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**Title** **1944 Press Cuttings**  
**Source** **Knaresborough Post**

**1 January 1944**

**OBITUARY**

**MR G. B. CORNER**

10 Members of the Royal Observer Corps formed a guard of honour and acted as bearers at the funeral at Knaresborough Cemetery on Friday, of Mr G. B. Corner, of Norcote, Boroughbridge Road, Knaresborough, who died last week aged 63. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Knaresborough, Canon B. K. Kissack.

The chief mourners were Mrs Corner, widow; Mr S. Corner, son; Mrs N. Corner, daughter-in-law; Mrs Swanwick (Sleights), sister; Miss Blenkinsop (West Hartlepool), sister in law; Mr and Mrs C. H. Lawrence (Ossett).

20 Representing the Royal Observer Corps were Observer Officer J. E. Lumb, (representing Capt. H. A. Jowett, Group Commandant), Messrs E. Jackson (Head Observer, also representing Knaresborough Golf Club), W. J. Bowman, R. E. Prest, N. Pyman (also representing Messrs Ledger, Pyman and Kitson, Leeds), J. B. Topham, R. J. Jordan, A. C. Dawson, R. J. Riley, H. Luty and J. Sellers. Messrs Bowman, Prest, Pyman, Topham, Jordan and Sellers were bearers.

W. Bro. M. Campman represented th W.M. and members of Defence Lodge of Freemasons. Leeds. Knaresborough Priory Lodge was represented by W. Bro, H. Linfoot (W.M.), W. Bro, W. B. Wilkinson, W. Bro, F. F. Ellis, Bro. R. Holmes and Bro. W. Wright (also representing Mr H. B. Holgate). Knaresborough Anglers' Club was represented by Mr G. H. Clough. Mr E. W. Steele represented the Expanded Metal Company, for which Mr Corner was Northern representative.

Others who attended were Mr G. Thornton, Mr H. Kitching, Mr G. Woodcock, Mr A. Swales (representing Messrs Wallace Gill and Son), Mr E. W. Coupland, Mrs JHacob Smith, Mr F. Driffield, Mr and Mrs B. D. Taylor, Mrs J. Thompson, Mr E. V. Elgey (Harrogate), Dr V. Ryan (also representing Mr C. Clark, (Scotton), Miss E. Jackson, Mr and Mrs Holroyd, Mr D. Hodgson (Leeds).

30 **Knaresborough Post**

**1 January 1944**

**MR G. B. CORNER**

The death occurred in a Harrogate nursing home on Tuesday of Mr George Broderick Corner, of Norcote, Boroughbridge Road, Knaresborough.

Mr Corner, who was 63, was a native of West Hartlepool and had represented the Expanded Metal Company, of that town, for many years. He had lived in Knaresborough for about 20 years. He was a popular member of the Royal Observer Corps, with which he did regular duty until quite recently. He was one of the early members of Knaresborough Golf Club, a member of Knaresborough Anglers' Club, and a former member of the Conservative Club. A Freemason, he was a member of the Defence Lodge (No. 1221), Leeds. He leaves a widow and two sons, one of whom, Major Norman B. Corner, is serving in India. His younger son, Seton, is in the R.A.O.C.

The funeral took place at Knaresborough Cemetery yesterday (Friday)

### **Knaresborough Post**

**1 January 1944**

#### **MR G. JACKSON**

10

Mr George Jackson, of Park Grove, Knaresborough, whose death was reported in our last issue, served throughout the Boer War with the Coldstream Guards, and was awarded the Military Medal. On demobilisation, he joined the staff on the Sandringham estate of King Edward VII as an under-gamekeeper. He taught the present Duke of Windsor to shoot. He continued in the same capacity in the service of King George V until the outbreak of the last war, when he joined the Royal Field Artillery, with which he served throughout the war. In later years, he was gamekeeper to the princess Royal and the Earl of Harewood, and afterwards came to Scriven Park as head gamekeeper to the late Sir Algernon Firth. He worked at a local factory from the beginning of the present war until May of this year, when he had to leave because of ill health. He later became a night telephonist with the West Yorkshire Road Car Co. He was a volunteer at Knaresborough First Aid Post.

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### **Knaresborough Post**

**1 January 1944**

#### **W.L.A. Hostel**

A Christmas party was held on Wednesday of last week at the Women's Land Army hostel, Chain Lane, Knaresborough. The party opened with a dinner for the girls in the hostel, and this was followed by the presentation by Mrs Jacob Smith (Welfare Officer) of armlets for two years' good service with the W.L.A., to 17 of the members living in the hostel. The recipients were Edith Barker, Joan Briggs, Edith Chapman, Edith Charlton, Freda Charlton, Grace Dufton, Kathleen Evans, Kathleen Firth, Nellie Hardwick, Ann Hannam, Agnes Hannam, Bertha Joliff, Kathleen Long, Tess McCarthy, Dorothy Smith, Betty Tattersfield and Sylvia Varley. Afterwards, a concert for the girls and their friends was given by Mr H. Butterfield, Mrs C. A. Kuhnel, Mrs J. E. Hoyes and Mr R. Fountain. The entertainment was organised by Mr Butterfield. Among those present were the Rev. E. G. Holland, Mrs Beddard (warden of the hostel), and Miss W. Jacob Smith, County Organiser, W.L.A.

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### **Knaresborough Post**

**8 January 1944**

**Message from Hong Kong:-** Sergt. William George Griffin, whose sister, Miss Griffin, will be remembered as the former proprietress of a school at Scriven, has sent a message to his friends in Knaresborough that he is in a prisoner of war camp at Hong Kong and is safe and well. Griffin, who went out to Hong King to keep house for her brother, managed to escape when the Japanese attacked the city, and reached Australia.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**29 January 1944**

**On Hansard Staff** – a former local journalist has just joined the Parliamentary staff of Hansard. He is Mr George Frederick Wakefield, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H. Wakefield, 7 Alexandra Place, Knaresborough, who after attending the Castle Boys' School and King James's Grammar School was apprenticed to journalism with the old "Harrogate and Claro Times."

## **Knaresborough Post**

**12 February 1944**



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## **Knaresborough Post**

**12 February**

**General Montgomery.**- When General Sir Bernard Montgomery, Commander of the British group of armies for the second front under General Eisenhower, inspected troops in a Northern district recently, news of his visit, which had necessarily had to be strictly "hush-hush" quickly spread among the townspeople, and he was given a warm welcome as he entered and left the area of his inspection. General Montgomery, wearing his femur black beret and windjammer, acknowledged the welcome of the crowd by smiling and waving from his car.

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**Knaresborough Post**

**12 February 1944**

**Four Years in the Land Army:**- Miss Janet Simpson, 34 Boroughbridge Road, Knaresborough, has been awarded her four year armlet in recognition of four years' good service in the Women's Land Army. She is the first girl to receive this award in the Knaresborough district. Miss Simpson is working at a local market garden.

**Knaresborough Post**

**19 February 1944**

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## **SUBMARINE'S RECORD DIVE**

### **Knaresborough Officer's Story**

**Exciting adventures aboard the submarine H.M.S. Unseen, which arrived in a home port recently after service in the Mediterranean, were described by Sub. Lieut. R. J. Linden, R.N.V.R., of Scriven, Knaresborough, the submarine's torpedo officer.**

Sub. Lieut. Linden, who is 23, is the second son of Mr and Mrs A. Linden, 37 Park Avenue. A former pupil of King James's Grammar School, he was studying medicine at Leeds University before joining the Navy as an A.B. in 1940. He was commissioned in March 1942.

#### **Diver's Helmet**

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When Unseen arrived in this country after completing a 23,000 mile commission, her "Jolly Roger" bore a strange emblem, a diver's helmet. This, explained Sub. Lieut. Linden, symbolised a record dive for any submarine of her class. The incident occurred when she was pursued by enemy destroyers and forced to dive to 145 feet below the maximum depth for which she was designed. No damage or ill effects resulted.

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Since H.M.S. Unseen left a British port in September 1942, for the Mediterranean zone of operations, she has accounted for 20,000 tons of enemy shipping. For some days, before one of her attacks, the submarine kept observation on an enemy ship lying half submerged off Sousse, Tunisia. Then one day a lighter, equipped with a crane, was seen alongside the vessel, apparently helping in the salvage operations. "We fired one torpedo," said Sub. Lieut Linden, "and when we took a peep at the result we found no lighter, and the merchant ship was looking much more like a wreck, settling deeper in the water. WE had achieved the rare but happy feat of two at one blow." Following another successful attack on a tanker by the Unseen, enemy destroyers launched a five hour depth charge attack in which the submarine recorded sixty different explosions.

### **“Not Bad for a Miss”**

On another occasion the Unseen went in pursuit of two large landing craft and sank the leading one with two torpedo hits. “She just blew up in small pieces,” said Sub. Lieut Linden. “We had only one torpedo left and were determined to make certain of the craft with it. We followed it to the mainland before we could get in our attack. The vessel was moored alongside a jetty. Away went our only torpedo. It missed the vessel, but hit the jetty, and all that could be seen afterwards was the tangled remains of a jetty, two buildings demolished, six without roofs, and a very much damaged landing craft. Not bad work for a miss!”

10 Last, but largest prize of this campaign came when the Unseen eluded an escort of four flak trawlers and torpedoed a 6,000 ton tanker. “That provided us with the biggest, brightest and best explosion of our career,” said another officer of the submarine.

### **In the Adriatic**

Her patrols took the Unseen to the Adriatic, where she penetrated a screen of two destroyers to torpedo a supply ship. “Much to our surprise there was no counter attack from the destroyers,” said one of the officers. “They raced away out of it, leaving us to conduct an uninterrupted reconnaissance of the sinking ship. We took off four prisoners, all we had room for, and left the others with provisions for several days. While returning with her prisoners the Unseen encountered an anti-submarine schooner which provided us with probably the most interesting episode of the commission. We closed the range and surfaced for a gun action, opening up with our machine guns to keep the  
20 schooner’s crew away from their guns while we brought our three inch gun into action. Rather to our surprise, we had only fired one pan of machine gun ammunition when we saw the crew abandoning ship by jumping over the side. We went alongside, and our boarding party found only two people still on board, the 57 years old captain, and the 63 years old bo’sun. Unfortunately, the submarine had drifted some distance away from the schooner, and the boarding party had to swim for it. Leading Stoker Alfred Symonds, of Weymouth (since promoted to Petty Officer), tried to capture as much of the schooner’s small armoury as he could, and jumped over the side with six rifles and three revolvers slung round his neck. Not until he had sunk two or three fathoms with the weight did he decide to abandon his prize, and it was a chagrined stoker who eventually rose to the surface to be hauled inboard, for he had lost his seaboots too.”

**Knaresborough Post**

**26 February 1944**



Sub Lieut. R. J. Linden, of  
Scriven, Knaresborough, who  
has had remarkable experience  
in the submarine, *Unseen*.

**Knaresborough Post**

**18 March 1944**

## **SCHOOL HARVEST CAMPS**

### **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:-

10 Littlethorpe – Oct. 1 Oct. 30: Ripon Girls' High 8. (local work 14 days).

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

Wiknsley Hurst – Aug. 28 Sept. 30: Pudsey G.S.

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

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

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

North Deighton – Aug. 15 Oct. 30: Crossley and Porter, Halifax.

Copmanthorpe – Aug. 15 Oct. 30: Todmorden Sec. School.

The following are provisional acceptances by schools:-

Littlethorpe – Oct. 1 Oct 31: Wheelwright Girls

20 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.

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), Wetherby and Barnsley.

### **Knaresborough Post**

**25 March 1944**

**Adviser on Manuscripts** – By permission of the Ministry of Supply, the British Records Association has appointed Mr W A. Atkinson, the well known Knaresborough antiquarian, of Pengarth, Park Grove, to advise in cases of doubt on the historical value of manuscripts offered for salvage.

### **Knaresborough Post**

**25 March 1944**

10 **Handy Containers** – The collection of bones in Knaresborough has improved a good deal since the introduction of neat containers, designed by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr H. Eatough, and made from old petrol tins. These are fixed to lamp posts and railings at various points and form handy receptacles for this form of salvage. There are now 31 in use, and a further 25 area to be provided in other parts of the town.

### **Knaresborough Post**

**25 March 1944**

20 **A Scriven Landmark** – Residents in the Scriven neighbourhood watched with regret, last Thursday, the felling of the big elm tree at the junction of Scriven Road and Boroughbridge Road, which had for many years been a familiar landmark. When in full leaf, the tree made a very pleasant picture, and the entrance to Scriven Road will seem bare without it in future. However, it was found to be rotten, and authority decreed its removal.

### **Knaresborough Post**

**25 March 1944**

## **WOMEN'S LAND ARMY AWARDS**

### **LOCAL GIRLS' SUCCESSES**

Girls from Knaresborough and district figure prominently in the list of successes in the recent Woman's Land Army proficiency tests, organised by the West Riding County Committee.

30 An outstanding performance is that of Miss Margaret Scott (22), working at Goldsborough House, who gained 97 per cent, in the general farm work test. Miss Scott, who has been in the Land Army for two and a half years, comes from Melmerby, near Ripon.

Other percentages are: pest destruction, Miss Kathleen Mason, of Calcutt, Knaresborough, 93 per cent; horticulture, Miss Ivy D. Mitchell, Preston House, Lingerfield, Knaresborough, 90 per cent.

**Knaresborough Post**

**25 March 1944**

**NEWBOULD-HAYTHORNTHWAITE**

The marriage took place last week at Park Grove Methodist Church, Knaresborough, of Miss Norah Haythornthwaite, only daughter of Mrs Haythornthwaite, and the late Mr T. W. Haythornthwaite, 38 Stockwell Avenue, Knaresborough, and Mr Harold Newbould, 1a Park Grove, Knaresborough. The Rev. C. F. Guy officiated.

10 The bride, who was given away by her uncle, Mr J. Hardaker, wore a hyacinth blue marocain dress with a brown hat and shoes to tone. Her bouquet was of deep pink tulips. She was attended as matron of honour by the bridegroom's sister, Mrs S. Learoyd, who wore a silver grey moss crepe with a navy hat and shoes to tone, and carried a bouquet of daffodils. Mr S. Learoyd was best man.

After a reception at the bride's home, Mr and Mrs Newbould left for a brief honeymoon at Blackpool. For travelling, the bride wore a fawn coat over a brown dress.

**Knaresborough Post**

**25 March 1944**



**1 April 1944**

## **KNARESBOROUGH FIRE GUARDS**

### **TALKS ON INCENDIARY BOMBS**

10 A meeting of Fire Guard Party Leaders was held in the Court House, Knaresborough, on Friday. Mr Jack Thompson gave a talk on "Bombs and their Containers," and Mr R. M. Shepherd, Head Fire Guard, spoke on "Incendiary Bombs and Containers," and stressed the importance of training by leaders of parties. Training, he said, was the responsibility of all leaders, and efficiency in dealing with incendiary bombs could only be achieved by training. He hoped all party leaders would see this was done without delay. Appealing for new members, Mr. Shepherd said that at the present stage of the war no one should plead exemption on the ground of working long hours. The protection of homes against fire should be their first consideration, and was work all could do. It would be too late to think of joining the Fire Guards or training after incendiary bombs had fallen.

Fire Guards will have an opportunity of attending a film show dealing with training in the near future. Particulars will be circulated to all Fire Guards.

Armlets for every Fire Guard are now available at the A.R.P. Office, Police Station, Knaresborough, and Fire Guards are requested to collect them as early as possible.

**8 April 1944**

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## **Knaresborough Post**

**8 April 1944**

**Nursing Diploma** – Mrs Peter Findlay, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs B. P. Abbott, 3 West Park View, Knaresborough, has been successful in obtaining the Diploma in Nursing. She has been for the past two and a half years a sister tutor at Bradford Royal Infirmary. Her husband is serving in Italy with the Royal Engineers.

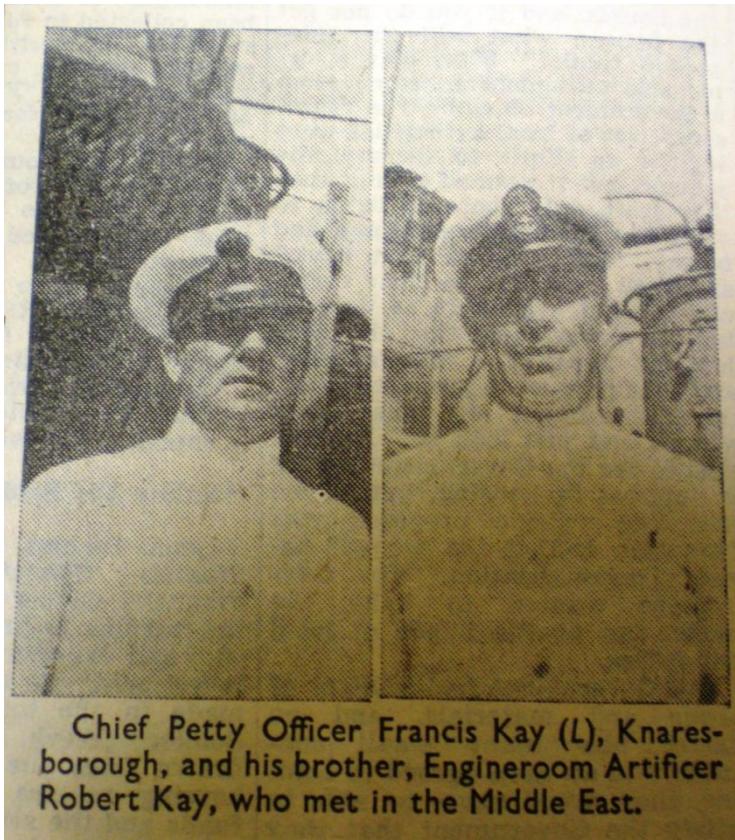
## **Knaresborough Post**

**8 April 1944**

- 10 **Brothers' Meeting** – When his ship was in a Middle East port recently, Chief Petty Officer Francis Kay, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G. L. Kay, Aingarth, Greengate Lane, Knaresborough, was told that a man named Kay had just come out from England and was in a camp nearby. On his next shore leave, he went to the camp and found that the new arrival was his younger brother, Engine room Artificer Robert Kay.

The brothers were able to meet regularly for several weeks, but both have now left the area.

At Jutland – Chief Petty Officer Kay joined the Navy as a boy of 15 early in the last war, and was aboard the Royal Oak at the Battle of Jutland. He was commended in the last war, and has been awarded the D.S.M. and given a further commendation in this. His brother, who was formerly an engineer with Messrs Rowntrees, York, has been in the Navy just over a year.



Chief Petty Officer Francis Kay (L), Knaresborough, and his brother, Engine room Artificer Robert Kay, who met in the Middle East.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**13 May 1944**

**Home Guard Anniversary** – On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the formation of the Home Guard, members of the Knaresborough unit gave a demonstration of training in Scriven Park on Sunday afternoon.

The programme, which was watched by many interested spectators, included machine gun drill, manhandling of weapons over ditches, etc., scaling of obstacles, battle drill and signalling by wireless. The art of camouflage was demonstrated, and some very accurate shooting, with the spigot mortar was seen. The demonstration, which lasted for about two hours, was in charge of Major H. L. C. Aked, O.C. of the unit.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**13 May 1944**

### **MRS G. KNIGHT**

At Knaresborough Cemetery on Saturday, the funeral took place of Mrs Ann Watson Knight, wife of Mr G. Knight, of Old Scriven, who died last week in her 83<sup>rd</sup> year. Mr Knight was for many years head gardener on the Slingsby estate at Scriven Park.

The chief mourners were Mr G. Knight, husband; Mr and Mrs G. Knight, son and daughter in law; Mr and Mrs P. Knight, son and daughter in law; Miss E. Hall, sister; Mr and Mrs W. Pearson, brother in law and sister; Mrs W. Knight, sister in law, Mr and Mrs S. Knight, son and daughter in law, and Mr and Mrs Goodchild, son in law and daughter, were unable to be present.

Among others who attended were Mrs Steele, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Clifford, Mr and Mrs F. Herrington, Mr and Mrs H. Herrington, Mrs A. Bosomworth, Mrs Smith, Mrs Kirby, Mrs Stacey, Mrs Whitely, Mrs J. Holmes, Mrs and Miss Kitson, Mr D. Allen and Mr A. Atkinson.

Wreaths were sent by: Her loving husband; Ellen; Sybil and George; Edie, Mont and family; Syd and Lily; Florrie, Percy and Ronnie, Dolly and Charlie; Jerry, Edna, Bob, Diana and Michael; Mrs K. Murgatroyd; Mr and Mrs Cooper; Mr and Mrs F. Bove and family; Mr and Mrs Allen and family; Her friends and neighbours in the village; Minnie and Gladys; Mr Titley and family; Joan; Willie and Kate, Beatrice and Will, Florrie, Lucy, Annie and Mr and Mrs Fred Herrington; Mr and Mrs Bosomworth and Betty

Mr J. T. Allen had charge of the arrangements. Messrs Dibbs supplied the motors.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**13 May 1944**

### **MR A. J. MARGETSON**

Members of the warden organisation formed a guard of honour at the funeral service at Knaresborough Parish Church on Saturday, of Mr Alfred James Margetson, of The Cottage, Boroughbridge Road, Knaresborough, who died last week. He was a former Inspector of Schools, and at one time a Professor of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, and came to Knaresborough on his retirement seven years ago. He had been an air raid warden since the outbreak of war, and was senior warden for his sector.

- 10 The service was conducted by the Vicar of Knaresborough (Canon B. K. Kissack), the Archdeacon of Leeds (Ven. H. Lovell Clarke), and the Rev. W. Johnston. Cremation followed at Stonefall Crematorium, where Canon Kissack officiated.

The family mourners were Mrs Margetson, widow; Mr and Mrs J. E. H. Blackie, son in law and daughter; Capt. Bruce Newsman, brother in law.

The warden service was represented by Messrs E. E. Willmore (Sub Divisional Warden), G. N. Willey (Head Warden), R. M. Shepherd, J. Parsons, H. W. Mainman, G. Wakefield and P.C. Ridley.

- 20 Among others present were Mrs Jacob Smith, Mrs D. F. Dobson, Mrs J. S. Whitaker, Miss A. Smith, Miss S. Smith, Mrs Kissack, Mrs G. E. Wilson (also representing Mr O. E. Wilson and Mrs Murray MacGregor), Lieut. Col. And Mrs W. Goddard (also representing Capt. D. Goddard), Mrs Leamon, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Holroyd, Mrs Taylor, Miss Illingworth, Mrs Lovell Clarke.

The arrangements were undertaken by Messrs Taylor and Hogg. Motors were supplied by Messrs Dibbs.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**10 June 1944**

**Land Volunteers.** A register of volunteers wishing to give a hand with the work on nearby farms is being compiled by Miss Alton, Scriven Lodge, Scriven Road, Knaresborough, hon. Secretary of Knaresborough Land Club. Names and addresses may also be handed in at the W.V.S. office, Fysche Hall.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**17 June 1944**

### **Killed in Burma**

Reported killed in action in Burma in May, is Pte. Thomas Cooper (30), only son of Mr and Mrs G. Cooper, Old Scriven, Knaresborough. Pte. Cooper, who joined the Army four years ago, had been serving with a North-country regiment in the Indian theatre of operations for two years. He was formerly in the butchering trade, having been apprenticed to the late Mr M. Lambert, High Street, Knaresborough.



**Knaresborough Post**

**17 June 1944**

# **FOR OUR WOUNDED**

## **Hospitals' Need of Nurses, Helpers and Blood**

Though the casualties in the initial landing of the invasion were very much fewer than was anticipated, and we pray they will continue to be lighter than expected, British hospitals must be prepared to deal with thousands of wounded men from the European front. The need for reinforcing our depleted hospital staffs is urgent. Five thousand ex-nurses in Yorkshire have been requested by the Ministry of Labour to offer their services to hospitals within travelling distance of their homes, but  
10 there must be thousands of others with nursing experience who could volunteer for part time service, at least, during the critical weeks ahead. The need for nurses is so great that it has been decided to release women from the Services for this work. The recruitment of St John and Red Cross nurses has been curtailed, and many over the compulsory age are believed to have transferred to other work, since these services came under restrictive Army regulations. Strong appeals are being made to women to enrol through the local Commandants or to join the Civil Nursing Reserve. Women between the ages of 21 and 31 are wanted for service with the Red Cross and St John in India, and between the ages of 21 and 45 for relief work on the Continent. Those wishing to join the C.N.R., who are trained at certain hospitals should obtain information from the Ministry of Labour offices. Candidates for the nursing profession should apply to the Matron of any large hospital where training  
20 centres exist. The training scheme for domestic work in hospitals is stated to be making good progress, but there is room for thousands more volunteers, and our hospitals must be well staffed. Women are asked to apply to the nearest Employment Exchange for particulars of the scheme and the duties involved. The third need which will become more serious as the invasion progresses, is blood donors. At a recent Press conference in Leeds, Dr Stansbury, the Regional Transfusion Officer, stated that fifty per cent of the original donors are now not available – many having joined the Forces – and it is essential that every able person between the ages of 18 and 65 should be enrolled. The present commitments of the Region represent the contributions of 3,000 to 4,000 donors per week, and they will increase. At this meeting medical representatives of the Navy, Army and Air Force spoke of their needs of blood, and of the large number of valuable lives saved by transfusion. We cannot let gallant  
30 men of our Forces down by failing to answer the call for sacrifices so slight in comparison with theirs.

**Knaresborough Post**

**1 July 1944**

**Scriven Red Cross Effort.** For some time past, Scriven residents and their friends have been running weekly whist drives at the Women's Institute Hut in aid of the British Red Cross Society, and on Wednesday evening it was announced that the amount handed over so far is no less than £204. 18s. The whist drives will continue each Wednesday at 7.15 pm. Admission is 1s., including refreshments.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**15 July 1944**

Wardens' Test – In a general efficiency test for Knaresborough wardens, in which 15 sectors completed last week, the George Willey Trophy was won by J. 8 (Senior Warden A. Mainman) with 87 points, J11 (Senior Warden A. Holmes), and J7 (Senior A. C. C. Brice) tying for second place with 86½ each. Nine sectors gained over 72 per cent.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**22 July 1944**

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# **350 EVACUEES IN KNARESBOROUGH**

## **Houses Taken Over for Families**

There are now over 350 evacuees in Knaresborough, among them some who came to the town in an earlier evacuation from London, went back after the heavy bombing ceased and have now returned because of the flying bombs.

## **Mothers and Children**

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The billeting authorities have taken over various premises for other purposes, and have used them to accommodate a number of mothers and children. "So far," said the Billeting Officer, Mr H. H. Holgate, on Wednesday, "we have been able to avoid billeting mothers and children in private households, but none the less, we should appreciate any offers of accommodation. There have been plenty of volunteers willing to take unaccompanied children."

That the billeting organisation is working smoothly and expeditiously is shown by the fact that although the requisitioned properties were only taken over on Wednesday of last week, they were ready for occupation by Friday, having been cleaned and furnished in the intervening time.

## **An Appeal**

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"The mothers who have come are a very nice type, and anxious to help," said the Welfare Officer, Mrs Ramsey. "When we explained to them the difficulties in connection with the requisitioned houses, they at once decided to leave their children in a hastily improvised day nursery, and sallied forth with buckets and brushes to clean the places up. We have only been able to provide a minimum of furniture and equipment, and an appeal is being made by the W.V.S. for gifts of household utensils, pieces of carpet and other odds and ends of furnishings. A depot has been opened at 12 High Street, and there has been quite a good response already. We are hoping with the kind help of the people of Knaresborough, to be able to make these places something like homes."

Useful publicity for the evacuation scheme is being provided by the Billeting Officer, which is attracting considerable attention. Skilful use is made of photographs and newspaper cuttings to back up the appeal for billets for refugees from the bombed areas.

### **Knaresborough Post**

**22 July 1944**

**Stretcher-Bearers** – A much-appreciated gesture was made to two former police officers, ex-Sergt. Cordingley and ex-P.C. Ridsdale, two old members of the Scotton Banks Hospital stretcher party, when they were asked to lead in the unloading of ambulances at the hospital on the arrival of a convoy of child patients from the South on Wednesday evening. The party was organised by Mr W. B. Wilkinson, and the members walked back to Knaresborough in the early hours of the morning after doing their duty. Considerable help was given by Inspector Smith. Any gifts of books or toys for the children will be welcomed. They may be left at Messrs. Parrs, Ltd., and will be forwarded to the hospital.

### **Knaresborough Post**

**29 July 1944**

## **HOME GUARD WEEKEND CAMPS**

Weekend training camps have been run at Scriven Park, Knaresborough, for the past three weeks by 'F' Company of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Home Guard (Harrogate). Some forty men have attended each camp for the whole weekend, 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.

### **Knaresborough Post**

**29 July 1944**

**Wounded Entertained.** – Members of Knaresborough Youth Centre, at their weekly social, entertained a party of wounded soldiers from a local hospital. The guests, who were accompanied by the Matron and a sister, spent an enjoyable evening. Refreshments were served by the young people.

**Knaresborough Post**

**5 August 1944**

**SCRIVEN CAMP CONCERT**

**HOME GUARD "AT EASE"**

Members of "F" Company 5<sup>th</sup> W.R. Battalion, Home Guard, who have been holding weekend training camps at Scriven Park, Knaresborough, took time 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.

**Knaresborough Post**

**5 August 1944**

20

**Harvest Camp.** – A party of boys from Cockburn High School, Leeds, is again to help with farm work in the Knaresborough district this year. Thirty five boys will be available, and they will be in camp at Back Lane, off Boroughbridge Road, from August 12<sup>th</sup> to September 16<sup>th</sup>. The camp will be in charge of Mr H. Kerry, a master at Cockburn, who lives in Coverdale Drive, Knaresborough, near the camp site, and the liaison officer is County Coun. E. Alton, Scriven Road. Farmers requiring labour should apply to County Colun. Alton or Mr Kerry.

**Knaresborough Post**

**5 August 1944**

- 30 **In Italy.** – Two Knaresborough men who met recently in Italy are now serving in the same unit of the Royal Corps of Signals. They are L. Cpl George Smith, elder son of Mr and Mrs F. Smith, 71 Boroughbridge Road, and Sig. George W. Brown, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. Brown, The Crossways, Park Lane. L. Cpl Smith had been overseas for nearly four years, and served in the desert campaigns and in North Africa before going to Italy. Sig. Brown has been in the Army for six years. He went to Italy in May, and was previously in North Africa for about 18 months.

**Knaresborough Post**

**12 August 1944**

**Bring and Buy Sale.** – The Congregational Church, Knaresborough, is endeavouring to raise £100 to help rebuild churches damaged by enemy action. This denomination alone has had about 200 churches destroyed or rendered unusable. The members of the local church have already subscribed £60, and to complete the fund a bring and buy sale has been arranged in the garden of Miss J. Anderson, 16 Scriven Road, on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. The stalls will be bring and buy, white elephant, vegetable and flower, and a whist drive will be held in the evening, at 6.30pm. Miss J. Anderson, or the Rev. E. H. Holland will be glad to receive gifts for this fund.

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**Knaresborough Post**

**12 August 1944**

***Correspondence***

**FOR EVACUEES**

Sir, - As Chairman of the Knaresborough Council I wish to appeal to the townspeople of Knaresborough for their assistance with regard to the reception of evacuees in the town. During the past few weeks the number of evacuees has increased from 112 to approximately 450. The majority of these people have been bombed out of their homes and have lost nearly all their possessions. The Urban District Council, with the valuable assistance of the W.V.S., and the Billeting Office staff, are doing its utmost to make our evacuees at home, and I should particularly like to express our gratitude to Knaresborough residents for their valuable contributions of furniture, crockery, and numerous other articles. May I make a strong appeal to all Knaresborough people for the following gifts, which I know will be very much appreciated by our evacuees: tables, chairs, any kind of floor covering, curtains, pots of all kinds, including flower vases, tea trays, tablecloths, mattresses, pillows, cots, high chairs, toys, books (children's and adults'), games, playing cards.

20

Any such gifts should be sent to the Billeting Office, 12 or 13 High Street, Knaresborough.

Yours

P. BROADBELT

Chairman of the Knaresborough Urban Council

30 August 9<sup>th</sup> 1944

## **Knaresborough Post**

**19 August 1944**

**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.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**19 August 1944**

### **Opening by Chairman of the Council**

- 10 **A welfare centre for evacuees, believed to be the first of its kind in the country, was opened on Monday at Knaresborough by the Chairman of the Urban Council, Coun. P. Broadbelt.**

The centre is housed in premises in High Street, which were formerly used as a chemist's shop. The rooms were scrubbed out and decorated by members of the Post office Savings Bank Department at Harrogate, who have devoted their spare time to these tasks. Easy chairs, carpets and other fittings were given by local residents in response to an appeal. There is a nursery for infants, with plenty of soft toys, and this room has a most attractive frieze of animals, the work of one of the civil servants. Another nursery for older children has a table tennis board, puzzles, games and books. There is a comfortable room where the mothers can meet their friends, do their knitting or mending, listen to the wireless or road, and generally make themselves at home. The accommodation also includes a smaller lounge, a kitchen and a bathroom. At the back there is a small garden, reclaimed from a rubbish heap where the mothers can rest in deck chairs while their children are being looked after by Girl Guides. Members of the W.V.S. are helping to run the centre.

20

## **Knaresborough Post**

**19 August 1944**

- In Normandy** – Among units of the British Liberation Army, which landed on the Normandy beaches on D-Day, it is now revealed, was a battalion of the King's Regiment (Liverpool), which was at one time stationed in Knaresborough, and of which the adjutant is Capt. Alastair Kissack, of Preston House, Lingerfield, son of Canon B. K. Kissack, Vicar of Knaresborough. The battalion, whose work has been praised by General Montgomery, was under shell fire for weeks after the landing, the enemy remaining on the flank across the Caen Canal and the Orne River.
- 30

## **Knaresborough Post**

**19 August 1944**

**Can You Help?** – Since a children's hospital from the South was evacuated to Scotton Banks hospital, Knaresborough, a number of mother have had to come up on short visits to children who were dangerously ill. Great difficulty has been found in securing accommodation for one or two nights for them, and some have had to be put up in emergency accommodation. It is desired to compile a list of homes where hospitality could be afforded, and any residents who feel that they would like to be of service to people whose worries are big enough without the addition of a harassing search for somewhere to stay, are asked to give their names to the W.V.S. at Fysche Hall.

10

## **Knaresborough Post**

**26 August 1944**

**Behind Jap Lines** – The story was told recently of how the 23<sup>rd</sup> British Infantry Brigade, functioning like the Chindits, operated behind the Japanese lines in the Imphal region of Burma for nearly three months, battering their way into Ukhrul after forcing a trail through difficult mountain country. It is now learned that a Knaresborough officer, Major Donald Fairman, son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Fairman, of Victoria Avenue, was O.,C. Brigade Signals during this notable campaign, which drove the Japanese out of the Ukhrul stronghold and led to the destruction of many of the enemy.

20

## **Knaresborough Post**

**26 August 1944**

**Harvest Helpers** – Boys from Cockburn High School, Leeds, whose third harvest camp at Knaresborough began a fortnight ago, soon got into their stride, and in the first week the party of 33 put in 1,503 hours, which is very nearly equal to the record week of last year's camp. Altogether, in the five weeks of last year's camp, the boys put in 6,518 hours' work on farms in the district, a very creditable contribution to the gathering of the crops. The camp is again in Back Lane, in charge of Mr H. Kerry, and the boys cycle out each day to their work on farms at Brearton, Scotton, Ferrensby, Flaxby, Nidd and Killinghall. They are helping with the stoking of corn at present and will soon be leading. Among the visitors this week has been the headmaster of the school, Mr G. Taylor, who spent a few days under canvas with the boys. County Coun. E. Alton, of the War Agricultural Committee, is liaison officer for the camp.

30

**Knaresborough Post**

**26 August 1944**

**KNARESBOROUGH**

**“SALUTE THE SOLIDER”**

**WEEK**

## KNARESBOROUGH "SALUTE THE SOLDIER" WEEK

The following are the amounts invested in the various Groups during "Salute the Soldier" Week (July 22nd to 29th), and credit is due to the Secretaries for their hard and enthusiastic work.

Street Groups	Amount Invested		
	£	s.	d.
Forest Moor .....	189	18	6
Calcutt Houses .....	752	0	0
Thistle Hill .....	92	0	0
Abbey Road .....	320	0	0
Gracious Street .....	304	4	0
Wellington Street .....	302	0	0
Castle Ings .....	114	8	6
Stockwell Drive .....	325	1	6
Stockwell Avenue "A" .....	298	15	6
Stockwell Avenue "B" .....	32	0	0
Stockwell Grove .....	50	0	0
Stockwell Crescent .....	300	0	0
Stockwell Place .....	210	0	0
Frogmire Close and Road...	38	6	0
Scriven Road .....	2543	18	5
Park Avenue .....	201	10	0
Park Grove .....	324	3	6
Boroughbridge Road "A" .....	140	0	0
Boroughbridge Road "B" .....	730	0	0
Boroughbridge Road "C" .....	154	10	6
Greengate Lane .....	2269	8	0
Blind Lane .....	1071	0	0
Hambleton Grove .....	1730	0	0
Hambleton Terrace .....	12	0	0
Park Lane .....	124	8	0
Heathfield Drive .....	91	2	0
King's Road and Queen's Road .....	14	0	0
Mayfield Grove .....	30	0	0
Whincup Avenue .....	790	14	6
Whincup Grove .....	550	0	0
Park Crest .....	112	0	0
Park Close .....	126	11	0
Park Drive .....	226	0	0
Manor Road .....	174	15	0
Park Square .....	550	0	0
Park Place .....	188	10	0
Coverdale Drive .....	920	8	6
Park Row .....	32	5	0
Bond End .....	426	19	3
High Street .....	196	0	0
Raw Gap .....	33	0	0
Finkle Street .....	124	5	0
Kirkgate .....	569	9	0
Waterbag Bank and Hilton Lane .....	1369	10	0
Waterside .....	2163	5	0
Castlegate .....	475	0	0
Briggate .....	309	11	6
Silver Street .....	114	12	6
York Place .....	3000	0	0
Stockdale Walk .....	750	3	0
Jules Lane .....	87	7	6
Crag Top .....	1424	19	6
King James Road .....	210	15	0
Wetherby Road .....	425	0	0
Ripley Road .....	1250	0	0

LEWIS LECKENBY,  
Chairman, Street Groups

Amounts invested through Social Groups:		
Mrs. G. A. Kirkley's Group	18896	5 0
Knarborough Golf Club...	14296	0 0
Knarborough Traders ....	3147	0 0
Working Men's Club.....	1686	0 0
Forest Moor Women's Institute .....	1133	0 0
Police Station .....	1064	0 0
Institution .....	1062	5 0
Scriven Women's Institute	528	0 0
Babies' Welcome .....	321	10 0
Post Office .....	320	0 0
British Legion, Women's Section .....	304	16 0
Council Offices .....	283	15 0
Scotton Banks Sanatorium	222	10 0
W.L.A. Hostel .....	24	8 6
Gymwear .....	20	0 0
L. and N.E.R. Staff.....	10	10 0
Walton's Mills .....	2	10 0
Knarborough School Savings	6708	10 0

J. THOMPSON,  
Chairman, Social Groups

### Knarborough Post

26 August 1944

10 **From Italy** – AS I write this paragraph, there reposes on my desk a beautifully marked butterfly which only a week or two ago was fluttering about the fields of Italy. It was sent to me by Tpr. G. F. Eshelby, of Greengate Lane, who served in the North African campaign with a tank regiment, and is now with the C.N.F. in the Florence region. Tpr. Eshelby, who was in the insurance business before the war, says he is still an interested reader of the Knarborough Post, and asks us to state that any rumour that he has been wounded is entirely without foundation.

### Knarborough Post

16 September 1944

## STREET LIGHTING

### Knarborough All Set For the 17<sup>th</sup>

20 After five years of total darkness in the streets at night, Knarborough residents have watched with interest and pleasurable anticipation this week the preparations being made for the resumption of street lighting on Sunday, when the relaxations announced last week by the Government came into effect.

All the lamps have been overhauled by Harrogate Gas Company during the past year or so, and this last week employees of the company have been busy refitting the lanterns, adapted to comply with the new regulations to the standards on the main roads. It is expected that 150 lamps will be ready for

lighting on Sunday, the streets affected being High Street, York Place, Boroughbridge Road, Bond End, Ripley Road, Stockwell Road, Waterside, Briggate and Blands Hill, and the housing estate. The light given by the lamps, which are screened above the horizontal, will be about one sixth of the power of pre-war main street lighting. AS the lamps are not able to be controlled by a master switch, being regulated by individual clocks, it is not possible to have such powerful lighting as would be allowed if all the lamps could be extinguished at once in the event of an alert.

Residents in side streets will have to wait a little longer for the resumption of lighting, but it is not thought that there will be a long delay.

10

**Knaresborough Post**

**16 September 1944**

## **The Home Guard**

Compulsory drills and training of the home Guard were discontinued from Monday, and such operational duties as are still required of the Home Guard will be carried out on a voluntary basis. The call up and medical examination of further entrants is to be suspended.

**Knaresborough Post**

**30 September 1944**

## ***WEDDING***

20

**HEAPY-GHYSSELS**

At Knaresborough Parish Church on Wednesday, the marriage took place of Miss Blanche Elizabeth Chyssels, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. F. Ghysels, Crossfields, Greengate Lane, Knaresborough, and Mr George Allen Heapy, son of Mrs Heapy and the late Mr G. R. Heapy, York Place, Knaresborough. The bridegroom is a radio officer in the Merchant Navy.

The ceremony was performed by the Vicar of Knaresborough, Canon B. K. Kissack, and the bride was given away by her father. She wore a powder blue two piece suit, with brown accessories. Mr J. Robinson, an engineer officer in the Merchant Navy, was best man.

The honeymoon is being spent in Edinburgh. For travelling, the bride chose a grey suit with black accessories.

30

**Knaresborough Post**

**7 October 1944**

**KNARESBOROUGH C.O.**

At the Conscientious Objectors' Tribunal in Leeds, on Monday, Frank Bailes (35), of Otley Road, Harrogate, employed as a gardener at King James's Grammar School, Knaresborough, was registered for land work or market gardening.

**Knaresborough Post**

**7 October 1944**

10

**RATING OFFICER'S RESIGNATION**

**Mr H. Mainman Taking Post at Darfield**

The resignations of two members of the staff were announced at the meeting of Knaresborough Urban Council on Monday. Mr Harry Mainman, the Rating Officer, has accepted a similar post at Darfield, and Miss S. M. Clare, senior assistant in the Clerk's Department, is relinquishing her post on her forthcoming marriage.

20

Mr Mainman, a native of Knaresborough, is the youngest son of the late Mr T.. Mainman, who was Clerk to the Urban Council for many years. On leaving King James's Grammar School at the age of 16, he served as assistant to his father until 1924, when he was appointed Assistant Overseer and Collector. He was transferred in the following year to the whole-time post of Rating Clerk and Collector, and in 1939 he was appointed Rating and Valuation Officer. His new post, which he will take up at the beginning of November, is that of Accountant and Rating and Valuation Officer to the Darfield Urban Council, near Barnsley.

**In Last War**

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During the last war, Mr Mainman served with the Royal Artillery in France and Belgium. He is a member of the British Legion, and has been treasurer of the Knaresborough branch for two years. He was the first secretary of the British Legion Club at Knaresborough. In this war, he has been the Council's air raid salvage officer and has also done duty at the Report Centre for the past year. He was hon. Secretary and treasurer of the Surplus Fruit Committee, who made 2 and a half tons of jam from local fruit, and latterly he has acted as hon. Treasurer of the Knaresborough Soldiers' Welfare Fund. From 1920-24 he was hon. Secretary and a playing member of the Grammar School Old Boys' Football Club, and also turned out on occasion for Knaresborough Town.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**21 October**

**Americans at Knaresborough** – A party of American wounded soldiers visited Knaresborough on Thursday, and the men were shown round the Parish Church, the Castle and other places of interest by the Knaresborough archaeologist, Mr W. A. Atkinson. The visit was arranged through the British Council.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**21 October 1944**

10

### **SIXTY FOUR YEARS A FORESTER**

Mr G. E. Arnold Resigns Knaresborough Secretaryship of the Ancient Order of Foresters, Mr George Edward Arnold, of Roundell Manor, Scriven Road, Knaresborough, has resigned the appointments of secretary of Knaresborough Old Castle Court and of the Knaresborough district, owing to advancing years and ill health.

Mr Arnold joined the Order in 1880, and in 1912 became secretary of the Court, following Mr Langton, who had held the office for 32 years. He later took over the District secretaryship. He has always taken a very keen interest in the work, and under his guidance the approved society has made such progress that today it stands ahead of any in the neighbourhood for additional benefits available for the members.

20

### **Founded at Knaresborough**

The Old Castle Court celebrated its centenary in 1937, and in an account of its history written for the occasion, Mr Arnold recalled that Knaresborough was traditionally known as the birthplace of Forestry, the institution having been founded at Knaresborough Castle on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1745, under the title of Royal Foresters. It continued under that name until, at the centenary banquet, Mr Arnold was presented with a meritorious service medal by the High Chief Ranger. He wrote some years ago a set of verses for Foresters' ceremonial occasions, which are still used in the Knaresborough district.

Mr Arnold is well known in musical circles, and was organist and choirmaster at Knaresborough Parish Church for 33 years. He is a Past Master of Knaresborough Priory Lodge of Freemasons and of the Castle Lodge of Mark Masons, and a past Provincial Grand Organist. He was a member of the Urban Council for nine years, served on the Board of Guardians and was the originator of the water carnivals at Knaresborough.

30

## **Knaresborough Post**

**21 October 1944**

**Invasion Committee** – Knaresborough Invasion Committee, formed in 1940 when the possibility of an enemy attempt to land in this country was one to be reckoned with, has now been disbanded, and the thanks of the military authorities have been conveyed to the members for their services.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**21 October 1944**

**Removal of Road Block** – When invasion of these islands threatened in 1940, road blocks sprang up all over the country as part of our defence measures. One which was built in Ripley Road, Knaresborough, was removed very shortly afterwards, but the one which was erected on the main Harrogate road at the top of Starbeck Hill has remained, and has long been a familiar feature of that stretch of road. Now, in common with similar obstructions in other parts of the country, it is being removed, and when I passed the other day workmen were busy assaulting its massive concrete with pneumatic drills.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**28 October 1944**

**Former Relieving Officer** – His many friends in Knaresborough will be interested to hear that Mr R. E. Higginson, who was formerly Relieving Officer here, has, after 2½ years in the Royal Artillery and six months in an O.C.T.U., been appointed to the War Emergency Commission. Mr Higginson, who is a son in law of Mr and Mrs C. Hogg, Victoria Avenue, resigned his position as Relieving Officer to join the staff of the Assistance Board.

## **Knaresborough Post**

**4 November 1944**

### **HAVING A BATH IN THE DESERT**

#### **Knaresborough Man's Experience**

The recent account in the Press by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. G. A. Woods, of Harrogate, describing the difficulties of obtaining a bath in Normandy, was read with great interest by two local men serving in Italy, and one of them, Lieut H. GB. Thompson, sends his observations on the subject of baths in a letter to his brother, Mr D. B. Thompson, of 12 Scriven Road, Knaresborough.

#### **A Mugful Every Two or Three Days**

Lieut Thompson writes: "I've run across a man in the Signals here, one Jerry Burton, a son of the Pannal auctioneer. WE get on famously, as he knows nearly everybody I do. He gave me a copy of the 'Harrogate Herald' and we both chortled over George Wood's letter to Ernest, describing a bath in Normandy. Poor old George! I wonder how he would have liked some of the baths I've had, especially in the Western Desert, when you only washed occasionally, and then only if there were any water left after brewing up. Generally, we managed about a mugful every second or third day, and this had to do for shaving, teeth cleaning and bath all included. We had no nice canvas bath and stand, and no tents, and the method was to use a damp flannel and lots of soap, and finish off by pouring what was left of the water over one's head. Most of the soap and dirt and sand came off on the towel, so

you can imagine the state of the latter at the end of a week. Our washing was usually done in Italian petrol, of which there were stacks, and the clothes were quite clean and hygienic, if a trifle petrol flavoured. Incidentally, the water was always a bit salty, just to help things.

“Over here, there is no lack of water, etc, but bathing facilities aren’t much better, and it’s a long time since I wallowed in the luxury of a real bath, last April, in fact, when I was on leave in Beri. My canvas bath went the way of a lot of kit somewhere around Cassino, since when I have had to manage with a canvas bucket, unless we have been near streams or rivers.”

“Shell-shocked” Roof

10 Lieut Thompson adds: “I have a roof over my head, but the shells have disturbed it a bit, and I woke the other night to find myself lying under a pretty fair imitation of a shower bath. I wasn’t too wet, so merely moved my bed to a drier part of the room and went to sleep again.

### **Knaresborough Post**

**25 November 1944**

**Home Guard “Stand Down”** – A Knaresborough member of the Home Guard, C.Q.M.S. J. R. Eveleigh, of Market Place, will be one of the representatives of the 6<sup>th</sup> West Riding Battalion attending the national “stand down” parade in London on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The men of “E” Company, which is recruited from Knaresborough and the surrounding villages and commanded by Major H. L. C. Aked, will take part in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion parade at Ripon on that day. There is to be a short service at the Cathedral, and afterwards the Battalion will march past the Commanding officer, 20 Lieut-Col H. H. Aykroyd, D.S.O., M.C. It is hoped to arrange for the Knaresborough contingent, on its return, to march up High Street to its headquarters at York House.

### **Knaresborough Post**

**25 November 1944**

**Italians’ Gesture** – Without any appeal being made to them, Italians in a camp in the district have contributed the sum of £. 12s. 6d to British Red Cross funds. The amount was handed to a well known local farmer, and has been paid in to the bank through Messrs. Parr’s Ltd.

**Knaresborough Post**

**2 December 1944**

## **KNARESBOROUGH HOME GUARD**

### **From the L.D.V. to “Stand Down”**

**When the Home Guard is formally “stood down” on Sunday, ceremonial parades throughout the country will mark the end, unless some grave emergency necessitates its recall, of a great citizen army which rallied with alacrity to the defence of Britain in its hour of greatest need.**

10 **The final parade of the 6<sup>th</sup> West Riding Battalion, of which the Knaresborough company forms part, will take place at Ripon on Sunday afternoon, and on its return at about 5.15pm, the Knaresborough contingent will, conditions permitting, be met at the bottom of High Street by the band of the Army Cadet Corps and will march up the street to the headquarters at York House for dismissal.**

A this time of “stand down”, it is not out of place to give a short account of the home Guard at Knaresborough. When Mr Anthony Eden made his broadcast appeal one evening in May 1940, the first volunteer arrived at the police station to register before Mr Eden had finished speaking. That volunteer was Mr C. H. Padgett, of High Street, a local fruiterer, who served with the Royal Marines in the last war, and who is the present C.S.M. of the Knaresborough Home Guard company. During the few days following Mr. Eden’s appeal, the police station was besieged by men eager to volunteer for the new home defence force, and within a week at a crowded meeting in the courthouse, the  
20 Knaresborough unit of Local Defence Volunteers was formed. At the time, there were no military ranks in the force. The first local commander was Col C. H. Tetley, of Kirkman Bank, who was later succeeded by Brigadier General Edwards, of Scotton. The experience of these officers was invaluable in placing the unit on a sound footing, and it is a reflection of the spirit of the times that, though holding high military rank, they were content to wear battledress without any distinguishing badges, and to lead, not a battalion or a brigade, but the equivalent of a platoon, which in the Regular Army would be commanded by a subaltern.

30 The enthusiasm of the men was unbounded, and the organisation made rapid progress, despite the limited equipment. At first, there were only about a dozen denim uniforms and the same number of rifles, and the men paraded at the police station, where the cells were placed at their disposal for changing purposes. In few cases did the uniforms fit at all, and it is a matter for regret that no photograph exists of the first parade which is unlikely to be forgotten by those who took part. The only item of uniform available for most of the men was the L.D.V. armband. Patrols were undertaken at dusk and dawn, and all sorts of weapons were brought into use, including shot guns and scythes.

### **American Rifles**

40 York House, York Place, later became available for use as headquarters, and much amusement was caused by a further issue of denim overalls, almost every pair of which appeared to have been made for a six foot man with a 17 inch neck. About the same time, there arrived a consignment of American rifles, thick with grease in which they had been packed since 1918. By the end of the year, proper uniforms and greatcoats were arriving, and the men began to bear an external resemblance, at any rate, to soldiers.

A defence scheme for the locality was prepared, and sandbag emplacements and road blocks were built at strategic points. During the summer of 1940, the volunteers drilled night after night, filled sandbags, manned observation posts and gradually became a force of trained men, ready and able to play their part in the defence of the district.

### **Re-organisation**

10 It was not until early in 1941 that military ranks were introduced. Volunteers then became privates, section-commanders sergeants, and commissions were granted to commanders. From the beginning there had been a platoon at Knaresborough, another at Lingerfield, and a third at Nidd, these forming part of a company commanded by Major L. R. Holliday, of Copgrove Hall. There was a reorganisation in August 1941, and Major H. I. C. Aked, of Forest Manor, Forest Moor, late of Tenter Lodge, Knaresborough, took over command of "E" Company of the 6<sup>th</sup> West Riding Battalion, which includes the platoons in Knaresborough and district. Capt. H. B. Burrows, of Boroughbridge Road, Knaresborough, is second in command.

20 The company consisted at the "stand down" of four platoons:- No. 17, recruited in Scotton, Nidd, Brearton and South Stainley, and commanded by Lieut. P. H. Downing, of Scotton, a member of Nidderdale Rural Council, who early this year succeeded Lieut. Mostyn, whose second in command he had been; No. 18, covering Goldsborough, Flaxby and Arkendale, commanded by Lieut. W. E. Richardson, Lands Lane, Knaresborough, with Lieut. Dobbyn, of Ferrensby, as second in command; the first commander of this platoon was Lieut. Betley, who joined the Army in 1942; No. 19, with headquarters at 116 High Street, Knaresborough, commanded by Lieut. M. J. T. Fairman, Victoria Avenue, Knaresborough, with Lieut. W. Summerscale, Ripley Road, as second in command; the first commander was Lieut. B. G. Laughton, who afterwards went to company headquarters; No. 20, with headquarters at York House, commanded by Lieut. K. Lishman, Kirkgate, Knaresborough, with Lieut. R. M. Soar, Scriven Road, as second in command; Lieut. Lishman has been in charge of this platoon since January 1942, succeeding Lieut. Lewin who was commissioned in the R.A.F.C.S.M. C. H. Padgett is in charge of company headquarters, and C.Q.M.S. J. B. Eveleigh, of Market Place, who is to represent the company at the national parade in London, on Sunday, in charge of stores.

30 At the time of "standing down" the company comprises about 250 men, all armed with a personal weapon and proficient in the use of the grenade. In addition, many are expert in the use of machine guns, anti-tank weapons and mortars. There is also a well trained signals section under Sergt R. Richardson, Whincup Avenue.

### **Good Service Certificates**

40 Three good service certificates have been awarded to members of the company. The first was gained by Sergt W. Emmett (No. 20 platoon), of Park Crescent, who has done excellent work in the training of the younger men. Over 100 men from this platoon have passed into the Forces, and letters have been received from their commanding officers, expressing appreciation of the training they had previously received in the home Guard. The second certificate went to C.Q.M.S. Eveleigh, who has performed his duties with great efficiency, and the third to Sergt G. Gartside, of Halfpenny Lane, who has acted as armourer and whose mechanical ingenuity has provided the company with many useful items of equipment.

During the past few years, most of the men have put in two nights a week and done drills practically every Sunday, while for the officers, warrant officers and N.C.Os, the home Guard has meant as many as four nights a week, plus Sundays. The company has cooperated with the military in exercises,

including several night operations, and contact has also been maintained with the local Civil Defence services. Lieut Laughton acting as liaison officer. Major Aked was military representative on the Knaresborough Invasion Committee, which did much useful work at a difficult period.

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Gdsman. A. Bradley, Knaresborough, posted missing a year ago in Italy, now presumed to have died of wounds.

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## **HOME GUARDS “STAND DOWN”**

### **Knaresborough Men Attend Ripon Parade**

Members of the Home Guard from Knaresborough and district attended the “stand down” parade service of the 6<sup>th</sup> West Riding Battalion at Ripon Cathedral on Sunday.

Forty officers and 730 other ranks took part in the parade, which was led by the band of the West Yorkshire Regiment. The address was given by the Bishop of Ripon, the Right Rev. G. C. L. Lunt. The band led the singing of the hymns, and after the service played “Land of hope and glory” as the congregation left the Cathedral. Later, the Battalion marched past the Commanding Officer, Lieut. Col. H. H. Aykroyd, who took the salute. Col. Aykroyd was accompanied by the Mayor of Ripon COUN. L. M. KING. Later, on the Grammar School ground, Col Aykroyd read the King’s message to the Home Guard.

The officers of “E” company present were Major H. L. C. Aked (O.C.), Capt. H. B. Burrows, Lieut P. H. Downing, Lieut W. E. Richardson, Lieut R. C. Dobbyn, Lieut M. J. T. Fairman, Lieut K. Lishman, Lieut R. M. Soar, Lieut G. B. Laughton.

#### **Presentation to O.C.**

After the parade, C.S.M. C. Padgett, on behalf of the officers and N.C.Os of the company, presented Major Aked with a silver tankard in appreciation of his services during the past four and a half years.

On its return from Ripon, the Knaresborough contingent was met at the bottom of High Street by the band of Knaresborough Army Cadet Corps, under Cadet Drum Major S. Chatten, and marched with the band at its head to the headquarters in York Place for dismissal. The officer in charge of the parade complimented the members of the band on their smartness.

Members of No. 19 platoon held a smoking concert at the Commercial Hotel on Thursday evening and yesterday evening the members of No. 20 platoon dined together at the Elephant and Castle Hotel.

One of the Battalion representatives at the national parade before the King in London on Sunday was C.Q.M.S. J. R. Eveleigh, of Knaresborough.

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## **ITALIAN PRISONERS' PRIVILEGES**

### **Official Reply to Knaresboro' Protest**

10 The question of the freedom allowed to Italian prisoners of war was again mentioned at the meeting of Knaresborough Urban Council, on Monday, when the War Office's reply to the Council's recent protest was read. This stated that certain privileges were allowed to Italians who had volunteered to help in the war effort, and that any complaints as to misbehaviour by the men should be referred to the camp commandant of the district. The reply was noted, the Chairman (Coun. P. Broadbelt) observing that he was still of opinion that the men should be sent back to Italy.

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**16 December 1944**

20 **In Ravenna** – 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 members 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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## **EVACUEE'S SUDDEN DEATH AT KNARESBOROUGH**

30 Mrs Fanny Wiseman, aged 67, an evacuee from London, collapsed and died last Thursday morning at her home, 61 Boroughbridge Road, Knaresborough. The facts were reported to the York District Coroner (Mr E. T. Heap), who decided not to hold an inquest, a post mortem examination having established that death was due to heart failure.

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**Promotion:-** Cpl. Percy Todd, son of Mr and Mrs T. Todd, Boroughbridge Road, Knaresborough, who has been in the R.A.M.C. for five years, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant. He served in Iraq for over two years and is now in the Middle East.