishes served by the outpost villages, to recruit suitable men. This I did immediately with the following recruits: South Cerney - C Johnson, H G S Dowdall, J Smith, W Cole, A Gough, O. Cook. Somerford Keynes – F Lewis, J Collingbourne. All the South Cerney men attended intensive training on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Cirencester with the first four named attending gas lectures and qualified receiving certificates in gas training.

It has come to my knowledge that on instructions from Captain Fletcher, O Cook has recruited four men without reference to me to replace Johnson, Smith, Cole and Gough on the grounds that they had not attended to be fitted with uniform and their further attendance was not required. No notification has been received by them or me or notification of the dates of drills since. On enquiring into the matter with Cook, assured me that he was not instructed to warn the other men when their attendance would be required at drills.

The men recruited are L Cook a carpenter at the aerodrome, S Tovey a transport driver and I Cook. S Tovey will come under the Ministry of Transport grouping scheme in the event of war and not be available. I cook is under 25 and not eligible.

It appears that recruitment and notices of attendance at drills have been irregularly carried out: Had I been informed by the Captain of the Fire Brigade I would have replaced these men from my local

knowledge had adequate reason been given by Captain Fletcher. The men naturally feel that they have a grievance that no notice of drills has been sent to them to continue training for the AFS. I shall be glad to receive the observations of the Council and an explanation from Captain Fletcher. Am I to consider my services are no longer required?

The Chairman said that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had discussed the matter and before the decision was made Captain Fletcher should be asked for an explanation. We do not wish Mr Cripps to consider his services no longer required. It was decided to send a copy of the letter to Captain Fletcher for his observations and explanation.

### **Resignation of the Chief Warden**

While considering the Civil Defence Committee minutes it was stated that Admiral Potter had resigned as Chief Warden and the Chairman temporarily taken over his duties. The Council's gratitude to Admiral Potter for his services was recorded and his resignation accepted with regret.

### **Orders for the Week**

#### **Army**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment Cirencester Company**

The formation of a 7<sup>th</sup> battalion is now in progress. 200 good men and true are required. Application can be made at the Bingham Hall 7.30pm Tuesday and Wednesday.

#### **ARP**

More volunteers are urgently needed for ARP. Strong men over 30 with building experience preferred. Volunteers are expected to take a short course of lectures. Volunteers are asked to send their names to the Superintendent of the Rescue and Demolition Services. Mr Eric Cole F R I B A Dyer Street.

J T Evans ARP Clerk to the Council Co-ordinating Officer

#### **Army**

With an excellent response to the appeal for Territorial Army recruits at Bibury, Capt R J Gunther Company Commander designate of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion said that he hoped a Bibury platoon could be formed.

#### **Army**

#### **Letters to the editor**

Capt. Guthrey thanks all who helped in the Recruiting Week. e g employers of labour, British legion and the recruits themselves. Fifty came forward to bring the Battalion up to within 5% of full war establishment. Many of them were small businessmen and land workers who would make a considerable sacrifice giving up time for camp in August.

### **Women's Land Army**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

Long letter by Mrs Morrison and Lady Bathurst setting out the aims as before of the Land Army says that 136 had volunteered so far in Gloucestershire. Application forms available from. Mrs W S Morrison Chairman, the Manor House, Withington. Lady Susan Hicks Beach, Coln St Aldwyn Manor, Fairford. Miss Basford, The Royal William, Painswick. Miss Colnett, Berkeley Street, Gloucester. Miss Lloyd Baker, Harwicke Court, Gloucester. Miss Miles, Kemble Lodge, Kemble, Cirencester: Hon Mrs W Bathurst organising Secretary, Winterbourne Park, Bristol.

Recruits wanted are

- (1) women prepared to work full time in agriculture in the event of war. (a) In any part of the country (b) locally.
- (2) Women prepared to work part time in agriculture in the event of war.
- (3) Women at present in agriculture prepared not to leave the land in the event of war.

They would point out to farmers that the Land Army only operates in time of war although trained volunteers would not be available until such time.

## **Transport/ Railways**

### **New Railway halt at Jackaments Bridge**

A new halt on the Tetbury line at the above has opened for workmen in the district. Each week day a train will leave Cirencester Town Station at 6.50am arriving at Jackaments Bridge 7.10am Monday to Friday. A homeward train leaves the halt at 5.20pm and on Saturday 12.05pm. Some alterations have been made in services between Kemble and Tetbury available as a handbill with the Summer time table at the station.

## **Orders for the Week**

### **BRCS VAD Glos 11**

#### **Field day Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>**

Fall in 9.15am opposite the Police Station. March to the Rover Camp for exercise return 12.30pm  
Parade to be led by the Sea Cadets Band  
G Walker Commander

## **Military/Pacifism**

### **Letters to the Editor**

Stanley Robinson reiterates his views on the Military Training Bill. Military slavery does not serve rather does it deny him seeking the higher good. Finally the State, by demanding of the individual that he should be willing to murder for the sake of his country seeks to usurp and outrage the authority of God.

## **Evacuation / Rationing**

### **Food Supply plans in the event of evacuation**

Government plans for supplying food to the reception areas in the event of evacuation are given in detail in a statement circulated by Mr W S Morrison Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Duck Lane. He also states "Persons who have the means and facilities to do so might with advantage now provide a reserve of non perishable foods in their own homes in addition to the stores usually kept. He suggests one weeks supply in reserve. Emergency supplies of canned meat, milk, biscuits and chocolate are being held by the Food (Defence Plans) Department with sufficient for the maintenance of 48 hours of persons including in the evacuation scheme. There will be issued by Reception Officers. Persons receiving these will be asked only to make minor purchases in local shops for 48 hours so that shops can obtain additional supplies. It is also undesirable that large demands should be made on local shops by those passing through not being officially evacuated. These are asked to take to take with them supplies for two days. Arrangements are in hand for traders to have plans in readiness for increasing supplies in shops in reception areas. These additional supplies should be available within 48hours.

## **Police Force**

### **Special Constabulary Cirencester Sub Division**

The Gloucestershire Special Constabulary is being called up for a practice mobilisation in connection with the County Black-out on the night of 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> July, not later than 11pm on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Special Constables in Cirencester Sub Division will assemble as under.

- (a) Those living in a town where there is a Police Station – at the Police Station.
- (b) Where there is no local Police Station at the local Post Office.
- (c) Those living outside a town or village to the nearest Police Station or Post Office.

On arrival at the assembly post, Special Constables will report to the Special Sergeant or Head Special Constable concerned. Further instructions in connection with the exercise have been issued to all Special Sergeants.

Col. Paley Special Superintendent "C" Sub Division Gloucestershire Special Constabulary.

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**15/7/39**

**RAF / Traffic Accident**

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A double-decker bus carrying workers from Kemble to Cirencester collided with a lorry in Kemble seven passengers were slightly injured. The drivers of both vehicles had remarkable escapes. The bus was severely damaged and the lorry crushed. The injured, all from Cirencester were : George Blackman, Dyer Street. Edward Jackson, Dyer Street. John Crocker, Bathurst Road. George Ford, Bathurst Road. Frederick Porch, Ermin Place. Richard Revett, Castle Street and William Roseblade of Ashcroft Gardens. All were taken to the Memorial Hospital but only Mr Blackman was detained. The bus driver was Kenneth Lawrence of Purley Road. The lorry driver was thrown clear escaping serious injury was Mr Stanley Rimes of Cerney Wick.

## **RAF**

### **The Press visits South Cerney**

The press visited RAF South Cerney to see officer training in progress. They saw all aspects of training, flying, discipline, ground-drill, admin. and organisation, maintenance of aircraft, navigation, armament, signalling, photography (use of camera guns) instrument flying and night flying.

## **Orders for the Week**

### **WVS**

Mrs Chester Master having been appointed Chairman of the WVS for Cirencester Town Has resigned her secretary-ship of Area 6 and Mrs Cartwright of Poulton Manor has been appointed in her place.

### **BRCS**

#### **Cirencester BRCS Women's VAD Glos 84**

There will be no drills until 11<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Military/Pacifism**

### **Letters to the Editor**

Mrs F Allen of Ravenshill, Eastleach writes in support of Mr Robinson on the Military Training Bill.

## **ARP**

### **Cirencester and Black-out**

Smooth and satisfactory work, "Well there've been no bloomers". Such was the summing up of last Saturday night's ARP operation in Cirencester. ARP Wardens, Rescue Parties, Auxiliary Firemen, Decontamination Squads, workers manning First Aid Posts and Report Centres – all shared in the intensive programme. Generally speaking all carried out their wartime role well. Here's an example. A bomb with a real kick in it exploded near the school at Coates. Wardens appeared out of the dark to ascertain the damage. 2 Cottages demolished, fire, craters in the road. Promptly the information was telephoned to the Report Centre at Cirencester. Later out of the gloom emerged an ambulance train, fire engine and decontamination squad. Timings were noted and the way in which the action was taken. There were similar incidents at Kemble and Dagingworth and later a series of incidents in Cirencester. As the night progressed the popping of paper bags was substituted for fire work bombs in the streets of the town. These being heard by alert Wardens without disturbing the sleeping. Prompt reports brought ambulance, decontamination, squads to deal with gas. Occasionally nearly every service would be required at one spot. The nature of the damage and casualties varied in each case. Meanwhile the newly fitted Report Centre was a hive of activity. Seven telephones gave direct communication with all ARP services with separate lines for outward messages. There was no confusion and receipt and despatch of messages, plotting and charting incidents and compilation of records went on smoothly and expeditiously and as soon as the last squad had reported home the whole story was immediately available in graphic and literary form. ARP is thoroughly understood in Cirencester.

Do your National Service with the RAF Voluntary Reserve [RAFVR] (Ground Section) at your local RAF Station. Volunteers are now wanted for training as aircraft-hands, drivers, equipment assistants, cooks and butchers, aged 18 to 50yrs. Clerks 18 to 55yrs free training, expense allowances, annual gratuities. Apply to your nearest RAF Station. The Commandant RAFVR Carrick House, Lypiatt Row, Cheltenham Tel Cheltenham 52250

### **Evacuation**

Mr Walter Elliott, Government spokesman said that no attempt will be made to interfere with private family evacuation plans.

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**22/7/39**

### **Army**

Report on the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars camp states that it is now a Light Tank Regiment.

### **WLA**

**4 Photographs** of Land Army girls in training at the Royal Agricultural College. The course lasting 14 days was of interest to British Empire farmers visiting the college last week. The photographs show : feeding pigs, working in the hay field, oiling the elevator engine and gathering the early potato crop.

### **Orders for the Week**

#### **Cirencester Town's Women's Voluntary [WVS] Service.**

If the evacuation takes place Cirencester requires 1,000 blankets. Although some are expected in the next two weeks it is doubtful if the full quantity will arrive for some time. Therefore it is suggested that local branches should contribute by knitting patchwork blankets. Contributions will be gratefully received either as donations of odd skeins of wool of any colour. They should be sent to Oxford House on Thursday July 27<sup>th</sup> when it is hoped large quantities of wool may have been received. Volunteer knitters are urgently requested to call at the Abbey Estate Office 14 Dollar Street, Cirencester between 10.30am and 12.30pm or 3pm and 4pm when instructions and wool will be distributed.

Patience Chester-Master, Chairman Cirencester Town WVS

### **Army**

#### **Still volunteering**

Compulsory Military Service has made the Regular Army more popular and stimulated the voluntary recruitment for it. June enlistment total of 4,672 broke all post war records for the month as well as making the total for the quarter a peak figure. The intake for this quarter was 14,281 compared with 10,233 for the corresponding quarter in 1938.

### **Evacuation**

#### **Welfare Scheme for Evacuees**

#### **Reports at the CUDC**

At Thursday's meeting of the CUDC Mrs W A Chester-Master, Miss Hankey and Mrs Gordon Clark representing Cirencester WVS attended and presented the following reports.

#### **Welfare Scheme**

In the report presented to the Council on June 15<sup>th</sup> it was stated that schemes for a Welfare Committee and for setting up a play centre and canteens were in the course of preparation. These are now complete. Since the CUDC consider themselves guardians to the unaccompanied children who may come to Cirencester in time of war, the WVS have concentrated mainly on a welfare scheme for the protection of these children. In the case of mothers with young children the responsibility is clearly much less, but for the purpose of making arrangements agreeable to both householders and evacuees (text appears to be missing from original)

The actual Welfare Committee will consist of not more than five people including the Chairman of the WVS. The secretaries of the WVS will be secretaries to the Committee. For the first two months the Committee will be held weekly and reports sent from the Welfare Officers to secretaries in writing. During the first month Welfare Officers will send a report on each child in their area every week, subsequently once a month should be sufficient. The Welfare officers must see each child personally before sending her reports to the secretaries. Any small friction should be smoothed out on the spot. Only serious difficulties to be reported to the Committee. An Office will be opened twice a week at the Municipal Offices for Welfare Officers to consult with the secretaries or Committee members on difficulties. The Committee will be prepared to hear a statement from any Welfare Officer who wishes to appear personally before them. Decisions regarding each case will be immediately reported to the Officer concerned.

Since the WVS is a voluntary society and has no power to enforce decisions, the Council are asked by then to set up some authority to which appeals may be made. It would be advisable for this authority to be available at all times since some child might need to be moved to other surroundings from an unsuitable home. It would also appear necessary that any householder or evacuee could appeal to this authority against the decision of the Welfare Committee. Close cooperation with teachers will be kept through the secretaries. One of the secretaries is a member of the Committee and the Welfare Officer concerned will attend exams (medical) in every case of any of the evacuees in order to make note of the doctor's report on each child. If any special medical attention is required the secretaries will inform the Welfare Officer concerned of the steps to be taken and it will be the Welfare Officer's duty to see that the child attends for treatment at the appropriate time and place. All reports, medical and general will be kept by the secretaries on Special Care Committee forms. These forms which will be filed, will be available at all times. Officers will leave a card with their name and address and telephone if possible at each house where she is responsible to be used by the householder in an emergency. In the case of illness the householder must call in the District Nurse; the welfare Officer will therefore be notified of the District Nurse working in her area which must be communicated to every householder. The Welfare Officers number forty-nine and each Officer has been asked to undertake an average of 12 houses – all these Officers have agreed to serve and written instructions have been given and explained to them.

### **Canteens and Play Centres**

The halls suggested to the WVS by the Council for this purpose are the Church hall, Temperance Hall and those attached to the Nelson Inn. The latter seems most suitable for a play centre and there are two large rooms and children could be divided more or less according to age, the older children in one room the younger in the other. Using the one place for recreation would make it easier to staff with volunteers interested in children and anxious to help them. The WVS have also approached the Scouts and Guides for help in running these centres. The canteens present a more difficult problem. When the WVS made a survey of billets offered in the town and Stratton the volunteers asked the householders with unaccompanied children if they would send them for mid-day meals to a canteen. It was pointed out that the cost per head would be 2/6d per week paid out of the householders government grant. Out of the 450 children expected they found that 249 would be fed at a canteen by the wish of householders. This is a minimum number as some volunteers forgot to ask at houses they visited. There is also the possibility that more householders might wish to use the facility if it is successful. Out of the 249, 20 were from Stratton with 229 from the town. It was thought inadvisable to set up a canteen at Stratton for only 20. When the Church Hall and Temperance Hall were considered it was found that 250 children could be seated at trestle tables in the Church Hall. Therefore it was suggested to use one hall since it is cheaper to equip one large canteen than two small ones. The present facilities at the Church Hall are totally inadequate so it was decided to have a new kitchen built between the Main Hall and the street. Working on this theory the WVS consulted two builders to draw up plans for a temporary building in the cheapest materials. Full details were given as to interior requirements and rough estimates asked for. These plans and estimates were as follows. One plan not incorporating great detail £100 the other with full detail £143. As to equipment for a large catering requirement a local firm estimated £145 – 12s-9d. As the Council could not buy all the equipment at once the firm was asked to stock it to be called on when necessary. The firm replied that it was impossible to do so. We also approached a wholesale firm in London but they could not

guarantee to hold stocks or deliver in time of war. There was a further questions of trestles and benches. They were expensive to hire for a long time so it was better to buy. The cost was estimated to be £25 for trestles, £12-10s for benches. Cooking would be by gas as gas was easily laid on. The Gas Company have been approached on the types of cookers and hot water boilers to use. Estimates as follows: 1 Ascot water heater £17-12s 8 Maintenance gas cookers on hire. Probably 6s per quarter. Therefore the total approximate cost would be £2-8s per quarter. There should also be 4x 10 gallon boilers for cooking vegetables. The Gas Company were asked if they could supply on short notice. They said 2 weeks.

As for staffing : 1 full time paid cook, 1 volunteer organiser to actually order food and keeping accounts plus 1 or 2 volunteer experienced clerks to help with the latter. As well as a paid cook there would be one other professional cook for each day to assist her; this to be a volunteer. The remaining staff would be volunteers. As only one member of staff would be paid WVS it was asked if the Council would be willing to pay for her £2 per week. The suggestions above gives a rough idea of the difficulties involved in running a canteen and the WVS would be glad of the Council's criticism. Mr J H Wilkinson said that the costs would be met by the Ministry of Health, but detailed costs would have to be submitted to the Ministry. The Council discussed a few points with the ladies and it was suggested further consideration be given by the Civil Defence Committee in the course of formation

Mr W G Tovey, acting chairman of the Council expressed thanks for the efficiency with which the scheme had been formulated.

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**29/7/39**

**ARP**

**War and South Cerney**

**Successful ARP exercise**

South Cerney had its first ARP practice on Thursday evening and well organised it was, carried out with great success. The weather was atrocious but personnel turned out well and everything went without a hitch. The Warning Whistle went and 7.45pm found the wardens alert with respirators, rattles and hand bells and ready for incidents when a squadron of enemy bomber represented by an RAF plane firing Very lights that flew over the village ½ hr later. The explosion of bombs was simulated with fireworks and gas by smoke candles. On arrival at the scene of the incident the wardens found a scout bearing a placard stating the damage done. Casualties were represented by cubs labelled to indicate their injuries. Wardens worked in pairs. While one took the necessary actions on the spot the other reported to the Report Centre and to his own post, every means of saving time being adopted. Fire, Ambulance Decontamination and Rescue Parties were sent out from Cirencester represented by labelled cars, when summoned. At the warning the First Aid Post was manned and here all the casualties were first taken. Everything worked smoothly thanks to the cooperation of all concerned and the many ladies and gentlemen who lent their cars for the occasion.

**ARP**

**Advert**

Frederick Boulton Market Place Cirencester

Large advert including : ARP lightproof material, blinds, curtains and fittings estimates free.

**RAF**

**Advert**

Do your National Service with the RAF Voluntary Reserve [RAFVR] (Ground Section) at your local RAF Station. Volunteers are now wanted for training as aircraft-hands, drivers, equipment assistants, cooks and butchers, aged 18 to 50yrs. Clerks 18 to 55yrs free training, expense allowances, annual gratuities. Apply to your nearest RAF Station. The Commandant RAFVR Carrick House, Lypiatt Row, Cheltenham Tel Cheltenham 52250

**Propaganda / National Service**



## **Italian tribute to the Militia**

Report suggests Marshal Enrico Caviglia of the Italian Army was struck by the way England has received conscription. The spirit seemed better than in 1914.

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**5/8/39**

## **ARP**

### **Organisation of ARP in Gloucestershire**

#### **The future responsibilities of local Councils**

Sir Frederick Cripps at the conference of ARP Authorities said that ARP was here to stay and would become a permanent part of ordinary County and District Councils. The Conference reinforced by heads of services considered arrangements for the "Black-out" on August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

Sire Frederick said that the date was inconvenient because many ARP workers would be on holiday but that the date was fixed by the chief authority in the County. The Clerk, Mr R L Moon said wardens could only approach those showing a light in a judicious manner and ask for cooperation but it would be well to make a list so that a more official approach could be made on future occasions. The chairman said that he agreed that the date was inconvenient but asked all who could to cooperate and make the test as useful as possible.

#### **Gas mask distribution**

It was decided at a meeting of the Gloucestershire Central ARP Authority that gas masks should be distributed throughout Gloucestershire at once.

## **ARP**

### **Advert**

#### **Food supplies / rationing**

Preston's would be pleased to quote you for goods suitable for storing – The County Family Grocers, Cirencester.

## **Police Force**

### **Special Constabulary**

The Special Constabulary of Cirencester Sub Division will take part in the Black-out on the night of 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> August. They will assemble not later than 11.15pm on 9<sup>th</sup> August under the same arrangements as for the Black – out of 8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> July.

The training lectures at Cirencester Police Station on 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August are cancelled. Dates of lectures throughout the Sub Division on First Aid and Anti Gas will be issued later.

Special Sergeants will arrange with the local regular Police for training of Special Constables in Patrolling and Traffic Control where the latter is possible.

A Paley Colonel

Special Superintendent "C" Sub Division Gloucestershire Special Constabulary

## **Medical**

### **Wartime Emergency Services**

#### **Blood Transfusion**

Ladies and Gentlemen between the ages of 20yrs and 60yrs are urgently asked to register for this human national service at Cirencester Memorial Hospital Tuesday 8pm to 10pm Thursday 2pm to 4pm. Only in the event of national emergency will you be called upon to give blood transfusions. It is painless with no ill effects.

## **RAF**

### **Advert**

Do your National Service with the RAF Voluntary Reserve [RAFVR] (Ground Section) at your local RAF Station. Volunteers are now wanted for training as aircraft-hands, drivers, equipment assistants, cooks and butchers, aged 18 to 50yrs. Clerks 18 to 55yrs free training, expense allowances, annual

gratuities. Apply to your nearest RAF Station. The Commandant RAFVR Carrick House, Lypiatt Row, Cheltenham Tel Cheltenham 52250

## **ARP**

### **Next Week's Black-out**

The public are asked to cooperate when the Black-out exercise takes place between Midnight and 4am in the early hours of the morning of August 10<sup>th</sup>. Darkening of areas exposed to air attack will be an essential feature of the defence of this country in time of war. The object of the exercise will be to provide experience and useful information on the best means of achieving the desired effect.

Householders and other occupiers are asked to extinguish all lights or screen them by dark curtains or blinds. It is particularly desirable that external lights and others visible from the air should be so dealt with. It is emphasised that there is no intention of cutting of power at the mains. Members of the public are asked to stay indoors where possible so as not to hamper ARP Services. As street-lights will be off, vehicles should keep off the roads during the period as far as possible. The Home Office have agreed to include Gloucestershire in the area to be observed from the air provided we black-out on the night of 10<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> if an announcement is made by the BBC in the 6 o'clock news on the night of 9<sup>th</sup> to postpone the Black-out to the following night our ground exercises will be carried out on the 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> under those circumstances and only Black-out on the following night.

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**12/8/39**

## **ARP**

### **Local ARP Exercises**

**The local ARP exercises went like clockwork. With the new warning system.**

On Wednesday night the ARP exercise in Cirencester worked like clockwork. The siren sounded promptly at midnight echoed by the new warning siren erected on the Wessex Electricity Company (Gosditch Street). Viewed from the heights on the outskirts the town was shrouded in blackness dense enough to be felt. From the South West only two dim lights were visible in the rooms of invalids. Otherwise direction was lost. Familiar points disappeared in darkness broken only by the occasional flash of an exploding "bomb" seemingly more brilliant but less noisy than a month earlier. Inhabitants heard the tramp of warden's feet alert for incidents and the rush of vehicles of the various services involved. The Report Centre was fully manned despite the absentees on holiday. Air Raid Red Alert warnings were experimented with and sent out by telephone to 8 villages within 7 ½ minutes. Despite the large number of incidents reported in as in an air raid. The Report Centre staff refused to be rattled, no panic, flurry or agitation, lessons of the previous exercise had been taken to heart.

The Control Officer had 15 parties at his disposal 3 for casualty, 2 rescue, 1 road repair, 2 decontamination, 4 for Fire Service, 1 for gas, 1 for water and sewers and 1 for messengers. There was no electricity unit due to holidays. (The article then goes on to extol the virtues of the scheme and volunteers)

No – ARP is not a joke, one wonders why all except infants and cripples not involved in other National Services is not an ARP volunteer.

## **ARP**

### **Air Raid Shelter \*photograph of outside and staff inside the Cirencester Brewery air raid shelter**

The Cirencester Brewery is the first concern in Cirencester to provide an air raid shelter for its staff (indoor and outdoor staff and occupants of its flats over the company offices. It is constructed entirely below ground with a 3 feet covering of soil of local material by the companies own building staff. The concrete tubes of which it is made are from Norcon at South Cerney. Each tube is of 6ft diameter 4 ft long of heavy reinforced concrete with watertight joints. Similar tubes are supplied to London Boroughs and leading firms throughout the country. They are preferred to the Home Office trench revetments in watery conditions. The shelter has gas, splinter and blast proof doors and armour plated glass windows. It is 24ft long with seating for 35 people. There are electric lights,

first aid appliances and torches etc. Two of the staff are fully trained wardens and 4 in the Red Cross offering first aid treatment. On the alarm being given the companies books are replaced in the strong room and personnel go into the shelter within 3 minutes. The staff, in the picture by Dennis Moss, have their gas masks at the ready.

## **ARP**

### **Advert**

#### **Food supplies / rationing**

Preston's would be pleased to quote you for goods suitable for storing – The County Family Grocers, Cirencester.

## **Medical**

### **SOS**

#### **Blood Transfusion**

A truly National Service Centre for Life Donors. Volunteers aged 20yrs to 60yrs are needed for Blood Transfusion. They may be registered and tested at Cirencester Memorial Hospital Tuesday 8pm to 10pm Thursday 2pm to 4pm

Thousands of lives can be saved by giving blood for others,

## **ARP**

### **Orders for the Week**

F L Pardoe writes in Orders for the Week to thank all who took part in the Black-out exercise

## **RAF**

### **Advert**

Do your National Service with the RAF Voluntary Reserve [RAFVR] (Ground Section) at your local RAF Station. Volunteers are now wanted for training as aircraft-hands, drivers, equipment assistants, cooks and butchers, aged 18 to 50yrs. Clerks 18 to 55yrs free training, expense allowances, annual gratuities. Apply to your nearest RAF Station.

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**19/8/39**

## **ARP**

### **Cirencester Spotlight**

During the Black-out exercise a village Post Office had been blown up. One warden was told to take a message to the Head Warden to phone Cirencester Report Centre. He said what's the use the Post Office is knocked out how can we phone. "Hurry up" said the other "anyone would think it was a real war." At a town a few miles away two men lay under a few tons of masonry for two hours until the ambulance arrived. They were driven away but the ambulance broke down. The casualties had to walk to the hospital keeping up a stream of invective all the way. (all that with a broken spine and three broken ribs) A few days ago a traveller called at a lady's house. She said she could not get her gas mask on, it just would not go over her head. When he started to take it out of the box she said in alarm "don't do that I was told not to detach the front. It took him some time to convince her to take it out of the box before putting it on.

## **ARP**

### **Another distribution of Respirators**

#### **Invalids to be fitted at home by Wardens in Section C ( ? misprint D)**

During the evenings of Thursday, Friday and Saturday last week 1,600 respirators were fitted and distributed at the Council School Lewis lane to residents of D Section. In this section there still remain about 800 to fit due to people being away from home. Major C C Gouldsmith Section Warden says another fitting will take place at Lewis Lane schools on Friday and Saturday evening 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

August 7pm to 10pm. All in this section who have not received respirators are urgently requested to collect them on these evenings.

### **Respirators for children**

The above will be distributed to children under 4yrs as soon as they are received.

Those adults who are ill will be fitted at home, wardens will call.

### **Consult your Warden**

ARP wardens have been appointed, each to look after certain streets. In case of war these give advice and assistance on precautions to take against gas. Respirators have been carefully fitted but if in doubt consult your Warden

Section Warden Gouldsmith Beech Grove

#### **Post 12**

Senior Warden Mr A E Clayfield 5 Purley Road

Chester Street South side even numbers Mr H Gardner 58 Victoria Road

Chester Street South side odd numbers Mr A E Clayfield

Victoria Road North Side Nos 1-95 Mr E S Plowright 44 London Road

Purley Road South side even numbers and Purley Avenue Mrs Clarke 1 Purley Road

Purley Road North side odd numbers and Burford Road East side Mr J R Thomas 27 London Road

London Road East side, Burford Road, Fairford Road and Beeches Road Mr A Smith 42 London Rd

#### **Post 13**

Senior Warden Mr J G Honer 32 London Road

The Avenue Nos 1-23, 2-24, Mr Honer

Dyer Street South side Nos 2-88 Mr H J Taylor 64 Dyer Street

Carpenters Lane No 2 and Tower Street Nos 2-34 Miss Joan Byng The Croft

Cricklade Street East side Nos 1-141 Mr E K Kelly 10 Victoria Road

Lewis Lane Nos 2-56, 1-87 Mr R H Matthews 16 Lewis Lane

Watermoor Road Nos 1-29 Mr J J Hall 79 Watermoor Road

Market Place South Side Nos 2-38 Mr E W Taylor 6 Market Place

#### **Post 14**

Senior Warden Mr H J Clappen Cricklade Street

Victoria Road (Church Street to Queen Street) Queen Street to Nursery Cottages Mr J L Harris 66 Purley Road

Watermoor Road East side Queen Street to Ermine Street Mr A Noble Ashbury Victoria Road

City Bank Road and City Bank View Mr D Reed 8 King Street

Watermoor Road East side the Avenue to Church Street Mr S Boulton Rathcoole Victoria Road

Church Street, Prospect Place and Victoria Road (Chester Street to Church Street) Mr H T Lock 41 Victoria Road

**26/8/39**

### **Trade / Evacuation**

#### **Sale Advert**

Front page advert. Bailey Brothers Great Sale starts on Friday next Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Doors open 9am.

Bargains in all departments. In the event of evacuation you will need more blankets. We have large

stocks of the following Grey 56 inches X 76 inches 2s 9d each ; Brown 54 inches X 76 inches

2s 11 ¾ d each ; Brown 50 inches X 80 inches 4s 11 ½ d each

Cricklade Street Cirencester

(note the first evacuation took place 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939!)

### **Politics**

#### **Article The Situation in Europe**

The paper reports on the German Russian non aggression pact. Germany is thinking that Britain and France would not honour our treaty with Poland. The Prime Minister says we cannot with honour go back on our undertaking. Parliament was summoned to pass the Emergency Powers Bill. It was

introduced at 6.45pm and passed the third reading without division at 9.37pm. It was then sent to the House of Lords and received the Royal Assent 10.20pm. The House of Commons adjourned until next Thursday, but is likely to be called again. On Wednesday the Prime Minister sent a message to Hitler making clear Britain's unchanged position. Hitler left the British Ambassador in no doubt that Germany would continue to claim its vital interests.

The King who returned to London looked grave when he left Perth on Wednesday night with the Duke of Beaufort. His Majesty is remaining in the Capital for the present.

Widespread steps were taken to put the country into an advanced state of preparedness. Auxiliary Air Force Units and certain R A F Reservists are being called back from leave.

The Board of Trade has prohibited the export of essential materials and commodities. War risk rates for shipping have been increased. "Lights Out" plans for the whole country have been made ready for immediate action. Mr Roosevelt returned to Washington hurriedly on Thursday and has appealed to King Victor Emmanuel of Italy asking him to do all in his power to avert the outbreak of war.

The Pope broadcast from Vatican City "to the rulers and people" "We speak to you in the name of God". Hitler flew to Berlin on Thursday night to preside over a council of war. Movements of German troops to the Polish frontier were intensified and at midnight thousands of reservists were summoned to the colours. Poland called up an additional 500,000 men. There are reports in Berlin of a serious frontier clash between Polish and Germans. Opinion in Berlin is that the decision on Poland has already been made and is on the point of being carried out. Officials of the British Embassy in Berlin were busy packing on Thursday night. The German Embassy in London said that there was no question of asking German national s to leave or the Embassy staff returning to Germany at the present time. The French Government has advised all whose presence is not indispensable to leave the city of Paris.

## **RAF**

### **Advert**

An advertisement for apprentice clerks who may later volunteer as pilots

## **Animal Welfare**

One of the late Sir Frederick Hobday's last public actions was to launch an appeal for funds to protect animals in time of war. He arranged for the P D S A to administer the fund. The first step taken has been the purchase of over 100,000 copies of the ARP handbook No 12 for free distribution to poor animal owners.

## **Politics**

### **Hitler Bluff or Blunder?**

Long article by "The Spotter" sets out examples of Hitler's character since his rise to power. It asks does Hitler think he is Siegfried – a new saviour of Germany.

## **ARP**

### **Small ads column**

Prestons hold a good selection of foods suitable for storing. The County Family Grocer, Cirencester

54 inch Black Italian 1/0 ¾ d a yard

50 inch green light proof twill 1/11 ½d a yard

C E French and Sons Ltd Cirencester

## **Food Supplies**

### **Advert**

#### **Your Reserve Food Store**

You are asked by the Government to store a reserve of food in case of emergency. We give below a suggested parcel of foodstuffs specially packed for storing. Why not spend 5/- now while supplies are plentiful.

1- 24oz tin of corned beef ; 1 tin of Gillett's choicest red salmon; 1 tin of fresh herrings; 1 tin of sardines; 1 large tin of tomatoes; 2 large tins of English milk. Per parcel 5/-

Gillett's (Mason and Gillett's) Where Economy and Quality Combine

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**2/9/39**

**BRCS**

**Advert**

**BRCS Gloucestershire Branch**

Lectures will be held in the Bingham Library as follows:

Home Nursing Tuesday evening 6.30pm starting 5<sup>th</sup> September.

First Aid Thursday 6.30pm Starting 7<sup>th</sup> September

Recruits are wanted for :- The Civil Nursing reserve, specialists i.e. cooks, clerks, masseurs and dispensers for Service Hospitals. Please send your name to Mrs Gibbons Hon Sec BRCS Cirencester, Ampney Crucis House, Cirencester

**ARP**

**Advert**

May we help you with your Black-out, we have necessary blind and curtain material in stock at the moment. Mitchells Castle Street, Cirencester

**Moral Rearmament**

**The Answer to the Crisis**

Long article by Dr Frank N D Buckman. A message to the nations, broadcast in English, French and German from Boston and San Francisco on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August. He states that moral rearmament is the answer.

**RAF/crime**

**Petty Sessions**

There were two cases of unruly behaviour due to drink by RAF personnel from South Cerney. Captain Clayton apologised for the incidents and said that the RAF would assist the police in stopping this sort of thing.

**ARP/ Spotlight**

Spotlight reports that ARP for the Rural and Urban areas will be able to give adequate protection to the public in time of war, which could be imminent.

**Religion/ Spotlight**

Spotlight reports that large numbers are attending special prayers for peace at all denominations in the town. The Parish Church has special prayers every day (large numbers of men are there). The gates of heaven are being stormed by prayers for peace.

**Politics**

**HOSTILITIES COMMENCE**

As we go to press we learn that hostilities have commenced on the Polish frontier. The British Government pronouncement on the situation had yet to be made when this issue was being printed. Both Houses of Parliament meet tonight (Friday) at 6 o'clock.

**Orders for the Week**

**BRCS**

Re lectures for the BRCS at the Bingham Hall. Will all members who have borrowed splints and bandages and not yet returned them please do so as soon as possible.

**ARP/ evacuation**

**Announcement**

The Cirencester First Aid Post is now at the Temperance Hall, Thomas Street. There are also First Aid Posts at Oakley Hall, Chesterton and the Village Hall Stratton.

### **Appeal for cars**

Will all owners of cars who can render assistance for various purposes in connection with ARP, evacuation of children etc. please communicate with Mr Harry Price, Grove Garage, Cirencester, Transport Officer Number 6 Area tel. 271

### **Cirencester District Evacuation arrangements**

Large numbers of evacuee children will be billeted in Cirencester and District over the weekend. 1,400 people will be housed in the Rural area including 640 children of school age 500 preschool 64 teachers and helpers and 200 other persons. In the Urban district of Cirencester there will be 450 children plus 50 helpers with 200 mothers and 300 children under school age. The scheme for the reception drafted by the WVS was approved by both Councils. The evacuees will be met at the Town Station taken to the Corn Hall and then distributed.

### **ARP Test**

A test of all ARP Services was held on Wednesday evening, inspected by Col. Pardoe. All Posts were manned at full strength. Col. Pardoe inspected the Fire Brigade outside the Municipal Offices. He declared the whole test a success. The local services are all fully trained to meet wartime conditions.

### **Sandbags**

Sandbags are being filled at the Corinium Museum for use at ARP Posts and HQs.

### **Medical**

#### **Advert**

A Surgical Bandage Supply Depot (in case of war) will open twice a week at Stonewalls, Victoria Road, Cirencester (by kind permission of Mrs Rankin) carried out on the same lines as in the Great War by Hon Sec Mrs Rycroft, Whiteway Copse, Tel Cirencester 205 from whom all particulars can be obtained. Subscription 1/- per week to help buy materials. All workers welcome.

### **Supplies / ARP**

#### **Advert**

Williams and Ford advert for Drydex batteries includes the following ARP note :  
Remember that should a national emergency arise you can carry a portable battery set with you anywhere. Because it has its own power supply it is available for news reception in all circumstances.

### **ARP / RAF**

#### **Politics**

#### **Place names visible from the air.**

The Lord Privy Seal's Office intimates that all firms and occupiers of premises with adverts on their roof bearing the name of the town or locality should have such obliterated. Many gasometers for example have the name of the town on top for the benefit of civil aircraft in peacetime.

### **ARP**

#### **CRDC**

Mr Scrutton announces that ARP in the rural areas is adequate but not perfect yet. The main structure is sound but there is room for minor improvements. A complete system of warnings by telephone was worked out. Some villages could hear the Cirencester sirens but unless large sums of money were spent they would have rely mainly on telephone systems.

### **ARP**

#### **Advert**

#### **Food supplies / rationing**

Preston's would be pleased to quote you for goods suitable for storing – The County Family Grocers, Cirencester.

### **Supplies / RAF / Evacuation**

#### **Advert**

Bosworths contractors to the RAF would be pleased to supply homes taking in children, with fruit and vegetables at lowest prices.

### **Accommodation**

#### **Advert**

Lady (from) Oswell, Chalford Glos. Offers comfortable accommodation to RAF Officers and families – or others.

### **ARP**

#### **Advert**

#### **C E French and Sons Ltd**

C E French and Sons apologises to their customers who applied for ARP material advertised last week. Owing to unprecedented demand all stocks were cleared within a few hours. They are expecting delivery of Black Italian in a day or two and will be pleased to book orders. The latest news received is that the suppliers will be sending 300 yards of Dark Twill at 1/0 ¾ per yard. Regent House, Cirencester Tel 178

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**9/9/39**

### **ARP**

#### **Advert**

#### **Mitchell's Castle Street, Cirencester**

We can still help you with the Black-out. Further supplies of blind material and curtain material just to hand.

### **ARP**

#### **Black-out**

#### **Cirencester Conservative Benefit Society**

Owing to ARP restrictions regarding lighting, no contributions will be received after 7 o'clock on Lodge Night next September 13<sup>th</sup>. Will all members please pay particular attention to these arrangements. J W W Cripps Chief Secretary 23 Castle Street.

### **Military / Supplies**

#### **WAR Department**

Notice is hereby given that Lt Col Robinson MC of Pewitt's Hill is authorised to purchase horses for the Army in the area of South Gloucestershire. The public is hereby warned that this is not delegated to any other person and dealings through Col Robinson only will be officially recognised.

### **Agriculture**

The NFU from Devises appeal for help with the harvesting. Volunteers are especially wanted for this essential harvest.

### **ATS**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

Lady Apsley appeals for volunteers for the ATS

### **Evacuation**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Evacuation of Teachers and Children**

Dear Sir

As this work is as far as we know completed we would like to take the opportunity of thanking all members of the WVS and many other organisations who worked so hard to make the evacuation such a success and who bore uncomplaining endless unavoidable alterations in plans and remained cheerful.



The teachers and children also played their part magnificently and we do not the householders who have not only agreed to take children but have made them welcome from the start.

### **Military**

#### **SSAFA**

L E Beaufort President of the Soldiers Sailors and Airmen's Families Association points out the aims of SSAFA in caring for the families of serving personnel.

### **Medical**

#### **Cirencester Memorial Hospital**

The hospital has been evacuated of all who are able to receive treatment at home. Beds are available for acute cases only, these will be admitted in the usual way under the direction of the hospital medical staff. The Casualty Department, X-Ray and Massage Department are working normally.

H F Priddy General Secretary

### **Casualty / ARP / Black-out**

#### **Spotlight and Inquest Report**

#### **Pedestrians Beware**

Mrs Sarah Day wife of the landlord of "The Three Magpies" was killed in Fairford during Saturday's Black-out. She preferred to walk in the road and was killed as she stooped down, by a car with dimmed headlights. Spotlight advises always keep to the path, don't drive at night unless it is necessary. Stay in and read the depressing news by a couple of night-lights if necessary.

### **Agriculture / Military**

Until 20<sup>th</sup> September the War Office and Ministry of Agriculture have made arrangements for the use of a certain number of serving soldiers for collecting in this year's harvest.

### **WVS / Evacuation**

#### **Orders for the Week**

A depot will open at Querns Lane House on Tuesdays and Fridays from 2pm to 4.30pm for providing evacuee children with a change of clothing. Many have no others than they arrived in. The Committee would be grateful for gifts of clothes, shoes and stockings of any description. These will be remade to fit at our depot. Volunteer ladies with some experience of knitting and sewing are urgently required. Would you please apply to a representative of the WVS at the depot on the days mentioned.

### **Moral Welfare**

Beginning on Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm to 4pm and on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of every subsequent month, Miss Joan Eastcourt will visit the Infant Welfare Centre at the Congregational Church School Room. She is especially qualified to deal with older children and young women. She will also talk by appointment to other societies WI, MU, YWCA, TocH etc.

### **BRCS**

#### **Central Hospital Supply Service**

A Hospital Supply depot will shortly open in Cirencester to supply hospital needs to Service Hospitals. This is an important field of work open to those who are unable to volunteer for more active forms of National Service and I am sure there will be many volunteers in Cirencester.

Yours sincerely Liliath Bathurst, Vice President BRSC Cirencester District.

Names to Mrs Gibbon, Ampney Crucis House, Hon District Sec. Cirencester Division.

### **ARP**

#### **Emergency Shelters**

The following premises have been prepared for Air Raid Shelters. It is emphasised that they are for people caught away from home or friends and are unable to reach them. On no account should anyone leave home or employment to take refuge in them. Park House Dollar Street, No 23 Dyer Street (Mr

A Ovens) No 33 Dyer Street Dr H T Adams) Rathcoole Victoria Road, No 17 Queen Street, The Maltings Cricklade Street, Worcester House Chesterton Lane, Highfield Somerford Road. Several other premises are being prepared.

## **ARP**

### **Babies Helmets and Respirators for Young Children**

A number of applications have been made at the ARP Office and to Section Wardens. A census of children under 4 ½ yrs has been made and a further is to be made to include evacuee children. There are no supplies available here in Gloucestershire. As soon as they are parents will be informed and arrangements made. Meantime in the unlikely event of a gas attack before then take children to a gas proof room and keep them there until the "all clear".

F L Pardoe Sub Controller No. 6 Area

## **Evacuation**

### **Evacuees who did not arrive**

Over 1,000 evacuees failed to arrive in Cirencester and hundreds of householders expecting them could not comprehend what had happened. Officials do not expect any more children to come but grown-ups may be billeted in the area. On Friday night when the first and only batch arrived 474 children and 58 teachers and helpers and 5 others were billeted in Cirencester with 304 teachers and children in the Rural District.

The children made a sorry procession but to give them credit they were surprisingly brave. Many young one could not understand at all what it was all about and relied solely on their teachers. They clutched teddy bears and dolls – a last link with home.

Some looked tired, while swollen eyes told of tears shed at the parting from parents. On Sunday night evacuation officials waited at Cirencester Town Railway Station for the arrival of a train scheduled to bring several hundred to the Rural area. At the last moment arrangements were cancelled though it was some time before the news reached Cirencester. On Monday a train load of 200 mothers and 300 children for the town was expected but did not arrive. Conjecture was rife but no official explanation has yet been offered.

### **Organisation**

The evacuation officials, WVS and helpers cannot be praised enough for the splendid way they distributed the children to their respective homes. There were hundreds of children on the platform on Friday night but in no time they were whisked away to the distribution centres. Despite major difficulties the distribution was successful in Cirencester and District. With true British Spirit residents have gone out of their way to make the children happy and be in every way sympathetic to these little immigrants. An official told the Wilts and Glos that all the children were settled down despite minor difficulties which have all practically been overcome.

Traffic of "Bank Holiday" proportions passed through Cirencester over the Weekend as people from Birmingham, Bristol and other big cities decided to go to the country while the going was good. Luggage strapped on to the back of cars gave the clue to the sudden exodus. A striking feature was the large number of furniture vans transporting possessions. In some cases there was no definite destination, owners travelling in company with their cars hoping to obtain an empty house.

## **Requisitions**

### **The Bingham Library**

All departments of the Library are now closed to the public. All those holding books should retain them until further notice. Meetings booked at the Library are cancelled.

## **ARP**

### **Important Notice**

Owing to the closure of the Bingham Library Home Nursing and First Aid lectures will in future be held at Cirencester Park.

## **Black-out / restrictions**

### **Notice to Advertisers**

In order to comply with the lighting regulations and the saving of fuel, staff will not work nights on Thursdays. Therefore copy and adverts must be received earlier. Display adverts by midday Wednesday. Small adverts not later than Thursday.

### **RAF Action**

Report on British planes bombing the Kiel Canal and 9 million leaflets dropped. Many German planes were destroyed in Poland. In the first engagement of British and German planes the Germans were routed.

### **ARP**

#### **Cirencester Rotary Club Meeting**

Cirencester Rotary Club discussed the closing of shops during Black-outs but decided to leave it to the Chamber of Commerce. Mr Wilkinson, Clerk to the Council was unable to address the meeting due to pressure of work. Dr D P Grey gave a brief address on Cirencester's Memorial Hospital during wartime and Eric Cole on dealing with the activities of the Demolition Squad. It was decided to continue to hold weekly meetings.

### **Cancellation of Events**

The following events have been cancelled due to the outbreak of war. Winchcomb Agricultural Show and the VWH Pony Club Gymkhana.

### **Agriculture**

#### **Ministers all to Farmers**

The Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food broadcast an important message to farmers and rural communities. He said the farmer's main job was to increase in an orderly fashion our home production of essential foodstuffs. More land must be ploughed and sown to wheat, barley, potatoes, oats, rye or mixed corn for next year's harvest. At the moment there is no shortage of feeding stuffs.

### **Supplies / ARP**

#### **Advert**

Williams and Ford advert. for Drydex batteries includes the following ARP note :  
Remember that should a national emergency arise you can carry a portable battery set with you anywhere. Because it has its own power supply it is available for news reception in all circumstances.

### **ARP**

#### **Black-out**

#### **New car light restrictions**

Direction indicators must be obscured except for a strip 1/8" wide. Sidelights through an aperture 2" in diameter this opening obscured by two thicknesses of newspaper or the equivalent. Reflectors must be blackened. Side and top panels completely obscured. Rear lights all other than red rear lights and stop lights must be obscured. A red rear light must not exceed 2" in diameter and be masked as per side lights. The stop light must not exceed 1 sq inch in diameter and be screened as the rear light. No light is to illuminate the number plate. Front and rear bumpers and the edges of running boards to be painted white. No other lights may be used except headlights masked in the manner of the leaflet.

### **Military / Medical**

#### **Blood Transfusions**

165 people mostly women have volunteered in the Cirencester district to give blood but 135 are still needed. The West Country is to have the honour of providing the fighting forces with what they may require 100,000 donors minimum. It is hoped that Cirencester will provide 300. Mr Priddy Secretary of the Memorial Hospital said that the pin-prick of the blood test was almost painless as was giving blood. The age limit is now 20 to 70.

### **Supplies**

#### **ARP**

## **Advert**

C E French and Sons Ltd. ARP -- 38" Heavy Orange Mackintosh Sheeting usually 4/11 2/11 ½ per yard. 48/50" American Cloth 1/11 ¾ per yard (360 yards on the rail) Regent House Cirencester

## **Supplies**

### **Food / Agricultural**

#### **Wartime Arrangements for the Purchase of Pigs**

We are buyers of any quantity of Bacon Pigs under the Board of Trade conditions. 13/- per score up to 10 scores. We pay rail charges if delivered by producers. We allow 1/- per pig. We collect free of charge. Cole and Lewis Ltd

## **ARP**

### **Advert**

#### **The work of the Nation must go on**

Mr Chamberlain's message was clear and unmistakable. We who supply the public with things it needs must go on as normally as possible. Already several staff have been called for duty but we are determined to continue giving service you are used to. There is no intention of altering our Autumn arrangements. In view of the lighting restrictions we ask our customers in their interest and ours to shop as early in the day as convenient.

Ormond's Ltd House of Fashion, Cirencester

## **Supplies**

### **Food supplies at Gillett's**

We regret that due to depleted staff and the abnormal volume of orders our costumes did not receive our usual prompt service during last week. Every effort has been made to reorganise with girl assistant being trained to replace men called to the colours. We carry large stocks but transport conditions are still difficult, there may be some delay in replacing stocks of some articles. We have however sufficient essential commodities to meet all customers normal orders. To help in this difficult time please place orders as early in the week and the day as possible. Gillett's

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**16/9/39**

### **Propaganda / ARP**

#### **Freedom in Wartime ( long article)**

In a long article "An appeal for cooperation" by Douglas Coldring he particularly asks for newly appointed authorities, wardens etc to be tolerant and the public cooperative, the former particularly in relation to the poor.

### **Propaganda**

#### **Germany's Weakness**

Out of their own mouth they must still import. Food output fallen. Labour shortage. Unbalanced trade. Too few key men in non-military posts. The cupboard is bare. Dr Neumanns Director of the Reich's Bank reported that the stock of foreign exchange was exhausted in February 1939. "There is a fifth column inside Germany" Himmler 1937

### **Rationing**

#### **CUDC**

#### **Notice**

#### **Food / National Registration**

An office has opened at 3 Dyer Street in connection with the above. All enquiries to that address. Mr F J D Greenslade has been appointed Food Executive Officer for the Urban District

## **Rationing**

### **CRDC**

#### **Food Control and Fuel Advisory Committee**

The CRDC require temporary clerks in the local Food and Fuel Offices. Applicants must be shorthand typists with a good knowledge of office routine and capable of taking on specialist duties. Salary men £130 - £156 per annum. Women £105 - £130 per annum. Applicants from those not likely to be mobilised. J A Hall Food Executive Officer and local Fuel Overseer. CRDC Offices 29 Gloucester Street.

## **Agriculture**

### **Important Notice**

#### **Grain Stacks and Rat Destruction**

The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food requests that landowners and farmers keep grain in their stacks as long as possible. Gloucester County Council urge such to take steps to eliminate rats on their property before they get to stacks. Particulars of the County Rat Destruction Scheme obtainable from the County Rat Officer.

## **Supplies**

### **Fuel and Lighting Order 1939**

#### **Cirencester Urban District**

All retail coal merchants and coal and coke suppliers in the Urban District must apply to register at once. All occupiers of domestic premises, offices, clubs, institutions, hospitals etc in the Urban District must register with the Coal Merchant of their choice. Forms are available from the Coal Merchants Office. Small consumers are those using less than 2 tons per annum purchasing in 1cwt lots. These must obtain an exemption certificate from the local Fuel Overseer. The obligation is on the consumer to register or gain exemption or he will not be able to claim when rationing is introduced on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1939. A schedule of prices for the CUD will be deposited at my office from 16<sup>th</sup> September. Wentworth Jones, Local Fuel Overseer, 3 Dyer Street Cirencester.

## **Supplies**

### **Fuel and Lighting Order 1939**

#### **Cirencester Rural District**

Similar notice to the above signed by J A Hall Local Fuel Overseer RDC Offices 29 Gloucester Street.

## **Supplies**

Please note - All Tobacconists in Cirencester will close at 8pm until further notice.

## **ARP / Housing**

Messrs Jackson Stops of Cirencester have already compiled inventories and records of conditions of numerous premises taken over by various Authorities or let privately. They are able to undertake any work of this nature at comparatively short notice.

Offices, Old Council Chambers (Castle Street) Cirencester.

## **Housing**

Messrs Jackson Stops of Cirencester still have available for sale or let furnished or unfurnished a number of suitable residences large and small at reasonable prices or rents. Owing to numerous demands now being made early application is advisable.

Messrs Jackson Stops, Old Council Chambers (Castle Street) Cirencester.

## **Agriculture**

### **Advert**

#### **War Poultry**

War! Rear More Poultry! The Nation depends on you for More Eggs! Keep birds fighting Fit! Produce more eggs with Johnson's Tonic. 7 ½ d 1/2d and 5/- Smiths also Huck's Corn Stores Cirencester.

## **Medical**

### **Orders for the Week**

Gift to the Memorial Hospital. Mrs A A Delmege has generously donated a Rolls Royce to Cirencester Memorial Hospital.

## **ARP**

### **Cirencester's First Aid Post**

Cirencester's First Aid Post at the Temperance Hall is ready. By the arrangement of screens the hall has been divided into a series of reception rooms, wards, rest rooms etc. On arrival casualties according to sex are diverted left or right, registered, labelled, examined then given the appropriate timber by a fully trained and expert staff after which they are diverted to a rest room for recuperation and refreshment under skilled supervision. A representative of the Wilts and Glos examined the Post on Thursday night and was struck by the adaption of the Hall. On every side there was evidence of thoroughness and efficiency for treating patients with despatch. Not least pleasing was the provision of surgical instruments complete and of the best quality. A large proportion of the staff are fully trained and as some are always on duty patients have every assurance of being in good hands.

Gas ranges, sinks, cupboards etc have been installed both gas and electricity are available with the provision of emergency lighting of hurricane lamps and candles. The Stores side is complete. Stretchers need but to be lifted and taken away, each laden with its equipment of blankets and covers of new designs requiring no opening or preparation while many pack into a small space.

Mrs F L Pardoe is in charge with a staff of 33 women and 7 men under the direction of Mrs Walker the Post's fully qualified Sister. Gentle handling and treatment will be the lot of casualties brought here. Cirencester's First Aid Post is ready.

## **BRCS**

### **Orders for the Week**

Orders for BRCS Glos II VAD include public duties as rostered.

## **Requisitions**

### **Bingham Library**

The temporary closure of the Bingham Library has been a great blow to local book lovers. The trustees are negotiating for temporary premises. As soon as arrangements have been made members will once again be able to obtain books.

## **Requisitions / ARP**

### **Dancing Again**

Once again dancing will hold sway at the Corn Hall on Saturdays limited to 7pm to 10pm due to the National Emergency. The full usual bands will be in attendance and there will be novelty competitions.

## **ARP**

### **Postal Services**

#### **Emergency changes. Restrictions due to the emergency**

The normal last collection from Cirencester Town boxes on weekdays will be suspended. That is No 6 collection as shown on the notice plates of boxes. The final collection will be No5 between 6.15pm and 6.45pm. At Lechlade the last will be a 66.15pm and the last collection at 6.30pm on weekdays. On Sundays the evening collection in Bibury, Coln St Aldwyn, Hatherop and Quenington will be 6.30pm. For the present the normal collection at Cirencester Head Office will be maintained.

## **Trade**

### **Cirencester Chamber of Commerce**

### **Shop Opening Hours**

Cirencester Chamber of Commerce recommend that all shops in Cirencester continue with normal business hours until an announcement is made by the Home Secretary as here under Mondays Tuesdays and Wednesdays till 6pm. Thursdays 1pm Fridays and Saturdays 7pm.

R F Mc Ilroy Hon Sec.

### **Trade / rationing**

#### **Advert.**

#### **Fuel and Lighting Order**

S H Cole Coal Merchant, Sheep Street begs to remind clients that it is necessary for them to register in order to ensure future supplies of fuel. Registration forms may be obtained at this office during the coming week.

### **Rationing / Supplies**

#### **Cirencester UDC Food Control**

The Food Control Committee of the UDC is :-

**Ten consumer members** - Mr Wilson Gardner Tovey, South Point, Chesterton Chairman. Mr George Edward Clarke Winstone, 18 Ashcroft Villas, Deputy Chairman. Mr Ernest Newcombe, 8 The Avenue. Mr Charles William Adams, Cheltenham Road, Stratton. Mr Felix Francis Gordon – Clarke, 66 Albion Street. Mr William Henry Lloyd 67 Chesterton Lane. Mr Reginald Angus Berkeley, Fir Wood Chesterton. Mrs Alice Walker 5 Kingsmead. Mrs Irene Maxwell, 19 Cecily Hill. Mrs Louisa Maud Appleton 19 Castle Street.

#### **Five trade members**

Mr John Mortimer Legg, grocer and provisions merchant. Mr Harry Smith, butcher. Mr Herbert John Down, Cooperative Society official. Mr Ernest Habgood, baker and Mr John Scantlebury, milk retailer.

### **Politics / Propaganda**

#### **Progress of the War**

The War Cabinet has decided to assume a three years war. The Poles are determined to resist. Canada declares war on Germany. French Divisions have made important gains in heavy fighting. The Germans claimed the occupation of Lodz on Saturday. Their attack on Warsaw was checked and they have retired from the outskirts allowing the Poles to consolidate. The Germans have completed encircling movements around Polish positions in the North towards Bialystok and South towards Lwow. The German High Command has announced that to break civilian resistance, open towns will be bombed and shelled. Survivors from the Athenia who crossed the Atlantic in City of Flint arrived in Halifax Nova Scotia. The situation in Palestine has improved Arabs and Jews have dropped their squabble in the face of common danger. The Germans made arrests in Moravia and Bohemia for public safety. German eye witness accounts talk of the bravery of the Polish troops and the intense hatred and unbroken spirit of the devastated villages and towns. The Supreme War Council met on Tuesday in France attended by Mr Chamberlain and Lord Chatfield for Great Britain and Mssr Deladier and General Gamelin for France.

### **Police Force**

#### **Cirencester Special Constabulary**

There are not enough Special Constables in Cirencester. Men between 30 and 60 yrs willing to join should report to the Police Station where they will be given full particulars. Come along men of Cirencester join the Special Constabulary without delay. It is a voluntary job so you will be able to give your services to England and your home-town without being paid for them. Your friends and fellow townsmen who joined before the war began will have more "full nights in bed" than they have lately been accustomed to if you join up and help to swell the duty roll.

A Paley Special Superintendent, Cirencester Special Constabulary.

### **Politics**

The Conservative and Unionist Party announces that their association is to continue like other parties during the war. The local association is to be kept in being for voluntary war work.

### **Supplies / Rationing**

The secretary for mines announced in connection with the rationing of motor spirit and diesel oil arrangements have been made to deal with the special requirements of agriculture.

### **Politics / Propaganda**

The Ministry of Information states that Marshal Goering confessed in his broadcast that despite 70 Divisions being against them there is no sign of the Polish Army cracking.

### **BRCS and Order of St John**

#### **Orders for the Week** (not verbatim)

The above have organised the Central Hospital Supply Service for supplying hospital needs and comforts for the fighting forces either overseas or in Service Hospitals at home. The Lady Wraxall of Tyntesfield, Bristol is the regional officer for Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset. The Hon Sec for Gloucestershire is Mrs Gibbon of Ampney Crucis House. All materials issued will be supplied free. Any existing Depots or Work Parties i.e. WVS, Personal Service League, British Legion or private parties are invited to affiliate to the Central Hospital Supply Service while at the same time continuing the vital work for civilian hospitals.

#### **Cirencester District**

The Depot for Cirencester will be at Cirencester Park and we hope to start work soon.

Signed Lilius Bathurst Vice president BRCS Cirencester District.

All enquiries about the Depot Village Work Parties etc to Mrs Gibbons Hon Sec BRCS Cirencester District.

### **ARP**

#### **Have You got Your Respirator - A Last Distribution**

Mr G Rumbol, Chairman of the ARP Committee informs us that a Warden will be at the Old Museum Tetbury Road tomorrow Saturday from 2pm to 5pm for fitting and supplying respirators. It is hoped that the public will take advantage of the opportunity.

### **Supplies / trade**

#### **Advert**

#### **Important News**

Curry's Ltd have received fresh stocks of the following : torches, cycle lamps, dynamo sets, flasks, H T Batteries also a large stock of cycles and radios available on HP terms.

Market Place, Cirencester.

### **Civil Defence / ARP**

#### **The King and Civil Defence by His Majesty the King**

The following letter addressed to Civil Defence Volunteers was received in Cirencester today.

Now that the emergency has come I wish to express to Civil Defence Volunteers my appreciation of the way they have responded to the call and of the fine spirit in which they are facing the long hours of discomfort inseparable from the performance of their duties. The Queen and I have seen for ourselves something of your organisation and we have no doubt that the courage of volunteers coupled with patience during times of inaction will be equal to whatever task may be in store for them.

Signed George R I

### **Propaganda / ARP**

#### **Spotlight Column**

Spotlight mentions Britain's mild censorship as compared with other countries. Also the lighting restriction slight relaxation to motorists, cheers him after driving in the Black out following white lines, his eyes burned like coal.



## **Employment**

This week there were 36 small ads. For farm workers and 15 domestic situations vacant.

## **ARP**

### **Spotlight Column**

#### **The Nasties of our own**

Spotlight Talks about the necessity of courtesy when dealing with Black-out offences. An old lady was shouted at by a warden for showing a momentary light. The Nasty lit his way across to tell her off using a brilliant electric torch.

## **Propaganda**

### **Letters to the Editor (Rev CST)**

#### **What to tell the public**

Sir – the public should be told everything the enemy already knows and nothing else.

S Claude Tickell Vicar of Latton –cum-Eysey, Cricklade.

## **Evacuation**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Evacuees at Oaksey**

Sir – We understand that the Crudwell and Minety that Oaksey gave the children allotted them a poor reception. Oaksey parishioners would like to say the fault does not lie with them. Without exception the children and teachers included were sent into cottages. We understand that a farmhouse two minutes walk from the school had made arrangements to receive the children but was refused any. But three days later two teachers found good accommodation at the same farm. There are at least half a dozen houses in the parish. Why are none installed in any of these. Without exception the children have good homes and are very happy. May no reflection be cast on the cottagers.

Disgusted – Oaksey

## **BRCS**

The BRCS appeal for money for the War Work Fund made by HRH Duke of Gloucester. £25 had already been received from Her Majesty Queen Mary for the Gloucestershire Red Cross Appeal.

## **Military**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucester Regiment**

An appeal for the comforts fund made on behalf of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion by Cirencester Chamber of Commerce.

## **Recreation**

Hunting fixtures published.

## **Refugees**

### **Alien Refugees**

Mrs Leonard Jones appeals to all who have cared for the above to communicate full details to the County Coordination Committee as they are liable for internment after a tribunal appearance. Many however are doing vital land work.

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23/9/39

## **Military**

### **National Defence Company [NDC] in action**

“Old Sweats” guard vulnerable points. “Haven’t times changed

Photo of No1 Platoon E Company NDC stationed not far from Cirencester

An old sweat from World War 1 compared life in the NDC with his previous experience. Its like living at the Ritz, soft beds, discipline's not to hard. What grub "Bacon, sausages and onion gravy for breakfast". Often grapefruit to start with !!. A fine dinner, cold meat for tea. Four bloomin meals a day and full Army pay. Captain Travis of Winson CO of the platoon visited the Standard as spokesman and explained that the NDC was organised to guard vulnerable points releasing the Territorial Army [TA] for training. There are 16 vulnerable points at present in England. The baby of the platoon is 37 years old, ages of those chosen range from 41 to 55. Younger men not quite up to military standard are also taken. A large number of Military Medals [MM] and D C Ms are to be found in the Company. One example, Sergeant Guthrie joined the Army in 1902 served in the Great War and retired two years ago with a fine army record. When his country's call came he was one of the first to forget private considerations. It was his country that counted. The same applied to many others. The men have excellent quarters. They live like fighting cocks. Anyone wishing to join should report to the Bingham Hall any day between 9am and 9pm.

### **Rationing**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

A E Price of South Cerney appeals for horses to be given more consideration in a time of petrol rationing. The glossy surface of the road from Preston Toll Bar to South Cerney particularly needs sanding once a week, failing other more expensive ways of roughening the surface.

### **Refugees**

#### **Bruderhof**

RCH Arnold of the Bruderhof expresses love and gratitude to the British Nation and Government. He gives a brief history of how the commune in Germany was broken up in 1937 property and land was confiscated and there was expulsion for the German members. He was thankful to the British Government for tolerance not shown by Hitler. In recompense and to show loyalty and the importance of agriculture they have put a further 100 acres under the plough at Ashton Keynes and Oaksey since Autumn of last year. At the same time keeping 100 cows in milk and more than 50 young stock on each farm. Your garden produce is in great demand especially in and around centres such as Bristol where great numbers of evacuee women and children must be fed. If we can assist neighbouring farms we will be glad to do so. We will do what we can for evacuee mothers and children. May we repeat that we entirely disapprove of the ways of the Nazi regime in Germany (which deprived us of our home and property) and that we on the basis of Christian teaching owe allegiance to the Government of Britain to whose people and institutions we feel deeply attached and indebted.

### **ARP /Advice**

#### **Letters to the Editor (Rev SCT)**

#### **Agendum**

Sir – In an air raid the best thing to do is to don a gas mask and sit astride a low wall and fall and lie down on the side the bomb is not falling.

S Claude Tickell Vicar of Latton –cum- Eysey, Cricklade

### **Casualties – Civilian**

#### **Death after listening to the War News - Major Klitz found with head in gas oven.**

#### **Wellesley House Hotel Tragedy**

After listening to the war news Major Reginald William Klitz aged 58 was found dead with his head in the gas oven. Mrs Edith Klitz proprietress of the Welsley House Hotel said her husband listened to the war news at 6pm, got very depressed and went to his room at 10pm. This was not unusual as he often visited his sister. At 7.30am Aeonie Mar Gibson found Major Klitz lying on a camp bed with his head in the gas oven and the room full of gas. Thomas Morley porter at the hotel tried artificial respiration but was unsuccessful. Dr Grove-White examined Major Klitz and said that he had been dead for 6 or 7 hours. The major's son Philip Ashley Klitz said that his father was an electrical engineer and had recently got a new post with Finsbury Borough Council it was postponed due the war conditions. The verdict was suicide while the balance of his mind was disturbed.

## **Propaganda / Rations**

Dogs and cats are strictly rationed in Germany. Their normal meat food is required by humans.

## **Supplies / Rationing**

### **Maximum egg prices fixed by the Ministry of Food**

The maximum prices for eggs have been fixed as follows:

15/6d per 120 eggs specials; 22/- per long 100 and 2/6d per 120 – mediums and pullets respective wholesale and retail prices are 17/- per long 100 and 2/- per dozen

## **Advice**

### **Do's and Don'ts for women**

Don't waste gas or light (same as wasting coal)

Don't wait for rationing to start before getting spare food in.

Don't go out after dark unless you must.

Don't go shopping just before closing time.

Don't spread rumours. It is like letting a car run down hill without any brakes.

Don't worry because you don't know where he is. No news is good news.

Don't let war conditions get you down.

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Do lower gas when saucepans boil.

Do replace emergency food stores if you break into it.

Do write your name and address on you gas mask box.

Do try to keep a cheerful face.

Do remember anything is better than the evil we are fighting against.

Do your best to keep fit and healthy.

Do as you would be done by.

## **Supplies / Agriculture**

### **Aubrey Rees and Sons, Whiteway Works**

#### **Advert**

Includes advice that they will continue to supply paraffin and lubricating oil by our own tanker during the war period. They do not envisage difficulty in supplying for agricultural purposes. Increased storage will ensure prompt delivering.

## **Supplies**

### **Wools**

#### **Advert**

Wools – Knitting is the best pastime for Black-out nights. The best, the cheapest, goes the farthest. Godwins 20 Cricklade Street.

## **ARP / Shopping Hours**

All tobacconists in Cirencester will be closed at 8pm on and after September 16<sup>th</sup> till further notice.

## **Casualties / Assurance**

### **War and Life Insurance**

Death from war injuries on active service or not can be covered by additional premium payments according to the merits of the case. Write, phone or call on E H Morgan FCIB, Corn Hall Chambers Cirencester phone 308

## **Photograph (W D Moss )**

Queen Mary leaving Cirencester Parish Church on Wednesday afternoon with the Duchess of Beaufort and Earl Bathurst.

## **Entertainment**

### **Orders for the Week**

The Corn Hall dance was a success despite early closing 7pm to 10pm the admission charge has been reduced to 1/- because of the latter.

### **ARP**

#### **Casualty Services**

There are a few vacancies for men in the mobile First Aid parties. Courses in First Aid and Anti Gas will be arranged as soon as possible for those who have not already taken them.

Apply Mrs Pardoe First Aid Commandant, Bartonbury.

#### **Medical / Surgical Supplies**

The Surgical Bandage Supply Depot is now open at Stonewalls Victoria Road (by kind permission of Mrs Rankin ) Monday to Friday 2pm to 5pm. All particulars from the Hon Sec Mrs Rycroft, Whiteway Copse, Cirencester tel. 205 or at the Depot on working afternoons. Subscription 1/- per week to help buy materials. All workers welcome.

#### **Medical / Blood Transfusion Service**

##### **SOS**

##### **A Truly National Service**

Centre for Life Donors. Volunteer aged 20 to 60 yrs for blood transfusion may be registered and be tested at Cirencester memorial Hospital. Tuesday 5pm to 7pm Thursday 2pm to 4pm  
1,000s of lives can be saved by giving blood for others.

#### **Rationing / Supplies**

##### **The Cirencester Butcher's Association**

The above Association begs to announce that owing to the rationing system now coming into effect all consignments of meat will have to be paid for on delivery. They are reluctantly forced to make the rule that all purchases other standing monthly customers shall pay cash with order or on delivery.

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 1939.

#### **Trade**

**Advert** (not verbatim)

##### **Leonard Jones**

Sovereigns 36/- Record prices for old gold. Now if ever is time to sell, prices are at their highest ever and you serve not only yourself but your country by collecting and selling oddments.

#### **Trade**

**Advert**

##### **Bailey Bros**

Bailey Brothers are still carrying on at pre war prices. You are advised to buy all your Autumn and Winter needs now. We bought extensively in advance for the coming season and while our present stocks last we shall not advance our prices in any degree. This applies to all departments. Prices are rising from 10 to 25% . When the present stocks are gone who knows?

#### **ARP / Black-out**

##### **British Summer Time**

Summer time is to be extended until the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> November. Stated Sir John Anderson.

#### **Supplies**

##### **Timber Order – Declaration of Stock**

Under the Control of Timber Order of September 2<sup>nd</sup> steps are being taken to prepare a return of stocks of timber in the country in one ownership above the following quantities 100 standard imported hardwood, 5,000 cu ft home grown timbers, 2,000 cu ft plywood. The date for making up stocks 20<sup>th</sup> September 1939.

## **Situations Vacant**

Farm situations vacant 48

Domestic situations vacant 19

## **Trade / ARP**

### **Boulton's Advert**

#### **ARP curtains just arrived**

350 yds only 60 inch black material 2/6d per yard

600 yds only 48inch dark bottle damask only 2/11 ½ per yard Camp beds pillows from 5/6d

3ft mattresses 25/6d 2ft 6 inch 21/9d special sheets good quality cotton 3' x2' 11/9d a pair

twill ditto 3' x 2' 14/11d a pair

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**30/9/39**

## **ARP/ Supplies**

### **Advert**

#### **Bailey Bros**

Includes special lines in gas mask cases all colours 1/0 ¾ d 1/6 ¾ d 2/3 ½ d Take care of your respirator it may have to serve you for years.

## **Agriculture**

The Autumn Show of the Cotswold Farmers and Cirencester and District Gardeners Society is cancelled.

E A Jefferies

## **Agriculture**

Fairford Fat Stock Show (1939) is cancelled owing to war conditions.

## **ARP**

### **CUDC - Meeting**

#### **Will the Mop be Held**

I think the Lord of the Manor would be glad for the Council to control the Market Place said Mr Winstone at the end of the discussion as to whether the Mop should be held this year. Mr R W Ellett said that while Mr Anderson was alive the Council had an arrangement by which they rented the tolls in the Market Place. Now that he was dead the arrangement ceased and he wonders what would happen to the Mop Fair this year. The High Bailiff of the Lord of the Manor would have to be approached though he thought that there was not much point holding mop with the lighting restrictions. Mr Newcombe declared that they should try and purchase the Market Place and he was sure that the offer would be favourably considered by the Lord of the Manor.

## **Evacuation**

### **CUDC - Meeting**

#### **Number of evacuees**

The Clerk said 474 unaccompanied school children in addition to 65 other persons consisting of teachers other helpers and 2 mothers and 5 children have been evacuated to the area. This made a total of 519 evacuees. They expected to receive 500 mothers and children under 5yrs but did not think that they would arrive now. Only 7 had returned home which was a surprisingly low figure compared with certain areas. The Chairman said that the tribunal of which he was a member had sat to consider objections last Friday night and one or two cases had been heard. They would sit again tomorrow. He was sure the Council would endorse his appreciation of the work of Mrs Chester Master, Mrs Hankey and Mrs Gordon Clarke and the lady helpers. Councillor S D French said that £550 had been spent on billeting of the children etc. which would be refunded to the Council.

## **Religion**

### **CUDC - Meeting**

#### **Intercession for Peace**

The question as to whether the Council should parade to church for the special Sunday Service of Intercession for Peace was turned down on the grounds that it was a day of humility and not ostentatious display.

## **Armed Forces**

### **Forces Mail**

#### **Spotlight column**

Spotlight gives advice on how to send a parcel to your relation in the forces. Including; never send bottles, pudding basins, matches or perishable goods.

## **Invasion**

### **Church Bells Silenced**

#### **Spotlight column**

Being a light sleeper Spotlight expresses his gratitude for the fact that the Church bells are silenced for the duration. He lives in Dyer Street!

## **ARP / Black-out / Make Do and Mend**

### **Cirencester WI**

Cirencester WI has decided to change the times of meetings to Thursday afternoon from 2.20pm to 4pm from October 26<sup>th</sup> to fit in with Black-out times. At the meeting a timely talk on wartime knitting was given by Mrs Tait.

## **ARP / Blackout**

### **New instructions to wardens**

Should a warden see an unscreened light in a house or building he will ring the bell and inform the occupier of the fact, requesting him politely to put it out or obscure his light. Should the householder fail to do so he will note the householder's address and ask for his name. He has however no power to insist. He will take no further action but will next morning inform his Section Warden of the occurrence. The Section Warden will either report the matter to the Police or as he thinks best. It is impressed on wardens that they work with, they do not have the powers of the Special Constabulary and although they work with the Police they have no authority to give 'orders'. On no account are they to enter houses while on duty. Air raid wardens who fail to observe these instructions will no longer be retained in the Warden Service. Any householder with a complaint against an air raid warden should communicate with his Section Warden or should he so prefer, direct to the Chief Warden at the Municipal Offices, Cirencester.

F L Pardoe Sub Controller N06 (Cirencester) Area

## **Supplies / Agriculture**

### **Aubrey Rees and Sons, Whiteway Works**

#### **Advert**

Includes advice that they will continue to supply paraffin and lubricating oil by our own tanker during the war period. They do not envisage difficulty in supplying for agricultural purposes. Increased storage will ensure prompt delivering.

## **ARP / Housing**

Messrs Jackson Stops of Cirencester have already compiled inventories and records of conditions of numerous premises taken over by various Authorities or let privately. They are able to undertake any work of this nature at comparatively short notice.

Offices, Old Council Chambers (Castle Street) Cirencester.

## **Trade and Industry**

### **Notice**

Owing to war dislocation of business Duffin and Norris coach builders etc. Ashcroft Road Cirencester are closing down for the duration from September 30<sup>th</sup> 1939. In making this announcement they wish to express their warm appreciation of the great measure of support already extended to them and venture to hope that in happier days those pleasant business relations may be restored. Inquiries etc to 'Dunbar' Chesterton Lane, Cirencester.

## **Business / rationing**

### **Watermoor Garage**

Watermoor Garage, still with a good supply wishes to advise his customers that the only way to get the best out of the petrol ration is to bring their cars and vans in regularly to be serviced and given personal attention by Old Bill still carrying on with a smile.

## **Casualties / Assurance**

### **War and Life Insurance**

#### **Advert**

Death from war injuries on active service or not can be covered by additional premium payments according to the merits of the case. Write, phone or call on E H Morgan FCIB, Corn Hall Chambers Cirencester phone 308

## **Supplies**

### **Wools**

#### **Advert**

Wools – Knitting is the best pastime for Black-out nights. The best, the cheapest, goes the farthest. Godwins 20 Cricklade Street.

## **Agriculture**

### **Advert**

#### **War Poultry**

War! Rear More Poultry! The Nation depends on you for More Eggs! Keep birds fighting Fit! Produce more eggs with Johnson's Tonic. 7 ½ d 1/2d and 5/- Smiths also Huck's Corn Stores Cirencester.

## **Rationing**

### **Motor Insurance**

#### **Advert**

Private motors can be insured at reduced premiums based on petrol allowance. E H Morgan FCIB, Corn Hall Chambers Cirencester phone 308

## **Trade**

### **Advert** (not verbatim)

#### **Leonard Jones**

Sovereigns 36/- Record prices for old gold. Now if ever is time to sell, prices are at their highest ever and you serve not only yourself but your country by collecting and selling oddments.

## **Rationing / Supplies**

### **The Cirencester Butcher's Association**

The above Association begs to announce that owing to the rationing system now coming into effect all consignments of meat will have to be paid for on delivery. They are reluctantly forced to make the rule that all purchases other than standing monthly customers shall be paid cash with order or on delivery.

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 1939.

## **ARP**

### **The Official List of Air Raid Shelters (public)**

Park House Dollar Street,  
The Corn Hall Market Place  
23 Dyer Street (Mr A Ovens)  
33 Dyer Street (Dr Adams)  
'Rathcoole' Victoria Road  
17 Queen Street  
The Maltings Cricklade Street  
Worcester House Chesterton Lane  
Highfield Somerford Road

Information from F L Pardoe

### **BRCS and Order of St John**

#### **Orders for the Week**

BRCS VAD Glos II Church Parade 1<sup>st</sup> October Cirencester Parish Church collection to Lord Mayor's Fund for BRCS and Order of St John. Fall in 3pm at the Barracks. Parade led by Sea Cadet's Band. Dress Ceremonial no medals or badges. Cap covers will not be worn on or after October 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday and Friday First Aid Lectures Congregational School Room Dyer Street at 8pm. G Walker Commandant.

### **Business**

#### **National Deposit Friendly Society**

Because of the closing of the Bingham Library room, contributions will in future be collected at the Methodist School Room on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in the month from 2pm to 4.30pm  
H H Cook Secretary

#### **ARP / Report Centre**

Telephonists are urgently needed at the Report Centre at the Municipal Offices for short spells of daytime telephone duty. Contact Mr J T Evans Coordinating Officer, Municipal Offices Gosditch Street Cirencester. It is desirable that no persons engaged in other ARP work should act as telephonists.

#### **ARP / Black-out**

##### **Church Services and the Black-out**

It being impossible to black out the Parish Church, Evensong to be at 3.30pm instead of 5pm at the Parish Church and Watermoor Church from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October. The time chosen is to keep services between 3.30pm and 4.30pm and to enable the congregation to be home for tea.

### **Business / rationing**

#### **The Cirencester Dairymen**

The Cirencester Dairymen beg to state that owing to business conditions in the present situation from October 1<sup>st</sup> 1939 all milk accounts must be paid weekly with the exception of approved monthly accounts in existence before the above date.

### **Library Services**

#### **Bingham Library**

The lending departments of the Bingham Library will open shortly at 64 Dyer Street, premises known as the Oakley Rooms recently vacated by Dr L E Hughes.

#### **ARP / Rationing / Billeting**

##### **Cirencester Chamber of Commerce**

**Cirencester Chamber of Commerce face up to problems.** Petrol rationing may lead to cooperation. If you meat should be delivered in a furniture van and your fish in a bread van don't be surprised. Cirencester traders wish to cooperate to use the minimum of petrol. A Sub Committee was set up to look into insurance, licences etc. This is an especially useful scheme for village deliveries (one van instead of 4 at a single house) After a spirited debate Leonard Jones said "We have got a new



Chamber of Trade and we are trying to get a little cohesion amongst Cirencester traders yet and its about time some was introduced. Let us all pull together and cooperate in this matter of Black-out closing , even if we never cooperate again.” His remarks were applauded and by 16 votes to 3 it was decided to close at 6pm Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and 7pm Friday and Saturday.

#### **Other business**

The billeting of Civil Servants aroused criticism mainly that only 1 guinea a week was allowed for one man. It was pointed out that they were well paid. Was it fair to expect bed, breakfast and a hot evening meal for that sum. In addition a daily bath is expected. The Chairman observed that a meat tea should be given not a hot meal. He was not sure that the information was correct but he gathered that meat tea would suffice as a Civil Servant most likely got a hot meal at lunch-time. The Chairman announced the opening of a fund to provide social recreational and sporting facilities for local Territorial Army men.

#### **ARP**

##### **Letters to the Editor**

##### **Payments for ARP Services**

G R Rumbol Chairman ARP Committee; F L Pardoe Sub-controller; G M Scrutton Chief Warden Cirencester Rural District; J J Evans ARP Clerk to the Council Coordinating Officer point out that although in some densely populated areas ARP workers are paid for full time employment in the same. In Cirencester and District ARP workers to their credit are all voluntary receiving no payment whatsoever.

#### **ARP**

##### **Letters to the Editor**

##### **Agendum**

The vicar of Latton-cum-Eysey suggests a pretty picture of the inhabitants of the Cotswolds sitting on the walls like Humpty Dumpty ready to fall on the opposite side to the bomb. There is only one very trifling objection to this scheme and that is that no one not even that very knowledgeable man the vicar can possibly tell on which side of the wall the bomb will drop. I should hate to thank that he guessed wrongly and fell on the same side for the gaiety of your columns would be eclipsed if his weekly joke was stilled for ever.

Yours obediently R R Francis Nailsworth

#### **ARP**

##### **Letters to the Editor**

Dear Sir – What should one do where there is no low wall – only hedges of thorn and bramble – not nice to sit on even in a “shelter suit”? And at night will enemy bombs carry red lights to let us know on which side they are falling? Perhaps the vicar of Latton cum Eysey will tell us.

Yours etc – Anxious to oblige.

#### **Refugees / National Service**

##### **Letters to the Editor**

Fritz Kanitz an Austrian Christian refugee from North End Farm Ashton Keynes writes to explain how not all German and Austrian refugees are pacifists like the nearby community. Many like himself have volunteered to fight in the British Forces. Only once had he heard criticism of English fighting while refugees enjoy café areas. He was very gratified for the kindness and generosity.

#### **ARP / Blackout**

##### **Letters to the Editor**

T C Foley Secretary of the Pedestrian Association 3 Tudor Road London EC 4 says that in the interest of safety restricted street lighting times should be brought in. In the first week of the war about 400 people were killed and 3,000 seriously injured compared with 1,316 killed and 3,000 injured in all air raids during the last war.

#### **Religion**

## **Letters to the Editor**

### **Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> Special day of Prayer**

Canon Lewis Westmacot announces that special prayers will be said during normal services as per orders of the Privy Council. Collections all day will be given to the Lord Mayors fund for the BRCS and Order of St John.

## **Evacuation**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Evacuees Gratitude**

Dear Sir – It is a month since the evacuation was so ably carried out. As Head Teacher of 450 children from Barking who are in Cirencester, may I on behalf of Barking Education Authority express gratitude for the cordial welcome given us. Mr Wilkinson, the Town Clerk has smoothed away many problems establishing contact with the right people and being a foster parent to us all. High praise for Mrs Chester Master the officers and workers of the WVS to whom a great debt is owed. The clergy of all denominations have given us a spiritual welcome and practical help in allowing us use of buildings. Reorganising our school unit has been greatly helped by colleagues in the Cirencester Schools. We above all we wish to thank the townsfolk who willingly received our youngsters into their homes. Difficulties and misunderstandings will arise, the surroundings and mode of life being so different this with separation from parents is bound to cause nervous reaction. However with the spirit of goodwill already manifest troubles will be smoothed away. We count it good fortune to be in such a beautiful part of England and as long as it is our resting place we will hope to take part in and contribute to the corporate life of the community.

Your faithfully Frank A Jenks Headmaster, Hilda F Saul Headmistress Bifrons Senior School, L Caswell Headmaster Cambell Junior School

## **National Registration**

### **Letters to the Editor**

Dear Sir – I should like to thank the householders and other persons in my district for the courtesy and consideration shown to me during my recent visit.

J H Merchant, Enumerator OCE/E 1 Tower View Lewis Lane Cirencester, September 28<sup>th</sup> 1939

## **Transport**

Emergency train services published by the GWR give local arrangements.

## **Sport**

### **Cotswold Hunt**

At a meeting of the above committee last Saturday it was decided to consider the landowners, farmers and others and continue hunting on a reduced scale.

## **Situations Vacant**

Agriculture 36

Domestic 28

## **Local Politics / Funding**

### **CRDC Meeting**

At the meeting of the CRDC it was agreed to the apportionment of the Central Authorities Grant, one third to the RDC two thirds to the UDC. The volume of work in the UDC and extra services such as Decontamination and the Control Centre meant that a greater proportion of the funds was needed by the UDC.

## **Supplies / Trade**

### **Advert**

#### **French and Son Remarkable Purchase**

54 inch Superior quality All wool cloth in Navy Saxe Blue and Brown. 4/11d a yard usually 7/11d a yard. This cloth is suitable for coats and skirts and is excellent for light proof curtains. Also in stock

33 inch Heavy Black Sateen on 1 ¾ yds for darkening windows. NB Patterns sent on application.  
Further consignment Gas Mask Waterproof Covers only 1/6d each.

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**7/10/39**

**Casualties / Assurance**

**War and Life Insurance**

**Advert**

Death from war injuries on active service or not can be covered by additional premium payments according to the merits of the case. Write, phone or call on E H Morgan FCIB, Corn Hall Chambers Cirencester phone 308

**Supplies / Furniture**

Advert – Bailey's Fire Side Chairs for Black-out nights from 11/9d to 75/-

**Entertainment**

**Advert**

Comrades of RAFA Dance Church Hall Cricklade Street Friday October 6<sup>th</sup> by kind permission Group Captain D Iron OBE Alec Mattock's Band, 6.30pm – 10pm Admission single 1/- Double 1/6d pay at the door. A Hearty Welcome to All

**Supplies**

**Wools**

**Advert**

Wools – Knitting is the best pastime for Black-out nights. The best, the cheapest, goes the farthest. Godwins 20 Cricklade Street.

**Casualty / Black-out**

**Two Fatal Accidents in the Black-out**

One pedestrian, Sidney Edward Walter Evans was hit by a motorcycle during the Black-out last Sunday near the Red Lion Inn, Poulton. Cyclist Mr Charles Bartlett of Melmore Gardens was thrown from his bicycle by a car driven by Mr Isaac Gough, rabbit trapper of South Cerney. It happened near the junction of Siddington Road and Swindon Road..

**Casualties / Black-out**

**Young Culkerton Man Killed in Black-out Tragedy near Trouble House**

Frederick George Smith was killed by a car while riding his bicycle near Trouble House Inn during the Black-out on Sunday evening.

**Agriculture / Military**

**The Farmers and Soldiers Labour Scheme**

The farmers and soldiers labour scheme is extended until 31<sup>st</sup> December. In addition small numbers of agriculturalists will be released from service for up to 2 months on full Army pay.

**Supplies / Agriculture**

**Aubrey Rees and Sons, Whiteway Works**

**Advert**

Includes advice that they will continue to supply paraffin and lubricating oil by our own tanker during the war period. They do not envisage difficulty in supplying for agricultural purposes. Increased storage will ensure prompt delivering.

**Requisitions / Library**

**Notice**

### **The Bingham Public Library**

The lending department will open on Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup> in temporary premises at 64 Dyer Street. Please note the revised hours. 10am to 1pm, 2pm to 7pm. Wednesdays 10am to 1pm

### **Rationing**

#### **Motor Insurance**

##### **Advert**

Private motors can be insured at reduced premiums based on petrol allowance.  
E H Morgan FCIB, Corn Hall Chambers Cirencester phone 308

### **Agriculture**

#### **Advert**

##### **War Poultry**

War! Rear More Poultry! The Nation depends on you for More Eggs! Keep birds fighting Fit! Produce more eggs with Johnson's Tonic. 7 ½ d 1/2d and 5/- Smiths also Huck's Corn Stores Cirencester.

### **Situations Vacant**

Farm situations vacant 29

Domestic situations vacant 24

### **Situations Wanted**

Colonel Pardoe wishes to recommend his groom age 28, has thorough knowledge of stable management, good horseman; leaving owing to war – Apply V Ridley Bartonbury Cirencester.

### **Agriculture**

#### **Notes**

##### **Honey Production in Wartime**

Beekeeping has an important part to play in the war. Honey is more than a substitute for sugar, it is a complete food in itself. (Herbert Mace's Farmer and Stockbreeder article) It goes on to give advice on feeding stock.

### **Orders for the Week**

#### **Postal Services**

Owing to war conditions the town's 2pm postal collections will cease from Saturday. Notices are being displayed on restriction to rural services as from Monday next. The second delivery at 10.30am will be restricted to businesses in the centre of town.

### **ARP / Medical**

#### **Advert**

##### **O for the Eyes of a Cat**

The end of Summer time has been delayed but the Black-out has not been robbed of its stress and strain on the eyes. An authority on the care of eyesight has just issued the advice that all over 40 should have their eyes tested. The opticians in Cirencester are happy to oblige. Mr Frank Steel FBOA Dollar Street, Mr Leonard Jones FBOA West Market Place.

### **Medical / Military**

#### **Surgical Bandaging Depot**

Owing to unforeseen circumstances the Surgical Bandaging Depot has now moved to Dollar House, Dollar Street Cirencester, by kind permission of Sir William and Lady Marris. It will open from Monday to Friday from 2pm to 5pm commencing Monday October 9<sup>th</sup>. All particulars from Hon Sec Mrs Rycroft, Whiteway Copse, Tel Cirencester 205 or at the Depot on Monday to Friday. All workers welcomed Subs 1/- per week to help buy materials.

**National Service / Registration / Trade  
Advert  
Identity Discs**

Illustration of bracelet with inscription     John Norris  
3 King Street  
Cirencester  
8135729

You have completed your Registration Form, you will receive a number and now is the time to buy your Identity Disc. In silver from 6/- Gold from 21/- wristlets and other forms .  
Leonard W Jones Jeweller Tel Cirencester 171  
We are still paying 36/- for sovereigns and best prices for gold.

**ARP / Business / Black-out  
Advert**

**W Dennis Moss Photographer**

Owing to lighting restrictions it will be necessary to photograph all clients in the daylight hours. It would be helpful for those requiring portraits for Christmas would make appointments as early as possible to enable me to fit them in the limited time of available daylight.  
Gainsborough House, Cirencester Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 1939 Tel Cirencester 69

**National Service / Military / Propaganda  
Progress of the War** (Not complete)

Under a proclamation of the King on Sunday all male British Subjects who attain the age of 20 but not 22 are liable for call up for service in the armed forces of the Crown. The food situation in Germany is deteriorating.

**Business / Evacuation / Rationing  
Advert**

**War Winter and Washday**

Dark days and damp too – more people in the house and likely to stay – what a prospect ! Yet why worry ? Your Laundry will take this off your hands saving to time – work – health – and in the end money. For the convenience of our Clients we are opening next Monday a central depot at 26 Castle Street where articles may be left and collected. Rationing of petrol prevents our van skipping around as much as it did – otherwise with us it is business as usual.  
Cirencester Laundry the Laundry you can trust.

**ARP**

**Messenger Service**

Instructions have been received on the restructuring of the Messenger Service made necessary by the Government decision that boys under 16 yrs may not take part. The service in Cirencester is being reformed from boys 16 to 18 yrs. Those willing to serve will fill in an enrolment form when they will be covered by insurance in case of injury as in all ARP Services. Anyone wishing to enrol apply to Mr Belcher, Lloyds Bank, Castle Street or Mr J T Evans Council Chambers, Gosditch. The Sub controller would like to thank all those who formerly made up the Service especially those under 16 whose service was beyond praise during the first weeks of the war and was of the greatest assistance in time of emergency. He hoped they would re enrol when old enough to bring the service up to the former numbers and efficiency.  
F L Pardoe Sub controller

**Rationing / Trade  
CRDC**

**Food Control Committee - Important Notice – Licensing of Retailers**

Retailers of the following foods are notified that the Provision of Foods Committee (Local Distribution) Order 1939 makes it necessary for every retailer of foodstuffs to be licensed by the Food Control Committee in the area where the business premises are situated. The Order becomes effective Monday next 9<sup>th</sup> October and applications should be made to me on or before that date. Bacon Biscuits Bread Breakfast Cereal Butter cakes Cheese Chocolate and Sugar Confectionary Cocoa Coffee Compound Lard Cream ( fresh or preserved ) Edible and Cooking Fats Eggs Fish ( wet or dry or in cans glasses etc) Fruit (fresh dried preserved canned or bottled) Flour Ham Honey Jam Lard Margarine Meat (including cooked meats canned and preserved meats and meat pies) Milk (fresh canned or dried) Potatoes Poultry Game and Rabbits Rice Sausages Sugar Syrup Tea Vegetables (fresh canned or dried) For every branch establishment a separate application must be made by the manager of the branch or by the head of the business to the Local Food Office of the district in which the branch is situated.

Meat – Licensing of Butchers and other retailers of meat. All butchers and retailers of meat of any kind whose businesses are situated in the Cirencester Rural District must apply to the Local Food Control Committee for a license. Retailers of Butcher's meat must make their application on form AL2 and all retailers of other meats i.e. bacon, ham sausages cooked meats and poultry and game (including birds of all kinds) must apply on form AL1. In the event of a butcher being a retailer of other meats also he must apply on both forms. On the back of these forms a return must be made of any stocks of meat in hand at the date of application.

The Food Control Committee (Enforcement) Order 1939 - All retailers of foodstuffs including meat of all kinds are hereby notified that the Food Control Committee is empowered to enforce all Orders made by the Ministry of Food and to prosecute in respect of a breach of these orders

J A Hall Food Control Executive Officer – CRDC Offices 29 Gloucester Street, Cirencester 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939

### **Fund Raising**

#### **BRCS and Order of St John**

##### **Letters to the Editor**

Includes an appeal by the Duke of Beaufort for support of the BRCS and St John's flag day on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Medical / Military**

#### **Central Hospital Supply Service**

F Colchester Wemys Chairman Gloucestershire Joint Committee of St John's and the Red Cross, U Wraxall Registration Officer CHSS and Jessie W Gibbons Hon Sec Glos CHSS explain that the work parties have been set up with a splendid response but owing to lack of supplies coming from H Q there is a hold up.

### **ARP**

#### **Letters to the Editor** (Rev S Claude Teckell)

Sir – I feel sure that anyone astride a low wall would be warned by the wind of the bomb and sense of touch or failing this by a sixth sense (or is it a twenty-sixth?) sense of its whereabouts and so fall to the other side of the wall.

S Claude Teckell Vicar of Latton- cum- Eysey, Cricklade

### **National Service / Women's Land Army [WLA]**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

Allison Morrison Chairman of Gloucestershire Committee of the WLA thanks the Agricultural College and local farmers for the training already given. She points out that a number of girls are now available. Apply to Hon Mrs W S Bathurst, Winterbourne Park, Bristol. They will have had a months training at the Farm Institute Usk, Monmouthshire or Canning in Somerset. Minimum pay is fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the NFU Over 18yrs 28/- a week of 48 hrs 7d extra overtime. Under 18yrs 22/6d a week of 48 hrs 6d overtime When board and lodgings are provided 14/- a week is deducted from over 18yrs 12/6d under 18yrs.

### **ARP / Fire Brigade**

F L Pardoe sets the record straight about Cirencester's Regular and Auxiliary Fire Brigade. In peacetime the Fire Brigade consists of 12 Retained men on a retaining fee of £3 – 35d per year. On the outbreak of war it was augmented by 60 Auxiliary Firemen serving the Rural and Urban Districts without pay. Acting on instructions from the Home Office 4 Retained and 3 Auxiliary were put on a full time basis at £3 per week for 24hr service, These above are the only members of Cirencester Fire Brigade in receipt of payment. The general efficiency of the service as a whole reflects greatest credit both on the men and Chief Officer Mr Fletcher. Acting on further instructions received from the Home Office all services of Retained Firemen and Auxiliaries are to be dispensed with as from 6<sup>th</sup> October.

### **ARP / Trade**

#### **Advert**

#### **French and Son**

French's advert includes Gas Mask waterproof covers Beige 1/0 ¾d usually 1/6d Blue 1/6d usually 2/6d ARP just received 42" Dark Green Brockade 1/11 ¾d yd 48" Dark Green casement Cloth 1/6d yd.

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**14/10/39**

### **ARP / Black-out**

#### **Advert**

#### **Banish Black-out Blues**

#### **Bailey Bros (not complete)**

Bailey's advert includes - Banish Black-out Blues not you blue lamps – keep these by all means but the feeling of blues which comes of such nights as we are now enjoying. Dismal outdoors need not mean dismal indoors which can be as bright as you can make it. These are nights for Fireside Chairs from 11/9d to 75/- Jig Saw Puzzles, Toys Books which will keep kiddies happily occupied.

### **Medical / National Service**

#### **Cirencester memorial Hospital**

#### **Contributors on Active Service**

Contributors on active service will still enjoy full services but there may be a delay for non acute cases. Additional beds have been set up under the Government scheme .

### **Evacuation / WVS**

With the assistance of the masters of schools evacuated to Cirencester we are starting evening clubs for boys and girls over 10yrs of age. We are anxious to open them immediately but the equipment is not yet available. The following are urgently needed – gramophone and records, children's books, periodicals, comics and table tennis. Anyone wishing to help send them to Mrs Chester Master WVS 14 Dollar Street.

### **Recycling**

#### **Waste Paper**

We are urgently asked in the daily press to save waste paper, cardboard etc. but what are we to do with it? In towns of less than 1,000 population it is suggested that the Scouts should collect it. Could they not be organised to do so in Cirencester ?

### **Supplies / Agriculture**

#### **Aubrey Rees and Sons, Whiteway Works**

#### **Advert**

Includes advice that they will continue to supply paraffin and lubricating oil by our own tanker during the war period. They do not envisage difficulty in supplying for agricultural purposes. Increased storage will ensure prompt delivering.

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### **Situations Vacant**

Farm situations vacant 18

Domestic situations vacant 21

### **ARP / Business / Black-out**

#### **Advert**

#### **W Dennis Moss Photographer**

Owing to lighting restrictions it will be necessary to photograph all clients in the daylight hours. It would be helpful for those requiring portraits for Christmas would make appointments as early as possible to enable me to fit them in the limited time of available daylight.

Gainsborough House, Cirencester Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 1939 Tel Cirencester 69

#### **Advert**

#### **War Winter and Washday**

Dark days and damp too – more people in the house and likely to stay – what a prospect ! Yet why worry ? Your Laundry will take this off your hands saving to time – work – health – and in the end money. For the convenience of our Clients we are opening next Monday a central depot at 26 Castle Street where articles may be left and collected. Rationing of petrol prevents our van skipping around as much as it did – otherwise with us it is business as usual.

Cirencester Laundry the Laundry you can trust.

### **Recreation**

#### **Royal Agricultural College Beagles**

The RAC Beagles had good average killings for the time of year having made a start on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Popaganda**

#### **Progress of the War**

Extended article highlights Hitler's unsuccessful peace offer, a new Air Force training scheme and points out that the BEF in France are very optimistic.

### **Supplies**

#### **Lucas Advert**

The Lucas Freelite Wind Generator generating 12 volts £22-10s.

### **Recreation / Evacuation / National Service**

#### **Youth Hostels Open**

Owing to the evacuation, the joining up of Wardens and other reasons a number of Youth Hostels have closed. However amongst those open are Cleeve Hill, Dursley, Mickleton until October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Micheldean, Northleach and Witcombe until November 1<sup>st</sup>. Ashton Keynes (small number of beds available) Members are advised to notify the Wardens of their intended visits from now until Easter owing to the inability to obtain supplies at a moment's notice.

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21/10/39

## **Merchant Navy / Supplies**

### **Cirencester Man's Dramatic Experience – Ship Torpedoed in Mid Ocean – 10 hours in Open Boat**

Seaman Thomas Edward Box of Lewis Lane was a member of the crew of the Lochavon, torpedoed in the Atlantic a fortnight ago. He said that the Lochavon a 9,205 ton merchant vessel was carrying merchandise and passengers and was returning from the West Indies. It was Commodore ship for 5 others and been at sea for 16 days and was due to pick an escort at dawn (about 5.30am). They were in the Atlantic 4 or 500 miles from Plymouth. "At about 4 am I came up on deck and found a heavy swell. It was quite dark. I was only wearing pyjama trousers. I glanced over the port side and saw the dim outline of another vessel which I thought to be in the convoy. Then I made out the conning tower of a U Boat surfaced, probably by mistake, between us and the other boats. I stared at in fascination. Some of the fellows thought it would shell us. It gave us all anxious moments. For what seemed an eternity we watched helplessly as it manoeuvred into position. Suddenly there was an explosion and we were thrown all over the place as the ship shuddered and listed to port. There was no panic. In the engine room they coolly closed down the valves and waited for the order to abandon ship". Mr Box praised everyone for their coolness as they scrambled into their clothes and got to their boat stations. The boats were lowered and we pulled away. The sight of this latest cargo boat heeling crazily on to its side brought a lump to his throat. He pointed out that no lives were lost. Women were huddled in the boats in pyjamas some wearing overcoats over flimsy coverings. It was icy cold with a heavy swell. They then saw the U Boat attack the Bretagne, a helpless French ship. She blew the bridge away and wireless cabin then sent 2 torpedoes through her. Although it was still dark they could just make out the ghastly scene. When they were picked up hours later by a destroyer, there were a number of survivors from the Bretagne on board. Some had their legs blown off and eyes shot out. "We were told some of the passengers, women with children in their arms had been shot down as they climbed into boats".

When a few yards clear of the Lochavon the Captain had held a roll call and found the ship's clerk missing. Back we went to the ship which was in danger of sinking to find the clerk asleep in his bunk unaware of anything having happened. He thought at first they were joking, but seeing the angle of list made full speed for the boats. At dawn a destroyer approached signalling that it was going to chase the U Boat. They afterwards learnt that the battleship was surely a messenger of death for the crew were almost certain that they destroyed the U Boat. Two more journeys were made back to the Lochavon. Her bows were under water and she still listed alarmingly but she had not sunk. When number 2 hold flooded she ceased to sink. 10 hours later she was still in this state and provided there are no gales she may still be in a state to salvage. The second time they went back the wireless operator went aboard to send an SOS that it was freezing cold in the open boats and that there were women exposed to intense cold. He asked for immediate help. The life-boat pulled away for a short distance and when we pulled alongside one more and shouted to the operator our voices sounded very faint with the water bursting over the deck. A volunteer was asked to go aboard to tell the operator to return to the boat. Mr Box went, several comrades asked him to look for the ship's cat of which they were fond. Some others wanted him to fetch their canaries and parrots. He refused this but tried in vain to find the cat. He went to his cabin to try to fetch some belongings, mainly a ring given to him by his parents on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. The cabin was in a mess with clothes strewn over the sloping floor. (others had brought off photographs of mothers or best girls when torpedoed at first) However he found the ring by sliding down the floor then didn't waste time getting back to the boat. One lurch and he might have been trapped in the cabin. A few hours later they were picked up by a destroyer and landed in England. Those needing treatment were taken by ambulance to hospital. He paid tribute to the unselfishness of the battleship's officers and crew who made them comfortable giving them cigarettes and ARP workers who provided clothes and meals when they came ashore. "We met one lady" he said, "who had lost one son on the Royal Oak and one in Couragous. We were proud of the stoic courage with which she bore her loss." Mr Box like all men who go down to the sea in ships, yearns to go and return to his calling. Every Briton has a sailor's blood in his veins – a tradition built up by centuries of glorious sea faring and he who makes the sea his profession can never resist the call to return. Being torpedoed does not even dampen his ardour!

## **Crime / ARP**

### **Cirencester Petty Sessions**

#### **Black-out offences**

Mrs Florence Louise Malpas of Bowling Green Crescent and Mrs Ann Frances Maslin were summoned for showing a light in the Black-out.

PC Jenkins said that on the 25<sup>th</sup> September he saw a light at Mrs Malpas's house 500 yards away. He knocked and the light was extinguished. Mrs Malpas explained that the light was in a young person's room. Sergeant Jocham said that complaints had been received from that area but not that house. The bench imposed a fine of £1. In the case of Mrs Maslin PC Jenkins said that on September 28<sup>th</sup> he was told of the light by a passer by and went to a shed which was used as a private laundry. The shed had got full of steam and the door had been opened for a few minutes to let it out. Witness told her she should have done it before dark, but Mrs Maslin said she had been too busy. A fine of £2 was imposed.

## **WVS / Supplies**

The WVS for Civil Defence in the South West have established a central depot for clothes and material in Bristol.

## **Situations Vacant**

Agricultural situations vacant 7

Domestic situations vacant 19

## **Agriculture**

### **Advert**

#### **War Poultry**

War! Rear More Poultry! The Nation depends on you for More Eggs! Keep birds fighting Fit! Produce more eggs with Johnson's Tonic. 7 ½ d 1/2d and 5/- Smiths, also Huck's Corn Stores, Cirencester.

## **Entertainment / Cinema**

### **Advert**

#### **Regal Cinema**

Regal advert includes Monday Oct 30<sup>th</sup> for 3 days The Year's Greatest Sensation – "I Was a Captive of Nazi Germany. (banned by the censors) Showing Daily 3.55pm 5.40pm and 8.30pm approximately. Also the latest War News.

## **Religion**

In his sermon on Sunday at the Parish Church the Bishop of Gloucester (Dr A C Hadlam) made a dramatic plea for National Sacrifice and 2 minutes silence was held for the dead of HMS Royal Oak.

## **ARP / Black-out**

### **Letter to the Editor**

Mr Douglas Davis of 146 Queensbridge, Dalston London E8 advises cyclist to paint their rear mudguard white as well as having a regulation rear light. The latter could fail due to strain.

## **Salvage / Scouts**

R Hamilton Stubbs the District Commissioner for the Boy Scouts Association, Cirencester District, Marston Hill, Fairford, points out that the Paper Control Board has authorised scouts to collect waste paper. He has instructed local scouts to undertake this but has not publicised it until the system and storage has been worked out. The best system would appear to be that when a person has enough on their premises they notify this to certain scout centres for sorting. The purchasing firm to collect from these centres.

## **YMCA / Forces**

### **Letters to the Editor**

The YMCA announces the setting up of a room for the forces and defence services personnel for reading, writing and rest at the YMCA Park Street. Readers might like to donate furniture, books, periodicals or small donations. An invitation is given to men and youths over 16yrs to visit the premises. Membership is 3/- per ½ Year.

George Winstone President, J T Henderson Chairman, A E Clayfield Hon Sec.

## **Recreation / Military**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Soldiers and Fox Hunting**

Dear Sir- When at Cirencester last week I managed to see both packs of the VWH Cub hunting and was reminded of all the kindness shown to me last season when in hospital. Late as it may be to do so I thought I would like to say thank you. I would express my gratitude to the masters and others who are carrying on a request that when possible the doings of both packs are put in the Wilts and Glos standard so that those of us who are away may keep in touch. It has been my privilege to do various duties for both packs and I shall be eternally grateful for the help and reception generally given to me, but I am going to ask for something more. May I request that as little new wire as possible is put up and that the country is kept in as good a condition as time allows. A strange request at such a time but I know from personal experience how a little care and foresight can save a great deal of trouble in the future. The future will bring its troubles but England without sport is not England at all and the time will come when some may benefit from my request.

Yours Truly Frank Norbury with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, "Somewhere in England"

## **Casualties / Navy**

Edition includes the obituaries of Leading Seaman Edward Benjamin Warriner aged 27 third son of William Warriner of 36 Siddington Road and Ordinary Seaman Geoffrey Ronald (Billie) Pollard younger son of Mr HW Pollard and the late Mrs Pollard, Yew Tree Cottage, Gloucester Road, Stratton.

- (later research shows both died on 14/10/39 when HMS Royal Oak was sunk)

## **Rationing / Supplies**

### **Advert**

#### **Cirencester Garage, Dyer Street**

An important announcement to owners of Vauxhall cars. We have received particulars from the factory of petrol saving adjustments which will give you even greater economy on petrol.

## **Entertainment / Mop Fair/ ARP**

### **Spotlight**

#### **No Mops**

Spotlight note in his column that Mop time has slipped by with unprecedented quietness. There were no roundabouts and coconut shies, no gaiety and laughter in our streets. Some of us perhaps had looked forward to Mop as a pleasant relief from crisis worries but Mr Hitler decided to plunge us into war and so not only upset our normal lives but robbed Cirencester of its Mop as well! In wartime our pleasures are of necessity reduced to a minimum and it is surprising how much enjoyment those men and women engaged in National work get out of life. Hitler made a lot of fuss about his "strength through joy" movement but a friend of mine who saw a "strength through joy" physical training display in Hamburg was impressed by the expression of weariness and boredom on the faces of every participant. The flesh might be willing but the spirit was weak.

Spotlight also bemoans the demise of the Cirencester Skittles League and District Air Rifle League due to light restrictions. He questions why it should happen darts and football still continue.

## **Medical / ARP**

### **Advert for Aspro includes – ARP Worker Helped – Read this:**

1 Kerfield Crescent, Camberwell, London SE5

Dear Sirs – I now take the opportunity of writing and enclosing my photograph to tell you the benefit me and my pals got from your famous Aspro during the crisis. We were amongst the first to answer the call for men and women and started digging on Peckham Rye. None of us had done work of this kind since the last war and being out in all weathers we were naturally stiff and cramped and I soon recommended ASPRO to my friends and they worked like magic and every man was able to carry on and finished up more fit than when we started thanks to ASPRO. I myself served in the Boer War and also in the last campaign and always fly to ASPROs as soon as I feel an effect. I am 54 years of age and feel 10 years younger and would not be without them as they give me renewed energy. You may use this reference and I sincerely hope that everyone that sees it will benefit.

I am Yours faithfully James F Merryweather.

Public Notice – ASPRO prices are not increased. They remain the same as pre war 3d, 6d, 1/6d 2/6d

### **Dig for Victory [DforV] / Gardening**

#### **Don't Dig Your Lawn**

The area of a small lawn will not yield a great increase in produce but cuttings will provide humus during a time when fertilizers are at a premium.

### **Propaganda**

#### **Behind the Siegfried Line – Propaganda column**

Points out German problems : too few officers, too much party homework for soldiers, too many dud shells, Party men get the top jobs, neighbourhood spies etc.

### **Agriculture / Food Production**

#### **Advert**

#### **Rodine**

Another war must be won – Fight Rats - Rodine 7 ½ d and 1/3d

### **Medical**

#### **Advert**

#### **Wartime Living Upsets Your Liver First**

Wake up your liver bile without purgatives and you'll feel grand. The first part of your body to feel the bad effects of wartime worry with poor sleep, irregular meals and nervous tension, is your liver. Your liver should pour 2 pints of bile juice every day into your system. If this bile juice is not flowing freely you can't digest. It just decays in you bowels. You get constipated. You feel stale tired and headachy. Ordinary laxatives help a little but a mere bowel movement can't make you feel fit and able to face things with a smile. What you need are Carters Brand Little Liver Pills – harmless, gentle, yet amazing in making bile flow freely. Next morning you'll wake up feeling fitter than you've done for years. Ask for Carters Little Liver Pills today 1/3d at all chemists.

### **Propaganda**

#### **Progress of the War**

Main points- Hitler still has his problems. German officials were shocked by Chamberlain's "No" to the peace offer. There are problems of feeding and policing Poland. Because of lack of success on land they resorted to the sinking of the Royal Oak. British planes are too fast for us say Germans shot down during the bombing of Scapa Flow. The Iron Duke training ship has been damaged.

### **W I / ARP**

#### **Broadwell and Kencott W I**

The October meeting of the Broadwell and Kencott W I took place in the Carter Institute. The latter is now fitted with dark curtains which allows meetings to be held in the evenings. Arrangements were discussed re sewing, knitting classes to make articles for the BRCS.

### **Supplies / ARP**

#### **Advert**

#### **French and Sons Ltd**

Special offer of Superior Quality Coloured Turkish Towels at pre war prices – 22”x 42” 1/11¼d each  
32”x 60” 3/11½d each 40”x 60” 5/11d each  
ARP – 54” Black American Leather only 1/9¾d per yd; 36”, 48” and 53” Dark green Blind Holland,  
60” Green Lightproof Lancaster Blind 2/6d per yd. 43” and 54” Spring Blind Rollers from 1/3d to  
2/11½d each.

## **Recreation**

### **Cub Hunting**

Cub Hunting Fixtures VWH (Earl Bathurst) Hounds VWH (Cricklade) Hounds Duke of Beaufort  
Hounds Cotswold Hounds Old Berkshire Hounds October 23 to October 28<sup>th</sup>

## **Official Advice / Military / ARP/ Rationing**

### **Wartime Reminders**

Many bridges, factories, tunnels and other points are being guarded day and night by armed sentries.  
All people passing near such places are likely to be challenged and on being ordered to “Halt” they  
should do so immediately. Anyone refusing to do so will run a grave risk.

The Ministry of Home Security announces that those living in Reception Areas where the risks are  
substantially less than in the evacuated areas need **Not** feel under the necessity to carry their gas masks  
always with them.

Your first petrol ration book expires at midnight on October 22<sup>nd</sup>

More letters and parcels than usual have naturally been undelivered since the war began. To ensure  
prompt return when they cannot be delivered the name and address of the sender should be clearly  
written on the back of the envelope.

Electricity rationing – 75% of last year’s consumption - dated from the 1<sup>st</sup> meter reading after 7<sup>th</sup>  
September. Useful hints on how to save electricity have been collected in a special pamphlet prepared  
by the Electrical Association for Women.

Guard your milk bottles. Millions are broken ever year, and it cost a great deal to replace them. It is  
also important to keep the caps on the bottles. Your milkman will collect them once a week.

To ease the delays caused by restricted bus services introduced as a result of petrol rationing the  
Ministry of Transport will allow standing passengers up to one third of the lower deck seating of buses.

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**28/10/39**

## **Supplies / Agriculture**

### **Ministry of Food announcement Control of the Collection and Distribution of Fat Stock for Slaughter.**

All fat stock is to be slaughtered at special centres set up by the Ministry except in sparsely populated  
areas. 12 days notice is required by the District Chairman. Cirencester’s Collecting Centre, E G  
Radway F A I District Chairman, Corn Hall Buildings, Cirencester Tel 37

Parishes attached:

Ampney Crucis, Saint Mary and Saint Peter Aldsworth Baunton Bagendon Barnsley Bibury Coln  
Saint Denis Coates Chalford Daglingworth Duntisbourne Rouse and Abbots Driffield Down Ampney  
Elkstone Edgworth Kemble Maisey Hampton North Cerney Preston Poole Keynes Poulton Rendcomb  
Rodmarton South Cerney Siddington Somerford Keynes Syde Sapperton Thrupp Win Winsonston

## **Casualties / Assurance**

### **War and Life Insurance**

#### **Advert**

Death from war injuries on active service or not can be covered by additional premium payments  
according to the merits of the case. Write, phone or call on E H Morgan FCIB, Corn Hall Chambers  
Cirencester phone 308

## **Supplies**

### **Advert**

### **Wools**

Join the “Knitting Army” Everything you require at Godwin’s “The Old Wool Shop” 20 Cricklade Street Cirencester

## **Business / Military**

### **At the sign of the King’s Head**

Cold lunches served daily in the comfortable Lounge and Saloon Bars ( The residential portion of the hotel has been commandeered by H M Forces )

## **Propaganda / rationing /supplies**

### **Chit Chat Column** (main points only)

Hitler’s Problem - He has to wait for us to do something. His only hope is to break the British blockade by defeating the Royal Navy from the air, his fleet is microscopic.

Defence Organisation - We need Sir John Anderson’s set up but not too many permanent staff who might not be needed and could be involved in other activities.

Controlled Prices – Control of food prices will stop profiteering.

Food Rationing – Our rations are superior to the Germans. The best leaflet raid we could make would be to drop a leaflet on the scale of our rations. U-Boat attack on food convoys however must be kept in mind.

## **Agriculture / Food Production**

### **Advert**

### **Rodine**

Another war must be won – Fight Rats - Rodine 7 ½ d and 1/3d

## **Recreation / Reading Material**

### **New Books**

War Rumours by Reginald Arkell – Satirical look at war

Home Front Series - 6d Series published by the Ministry of Agriculture – First four just published

(1) Vegetable growing and gardens and allotments 48 pages

(2) Fruit and Vegetable Preserving

(3) Poultry keeping on a small scale by W Powell Owen

(4) Rabbit keeping for food by C J Davies

Home Front Series 1 2 3 and 4 Country Life Ltd 6d each

## **Crime / motoring /ARP Black-out**

### **Petty Sessions**

The Hon Pricilla Scott Ellis of 7 Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London was fined £1 for causing an obstruction outside Cirencester Post Office. P C Parker said that on September 15<sup>th</sup> a car parked outside the Post Office was causing an obstruction. The owner returned 1hr 10mins later, during which time a convoy was held up for 15 mins and the officer in charge complained about the obstruction. Mr Strachan appeared for the defendant and apologised for the offence. His client was unable to attend as she was engaged in VAD work.

### **Cyclists fined 5/- for not having rear lamps**

William Vaughan, Dollar Street. Charles Hodd, 8 Cheltenham Road. Rayner Dobson, 10 Whiteway. George Loveday, 14 Tarlton . Clement Pomeroy, “Grovenor” Cotswold Avenue. Charles Jerome, Shawswell Farm. For having brilliant unshaded front in Chedworth fined 5/-. Arthur Bartlett fined 5/- for not having a front or rear light. He said the front one had been stolen in Gloucester. Arthur Turner of South Cerney and Miss Dorothy Jewell of Stratton fine 5/- for a similar offence. Paul William Sylvester Pope of South Cerney fined 10/- for driving a car without a red rear light. He was stopped in Victoria Road by P C Jenkins and said that the new bulb bought for the Black-out had blown. The case was dismissed against William John Ellis for parking in Cirencester Car Park without lights. He thought it was not necessary in the car park and had to pay 4/- costs.

## **Agriculture / Advice**

### **Farming in Wartime**

Three special Growmore leaflets designed to help farmers in wartime produced by the Ministry of Agriculture.

- (1) Substitution of barley, buckwheat and millet for wheat maize and oats if latter become short.
- (2) Ways of getting around potash shortage.
- (3) Cultivation of rye and neglected crops useful as a feeding stuff.

## **Evacuation**

### **Spotlight column**

Spotlight reports that a letter of thanks was received by the CRDC from the London County Council [LCC] regarding the splendid way the evacuee children had been received by the Council, voluntary bodies and house holders.

## **Evacuation**

### **CRDC Meeting**

Dispute with the CUDC over children moved from Somerford Keynes without consulting Mr Fawcett the Billeting Officer. Other happening of similar kind noted when children should have gone to Kemble School but the Headmaster decided that they must go to a Cirencester school. 13 altogether 7 had been given bikes to cycle to Cirencester 6 were to get them. But without consultation they were moved to billets in Cirencester. Mr Fawcett said that the women who had looked after them in Somerford had spent a lot of money on them and could not do it again if others were sent. Why should a Headmaster be allowed to behave in such a high-handed manner. The chairman said it was felt that there were too many boys at Kemble School but saw no reason why these could not cycle to Cirencester, but added that the County Education Committee did not want a flock of children cycling along the roads at the present time. Mrs Fawcett said "We had very exceptional country billets for the boys". The Hon C Biddulph complained about the Urban District Council. Mr T Hill asked "Why can't we prevent them being shifted from Somerford. Chairman Mr Scrutton Said "We couldn't except by force. Mrs E S Bennett suggested that a formal protest should be made to the West Ham Education Authority. After further discussion this was agreed.

Thanks were proposed to the WVS for dealing with ration cards. 18 ladies per day had been busy each week.

## **Supplies / Humour?**

A colour sensitive American lady walked into a Cirencester Wool Shop wishing to do her bit by knitting for the forces. She said "I think I'll have some Navy Blue and knit for the Navy. I can't possibly knit that awful drab stuff for the Army.

## **Agriculture / National Service**

### **Agricultural Labour**

Farm workers over 21 are in reserved occupation, those under are liable to call up.

## **Agriculture**

### **Advert**

### **War Poultry**

War! Rear More Poultry! The Nation depends on you for More Eggs! Keep birds fighting Fit! Produce more eggs with Johnson's Tonic. 7 ½ d 1/2d and 5/- Smiths, also Huck's Corn Stores, Cirencester.

## **Situations Vacant**

Agricultural situations vacant 7

Domestic situations vacant 16

## **Propaganda**

### **Progress of the War**

The weather is causing problems for the inadequately clothed German Troops. More sinking of Merchant ships but no great tonnage lost. U-boat wreckage found off the Goodwins.

### **Recreation / Military**

Rev J R Lowe who in normal times is Vicar of Hatherop and Quenington appeals for books on behalf of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars with whom he is now serving.

### **Agriculture / Supplies**

#### **Advert in letter form**

#### **Aubrey Rees – Whiteway Works - Cirencester**

During the first few weeks of the National emergency a certain amount of delay was experienced in obtaining supplies of new machinery to meet unprecedented demands. We are now pleased to inform you that deliveries are now very much easier and should you be considering new machinery of any kind especially for Spring tillage, sowing, grassland preparation, haymaking and harvesting, now is the time to place your enquiries to be sure of obtaining deliveries. Another important point to consider now is the overhaul of your existing machinery. Should the war last any length of time, delay may be experienced in securing spare parts at short notice. May we therefore advise you to have all your machinery overhauled during the next few months and not wait, as is generally the case, until you want to use a particular machine. It will give us time to get parts and above all to have your machines ready for use when required. We regret our system of giving firm estimates must now cease as spare parts are liable to further increases without notice. It is our desire to give you the best of service and we hope you will help us by having overhauls and repairs executed early.

Always at your service – we are- Yours Faithfully – Aubrey Rees and Sons

### **Transport / Trade**

The severe curtailment of Bus and train Services requires the standard to go to press earlier to get the paper out to customers. Copy for advertisers and correspondence to be in before Thursday Midday.

### **ARP/ Black-out / Religion**

Cirencester Methodist Church Annual Autumn Sale is reduced in size and time and the day altered to accommodate wartime lighting restrictions.

### **BRCS**

#### **Orders for the Week**

#### **BRCS Glos.II**

First Aid exam on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 1939 at 7.pm in the Congregational School Room. Public duties as rostered. Expired uniform permits and Mobile and Immobile badges to be sent to the Hon Sec. Anti-Gas lectures commence on Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm in the Congregational School Room.

### **Recreation**

#### **Fireworks**

#### **Avert**

The public are allowed to use indoor displays by Home Office permission. Get your indoor fireworks at Curry's Ltd where there are large stocks.

Curry's Ltd – 38 Market Place, Cirencester

### **Navy**

Saved from Lochavon

Mr Box was inadvertently described as seaman whereas he holds the position of Engineering Officer.

### **Crime / ARP Black-out**

#### **You Have Been Warned**

The following stern warning was addressed to local cyclists at Cirencester Police Court by Chairman Captain Foyle Fawcett. So many cyclists have been brought before us for riding without a red rear light that we shall not continue to be as lenient as we have been in the past. I say that so that people



may know that we intend to take a more serious view of this class of offence. Until now fines of 5? have been imposed.

### **Entertainment**

The general opening of cinemas on Sundays is being considered by the Home Secretary.

### **ARP**

The compulsory use by motorists of the new official masks for headlamps will not be enforced for at least a fortnight. The use of a hand-bell to indicate "All Clear" after an air raid warning is to be discontinued unless preceded by a gas-warning rattle.

### **Salvage**

#### **Waste Paper Collection by Boy Scouts – Plan for Cirencester and Fairford District**

Following recent letters to our columns re waste paper collection by the Boy Scouts for the Paper Control Board. The following is issued by Major R Hamilton Stubber, District Commissioner of the Boy Scouts Association now invites the public of Cirencester and Fairford to collect paper of all kinds on their own premises. When sufficient is collected notify one of the Scouts on the list below. Scouts will be sent to collect for sorting and packing by merchants. Any difficulties contact Major R Hamilton Stubber, Marston Hill, Fairford. Thursdays and Saturdays are the best days for collection. List. Mr Norris 26 Lewis Lane; Mr Lock 41 Victoria Road; Mr Mourby 4 Overhill Road; Mr Stait "Eldrich" South Cerney; Mr Smith School House Kemble; Miss Marriott Orchard House South Cerney; Rev H G Maycock The Rectory Coates; Rev P Cowen The Rectory Ampney St Peter.

Fairford

Mr E A Smith Milton Street Fairford; Mr G Peachey "Chedworth" 1 Courts Close Fairford; Mr A T Cook Calcott Fossebridge; Miss Arkell Great Farm Welford; Mr Fawkes Riverside Lechlade; Mr A Puffett Hatherop or Major Stubber.

### **Religion / Fund Raising**

The public appeal on behalf of Clergy widows has been postponed until "sometime after the war" half a million pounds would be required. So far only £41,000 has been received but churches will continue the arrangements to give one collection to the fund during the present year.

### **ARP / Remuneration/ Ambulance / Fire Brigade**

#### **Cirencester UDC meeting**

Mr Winstone countered rumours that ARP officials received vast payments. Allegations that the Food Controller got £257 plus salary were denied. Not a single council official receives payment for ARP, neither the Clerk, the Surveyor nor staff. They work 12 to 13hrs a day. It is hard and ungenerous that people should verify statements about wages before broadcasting them. The Food Controller was a skilled ex Civil Servant employed by the CUDC on Ministry orders at a salary of £200 per annum. He and Mr Tovey praised the Wardens, Mrs Chester Master and the Evacuees Committee and workers. The Surveyor is Fuel Controller and receives no extra pay. Mr Tovey paid tribute to Miss Bishop who put in as much as 15hrs work a day without remuneration. Mr Winstone spoke again saying he wanted to include in the vote of thanks the ladies who made out the ration cards.

There were some problems in obtaining a new Morris ambulance, there are non available at the present. A new enlarge Fire Brigade Committee was proposed and passed to include the oversight of the new peace time and now wartime brigade at Fairford.

### **Evacuation**

#### **West Ham Boys Removed from Billets - Somerford Keynes Wants them Back**

#### **Complaints of Arbitrary Action**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

Dear Sir – It might interest the Billeting officer of our local villages and those in villages who have kindly received evacuated children to hear what has happened to the evacuee boys from Russell School, West Ham billeted in Somerford Keynes. They arrived on September 1<sup>st</sup> with a master and his wife – Master 1 and his wife. Everything went well all the boys were very nice, got into no mischief – no

damage was done – anywhere – and helped by the master and his wife there was no bother in Somerford Keynes. In fact it seemed too good to be true – and so it proved – that such ideal conditions should last. The billets in which the boys were placed became second homes to them and parents came to visit them and were put up and fed by the kind people who had the boys. Suddenly at the end of five weeks the Master No 1 and his wife were taken away at a moments notice, and master No 2 and his wife came to the village ordered by the Headmaster of Russell School to take the billets of master No 1 and his wife. Rumours started that the boys were to be sent to Cirencester in place of going to Kemble School. By this time 7 of the boys had bicycles to save them walking to school and the 6 boys without bicycles were getting them. The only boy who could not cycle was learning so that all the boys could cycle to Cirencester. On October 18<sup>th</sup> the order came that the boys were to go to new billets in Cirencester on October 20<sup>th</sup> - this in spite of the fact that all their parents wished them to stay in Somerford Keynes and cycle into Cirencester to school. As all our senior school children girls as well as boys cycle from the age of 11yrs there was no reason why the West Ham boys should not do the same especially as none of them was under 12yrs. Now is it right in wartime for a Headmaster to act in such a high handed and inconsiderate manner? Surely the feelings of parents in West Ham who had wisely allowed their boys to be evacuated should be considered especially in view of the fact that 60% of West Ham children have not been evacuated. What about the feelings of the Somerford Keynes women who have so generously done their best since September 1<sup>st</sup> for these boys? They feel their parish has been insulted and all their kindnesses to the boys are thrown in their faces by this sudden removal of “our boys” as they call them. There has been no such removal of Russel School children from any village but Somerford Keynes. I can give instances of the overwhelming generosity of these village women. A boy who was given sixpence weekly so that he would not be without pocket money. Another gave up her day’s outing so that the parents could be looked after and fed when they visited their boys and so on. Six of the boys were on farms where they were learning the joys of the country life and work - rabbiting when the corn was cut – visiting the blacksmith to watch him at work – getting their share of apples when the fruit was picked. In fact these boys had the chance of their lifetime to become countrymen if they had not been removed in this heartless manner to Cirencester. As one boy said sadly when he heard that they were to go to Cirencester “ it seems to me that if boys of a central school and their parents can be treated in this heartless fashion by the Headmaster of a central school it is about time that the LCC told that school master that the methods of Hitler cannot be allowed in this country”. It is rather ironic that this week the Rural area received the thanks of the LCC for the kind welcome the Rural gave the evacuee children and here we have a man who receives his salary from the LCC destroying the good feeling in a village by his arbitrary removal of West Ham boys from the village when he had no valid reason for so doing. In the name of these boys and the parents and the Somerford Keynes women I ask that these boys be sent back to Somerford Keynes.

Yours Truly Isa W Fawcett Rural District Councillor, Somerford Keynes Manor, Cirencester. Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> 1939.

### **National Service / Civil Service / Billeting**

#### **Civil Servants Express dissatisfaction**

#### **West Country Meeting Wants Better Billeting**

Resolutions calling for improvement in the conditions of those Civil Servants evacuated to the country were moved and passed at a meeting held in a West Country town on Sunday. Mr J T J Leonard, Branch Secretary of the CSCA insisted on no diminishing of standards of living (part report only)

### **Postal Services**

The Controller of Postal and Telegraph desires to give notice that correspondence with persons residing in enemy territory is not permitted by law whether conducted directly or through an intermediary. It may be possible in due course to arrange such correspondence in approved cases through an officially licensed intermediary. If so public notice will be given in the press.

### **Military Welfare**

#### **Points Worth Knowing**

#### **Letters from the Front**

Relatives and friends of soldiers and airmen serving abroad should not be worried if they do receive letters from them. Everything possible is being done to avoid delays in transmission but in the early stages of the war it is not possible to ensure speedy and regular delivery.

### **Fags for the Forces**

If you want to send cigarettes to friends in the Forces it is best to have them sent in bulk to a particular unit of Navy, Army or RAF. Thus you can collect £3 and send it overseas to the Overseas League Tobacco Fund St James's S W1. they will forward 3,000 cigarettes to the unit named by you. By this means you buy your cigarettes duty free at a rate of 50 a shilling!

### **ARP**

#### **Grants for Shelters**

Occupiers of factory premises and owners of commercial buildings who have provided air raid shelters should apply for the appropriate forms for a government grant. Forms are available the district factory inspector or in the case of commercial buildings from the local authority. Employers of less than 50 employees who have provided a shelter can apply on special forms obtainable from the ARP Department Cleland House Page Street London SW1.

### **ARP**

#### **Dogs in Air Raids**

Dog lovers are urged to offer refuge in their own shelters to owners and their dogs who may be in the street when the Siren sounds. Those offering such a welcome may obtain a notice to post up on application to the National Canine Defence League, Victoria Station House SW1 (enclose postage)

### **BRCS / Fund Raising**

The BRCS Street Collection in Cirencester Petty Sessions District on October 10<sup>th</sup> raised £250 –10s- 6d. Cirencester itself raised £112-10s-4d

### **Evacuation / Food Production**

#### **Home Affairs in Parliament – More Evacuation – Notes by Sir Percy Heard MP**

Under a second scheme between 30,000 and 40,000 are on the register for evacuation but the total is likely to be smaller. Only unaccompanied children. Billeting allowance is sufficient but supplies of blankets will be available to local authorities to help where necessary.

Pigs and poultry

Thanks to British convoys supplies of Danish bacon are increasing but home production is to be encouraged. Local authorities will be requested to suspend for the duration restrictions imposed on keeping pigs and poultry by tenants. It has been stressed to the authorities in big cities that no cockrels shall be allowed and houses are to be of an attractive appearance.

### **Propaganda**

#### **Sayings of the Week**

Let's think about the pig as a member of the family again. – John Green

People do not often realise that there were 22,000 soldiers at Waterloo – Clement Davies

The Germans are very nice people so long as they are in a subordinate position. – Lord Londonderry

The tragedy of any dictator is that his entourage steadily and inexorably deteriorates. Sir Neville Henderson.

The plain fact seems to be that our latest fighter planes are definitely better than their German counterparts. – Hon Sir Kingsley Wood

### **Medical / ARP**

#### **Advert**

ARP Instant First Aid for skin injuries. Cuticura brings instant soothing relief to cuts, burns skin lacerations – prevents infection quickly heals at all Chemist's Stores 1/3d and 2/6d a tin.

Cuticura Brand Ointment.

### **Propaganda**

### **More Sayings of the Week**

Surrender to wrongdoing would spell the extinction of all hope – The Prime Minister  
If I hadn't been on fire I could easily have shot down two more. – RAF Pilot

### **W Is in Wartime**

That the work of the W I was of National importance and should continue during the war was emphasised at a conference held in Shire hall Gloucester attended by 100 delegates on Tuesday afternoon.

### **W I News**

Bibury Mrs Hopkins talked on cooking during the last war.

Fairford Miss Bevan headmistress of Princetown LCC school evacuated to Fairford and Lechlade gave a talk on their journey on that memorable Friday from Holburn.

Kemble A member of the ATS gave a talk on a day in the life of the ATS 6.30am to 8.30pm  
Members were encouraged to join the Produce Guild and Mrs Tarrant was voted Produce Secretary. It was decided to hold a collection for the Overseas League Tobacco Fund next month.

### **Requisitions**

The new temporary address of the Bingham Library is 64 Dyer Street.

### **Propaganda**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Hitler's number is up**

Dear Sir- It may be of interest to your readers to study the following calculation and then read Chapter 3 of Revelation noting the last verse. Assume A=100 B =101 C=102 etc thus Hitler's number is 666 because H=107 + I = 108 + T= 119 + L=111 + E= 104 + R= 117 comes to a total of 666. Revelation warns us well against megalomaniacs. The General Epistle of James advises us how to preserve the perfect law of liberty.

Your Truly Gertrude Wood (Mrs H Carrington Wood) Causey Barn Eastleach

### **Recreation / Skittles / ARP (not verbatim)**

It has been decided to run a skeleton league of clubs within Cirencester only, to avoid the Black-out inconvenience of country teams.

Yours Truly Stan Jackson Secretary

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**4/11/39**

### **Supplies**

#### **Advert**

#### **Wools**

Join the "Knitting Army" Everything you require at Godwin's "The Old Wool Shop" 20 Cricklade Street Cirencester

### **Casualties / Assurance**

#### **War and Life Insurance**

#### **Advert**

Death from war injuries on active service or not can be covered by additional premium payments according to the merits of the case. Write, phone or call on E H Morgan FCIB, Corn Hall Chambers Cirencester phone 308

### **Propaganda / rationing**

#### **Chit Chat Column**

The Chit Chat columnist refers to the loss of merchant shipping as 1% of the total. Germany of course has been besieged since the beginning of the war. Delays in supply however justify rationing in

Britain. The Department does not wish to ration everything, as this would give a false impression to the enemy. Germany's claim of 475,000 tons of British Merchant Shipping lost in the first 8 weeks of the war is grossly exaggerated.

### **Supplies / Military**

#### **Advert**

#### **Welcome Gifts for Men on Service**

Pears original transparent soap 4 1/2d. The most popular soap amongst outdoor men. Economical in use outlast two tablets of ordinary soap. Keeps indefinitely and never goes soggy. Jif shaving stick 6d. Gives a quick smooth shave, even in cold water and real after shave comfort. A large stick packed in a convenient holder – top case. Handy for the kit. Pears solid Brilliantine 1/3d. Ideal for all service conditions. Neat handy unbreakable, non-spillable metal case which is easily and safely carried in the kit. Ensures a smart appearance and is good for the hair. Lasts a long time.

#### **Pears Service Kit**

A and F Pears Ltd have designed for the convenience of those who have men-folk serving, a strong postal box containing 2 cakes of Pears soap, 1 tin of solid Brilliantine and 1 Jif shaving stick 2/6d (no charge for the postal box) This box has a label and is packed ready for post. The Pears Pack 'Darts Special' contains in addition to the above, a set of match darts in a handy pocket Morocco style case. Price complete 3/3d. The demand for the special service postal box has been great. If your trader is out of stock, send a post card to A and F Pears Ltd, Iselworth Middx. Giving the name of your usual dealer, we will arrange for him to receive supplies.

### **Military Welfare / YMCA**

Colonel Alford Secretary of the YMCA Appeal spoke to Rotary on the YMCA's roll in providing dry canteens for servicemen.

### **Supplies**

#### **Advert (part of)**

#### **War on Dingy Teeth**

Magnesia Best for Whitening Teeth - Buy a tube today And if you have a relative or friend in the service at home or abroad include a tube of Phillips Dental Magnesia in your next parcel : you will be thanked for this thoughtfulness. Sold everywhere at 6d 10 1/2d and 1/6d a tube.

### **Home Front / Electricity**

#### **Advert**

#### **"Miss Switch Talks to Housewives" – My wartime Job**

It has always been my job to be helpful in the home and if ever was a time when help was needed in the home it is now. Electricity can help you with your housekeeping because it is so clean and cuts down the work in the house. But it does more than that – it helps with economical cooking and washing, easy cleaning, provides hot water and keeps your food fresh and healthful and prevents wastage. Your local Electricity Service Centre will help you to get the most from the electricity you use. By following the suggestions they can make, you will be able to keep your home bright and cheerful inside with electric lights even though the windows are blacked out. The great thing is to look upon the Electricity Service Centre as helpers and to go in and see them if you are in difficulties with any domestic matters where electricity can help. You will always be sure of a welcome. In peace time as you know your Electricity Service Centre was ready to provide various electrical appliances such as cookers, wash boilers, etc. at extremely low special prices spread over a long period. In wartime we very much regret that while in certain cases, extended payments can be arranged, the special offers of payment over a long period must be withdrawn, and, owing to rising costs prices are subject to change without notice. Miss Switch – Wessex Electricity.

### **Morale / Christmas**

Father Christmas will visit evacuated children to a Sussex village this year but not by sleigh. A special motor coach is being chartered by parents who will stock it with presents for their children.

## **Postal Services**

### **Further Curtailment of Postal Services (part)**

Commencing next Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November in the town area the First delivery commences at 7am parcels commence at 10am. Second delivery parcels and letters will be made at 2.15pm

Counter Business – In view of the curtailment of railway services and lighting restrictions the public are strongly advised to post early in the day. The public counter at Cirencester head Post Office will not open till 8.30am and will close at 6.30pm. At other offices hours will be 9am to 6pm.

## **Rationing**

### **First Rationing**

#### **Bacon and Butter Only – Probably Next Month (not verbatim)**

Mr W S Morrison Minister of Food in the House of Commons on Wednesday stated that food rationing is to begin in mid – December will be only butter and bacon. Ration cards are to be issued within the next two weeks they include coupons for foods this will not be operative. The butter and bacon ration will probably be 4oz per person per week, the exact amount depending on supply. The position of other foods was outlined. Sugar – available for months if each person buys only 1lb a week. Meat – Ample supplies in sight. Margarine – manufacture greatly increased since the outbreak of war. Cooking fats - normal supplies.

### **Aubrey Rees – Whiteway Works - Cirencester**

During the first few weeks of the National emergency a certain amount of delay was experienced in obtaining supplies of new machinery to meet unprecedented demands. We are now pleased to inform you that deliveries are now very much easier and should you be considering new machinery of any kind especially for Spring tillage, sowing, grassland preparation, haymaking and harvesting, now is the time to place your enquiries to be sure of obtaining deliveries. Another important point to consider now is the overhaul of your existing machinery. Should the war last any length of time, delay may be experienced in securing spare parts at short notice. May we therefore advise you to have all your machinery overhauled during the next few months and not wait, as is generally the case, until you want to use a particular machine. It will give us time to get parts and above all to have your machines ready for use when required. We regret our system of giving firm estimates must now cease as spare parts are liable to further increases without notice. It is our desire to give you the best of service and we hope you will help us by having overhauls and repairs executed early.

Always at your service – we are- Yours Faithfully – Aubrey Rees and Sons

## **Propaganda /Military**

### **Progress of the War (main points)**

The attack on the Western front has not happened yet. Troops are massed on the Belgium and Dutch frontier. Allied Command is fully prepared with big guns to face an attack. Hitler is waiting for Molotov but no more assistance has been offered. German aircraft were repelled by British fighters over the N E and S E Coasts of England. The RAF carried out the first reconnaissance flight over Southern Germany. A British Steamer and two trawlers have been sunk by U Boats. The German High Command admits the loss of three U Boats but the British Navy have sunk at least 15 probably 20. The French Navy have sunk at least three. British Destroyers were in action on Monday morning with German bombers. There was no damage to the ships.

## **Evacuation / Welfare**

Town children evacuated to Rural Lincolnshire show an average weight gain of 5½ lbs.

## **Propaganda / Religion**

### **Hitler Will Die – says Cotswold Vicar**

Rev M Hay Vicar of Turkdean writes in the East Cotswold Church Monthly. Hitler is a megalomaniac. Sufferers often die after 3 years. It is a coincidence that the British Government has planned for a 3 year's war. Rev Bryn Thomas recommends a halt to bloodshed and wanton waste. Our argument is with Hitler not the German people.

## **Casualties / Black-out**

### **3 Dead in Bus Crash at Latton – Shocking Black-out Tragedy – Side of Workmen’s Special Ripped Out**

The most shocking accident since the Black-out began occurred on the Cricklade Road at Fosse Farm Latton at 6am on Tuesday when a workmen’s bus collided with a lorry and 3 of the passengers were killed and 2 severely injured. The side of the bus was ripped out and wreckage strewn along the road. The dead were Mr David Townsend 24yrs of Swindon, Mr Leslie John Kirk 20yrs and Mr Ivor Frederick Tompkins 25yrs also of Swindon. The bus was taking workers to Brockworth. The driver, Mr Kirk’s brother was unhurt as were the occupants of the lorry which had pulled up at the side of the road.

## **Order for the Week Column**

### **Women’s Detachment BRCS**

November 9<sup>th</sup> First Aid Practice Cirencester Park 5.30pm

### **Bingham Library**

A Reading Room will open at temporary premises at 64 Dyer Street on Monday next. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 1pm and 2.30pm to 7pm Wednesday 10am to 1pm

### **Brotherhood of British Scouts [BBS]**

Football versus Evacuees 1<sup>st</sup> Match BBS lost 6 - 0 2<sup>nd</sup> Match BBS won 3 – 1 Meetings at Congregational School Room Wednesday 6pm Scout Circle Sunday 6pm to 7pm

### **ARP casualty Services First Aid Post**

All volunteers are being provided with an overall. Messrs Clappen and Sons Cricklade Street have kindly offered to take measurements so will all regular women members of the Post please call their (Ladies Department) some time before November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sybil Pardoe 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Commandant.

## **WVS / Evacuation**

### **Cirencester’s Debt to WVS**

#### **Care of Evacuees**

#### **Women Play Their Part** (not verbatim)

Cirencester owes a debt of gratitude to the ladies of the WVS particularly with regard to the evacuation. There are about 600 in Cirencester Section with 150 on active service and the rest on stand by. They are prepared to scrub floors, cook meals and perform night duties at the Memorial Hospital. They will actually do these things when casualties from the front are brought to the Hospital. During the last few weeks they have done an amazing amount of social service especially with the evacuees. There are 38 Welfare Officers to act between the children and foster parents and keep HQ informed. Reports are kept on all children and the tribunal deals with the transfer of billets etc. A Clothing Depot under the auspices of the Personal Service League has been opened. 100 children have been helped with necessities. The generosity of Cirencester people towards this has been tremendous. Those requiring medical treatment receive attention at the Hospital Clinic and there is another clinic for cleaning children’s heads in the Church Hall both inspired by the WVS. Play Centres operate each night Monday to Friday for 10 to 14 year olds. There are 3 Centres ; The Methodist Hall Salvation Army Hall and Watermoor Mission Room. On Sundays a non-denominational Service is held in the Church Hall especially for children of no denomination. A Mending Depot for clothes repairs is open 2 days a week at the Congregational Hall. Mrs Rycroft has organised a Civil Hospital Supply Centre and ladies are constantly busy making bandages. Stratton Section is on its own. Several ladies have knitted enough blankets for each evacuee in Stratton to have one. They also have a Clothes Depot. No 50 Siddington Road is a house for children needing special supervision. It is furnished entirely by 5 volunteers. It houses 5 children at the moment.

## **Propaganda**

### **Behind the Siegfried Line**

Hitler’s Petrol Problem - Germany is only able to import 1/3 of her petrol requirements to carry on the war.

Fish Lidos – All public swimming baths in Germany have been taken over for breeding fish. However sales of swimming costumes have gone up, being used as underwear as they are not rationed.

Two Many – Any German woman having two pairs of Summer shoes will not be allowed a Winter pair. She must convert one by dyeing them and fitting soles and heels.

Nazi Sunday – Elementary training and intensive musketry practice are in future to be carried out on Sunday by all German boys aged 16 and 18 years.

100,000 carrier pigeons are waiting ready for duty on the Maginot Line.

## **Evacuation**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Somerford Keynes Evacuees**

A letter from a parent asks why the CUDC should be blamed. They were only asked to find they are not looking for work. It was just a kindly gesture by teachers working 10 to 12 hours a day to ensure the children's comfort. "As a parent I know quite well I would prefer my child to be billeted in Cirencester rather than having to cycle a 6 or 7 mile journey in all weathers. What a storm in a tea cup.

## **Evacuation**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Somerford Keynes Evacuees**

Councillor Biddulph apologises for what he had said about the CUDC saying that he misunderstood. The West Ham Education Authority had arranged with the CUDC and CRDC separately. Most believed that the transfer would be best for the children but wish that the Somerford Keynes women had been given more notice.

## **ARP / Black-out**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Rev. S Claude Tickell**

Dear Sir – Air raids are likely to run a bad second to Black-outs. Air raids may kill their thousands but the Black-outs are liable to kill their tens of thousands.

## **Air Observation Corps**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Why Not ?**

Dear Sir – Will you grant me a small space in your paper to call attention to the bad management of our local Air Observation Corps. I am given to understand that this costs in the region of £21 per week all done by men in full employment elsewhere. I think it is a shame when this could be done by ex-servicemen who are out of employment locally or from distressed areas.

Your faithfully – Samuel Jobbins Betty's grave, Poulton Glos.

## **Agriculture / Supplies /RSPCA**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Rat Week**

Sir – Rat week begins on Monday November 6<sup>th</sup>. May I appeal to everyone who will be killing rats during that week to do the work humanely. Some people are apt to be callous when destroying vermin. Full particulars and prices of effective and humane rat traps can be obtained from the RSPCA 105 Jermyn Street London SW1 – Fergus Mac Cunn Captain, Chief Secretary.

## **ARP / Censorship**

### **Letters to the Editor**

Two letters on the subject of rumours of payment for ARP work make the main point that less restriction of reporting might reduce rumours and speculation. Correspondents are H J Dike Abbeymead Victoria Road and A Listener.

## **ARP / Black-out / Casualties**



Miss Eunice Daphne Heaven of 9 Oakley Road Cirencester was killed by a cyclist while walking through Aldsworth. She was housekeeper at the Vicarage Aldsworth. Only aged 17 she had been the organist at Aldsworth since the age of 10. The cycle had a correctly obscured head lamp. The collision occurred around a dark bend in the road. The umbrella of Miss Heaven is said to have obscured her vision.

### **Crime / Black-out**

#### **Cirencester Petty Sessions**

Included the following cases : having an unobscured light on 11<sup>th</sup> October. Mrs Helen Milford of Chedworth was fined £1. The light came from a loft and skylight of a garage, but Mrs Milford said the garage light had been used without permission. There was a £2 for Mrs Vera Wotten of Winstone for failing to obscure a light. P C Pittaway said that nine places were shedding light. Mrs Gertie Kathleed Burge of Chesterton was fined £2 for a similar offence. She had been warned the week before. Reginald Luce and Robert Scull of Cirencester were fined 10/- each for having no red rear light on their bicycles.

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**11/11/39**

### **Supplies**

#### **Advert**

#### **Wools**

Join the "Knitting Army" Everything you require at Godwin's "The Old Wool Shop" 20 Cricklade Street Cirencester.

### **Casualties / Assurance**

#### **War and Life Insurance**

#### **Advert**

Death from war injuries on active service or not can be covered by additional premium payments according to the merits of the case. Write, phone or call on E H Morgan FCIB, Corn Hall Chambers Cirencester phone 308.

### **Entertainment**

#### **Life Goes On**

#### **Advert**

"Ciceter Revels" Scout Gang Show, Church Hall admission 2/- , 1/6d, 1/-

Armistice Night Dance – Corn Hall Alec Mattock's Band, dancing 7pm to 11pm licensed bar, admission at the door 1/6d.

### **Welfare**

#### **Cirencester Moral Welfare Association**

The General Meeting Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, Town Hall, Cirencester Parish Church preceded by intercessions in the Church at 11am. Canon Westmacott will conduct same and take the chair.

### **Propaganda / Finance /Black-out**

#### **Chit Chat Column**

Germany's hopeless task – Germany was prepared to attack Poland but has no thorough plans to invade the West. They would need to strike through neutral neighbours. The time is past for the element of surprise to work.

Economic struggle - If blockade is to be the method, Hitler has already lost the initiative. How is he to get petrol. Only 1½ % of our tonnage has been lost while his U-Boat fleets are diminishing and surface ships have short harassed lives.

Food rationing – Is an essential evil.

Evacuation - Is worth it to save the children. It may have some benefit after initial problems by helping with mutual understanding between Town (City) and country dwellers.

War finance - We are fighting on the financial front with tax war loans and salvage together with careful budgeting.

Safety First – While Black-out of large Urban areas is essential we do not want to pay for it by road deaths. Once the Government has decided on the maximum of lighting it is up to pedestrians and motorists to use maximum care with regard to jay-walking and speeding.

### **National Service / Life Boat Service**

During the first two months of the war the Life Boat Service saved an average of seven people per day.

### **Medical**

#### **Advert**

#### **Wartime Living Upsets Your Liver First**

Wake up your liver bile without purgatives and you'll feel grand. The first part of your body to feel the bad effects of wartime worry with poor sleep, irregular meals and nervous tension, is your liver. Your liver should pour 2 pints of bile juice every day into your system. If this bile juice is not flowing freely you can't digest. It just decays in you bowels. You get constipated. You feel stale tired and headachy. Ordinary laxatives help a little but a mere bowel movement can't make you feel fit and able to face things with a smile. What you need are Carters Brand Little Liver Pills – harmless, gentle, yet amazing in making bile flow freely. Next morning you'll wake up feeling fitter than you've done for years. Ask for Carters Little Liver Pills today 1/3d at all chemists.

### **Religion / Pacifism**

#### **Three Clergymen in Pacifist Wrangle – Cirencester Rotary Club, Scene of lively debate. “Will the Crusade against Nazism be effective?”**

Taking part were the Reverend Paul Giddon of King's Weigh House London who spoke on the war not being the answer as it had not succeeded in the 1<sup>st</sup> War. Cannon Westmacott asked what should we have done in the last war. The Reverend E C Wearne of Barnsley said he had been a pacifist lecturing on the side of pacifism but had seen the light since he had come to Cirencester. Mr Gladdon said war was not a way of changing ideals only example could do that. Before we criticise others we ought to make sure that those criticisms cannot be aimed at us. Giving a vote of thanks Mr Warne said they were fighting Nazism not to win a war but to keep the gates of the Kingdom open a little longer. If we wait until the British Empire is perfect nothing will get done.

### **Military / Make Do and Mend**

#### **Advice for Sister Susie**

#### **Comforts for Soldiers – Details and Measurements**

The War Office publish the following list of comforts etc required for issue to soldiers at home and in the British Expeditionary Force [BEF] together with specification of colour shape size etc.

Gloves knitted Colour khaki or near shade width across palm 4 to 4½ inches. Overall length 10½ to 11 ½ inches. Material 3 ply wheeling or double knitting.

Mittens Colour khaki or near shade. Width across palm 4½ to 5 inches. Overall length 9 inches. Length of rib cuff 4 inches. Thumb opening formed by a row of stitching 1 inch deep. Material as above.

Cap Comforters Colour khaki or near shade. Width of body 8½ inches Length 32 inches. Knitted tubular and closed at each end. Material 3ply fingering.

Jerseys Width of body 18 to 20 inches. Length of body 25 to 26 inches. Length of sleeve 22 to 23 inches. Knitted with V- neck. Material 3 or 4 ply wool fingering.

Socks Colour Army grey or khaki (grey preferred) Length of leg 14 to 15 inches. Width 4½ inches knitted with rib to top and plain leg and foot. Material 3ply wheeling or 4 or 5 ply fingering.

Scarves Length 48 inches. Width 9½ inches. Circular neck. Colour khaki or near shade.

### **Army / Recruiting**

#### **Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps**

## **Note**

Recruiting for the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps has only been open for a fortnight but already all training camps are full.

## **Rationing / ARP**

### **Cirencester Spotlight Column**

A petrol station not far from Cirencester carries this sign : Pool Spirit There's nothing like it -- There's nothing else.

A commercial traveller reckoned that Cirencester had the blackest Black-out in the country.

### **Aubrey Rees – Whiteway Works - Cirencester**

During the first few weeks of the National emergency a certain amount of delay was experienced in obtaining supplies of new machinery to meet unprecedented demands. We are now pleased to inform you that deliveries are now very much easier and should you be considering new machinery of any kind especially for Spring tillage, sowing, grassland preparation, haymaking and harvesting, now is the time to place your enquiries to be sure of obtaining deliveries. Another important point to consider now is the overhaul of your existing machinery. Should the war last any length of time, delay may be experienced in securing spare parts at short notice. May we therefore advise you to have all your machinery overhauled during the next few months and not wait, as is generally the case, until you want to use a particular machine. It will give us time to get parts and above all to have your machines ready for use when required. We regret our system of giving firm estimates must now cease, as spare parts are liable to further increases without notice. It is our desire to give you the best of service and we hope you will help us by having overhauls and repairs executed early.

Always at your service – we are- Yours Faithfully – Aubrey Rees and Sons

## **Situations Vacant**

Farm situations vacant 7

Domestic situations vacant 18

## **Rationing**

### **Cirencester Food Rationing**

Most of the residents of Cirencester have received ration books. Work at the Food Control Office in Dyer Street enabled arrangements to be made in good time. Altogether 9,000 forms have been issued for Cirencester whose population has increased due to the evacuation.

## **Shortages / Supplies / Business**

Owing to the paper restrictions during the war it will be necessary for readers to place a definite order in advance with their newsagent for their regular weekly order for the Wilts and Glos Standard.

## **WVS / Evacuation**

We learn that volunteers are urgently needed immediately from 9 am to 11 am each day for housework (not cooking) at the Public Assistance Institution Infirmary Querns Road, where evacuated infirmities are being received. Any person kind enough to offer their services are asked to call at the Abbey Estate Office 14 Dollar Street during office hours Monday Wednesday and Saturday 10am to 1pm Tuesday Thursday and Saturday 2pm to 6pm. Needlewomen are also wanted to work at the Clothes Depot, Querns Lane House on Tuesday and Friday 2pm to 5pm.

## **Propaganda**

### **Progress of the War**

America has lifted the arms embargo. President Roosevelt signed the Neutrality Bill and shipments of war materials to Britain and France began immediately.

The City of Flint, captured by a German Commerce raider, was released by the Norwegian Authorities last Saturday from the Norwegian port where it had been taken.

Russia still persists in neutrality.

Goering threatens a five year war.

The King of Belgium and Queen of the Netherlands issued an appeal for peace. With the worry of German troops active on the Dutch border. The U-Boat menace is in hand September cost Great Britain 37 Merchant ships 115,000 tons October only 19 ships 83,000 tons.

Three German attacks on the Western Front on Wednesday were beaten off with relatively heavy losses. In an air battle on Monday between 27 Germans and 9 French fighters, 9 Germans were shot down and no French. In a brilliant single action at a height of 5 miles over an RAF aerodrome in France, a New Zealand pilot brought down a fast German reconnaissance machine.

## **Military**

### **Advert**

#### **Good News from the Front**

##### **Pears Service Kit**

A and F Pears Ltd have designed for the convenience of those who have men-folk serving, a strong postal box containing 2 cakes of Pears soap, 1 tin of solid Brilliantine and 1 Jif shaving stick 2/6d (no charge for the postal box) This box has a label and is packed ready for post. The Pears Pack 'Darts Special' contains in addition to the above, a set of match darts in a handy pocket Morocco style case. Price complete 3/3d. The demand for the special service postal box has been great. If your trader is out of stock, send a post card to A and F Pears Ltd, Iselworth, Middx. Giving the name of your usual dealer, we will arrange for him to receive supplies.

## **Military Welfare**

A large number of books (pocketable) have been sent to the chaplain of the Gloucestershire Hussars Reverend L P Lowe, including a large quantity from the Duke of Beaufort.

## **Crime / Black-out**

### **Cirencester Petty Sessions**

**Black-out lights:** Harold Price of 7 Apsley Road was fined £1 for having lights from rear windows visible for 300 yards. Neither window had blinds and no one was in. Price said that an electrician had mended a fuse while he was out. He had checked every room before going out. He never used the rooms in which the lights were burning. The landlord of the Bear, John Surridge was fine £1. A light from the lavatory shone out through the saloon bar door to the yard. There was a similar summons and fine for John Henry Merchant of Lewis Lane and Magnum Muirhead Tanner of Edgeworth. Mrs Tanner allowed a light to show said the Special Constable for several nights before it was reported on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. She was fined £2 + 4s 7d the travelling costs of the Special Constable.

**Cyclists and Lights:** The following were fined 10/- for not having rear lights :- Alfred Bert Holcombe of Baunton, Phillis Little of Gloucester Road, Sidney Burge of Mill Lane, Raymond Maurice Scrivens of Perrotts Brook, Robert Burry of Watermoor Road, Ernest Watts of Ermine Place, Sidney Charles Harris of Winstone. Henry Morgan of Chester Street who said that his light had been stolen while he was at the cinema was fined 5/-. Violet Nichols and Betty Baxter of North Cerney, and Frederick Holland of South Cerney were also fined 5/- for no rear light and not properly obscuring the front light. Alfred Weary of Northleach was fined 10/- for not having his front light obscured.

## **Fund Raising / Welfare**

The Lord Mayor's Fund has now reached £631,000 an increase of £9,000

## **Agriculture / Food Production**

Mr Walter Elliott, Minister of Health urges local housing authorities to reconsider restrictions governing the keeping of pigs and poultry.

## **Crime / Food Production**

### **First Case Under the Rabbit Act – Three Defendants at Cirencester**

Mr Isaac Gough of Station Road South Cerney, a rabbit catcher of national fame was one of 3 defendants summoned at Cirencester Police Court on Wednesday under the Rabbit Act 1939 which forbids use of spring traps except set in holes. The other defendants were Roy Gough of South Cerney

and Sydney Evans of Ampney Sheep House. The case was dismissed because the prosecution failed to prove their case.

**Black-out / Medical**  
**Letters to the Editor**  
**Rev S Claude Tickell**  
**The Greater Evil**

Sir – The Black-out is responsible not only for loss of life but sight and nerve.

**Medical**  
**Letters to the Editor**  
**Hospital Supply Service**

Dear Sir – The Central Hospital Supply Service [HSS] or the BRCS and St John's Ambulance is shortly sending us a certain amount of free material to be distributed to various Hospital Supply Depots and Working Parties in the County. Owing to many and varied claims on Red Cross funds the HSS realises it will be very dependant on gifts from those working parties able to raise funds as in the last war, to help raise the large stocks which will undoubtedly be needed in future. Gifts of surgical supplies, woollies, socks, pyjamas and slippers are all needed. Not only for service hospitals but for sick soldiers from troops training in the county. Gifts can be sent to the County Depot of the CHSS 32 Market Place Cirencester or Cheltenham and Rural District to British Legion HQ 118 Bath Road Cheltenham.

Yours Faithfully – C D Allen County Director of the Red Cross – Dorothy B Faber Lady County Superintendent of St John's Ambulance – F M Sleeman St John's Representative CHSS for Gloucestershire

**Propaganda**  
**Letters to the Editor**  
**Hitler's Number Up**

Sir – Through the publication of my letter as above I have received from your readers questions as follows. Why assume A=100. An explanation is : The Kaiser and Hitler are one in their lust for power both are megalomaniacs. If the following calculation sent to me from Scotland foretells Hitlers fate then we can base the rest on happenings of 100 years.

	Kaiser	Hitler
Born	1859	1889
Came to power	1888	1933
Ruled Germany	30	6
Age at abdication	59	50
Total	2 ) <u>3836</u>	2 ) <u>3878</u>
	1918	1939

Divide these numbers by 2 because there are two of them and we have the downfall of the Kaiser 1918 ditto Hitler 1939. Napoleon wished also to conquer Europe for his own glory. In 1812 he was leading his army which was his first step to downfall. The Kaiser reigned for only 3 years after his march into Austria. Verse 5 of Chapter 13 of Revelation and power was given unto him to continue 40 and 2 months. In 1815 Napoleon fell at Waterloo for in that year the British went to the rescue of the smaller nations just as she is doing now. The answer therefore can be A is 100 years lapsed between the downfall of Napoleon and the march of the German troops which led to the Kaiser's downfall and as Hitler is simply another edition of a man like the Kaiser and both selfishly ambitious like napoleon we can assume that A=100

Your Faithfully – Gertrude Wood (Mrs H Carrington Wood) Causey Barn Eastleach

**Air Observation Corps**  
**Letters to the Editor**  
**Poulton Observation Post**

Dear –Sir I feel a reply is necessary to Mr Sam Jobbin’s letter in your issue of last week. I fear that he like many others has written without first considering his subject matter. The points he fails to consider in his letter are these:

- (a) Most of the members of the post were volunteers 18 months ago turning out in their spare time to learn the job.
- (b) Many are members of the British Legion.
- (c) The Observation Post he mentions is run like thousands of others in England today under the Air Ministry.

Finally I should like to recommend to Mr Jobbins articles in the Times August 26<sup>th</sup> and Telegraph and Morning Post 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the same time reminding him that originally when the work was unpaid out of the whole of Poulton which he particularly mentions there were forthcoming originally only 4 volunteers who were prepared to give their spare time to learn the job in case their country needed them.

Yours Faithfully J W W Cripps Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 1939

### **Propaganda**

**To the Man who is Serving – The Standard’s Letter from home to those away in H M Forces.**

**Main Points** (not verbatim)

Everything is quiet here. Nights are black as pitch thanks to the ARP Wardens, Special Constables and Police. There have been several convicted fines from 2/6d to £2. The magistrates are fed up with the number of cycling light offenders. Most have been fined 5/- but they warn of stiffer penalties. There is a spirit of unselfishness in the country. The WVS needs special mention doing 101 jobs in the district. They organised the evacuees who were “loaded” into our district. They now watch over the welfare of the evacuees and hosts. They have also opened play centres and a clothing depot. The Vicar of Turkdean reckons that Hitler is a megalomaniac and therefore will only last 3 years. The government is prepared for a 3 year war. Ration Books have been issued. 9,000 forms were issued showing an increase due to the evacuation. The woods have been a blaze of colour this Autumn. “This morning on my way to the office I encountered one of the most peaceful scenes in the world. Huntsmen of the VWH (Earl Bathurst) Hunt were riding along Dyer Street and their coloured riding coats made a delightful picture against the background of grey stone houses. It somehow rendered it difficult to believe that England is at war.

### **Propaganda**

**Sayings of the Week**

Had heir Ribbentrop talked to the people of England on their own doorstep and at the pitheads he would never have written to his leader that we were a weak kneed people who would never defend themselves.  
Mr Hamilton Kerr MP

The only thing that Hitler and a Hindu have in common is vegetarianism but while Hitler is personally a vegetarian he is politically carnivorous.

Lord Samuel

If you are engaged in a war the primary aim is to win it.

Lord Halifax

Eagerly offered and gladly accepted the help we are receiving from the Empire is a splendid example of free cooperation and ungrudging self sacrifice in a noble cause.

The Prime Minister

The merit of Democracy is that its citizens have a sense of responsibility.

Lord De La Warr

### **Rationing / Politics**

**The Common Sense of Rationing** (not verbatim)

The public do not love the idea but will put up with it for butter and bacon. The Labour Party want other things rationed but shortages except for butter and bacon are caused by poor distribution. The Government should concentrate on improving the latter.

### **Rationing**

#### **Advert**

#### **Important - Rationing of Fuel**

The rationing of light and fuel will present a difficult problem to every housewife. Nobody wastes fuel even in the best of times and it will therefore call for careful house management to effect the economies which are now urged by the Government. One way is to cut down the boiling time on washdays. You can do this by using SOAKO short soak method which is quick and safe and efficient. It not only enables you to economise on fuel but also saves a lot of tiresome rubbing and scrubbing. It gets your white things really dazzling. It's wonderful for coloureds, silks and woollens too! You will find that the gentle thoroughness of SOAKO gives splendid results and helps your clothes to give longer wear. In 3½d and 6d cartons. (no increase in prices)

### **Propaganda**

#### **Behind the Siegfried Line** (not verbatim)

Dead End Kids – Convictions for delinquency broke all records in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1939 they were 6 times above the last pre Hitler figure in 1932.

Waiting for the Wind - Germans are to enforce compulsory loans levied on the inhabitants of Bohemia and Moravia

Handkerchiefs Reprieved - Table cloths, pillow cases, and dish cloths are non essentials and housewives are advised to do without them to eke out scanty rations of soap. Handkerchiefs have been given a temporary reprieve.

Police Spy on Food Queues – Police are asked to listen to talk amongst queues to see if English broadcasts to Germany are being passed on.

Clothes Score Sheet Under a new scheme limiting textile purchases to 100 points a year Handkerchiefs = 2 points White collar 3 points A pair of socks 5 points a shirt 20 points a suit 60 points and woollen overcoat 80 points. The purchaser of a shirt and overcoat will have to wait a year before he can buy socks.

### **Recreation**

Hunting goes on as usual with the times published.

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**18/11/39**

### **Supplies**

#### **Advert**

#### **Wools**

Join the "Knitting Army" Everything you require at Godwin's "The Old Wool Shop" 20 Cricklade Street Cirencester.

### **Supplies**

#### **Advert**

#### **Michell's Score Again**

12 dozen Ladies Art Silk Knickers full size and lovely shades Pre-war Value 2/-  
Michell's Castle Street Cirencester

### **Propaganda**

#### **Chit Chat Column**

The King and the president of France like the rulers of Holland want an early end to war but with a proper peace.

The Selection Committee set up to keep a watch on expenditure on the war is a guardian of the Tax Payers. Its primary function is efficiency. Food supplies must be well managed to prevent unnecessary rationing.

### **Military / Welfare**

#### **Letters to the Editor /Christmas**

##### **Appeals**

The Duke of Beaufort appeals on behalf of the serving men of Gloucestershire for funds to supply every serving man with gloves, socks and a jersey before Christmas.

The Duchess of Beaufort appeals on behalf of the Soldiers Sailors and Airman's Families Association [SSAFA] families whose income is much reduced by fathers losing pay by joining the forces are a growing problem. The local Divisional Office is Miss Cambray of 2 Victoria Road.

### **Pacifism**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

A young churchman confesses to being confused by the divergence of opinion shown in the church by the Rotary Debate (reported last week) He says that given the conditions war was inevitable but what is the church now doing to bring peace.

### **ARP / Double Summer Time**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

Mr Marbett says that he will be glad to see an end to Double Summer Time. It is particularly inconvenient if you go to work early in the morning.

### **Rationing / Supplies**

#### **Sacrifice or Grab by A listener**

War can bring out the worst in people. It has been reported that many price increases etc. are created by Food Controllers and Local Authorities. We must do all we can to restore confidence in the organisations and people and stamp out the get and grab policy.

### **Military / Propaganda**

#### **Letter to Serving Men** (main points)

Report on two minutes silence for Remembrance Day. The church parade on Sunday included the British Legion, Old Contemptibles, Sea Cadets, Red Cross, Silver band and the Police. Reverend Toynbee spoke.

### **Military**

#### **Advert**

#### **Good News from the Front**

##### **Pears Service Kit**

A and F Pears Ltd have designed for the convenience of those who have men-folk serving, a strong postal box containing 2 cakes of Pears soap, 1 tin of solid Brilliantine and 1 Jif shaving stick 2/6d (no charge for the postal box) This box has a label and is packed ready for post. The Pears Pack 'Darts Special' contains in addition to the above, a set of match darts in a handy pocket Morocco style case. Price complete 3/3d. The demand for the special service postal box has been great. If your trader is out of stock, send a post card to A and F Pears Ltd, Iselworth, Middx. Giving the name of your usual dealer, we will arrange for him to receive supplies.

### **Propaganda**

#### **Behind the Siegfried Line**

##### **The New Deal was Raw**

Because of abuse by the public of the word ersatz radio announcers point out that the definition of it is to replace by something better or at least as good.

The Fatherland – There have been 38 suicides in 10 days amongst Baltic Germans repatriated to Hitler's Fatherland.



Adults Barred – Only children under 14yrs can buy chocolate in West Germany.

More Protective Custody – More Church valuables have been confiscated for melting down or as Nazis put it removed to a place of safety.

Electric perms – Electric perms for women are now banned throughout Germany.

Phone Calls were Phoney – To stop leakages, phone calls from Berlin to neutral countries are limited to 20 lines under the control of the Gestapo. Calls to be booked one week in advance.

Goebbel's Latest – The Archbishop of Canterbury has proved himself to be the instigator of assassination.

Acorn Coffee – Large quantities of Bulgarian acorns have been bought by Germany for roasting to make ersatz coffee. Real coffee has practically disappeared.

### **ARP / Black-out**

#### **Spotlight Column**

It is not an offence to strike a match to light a cigarette in the street, but if you do it in your house without black-out on the windows you can be prosecuted.

### **Aubrey Rees – Whiteway Works - Cirencester**

During the first few weeks of the National emergency a certain amount of delay was experienced in obtaining supplies of new machinery to meet unprecedented demands. We are now pleased to inform you that deliveries are now very much easier and should you be considering new machinery of any kind especially for Spring tillage, sowing, grassland preparation, haymaking and harvesting, now is the time to place your enquiries to be sure of obtaining deliveries. Another important point to consider now is the overhaul of your existing machinery. Should the war last any length of time, delay may be experienced in securing spare parts at short notice. May we therefore advise you to have all your machinery overhauled during the next few months and not wait, as is generally the case, until you want to use a particular machine. It will give us time to get parts and above all to have your machines ready for use when required. We regret our system of giving firm estimates must now cease as spare parts are liable to further increases without notice. It is our desire to give you the best of service and we hope you will help us by having overhauls and repairs executed early.

Always at your service – we are- Yours Faithfully – Aubrey Rees and Sons

### **Agriculture**

#### **Advert**

#### **War Poultry**

War! Rear More Poultry! The Nation depends on you for More Eggs! Keep birds fighting Fit! Produce more eggs with Johnson's Tonic. 7 ½ d 1/2d and 5/- Smiths, also Huck's Corn Stores, Cirencester.

### **Crime / ARP/ Black-out**

#### **Cirencester Petty Sessions**

#### **More cases of Lighting Offences**

#### **Bikes, Cars and Black-out**

Bikes fines 10/- : Peter Witchard, Barnsley Road Cirencester Albert Henry Bishop, Siddington William Legg, South Cerney Barbara Thornton, Rendcomb John Roland Parker, Cirencester Harold White and Thomas James of Aston Down Frances Douglas Kibble, Cirencester Florence Slade of Yanworth Common was fined 5/- for a similar offence.

Showing a light : John Francis Axis of Cotswold Avenue £1 fine. Frank Roberts 17 Cotswold Avenue £1 fine. Both were brought by PC Parker. Reserve Constable Bunton brought the case against Ivor Webb of Preston. A light could be seen a mile away. Fine £2. PC Parker again with the case against Thomas Pett of 9 Cotswold Avenue who was fined £1. He said that the light was in the early morning when his wife was making breakfast and steam on the window prevented him seeing the screen outside the window which had in fact blown away. The Chairman advised curtains on the inside.

### **BRCS**

#### **Orders for the Week**

Women's First Aid Practice Cirencester Park 5.30pm Men's Anti Gas Lecture Wednesday 8pm G

Walker Commandant.

### **WVS / Evacuation**

We learn that volunteers are urgently needed immediately from 9 am to 11 am each day for housework (not cooking) at the Public Assistance Institution Infirmity Querns Road, where evacuated infirmities are being received. Any person kind enough to offer their services are asked to call at the Abbey Estate Office 14 Dollar Street during office hours Monday Wednesday and Saturday 10am to 1pm Tuesday Thursday and Saturday 2pm to 6pm. Needlewomen are also wanted to work at the Clothes Depot, Querns Lane House on Tuesday and Friday 2pm to 5pm.

### **ARP**

#### **ARP Successes**

The following members of the staff Cirencester Public Assistance Institution have passed their ARP exams : Mr W Copley Master, Mr A E Dixon Assistant, Mrs Dixon Assistant Matron, Sister Fox, Nurses Budge, Shires, Jones, Smith, Mansfield, Mr C S Lake and Mrs Weaver.

### **Military / RAF**

(Photograph)

A young soldier one of the first casualties of the war lays a wreath on the War Memorial.

### **Air Observation Corps**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Poulton Observation Post**

#### **Mr Jobbins replies**

- a) Some of the men who joined the post since the declaration were asked to by their employer.
- b) Many are members of the British Legion? I query this.
- c) If 1000s are run like this why not give the job to ex servicemen who are on the dole? I have failed to find any in Pulton who were originally asked to join. When asked about ARP and the Special Police (unpaid) everyone did.

### **Supplies / Rationing**

#### **War Controls and Concessions**

Article suggests that strict control of food, evacuation, cinemas, petrol, private lighting etc. mean that should the occasion arise concessions can be made.

### **Trade / Christmas**

#### **Bonbons (Christmas Crackers)**

Bonbons decorated with metal soldiers of the allied forces will figure in Christmas festivities at Grosvenor House London.

### **Anti Vivisection**

#### **When Peace Returns – A Chance for an Idealistic Cause**

The Anti Vivisection Society is going to carry on for the duration to maintain the momentum of its cause.

### **Military / Supplies**

#### **Binoculars for the Army**

The King has sent 4 pairs of binoculars to the Ministry Collection to meet. A 100 a day are being sent by the public mostly in good condition. If payment is required the Ministry offers a good price.

### **ARP**

#### **The Care of Your Gas Mask – Keep it Safe and Dry**

The coming of Winter and the wet weather calls for some advice on the care of gas masks to those not in the reception areas who carry their masks with them. It is best to keep it from damage in its cardboard carton. This should be kept waterproof in a waterproof bag, haversack or satchel or obtain a

cover for it of canvas or American cloth such as can be bought or made at home at a trifling cost. If no cover is used the cardboard carton can be strengthened at the bottom joint at the corners and hinges of the lid with adhesive tape. The carrying chord should be threaded outside the bottom of the carton to prevent it slipping loose. In rain the carton should be carried under the coat or mac. Gas masks should not be carried unprotected in soft fabric bags. The face piece is liable to be crushed and the panel easily be crushed and the panel easily cracked making gas masks useless. Round tin carries are not satisfactory if the gas mask can rattle or shake in them or if they are so tight the mask has to be pulled hard to get it out. There are some carriers of this type in which the metal container of the mask is clipped to the lid. These are dangerous because the face piece may be damaged in being pushed first into the tin while if the container is shaken out of its clips it will crush the eye-piece. Whatever form of carrier is used, objects such as purses or powder boxes must not be carried in the same compartment as the gas mask. Workmen employed outdoors are urgently advised to hang their carton or haversack in a dry place and not leave them on the ground. Children had better leave their gas masks at home while out playing as long as they can get home quickly if the air raid warning sounds. Gas masks are Government property there are penalties for damage caused by neglect but what is emphasised is that neglect but what is emphasised is that neglect could cost an individual much more dearly than a fine.

Non waterproof eye black will run when you put a gas mask on making your eyes smart and water until there is a strong temptation to take it off with dangerous results if gas is still in the air.

#### **ARP / Supplies**

##### **Advert**

##### **French and Sons**

The advert includes 48 inch Heavy Lightproof art silk curtain fabric black reverse gold 3/11d per yard.

#### **Food Supplies / Rationing**

##### **Food rationing – To make your wartime shopping easier**

##### **Register with Gillett's**

At Gillett's you get the same cheerful and considerate service whether your requirements are large or small. At Gillett's you will find the largest and most varied stocks of un-rationed groceries and provisions and all at fair and reasonable price. Remember Gillett's have been serving Cirencester and District with groceries for nearly 100 years – Gillett's - Mason and Gillett's Ltd – Where Economy and Quality Combine.

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**25/11/39**

#### **Trade /Supplies**

##### **Cirencester Butcher's Association**

The above beg to announce that owing to the Black-out restrictions members will close their shops at 5pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and 6 pm on Friday and Saturday.

#### **Christmas / Trade**

##### **Cirencester Christmas Market and Show**

Owing to the conditions prevailing the committee have decided not to hold a show this year.

H J L Chambers Hon Sec

#### **Supplies**

##### **Advert**

##### **Wools**

Join the "Knitting Army" Everything you require at Godwin's "The Old Wool Shop" 20 Cricklade Street Cirencester.

#### **Casualties / Assurance**

##### **War and Life Insurance**

## **Advert**

Death from war injuries on active service or not can be covered by additional premium payments according to the merits of the case. Write, phone or call on E H Morgan FCIB, Corn Hall Chambers Cirencester phone 308.

## **Supplies**

### **Advert**

### **Michells**

Ladies and children's coats in great variety. Latest styles and pre war prices. Our values are extraordinary good – Michells Castle Street, Cirencester

## **Propaganda / Rationing / Christmas**

### **Chit Chat Column**

Latest barbarism – Simon Bolivar a merchantman was sunk by a drifting mine laid by Germans. They say Britain did it. Germany is engaged in unrestricted piracy against British and Neutral merchant ships.

Our food supplies – There is no shortage of bacon or butter just fluctuations in supply which can be regulated by rationing.

Christmas as usual – Every effort is being made to preserve Christmas as usual. However parents should not bring evacuated children back for Christmas. It might be very British but not wise to fly in the face of the facts.

## **Recreation**

Fox hunting as usual.

## **Politics**

### **Cirencester Women's Conservative Association**

The Women's Conservative Association chaired by Mrs Berkeley Stephens at the YMCA on Monday decided not to hold any more political meetings as the Labour and Liberals were backing the National Government and unity was important. Whist drives would be organised for the BRCS and Gloucestershire Regiment.

## **Propaganda / Military/ Politics**

### **Cirencester Rotary Club**

Speaking at Cirencester Rotary Club, Professor A Newall an American ventured to suggest that the USA will not fight alongside Britain and France in the struggle for democracy. I believed that Britain was fighting the USA's battle.

## **Rationing**

### **Advert**

### **Important - Rationing of Fuel**

The rationing of light and fuel will present a difficult problem to every housewife. Nobody wastes fuel even in the best of times and it will therefore call for careful house management to effect the economies which are now urged by the Government. One way is to cut down the boiling time on washdays. You can do this by using SOAKO short soak method which is quick and safe and efficient. It not only enables you to economise on fuel but also saves a lot of tiresome rubbing and scrubbing. It gets your white things really dazzling. It's wonderful for coloureds, silks and woollens too! You will find that the gentle thoroughness of SOAKO gives splendid results and helps your clothes to give longer wear. In 3½d and 6d cartons. (no increase in prices)

## **ARP / Blackout**

### **Miss Switch talks to housewives**

### **Good bye Mr Gloom**

We have had enough of war to realise that while wardens insist on our homes showing a gloomy face to the outside world there is nothing on earth to prevent us being gay inside. A gloomy home has a

deadening effect on our spirits and unless we make as bright a show inside as we can we shall be in danger of becoming a nation moles. So let's decide next week-end to make sure that our windows are light proof and then remove those pieces of black cloth from the lights, wash off that cold blue paint, remove those patent light excluders, substitute again the 60 watt bulbs for 25 watt and the 100watt for 60 watt. Remember that your ration allows you to use the same electricity as previously. You'll be surprised how your spirits will rise the more light you uncover and your eyes will thank you too for they have quite a bit of wartime burden to bear.

And just a word to those of you who are shop keepers – now that you're not allowed to display lights in your windows after dark we shoppers welcome extra brightness within, and especially we would like to see in your windows a discreet welcome – something that would satisfy the wardens and would say to us – We're open and its nice and bright inside.

Miss Switch – Wessex Electricity – Wessex Electricity Company and Associated Companies

### **Military / Supplies / Allies**

Australian munitions factories will increase their employees from 8,000 to 12,000. Orders from the British Government total several millions.

### **YMCA / Military**

The YMCA appeals for funds to help their 350 centres. Their special war fund is to bring comfort to all young men in the Services or wearing some badge ARP etc to show that they are war workers.

### **Situations Vacant**

Farm situations vacant 8

Domestic situations vacant 18

### **ARP / Spotlight Column / Propaganda**

#### **Rev S Claude Tickell**

The Standard was mentioned some time last month in "Punch" in connection with the Rev Claude Tickell's short pithy letter which earned him the name 'Prince of Paradox'. His letter about the bombs and the wall created a considerable storm with his simple solution to our ARP problem. Warders and Special Constables who spend their nights in dug outs or patrolling our streets did not approve of such levity. Not content with ARP our vicar has now got his teeth into what he terms Anti-Socials. He recommends that people afflicted with anti sociability should be confined to prison for a short time ... Why?

While the Nazis are discreetly soft pedalling their anti Communist propaganda Stalin has ordered the distribution of a further 600 copies of Professor Memlock, Russia's violently anti Nazi film which has already been successfully shown in almost every country in the world.

Lighting -- Many cyclists have written to say that they cannot get batteries would retailers please let me know of supplies.

In Wednesday's court there was only one case of showing a light. We're getting blacker every day.

### **Evacuation**

#### **Orders for the Week**

#### **National Union of Teachers**

A large number of evacuee teachers from London attended a meeting held at the YMCA. They were welcomed by Mr Perryman. Messrs Cockin, Stockley and Brindly were elected to the committee. Lively discussions on problems of evacuation followed.

### **Military**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Gloucester Hussars appeal for volunteers. Recruiting to take place at the Ormand's Head Hotel Tetbury November 16<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 7pm to 10pm

## **Christmas**

### **Advert**

Christmas Personal Greetings - A large selection available from the Wilts and Glos Standard.

## **Dig for Victory / Shortages**

### **The Allotments Scheme**

To the Allotment Garden Scheme for the unemployed, organised each year by the Society of Friends there has this year been added a section for employed persons as well on slightly different terms. Extreme pressure on our space this week does not permit our giving details of the scheme but we would emphasise the fact that application forms for supplies of seeds, potatoes, fertilizers etc and assisted prices are now available at the Municipal Offices. Such forms should be secured at once as orders have to be sent in to the office named by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Crime / ARP/ Black-out**

### **Cirencester Petty Sessions**

Cyclists summoned and fined 10/- for having no rear light : Charles Evans 7 Berkley Street (Misprint Road?) Cirencester. Albert George Ayling 5 Berkley Street (Misprint Road?) Cirencester. Joseph Lenaghan 46 Melmore Gardens Cirencester. Vincent Webb 16 Park View Stratton. Leslie John Miller 4 Park View Stratton. John Arthur Curran The Hall Siddington. Walter Beman 18 Chester Crescent Cirencester. Charles Reeves of Crudwell fined 10/- for riding without a front white light. William Burns 6 park View and Albert Grey of Preston 12/6d for having no lights at all. Edwin George Johnson 48 Aplesey Road £2 for allowing lights to show from the front and rear of his house. Robert Henry Rimes fined £2 for his car parked with bright lights. Reflectors were not blackened and the glass was not covered.

## **Supplies / Education**

### **Cirencester Librarian's Problem Solved**

#### **300 Books Descend from the Blue**

Since the arrival of a large number of evacuee children the demand on the Juvenile section of the Bingham Library has been vastly increased. Librarian Mr G P Jackson has been faced with a knotty problem of satisfying many critical young readers. This task was rendered particularly difficult as he had insufficient books in the Juvenile section. He wrote to Barking Library asking for juvenile books and on Monday received 300 from that source. These have been put on the shelves of the Juvenile Library and are available to Cirencester Children as well as evacuees. That reading is on the increase among children is shown by the fact that soon after arrival in Cirencester 111 evacuee children registered as readers at the public library. Moreover the number of local young readers has increased also and on Monday more books were issued to children than at any time since the library was opened!

## **Propaganda (Notes only)**

### **Progress of the War**

Western front quiet - German air raids on the British coast repelled. 6 German aircraft were shot down by allied aircraft over French soil on Wednesday with another by French Anti Aircraft fire. The RAF claim 7 German bomber reconnaissance machines shot down over France 4 confirmed by RAF Headquarters. Messages reaching Copenhagen say that drifting mines are to be used by Germany to enforce a continental blockade by damaging British commerce and putting pressure on Neutrals to make them resist the British blockade thus coming under German protection. In the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday Mr Chamberlain announced British reprisals to German mine laying in the North Sea and France has decided to take similar reprisals against Germany's unrestricted warfare at sea.

## **Military / Welfare**

Rev Lowe thanked the public this week for sending so many books and magazines to the Gloucestershire Hussars. He said that still more are needed including cloth bound books which would form the nucleus of a Regimental Library.

## **Christmas / Trade / Supplies/ Evacuation**

### **Advert**

#### **Bailey Brothers**

##### **Bailey Brothers Christmas Bazaar.**

It's "Christmas as usual" at Baileys – only more so. Never were so many Toys and Gifts under one roof in Ciceter as we are showing now. And the Prices? – Well a shilling seems like half a crown at Baileys these days.

**War Visitors to Ciceter** – We cordially invite those who are obliged to spend Christmas away from home to see what Baileys can do. They'll find our prices at London's lowest. There's no rationing or restrictions at Baileys. You can buy to your full content from a stock fairly bewildering and Sir John Simon will be pleased if you tell him what you saved at Bailey Brothers.

**Do Walk Around** – We'd like you to come in any time just to show you what Ciceter really can do. Besides, here we can't tell you half we only suggest that your eyes will shine with delight on Christmas morning when they find the gifts that have come from Baileys where you always find the very thing no matter for whom it is intended. Older eyes will shine too when they see what Sonnie has bought them. How did he manage it? Sonnie won't let on, but they'll guess he went to Baileys.

**Toyland** – is full of surprises, as usual. Toys costing pounds or toys costing pence – and all "sure to please" We have Hornby Trains, Meccano, Triang Wheel Toys, in fact everything the heart of youth can desire.

**Santa is Coming** – on the train arriving at Cirencester Town Station at 2.38pm. The Silver band will meet him and escort him to the Picture House and back to Bailey's where he will ascend to the roof and shower balloons and gifts to the children below on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Agriculture / Pest Control**

### **Advert**

#### **War Against the Invader Goes On**

To stop the spread of disease to prevent the destruction of poultry and crops and damage to property Rats must be kept down. Rodine is the most efficient raticide known – in tins 7½ d and 1/3d from Chemists. Rodine Phosphorous and Red Squill Kills Rats and Mice.

## **Moral Welfare**

### **Naval Officer's Gift to Moral Welfare**

A £1 note was sent from South Africa to Cirencester Association's meeting. Cannon Westmacott announced the above to show how their valuable work was being appreciated. He said that the idea to open a recreation hall was impractical in wartime but there were many recreational activities. He hoped that dances could be arranged each week in Cirencester to keep young men off the streets.

## **Military / Welfare**

### **RAF Comforts Fund**

The RAF Comforts Fund appeals for help in raising money to buy portable radios for camps. A well known manufacturer has promised 1,000 sets at less than cost price. The Fund is anxious to raise £5,000 to take advantage of this.

## **Casualties/ Insurance**

### **Advert**

The Midland Bank Executors and Trustees encourage and point out the wisdom of making a will.

## **Military / Welfare / Mother's Union**

Ashton Keynes Mother's Union had a successful Whist Drive for the troops.

## **Medical**

### **Advert**

#### **Wartime Living Upsets Your Liver First**

Wake up your liver bile without purgatives and you'll feel grand. The first part of your body to feel the bad effects of wartime worry with poor sleep, irregular meals and nervous tension, is your liver. Your

liver should pour 2 pints of bile juice every day into your system. If this bile juice is not flowing freely you can't digest. It just decays in you bowels. You get constipated. You feel stale tired and headachy. Ordinary laxatives help a little but a mere bowel movement can't make you feel fit and able to face things with a smile. What you need are Carters Brand Little Liver Pills – harmless, gentle, yet amazing in making bile flow freely. Next morning you'll wake up feeling fitter than you've done for years. Ask for Carters Little Liver Pills today 1/3d at all chemists.

## **Religion**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **The Church and War**

An Anglican encourages Young Churchmen – Diversity of opinion is natural in this matter. The Anglican Church has diversity of opinion just as any other human agency.

## **Pacifism**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Stop the War Campaign** (not verbatim)

May we enlighten Spotter

- (1) All but a few leaflets were distributed on Saturday afternoon.
- (2) Although we needed to move fast we did stop where needed to discuss with the householders
- (3) The leaflet is issued by the Peace Pledge Union amongst the sponsors are: George Lansbury, Stuart Morris, Vera Britton, Rev Henry Carter, Laurence Houseman, Aldous Huxley, Storm Jameson, J Middleton Murray, Philip Mumford, Max Ploughman, Lord Ponsonby, Canon C E Raven, Bertrand Russell, Alfred Salter, Siegfried Sassoon, Rev Donald Soper.

Considering such leadership and amongst whom are so many of his friends we are confident the leaflet would have received the support of Dick Shephard.

- (4) All the above answer the charge that it is Communist instigated.

R H Rimes S J Hayward

## **Pacifism**

### **Letters to the Editor**

H F Monk hits out at Spotter's Goebbels like taunts and puerile on what he terms friends of the enemy. He also shows a lack of understanding of the reason why democracy is against Nazism, also of the philosophy of Dick Shephard, and writes like the second form school magazine.

## **Pacifism**

### **Letters to the Editor**

Spotter replies by saying he is glad that the Communists are not behind it.

## **Propaganda**

### **Behind the Siegfried Line**

Over 200,000 Polish Prisoners of War [POWs] have been set to forced labour on German farms to meet the urgent need for food production.

Pig Deal Off – A 300,000 pig deal from Yugoslavia has fallen through. Kitchen waste collections have been organised to fatten pigs as an alternative.

Disgruntled Exiles – Germans repatriated from the Baltic complain about paper Marks exchange for land farms, businesses etc.

Forced Loans – Insurance companies with big reserves and holders of big deposits in banks expect to have to contribute to forced loans to prevent shipwreck of the Nazi economy.

New Program - Attacks on Jews have been unequalled since the assassination of Von Rath last year. In one week 22,000 males have been deported to Poland to build barracks, roads and houses devastated by the Germans. They live in concentration camp conditions without hope of release they are allowed to take only 100lb of luggage and 300 Marks.

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2/12/39

### **Christmas / Trade / Supplies/ Evacuation**

#### **Advert**

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#### **Bailey Brothers Christmas Bazaar.**

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### **Trade / Supplies**

#### **Advert**

#### **Mitchells**

Mitchells advertise wool at just above pre war prices they are also "fortunate to be able to offer blankets".

### **Supplies / Food / Agriculture**

#### **Food – Butter**

The South-West Divisional Food Officer draws the attention of farmers who make and sell butter to the necessity of applying to the Local Food Control Office for form "Butter 6"

### **Supplies**

#### **Advert**

#### **Wools**

Join the "Knitting Army" Everything you require at Godwin's "The Old Wool Shop" 20 Cricklade Street Cirencester.

### **National Savings / Fund Raising**

#### **The Nations War Savings Campaign**

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announces the issue of two Gilt Edged Securities at 3%

Defence Bonds – A New investment on sale in £5 denominations. Interest rate 3%: Income tax is not deducted at source. Repayable seven years from the date of purchase at par plus a premium of £1 for each £100 nominal value with interest accrued since the last ½ year's payment. On 6 month notice holders can claim repayment net with the interest due to that date. In cases of urgent need repayment can be within a few days. Holdings are limited to £1,000. On sale at Post Offices and Banks.

New Issue of National Savings Certificates Free of Income tax ----- A certificate costs 15/- and grows in value to 17/6d in £5 years, 20/6d in 10 years. This equal to interest at a rate of £3-3-5 per cent over a 10 year period free of Income Tax. The new certificates are on sale from Banks and Post Offices and from National Savings Groups in single documents representing 1,5,10,25,50 and 100 certificates. No

individual may hold more than 500 certificates including those of earlier issues. Certificates can be cashed in any time with a few days notice with interest accrued. "It is evil things that we shall be fighting against – brute force, bad faith, injustice, oppression and persecution"

The Prime Minister.

Finance is the fourth arm of defence no less important than the other three and if finance fails then the prop that sustains the whole of our war effort will collapse.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer

Lend to defend the right to be free.

### **Propaganda/Politics**

#### **Chit Chat Column**

Chit Chat reflects on the power of the Prime Minister's words recently to impress our allies and even so detached a neutral as the United States. Above all it angers the Nazis. The aim of the speech was to say we had to win the war before by definite aims our peace aims are more vague.

### **Food Supplies / Agriculture**

#### **Chit Chat Column**

The reduction in import volume should not unduly affect consumers. Our poultry industry has 69,000,000 hens, 31,000,000 more than at the beginning of the last war. There were 2,860,000 pigs, there are now 4,390,000. Pig clubs as in the last war are to be revived. Kitchen and waste food collections should be sufficient. This releases meat ships for carrying munitions. There is no doubt that British agriculture will adapt quickly. We need to depend upon horn rather than corn. Ploughing will compliment stock breeding.

### **National savings/Politics**

#### **Chit Chat Column**

There has not been a rush for new savings bonds. But it does show that the Government is not ready yet to bring in compulsory savings. Now that the small saver will have a stake in the country this will discourage people to play with revolutionary schemes such as Marxism.

Argentina's agreement at the time of the Runcimen Treaty to supply food is now showing the importance when other supplies are in difficulty.

### **Military/Welfare**

#### **The Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Comforts for Gloucestershire men**

Following the previous appeal for socks, gloves etc can we point out that 28 units have been formed in Gloucestershire and Bristol :- 7 Divisions of the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve [RNVR] 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, Infantry Training Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Gloucestershire Hussars 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Tank Regiment, 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Tank Regiment, 76<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, 9<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, 85<sup>th</sup> Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, 130<sup>th</sup> Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, 131<sup>st</sup> Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Survey Regiment, 5<sup>th</sup> Survey Regiment, 48<sup>th</sup> South Midlands Division Royal Engineers, 266<sup>th</sup> Company Royal Engineers, 5<sup>th</sup> Anti Aircraft Signals, 66<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, 8<sup>th</sup> Home Defence Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, 915<sup>th</sup> Company Royal Army Service Corps [RASC] 14<sup>th</sup> South Midlands Field Ambulance Royal Army Medical Corps [RAMC] 4<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade Ordnance Field Park Workshops, Royal Army Ordnance Corps [RAOC] 113 Section F.S.P. 501 Squadron Auxiliary Air Force, No 11 Balloon Centre RAF.

More wool is needed by the WVS also others prepared to start working parties to get supplies out by Christmas.

### **Supplies/Trade/Christmas**

#### **Advert**

Milward's advert for shoes, slippers and hosiery includes the slogan "Shop earlier this Christmas and Beat the Black Out.

## **Casualties/ Insurance**

### **Advert**

The Midland Bank Executors and Trustees encourage and point out the wisdom of making a will.

## **Home Front / cooking/gardening**

### **Two new books**

Two more Country Life Home front 6d books have been issued. "Wartime Cookery" by Claire McInerney. This is not a complete manual. Does contain a chapter of basics for those forced to cook at home for the first time. Other subjects economy, savoury dishes and the use of the hay box, making jam etc. The second book is "Fruit Growing for Small Gardens by N B Begeal.

## **Supplies/ Military Welfare**

### **Advert**

Advert for Dental Magnesia containing ant acid states that: In uniform white teeth make the picture. Parcels to the forces include a tube of Phillips Dental Magnesia.

## **RDC Meeting**

### **Evacuees**

It was reported by Mr Hill, Chairman, that the Ministry thought it best that the (Somerford Keynes) boys in the controversy would be better off in the town for educational reasons. Mrs Fawcett reported that several were going back to London with or without permission. The Clerk, Mr Hall, said that West Ham Education Committee were providing funds for Christmas entertainment of the evacuees. When the amount was discovered he would inform the parishes.

## **Staff Salaries/Military**

The Council decided not to supplement the salaries of members of staff who joined the forces except when definite hardship was revealed.

## **Food Supplies/ Agriculture**

### **The marketing of home grown wheat**

The Ministry of Food has made an order from December 1<sup>st</sup> controlling the marketing of home grown wheat. It enables the Ministry to decide what proportions after threshing are to be allocated for feed stuffs and milling. A General Licence prescribes 1/3 the maximum which can be sold for other than milling,

## **Military**

### **England needs men**

An appeal for men to join Home Defence Battalions. Anyone between the ages of 35 and 50 are needed. The purpose is to defend the Home Country. Previously known as National Defence Companies, they will dress the same as regular soldiers and take the name of the county on their badge whether they are a county Battalion or not.

## **Rationing/ Bureaucracy**

### **Ministry of Food Announcement**

120,000,000 counterfoils have been collected by shopkeepers during the registration. These are being sorted. Ever shopkeeper will get his supplies of bacon, butter and sugar according to the number of customers as distribution arrangements are made. This does not guarantee any particular quantities immediately but does mean that distribution will steadily improve between now and the day rationing begins.

If you have not registered for bacon, ham, butter and sugar DO SO AT ONCE  
Ministry of Food announcement.

## **Rationing**

### **Motor Insurance**

## **Advert**

Private motors can be insured at reduced premiums based on petrol allowance.  
E H Morgan FCIB, Corn Hall Chambers Cirencester phone 308

## **Situations Vacant**

Farm situations vacant 7

Domestic situations vacant 24

## **Christmas**

### **Advert**

Christmas Personal Greetings - A large selection available from the Wilts and Glos Standard.

## **Evacuation / Christmas**

### **Parents' trains**

Special Sunday trains are to be run to reception areas on 10<sup>th</sup> December. One to serve Cirencester and its rural area leaves Paddington at 9:5 am arriving at Kemble at 11:50 am and Cirencester Town Station at 12:05 pm. The return train leaves Cirencester Town station at 7:20 pm and at Kemble 7:43 pm arriving at Paddington at 10:14 pm.

## **Cirencester Choral Society / Christmas (not verbatim)**

Cirencester Choral Society has not been "blacked-out". They meet weekly in the Congregational School Room. Several visitors here for the duration have joined for "something to do at night". It is possible that the County Spring Festival may not take place but they are practicing the pieces. They are at the moment practicing Christmas music. It is hoped to hold a Choral Service on the afternoon of Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> in Holy Trinity together with their choir. It is hoped to give a public performance in the Spring and they have their minds on wartime causes. Mr Archibald Bayes of Alveston, Chesterton Lane has taken on the secretary's duties "for the duration".

## **Food Supplies / Rationing**

### **CUDC Food Control Committee**

The CUDC Food Control Committee held a meeting in the Municipal Offices on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Deputy Chairman G Winstone present Mrs Appleton, Mrs Maxwell, Mrs Walker, Messrs Adams, Berkeley, Down, Gordon Clarke, Lloyd, Newcombe, Scantlebury, Smith and Mr FSD Greenland. Food Executive Officer. Thanks had been sent to Mrs Chester-Master in reference to the WVS help in writing ration books. Applications for licences for retailers and certificates of registration for establishments and applications for travelling ration books were considered and approved.

## **ARP**

### **Air Raid warning Tests**

The sounding of the warbling note at 1 o'clock next Monday will be no occasion for alarm. This is the first monthly test which will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month at 1pm.

Test as follows:

- (1) The steady note "Raiders past" signal for 30 seconds followed by
- (2) 20 seconds Action Warning signal (warbling note) and conclude with a steady note for 1 minute.

All operators of sirens included in the scheme of air raid warnings are to be notified of the test and asked to cooperate.

## **Dig for Victory / Food Supplies**

### **Notice**

### **Dig for Victory Allotments.**

Allotments 10 rods each. Forms of application and particulars can be obtained at the Municipal Offices, Cirencester.

## **ARP / Christmas / Black – out / Dig for Victory**

### **Cirencester Traders Fight Black-out**

Cirencester traders want kerbs painted white and blue lamps installed in porches. Mr Eric Cole asked if Cirencester traders would paint their kerbs with alternate 18 inch white strips then 18inch dark as in Cheltenham. A lady had slipped outside Boulton's on Saturday in the Black-out and broken her arm. He also asked if the general public could follow suit and also all eye level projections across pavements should be painted white. He also asked if they would add weight to Stroud traders appeal for blue lamps (low wattage) in porches. People often fall up his second step he said. The President W Tovey said that the powers that be had it in hand but adding extra weight would be a good thing.

### **Children's Party**

It was agreed to fall in with other organisations such as the WVS, Toc H and British Legion in providing Christmas Parties. One to cater for evacuees and town children would be to cater for over 1,000 children.

### **Save not Spend**

Mr Tovey lashed the Chancellor's speech on saving and not spending. Who would pay the traders income tax if no one bought goods? A letter of protest was sent to the Chancellor.

### **Seed Scheme**

Mr Jefferies complained about the Friends and their Dig for Victory seed scheme. He did not object to the unemployed getting cheap seeds but not the employed. This was not fair on seed merchants. Also they should have had a chance to quote.

## **Moral Rearmament**

### **A Call to Our Citizens by the CUDC**

Today when our whole world is threatened with ruin we feel more urgently the need for that new force of Moral Rearmament which can create a new world, a world of sanity and order a world of plenty and peace. We cannot live forever from one crisis to another, from one war to the next. We seek a hate free, fear free, greed free world where every nation can enrich the common life of all, where every man has his work to do. This not recurring crisis and destruction is the God-given destiny of mankind. Amid the failure of human wisdom there is still one supreme source from whom all can draw new power, new hope, new illumination. God speaks directly to the hearts of every man and every woman who is prepared to listen and obey. And now millions all over the world are seeking God's plan for themselves and their countries. The aim is for 100,000,000 people listening to God. Here is the world's force that will make future war unnecessary. We deeply need the leadership of God led men and women who base their lives on Christian principles of honesty, unselfishness and faith; such men and women will not only make the morale of the country impregnable they will today create and spread that spirit which will ensure a just and lasting peace. This new spirit must come, we owe it to ourselves, our children and our children's children. One million listening to God across the world can realise the words of the prophet of old. "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of the children". All over Britain Civic Authorities are summoning their fellow citizens to share with them in this worldwide plan of listening to God. We call on you to play your full part in the highest form of National Service. May our own community be in the vanguard of this advance, to lead the world into sanity and peace.

Cirencester November 28<sup>th</sup> 1939 Signed : Arthur Matthews, Wilson G Tovey, John M Legg, C W Adams, George Winstone, Ernest Newcombe, Eric Cole, George Rumbol, Herbert J Smith, William G Lock, Sidney D French, E B Hankey, A Bryant, Sidney Boulton, J H Wilkinson.

## **Moral Rearmament / Christmas**

### **Listening to God** (not verbatim)

Many Cirencester people among them those who signed the Citizens' Message sent to the World Assembly for Moral Rearmament in California will take part in Moral Rearmament Week-end 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December. This is worldwide with citizens testing the philosophy of listening to God. A general once said that God gave us two ears and one mouth. Why don't we listen twice as much as we speak. We ask God to bless our human plans but look where it has led us. We have failed. We should try to find God's plan for the world. It will mean for some sacrifice of self and submission to dictatorship of love. It will mean full time service in a world war against selfishness. It will provide God's answer to world crisis and lay a foundation stone of new world order. In Cirencester and the

surrounding village people are meeting this weekend in churches and homes and other centres to listen to God. At the Parish Church, Methodist and Congregational Churches, listening to God will be the theme of the Advent services. Shall we be some of the "hundred million listening" this weekend?

### **Evacuation / Christmas**

**Children in Reception Areas by the Minister of Health Rt Hon Walter Elliott MC MP** (not verbatim)

Half a million children will be away from home and parents for the Children's Festival. He appeals to reception areas to do everything to give evacuees a home from home. How can you help? Lend a hand at entertainment which will be organised by such as the WI, WVS on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or during the school holiday. "Talent" and suggestions may be wanted. Simple entertainments are all we ask, a party in a local hall with Christmas tree, bag of sweets, perhaps a conjuror, so that they remember their Christmas as an evacuee. All that helps the child. It also helps the householder by feeling that others are lending a hand to make a proper Christmas atmosphere. Not only evacuees should be at the party, but other children as well. I suggest that money come from the Local Authorities. Already the mayors of 23 London Boroughs have held a conference and agreed to finance entertainment in their reception areas. I am confident that other towns and cities will do the same for those looking after their children. Inevitably the burden of the practical side will fall on the reception areas. I am well aware of all they have already done and because of this am confident they will do even more. When the war began and forces mobilised the Ministry of Health, to protect the children, billeted an "army" larger than the BEF and mobilised the traditional hospitality of the British Countryside. Now we want to mobilise the Christmas Spirit. It is vital to stay put and parents not take children back home. The Nazis are not likely to respect Christmas Day. If arrangements are made known for celebrations the evacuees will look forward to them and not be tempted home. We are doing all we possibly can to ease the burden of householders. Boards of Education are cutting down on holidays and asking teachers to organise out of school activities. There is the problem of parental visits which were not encouraged during the first month after the evacuation. They would have unsettled the children and placed a heavy burden on the hospitality of the householders. When the scheme settled down and more thoughtless parents had taken children back to danger areas, a balance had to be struck between parents' rights and the householder's burden. Special cheap day fares will be available to certain areas starting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. They are not available at Christmas itself or New Year. Housewives cannot cope with parents and children on these busy days. It should be made clear that those who do visit make their own catering arrangements for the day to free the householder from the responsibility for the day. Happy as they are in their new homes the children will miss their parents at Christmastide, so please give them a real old fashioned Christmas.

Walter Elliott

### **Pacifism**

#### **Cirencester Rotary Club**

The Rev Bryn Thomas spoke to Rotary on Tuesday on Pacifism the Solution to War. (not verbatim) He said that war was not so much caused by wicked men taking a deliberate wrong course but war is misunderstanding right. The alternatives are (1) Balance of power (2) Imperialism (3) Collective security (4) Pacifism

- (1) At the moment the countries of Europe were acting instinctively snarling at each other like dogs when calamity loomed. At the moment he said all the countries were acting like this while trying to get out of the impasse.
- (2) Imperialism shows instinctive behaviour, the larger power gathering its satellites to provide economic self-preservation.
- (3) Collective security where nations are bound by a common law and are not their own judges was the first step towards peace, leaving instinctive behaviour for rational.
- (4) Pacifism was the use of rational thinking to overcome war. You cannot conquer by war. Economic peace is the solution.

Rev Bryn Thomas continued.

Mr Leonard Jones was disappointed. He had found it negative. He wanted to know what to do and not what not to do. Dr D P Gray wondered what we could offer Germany to show that we were pacifist.

The Rev Wearne felt that the argument had not been lifted above the realms of worldly things. He was a pacifist because he was a Christian not because of good economics. Mr Thomas replied to the questions. He said if we trusted spiritual laws economics would fall into place. The positive part of pacifism was international law.

### **Crime / Black-out**

#### **Petty Sessions**

No rear light – the case against Thomas Edwin Morris of Ampney St Peter was dismissed on payment of costs. Archie Henderson of 16 Gloucester Street – no front or rear light – fined £1. Henry Shepherd of 1 Nursery View, Siddington similar offence and fine. P C Jefferies said that when Shepherd saw him he dismounted and said that his front light had been “pinched”. Stanley William Love of Oaktree Avenue, Pinehurst Swindon fined 10/- for having no front light.

Showing a light – Olive Mary Whiteman of Perrotts Brook fined £1. P C Horton said that a light shone from the house on 14<sup>th</sup> November. There was no curtain at the window but the light was obscured by brown material. The house was locked as the owners were away and Mrs Whiteman was in charge. He nailed a rug over the outside of the window. Mrs Whiteman said she did not know that the light had been left on. Fined £1

Gilbert Loveridge of 8 Melmore Gardens was fined £1. He said his wife had left the light on but only for 2 minutes.

### **Military / Navy**

Navy appeal for fishermen, second hands, able seamen, stokers and engineers aged 18 to 45. same pay as corresponding ratings to be mainly employed on minesweeping and anti submarine work.

### **Military / Welfare/Christmas**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Appeals**

The Duke of Beaufort appeals on behalf of the serving men of Gloucestershire for funds to supply every serving man with gloves, socks and a jersey before Christmas.

The Duchess of Beaufort appeals on behalf of the Soldiers Sailors and Airman's Families Association [SSAFA] families whose income is much reduced by fathers losing pay by joining the forces are a growing problem. The local Divisional Office is Miss Cambray of 2 Victoria Road.

### **Military / Welfare/Christmas**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Appeals**

Constance Cripps Area Organiser, Area 6 asks for support for the Duke of Beaufort's Appeal. The WVS are organising the knitting. All voluntary organisations will soon be given wool; wool for working parties can be applied for at Ampney Park where it will be distributed. Cash gifts would also be welcome to buy comforts.

### **Black-out / Chamber of Commerce**

#### **Notice**

Mr R F McIlroy Hon sec of Cirencester Chamber of Commerce informs the public that an appeal has gone to Sir John Anderson to ask for permission to install blue lights in shop porches.

### **National Savings / Trade**

An anonymous trader on behalf of Cirencester Chamber of Commerce hammers the Chancellor for his savings policy. The rich are already lightly taxed, armament workers etc should not put money into savings. It will damage business and ultimately the economic position of the country.

### **Food Supplies / Rationing**

#### **Egg Marketing Intelligence**

#### **Announcement**

Owing to Government control the price of eggs will be posted in our provisions shop daily – Gillett's

## **Retail / Food Supplies / Christmas**

### **Gillett's Advert**

Christmas puddings and cakes. Why not save the trouble and expense this year and order your pudding and cake at Gillett's

Christmas cakes - A splendid assortment of really high class cakes attractively iced from 2/- to 10/-  
Giant Christmas cake - rich with fruit with generous layers of almond icing 1/2d per lb any quantity supplied.

Christmas puddings by Peak Frean and Co 2/1d 2/10d and 3/6d each

## **Retail / Business / Military**

### **Thinly disguised advert**

Special make-up colour schemes - women in uniform - from a correspondent

It must be very difficult for firms to live up to the wartime slogan "Business as usual" since so many of the staff have been called up or volunteered for some kind of National Service. An interesting example of how some have reorganised to maintain service with redirected staff concerns Jane Seymour Ltd 21/22 Grosvenor Street Bond Street. This famous beauty specialist has maintained the service in such conditions with the staff still getting 6 months training. They have also devised make-up to harmonise with air force blue or khaki which many clients are wearing. Those who visit the premises receive free advice which is also available through the post. When writing ask for a free copy of a delightful booklet speaking frankly giving all the information any woman needs on care of the skin and make-up.

## **Retail / Christmas**

### **Shop by Post**

Don't let lack of travelling facilities deter you from shopping at your favourite store as usual. Our post order staff has been greatly augmented and can give personal attention to your every need. Order with confidence things for wear and home, however small or large your requirements. Tel 143 - Ormonds Ltd Cirencester

Cirencester 143 Now more than any other time you will find our phone order system a factor of immense service to you.

## **W I / Make do and Mend / Evacuation / Christmas / National Savings**

**Ampney Crucis** -- Mrs Buss gave a talk and demonstration of knitting, particularly helpful with heels of socks, joining wool and making up garments.

**Coates** - Held a whist drive to raise funds for an evacuee party.

**Colesbourne** - Members were urged to buy Savings Certificates for the War Effort.

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9/12/39

## **Christmas / Trade / Supplies/ Evacuation**

### **Advert**

#### **Bailey Brothers**

#### **Bailey Brothers Christmas Bazaar.**

It's "Christmas as usual" at Baileys - only more so. Never were so many Toys and Gifts under one roof in Ciceter as we are showing now. And the Prices? - Well a shilling seems like half a crown at Baileys these days.

**War Visitors to Ciceter** - We cordially invite those who are obliged to spend Christmas away from home to see what Baileys can do. They'll find our prices at London's lowest. There's no rationing or restrictions at Baileys. You can buy to your full content from a stock fairly bewildering and Sir John Simon will be pleased if you tell him what you saved at Bailey Brothers.

**Do Walk Around** - We'd like you to come in any time just to show you what Ciceter really can do. Besides, here we can't tell you half we only suggest that your eyes will shine with delight on Christmas morning when they find the gifts that have come from Baileys where you always find the very thing no



matter for whom it is intended. Older eyes will shine too when they see what Sonnie has bought them. How did he manage it? Sonnie won't let on, but they'll guess he went to Baileys.

**Toyland** – is full of surprises, as usual. Toys costing pounds or toys costing pence – and all “sure to please” We have Hornby Trains, Meccano, Triang Wheel Toys, in fact everything the heart of youth can desire.

690 children were served by Santa last Saturday in 2 hours.

### **Supplies**

#### **Advert**

#### **Wools**

Join the “Knitting Army” Everything you require at Godwin's “The Old Wool Shop” 20 Cricklade Street Cirencester.

### **Casualties / Assurance**

#### **War and Life Insurance**

#### **Advert**

Death from war injuries on active service or not can be covered by additional premium payments according to the merits of the case. Write, phone or call on E H Morgan FCIB, Corn Hall Chambers Cirencester phone 308.

### **Retail / Christmas**

#### **Michell's Advert**

Large stocks of art silk undies and pretty wool bed jackets at exceedingly competitive prices. The glove, hosiery, children's outfit and fancy linen departments are also full of seasonable and reasonable gifts

### **Entertainment**

#### **Local Dances**

Corn Hall - Saturday Harry Smith's Band

Ampney Crucis Hall - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Ivo's Band proceeds to knitwear for HM Forces

British Legion - Corn Hall New Year's Eve Dance – Friday December 29<sup>th</sup> – owing to hall not being available New Year's Eve Alec Mattock's Dance Orchestra 7pm till 11pm

### **Pacifism / Propaganda**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

A Faulkner of Surbiton discusses the Peace Pledge Union and Peace News. He accuses the P.P.U. of attempting to obtain peace to favour the Nazis

### **Evacuation**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

Dear Sir – Of the 22 LCC school children evacuated to Eastleach not one has returned to London. Is this a record? P. Dinsdale

### **Pacifism / Rotary**

#### **Letters to the Editor**

Rev Bryn Thomas thanks the Standard for a fair report. He points out that the subject was chosen by the Rotarians. There was no reflection on those in uniform as an ex combatant he appreciated that the politicians blunder and men in uniform clean it up.

### **BRCS / Medical / Military comforts**

#### **Letters to the editor**

Sir – Could the 25 working parties in my district continue to kindly send me any garments they make for hospitals or woollen articles for troops which have been made with materials not supplied by the County Hospital Supply Service [CHSS] When the free materials do arrive I will have them cut out at my depot and sent to working parties who wish to make them up. The finished articles should then be sent to the BRCS Depot 32 Market Place Cirencester. I am going to appeal to district work parties to make woollen jerseys, melton scarves etc for the Navy and Mine Sweepers. They are enduring great danger and discomfort in the war so far. We have made 152 garments so far.  
Lilias Bathurst Vice President BRCS Cirencester District Cirencester Park.

### **Retail / Christmas**

#### **Clappen's Advert**

Christmas 1939

Both in our ladies and men's shops we have a collection of presents to make your Christmas shopping easy. This will be a wartime Christmas – a different Christmas outwardly – but the Spirit and Goodwill is with us and a present is just a symbol of that Goodwill. Times change, but the selection and value of Clappen's remain constant.

H J Clappen - Clappen's Cirencester

### **Retail / Christmas**

#### **Stroud Brewery part of Advert**

Seriously though, we have to try and celebrate this Christmas in the usual way. What's the use of worrying as the old wartime song says. As long as the drinks aren't rationed ..... and you can obtain them as usual from the Stroud Brewery. There is nothing quite like the local product. Stroud Brewery has something for everyone, beers, wines, spirits, cordials, cocktails and minerals.

### **National Savings**

#### **Chit Chat column**

The new Savings and defence Bonds have exceeded all expectations £9,125,000 in the first week.

### **W I / Christmas**

Somerford Keynes W I has decided to organise 2 Christmas parties, one for adults and one for children.

### **Military / RAF**

#### **Charlie Barnett joins the RAF**

On Tuesday the above was granted a commission in the RAF. He left Cirencester on Wednesday and travelled to his allotted station. He follows the example of his cricket captain Wally Hammond.

### **BRCS / Training / Medical**

#### **The Joint War Organisation Publicity Department**

The above has issued a notice advertising intensive training courses in First Aid and Home Nursing. The two week course includes lectures in First Aid by a doctor and Home Nursing by an SRN. They will get much more supervised training in the "art of bed making" and bandaging and treatment than is usual in such courses. This will it is hoped make them better auxiliaries on the wards. It will be run under the auspices of the BRCS with schools around the country. The Gloucestershire school will open in the new year at Miserden House lent by Miss Wills. Help with donations or to lend furniture will be gratefully acknowledged by Mrs Laming, Edgeworth Manor.

### **Medical**

#### **Advert**

#### **Wartime Living Upsets Your Liver First**

Wake up your liver bile without purgatives and you'll feel grand. The first part of your body to feel the bad effects of wartime worry with poor sleep, irregular meals and nervous tension, is your liver. Your liver should pour 2 pints of bile juice every day into your system. If this bile juice is not flowing freely you can't digest. It just decays in you bowels. You get constipated. You feel stale tired and headachy. Ordinary laxatives help a little but a mere bowel movement can't make you feel fit and able

to face things with a smile. What you need are Carters Brand Little Liver Pills – harmless, gentle, yet amazing in making bile flow freely. Next morning you'll wake up feeling fitter than you've done for years. Ask for Carters Little Liver Pills today 1/3d at all chemists.

### **Recreation / Hunting**

Hunting in wartime has been curtailed somewhat by conditions and on restricted scale. "Fields" are small garbs almost unrecognised, apart from masters and hunt servants most have discarded bright coloured coats. Reduced fields have been due to (1) the call of sterner duty in the Forces or Home Front (2) Fewer horses are available (3) petrol restrictions reduce the use of horse boxes. The latter results also in few car followers. Masters approve of this in a way because they can obstruct the chase. This has led some followers to take to foot slogging or resurrecting the bicycle, some of ancient origin. Newcomers from London show their innocence just as a countryman visiting London. At the Dike of Beaufort's meet on Tuesday a Londoner asked when would the fox arrive. He thought that it would be released from a box as in certain types of stag hunting. He was "flabbergasted" to discover that the hounds had first to find the fox. Later in the morning on hearing an officer of the hunt give a blast on his whistle a Londoner asked, "do they have some sort of referee at this game then?" Aircraft noise now makes it difficult to hear the sound of the horn. Naturally the training of pilots for hunting another quarry is more important. The fox seems to have been on the increase but the scent on the whole has not been good this season. The flooded fields have also been a problem as has the plentiful mud.

### **Agriculture / Politics**

#### **Home Affairs in Parliament**

Notes by Sir Percy herd MP include the debate on the ploughing up of good pasture. The Ministry of Agriculture insists on as much arable as possible but says that there is an appeal procedure.

### **Agriculture**

#### **Speed the Plough**

#### **The work of the War Agricultural Executive Committee [WEAC]**

Gloucestershire's Committee's first task is to plough pasture. Farmers are to plough 10% of their pasture land. Gloucestershire had to find a total of not less than 35,000 acres of grassland to plough and crop by harvest 1940. The Committee set up 9 district committee's with 7 men to make a detailed survey of the land in their area, a gigantic task for 63 men. Farmers must be more self-supporting. Is bacon necessary for breakfast these days? The WAEC is responsible for the control of government tractors to do contract work where farmers are unable to cope with the work level.

#### **Dig for Victory / Food production**

A survey is being started of nurseries and market gardens. Efforts are being made to encourage private cultivators to emulate the allotment holders of 25 years ago. "A man can do his bit with a spade and so supply essential vegetables. He should remember we import most of our onions and that carrots are of great importance". The minister has issued a poster "Dig for Victory". Other problems of the Committee are the supply of labour and application for men to be released from the services and also make provision of binders and threshing tackle.

R Boutflower Chief Executive Officer.

### **National Savings / Fund Raising**

#### **The Nations War Savings Campaign**

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announces the issue of two Gilt Edged Securities at 3% Defence Bonds – A New investment on sale in £5 denominations. Interest rate 3%: Income tax is not deducted at source. Repayable seven years from the date of purchase at par plus a premium of £1 for each £100 nominal value with interest accrued since the last ½ year's payment. On 6 month notice holders can claim repayment net with the interest due to that date. In cases of urgent need repayment can be within a few days. Holdings are limited to £1,000. On sale at Post Offices and Banks. New Issue of National Savings Certificates Free of Income tax ----- A certificate costs 15/- and grows in value to 17/6d in 5 years, 20/6d in 10 years. This equal to interest at a rate of £3-3-5 per cent over a 10 year period free of Income Tax. The new certificates are on sale from Banks and Post Offices and

from National Savings Groups in single documents representing 1,5,10,25,50 and 100 certificates. No individual may hold more than 500 certificates including those of earlier issues. Certificates can be cashed in any time with a few days notice with interest accrued. "It is evil things that we shall be fighting against – brute force, bad faith, injustice, oppression and persecution"

The Prime Minister.

Finance is the forth arm of defence no less important than the other three and if finance fails then the prop that sustains the whole of our war effort will collapse.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer

Lend to defend the right to be free.

### **Retail / Christmas**

Gibson's of Cirencester and Stroud for Christmas Gifts (See window shows early in the day)

Gloves , scarves, handbags etc . 71 Cricklade Street

### **Agriculture**

#### **Classified Advert**

Ploughing subsidy forms on application to Woodhouse Bros. Ploughing contractors, Driffield  
Cirencester Phone Poulton 254

### **Black-out**

#### **Classified Advert**

New regulation car and motorcycle headlamp masks now in stock, fitted while you wait 4/- to 7/6d W  
Farrell and Son Cirencester

### **Agriculture**

#### **Classified Advert**

#### **Safeguard poultry**

Safeguard poultry Britain needs them! Moping hens, geese, turkeys – liver trouble, worms etc cured in  
24 hours with Johnson's Reviving Tonic 7 ½ d 1/2d 5/-. Smith's also Huck's Corn Stores Cirencester.

### **Christmas / Retail /Evacuation**

#### **Father Christmas Comes to Town**

Father Christmas came to town last Saturday and received a tumultuous welcome from thousands of children. There was no snow so the age old saint had to discard his reindeer and sleigh and travel by more prosaic means. It had been announced that he would reach Cirencester by train and hundreds of youngsters were at the Town Station to see if this were indeed true. It was. Mounting a waiting coach drawn by two horses driven by an old time coachman, Father Christmas made a triumphant tour of the town's main streets preceded by the Silver Band the parade travelled to the Regal Cinema before proceeding to Cricklade Street to install himself in the Christmas Bazaar now in progress at Bailey Bros establishment. Here was a crowd so great – it extended from the premises of Cirencester Brewery to Mac Fisheries so that Father Christmas had to abandon his coach and make his further way on foot. This he accomplished by throwing ahead of him gifts he had brought for admiring youth. Having got rid of 50 or 60 such packages he eventually reached a ladder placed in front of Bailey Bros premises. This he mounted, for Father Christmas can only enter a building in one way down the chimney and from the roof showered myriads of balloons before disappearing. There was an immediate stampede to Toyland – so great that it was impossible to close the doors against the rush where Father Christmas had taken up his position to sell gifts to the children. This was so popular a feature that in the first 2 hours he had served 690 children. "All my youngsters were there", said the headmaster of one of the London Schools evacuated to Cirencester to a Wilts and Glos reporter "and they quite enjoyed it". Kept busy ever since Father Christmas will be there at Bailey Bros until Christmas Eve.

### **BRCS / Christmas**

#### **Orders for the Week**

BRCS Glos II Anti Gas lectures at 6pm Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup> Congregational School Room Dyer Street.

G Walker Commandant

BRCS Women's Detachment no First Aid practice Thursday due to the Red Cross Concert in the Church Hall that night.

### **Christmas**

#### **Advert**

Christmas Personal Greetings - A large selection available from the Wilts and Glos Standard.

### **Christmas / Rotary Club**

#### **Christmas Treat**

At the weekly meeting of Cirencester Rotary Club on Tuesday it was agreed to send 2 guineas to the Children's Christmas Treat Fund.

### **Unemployment**

Cirencester's unemployment figures to date are : 64 men, 6 boys, 32 women and 59 girls.

### **Christmas / Entertainment / Sport**

A football match has been arranged in aid of the Children's Christmas Party. It will take place in Cirencester Park between the Cirencester Post Office and the RAF on Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup>. Kick Off 2.30pm Tickets price 3d are now on sale and may be obtained from the Post Office.

### **Agriculture / Food / CUDC**

#### **Rat Week**

The Sanitary Inspector's report to the CUDC includes a paragraph on Rat Week which had been held from November 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. During that week 10 complaints of rat infestation were investigated and 16 premises baited. Some good results were reported and it could be assumed that the number of baits taken destroyed a considerable number of rodents.

### **Entertainment / Military / Requisitions**

#### **Saturday Dances**

There is no truth in the rumour that the Army are taking over the Corn Hall on any particular date. If this was the case it would be duly reported in the Wilts and Glos. and on the boards outside the Hall. But until then "Dancing as usual" except that there will be no midweek dance for the next two weeks.

### **Christmas / Postal Services**

To ease Christmas posting a temporary Post Office will operate from December 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at 29 Cricklade Street between the hours of 9am and 6pm.

### **Christmas / Evacuation / Entertainment**

#### **Christmas Party for Children**

#### **Cirencester to entertain 1,130 children**

Cirencester will give a party for over 1,000 children of serving men, evacuees and Cirencester's own more needy children, 1,130 in all. This will take place immediately before Christmas and the CUDC, Chamber of Commerce, Toc H, British Legion, Old Contemptibles, Rotary Club and Drama Club are concerned to make it a success. This year for the first time in Cirencester's history 1,000 visiting children will spend the Children's Festival in Cirencester far away from homes and parents. It is vital says the Ministry of Health that these evacuee children should stay in safety. (Quotation from the Ministry scheme about the temptation of parents to take them home) The magnitude of this scheme compels promoters to invite the assistance of the public and they confidently appeal for donations to brighten this first wartime Christmas of our young visitors. Appeal signed Mrs Chester Master Chairman of the Committee, Mr A J Matthews Chairman CUDC, Mr WG Tovey Chairman Cirencester Chamber of Commerce, Mr E S Plowright Chairman Toc H. Brig. General Price CB, CMO, DSO President British Legion, Col W Q Winwood CMG, DSO, OBE Old Contemptibles Mr LW Jones

President Rotary, Mr Reg Arkell President Cirencester Drama Club. Mr LHC Batt manager of Barclay's Bank consented to be treasurer and will send personal acknowledgement of all donations received by him.

### **Communications / Telephone Numbers**

The following Telephone numbers are published - CUDC 117 - Fire Station 0 – Ministry of Transport, Steels Garage 400 – CUDC Food Control Office Dyer Street House 508 – Texas Oil Compny Ltd Cecily Hill House 600.

### **Special Constabulary**

#### **First Aid Course**

A course of lectures will be held in the Municipal Offices Gosditch Street at 6.30pm on Thursdays 14<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December and 4<sup>th</sup> January 1940. Special Constables living in or near Cirencester are invited. Lecturer Mr J Walker Commandant VAD Glos 11. Special Constables wishing to attend should send name and address to S/Sgt Kinns Estate Office Park Street  
A Paley Special Superintendent

### **CUDC Meeting / Blackout / Medical / Christmas / Evacuation**

#### **Cirencester's Nightmare Blackout**

#### **CUDC grapple with lighter darkness problem**

Cirencester has one of the blackest Blackouts in the country, and following the alarming number of minor accidents involving pedestrians trying to find their way around Cirencester at night the CUDC grappled with the problem at their meeting on Thursday. They agreed to place hurricane lamps at danger points in the centre of town as an experiment. Mr Legg thought lights should be put in doorways of business premises. Mr Newcombe said business houses should be lit under certain circumstances now. In his opinion street lights would eventually return. Mr WG Tovey said that the Council had given permission through the Streets Committee for traders paint the kerbs in front of their shops. He had done his only the day before and urged others to do the same, not forgetting to paint the top of the kerb stone as well as the side. He had written to Worcester concerning the cost of lamps especially prepared at 7/- or 8/-. He thought them rather expensive but proposed ordering 2 dozen. Mr Winstone complained of unlit bicycles propped against shops in Cricklade Street. The police are to be approached Mr Boulton thought it was absurd that Cirencester should be so extensively blacked out. We are supposed to have reasonable lighting. Mr Eric Cole pointed out that it would not be practical to have street lights on because they could not be put off at a second's notice. Mr Legg suggested using the lamps they had already. The Surveyor said they only had a small number as he had to keep hurricane lamps for emergency. Mr Cole said by the time they had blacked out the existing lamps to conform to requirements it would cost as much as the suggested new ones. Mr Legg suggested an amendment to have their own lamps converted and placed in the centre of the town at dangerous points. The amendment was carried,

#### **Scarlet Fever**

The Chairman commented on the Sanitary Inspector's on 10 cases of scarlet fever in the Cirencester Urban District. He said it was particularly serious with the large number of evacuees. He didn't remember so many cases before and it wanted looking in to seriously. In view of Christmas approaching, the disease should be stamped out quickly. Dr R Green the MOH said there had been no cases for the last two weeks and saw no reason to fear an epidemic.

#### **Disapproval of Carol Singing / Evacuation**

Because the townsfolk would be called upon to support the Town's Christmas Party Mr Winstone urged the Council to discourage carol singing this Christmas. Locals would be entertained at the party and a word from the Council might minimise the number of children going door to door. The Chairman suggested that the Surveyor might include the matter when going to the police about the bicycles. He agreed that the Council should wholeheartedly discourage carol singing this Christmas. The Chairman reminded the Council that next Sunday parents of evacuees would be coming to Cirencester to visit their children. The Church Hall would be made available for the purpose. He hoped Councillors would drop in for a few minutes. He thought it would be appreciated. Mr Cole said we do not want

evacuees to leave Cirencester this Christmas and we can do that by making preparations to ensure the youngsters have a good time here.

### **Crime / Black-out**

#### **Cirencester Petty Sessions**

Ivy Painter of Beech Pike was fined 5/- for having no bicycle front light and 5/- for having no rear light. Frederick Cottrel of Minchinhampton was fined 10/- for failing to screen his bicycle lamp.

### **Politics / Propaganda**

Barter Deal flop Following Britain's decision to take German exports as contraband. The Nazis have officially admitted their inability to deliver railway equipment to Argentina in return for Argentine wheat and wool.

### **Military Welfare**

Grenada residents are trying to collect 80,000 lbs of cocoa as a free gift to our fighting forces.

### **Military Welfare / Requisitions / YMCA**

#### **Club for Soldiers and their Sweethearts**

Rev EC Wearne spoke of his plan to derequisition the Bingham Library to turn it into a club for soldiers. This to have recreation facilities plus a lounge where soldiers could bring their sweethearts. The Commissioner for Civil Defence admitted the possibility of derequisition. It would have to be for all servicemen and to a lesser degree for their female friends. He had in his travels spoken to various officers who thought it a good idea. He would give it careful consideration and suggested a meeting might be held. Rev Wearne wanted it to be run on a strictly spiritual basis and not on purely commercial lines. The YMCA was also widening their scope and increasing facilities but had no accommodation to deal with girls. Attention having been drawn to the difference between sweethearts and girls picked up promiscuously, Rotarian Vanstone pointed out that if the servicemen did not bring them in to the club they would only wander the streets with them. Canon Westmacott referred to the possibility of a clash between the two schemes and said one would collapse so the decision was deferred for the time being.

### **Military Welfare**

#### **Few Forgotten and Lonely Gloucestershire Solitary Outposts**

##### **An Appeal**

Gloucestershire Territorial Army Association appealed through a correspondent who had seen a small group of men manning a small outpost 6 miles from the nearest village. They were bored, plenty of food but nothing to occupy their spare time, The appeal was for table tennis (all sorts) playing cards, musical instruments (any kind) footballs, other sports kit, old running gear, dart boards and darts, jigsaw puzzles.

### **Military Welfare**

#### **Socks for the Armies**

Large supplies of oversocks, scarves and mittens are needed by the Comforts Fund of the RAF. A scarf requires 7oz of 4ply wool in RAF blue. Two No.8 knitting needles should be used. The measurements are 52 to 56 inches long 11 to 12 inches wide. Full instructions for socks and mittens from the RAF Comforts Fund Berkeley Square London to which finished articles should be sent.

### **Christmas / Evacuation / Military Welfare/ Black-out**

#### **Spotlight Column**

He expects there to be parties for the 1,000 children. Suggests the Corn Hall having two parties. Also as the West Ham Authorities were raising funds the Rural children should be included in the festivities, but not in the Corn Hall. Villages could arrange their own entertainments for "these little emigrants", Also he appeals to parents of evacuees not to take them home. The recent atrocious bombing of Helsinki should be a warning.

The landlord of the Bear Hotel, Mr J Surrige has a collecting box on the counter to collect for sending cigarettes to the troops on active service. Spotlight hopes others will follow suit. Farmers please note that while driving a herd of sheep or cattle along a road after dark they must carry a light fore and aft. If four or less animals are being driven only a front light is required. Carts driven on night roads must carry a shaded light.

### **Casualties / Black-out**

A Tarlton woman was killed when she collided with a pedestrian near Jarvis Quarry. Mrs Annie Garnett 34, wife of the Baliff of Manor Farm Cottages Tarlton was cycling back from the cinema in Cirencester. She ran into a Mr Long, a builders labourer of 17 Chester Street. He was stunned by the blow in the back. She died of a fractured skull. A witness, Edward Tye said she passed him with her lights in working order. Mr Ernest Skinley of Watermoor, builders labourer said there were seven of them walking in single file for safety not talking, they were too tired! The Deputy Coroner commented that the black-out regulations and their severity were questioned by many. It was a very dark night with a wet and slippery road.

### **Food Supplies**

Defend your food supplies against rats with Rodine available from chemists.

### **Food Supplies / Rationing Egg Marketing Intelligence Announcement**

Owing to Government control the price of eggs will be posted in our provisions shop daily – Gilletts

### **Propaganda / Progress of the War Western Front Quiet**

Winston Churchill said that 40 U-Boats had been accounted for, 5 in one week. Neutral shipping takes the worst of the casualties 2,000 British ships at sea losses 1 in 750. The RAF raided a German seaplane base damaged two aircraft and put four machine gun posts out of action. An RAF patrol sank a U-Boat in the North Sea on Sunday. The German ship Ussukuma was captured by the British in the Atlantic. Berlin handed a note to the foreign press getting at Holland for not resisting the Allied Blockade.

### **ARP**

#### **Wayward Barrage Balloon**

A barrage balloon trailing its cable smashed the window of a farmhouse near Tetbury and struck the roof with a loud crash. Its trailing cable brought down several electricity grid cables blacking out Chippenham, Trowbridge, Westbury, Dorchester and several towns up to the border of Somerset. The marauding balloon was finally arrested in the Bournemouth area.

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**16 12/39**

### **Christmas / Evacuation**

#### **Evacuees visited by parents**

#### **Joyful reunion scenes at Cirencester Station**

Welcomed by Mr A J Matthews the children rushed into their mothers' arms at Cirencester GWR Station on Sunday and there were joyful scenes as some 60 parents who had travelled from London were reunited with their children who are billeted in the town and the surrounding district. About 100 children were marched onto the platform. They were boys from the West Ham Central School and Barking Girl's Senior School. An expectant hush fell on the assembly as the parents' train steamed into the station. The train had no sooner stopped than the carriage doors burst open to debouch mothers whose eyes had already sought for and found their children's faces. The platform was in a state of



confusion as the children rushed forward to greet their father's and mothers who had come laden with the Christmas presents. The visitors were welcomed by Mr A J Matthews Chairman of CUDC, Mr J H Wilkinson, Clerk, Mrs W A Chester Master Chairman of Cirencester WVS, Mrs B J B Stephens Vice Chairman, Mr I C Caswell, Mr Cockin, Mr Wilson Headmasters and Miss Lecher Headmistress. Mr Caswell, on behalf of Mr Matthews still convalescing, spoke a few words of welcome to the parents and said the Church Hall would be at their disposal. Through the good offices of the CUDC and WVS hot coffee and biscuits had been provided for the party in the Church Hall and arrangements for tea to be served between 3pm and 6 pm. The departing at 7.20pm was the scene for many sorrowful good-byes and promises to return soon, but the parents had spent a happy 7 hours with their children in Cirencester.

### **Christmas / Salvation Army / Fund Raising**

#### **Money gifts hung on Christmas tree**

#### **The Salvation Army Raises Funds**

The Salvation Army at Cirencester was anxious to raise funds so on Thursday afternoon a Christmas tree was erected in The Salvation Army Hall at Watermoor and Mrs Connal received bags of money which she hung on the Silver Tree. Captain Archer presided at the opening ceremony supported by Mrs Connal and Mrs Tucker. Lieutenant Butcher read the lesson. Captain Archer explained the purpose of the gift day and pointed out that lately they had been entertaining evacuee children at the Hall for three evenings a week and doing their best to make them feel at home. She drew attention to the gift stall on which she said were several articles made by evacuee children. Mrs Connal thanked Captain Archer for giving her the opportunity to attend this little bazaar. She had always admired the work of The Salvation Army and heard much about the excellent work they performed in wartime. She wished them a successful afternoon. After a short entertainment the bags of money were handed to Mrs Connal who placed them on the tree. Mrs Gough was in charge of the gift stall.

### **Rationing**

#### **Ration Books**

As owing to removals many ration Books have not been delivered and have gone astray, retailers are warned that if anyone unknown to them wishes to register with them they should ask to see the bearers National Registration Card and compare the number on it with that on the Ration Book.  
South West Divisional Food Officer Bristol December 11<sup>th</sup> 1939

### **Rationing**

#### **Food**

South West Divisional Food Officer states that consumers are requested to inform their retailers and retailers to inform their local Food Office as far as possible in advance of any seasonal or other exceptional increase in requirements of rationed food. This will enable arrangements to be made to ensure supplies being available.  
December 11<sup>th</sup> 1939

### **Christmas / Retail**

#### **Advert for Christmas Gifts – Woodman and Sons Draper Bristol House Dyer Street**

The People's drapers boy's and men's outfitters – the store of a thousand Christmas gifts. We make a special study of children's woollies and everything for babies. Special window this week with a large assortment of women's and O.S. wool dresses also maids' and children's. Ladies party frocks a speciality – Shop Early

### **Christmas / Retail**

#### **Advert Gloucester Dairy Co Ltd**

#### **Yuletide Fare**

Prime poultry - From our own and selected farms – order early  
Cheese – Truckle Cheddars 11lb to 16lbs 1/2d per lb Our own make – These make ideal Christmas presents. Also Stilton Double Gloucester etc 1 Cricklade Street Cirencester Phone 21 or 24 )print indistinct on original)

## **Christmas / Retail**

### **Michell's Advert**

Large stocks of art silk undies and pretty wool bed jackets at exceedingly competitive prices. The glove, hosiery, children's outfit and fancy linen departments are also full of seasonable and reasonable gifts.

## **Supplies**

### **Advert**

#### **Wools**

Join the "Knitting Army" Everything you require at Godwin's "The Old Wool Shop" 20 Cricklade Street Cirencester

## **Christmas / Retail / Black-out**

### **Advert**

#### **Personal Service – Black-out Christmas**

"Good morning Mrs White, What a nice doll and pram your little girl's got! What a nice humming top too – and what a nice book!" Yes aren't they nice I got them at Burton's. I always get toys there – they're so reasonable. Burton – Gosditch Street

## **Christmas / Retail**

### **Advert – Trinders**

Cards, Calendars, Card Games, Jig Saws, Fountain Pens, Pen and Pencil Sets, Foreign and Colonial Stamps, Stamp Albums and accessories.

32 Castle Street Phone 202

## **Christmas / Retail**

### **Bailey Bros**

Another large advert similar to last week

## **Christmas / Retail / Electrical Goods**

Miss Switch says Christmas gifts must be practical this time :- electric irons from 9/-, all purpose lamp (table) 23/2, red light for reading in bed without eye strain 12/6d, electric poker lights coal or coke in a few minutes 29/6d, electric kettle with flex and plug 18/-, vacuum cleaners from £10-7s-6d electric alarm clocks from 27/6d, coffee percolator 28/-, toaster 13/6d, bed warming pad 13/9d all from Wessex Electricity.

## **Crime / Blackout**

### **Cirencester Petty Sessions**

Magistrates Captain Foyle Fawcett, Mrs B J B Stephens Mr W H Lloyd and Mr W I Croome Victor Williams of 39 Albion Street fined 5/- for improperly obscured front light. PC Turner said Williams had a piece of brown paper inside the glass but the reflector was not blacked out. Arthur Gibson of 2 Coxwell Street fined 10/- . PC Turner said no attempt had been made to obscure either front or rear light. PC Nicholls said Frances Newton Martin Arthur's car light lit up all of Cricklade Street. Only a piece of white paper had been pasted over the front lamps. Atkins of the Royal Agricultural College said he had been waiting to get one of the new masks. Fined £1. Herbert Stephens of Coln St Aldwyn was fined £1 for unobscured car lights. He said he did not use the car much at night.

## **ARP**

### **Air Raid warnings in the Countryside**

Residents need not worry about the lack of sirens in the country districts. They should not take cover when they hear the sirens in nearby towns, only if they hear Ack Ack or air combat taking place overhead.

## **Retail**

### **Advert for Cirencester Brewery**

This large advert has the prices of gins, rums, brandies, Irish whiskey, Scotch whisky, ports, sherries, French white wines, hocks and Champagne. - Offices and Stores Cricklade Street Cirencester phone 25.

## **Christmas / Retail**

### **Advert (one line)**

Bring your Jack and Jill to Ormond's Mystery Well

## **CRDC Meeting**

### **Food Supplies and Organisation**

It was decided that travelling expenses of the Food Control Committee members could be refunded if the journey exceeded 2 miles each way.

The Food Executive Officer's Report includes thanks to Lady Cripps and Mrs Cartwright who, with the WVS had prepared over 13,000 Ration Books. There had been a steady flow of applications for registration from food retailers, caterers and others. Rationed food (official and otherwise including meat) 133 (88 within the Rural and 45 without) other foodstuffs 151 (all within the RDC). These figures include Cirencester Town registration and travelling vans from premises outside the Rural District.

### Catering establishments

Licences issued (few outstanding) Catering establishments 33, Institutions 2, schools 3, residential establishments (boarding houses etc) 2 Total 44

### Travellers Ration Books

Out of the 13,000 enumerated on registration night in the Rural area only 1 was a commercial traveller but since Ration Books were delivered 23 applications from Bona-Fide travellers have been dealt with. Since customer registration 350 removals to the Rural District have been dealt with. Over 27,000 ration book counterfoils have been sent to the food office.

When the Food Office was opened it had a staff of 4 (female) to deal with food and fuel. At the present time the fuel department is the busiest. It is difficult to say when rationing starts in January when coupons start coming in bacon / ham fortnightly, butter monthly whether the staff will be sufficient for (a) checking and recording the number of coupons with the number of registered customers for each retailer and (b) dealing with the fortnightly and monthly stocks for retailers. To exemplify this if there are 9,000 registered customers in the Rural area the Food Office will normally receive 18,000 bacon/ham coupons fortnightly 36,000 butter monthly an average of 18,000 per week.

## **Military Welfare**

### **Letters to the Editor**

F L Pardoe Vice Chairman of the Territorial Army and Air Force Association thanks people for the response to "Forgotten few in a lonely country post" article. He also appeals for further books games etc. for the T A Association.

## **Military Welfare**

### **Letters to the Editor**

L E Beaufort President of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association [SAAFA] for funds for the Association. Donations to himself The Cottage Badminton or Major F W Paterson MC Hon Sec County Section United Services Club, College Street Gloucester.

## **Military Welfare**

### **Letters to the Editor**

An appeal on behalf of the Soldiers and Sailors Help Society and Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops. by Franis Cadogan Commander District Head of Fairford Division and Miss M Cambay District Head Cirencester Division.

## **ARP**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **ARP Control Room Cirencester**

Dear Sir – more volunteers are urgently needed for telephone duty at the above. A few original volunteers have left town. This work is light in nature, suitable for those who cannot undertake more active duties. Volunteers are most needed from 9am to noon. Name and address to J T Evans Coordinating Officer.

## **Food Supplies / Welfare**

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Apples Wanted**

The Church Army van is in Gloucester and will come to Cirencester to pick up surplus apples. C A Hadow 17 Cecily Hill volunteers to set up a depot and asks for helpers.

## **Pacifism**

### **Letters to the Editor**

Clarence Fry 41 Latton, Cricklade Defends the Peace Pledge Union and states that they have no admiration for Hitler or his methods.

## **Pacifism**

### **Letters to the Editor**

R W Cox, The Nook Fairford takes exception to an article by Bernard Shaw and the late Rev Dick Sheppard in the Peace News on peace and says there was nothing to say where the paper came from.

## **Pacifism**

### **Letters to the Editor**

E.A.C. says “peace with goodwill not pacifism is the answer.” Warfare was permitted against evil in Heaven so why not on earth?

## **Christmas / Evacuation Welfare**

### **Evacuees in Rural Areas** (not verbatim)

Olive Hirtzel appeals to people interested in organising Christmas plans for evacuee children. The WVS Settlement in Fairford has done valuable work since the beginning of the war. The canteen serves 30 dinners per day as well as tea and the large building has acted as a centre for evacuee children and mothers. Here women do washing and ironing, have hot baths for themselves and children and parents and husbands who come at weekends are made welcome. During the Christmas Holidays a party of boys from other parts of the County who have to leave their billets for one reason or another will be welcomed. A group of Oxford undergraduates have volunteered to come and help out. All the evacuee boys and girls will be welcome daily at the Settlement including Sundays. On Christmas Day all the boys and girls who normally have meals at the Settlement will be given Christmas dinner followed by entertainment at 2 o'clock to which all children in the place are invited. We are not issuing an appeal but all offers of help or gifts for the holiday fare gratefully accepted.

## **Situations Vacant**

Farm situations vacant 1

Domestic situations vacant 25

## **Christmas/ BRCS / Evacuation**

### **Orders for the Week**

BRCS Women's VAD No more practices till after Christmas.

### **More Evacuees**

In comparison with other counties, Gloucestershire makes a good show in the matter of returned evacuees. Not many have returned home. Cirencester lost a few but with the arrival of 29 last Monday, 17 from Barking and 12 from West Ham. The numbers in Cirencester are practically the same as in September.

### **Christmas / Military Welfare**

A local soldier on leave says the following articles are needed by troops this Christmas :- soap, shaving cream, cigarettes, chocolate and malted milk tablets.

### **Christmas Entertainment**

#### **Later Dances**

Permission has been given for the Christmas Carnival Ball at the Corn Hall Boxing day for dancing until 1am. This is the first late night dance for a long time. It will be welcomed with open arms. Carnival novelties, competitions and prizes will help foster the Christmas spirit and an extremely jolly dance should result.

### **Christmas / Retail / Opening Hours**

Cirencester Chamber of Commerce announces all dry goods shops, except Newspaper and Tobacconist shops, will close from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> remain open all day Thursday. Provisions and food shops reopen Wednesday but close for the usual half day on Thursday. All shops will stay open later from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of December inclusive.

### **Christmas / Evacuation / Entertainment / Cinema**

#### **Notice to Patrons**

It is only through the kindness of the management of the Regal Cinema that we are able to entertain 1,000 children – evacuees and our own children - in one place. To do this means a slight rearrangement of their usual programme. We trust that you, as patrons will overlook and inconvenience you may be caused, but in fact, by acquainting yourselves with the revised times of showing you will not be inconvenienced at all. The theatre has been handed over gratuitously to our Committee next Wednesday afternoon December 20<sup>th</sup> from 2pm until 6pm. This means your programme will commence at 6.15pm instead of 5.15pm giving ample time for the children's party. We are sure that you appreciate the reason for the change on the day and the Regal Cinema will not suffer further loss of attendance by your willingness to adapt yourself to the different times of the programme for this one evening. It should be added that the Gaumont British Company showed an equal readiness to place the Picture House at the Committee's disposal but owing to a number of considerations primarily the matter of date it was possible only to accept the offer of the Regal. Patience Chester Master Chairman of the Children's Christmas Party Committee.

### **Christmas / Retail**

#### **Advert**

Advert for Ray Harding 46 Cricklade Street and 51 Dyer Street includes:- cigarette tobacco including the famous VWH Mixture at 1/2d tobacco 11d an oz., petrol and electric lighters, service watches, various pipe racks, pouches, cigar cases, pocket wallets, playing cards etc .

Dyer Street shop has a large selection of presentation chocolates and candies at all prices by Fuller's, Terry's, Cadbury's, Pag and Shaw etc. Toffee in fancy tins (Mackintosh) from 6d Crackers from 6d Please ask for a calendar when making a purchase.

### **Casualties / Black-out**

#### **Black-out Accident**

Typical of Cirencester's Black-out streets on Thursday night Albert Fox, butcher of Gloucester Street had just left the Council Offices in Gosditch Street when fumbling his way through the darkness he walked into some railings. He cut and was taken to the Memorial Hospital where he had three stitches in his wound.

### **Christmas / Children's Party / Evacuation**

#### **Children's Party** (not verbatim)

"Arrangements for the Christmas treat for 1,000 odd children" are now nearing completion. The date is fixed for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. The Regal management have kindly agreed to rearrange their programme. No other sizeable building is available due to requisitioning. Use of the regal does not

just mean a Picture Show. We will not give away any secrets but they will spend an enjoyable few hours perhaps with "the good wine kept till the last. Subscriptions would be welcomed.  
LH Batt Hon Treasurer Barclays Bank.

### **Propaganda / Military**

#### **Progress of the War**

##### **Reports**

The German Battleship Graf Spee is trapped in the River Plate.

The British Destroyer "Jersey" which was damaged by a torpedo on December 7<sup>th</sup> is now in harbour.

The British Destroyer "Duchess" is reported lost after colliding with another British Warship.

4 German aircraft have been shot down off Heligoland.

The League of Nations has expelled Russia for not breaking off hostilities against Finland after being given 48 hours to do so.

### **Christmas / Retail**

#### **Advert (one line)**

Bring your Jack and Jill to Ormond's Mystery Well

### **WVS / Christmas**

The WVS for CD announces that the office at 14 Dollar Street will be closed from Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday December 27<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

Patience Chester Master Chairman.

### **Christmas / Retail**

#### **Only Seven days to Christmas**

Large advertisement for Ormond's Ltd House of Fashion, Cirencester

### **Christmas / Politics / Supplies**

#### **Home Affairs in Parliament**

##### **By Sir Percy Herd MP**

The Government refused the request by some members that the State pay for the Christmas entertainment of evacuee children. In their view it was "suitable matter for voluntary effort and voluntary effort is likely to be very successful.

##### **Wool Control**

The Ministry of Supply announces that wool in farmers' hands is to be soon taken over by Wool Control.

The attention of the Secretary of State has been brought to the case of a private soldier barred from a restaurant where officers were dining. The Minister said that there is no objection whatever from a military point of view.

### **Christmas / Evacuation**

#### **Evacuee Children Entertain Villagers**

##### **Funds raised for Sapperton Hall an Act of Gratitude**

Evacuee children from the Russell Central School West Ham entertained the people of Sapperton with a concert in the village hall on Friday last week. This is thought to be the first time evacuees have organised a concert as a mark of appreciation to those who have extended them hospitality. The teachers 27 pupils who are continuing their studies in the Village Hall felt they would like to show their gratitude to the people of Sapperton for their kindness in allowing them to use the Hall and for the unstinted hospitality they have had extended to them. Discussions were held to discover the most practicable way of showing their gratitude and it was finally decided to organise a concert. This would serve two purposes – it would help towards the funds of the Village Hall and provide residents with an evening's entertainment. They knew that there were few activities in Sapperton and a concert was a pleasant change. Miss Prentis and Miss Barnard eagerly set to work to train the children, the latter busying herself making appropriate costumes. They were however perturbed by the incidental costs that might arise, but the school dramatic society agreed to stand all expenses. There was yet another

advantage connected with the concert and that the rehearsals and dress making occupied the boys and girls in their leisure time. The hall was packed on Friday and Rev A Ruck Rector of Sapperton expressed his pleasure at seeing such an encouraging audience present. The concert began with two pieces of choral verse speaking by the senior girls "The Ice Cart" by W W Gibson and "The Listeners" by Walter de La Mere. There followed mimes acted splendidly by the juniors. The first was a boxing match and the second a girls' singing lesson. Mr Ben Brace the headmaster of the Sapperton Centre sang a number of songs. Doreen Hills and Betty Poulter recited two charming little poems followed by a scene from Twelfth Night. This was well acted considering the ages of those taking part. The cast was Olivia – Edna Lawrence, Viola – Irene Moakson, Maria – Peggy Thomas, Ladies in waiting – Annie Hunt and Florence Lines. The unprecedented production of a Shakespeare play in the Village Hall of a Cotswold village was rendered all the more amazing by the fact that it was acted by children snatched suddenly from their homes in London on the outbreak of war. The detectable cockney accent far from detracting from the lines lent them a new charm when piped by youthful voices. An amazing diversion was provided by Miss K Prentis who put over the well known Mabel Constanduros act "Mrs Buggins takes her family to the zoo" in fine style. After two recitations by Ronald Taylor and Iris Brooks a one act play was performed by nine young actors. It was called "Pietasters of Ispahan" by Clifford Bax and those taking part were – Joyce Clarke, Doris Donkin, Marguerite Eifert, Eva Kilby, Muriell McCallum, Vera Hills, Irene Locke, Helen Rockovitch and Vera Phipps. The scene was the room of Hallaj the writer. At the conclusion of the excellent concert the rector asked Mrs Gimson the Hon Treasurer of the Village Hall funds to ascend the stage where she was presented with a sum of approximately £6 towards the funds.

### **Propaganda / Annual Review**

#### **Our Annual Review – A Year of Historic Importance**

This article is too long to transcribe for the purpose of local history but can be read from microfilm in the Bingham Library . The article includes the British peace effort; the end of the Spanish war; Czecho-Slovakia seized; our guarantee to Poland.

### **National Savings**

#### **To employees and employers – A method of week by week saving to help win the war**

To employees

Save together and save regularly to help your Country in the fight for freedom. By joining a National Savings Group in your factory or office you will find it easier to save regularly and in small sums. If there is no savings group at your place of employment set about forming one.

To employers

Help your employees form a National Savings Group at your factory or office. The National Savings Committee has schemes designed to meet every need; they are all easy to organise and simple to work. There is a scheme to suit your requirements. By making it easy for your employees to save regularly on pay day you will be helping them to make their contribution to the nations financial effort. Write to National Savings Committee London SW3. Who will give you every practical assistance in forming your National Savings Group.

And to every British citizens

If you cannot join a National Savings Group you can still save in small sums by purchasing 6d National Savings stamps at any Post Office. It is a simple way to save and since your savings are today a vital contribution to victory make a point of putting some away every week. Lend to Defend the Right to be Free. Issued by the National Savings Committee.

### **Retail**

#### **Advert – Dubarry's Crème Shalimar**

I've christened them Hitler Hands – She held out her shapely hands for my inspection quoting mockingly "Pale hands I love beside the Shalimar!" I saw those once lovely hands so rough, so red, so worn, so tired so old-looking and in the same flippant vein replied "Those soft white hands of not so long ago, no longer like lotus buds that flower in May" What is the cause ATS WAAF WRNS GOK XYZ ?

A little bit of everything she answered..

Why I wonder do so many women let their hands go ? It is so easy to keep them soft white cool and immaculate. "Pale hands, pink tipped" even when you are doing the roughest war work. The secret is a little Dubarry's Crème Shalimar, rubbed over the hands at bedtime, you will be amazed next morning at the magical improvement. Use Crème Shalimar every night all year round but especially when Winter comes; it has no equal for chapped and roughened hands. Crème Shalimar is sold by chemists everywhere in tubes at 6d and 1/3d.

### **Dig for Victory/ Food Supplies**

#### **Article**

Page 10 includes extensive advice under "Garden Notes for wartime Gardeners"

### **Christmas / Evacuation / Black-out**

#### **Spotlight Column** (not verbatim)

Spotlight rebuffs the CUDC for trying to prevent carol singers. He says it is dictatorial and outside their powers. He likens it to the spirit of Mrs Grundy and says they should leave the public to make up their own mind whether they wish to hear the Christmas melodies they have grown up with and love so much. He also appeals again to evacuee parents to leave the children in Cirencester.

He says he feels sorry for the children in not seeing brightly lit Christmas shop windows this year.

However there has been an increase in light in shop windows it is now possible to distinguish articles by cleverly contrived lamps.

### **Military**

There was some confusion in the House of Commons that the Territorial Army no longer exists. Mr Hoare-Belisha said however that much of the recent increase in the forces was in the Territorial Army.

### **Military Welfare / Royal Navy**

Comforts for the Navy should be sent direct to the Department for Knitted Garments for the Royal Navy 11a West Halkin Street SW 1

### **Royal Navy / Propaganda**

The crew of a German merchantman gave a donation to King George's Fund for Sailors in gratitude for the kindness shown by the Royal Navy.

### **Propaganda**

#### **Freedom Calling**

The Gestapo have failed to track down the German Freedom radio which still daily voices the news and views of those who abominate Nazism.

Haw Haw's £5 a week. Out of his salary of £35 a month the Zeesen English announcer pays £15 a month in tax, leaving less than £5 a week for his work!

### **Casualties / Royal Navy**

#### **Missing Believed Killed – Gunner G L Blowers lost on HMS Jersey – Cirencester's 3<sup>rd</sup> sea victim**

On Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup> HMS Jersey was damaged by a U-Boat torpedo. 2 officers and 8 ratings are missing believed killed and 2 officers and ratings injured. One of the officers missing is Gunner George Lucas Blowers R N son of Mrs H Barnard, Warwick Cottage, Victoria Road and the late Frank Blowers. He was well known in Cirencester where he spent many periods of leave since his return from 2 years stationed in Australia a few years ago. He was in Cirencester to see his friends 3 weeks ago. Many friends will be shocked to hear of his death as the Admiralty originally published his name as Lucas. He was born in Birmingham, educated at Guildford and joined the Navy 22 years ago when aged 15. When the war broke out he held the rank of Gunner and in this rank was posted to HMS Jersey when she was commissioned last April.

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23/12/39

**Christmas/ Religion**

**Advert**

**Holy Trinity Church Watermoor**

Carol service with Cirencester Choral Society – solos trios and quartets – at the Church Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> 2.45pm Collection to defray expenses – AWG Bayes Hon Sec Cirencester Choral Society, A Tranter Hon Sec Holy Trinity Choir.

**Christmas / Entertainment**

**Advert – Millers Luxurious Coaches**

Pantomime Opera House Cheltenham – Dick Wittington – coaches each Wednesday and Thursday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Watermoor 6pm Chesterton 6.05pm Market Place 6.15pm 2/6d GJ Miller and Sons Purley Road Garage Cirencester, Tel 475.

**Christmas / Entertainment / RAF**

**Comrades of the RAF**

Grand Carnival Dance – The Church Hall – Cricklade Street – Boxing Day Dancing 7.30pm to 12pm – Alec Mattock and his Orchestra – Tickets single 1/3d Double 2/- Lady's and Gent's Number available limited. No admission after 10pm.

**New Year / Entertainment**

**Spinsters Dance**

The Swan Hotel Bibury Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1940

8pm to 12pm – Buffet and Bar

Tickets 6/6d obtainable from the committee Miss R Allen 4 Victoria Road, Miss P Moss Gainsborough House Studios Cirencester, Miss M Phillips Ewen Farm House, Miss Jean Rickards Marston Meysey Manor, Miss R Butler The Chipping Tetbury, Miss D Midwinter Cleve Stratton. Proceeds to the Cigarette Fund for His Majesty's Forces.

**Christmas / Entertainment**

**Dance**

At the Corn Hall Boxing Night 8.30pm to 1pm tickets 2/-

**New Year / Entertainment**

**Dance**

1924 Cirencester Branch of the British Legion - New Year's Eve Dance Friday December 29<sup>th</sup> Alec Mattock's Dance Orchestra – admission 1/6d at the door.

**Christmas / Evacuation**

**Letters to the Editor**

**Thanks of Evacuees**

Dear Sir – the approach of Christmas seems an appropriate time for us to express on behalf of ourselves and all the children living in Oaksey our appreciation of the extremely kind hospitality of the people of Oaksey. Although we have said very little to date we do appreciate what has been and we take the opportunity to wish all the people of Oaksey and the WVS a Happy Christmas and a more than prosperous New Year. Their task is a formidable one but the fact that no child in Oaksey would willingly return home speaks for itself – Yours faithfully W W Clarke , L C Free, WW Pitter c/o Street Farm Oaksey.

**Casualties / Road Accidents / Black-out / Forces**

T C Foley Secretary of the National Pedestrian's Association 3 Tudor Street EC4 reports that as a result of two questions in the House of Commons it was revealed that 2,975 persons had been killed in road accidents in the first 3 months of the war while those killed in action in the forces during that time numbered 2,100.

### **Crime / Casualties / Black-out / Road Accidents**

Cecil Charles Smith 54 of 3 Council Houses South Cerney was killed while cycling in the Black-out. Henry William Norton was found to be guilty of manslaughter by gross negligence for driving his car into Smith. This was the inquest verdict.

### **Propaganda / Annual Review**

#### **Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Review**

This article is too long to transcribe for the purpose of local history but can be read from microfilm in the Bingham Library. The article includes diplomatic activity – Naval treaty denounced – the Anglo-Russian Negotiations – policy of encirclement – final efforts for peace

### **Christmas / Retail**

#### **Advert for Burton's**

A Happy Christmas – “Where are your children going Mrs Brown” Oh they're going to Burton's to get their Christmas toys and games and sweets? Good place for them too.  
Burton's Gosditch Street Cirencester.

### **Classified Ad**

#### **Safeguard poultry**

Safeguard poultry Britain needs them! Moping hens, geese, turkeys – liver trouble, worms etc cured in 24 hours with Johnson's Reviving Tonic 7 ½ d 1/2d 5/-. Smith's, also Huck's Corn Stores Cirencester.

### **Situations Vacant**

Farm situations vacant 2

Domestic situations vacant 10

### **Crime / Black-out / Supplies**

#### **Cirencester Petty Sessions**

Following representations from the CUDC four were fined :- Alan Honeyburn of South Cerney 5/-, William Tye of Tarlton 2/6d, Charles William Day 5 Mount Street 5/-, Norman Edward Gaskins 2 Lawrence Road 5/-. They were fined for leaving bicycles on the pavement without lights. Henry Walker was fined 5/- for having no rear light. The Chairman of the Bench said that it was nearly impossible to get batteries in Cirencester. Police Inspector Jotcham said that cyclists without batteries should walk. Also when asked if oil lamps were still available he said he had no information to hand. There were three cases of too much light. Victor Sherbourne of 43 Apsley Road was showing an unscreened front lamp in Kemble. William George Lanchbury Brewery Cottages South Cerney again in Kemble fined 5/-. Henry Thomas Dowse 41 Apsley Road Cirencester fined 10/- for not screening his front light. Ernest Thomas Lundigard £2 and endorsement for exceeding the speed limit by driving his van at 52 mph in the Black-out.

The Chairman of the Bench told Humbert William Jesse Humphries, rabbit catcher of Elkstone, that he had had the wrong sort of rations when he was found guilty of being drunk and incapable in Bailey's doorway.

### **Christmas / Entertainment / Cinemas**

#### **Christmas Fare at Cinemas**

Gracie Fields in “Shipyard Sally” at the Picture House

At the Regal – Boxing Day and Wednesday - the greatest military picture ever turned out by a British Studio “Sword of Honour” produced with the full cooperation of the War Office and Military Authorities. The main feature Thursday Henry Fonda, Fred MacMurray and Sylvia Sydney in “Trail of the Lonesome Pine”

### **Casualties / Blackout**

George Thomas Towner of 24 Tunnel House Coates was killed when he crashed in the Black-out on Kill Devil Hill last Saturday at 10.10pm. He died of a fractured skull.

### **Christmas / Retail**

#### **Advert**

Advert for Ray Harding 46 Cricklade Street and 51 Dyer Street includes:- cigarette tobacco including the famous VWH Mixture at 1/2d tobacco 11d an oz., petrol and electric lighters, service watches, various pipe racks, pouches, cigar cases, pocket wallets, playing cards etc .  
Dyer Street shop has a large selection of presentation chocolates and candies at all prices by Fuller's, Terry's, Cadbury's, Pag and Shaw etc. Toffee in fancy tins (Mackintosh) from 6d Crackers from 6d  
Please ask for a calendar when making a purchase.

### **Evacuation / Cirencester Grammar School / Propaganda**

#### **Evacuee Child Wants National Service** (not verbatim)

Norma Lee a pupil of form 3a of Cirencester grammar School wants to take up some National Service but is too young. She writes in "Cirencestrian" (the Grammar School magazine) of her father's work as an ARP work as a warden and goes on to say that she would like to take on some form of National Service. Writing of her new life in Cirencester Norma says "Daddy come here every weekend and for two days the family is happily reunited. Daddy brings my uncle with him and so you may be sure that everyone's happy. Though I may long for London and the noise and bustle of the City streets I know that I must not grumble. Better the country than no country at all!" She concludes with a message to fellow evacuees. When we have won the war we can all settle down in our own homes in peace. So keep your chin up and smile! Life is what you make it and I for one am going to make it a life worth living. Here's hoping for peace.

### **Christmas / Retail**

#### **Seasons Compliments**

#### **General Advert**

Season's Compliments extols the virtues of beer as a traditional way of cheering up in difficult times.

### **Military Welfare**

#### **Socks for the Armies**

Large supplies of oversocks, scarves and mittens are needed by the Comforts Fund of the RAF. A scarf requires 7oz of 4ply wool in RAF blue. Two No.8 knitting needles should be used. The measurements are 52 to 56 inches long 11 to 12 inches wide. Full instructions for socks and mittens from the RAF Comforts Fund Berkeley Square London. Finished articles should be sent the Chief Ordnance Officer, Central Ordnance Depot, Branston, Burton-on Trent.

### **CRDC / Military Welfare**

Referring to a letter from Cirencester Rotary re the setting up of a club for troops, the Chairman said that representatives should go to discuss the matter but as private individuals they should support it "wholeheartedly".

### **Medical**

#### **War Within a War**

The Royal Cancer Hospital will continue its work with greater vigour despite the war.

### **Christmas / Children's Party / Evacuation** (main points of long report)

The children assembled at their schools on Wednesday and marshalled by their headmasters, marched to the Regal Cinema. The seats were allotted in blocks to each school according to numbers attending. They were seated in a speedy and orderly manner. The entertainment started at 2.pm with a film. This was followed by a half hour performance to a gaping audience by Herbert Millon a conjuror from London. This was followed by a half hour singing competition with Miss Doris Winmill on accordion and conducted by Mr J T Evans . The competition was between the Town and the Country. In spite of inferior numbers the Town won. It was the Londoner's Lambeth Walk which threatened the roof. The

favourite numbers in the competition were The Siegfried Line, Run Rabbit Run and There'll Always be an England. Refreshments were then served, to be followed by Bob Fitch a ventriloquist and his dummy "Winkle". Bob a clown entertained with the help of the children and at the end everyone sang the National Anthem and Auld Lang Syne. The Stratton children and service children were taken home by bus others were escorted home by 28 volunteer ladies and gentlemen. On the way out of the Regal each child was given a package containing 2 bars of chocolate and an envelope printed with the Town's Christmas greetings. Included in the thanks to the organisers from Mr Caswell headmaster of the Barking School were further details. The film they saw was "Alice in Wonderland". Winkle and his owner were very popular. The ice cream and cakes were a surprise and the children enjoyed the conjuror. He thanked Miss Pinmill for playing the accordion and pointed out that the envelope each child received contained 5/-.

**30/12/39**

**Entertainment**

**Advert**

**BBC Symphony Orchestra**

BBC Symphony Orchestra –Town Hall Cheltenham – Thursday January 11<sup>th</sup> 2.45pm and 7.pm  
Conductor Sir Adrian Bolt – tickets 2/6d 3/6d 5/- and 7/6d reserved. Unreserved 2/-

**Retail**

**Advert Michell's**

Mitchell's January Sale 5<sup>th</sup> January

**Situations Vacant**

Farm situations vacant 6

Domestic situations vacant 18

**Propaganda / Politics**

**Long Article**

**The Tyranny of Interference Restrictions on Restrictions**

This article by Horace Annesley Vachell hits out at bureaucracy and wartime restrictions Black-out etc.

**CRDC Meeting / Evacuation**

The CRDC refused to pay debts of the Fairford Evacuee Settlement pending a written promise of reimbursement from the Government. An account was owed to the Swindon Gas Company.

**Military / Supplies**

**Mules for the BEF**

The first mules for the BEF have arrived in France. They include pack-mules and draught animals and number several thousand. All come from India. In charge of the pack mules are Indians. With the others are Cypriots. The mules are the first transport animals in our hitherto all mechanised modern field force.

**BRCS**

The British Women's Association in Tangier has organised a strong VAD that has been officially recognised by the BRCS.

**Agriculture**

**Agricultural Review in 1939 by G T Burrows**

This is a long article on how farmers are valiantly meeting Government wishes.

**Evacuation**

**Letters to the Editor**

Mr Scutton attacks the Wilts and Glos Standard for biased reporting of the CRDC's meeting as unfair to the WVS Settlement at Fairford. The reporter replies equally strongly.

### **Medical /BRCS and Order of St John**

#### **Central Hospital Supply Service** (not verbatim)

Since the County depot opened at 32 The Market Place (through the courtesy of Boots Chemists) 4936 articles have been received and hospital supplies have been sent to Naval and Military Hospitals and H.Qs. A dispatch of supplies left for the Finns sick and wounded last week another leaves this week. The amount of material to H. Q. to December 18<sup>th</sup> was 16,00 yards of flannelette for bandages and 300 yards of gauze for dressings. So nearly all the 4936 articles sent to us have been gifts provided by funds raised by depots and work parties. Since December 18<sup>th</sup> 1084 yards of shirt material, 642 yards of pyjama flannel and 200lbs of white wool has been sent from H.Q. and sent out to depots and working parties. H.Q. hopes to send us a certain amount of material from time to time, but to quote a H.Q. note of December 16<sup>th</sup> "The stage is approaching when demands on working parties in the absence of large scale military operations in the near future will be lessening. But this does not suggest that the work parties should regard their responsibilities as ended. When the Army is engaged the reserves of comforts will be in immediate demand. While demands diminish the work parties might concentrate on comforts for hail and hearty men". But money and materials must not come from BRCS funds. We are grateful to 23 depots and 300 working parties in the county organised by the Red Cross, Order of St John, the British Legion and other organisations and private work parties. We are most grateful. Gifts are required for the Finns in the form of white balaclava helmets and stockings, white mittens, pyjamas, vests and drawers and anything for women and children. Anything sent to 32 Market Place will be forwarded and most gratefully received. Jessie W Gibson Hon Sec CHSS Gloucester.

### **Military / Home Defence**

#### **The County Home Battalions** (not verbatim)

H D after the Battalion number of county regiments denotes Home Defence Battalion composed of men between 35 and 50yrs, some cases older who saw service in the last war. The battalions are new being expansions of National Defence Companies. More men are required to get them up to strength. Information from a member might help:- We are stationed in our county of origin within 30 miles of home most of us in as not too populous district guarding a vulnerable point. There are a number of the latter such as railway bridges, tunnels, road bridges, water works, wireless stations and so on. By undertaking this younger men are released for more active service and overseas. Just before 6.60 this morning I was awaked by the cry "gunfire". The cook had arrived in the hut with early tea. We sat on our beds drinking tea, 4 members of the opposite section of our platoon dwelling on the other side of the hut were buttoning up their coats and taking up their rifles to go on sentry duty. They took with good humour our suggestions to leave their rifles and take umbrellas, our appeal to try to look like soldiers and similar ribald remarks, for tomorrow morning they will be in bed thinking up caustic remarks on our appearance. Before long, sentries relieved returned and the hut conversation had become general and we listened to the 7 o'clock news. Men dressed in leisurely fashion. By breakfast time comfortable spring beds were tidied, blankets folded and rooms swept. He goes on at length to paint quite a rosy picture. Comforts have been provided by friends, cards, darts a wireless and cigarettes and tobacco. The County library has allowed books to set up a lending library. 36 hour leave passes once a week between guard duties are arranged.

### **Christmas / Evacuation**

#### **South Cerney**

A party for the evacuees in South Cerney was held in the Village Hall for the West Ham children. First there was an excellent tea hostesses were the WVS and teaching staff. The room was then cleared for dancing. Next was the turn of the children. A concert party of eleven children gave a first rate show with song and dancing, solos and choruses. They reflected great credit on their teachers for the excellent presentiment of their songs and dances. Another interlude for more dancing and musical chairs followed while a Christmas fairy came and presented to every child and all concerned a Christmas gift. Short speeches were made by representatives of hosts and guests for their various efforts and the children's welfare in the village. The party concluded with the singing of the school

song then with lowered lights two carols. All went home feeling that in South Cerney billeting was a success and that the town and country children had mingled with profit to all.

## **Christmas**

### **Christmas Spirit in Cirencester** (not verbatim)

#### **Merrymaking not Undeterred by War**

The attitude of Cirencester was summed up by the large cake given to the Memorial Hospital by Mr C Peck. On top of the cake was a replica of the Siegfried line complete with washing. To have walked through the streets of Cirencester, Malmesbury or Fairford or any village or town would have rendered it difficult to believe that we are at war. Only a large number uniforms would have given any indication. By day the streets were packed with happy shoppers, by night cars debouched smartly dressed patrons for dances at church, village and corn halls.

As to those less fortunate, Mr W Copley master and the staff spared no pains for the inmates of Cirencester's Public Assistance Institute. There was a splendid dinner of pork, beef, turkey, baked potatoes, pudding and rum sauce. Beer and mineral waters were also served and the inmates given a bag of sweets and biscuits and the men received tobacco. Those who assisted with serving meals in the gaily decorated dinning room were :- Captain Fawcett Chairman of the PA Committee, Mrs Fawcett, Mrs M Connal, Guardian Mrs A S M Black, Mr and Mrs Copley Master and Matron. Mr and Mrs A R Dixon Assistant Master and Assistant Matron, Mr A Jackson and Mr A Weaver. In the afternoon the hall was cleared for Christmas party games and dancing with favourites such as the Lambeth Walk, Chestnut tree and Bumps a Daisy. Mrs Weaver played the piano and Miss Scrutton sang solos. Inmates also contributed. After tea of fruit jelly and blancmange, mince pies and Christmas cake Mr Davies and helpers led community singing until 8 o'clock. In the morning the Methodist choir visited to sing carols. Those in sick beds had the day brightened up by the recently installed wireless. There were 164 inmates for Christmas.

At the Memorial Hospital 10 adults and 5 children enjoyed the Christmas fun although confined to bed. All the wards were tastefully decorated with a tree in each ward. The nursing staff carried lanterns in the wards and sang carols. On Christmas Day Mr H F Priddy secretary of the Hospital dressed as Father Christmas distributed presents to every patient. Christmas dinner of turkey and plum pudding was provided. The Annual nursing staff dinner was held on Wednesday night.

The meet killed 2 foxes on Boxing Day

At the Post Office despite the Black-out and rail delays the mail moved smoothly with an increase on last year of 17%. The public responded to the Post Early campaign. There was a steady flow but no peak. 450,000 letters and packets and 20,000 parcels passed through the Post Office in the week prior to Christmas. By 1pm on December 25<sup>th</sup> all Christmas mail was delivered. Postmen returned in time for Christmas dinner. The temporary Post Office in Cricklade Street relieved the pressure and it is hoped that it might be used next year. The Church hall was used as a parcel depot and 22 additional men were taken on.

## **Review of the Year / Evacuation / Christmas**

### **3rd Review of the year**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> review of the year included a report of the children's party along with thank you letters from Anne Ludlow of Watermoor School and Mary Tester from the Council School.