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Title **Press Cuttings**

Source **Harrogate Advertiser**

LOCAL ITEMS

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01.01.1944

For the Red Cross.- The Misses H. and E. K. Alton, daughters of County Coun. And Mrs El Alton, Scriven Road, Knaresborough, again made toys for sale this Christmas in aid of the Red Cross Agricultural Fund. The toys were sold in Harrogate last week, and realised the excellent sum of £26 odd.

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1 January 1944

KNARESBOROUGH WARDENS' SUCCESS

Fourteen Knaresborough wardens who have been taking a course in artificial respiration under P. C. Ridley have passed their test and have been awarded Royal Life Saving Society badges. They are: Messrs. J. E. Read (deputy head warden), J. Thompson (assistant head warden), C. Cooper, G. Hallam, A. Holmes, A. Mainman, A. Rolgers (senior wardens), Mrs A. M. Rennie, Mrs D. E. Thomson, Messrs W. E. Day, H. Herrington, D. Kitching, H. Walker and G. Wakefield (wardens). The examiner was Sergt. Dooley, Harrogate

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KNARESBOROUGH EXCELS AGAIN

12.02.1944

Small Savings Record

Congratulations are extended to Knaresborough on holding the small savings record for Yorkshire with a figure of £106 per head of the population for the four years, November, 1939 to November 1943.

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This is an outstanding achievement, reflecting great credit on all concerned. There is evidently a praiseworthy determination on the part of townfolk to save regularly each week, and the many group collectors are to be warmly commended for their untiring and enthusiastic endeavours.

“On the Map”

When in April, 1942, Knaresborough carried off the County championship flag with its per capita figure of £41. 12s. 10d. for Warship Week, Sir Harold Mackintosh (President of the local committee), urged the forming of more groups, saying, "Don't let it be said that this grand team of Knaresborough folk can only play up when they are in the limelight, playing for the cup. Let us show that we can keep our end up day by day, year in and year out." The town's small savings figure now revealed is a fine response to Sir Harold's appeal. Knaresborough has been definitely "on the map" in the big savings drives; it is now particularly gratifying that the town is leading the way in unspectacular, but vital, systematic savings. The local committee now has 89 savings groups, covering streets, schools and other social and industrial interests.

"Salute the Soldier"

Knaresborough will take part in the forthcoming "Salute the Soldier" campaign, and the sate and target will shortly be decided upon . Endeavours will be made to exceed even the fine result of "Wings for victory" Week, when the Yorkshire championship flag was carried off a second time, with a total of £387,190 or £48. 4s. 7d. per head. The County championship flag in the forthcoming campaign will be awarded on the basis of small savings only. In "Wings for Victory" drive Knaresborough's small savings reached the high figure of £11. 2s. 6d. per head for that one week, but something even higher must be looked for if the town is to aim for this year's flag. Knowing the all-round enthusiasm, there is little doubt that a determined bid will be made for the trophy.

2.

Army Blankets

Harold Langton, quarryman, Knaresborough, pleaded not guilty to being in unlawful possession of four Army blankets, the property of the War Department.

Supt. Cockroft said that during the course of enquiries about Army blankets which were missing, P.S. Goddard on November 16th visited defendant's home and saw Mrs Langton. He told her he had reason to believe they had some of the blankets, and she replied, "I have only one. My husband bought them, and you will have to see him." She went upstairs and brought down one grey blanket. In the evening, P.S. Goddard and P.D. Walker interviewed defendant, who said, "I only bought one from the man next door." After being further questioned , he said, "There is the other blanket. I bought two from a soldier." Later, he made a voluntary statement, in which he admitted having bought four blankets from a soldier. Two of the blankets had been dyed brown.

In his statement, defendant said that about five weeks previously, he had been asked into the house next door one evening, and there met a soldier. There was no light, and the soldier was using a torch. There were four Army

blankets on the floor, and he was asked if he would like to buy two for a pound. He bought them for that amount. A few days afterwards, the soldier called again and they went into the house next door, where he bought two more blankets for 10s. The soldier said he was hard up. He could not identify the soldier, as each time he was in the house it was in darkness and only a torch was used. He did not question the soldier about the blankets. The soldier said they were his own property.

10 Langton said he did not think they were Army blankets, s there was no stamp on. He thought all Army blankets were stamped.

Defendant was fined £4.

3.

20 Harrogate was naturally interested in the photographs and reports concerning General Sir Bernard Montgomery which appeared in the daily newspapers on Tuesday, for it was here that his brother, the Rev. Colin Montgomery, stayed for a short time and assisted at St. Peter's Church. According to the reports the famous General is travelling about in a special train and car, and at one town where he left his car and entrained he was given a rousing reception by a small crowd which had gathered. Here he was received by a high official who had charge of the town's visitors' book which Sir Bernard kindly signed, and also accepted a copy of a souvenir handbook which had been prepared to mark the town's Holidays-at-Home scheme. He is now Commander-in-Chief of the British group of Armies under General Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the British and United States Expeditionary Forces organising in the United Kingdom for the liberation of Europe.

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**KNARESBORO'
GOLF CLUB
26.02.1944**

Profit on Land Tillage

40 The accounts were submitted by Mr. Shepherd, who said the loss of £53 on the revenue account was the first since 1937. The land tillage account shoed a profit of £93, which had been transferred to the post-war development fund. The latter now stood at £213. The treasurer said he hoped the next balance sheet would be a victory one.

**SUNDAY FILMS AT
KNARESBORO'
11.03.1944**

Forces' Application

An application by the military authorities for the Sunday opening of the local cinema was considered at the meeting of Knaresborough Urban Council on Monday evening.

Coun. P. Broadbelt (chairman) presided, others present being Couns. J. Lingard (vice-chairman), C. H. Blenkhorn, T. H. Coy, H. Corps, W. H. Dawes, G. A. Eddy, G. T. Kitching, T. O'Brien, C. H. Pawson, J. E. Reed, Mrs J. Taylor and J. B. Topham; also the Clerk (Mr Wm. E. Potter), the Medical Officer (Dr. D. F. Dobson), the financial officer (Mr L. Atkinson), the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. H. Eatough), the Rating Officer 9Mr H. Mainman) and Miss S. M. Clare.

The Clerk reported the receipt of applications from the commanding officers of Service units for the Sunday opening of the local cinema. If the Council decided to support the applications, the procedure was for an order to be made for submission to the Home Secretary, who would decide whether to confirm it or not. The licensing authority for cinemas was the County Council, but an Order by the Home Secretary would be sufficient to enable the County Council to permit Sunday opening.

Coun. Mrs Kirkley said she had read of ten cinemas which could not open on Sundays, although they had the privilege, because of shortage of staff. How did that affect the position?

The chairman said the question of staff did not concern the Council. He thought it would be advantageous to the town to allow the cinema to open on Sundays, and he thought the application should be supported. The members of the Services had nowhere to go on Sundays, and they should be given the opportunity of recreation. Coun. Broadbelt said he hoped the cinema company would not be content with the present hall, which was too small for the requirements of Knaresborough and the surrounding district.

Moving that the application be granted, Coun. Mrs Taylor said Service people should have somewhere to go on Sundays. She saw no harm in Sunday opening of cinemas, and though the Council should not stand in the way.

Boating and Cinemas

Seconding, Coun. Coy said the general public, as well as Service people, wanted relaxation on Sundays at a time like the present. It was a pity that Knaresborough people should have to go into Harrogate to seek recreation on a Sunday. The application gave the Council an opportunity of showing the people that it was doing something to meet their wishes with regard to recreation. There was no difference between Sunday boating and Sunday cinemas.

Coun. Lingard said the Council last year unanimously agreed to allow Sunday boating, as relaxation from normal duties, and to be consistent, he must

support the application. In his view, there was no difference between boating, golfing or going to the cinema on a Sunday.

Coun. O'Brien also supported but said he hoped there would be no opening on Sunday mornings.

The Chairman said it would only be evenings.

10 The motion was carried, and the Clerk was instructed to prepare a draft Order for submission to the Home Secretary.

Major York's View

On the general question of Sunday entertainment, the Clerk recalled that at the last meeting, following letters from Whitfield Urban Council and the Lord's Day Observance Society, he was asked to enquire the views of the local Member of Parliament and the West Riding Urban Council's Association. In reply, he had received the following letter from Major Christopher York: "I think my views on Sunday entertainment are pretty well known in the constituency, and I should certainly support any measure taken against such societies as the Lord's Day observance Society to prevent their being able, as they are at present, to put a stop to Sunday entertainments given for the benefit of members of the Forces, the public and the charities for which they are organised."

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The Association's reply was to the effect that so many Councils had already expressed their views on the subject that no useful purpose would be served by the Association circulating its opinions.

SCHOOL HARVEST CAMPS 18.03.1944

DISTRICT SITES AND DATES

Dates and sites have now been fixed for the majority of School Harvest Camps which are to be held in the West Riding this summer by the West Riding War Agricultural Executive Committee. It is expected that there will be over 2,000 boys and girls in the camps this year.

The following are the sites of the district camps, the dates and the schools which will send pupils:-

Littlethorpe – Oct. 1-Oct. 30: Ripon Girls' High S. (local work 14 days).

Markington – Aug. 28-Sept. 30: Nether Edge, Sheffield.

40 Winsley Hurst – Aug. 28-Sept. 30: Pudsey G.S.

Knarborough – Aug. 19-4/5 weeks: Cockburn H.S.

Minskip – Aug. 19-onwards: Roundhay Boys' School.

Kirkby Overblow – Aug. 29 Sept. 19: Penistone G.S.

North Deighton – Aug. 19-Sept. 19: Crossley and Porter, Halifax.

50 Copmanthorpe – Aug. 15-Oct. 30: Todmorden Sec. Sch.

The following are provisional acceptances by schools:-

Littlethorpe – Oct. 1-Oct. 31: Wheelwright Girls.

Staveley – Oct. 2-Oct. 30: Keighley Girls.

Kirk Deighton – Sept. 30-Oct. 30: West Leeds Girls (14 days).

Copmanthorpe – Aug. 15-Oct. 30: Mirfield G.S.

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The West Riding W.A.E.C. is notifying farmers where they can obtain labour at short notice. Four Area Labour Officers have been appointed, with offices at Skipton (phone 359). Selby (phone 497), Wehtherby and Barnsley.

JOTTINGS

08.04.1944

BY "FREE LANCE"

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It was too late last week to include Mr Churchill in these notes. I repair the omission now by wishing it had been possible to have a bigger crowd of people to welcome him when he arrived on the "up" platform shortly after three o'clock. There has been quite an air of disappointment on the part of those who would have been able to be at the station at that particular time, and I am sure employers of labour would have been glad to have given their staffs a quarter of an hour off to see our great leader. It is recognised that secrecy is essential for the safety of the Premier, and also for other important travellers, but it seems to me that the local committee of the Ministry of Information could have done a spot of good work with a loud-speaker van shortly before the arrival of the Premier's special train, without telling the enemy anything that would then have been of value. Of course, an announcement a week ahead, giving time and place, would have given the Germans a chance to arrange a surprise party, but ten minutes or so is neither here nor there.

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Knaresborough Petty Sessions

Theft of Army Blankets

Robert Ramsay, soldier, was fined £1 for stealing four Army blankets, valued at £2. 15s, the property of the War Department. He pleaded not guilty.

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Supt. Cockroft said that in February, defendant went to the quartermaster's store, and asked for the loan of four blankets. He was in private billets, and said he wanted the blankets because his wife had been turned out of the

lodgings. He was allowed to take four blankets, on condition that he returned them later. The blankets were afterwards recovered by the police from a man named Cove, and defendant was seen by P.C. Hartley. He was asked for an explanation and said, "I took them to Cove's café, and handed them to him. I received £2 for them, but I sold them for someone else. I did not steal them, but I admit I am in it." When cautioned and charged, he replied, "I did not steal them."

10 Evidence was given by two soldiers in charge of the store, who said no signature was obtained for the blankets, as defendant was at that time a corporal and they trusted him to bring them back. The blankets were not given to him in a sack.

Defendant alleged that the two men in the store asked him to dispose of the blankets for them, and handed them to him in a sack. He did not know whether they were Army property or private property. He was asked to get £2 for them, and after he had received the money from Cove, he shared it with the others.

20 An officer of the unit said defendant had a good military record.

30 **KNARESBORO
PETTY SESSIONS
15.04.1944**

Home Guard's "Gross Neglect"

A fine of £5 was imposed on George F. Dawson, farm labourer, Knaresborough, for absenting himself from Home Guard duty without reasonable excuse on January 12th, a summons to which he pleaded guilty. It was stated that defendant was fined a total of £5 on five similar summonses in February, and the Chairman warned him that if he were brought before the court again, he would be sent to prison.

40 Supt. Cockroft said defendant was enrolled in the Home Guard in August, 1942. Notice was served on him personally by Lieut. M. J. T. Fairman, the platoon commander, to attend certain parades, including one at 7.30 pm on January 12th. He failed to attend, or to send any excuse. Later in the evening, as the result of information which came to his notice, Lieut. Fairman went to a local hotel, where he found defendant drinking. The officer asked him for his reason for absence from the parade, and defendant replied, "I've only just come out to-night." Enquiries were made as to whether or not defendant had been attended by a doctor, and it was found that he had not,

and there appeared to be no reason for his absence from duty. It was a case of gross neglect on defendant's part.

Defendant admitted that he did not attend the parade, but said he went on picquet duty later that evening. He had not been home from work more than a quarter of an hour when Lieut. Fairman came to the hotel.

10 Major H. L. C. Aked, commanding officer of the unit, said defendant's attendance at parades had been unsatisfactory, and since the previous proceedings he had attended only two parades out of at least ten.

Lieut. Fairman said that when he found defendant in the hotel, defendant told him he had been ill and it was the first time he had been out. Witness had given him every opportunity, but he had not responded, and witness could not say a good word for him.

WITH THE CHINDITS IN BURMA 27.05.1944

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KNARESBOROUGH MAN'S ADVENTURES

Left for dead by the Japanese after fierce hand-to-hand fighting in Burma, Signalman Alfred Eric Whiteley, aged 19, of Thistle Hill, Knaresborough, was later found by a British patrol and taken to safety. He is now recovering in a military hospital on the Burma-Assam border.

30 Signalman Whiteley is the youngest member of a column of airborne Chindit forces operating many miles behind the Japanese lines in Burma. He was wounded with sword and bayonet thrusts when the Japanese attacked at night after supplies had been dropped by parachute to the British column.

Slashed With Sword

40 "The Japs were close by," Whiteley told a military observer, "and they popped in as soon as the parachutes came down and stole our rations. The party I was with took up battle positions. The Japs sent up Verey lights and I saw a section of them rushing towards me. I fired, but the Japs were on top of me and one slashed me with a sword. My arm was broken. I fired again with the other hand and as I fell over backwards I was bayoneted several times. I got in four shots and I think I hit three Japs. The enemy left me for dead, but I was eventually found by a patrol from a British formation and was carried back on a litter. I was flown out of Burma to hospital."

Viceroy's Visit

50 Whiteley was one of the patients to whom the Viceroy of India spoke during a recent visit. The elder son of Mrs Whiteley of Thistle Hill, formerly of Barberry House, Greengate Lane, Scriven, he was educated at King James's Grammar School. Before volunteering for the Army, he was employed as a clerk in the

public Assistance office, first at Harrogate and later at Knaresborough. His younger brother, Dennis, who is 18, is in the A.T.C.

Mrs Whiteley first heard that her son had been wounded on April 7th and that he had been transferred to the seriously ill list on the 15th. He was taken of this list three weeks late

EVACUEES IN HARROGATE 08.07.1944

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200 CHILDREN BILLETED

Many mothers and children evacuated from London and the south are being accommodated in Yorkshire. Two hundred children have been billeted in Harrogate, and more have passed through the town on their way to billets in Nidderdale, Pateley Bridge, Markington and Kirkby Malzeard are some of the places to which evacuees have gone. Seventy mothers and children from London have found refuge in Nidderdale rural district, and a party of about 100 children is expected to-day in Knaresborough, where W.V.S. members have been arranging accommodation for them in private houses.

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Fewer evacuees have arrived in the district than were expected. It was stated yesterday by Mr. D. M. Christelow, the Harrogate Billeting Officer, that one train on Wednesday night brought only 463 instead of 700, and from two towns in the South with a school population of 9,000, only 89 children had come.

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HOME GUARD WEEK-END CAMPS 28.07.1944

Week-end training camps have been run at Scriven Park, Knaresborough, for the past three weeks by "F" Company of the 5th Battalion, Home Guard (Harrogate). Some forty men have attended each camp for the whole week-end, and others have joined the courses of specialised training on Sundays. All have enjoyed the lectures, demonstrations and "action" and have expressed the desire to take part in further camps. It is hoped to provide recreation every fourth Sunday during the series, and the first concert will take place at 3pm on Sunday, when the artistes will include Frank Tombs, Sergt. Sampson, Peggy Fisher, Cpl. Morelle, Pte. Hughes and Pte. Holdsworth. The entertainment will be open to the general public.

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SCRIVEN CAMP CONCERT 05.08.1944

HOME GUARD "AT EASE"

Members of "F" Company 5th W.R. Battalion, Home Guard, who have been holding week-end training camps at Scriven Park, Knaresborough, took time

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off for relaxation on Sunday afternoon, when a camp concert, to which the general public were invited was given. The guests included Major and Mrs Slingsby, and the Battalion representatives were Major Gardner, second-in-command, and Capt. Bennett, adjutant.

10 The programme was opened by Sergt. F. Tombs (baritone), and others taking part were Miss A. Greenwood (soubrette and dancer), Sergt. Samson (tenor), Pte. Hughes (impersonator), and Pte. Morrow (comedian). Pte. Holdsworth sang an original composition, "Salute the Soldier," to his own accompaniment, and Miss Peggy Fisher gave accordion solos and accompanied community singing. Lieut. Calcutt compered, and Sergt. Holton was at the piano. The latter also contributed to the humorous side of the programme.

A vote of thanks to the artistes was proposed by Capt. Clarke. Afterwards, the company were entertained to tea in the dining hall.

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2.

SCOTTON BANKS SANATORIUM

30 In the course of a tour of West Riding districts which have received flying-bomb evacuees from London and the South, Miss Florence Horsbrugh, parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, has visited Scotton Banks Sanatorium, Knaresborough, where she saw the children who recently arrived from a hospital in the danger zone. Miss Horsbrugh was received at the hospital by Ald. H. Bambridge, Chairman of the West Riding Public Health Committee, Mr Bernard Kenyon, Clerk to the County Council, and County Coun. C. Jack Simpson, Chairman of the Visiting Committee.

Civil Servants 19.08.1944

40 **Civil Servants** – In addition to housing flying-bomb evacuees, Knaresborough is also providing accommodation for some of the 1,000 civil servants who have arrived in Harrogate this week. It is understood that billets for about 150 have been found in the town.

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**HOME GUARD
STILL WANTED
02.09.1944**

Great Role in Defence

Colonel G. H. Gilmore, D.S.O., M.D. in an address at Harrogate to officers and other ranks of the 5th Battalion West Riding Home Guard, said that at a time when tremendous events were happening in every theatre of war, and the Allies were on top of the wave, the Home Guard could regard with pride the part it had played from the old L.D.V., days to the present time, and draw from it stimulus to maintain interest and keenness for the important work they might still be called upon to do in the possible event of some desperate attempt to injure us in the homeland.

In comparison with modern armaments there was something pathetic in the early equipment of the home Guard. But in those days it was not the weapons that were all important, but the spirit, the spirit that carried us through 1940 and the Germans did not believe the stories that appeared about the pikes and shotguns of the L.D.V. They thought it was part of a prodigious bluff, another example of British humour.

Every military authority had the greatest admiration for the service the Home Guard had rendered freely and often at no small sacrifice. The standard of equipment was now very high. He was sure that history would prove it was the existence and efficiency of the Home Guard that tipped the scale against the invasion of Britain in 1941, 1942 and 1943, and in his opinion that was one of the decisive victories of this war, in which not a single armed German had landed on our soil. If that were all it would more than justify the existence of the Home guard. But it did more than that. When the British and Allied armies were committed to that leap across the water on D-Day great lines of supplies and communications had to be safeguarded and guaranteed. Who did it? The Home Guard – not actively, but by the fact of its presence and readiness for action, it was a major factor in the success of that essential task.

There was still a kick left in our enemy. He still had bombers and gliders and air formations, and groups of fanatics whom he might choose to let loose upon us to wreak what vengeance they could upon this country.

If that should happen the home Guard would again be an essential factor in the defence of Britain and the operations overseas. For these reasons he hoped it would maintain its numbers, keenness and efficiency, and when final victory came, pass out in the spirit of the drums beating and colours flying, and after than help the country with its self-discipline and sanity and camaraderie to win the peace (applause).

STACK FIRES 09.09.1944

About half of a 45 ton hay stack in Studley Park has been saved from fire by the N.F.S. The stack was reported to be on fire in the centre on Tuesday morning, and members of the Ripon N.F.S. were quickly on the scene with a mobile dam. Later, the Harrogate N.F.S. brought another mobile dam, and the work went on until early next morning.

- 10 Twenty tons of hay were lost as the result of a stack fire which broke out on Wednesday morning of last week in a field belonging to Mr R. Renton, of Oxclose, Littlethorpe, near the Boroughbridge Road, Ripon. Members of the Ripon N.F.S. were on the scene until Friday, but all efforts to save the Stack were unavailing.

WITH THE CHINDITS 07.10.1944

HARROGATE SOLDIER'S COURAGE

(By a Military Observer)

Men of the York and Lancs. Regiment, who have been fighting with Major-General Lentaignes 3rd Indian Division (The Chindits) harassing Jap lines of communication in North and Central Burma, in some of the world's worst mountain jungles, still talk of one of their comrades – Pte. "Ned" Spark, Anthony (Ned) Spark, of Harrogate.

- 30 A regular soldier, "Ned" served for six years with the Regiment, and was through the Middle East and Tobruk fighting before going to India. He first came up against the Japs in 1943. Standing 6ft. 3ins., Spark made a name for himself in this year's Special Force operations during the fighting around Ngusherawng in the hills north-west of Taungni, in the Mogaung Valley.

- The York and Lancs. Were moving in on the Kachin village through dense jungle bamboo, when two platoons were sent forward to form a block on the Kawan track. The forward section reported the presence of a large number of Japs in bunkers on a ridge overlooking the track,. When the attack went in to
40 remove this obstacle, the York and Lancs. Came under heavy fire. They could do little in return, so well were the Japs concealed. In spite of this, the attack was pressed home.

"Squirted Death"

Spark, who was section Brengunner, was with the leading troops. Unable to see the Japs from the ground, he stood up, looked around calmly amid a hail of bullets, and then just as casually picked up his Bren, put it to his shoulders and began using it as a rifle with deadly effect. His action was described to

me as incredibly brave. He was so deliberate, and his slow, steady action in the heat of battle was a terrific morale uplift to his comrades.

Using his height to advantage, Spark squirted death left, right and centre, killing five Japs and wounding many more. It was the turning point in a fierce engagement, for the Japs fled in disorder, and the York and Lancs. Platoons quickly cleared the remaining bunkers and foxholes on the ridge. Spark saw nothing unusual in his feat of arms. He thinks his comrades attach too much importance to it. "It was just my job, and the only way I could get in position to fire at them" was his comment.

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Former Boot Repairer

Pte. Spark is twenty-seven years of age, and was educated at High Harrogate College. He is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Spark, of 146a King's Road, Harrogate, and before joining the York and Lancaster Regiment over six years ago, he worked in his father's business as a boot-repairer. During the war, he has served in the Middle East and the Far East.

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Italian Prisoners 11.11.1944

1.

Knarborough Urban District Council is protesting against the unrestrained liberty of Italian prisoners, and has unanimously passed a resolution asking the Government to arrange for the deportation of these men to enable them to fight for their own country. The freedom allowed to them is causing a good deal of discontent among our own troops, and in a letter in a local paper, a writer expresses his disgust. It is reported that they also use the buses freely, and that a Ripon driver recently refused to continue his journey until some prisoners, who had boarded his bus, were turned out. It is time the authorities took a very definite stand on this matter. It is disturbing to think that these men, whom we were fighting not so long ago, are now treated almost on an equality with our own men. It is a state of affairs that is causing deep concern, I gather, to our men who are risking their lives every hour of the day to save Italy for the Italians, and it is felt that the Italians in this country should take a greater share in saving it for themselves.

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2.

DIED OF WOUNDS

Mr and Mrs A. Light, of 23, Ainsty Road, Harrogate, have received news that their eldest son, Fus. Edgar Ronald Light, Royal Scots Fusiliers, has died of wounds.

10 Fus. Light, who was 20 years of age, was educated at Christ Church, Harrogate, and later played football for Christ Church School. Before joining up he was employed by Messrs. Ackrill's Ltd.

THE BISHOP OF RIPON AT CATHEDRAL SERVICE 09.12.1944

20 The 6th Battalion Home Guard comprising units from Ripon, Pateley Bridge, Knaresborough, and surrounding district, paraded in Ripon on Sunday, and attended the Cathedral, where the address was given by the Bishop of Ripon (Dr. G. C. L. Lunt).

30 He said it seemed a long time since those grim but glorious days when the call to arms sounded in Britain – similar to the call to arms which was sounded centuries ago in Israel by the prophet Joel, calling the men to beat their ploughshares into swords and their pruning hooks into spears. It seemed a long time since in response to a similar call the Home Guard sprang into being, making up by the splendour of its spirit for their woeful inadequacy of its equipment – a nation-wide civilian army of defence to stand between
40 civilians and the foul army which at the zenith of its lightning successes, stood poised for the assault on our homeland, only 20 miles from our eastern shore. “The answer to the call was immediate, said the Bishop, you came from your homes and work, in many cases overwork, you came, rich and poor, old and young, a cross-section of our community, peace-loving citizens, but eager and ready and happy to take your share in the greatest crusade in history. We saw you, in those days, evening by evening, assembling for drill and training. Many a time I have seen some of you crawling through hedges, lying in ditches, on a Sunday morning, engaged in unaccustomed exercises. And I
40 have met you later, returning to your homes muddy and wet, and sometimes very tired. In those days of our nation's peril we slept the more soundly in our beds because you were standing sentinel. We knew that bridges and reservoirs and key-points were safe in your charge. We owe you a debt that cannot easily be repaid. It was no fault of yours if neither foe nor fifth columnists cared to put your vigilance to the test. No doubt the knowledge of your presence helped the enemy to come to the decision to keep his arms on the southern side of the Channel. But you did something more for us than that: civilians yourselves, you showed us that discipline, fellowship and good humour and that efficiency which is the mark of the regular fighting services. You have given us an example and a challenge, and you have made us, if it
50 were possible, a little prouder of our country. You thought little of the cost of

10 what you had to give; you gave unstintingly, and why? Because you deemed the cause you served was worthy of all that each could bring. A barbarous enemy was trampling on essential justice, and you knew human life could not be tolerable if justice were taken from the earth. You felt that a foe which trampled under foot all justice and straight dealing was taking up arms against God Himself, and you knew, not only that your cause was just, but also that it was on that account unconquerable. To-day you are assembled in God's house, your special task completed the immediate danger passed. To-day comes the call to beat back swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks."

20 The call to stand down brought not so much a sense of relief as of almost disappointment, for in the service of the great Crusade in the war years, despite the drudgery, and sometimes great discomfort, they had discovered things that were priceless – the joy of being needed, the satisfaction of having a high trust committed to them, the strength that came from unity of purpose, and most of all the richness of a great and deeply valued fellowship. Those great treasures were not to be handed in with the equipment. "They were God's equipment, guard them jealously; they are given to you for the more difficult and just as dangerous days of peace that lie ahead. The great crusade is very far from over."

Russians In Knaresborough 23.12.1944

30 For some time a number of Russians have been working on the land in the Knaresborough district, and won golden opinions from the farmers who have employed them. Although the men receive only a few shillings a week, they have expressed a desire to make some contribution to the Christmas festivities of evacuated children in the town, and have subscribed in small amounts a total of £16, which was presented by their representatives at a special meeting of Knaresborough urban Council on Tuesday afternoon. The men have also sent about 100 toys for the children. This is a thoughtful gesture that is very much appreciated.

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KNARESBOROUGH P.O.W. FUND

BRING AND BUY SALE

The Mayoress of Harrogate (Mrs. G. A. Spenceley) opened a Bring and Buy sale in aid of the Knaresborough Prisoners of War Club held in the Parish Church rooms on Saturday afternoon.

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Major N. D. Cleasby presided at the opening ceremony.

The Mayoress spoke of the common link they all had with each other. Many of those present she said, were acquainted with her at the Harrogate packing centre, and another link was that she herself had a son a prisoner of war in Germany. Those were the reasons why she was present. The Mayoress complimented the club on the fine work it had done and wished it every success, and said she hoped soon that all would have their dear ones home again.

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The secretary of the club, Mrs. Cleasby, replied, and thanked the Mayoress for opening the sale. She also expressed her thanks to the members of the club who had provided the articles for it.

Mr. W. Summerskill proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayoress for attending.

After the opening ceremony the Mayoress showed great interest in some of the stalls and made several purchases.

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The stallholders were: Toy stall, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Blackly; Fancy stall, Miss Gibson, Mrs Tait, Mrs Greenaway; Toilet stall, Miss Anderson; Groceries stall, Mrs. Stacy. Afternoon tea was provided by club members.

In addition to the money raised by the stalls a silver tree decorated by the secretary, Mrs. Cleasby, with money raised by small contributions, added \$61 to the total which promises to be a large one. All the money raised will go to prisoners of war either directly or in kind.

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Liberation of Ravenna 16.12.1944

The recent liberation of the historic city of Ravenna in Italy by a regiment of Lancers has a special interest for Knaresborough and district, as the regiment was stationed in this area in the summer of 1942, and a number of the men married local girls. Among those serving with the regiment is a former member of the Harrogate White Rose Players, Terry Alexander, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Alexander, Master and Matron of Knaresborough Institution. The padre is the Rev. Frank West, who was Vicar of Starbeck before joining the Army in 1939.

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