

ILKLEY GAZETTE AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

A diary listing by each week and month

Richard Thackrah

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FOREWORD

Inspiration for writing such a work comes from many Ilkley and District / Wharfedale historians who have prepared books / booklets in many formats. I would like to acknowledge the following people, past and present, and hope that my own contributions will be viewed as a constructive, descriptive appraisal of modern Ilkley from the launch of the Ilkley Gazette in the 1860s. I apologise if any people have been missed from the following list:

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Richard Thackrah has been a resident of Ilkley for two spells over the last six decades. He gained his degrees in History, Geography and Education and has taught in primary, secondary and adult education. He has written textbooks reference books and general interest books, including a "Guide to Ilkley" and "Victorian Yorkshire" both published by the "Dalesman" and articles and short pieces for the "Ilkley Gazette".

THE ROLE OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS IN WARTIME

When one studies local history and has the privilege of looking at paper copies of one's own local newspaper, one can easily get carried away with a whole series of 'ed' words. One has explored, discovered, found, connected, engaged, unearthed, imagined, created, unlocked, opened, revealed and celebrated – in this case the history of an iconic town solely from the pages of the Ilkley Gazette since 1868. The paper actually appeared initially in May 1861, but the first 8 ½ years of the paper are for some reason lost or unavailable.

Wood pulp came into Great Britain from Norway until 9th April, 1940. Paper was rationed from September 1939 and newspapers limited to the amount they could use. By 1945 newspapers were limited to 25% of the pre-War consumption. The 'Control of Paper Order' came in to affect in 1940 after Norway was seized by the Nazis. Importation of newsprint and wood pulp had been stopped. A drastic reduction in the number of pages per issue was inevitable and reports were definitely limited in length.

In spite of economics borne out of necessity, local newspaper editors continued to present fairly and accurately items of local news. It was likely these would appear in summarised form and items of minor importance eliminated, or if any other changes would have to be made as a result of the Order or the paper would ask for the indulgence of the readers.

One can read about war's impact on the Home Front, the people amused themselves in the face of adversity and the way in which public morale was kept high through a mixture of propaganda and judicious reporting. The papers showed hopes and fears of the British people at large, air raids, black outs, the destruction of property, evacuation of children, the loss or absence of loved ones, rationing and conception all became facts of life.

People had an appetite for local as well as national news. Both types of papers carried out the wishes of government in controlling morale. They were limited in size in 1940 because of the nature of newsprint and circulation numbers were restricted to the then prevailing level for the duration of the war. The UK had been economically and emotionally drained by the war both at national, regional and local level. Local papers as well showed how news of world events could be mirrored and expressed to the people.

People lived with the constant threat of attack and families often became divided as a result of the fighting. Thousands worked very long hours, often volunteering their free time to help the war effort, as well as keeping normal jobs but there was a worry that people on the Home Front might grow disillusioned with war and this could lead to defeat. Local officials used censorship and propaganda to maintain morale of citizens during the war. It was felt that

keeping secret certain details which might cause people to lose hope would be best for morale of the country.

ILKLEY GAZETTE AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

A diary listing by each week and month

Ilkley Gazette 1939

January

6 January Ilkley New Senior Council School to serve from Bolton Abbey to Burley.

6 January Further progress is being made with the project to receive in Ilkley child refugees from Germany. Council finance committee says that Ilkley should assume responsibility for ten boys, with a warden and his wife for one year.

6 January Ilkley Council and making up Little Lane: controversy.

Sir Granville Gibson MP to retire.

6 January Skyrack and First-Aid posts. A warden's class is in full swing in Ilkley.

Subject to sanction of the Ministry of Health, to whom this side of Air Raid Precautions (ARP) activities has been delegated, new premises for the purpose will be erected.

13 January Letter to the Editor of the Ilkley Gazette from the Council finance committee regarding refugees . Responsibility for the refugee boys could extend from three to five years and the expenditure could be £2,000 of which nearly half has been promised by the Council finance committee and their friends. They ask for generous support for the welfare of the homeless children.

Ilkley liaising with refugees' camp at Harwich. Empty houses might be used as a hostel. Even the Youth Hostel in Cowpasture Road may be used for temporary accommodation.

Ilkley is also liaising with the Committee for Refugees from Germany and Austria.

13 January Yorkshire Joint Committee for Spanish Relief report deplorable conditions in Spain in the matter of basic foods. Yorkshire intends to send four 'Goodwill Foodships' as a contribution to the desperate need of the Spanish people. Total sum of £20,000 is needed to fulfil the object aimed at, and in response to an initial appeal £8,000 was contributed.

13 January Evacuation of areas. Wharfedale is to be a reception zone. Ilkley is to be used for reception purposes, and shortly a survey of billeting accommodation will be made.

Unionist Association (Conservative) film shows in the district include a resume of events of the crisis in September 1938 leading up to Chamberlain's visit to Munich.

13 January Ilkley's two picture houses giving funds to refugees (Lord Baldwin's Refugee Fund).

15 January New Medical Officer for Health is from Ilkley – Doctor Williams.

15 January There are 900 refugees in camp at Harwich, and Ilkley has agreed to take 10 for a hostel at Mount Pleasant.

20 January Some little delay into bringing into Ilkley district non-Aryan child refugees from Germany. The priority is to get children out of Germany that are in danger of being put in concentration camps and this affects boys aged 15 to 16. There are no boys in Harwich aged 11 and 12 – these are the ages stipulated by the Ilkley committee. Ilkley is not well suited for providing a technical education needed for the boys aged 15 and 16. Education and maintenance should be provided for such boys until the age of 18 when they are to be emigrated to the Colonies.

Possibly a very suitable house which could be used as a permanent hostel has been found.

20 January Refugee children – places where they could be lodged, boarded and cared for. Payment will be made at the rate of 10s 6d a week where one child is taken and 8s 6d for each extra child when more than one is taken.

ARP notes – compiling a register for evacuation purposes. While it is no part of the warden's duty to participate in some parts of the area (including Ilkley) wardens have volunteered to help. Responsibility for compiling the register rests with the local authority.

27 January Agreement on child refugees. Ten boys aged 12 to 14 are to be evacuated directly from Germany (of Jewish descent Christian faith). A hostel has been secured in Mount Pleasant, and the boys are to be educated at Ilkley Grammar School. It is intended to appoint a warden and his wife who will speak both German and English.

27 January Wool – problem of wool coming into Britain in foreign ships and leaving our own out. Buyers should have a right to say under which flag their goods should sail. In the event of a crisis, traders need assurance that their goods would not be filched from them without a proper margin. If there was a war, the margin which the Government would pay might mean simply nothing in comparison with the amount they would save in lives and ships and money they would have to pay after a war had started.

27 January Question of fitting blinds at Menston Isolation Hospital for a 'black-out' in the event of an emergency was raised at the meeting of Wharfedale Joint Isolation Hospital Committee. Preparations made in peacetime for necessary precautions at short notice.

27 January ARP as Crisis 'Funk Hole'. Air Raid wardens have drifted away. Out of 176 names in Skyrack, only 50% of the volunteers have shown any active interest in the work. A lot who gave in names during the Munich crisis did so thinking they would avoid military service. To be fair, many volunteers have never been warned of meetings or classes. Men did not know where to go or what to do. During the Munich crisis, there was a host of willing workers, but since then there has been a gradual drifting away. In a voluntary service, the essential thing was to choose the right men and to have the right men as leaders.

February

3 February A boy on remand from a previous court appeared carrying a brown paper parcel. When asked what it contained, he said it was his gas mask and that he had been told at the remand home that he must carry it everywhere with him.

3 February Letter to the Gazette from Dorothea Bohlmann (Honorary Secretary Ilkley Committee for Refugees). She said that the Home Secretary announced in November 1938 that as a result of 11,000 German refugees settling in this country, 15,000 British workmen had been given employment. A large number who are only temporary guests, not workers, are waiting until emigration or the right to enter another country is possible. Even boys hoped to be entertained in Ilkley are to be given a training which will equip them for emigration.

3 February 'Applied National Service Work. How Men and Women Can Help in Ilkley Now'. Ilkley Rotary Club discusses various phases of service. Big response of women to ambulance call.

Ilkley Rotary Club considered all these measures at their meeting this week – 'exceptionally interesting'. Ambulance and nursing services, anti-gas courses and decontamination, the work of ARP and the Special Constabulary, the work of the rescue, repair and demolition squads, the distribution and care of gas masks and the object of the National Voluntary Register were discussed.

Reference was made to H.H. ('Bunny') Austin's book on 'Moral Rearmament'. He quoted Queen Wilhelmina as saying in a recent broadcast that the immediate task of moral rearmament called for a completely changed mentality to solve national problems and turn the fear of destruction to the will to construction. Only on a moral and spiritual basis could the work of rearmament and national service lead to permanent peace.

3 February Skyrack ARP: over 3,000 volunteers with 20 qualified instructors and nearly 30 classes of various types running. Good response of volunteers for ARP under the National Service Scheme.

10 February Parish Church bells – proposal to re-cast the peel. It is unsafe to ring in its present condition.

10 February National Service: more facilities described at the Rotary Meeting. Ilkley had a strong contingent of Special Constables who had or were taking training courses and would have very important duties in times of war, especially at short notice in the case of air raids. There are 78 in the Ilkley Special Constabulary under the command of Mr H. Tillotson, Margerison Road, Ben Rhydding.

Ilkley had a keen and enthusiastic body of men of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade Service and they continue to recruit so that they had adequate reserve for local needs and for any call upon some of them for duty elsewhere.

ARP warning signals to be tested in the Skyrack area on 15 February at 11am and 11.15am.

Reverend W.H. Hudspeth, a returned missionary from Shanghai, speaks in Ilkley giving harrowing details of the war at present being waged in China by Japan. At the start of this war, China had no planes or machine guns. In over 18 months in Shanghai and on every one of those days, over 500 people were starving. At one university after an air raid, 100 students and professors were found dead.

In the districts of Shanghai where his chief work lay, over 2,000 people were blown to pieces in 24 hours. At least 1,000 British people had their businesses in Shanghai and had lost everything.

A mere three shillings would keep a Chinese person living for a month.

17 February 'Ilkley refugees – do people care enough?': Reverend Gibson Lawn's appeal as Ilkley Methodist minister in a sermon. Some people in Ilkley did not want to see or hear about the evidence of war in China and Spain.

17 February Ilkley Refugees Committee: Captain Geldard mentioned the possibility of work on farms for boys who were already 15 or 16 years of age. Farmers were willing to take them for twelve months for their keep. As long as the conditions were right, there were placements for any number of boys.

Poem by June L. Moore: 'An Appeal for the Refugees'.

17 February Ilkley approval for secondary education for girls at Ilkley Grammar School. 23 girls are taking the County Minor Scholarship Exam.

17 February Local committee appointed in Ilkley to help foodships to go to the help of the starving in Spain. While it is mainly money that is needed, gifts of food and goods are also welcomed.

24 February The hostel on Mount Pleasant is ready for refugees.

24 February How the National Fitness Council can help local authorities, sports organisations and voluntary organisations, and how they can be helped in turn by these bodies was explained by Mr J.B. Passmore, Secretary for the West Riding Committee for National Fitness, to Ilkley Council members on 21 February 1939. It was a means to a fuller life.

24 February Women in National Service. Mrs Ryder Runton delivers a speech at Ilkley Rotary Club: 'Women's Voluntary Services for Civilian Defence'.

One aim would be to try and prevent panic in the event of an air raid. Another aspect of their work was in evacuation and billeting. Training in advance would be needed for hospital and casualty services and for additional auxiliary staff for hospitals and first aid posts.

Ambulance drivers would be needed plus attendants and driving lessons were being arranged.

A further phase was the hospital supply services for which women would be enrolled who might be too old for other work, and could prepare bandages, swabs and other dressings.

Women are essentially peace lovers, but in order to preserve, they must conserve.

The Women's Voluntary Service was not a fighting force – it aimed at making people realise their responsibilities and prepare for eventualities. If there were intensive air attacks on civilian population, then Ilkley would become a place to which others would be brought.

Conditions of Service for ARP volunteers:

1. Natural born British subjects.
2. Complete prescribed course of training.
3. Volunteers required to undertake to present themselves for part time or whole time service.
4. Enrolment terminable on not less than one week's notice.
5. Volunteers act as required under the direction of the local authority.
6. Notify change of address to the local authority.
7. Paid emergency rates of pay.
8. Compensation paid if volunteer is incapacitated.
9. Compensation paid on conditions laid out at the time.

March

3 March Water charges to be 1s 4d in the pound. Increase for Ilkley Air Raid wardens to remain under the Council rather than the Home Office order for them to be placed under the control of the Chief Constable.

Talk on International Difficulties given to the Ilkley League of Nations Youth Group by Mr Emerson Rogers of Skipton.

3 March More details of Ilkley's New Hospital. It is to cost £40,000 to build and equip, and £5,500 a year to maintain.

3 March The addition of private wards and the additional costs of incorporating ARP protection in the building would bring the total cost of the building and equipping it to about £40,000.

In the event of war, hospitals in comparatively safe areas are going to be of vital importance to the nation.

10 March Picture of refugee boys from Vienna with Mr H. Ferry, warden at the Ilkley hostel.

10 March Six refugee boys arrived in Ilkley and are having lessons at Loxleigh House in Cowpasture Road. They are non-orthodox Jews aged 14 to 16 from Vienna. All wished their parents to come to Ilkley.

Consideration is being given to the gas-proof and bomb-proof shelters in all new school buildings and the provision of new schools is now being planned.

Mrs Corbett Ashby addressed a League of Nations Union meeting in Ilkley and issued a plea for more moral courage. Forces working for peace and democracy are needed to make the fullest use of the machinery of the League of Nations.

10 March 9th Dukes Wharfedale Men reunion in Bradford.

National Service Recruitment. Employers of labour to be approached. Consideration to be given to making a personal approach to prospective recruits rather than the holding of public meetings. 'It is hoped panels would foster an interest in those services which were national as well those services which were purely local'. This view was set out in detail in a letter from Lord Harewood, President of the Yorkshire (West Riding) National Service Committee. So far, 299 men and 174 women had volunteered for ARP in Skyrack, other than the Auxiliary Fire Service.

17 March Contrasts and comparisons between Englishmen and Frenchmen were cleverly drawn by Mr E.L. Rolfe at the meeting of Ilkley Rotarians. 'If we could mix the two people well together in a large salad bowl with our qualities and theirs and then divide the mixture, both would derive benefits thereby'.

17 March Police and 'specials' – working together to reduce road accidents.

24 March Chinese refugees in China have received 2,050 gifts from Ilkley people led by Mrs Arnold Foster and Mrs Jowett from Ben Rhydding.

24 March Advert: 'National Service Means Peace. Women, have you enrolled yet? Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service; ARP Women Ambulance Drivers & Attendants and Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.'

24 March ARP District. The Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia has resulted in the large influx of volunteers for ARP (comparable to the Munich crisis in 1938). Training of women drivers for ARP has begun.

24 March In any emergency, one of the most important centres of any town is its post office through which telephonic and telegraphic communications are maintained. Training in the event of air raids is completed in local post offices and each post office will become a complete ARP unit. The post office at Ilkley will have its own wardens for fire fighting service and first aid station, and all telephone operators have volunteered to form a corps which will insure that in the event of air raids the phone service will carry on. Ilkley telephone operators were fitted with respirators yesterday: each mask is personal to that individual and not used by others.

24 March Rates up 16/-: a record.

31 March Civil Defence address by Mr J. A. Slater, Ilkley Urban District Council Sanitary Inspector. Anti-gas training is vital. Helping in maintaining public health is important in peace as in war.

31 March Advert: Men are wanted for territorial army and auxiliary fire services; women volunteers for nursing and first aid.

31 March Cynical letter about the 'Partition of Ilkley? Hitler and Mussolini' signed The Hermit, Cowper's Cross, Rombalds Moor.

Ilkley Committee on Spain has sent £200 to the headquarters in London to be used for buying food for Spanish children, plus medical supplies for people in Spain and refugee camps on the French/Spanish border.

31 March Army Demonstration Column which represents all arms of Service will visit Wharfedale in July whilst en route from Cardiff to Newcastle.

There will be 15 officers, 388 other ranks and 100 vehicles. The public will have an opportunity of seeing the latest types of vehicles, weapons, equipment, clothing and working devices used by the Army in the field.

Brigadier Nicklin (Salvation Army Brigadier) gave a talk at Ilkley Congregational Church about his work over 6½ years in Czechoslovakia.

April

6 April Private billeting (in the event of War) in Wharfedale Rural District was mentioned at the West Riding local authority conference attended by 200 delegates. Ilkley did not yet know where the refugees were from. Hospitals in Bradford would be linked to ones in Middleton (Ilkley), Skipton and Keighley.

6 April Transport in War Time. A number of local tradesmen formed themselves into a group for organisation of road transport in times of national emergency.

7 April Fuel rationing would be done through Group Organisers. Considerations: same sub-district; need to think about the usual work the vehicles performed; and the type of vehicle.

Pudsey and Otley Division of the Labour Party terminated the candidature of Mr Wigglesworth in view of his sympathy with 'Sir Stafford Cripps popular front' movement.

14 April Housing for 9,500 evacuees featured in the Women's Voluntary Service plans for Wharfedale. Billeting children and adults required many helpers.

Big crowds revel in glorious Easter weather. Sun bathing on the heather and grass. Moors and riverside thronged with visitors. Scenes were more like those of midsummer.

14 April First Aid Home Nursing – extra courses in Ilkley in view of the unsettled state of international affairs.

21 April Moral Rearmament is as necessary as ARP and takes away fear – this was discussed at a meeting at Stoney Lea.

21 April Ben Rhydding Hockey Club – possibility of a third team.

21 April Ilkley Territorials – battery's linked with those at Leeds Territorials.

21 April Mr G. Mennell is the new Chairman of Ilkley Council.

21 April Ilkley and ARP. Meeting of Senior Wardens. Complete distribution of respirators is soon to be achieved. Women assistants at various posts to go on an anti-gas course.

21 April Provision for Evacuees. Question of education of children if they are evacuated to Ilkley in the case of emergency. Probably 2,000 children would be involved and buildings to be used are currently being checked out.

Attendance returns: Ilkley is in 6th place in the area with a 87.64 attendance (average for division is 88.07).

21 April Refugees for Ilkley: more boys to be received at Loxleigh hostel which is occupied by non-orthodox Jews. Leeds Committee agreed to two more non-orthodox Jews. In another case, one of the arrivals will be a boy from Vienna whose mother has been applied for by a lady at Bolton Abbey and for whom 10/- a week will be paid. Another is a boy from Berlin, for whom a request was made by Mrs Eric Petrie.

The parents of one of the boys had written expressing their very grateful thanks to the committee and to the people of Ilkley for the service being rendered to children. It was also announced that four refugee men from Headquarters were placed in farms in Wharfedale and Skipton districts.

The Committee had refused a request for a man to be taken into the hostel as a refugee: they were aware that this was exceedingly controversial but had to administer the hostel according to the lines drawn up and with the money they had available.

21 April Advert: 'Correct Home Storage of Canned Foods: ARP of Vital Importance to Everyone'. What to buy and how to use them. The storage of a small reserve of food in every household during peacetime is recommended by responsible Authorities and means a large addition to the national larder during an emergency.

21 April Ilkley Rugby Club – disappointing experiences. The final record was one of the poorest in post-war seasons. Conversely, the men's hockey section of Ben Rhydding Sports Club has enjoyed a most successful season.

Ilkley Moor Golf Club is being wound up.

28 April Civic Sunday Service in Ilkley: Reverend R.G. Lawn, the Superintendent Minister, reiterated the need 'to keep sympathies alive' in his sermon.

28 April The work of any system of government depended in the last resort upon the character and the disposition of those employed in government posts. Those working in the Council and in the church are carrying out different branches of the same task: the promotion of human benefit. It was a great trust and a great responsibility. A great privilege any town can have is that its leaders shall be men of vision, honourable in character, upright in heart, animated by a generous public spirit and carrying out their tasks and responsibilities in fear of God.

28 April Letter about animals and air raids. A RSPCA pamphlet deals with protection from gas and treatment of gassed and wounded dogs, cats and horses. Special apparatus is available from the RSPCA for grasping and extracting an animal buried in the debris of a bombed building. The RSPCA worked in Spain and Abyssinia during the wars there.

Girls at Ilkley Grammar School from 1 September 1939. Opening date not yet guaranteed. Adaptations at the school cost £660 to enable 50 girls to be admitted. Additional staff may be needed.

In the event of an emergency, Ilkley Grammar School might have to take evacuees from Bradford and Leeds – desirous to billet 300 secondary school boys from Leeds Modern School. There is perhaps a need for classrooms in hotels, hydros and other large buildings – Kings Hall and Annexe, Congregational Lecture Hall, Methodist Assembly Hall and St Margaret's Hall.

28 April A mixed response to the issue of Dales farmers being prepared to plough and in readiness for a time of emergency.

28 April Criticism by local MP Sir Granville Gibson of the Government's plans for dealing with property damaged in the War. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the damage would be valued and a final settling would be after the war. Sir Granville Gibson said that anything might happen between the time of the damage and the end of the War, and damage to premises might be so great that businesses would be crippled financially.

28 April Sir Bernard Lomas-Walker to be the prospective National Conservative candidate for Pudsey and Otley to succeed Sir Granville Gibson.

Sir Granville Gibson spoke on Foreign Affairs. Almost all people in this country hated the thought of war and loved peace. He had no doubt the same applied to ordinary people in Germany, but they had formed a government whereby one or two men plunged them into war. The United Kingdom, France, the United States, Poland etc giving each other strength and support could mean that Italy and Germany could not take the risk of war. They knew perfectly well in respect of Albania, Austria and Czechoslovakia that they were not taking a great risk but if they were now aggressive to Poland, Greece, Turkey or Roumania, there will be conflagration.

28 April R.T.A. Renton Q.C. appointed sun-controller of Skyrack Joint ARP Committee.

28 April Collective training demonstrations are now superseding the individual work and those taking part are able to obtain a more comprehensive idea of what will be necessary in an emergency.

Advert: 'ARP – canned fruits offer a two-fold advantage: delicious for present needs and essential for an emergency'.

May

5 May J.C. Smuts the proposed Liberal candidate for Pudsey and Otley discussed foreign affairs. Smuts argued that it was necessary to have some form of compulsion and

conscription at the present time. Volunteers were lacking and this could have serious consequences in the event of a war.

Photo: ARP demonstration in 'tin hats' and protective oilskin clothing dealing with a bomb explosion casualty.

5 May Flying Officer R.A.G. Petrie of Mount Stead, Ben Rhydding, killed in a flying accident at RAF Hawkinge near Folkestone. He was one of a flight of six, the accident occurred as the plane was preparing to land – it appeared to stall, dived to the ground and burst into flames. His parents Major and Mrs P.C. Petrie were in Roumania on a trade delegation when the tragedy struck (his father is the President of the Association of Exporting Merchants of Raw Materials and Yarns, Bradford). He followed his father to Loretto. His funeral was held at Bolton Abbey after cremation at Hawkinge.

5 May Ilkley Urban District Council said of the need for an Emergency War Committee to be given wide powers in the time of war to act on behalf of the Council in matters of civil defence.

5 May Ilkley and Otley troops of Gunners were amalgamated to form the Wharfedale Battery of the 70th West Riding Field Regiment. Annual Camp will be from 6th to 21st August and will undertake joint manoeuvres with the regular army from 16th to 21st September 1939.

5 May ARP Sandbags – a nationwide demand for ARP sandbags is making it extremely difficult to obtain even the raw materials.

12 May Boy refugees in Ilkley and finding work on farms – seven adult trainees placed on farms by Captain Geldard and one Ilkley hostel boy placed on a farm at Hutton le Hole.

15 May Former Ilkley man Mr Godfrey Wilson descends through a pothole to try and rescue a man who died before he could be brought to the surface.

19 May Girl Guides 'Trike Cart' – a one-wheeled vehicle very much like a stretcher on a wheel. It can be assembled and dismantled quickly, and is useful in crossing difficult terrain.

26 May Empire Day message at Ilkley Grammar School by Mr W.E. Dinsdale, Chair of Ilkley Grammar School. The Chairman's core message was 'look for meaning, responsibility and duty. Look for opportunity to bear responsibility for others. Carry this through school life, business and professional life'.

26 May Refugees at Ilkley. An appeal for sympathy on behalf of non-orthodox Jewish refugees being looked after in Ilkley. Reduction on assessment on the hostel in Mount Pleasant from £40 gross to £20 for one year. In Ilkley, a sum of £1,500 was raised for this work.

June

2 June In spite of concern over War, Wharfedale had a Whitsuntide sunbath with record crowds thronging Ilkley Moor, and crowds soaking in the sunshine at the bathing pool. There was a very heavy demand on all forms of transport. Happiness overcame pessimism in spite of the European situation and many preparations for defence proceedings all around us.

2 June Miss Naomi Jacob, noted authoress, spoke on 'The Way to Peace' in Riddings Road Lecture Hall in an event organised by the Peace Pledge Union in which she 'denies that war is inevitable, that it is anything but a sin and it aims at creating those conditions which will make peace inevitable'.

2 June Military Training Act registration on 3 June at the Ministry of Labour office on Chantry Drive. Those affected are urgently requested that if they have an unemployment book to bring this or be prepared with correct letters and number, also birth certificate.

2 June Refugees from Austria. Five more young men in Loxleigh this week and one other detained in London owing to a motor crash. They are aged 19 to 21 and are from Vienna. They will be in Britain for three months and converse well in English. They will hopefully find jobs on farms.

2 June ARP – the training of volunteers is well advanced and it is proposed to inaugurate classes of instruction for the general public.

9 June New militiamen. An important and vital week in the country. History was made for the first time when young men were generally called upon to serve with the forces in peacetime – a singular exhibition of loyalty and self-sacrifice on the part of the youths, but also of anxiety and faithfulness by parents who feel interruption in careers is not without ill-effect.

3 June 1939 was the day for registration for the National Militia Service of all men who were between 20 and 21.

Qualifications and preferences of recruits will be taken into account.

9 June Try to avoid misfits as occurred in First World War training. Much depends on the character, ambition and ability of each individual recruit.

9 June 47 militiamen registered at Ilkley Employment Office to join National Service, especially the RAF.

9 June Skyrack ARP Wardens play Otley Divisional Police at cricket.

Wharfedale Rural District Council said it needs to consider permanent evacuation and temporary or overnight evacuation.

16 June Northern Command Tattoo to take place on 1 July at which the 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers provide main pageantry and ceremonial.

16 June ARP Control Centre Exercise.

23 June Women's Voluntary Service Workers photo in Kings Hall – possible use in any evacuation.

30 June J.C. Smuts Liberal candidate stated that the Government had no vision and there were too many 'Yes Men' in the House of Commons.

30 June Yorkshire Colts versus Staffordshire Colts in Ilkley (points on first innings to Staffordshire).

30 June Mr G. Hurst representing Ilkley at Skyrack. Volunteers: London Rally for National Service on 2 July 1939.

July

7 July Dr Billington spoke of the mission work in Western China at a meeting held in aid of the Medical Missions Auxiliary of the Church Missionary Society. There were a large number of refugees in the Western China area due to the China/Japan war. There was a good partnership between church and local people and Chinese and foreigners.

7 July Accident on a motorcycle was caused by a man looking up at a 'rare sight' – an aeroplane!!

7 July View to taking Spanish refugees from families in Yorkshire to Mexico where they would be offered the opportunity of establishing their homes and beginning their lives afresh – an undertaking by the Yorkshire Council for Relief of Spanish Refugees. Some people though believed these people to be undesirable and should face justice back in Spain.

14 July Mr Scott spoke to the Ilkley Rotary Club about his holiday in Belgium. Ypres (a miniature Bruges) has been completely rebuilt.

14 July Ilkley played a major role in the major blackout exercises in Wharfedale. Over 400 people took part in the ARP exercises on 14 July. They had to deal with the effects of bomb explosions. Fire services cooperated in the exercise in Wharfedale and had 80 auxiliary men out in addition to 22 firemen.

14 July In various services of Air Raid Wardens, Demolition, Decontamination and Rescue Squads, First Aid workers, Auxiliary Fire Services and Special Constables – a personnel of over 400 was engaged.

The exercises also included heavy explosive bombs in New Brook Street and Castle Road, two houses in Clifford Road were demolished by high explosive bombs; Margerison Road was blocked and persistent gas bombs on The Crescent.

21 July Floods following a cloudburst. A sudden flood on 16 July and Ben Rhydding was particularly bad with flooded cellars and ruined gardens in Ben Rhydding Drive. Manhole covers were forced up and there was a landslide on the railway between Burley and Ilkley.

21 July Letter to the Editor: Concern over the number of Germans that are resident in Ilkley Urban District Council and Addingham.

21 July 400 people joined the moral rearmament crusade in Wharfedale. Moral rearmament is strength of a nation's resolve – conquering fear, ambition, greed, self-indulgence and hatred.

Ilkley Grammar School speech day – Lady Lomas Walker presented prizes and Sir Bernard Lomas Walker made a speech. 'Go out into the world, heads held high, looking the world in the face. Whatever the troubles and the dangers, there is something greater than the mere

words of dictators, that there is something better than school days and that is the life you will lead. Above all, do your duty and in that way bring credit to the school.'

28 July Concern expressed over the attitude of the ARP authorities to the British Legion. Legion members are affronted by the fact that the ARP are neglecting a wealth of experience.

August

4 August Electricity and gas to cost more due to coal price rise.

4 August Ilkley Vicar's son Mr Wellington marries (photo).

4 August Ilkley's request to be an ARP report centre – a plea put in by Ilkley Urban District Council. The Centre would be supervised by a suitably qualified volunteer with a necessary staff of assistants. Training period would be three months.

11 August War time plan for Mental Hospitals – casualty huts to be put in the grounds.

11 August More boy refugees to come to the Hostel in Mount Pleasant. New wardens are Mr and Mrs Grunwald who were appointed when they were still in Vienna. It had been difficult to secure them, but they are now in charge.

Nine boys under 16 years old are to arrive. All will go to the Church of England school except one who will go to Ilkley Grammar School.

Biplane makes a safe landing in Pool at the junction of Leathley Lane and Harrogate Road. Both plane and pilot were unharmed. Later the machine was towed back to Yeadon aerodrome.

18 August International Peace Campaign issued a questionnaire to all MPs and candidates in Yorkshire.

25 August National service in Ilkley. The position has been reviewed by the area panel committee and volunteers are still needed in many services.

25 August Activity in Wharfedale – warning regarding lights and ARP signals.

25 August Increase in international tension. ARP wardens are to make sure all are equipped with gas respirators in Ilkley. Possibilities of black-outs led to the painting of kerbstones white at principal street corners to assist the movement of vehicles.

Public are to familiarise themselves with the sound of the air raid siren:

General warning: 'fluctuating' or 'warbling'.

Raiders passed – a 'continuous' signal at a steady pitch.

If poison gas used, warnings to be given by hand rattles.

Car light bulbs not to exceed 7 watts, glass on all car lamps must be marked with two thicknesses of white tissue paper. Headlamps, provided hood is fitted, to ensure no light is visible above eye level at a distance greater than 25 feet.

25 August Women's work in emergency – feed child evacuees and maintain canteen services.

September

1 September Adverts:

'ARP Blinds and Curtains. Curtain linings 8d per yard'. Have your Cellar or basement shelter propped and made safe. L.T.Learoyd, Cunliffe Road, Ilkley'.

'Cheap LMS Trips. Important Notice. The London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company announce all cheap Half Day and Evening Excursions advertised for Friday, Saturday and Sunday 1 September, 2 September and 3 September are cancelled'.

'Ilkley Flower Show. On account of evacuation, the show on Saturday has been transferred to Wells Road Assembly Hall'.

1 September British Red Cross. A detachment of British Red Cross is being formed in Ilkley. Will anyone who has not already offered their services for nursing, and holds a Certificate for First Aid and Home Nursing or wishes to join, communicate with Mrs Ford, The Pines, Ilkley.

1 September Evacuation from Danger Areas – nearly 4,000 to be received in Ilkley, Burley and Menston.

Whole urban district including Burley and Menston scheduled a 'safe' area.

Women's Voluntary Service leaders met in Council Chambers on 31 August after the broadcast announcement.

1 September Ilkley to receive 2,141 children and adults today.

Today (Friday) numbers expected in Ilkley are 1,188. They will be received in the Kings Hall or The Annexe. First party to arrive in Ilkley at 10am. It would be useful if householders could be ready to receive the evacuees.

Evacuees on first day to be schoolchildren (with some teachers who will return to Leeds on the same day).

On the second day: children under school age and their mothers, and expectant mothers.

Each person on arrival to receive an 'iron ration' sufficient to last 48 hours – canned beef, sweetened and unsweetened milk, biscuits and chocolates.

An appeal for blankets.

1 September Billeting officers' work is not easy – a call for patience, tact and discretion.

Women are busy in the Town Hall preparing the 48 hours emergency rations for the evacuees when they arrive today.

1 September Food in boxes and cartons and hundreds of paper carrier bags. Children in elementary schools all brought gas masks.

Kemble Players show in Kings Hall transferred to the Playhouse in Weston Road.

Ilkley Allotments and Horticultural Society annual flower and vegetable show will be removed to Wells Road Assembly Hall.

Ilkley Rail Station announcement – certain trains cancelled as the rolling stock is required for evacuation purposes.

1 September Air Raid Warden's Posts are at:

Crescent Hotel

West Yorkshire Garage

Middleton Hotel Garage

Town Hall, Ilkley

British Legion Club, Ilkley

Methodist Schoolroom

Glen Rosa Garage

'The Pines', Parish Ghyll Drive

10 Bolling Road

'Ashville' Wheatley Road

Colbert Avenue Kiosk, Ilkley

Ross's Garage, Ben Rhydding.

'Beechwood', Grange Avenue

Newcombe Grange, Curly Hill

Denton Hall, Denton

Nesfield Kiosk

'Dundrennan', Rupert Road

H.C. Cowbrough, Manor Farm, Askwith

Crossbeck Road.

1 September Skyrack ARP duties – partial mobilisation of personnel last night. Sub-controller's duties: complete distribution of civilian respirators, sandbag distribution, public shelters to be made available as rapidly as possible, equip and staff first aid posts, control

centre staffed day and night, 20% of ARP services personnel to be mobilised, 20% personnel to be mobilised to stand by at wardens' posts.

In Wharfedale rural area, 5,500 evacuees were received today, and tomorrow reception centres will be set up in each of the chief villages.

8 September Advert: 'Brown Muffs Bradford ARP. In the public interest, Brown Muffs are ready with essential ARP requirements. A huge diversity of commodities that are one and all backed by Brown Muffs' efficiency standards.

8 September Scholars, Mothers and Babies welcomed in Ilkley. Smooth working scheme run with great care. Local schools closed for some days until arrangements are made for teaching newcomers. This delay appeared to the children as a holiday and Leeds children had a thorough exploration of the district.!

Boys from Leeds Modern School allocated new homes from Ilkley Grammar School. Numbers received in Ilkley Urban District Council's district were considerably smaller than those for which preparation had been made.

8 September At Ilkley, the numbers of mothers and babies on Friday were only about 60% of those which had been anticipated. Brudenell School – 48 teachers came in the party and most of these stayed in Ilkley. The boys were in groups of ten and each teacher was in contact with the boys.

On the Friday, Ilkley received 661 children and on Saturday 221 mothers and babies.

8 September Women's Voluntary Service run by Mrs Ryder Runton, Mrs Crosse, Mrs Behrens and Mrs Hampshire.

Wharfedale Rural District. On Friday over 300 children were brought into Wharfedale and Washburndale by bus from Leeds.

Photo of child evacuees.

8 September Owing to the largely increased population of Ilkley caused by the influx of evacuees, volunteers with nursing experience are welcomed to assist the district nurses.

Appeals for toys, books, play pens and a rocking horse.

Leeds Modern School – 250 to 300 boys under the charge of Dr Morton have lessons in the morning, and Ilkley Grammar School boys and girls have lessons in the afternoon.

Declaration of War - how the news was received in Wharfedale with quiet determination and no preliminary shouting as in 1914. The preparations which had been in hand to meet the possibilities which followed the betrayal at Munich in 1938 have been advanced with a thoroughness which precluded any need to 'popularise' the Forces in any way whatsoever.

8 September Weakened teams at Ilkley on the first weekend of the War.

8 September First meeting of Ilkley Urban District Council in the War.

The Chairman said that he found in the last few days abundant evidence in the district of a willingness to serve.

A Food Control Committee was set up and a Fuel Advisory Committee was appointed to assist the Food Controller Mr H. Schofield.

A Billeting Tribunal was appointed to hear appeals by householders against the conditions of the billeting schemes.

High tribute was paid to the Women's Voluntary Service for their evacuation work. Discussion concerning making up the difference between Army pay and civil pay for men who enlisted.

Ilkley Chamber of Trade – grocers to close on weekdays no later than 6pm and other traders not later than 7pm except on Saturdays when the time was fixed to 8pm.

15 September Fuel and Lighting Order 1939. In order to obtain supplies of coal, coke etc, consumers must register with a licensed merchant. As from 1 October, consumers of coal, coke, electricity and gas were only permitted to consume 75% of their consumption during the corresponding quarters of the year ended 30 June last – signed by H. Schofield, Local Fuel Overseer.

Advert: 'Dixon and Co. Service petrol supplies and blackout. May we solicit consideration of our Clients in as far as possible accepting delivery the following morning for all orders after lunch. This facilitates not covering the same ground so many times daily and finishing deliveries as Winter lighting restrictions become earlier'.

15 September Sir Granville Gibson MP witnessed the rescue of the crew of the British ship 'The Olive Grove' bound from Cuba to Britain with 5,000 tons of sugar sunk by a German submarine. He was returning from a five weeks business tour of the United States and Canada. The Americans were generally sympathetic to the cause of the Democracies but while they condemn Hitler's methods, they are determined not to be drawn into the War. However Sir Granville Gibson believed that even if the Neutrality Act is not amended, the Americans will contrive to help democracies. In Canada, there was unanimous and whole-hearted support for the stand against aggression.

15 September The Ministry of Information says that postal orders must be accepted as legal tender and may be used and must be accepted in the same way as coins and banknotes.

15 September Musings of a naturalist – an interesting observation. Swallows with young are still managing in the blackout. Swallows in barns are still managing to squeeze through cracks in barn doors as skylights have been screened as a result of ARP rules.

15 September First girls at Ilkley Grammar School – a photo. This is considered generally to be a popular move.

15 September Appeal for volunteers to act as blood donors.

15 September Demand for houses increased in Ilkley due to evacuees.

Auxiliary Fire Brigade – 14 members of the regular Brigade and 107 from the Auxiliary Fire Service. Seven men are in permanent attendance to cope with emergency, nine are watchroom attendants engaged as telephonists and 26 are messengers. Equipment is five trailer pumps in addition to the engine, and a new engine will arrive late September as well as five more trailer pumps.

15 September Sir Henry Price of 'Hollingwood', Ilkley, head of Price's (Tailors) Limited is one of the new members of an advisory panel of clothing manufacturers appointed by the Ministry of Supply to assist the Government in the production of clothing for the Army.

22 September 'Protect your Investment in Property against War Risks. No insurance company will insure property against war risks, but a Mutual Friend to provide Compensation which would not otherwise be available has been formed by the Provincial Property Owners War Risks'.

22 September Photos – Wharfedale Howitzer 279th Field Battery (Royal Artillery). Battery Officers and NCOs and Ilkley Troop or 'Edward' troop – united in one battery six months ago. Regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel G.E. Suddards of Ilkley.

Agriculture in War Time. Major Horton-Fawkes addresses tenants and states that agriculture is 'the fourth fighting service'. Tightening the belt is unpleasant and starvation means defeat.

Ilkley's new fire engine is named 'The George Mennell' and is one of the largest in Yorkshire.

22 September Mr W.H. Darby, Divisional Highway Surveyor, has been appointed by the County Council as Petrol Officer for ARP purposes in the Ilkley area.

Urgent request for children's cots.

22 September Stoker W.W. Stirk from Burley is a survivor from the aircraft 'HMS Courageous'. He is 31 and his mother lives in Ilkley. He was rescued by a destroyer after 1½ hours in the sea. He was lucky as the stoke-hole where he would have been was torpedoed. He was just going on watch and his arrival was delayed due to him getting a drink of water on the mess deck.

22 September Schools and evacuees – carrying on with bigger numbers to teach. There were also requests for evening classes to be resumed.

29 September Miss Wilkinson announces that Beamsley tea cottage will be closed for the duration of the war.

Wartime Land Cultivation Committee – arranged a public lecture on 'Grow Food for Yourself and Your Country'.

Ilkley Public Library, Lending Library and Reading Room are now open for their usual hours.

29 September In response to an appeal for Ilkley people to grow their own food, Mr A. Herten has offered the use of a field in front of his house comprising about three acres for use free for the cultivation of food during the period of the war.

Tractors and ploughs needed to plough out grassland.

Photos: Wharfedale Howitzer Battery; HQ Staff; Don and Freddy troops.

29 September Letter to Ilkley Gazette – “ Great benefits will result all round for the town if it receives evacuees in a spirit of understanding and real unselfishness.”

Wharfedale Battery – Ilkley Women to help by knitting home comforts for soldiers.

29 September National Register being taken 29 September. The householder must record name, age and occupation along with other details of every person who spends tonight at this house or who joins the household on Saturday without having been included in the return for another address. It doesn't include soldiers, sailors or airmen who are billeted in the house. Enumerators start on 30 September collecting schedules and issuing Identity Cards on the spot.

Despite the fact that there are no air raids, there needs to be a constant need for alertness among the civilian population like that being maintained by the defence forces.

29 September War Budget – Chancellor of the Exchequer calls for 'severe sacrifice' in order to meet £2,000,000,000 outlay now facing the nation and places the rate of income tax at 7/- in the pound for the present financial year rising to 7s 6d, the highest since the tax was first was introduced in 1798).

New war loans to be issued in due course.

29 September ARP Practice. A series of practice exercises for ARP services in the Skyrack area are to be held on successive Sundays starting on 1 October. The first exercises are to be in Baildon and Pudsey, followed later by exercises in other areas.

Whenever exercises occur, the main object is to give drivers of vehicles and services they carry practice in moving about the area and rendering mutual support in districts which have suffered heavy damage.

29 September No return on newspaper sales after 16 October 1939. Newsagents will only be supplied with the actual number of copies needed. This is owing to the absolute necessity of conserving paper supplies.

Ben Rhydding Men's Hockey – an emergency club has been formed and will make a restart with one team for the present. There will be no subscriptions, instead a pay as you play scheme at 1s a game.

October

6 October Greenline Taxis. In continuation of the present conditions, a proposed increase from 8d to 1/- per mile will, in our case, apply only to the first mile run; subsequent miles will remain at 8d.

This amounts to a flat increase of 4d only on each individual journey.

Photo – Ilkley First Aid Post at St Margaret's Hall.

6 October Ilkley Gazette letter from the lady who has taken in a Leeds Modern School pupil – there is not enough money to feed the boy adequately every day and week., therefore when does the School Canteen open?

6 October More evacuees for Ilkley: up to 59 but no date yet.

6 October Paper shortage. No shortage of newspapers that are ordered in advance, but as raw materials for making paper have to be imported, it is in the national interest that there should be a rigorous conservation of supplies.

6 October A lengthy meeting on Ilkley Urban District Council to discuss ARP in the Urban District. Although Ilkley was deemed a safe area, the number of paid ARP wardens exceeded 20.

In the Ilkley district there are quite a number of paid telephonists in connection with ARP and AFS services who are receiving £2 a week. Perhaps this needs to be reconsidered and offer jobs to the wives of some of the soldiers while they are away. As they are only getting 17s a week while their husbands are away, they would have been pleased to accept even half of the £2 per week.

6 October A considerable number of auxiliary firemen have been appointed to work twelve hours at a time, five on duty during the day and five at night, yet within 30 feet of them was a paid telephonist getting 2s a week. Of the wardens services, war establishment was 96 in Ilkley and the actual number was 198 in the town. There were 10 whole time wardens in Ilkley, who were empowered to enrol 20% war establishment and so far had enrolled 11½%.

6 October First Aid Post's war establishment was 46 in Ilkley.

War establishment of the Rescue and Decontamination Squad was 24 in Ilkley. Out of the total establishment for ARP in the Ilkley Urban District, they had a war establishment of 400 including AFS. They could necessarily employ 70 men and 38 women, giving an account of £226 per week. They actually employed only 38 men and three women at a cost of £120 per week.

6 October Butter for Germany. The Ministry of Information has a story about supplies going to Germany in the early, mid and late thirties. At weekly intervals, a dozen parcels varying in weight from three to four pounds and about the size of a hat box have been despatched by Mr Arthur Hentzen, the principal of a large export wool firm, the contents described as Danish butter and paid for at a special rate and routed via Cologne. In the week before the War, no less than nine parcels were observed. Three were addressed to Goering, Goebbels and Dr Bergmann (Dr Bergmann occupies some official post in Germany) and the remainder to the wives of prominent Nazi party members.

The story was exaggerated as in October 1938 period Mr Arthur Hentzen who lives at 'Gilstead' in Middleton sent occasionally a pound of butter to his nephew in Germany at a time when they were short of butter and eggs. This nephew was also his stepson, for he was the son of Mrs Hentzen's first husband.

Mr Hentzen is a staunch patriot and proud to live in Britain. He lived in Switzerland for some time but then settled in Bradford over 40 years ago and founded a wool merchants' firm in his name. He married Gertrude from Remscheid, Germany in Leeds in early 1938. Mr Hentzen had lived in Ilkley since 1913 and at the time of the 1937 Coronation he presented to Ilkley extensive woods on the North side of the River Wharfe not far from his home along with £500 for making entrances and footpaths. These were generally known as Middleton Woods.

Mr Hentzen is the Bradford Consul for Latvia and an ex-President of the Bradford Consular Association. He did big trade with Germany but only what 90% of Bradford wool men would have done in his position. Everyone knew Mr Hentzen as decidedly anti-Nazi.

6 October Ilkley again agrees to help again at Christmas time the people of Shildon, a town in the distressed area of the Durham mining district which Ilkley has helped in various ways for the past few years.

6 October Football match Ilkley versus Wharfedale Battery cancelled owing to the fact that the soldiers had recently been vaccinated and their Medical Officer would not allow them to play.

Wharfedale Rural Council: the national emergency causes a rate increase for the half year ending 31 March 1940 of 7s 3d in the pound, a increase of 3d. The Council expects to spend £800 in the national emergency. They have already spent £450 in emergency matters such as evacuation and the £800 just referred to is in addition to that. Appeal to teachers by West Riding Council – many are doing excellent work but some don't realise that the onus is on them while in Wharfedale as guests to put in a little extra work after school hours to see that the children in their care were happy. Don't forget that these children are children from the towns who are living in the country and so need a little more time spending with them by teachers from towns.

6 October Skyrack Area ARP. An enthusiastic parade of personnel. The exercise revealed a fairly widespread impression among first aid and reserve parties that they had to remain under cover during an air raid and only turn out for duty after the all clear was sounded. This was quite contrary to what they must do because victims could bleed to death before help arrives.

6 October Plans for compulsory civilian service.

9 October Ilkley First Aid post at St Margaret's Church.

13 October Dr Morton, Head of Leeds Grammar School based at Ilkley Grammar School and author of 'Madhouse in a Million' gave a talk to the Rotarians. By signing a Non Aggression Pact between Russia and Germany, Germany may have called in the barbarian which will give a knock-out blow to western civilisation, when many western countries were exhausted.

Talk on 'Youth and War' by Mr Emerson Rogers of Skipton to the members of Ilkley League of Nations Youth Group. He warned youth to be prepared to resist any attempts to restrain

the liberty they held of expressing their views and to fight any attempt of a strong central Government to repress criticism which they did not approve. Nationalism as far as it limited itself to improving its own conditions of life was an admirable thing, but when it started imposing its own ideals on aliens who might prefer their own, then it became dangerous.

13 October Ross Bros Garage at Wharfe View Road requisitioned for communal feeding.

13 October Mt Hentzen's company robustly challenges the assertion regarding the butter for Germany row and says that the Ministry of Information has made a colossal blunder.

13 October A need for shorter credit in Ilkley as tradesmen are having difficulty in getting in money from wealthy people - such a view was put to a meeting of local ministers and laymen desirous of helping with local people's problems.

20 October Loxleigh Hostel in Mount Pleasant. Progress in the work for caring for refugee boys from Austria and Germany. Nine boys are in the hostel and sixteen boys and men are in training. There are a dozen domestic workers who were refugees working in Ilkley (girls) who perhaps could meet in a room at Loxleigh one evening a week.

20 October Elaborate ARP practice in Wharfedale covering Ilkley town suffered 'severely' in the 'raid'. In twenty minutes, there were eleven high explosive bombs at New Bridge (6 'casualties'); Leeds Road blocked at gas works (20 'casualties'); at Semon Home (25 'buried'); at The Crescent in the housing estate (14 'casualties') and Denton Hall (16 'casualties'). Incendiaries on Ben Rhydding shops causing fire (6 'casualties') and Wharfedale Lodge, Ben Rhydding Drive: house on fire (5 'casualties'). There was a gas bomb on Curly Hill and Middleton Avenue and at the junction of the Grove and Bolton Bridge Road with people contaminated by gas at each spot.

All the services were busy in Ilkley. Fire Brigade efficiency was noted by many observers.

20 October Minister of Health Mr Walter Elliot MP visits Ilkley. He was profoundly impressed by the evacuation schemes on the go in Ilkley.

Lieutenant Commander Douglas Dixon gave a strong talk on 'The Epic of Gallipoli' at Ghyll Royd School. He took part in operations there.

20 October At the County Scout meeting in Ilkley, attendees were told that scouting must continue and render every sort of service and play a part in the peace to follow.

20 October Hentzen 'butter' case raised in the Houses of Commons by Mr Leach (Labour MP for Central Bradford) and was told that the Government did not think that Hentzen had been unpatriotic (Sir Edward Grigg gave this reassurance).

20 October Work on a new hospital building in Ilkley deferred until 'happier times'.

Parish Church bells to ring on Sunday following the service of dedication for the re-hanging of eight bells.

Information on the 'Post Office under War Conditions' provided at the Rotary Club lunch meeting, a list of 'don'ts' on the telephone and a reminder that call up and signing up of the next stage of National Service would be on 21 October 1939.

20 October County Council meeting told that many ARP volunteers are still needed.

27 October Father in the photo of Rural Wharfedale Convoy Practice from Pool to Leeds and back.

Ilkley Plan well launched for parcels for troops and an appeal for funds to be issued soon.

30 October Leeds boys at Ilkley Grammar School.

November

3 November Advert: 'National Rat Week 6-11 November. Special efforts should be made during the coming week to destroy rats and mice'.

Advert: 'Ross Bros – should you propose not running your car, Ross Bros will collect your car, thoroughly clean and grease the same and store in a heated garage until required. It saves the worry and cost of garage heating and general deterioration of the car. Cost is 5/- per week'.

Wartime land Cultivation Committee – a public lecture 'Grow Food for Yourself and Your Country'.

Adverts:

'Walmsley's Bacon. We have pleasure in advising of the safe arrival of a direct shipment of our Choicest Mild Cured Bacon, and shall be able to fulfil all our customer's normal requirements during the coming week'.

'Cheese: special offers. Choice of Australian cheeses at 11½d per pound'.

'Broadbents: Field Marshall Gamelin has remarked that in wartime there are always periods of endless waiting and monotony. The call from the Camps for literature and the appeals in the press to those at home to send books endorse this. For 18d you may choose from a thousand of the world's best books in the Everyman library'.

3 November Failing to screen lights – the warnings have now stopped as by now everybody knew about the regulations, so said the chairman of Otley Court.

An appeal put out for wool to knit for the Otley and Ilkley Batteries.

Letter regarding Christmas parcels for the troops – names are wanted of men normally resident in Ilkley (including Ben Rhydding, Middleton, Nesfield and Langbar) who are presently serving in HM Forces or the Mercantile Marine.

3 November It has been decided to open a wartime Information Bureau with the object of giving advice connected with wartime conditions concerning pensions, allowances, rent, food prices, Government regulations and matters connected with trade and industry.

Messages from Ilkley Churches to begin again with God. The Government wants National Service volunteers but there is another 'national service' and that is 'to begin again with God, to put our trust in Him afresh and offer ourselves to Him. God will know what to do with us and is not this enough for our duty to give us a quiet mind above all pettiness and small grievances?'

3 November Communal feeding to start next week in Ross's Garage in Wharfe View Road. It is initially for children evacuated from Leeds to Ilkley. The Women's Royal Voluntary Service are controlling the 170 many female workers who have volunteered.

Wool Control set up in Ilkley. 'Why?' asked Conservative MP Wardlaw-Milne in a question in the house of Commons. Surely it should have been in London where wool brokers have 100 years experience behind them (warehouses, management and expert staff) to distribute the wool. Mr Burgin in replying said it was desirable that offices of various raw materials control should not be in London, therefore Ilkley was chosen as it was in the neighbourhood of the largest centres of the woollen industry with which the Wool Control needs to be in constant communication.

300 members of the British Wool Federation met in Bradford to discuss the operation of the Wool Control as it affects the wool merchants, top merchants, brokers and selling agents.

3 November As from 3 November, postal deliveries will be at 7am and 3pm in the town, and just one delivery in rural districts.

A letter of complaint saying that after two months of war, there was no properly equipped First Aid Post in Ilkley.

3 November Air raid: a 'stand by' signal received in error in Wharfedale.

10 November Lecture on how to make the best use of allotments.

10 November Films at New Cinema in Ilkley: 'Three Smart Girls Grow Up'; 'Man's Heritage' and 'Modern Miracle'.

10 November Advert: 'Do Another Bit of War Work – save your waste paper. Paper control Board has asked the Boy Scout Association to cooperate in the collection of waste paper'.

Advert: 'Vyvyan Adams MP will address a public meeting on 'The International Situation'.

10 November The Assistant Treasury Solicitor, on behalf of the Ministry of Information, accepts Mr Hentzen's explanation of his gifts of butter to Germany. 'The persons to whom the parcels of butter in question were sent (though probably all members of the Nazi Party) were friends and civil servants whom Mr Hentzen came into contact in the course of his

business and that it was a coincidence that the names of some of the addressees were the same as those of some of the leaders of the Nazi Party’.

10 November Leeds Industrial Cooperative Society advert on how to register for rationing: ‘It is now officially announced that rationing will be introduced in the near future and that everyone should register with a supplier immediately upon receipt of their Ration Book. Remember, the dividend will ease your domestic wartime budget problem. Supplies will be regulated in accordance with the number of people registered. The Society’s vast Organisation will ensure a maximum variety of both rationed and unrationed foods of reliable quality’.

10 November British troops in France will soon be having cheaper beer. It has been arranged to brew beer of real British quality in French breweries and the troops will be able to have it in casks instead of in bottles sent from Britain.

A picture of Ilkley Communal Feeding Centre.

Letter to the Editor: inaccurate comments have been made regarding ARP salaries. There is no salary attached to the offices of Head Warden and Senior Warden. It is exceptional for anyone who holds either of these offices to receive any payment.

10 November Wool Control. In the Commons Mr W. Leach, MP for Central Bradford, asked the Minister of Supply if he was aware that the Head Office was a sort of ‘hide-out’ in a little Wharfedale village thirteen miles from the nearest wool centre and would not do its business properly without inconveniencing everybody.

Mr Burgin (Minister of Supply) replied that if an air attack was anticipated, it would be a good idea to have the Control dispersed a little.

Mr Leach asked how many men of military age were employed at the Wool Control. The answer that came from Burgin was 36, or 20%, of male staff aged 18 to 41. Mr Leach asked if any attempt had been made to fill the Wool Control posts with competent persons displaced from the textile trade in consequence of the Control. Mr Burgin replied yes and then Mr Leach replied that wool trade dissatisfaction by reason of the facts that the services of the most competent leaders of the wool industry have almost always been declined. Mr Burgin was sorry that Mr Leach had gained this impression.

10 November Extension of the ploughing up grant to 31 March 1940 will be a welcome aid to the campaign for bringing 1,500,000 more acres under plough next harvest and will help Wharfedale farmers.

17 November Ilkley’s Tribute of Remembrance. Ex-Servicemen march to a crowded Parish Church and a record response to the Poppy Day appeal – with a photo of the Parade.

17 November Major R.G. Tudor MC, ‘Fieldhead’, Rupert Road, Middleton appointed Leeds Recruiting Officer – with photo.

17 November Communal feeding – the good work in the town is serving over 200 dinners daily.

Ilkley Chamber of Trade – whilst rationing had not been introduced for the general public, some shopkeepers had now received only 40% of their ordinary supplies, and in future it is probable that shopkeeper's supplies will be based on the number of customers who had registered with them.

17 November An Ilkley man dragged 250 yards by a lorry trailer in Leeds Road and had his leg amputated but died in hospital a short time later. This was a tragedy caused by the blackout.

24 November Construction of a new trunk road around Addingham, Burley, Ilkley and Otley has been postponed due to the war.

First play performed which was written by Ilkley author Stephen Kennedy – called 'April Thunder' and produced by the Kemble Players.

24 November Air raid sirens in the country to be tested.

24 November Under Defence Regulations, an order will come in force on 1 December 1939 requiring vehicles standing in the road during the hours of darkness to have their left (or near) side against the side of the road.

24 November Ilkley and Addingham raised £364-11s-6d which was £51 in excess of the previous best for a Remembrance Sunday.

December

1 December Advert: 'The oldest two newspapers in Yorkshire, Yorkshire Post and The Leeds Mercury have joined forces and are now issued under the combined title 'Yorkshire post and Leeds Mercury' at the price of 1p. It will cater for a wider circle of readers and at times of stress, reliable news is important. It sets out with confidence a new path of public usefulness, seeking to provide a wider range of news and comment in a form best adapted to the needs of the war and at the same time to maintain that reputation for integrity of service which has always been a constant aim. The Military correspondent will contribute a penetrative analysis of the war position. Every phase of the war will be covered by its famous news service'.

1 December Ilkley British Legion – 90% of its members are on national service.

Suggested change of billets for evacuees and Wharfedale Rural Council opposition. Children evacuated into rural areas should be changed from their present billets to households where as yet there was no billeting, with the object of securing 'quality of sacrifice' by reception area residents.

Evacuees who return: Ilkley's good figures. Children who have mainly returned home are those classed as 'unaccompanied' or those sent out apart from their parents. At Ilkley, 734

were originally received and of these 227 have returned, leaving a total of 507 remaining or about 70%. A much greater percentage of mothers and children of pre-school age have returned. Only 15 of the original 73 mothers and 22 of the original 104 children of pre-school age, were still in Ilkley. The number of evacuated teachers has decreased from 64 to 41. One of six blind persons has returned.

1 December For the first time since the outbreak of the war, the Ilkley Institute is to reopen next week.

Alan Jeffries of Bradford and District Motor Club was a member of the English team competing in the International Six Days Motorcycle Trial in Germany at the end of August. In an after dinner speech to Ilkley Motor Club, Mr Jeffries spoke of when he had visited a German flat whose owner was violently anti-Hitler while the interpreter was violently pro-Hitler. They had discussed which part of England Hitler could have. He was the only Yorkshire man in the party and the debate boiled down that Hitler could have the lot except Denton Moor, but all the visitors agreed it was unthinkable to hand over all of Yorkshire.

Eventually he got out at a moment's notice and drove across Austria and into Switzerland – all cars and bikes had British plates. Some of the people in the villages thought that Britain had invaded. The first wartime trail on Otley Chevin was nicknamed Adolf Hitler Memorial Trail – the prize was a 'Hitler Beer Jug' a trophy 'perched or borrowed' from a Munich beer cellar by Mr Jeffries. Other prizes were a Lord Haw Haw Gobstopperlet (a large children's lollipop) and the Goering Belt – a resemblance to a discarded suspender belt.

8 December Skyrack ARP services – a lecture by Captain J. Pullan on 'Decontamination'.

Advert for Defence Bonds: 'Lend to defend the right to be free'.

Talk to Ilkley Rotary Club by Dr Flehinger, formerly a Professor of Languages at Baden-Baden who got out of Germany thanks to the help of a friend in Ilkley Rotary Club.

8 December Registration day on 9 December for all men up to the age of 23 who by Royal Proclamation are summoned for military service.

Local signatories signed a petition after the Earl of Athlone's broadcast on 'The Call to Moral Rearmament'.

15 December Ross Bros advert: 'Invest in a new car – there has as yet been no increase in prices. Prices will increase when manufacturers have used up existing stocks of materials and new materials have then to be purchased.

15 December How the War has affected Ilkley Cricket Club. 15 playing members of Ilkley Cricket Club are serving in the forces, and a scheme for a new pavilion has been delayed for the 'war's duration'.

Advert for 'Knitting for the Navy': anyone making knitted garments and comforts for the Navy is asked not to send them direct to individual ships but to the depot for knitted garments for the Royal Navy in London.

Advert for Moisley's shoe shop: 'At present a very large selection of slippers of all kinds, but replacement of stocks will be difficult.'

15 December The Earl of Buckinghamshire is in Wharfedale. He was the Scout Commissioner and spoke at Ilkley Rotary Club: 'Everyone had a jolly time at Ilkley Grammar School camp fire'.

A man is charged with stealing three Rhode Island Red cockerels valued at 30s.

22 December War time affects the non-payment of rates.

22 December Ilkley Gift Book Club – the first of the new season's meetings with a talk by Mr Ramelson: 'The Truth about Russia'.

Bee-keeping in war time – an increased number of stocks. The local beekeepers association was one of the first to start lectures and meetings which the war had interrupted.

29 December Review and pictures of the year on pages 2 and 3.

Christmas 1939 – many men are home on leave from the forces. Gay parties at hotels and hydros, and celebrations in hospitals and institutions.

Ilkley Gazette 1940

January

5 January The turn of the year 1939/40 was a world full of light under the rising moon.

Ilkley ARP – more petrol is needed for the ambulance. Last month 52 gallons were used by the ambulance/bedding van. The ration only allowed 32 gallons and the reserve supply was very low. Editorial in the Gazette – the war has taken a very different course from the last and from what was predicted and expected.

Ilkley Council – it is vitally important to salvage materials from house refuse. It has already salvaged many thousands of bottles and a ton or two of paper.

5 January Help given by Ilkley ladies to Merthyr Tydfil in South Wales suffering from severe economic depression: 984 garments sent of which 653 are entirely new.

Torch batteries very scarce although much mitigated.

12 January Jolly party at Kings Hall for evacuees and Ilkley children – they were the guests at the communal feeding centre. Ladies Committee of the Women's Voluntary Service organised it.

Poultry breeders and farmers in Yorkshire are having to kill off flocks at an alarming rate because sufficient feeding stuffs are difficult to obtain.

Appeal made to support the Finland Fund (Finland is under attack from Russia) and appealing for gifts of winter clothing. Blankets, boots, knitted wear etc.

12 January Meat Control. Ilkley abattoir to be taken over by the Ministry of Food this week and will serve butchers in Ilkley, Burley, Menston and Addingham. Ilkley Council will provide the services of an abattoir superintendent and the Council will continue to receive tolls for all animals slaughtered.

12 January Only six persons (boys) at present in the Refugee Hotel in Cowpasture Road.

12 January Day of Prayer observed by the Christian Churches at Ilkley Parish Church with special intercessions at 10am, 12 noon, 3pm and 6pm.

Two children broke limbs skating on Ilkley Tarn on 6 January

Under the Butter (Maximum Prices) Order 1940 which came into effect on 8 January, the maximum retail price of butter remains unchanged at 1s 7d per pound.

Advert: Hints on War-Time Spending and Saving.

There are three ships:

- i. loaded with foodstuffs and necessaries;
- ii. loaded with munitions;
- iii. loaded with unnecessary goods.

By limiting the purchases of goods in ship 3, more cargo space is left for goods needed to win the war.

Spend carefully then, buy what you must but avoid spending on unnecessary things, particularly goods from abroad:

Result i. increase shipping available for essentials;

Result ii. have more money to invest in National Savings Certificates and New Defence Bonds.

19 January ARP in West Riding: £613,394 spent since April 1937.

Ilkley Auxiliary Fire Service Sapper. Mr Allen Modley, Ilkley's latest stage star, made a welcome reappearance in local circles when he entertained members of Ilkley Auxiliary Fire Service at their supper and social in the Fire Station.

19 January Suggestions made that Ilkley sets up a Federal Union Group or Study Circle to discuss matters of international and national importance such as The League of Nations.

19 January Shildon, the Durham mining town which Ilkley adopted some years ago have tearfully acknowledged gifts of toys, money and clothing, and bags of coal for the elderly.

The Women's Voluntary Service depot at 'Fellstowe' is open to receive knitted garments for soldiers and airmen in France.

19 January Ilkley men gave grateful thanks for Christmas parcels at the front sent by the town with high praise for the choice of contents.

Such generosity helps to maintain a link between Ilkley and those in the forces.

26 January Football grounds, grandstands and dressing rooms – reduction in assessments. Appeals on compassionate grounds.

26 January Announcement from the Co-op – ham is no longer rationed. Good news for all housewives.

Yorkshire Cricket Council will carry out a full championship programme, but in order to eliminate some of the difficulties of war-time travelling, it is to re-organise its fixtures on a regional basis.

26 January Ilkley gas undertaking – new record established on 22 January when the greatest maximum quantity of gas was sent out on any one day in its history. It also has been a record week for the amount of gas sent out.

February

2 February British Expeditionary Force (BEF) need even more woollies this winter.

Below zero temperatures in Ilkley, and the River Wharfe frozen over.

Ilkley Convalescent Home – how it helped Bradford as an emergency hospital. High tributes to the nurses and staff.

2 February Message – eat more vegetables for your health.

9 February Advert: Broadbents: reminders for books for troops at home and overseas for Valentine's Day.

Advert: Ilkley Electricity Consumers. The Company's bulk supply is now fully restored for the town and 'everyone is at liberty to make full use of the electricity'.

9 February Ilkley Chamber of Trade. A need to make Ilkley better known in wartime, especially as it is outside the danger zone.

9 February Pheasant shooting season extended from 1st February to 1st March due to the large carry-over of pheasants which might result in damage to farm crops.

Sausage pudding is a popular wartime recipe during the winter.

Wife of Finnish minister Madame Gripenberg returning to London from her official visit to Glasgow. She broke her journey in Yorkshire and especially to go personally to Askwith to thank them for £10 raised at a whist drive.

Comforts for Ilkley servicemen continue to be provided. They are very grateful to all concerned but still need scarves, helmets, mittens and socks.

16 February New type of snow plough pushed by a motor lorry is in use on Wharfedale roads.

Ice 'lock' on the River Wharfe at Esscroft – 'succeeding floes wedged into this queer lock' and piling up edgeways like tumbled books in a book rack. Soon the rising waters broke the lock and carried the ice downstream.

23 February Ilkley Model Aircraft Company – first Annual General Meeting.

23 February Ilkley Grammar School governors said that Leeds Modern Grammar School is still welcome at Ilkley Grammar School under the evacuation scheme (see also 21 March 1940).

23 February No decision to call up in August men over the age of 28. Any change would be dictated by the development of the war.

23 February Mr H. Tennant – well known Ilkley artist dies.

March

1 March Head Warden of Ilkley Air Raid Wardens gave a talk on what to do in an air raid – incendiary bombs on the home and who to deal with them.

ARP Police and Fire Brigade stern tests on what to do – surprise exercises and kept a secret. Only instructions – personnel told to assume that air raid occurred at a certain time and were to be on duty then.

1 March Ilkley Coronation Hospital future – new buildings scheme postponed but not abandoned. More income needed to cut current costs. Faced with a deficit on the year of £289.

Ilkley Food Control and problems regarding meat prices – difficulties. Meat rationing to the consumer not yet officially started.

8 March Advert: Ministry of Food Meat Rationing begins on Monday. After 11 March, the full meat ration will be 1s 10d worth per week, or 11d for young children with a Child's Ration Book. No coupons for liver, kidney, tripe, heart, oxtail, poultry or game. Sausages, meat pies and gelatines containing not more than 50% meat are not to be rationed at present.

No coupons are required for meat served by canteens, schools, restaurants and catering establishments.

Do remember:

1. During the war our meat supplies are bound to vary from time to time.

2. When you can't get imported beef bear in mind our fighting forces whose needs must come first and consume a large proportion of our supplies.

8 March Full house at Stoneyleigh for a concert in aid of Ilkley Troops Comfort Fund – the sum of £14 10s was raised by the effort in aid of the fund.

Fishing ban on Washburn Valley reservoirs for the duration of the war. The best caught fish is the brown trout.

Film: Anna Neagle in 'Nurse Edith Cavell'.

13 March Professor Brodetsky talk in Whitby: 'Neutrals at War'.

15 March The Government reported that the dispersal of children from evacuated areas as desirable now as at the outbreak of the War.

15 March Lady Price of Ilkley is running an appeal to provide field kitchens for Finnish troops – sent a cheque for £500 to the wife of the Finnish Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

15 March County rate remains at 12s 9d in the pound.

15 March Mrs Arthur Hill of Denton Park held a bridge drive and bring & buy sale in aid of the Finland Relief Fund.

15 March Eight ladies formed the Olicana Knitting Circle to provide woollen comforts for airmen at Dishforth.

A recording British, French and Polish National Anthems is being made by the BBC Orchestra to be broadcast nightly at the end of the home Service programme at 12.15am.

21 March Death of Colonel J.H. Hastings – distinguished career in the First World War.

21 March Farm workers wages – increase proposed for Over 21s 43s 0d (old rate) to 45s (new rate).

Ilkley rates unchanged at 16/-. Water charges $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{6}$ in the pound. Only $\frac{3}{11}$ rate needed to meet local costs.

County council still seen as the big bad wolf.

Advert: 'Plough now! Speed the Plough! Day and Night – Win our Great Production Fight. Every acre ploughed now means more fodder next winter'.

21 March Controversy over Leeds Modern boys at Ilkley Grammar School when Burley boys can't go to their own area school.

21 March Advert: 'Who will help Mrs Harrison?'. 'The Ministry of Health who has been entrusted by the Government with the conduct of evacuation asks you urgently to join the Roll of those who are willing to receive children. Please apply to your local Council'.

Stories from German Jewish refugees about how they arrived in England on the last train from Cologne to Flushing on 30 August - translated into English by Mrs Bohlmann who lives in Ilkley.

Northern lights display seen in Wharfedale and from walking on Bolling Road.

At the North East Conscientious Objectors Tribunal sitting in Leeds, Ronald John Gledhill (21) master printer of Marlborough Grove registered conditionally on taking up forestry or agricultural work. Later the same man was fined £1 for speeding in Baildon!

April

5 April Ilkley has had two air raid sirens – an electric siren and a notice of fires (at the Fire Station) and a steam siren (at the gas works). They weren't very effective so now a scheme is underway to provide a second electric siren at the Police Station which will be more powerful than that at the Fire Station.

12 April Daylight cinema in Ilkley in the Motor Park from one of a fleet of fifteen cinema vans hired by the National Savings Committee to encourage everyone to visit towns, villages and hamlets.

12 April Ministry of Food announced that pork will not be rationed until further notice.

Brown Muffs 'men's wear week' sale – an advert. Imagine the feelings of German men who are strictly rationed to one 'ersatz suit' a year. If only they could examine the variety of clothing assembled in this great store.

Ministry of Food asks every housewife to read (special wartime cookery features), to listen (broadcasts arranged to give the latest practical information on buying, preparing and cooking food) and to watch (simple demonstrations in cookery and meal planning that are being arranged up and down the country).

19 April Wharfedale Rural Council - ½ yearly rate reduced by 3d to 7/-.

26 April Points from the Budget. The purchase tax will be far reaching but the date for it starting is yet to be determined. Additional taxes to bring £101 million more are beer 1d a pint more; whisky 1s 9d a bottle; tobacco 3d an ounce; matches ½d on a box of 50; postage 2½d on letters and a shilling call is now 1s 2d. Inland telegraph – fixed additional charge of 3d; and private telegraph to be increased by 25% from 1 July 1940.

Income tax to increase from 7s to 7s 6d in the pound – many people on small incomes £5 to £12 a week will have to pay more. More charges: earned income allowance reduced from $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{6}$ with minimum £250 instead of £300; marriage allowance £170 instead of £180; children

allowance £50 instead of £60. Reduced rate $\frac{1}{3}$ standard rate to $\frac{1}{2}$ applied to the first £165 taxable instead of the first £135.

This is the Chancellor's second War budget, therefore a record high expenditure of £2,667,000,000 has to come from the voluntary loan of savings to the State.

It is hoped play will continue at Ilkley Moor Golf Club.

26 April ARP wardens service in Skyrack area comes under the control of the police.

Many players absent at the start of the 1940 cricket season and local teams have to meet the emergency as best they can.

Advert from the Ministry of Food: three good housekeeping rules: avoid waste; get the best out of food; vary one's meal.

May

3 May Ilkley Food Control – plan for next ration books.

Registration for national service: 56 registered and no conscientious objectors.

10 May 'Rusty' an Irish terrier who lives on Westwood Drive, accompanies special constables on their rounds in Ilkley.

10 May Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps (War Office Recruiting Campaign). The War Office Mobile Information Bureau will visit Ilkley on Whit Monday (13 May) and Major Victor Haddick, the famous lecturer and explorer, will tell the people of Ilkley about Britain's urgent need for pioneers.

10 May Ilkley Urban District Council Bathing Pool re-opens 11 May 1940 8am to 8pm. Seniors 6d, Juniors 4d, Spectators 3d. Season tickets: Seniors 15/-, Juniors 10/-, Spectators 5/-.

10 May Advert: 'National Savings Certificates. See How Your Savings Grow'. Steady increase in value, no income tax to pay and may be cashed at any time.

Changes in Skyrack ARP means cuts in paid wardens.

Ministry of Food advert: 'How to eat wisely in wartime – body building foods; energy foods; protective foods (1) milk, butter etc and protective foods (2) potatoes, fruit etc.

17 May Blackout hints – stricter watch by the police, special constables and air raid wardens for improperly screened lights.

17 May Wharfedale Aliens – some local residents interned.

17 May Local Defence Volunteers – great spare time army for men between 17 and 65 – will be given uniforms and arms.

Ilkley Police given 40 registration forms – not enough as on the 15 and 16 May, applicants arriving at Ilkley Police Station at the rate of 10 to 5 to the hour, and by lunchtime on the 16 May, it was reckoned to be between 200 and 300 wishing to join.

17 May Season of repertory in Ilkley Kings Hall to take place despite the War with a repertoire of West End plays. Advert: 'Ilkley Gazette will buy your old newspapers for cash'. The price controlled by the Ministry of Supply is 1d for 3lbs, and magazines and periodicals separately bundled 4lbs for 1d on the spot cash.

24 May Warning of danger of fires on the moors as old bracken and heather is very dry.

The 1940 Wharfedale Music Festival is reduced from a 3-day event to just one day.

24 May Local Defence Volunteer Ilkley Company formed. Major Fawcett is in charge and made an immediate appeal for rifles. At the opening meeting in the Drill Hall, 250 men signed up and a further 100 men are promised.

24 May One of the Local Defence Volunteer's early jobs around the country is to form protective patrols to check about the landings by German parachutists and analysing their methods and ways to detect them. Warning – many cases of authenticated parachutists wearing clothes differing from uniform described. Young men formed the main body of parachutists armed with machine pistols and ardent Nazis (as shown in Norway, Holland and Belgium).

24 May Ilkley Refugee Hostel: £182 in funds and there is the possibility it could increase to £260 or £270.

There are now only six boys in the home, but refugee children from Germany and Austria who had taken shelter in Holland and Belgium are now being included in certain of the Dutch and Belgian parties who were being brought over to this country. So far of the six boys here, one is at Ilkley Grammar School, two at Ben Rhydding School and three are working.

Ilkley had been given (by the regional refugee office in Leeds) 'representative discretionary powers to act in the event of their being need for provision for such refugees as could be accommodated in the Ilkley Hostel'.

31 May Broadbent's advert: sell I.D. cases and I.D. discs and gas mask containers.

'The Kingsway Player' at Kings Theatre, Ilkley.

Film at New Cinema: Deanna Durbin in 'First Love'.

Reverend Leslie A. Pickett, assistant priest at St Margaret's Church Ilkley leaves next week to become a chaplain in the Army.

31 May Son of Ilkley doctor is found dead with gunshot wounds in St Luke's Hospital Bradford: Dr Peter Tordoff, son of Dr Bertram Tordoff.

31 May National Day of Prayer – large congregations at Ilkley services. At the Parish Church, attendance was so great that the seating accommodation in the interior of the church was completely filled and additional seats had to be provided for an overflow in the porch.

31 May Men of 27 years of age and those who had reached 20 are required to register. No conscientious objectors. Of the 66 men registered in Ilkley, 9 chose the Navy; 5 the Air Force (flying); 17 the Air Force (ground); 3 the Air Force (flying or ground) and 32 the Army.

31 May Mr W.B. Hillis, Ilkley Grammar School Head addressed the pupils on Empire Day (24 May). He said that the British Empire was based on certain marked and apparent fixed traits of English character – daring combined with honesty and reliability. Hitler's Empire was of mushroom growth that would not last.

31 May Leading Aircraftman R. Bruce wounded.

June

7 June Grove Pictures: 'Charlie Chan at Treasure Island'.

7 June School sports cancelled due to lack of shelter (presumably in the case of an air raid).

14 June Ministry of Information: Public Meeting at Riddings Road Lecture Hall on 21 June 1940: The speaker will be Sir Paul Dukes K.B.E. talking on 'Behind the Scenes in Germany'.

14 June Ilkley man bound over – summoned with exposing his person with intent to insult a female in Middleton Woods, Ilkley.

14 June Wharfedale Rural District Council appeal for the salvage of scrap metal.

14 June Women's Voluntary Service Hospital, Supply and Comforts Depots, Ilkley express their thanks and gratitude for the huge response to an appeal for gifts for the British Expeditionary Force returnees from Dunkirk: 1,860 gifts, 4,000 cigarettes and £641-1s-6d in money.

21 June Gary Cooper and David Niven in the film 'The Real Glory' at the New Cinema in Ilkley.

Advert: 'Commencing 1 July 1940: Ilkley Coronation Hospital First Class Health Insurance Contributory Scheme for only 2d a week.'

21 June Midnight blaze in pine wood by Backstone Beck on the Moors.

26 June Address by Sir Paul Dukes: 'War of Paganism verses Christianity'.

Mr H. Hudson dies – 60 years a chorister at the Roman Catholic Church and Middleton Lodge.

28 June Jascha Heifitz in 'Melody of Youth' at New Cinema, Ilkley.

28 June Ilkley butcher and his assistant fined for supplying meat without coupons. They were fined a total of 29 shillings.

28 June Wharfedale Association Boy Scouts training to serve their country.

July

5 July Various metal railings from land belonging to the Council are to be sold as part of the Government's campaign for the collection of metal:

Heber's Ghyll: the whole of the fencing along the frontage of Heber's Ghyll Drive;

Sewage Works: certain iron railings on the South side

Cemetery: the whole of duplicated railings on the South side.

A casualty post for animals is established at 19 Parish Ghyll Road. Animals injured in air raids will receive attention.

12 July An Ilkley man is fined £20 for a blackout offence in Bradford.

19 July Ilkley holiday home – record weight gains. A boy gained 8¾ lbs in three weeks and a Bradford girl gained 15lbs in three weeks.

19 July Many Ilkley men returning from France say that 'German tactics were based upon demoralising populations through noise and frightfulness'.

ARP public lecture to be given by Police Sergeant G.W. Carter (ARP organiser Skyrack area) especially on what to do during and after a raid.

Women's Royal Voluntary Service recruiting in Ilkley – pay 1s 4d a day to 5s 6d a day, lodging allowance and free uniform.

Lady Reading – high praise for the work of Ilkley's Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

19 July Wharfedale Rural Council – appeal to farmers to search out all old scrap metal.

19 July Hints on self-protection from H.E. Bombs, incendiary bombs, gas (bombs or by spray) and machine gun fire.

19 July West Riding County Council Education Department – six lecture demonstrations on war time cookery in Ilkley Electricity Department showrooms.

19 July Police advise on what to do in air raids, moving vehicles and obligatory lights (two sidelights and a rear light). No sidelights and must park cars on the near side of the street.

19 July During Police Sergeant Carter's lecture on ARP, some in the audience, struck by what they heard which had fired their interest, immediately proceeded to discuss it with their neighbour regardless of the fact that they were preventing everybody around them from following the speaker that they had come to hear. It was not that Sergeant Carter was failing to hold interest, but because he had aroused their interest that the interruption came. Such a bad habit has arisen from chattering at home during BBC broadcasts.

19 July 'Women's Voluntary Service in Ilkley is asked to recruit locally for a Mobile Section of the Women's Royal Naval Service in Ilkley. Recruits must be prepared to serve anywhere and will be accommodated in quarters or approved lodgings. Categories of work: office work, cooking duties, motor transport, general duties and domestic duties. Commissions are obtained by promotion from ranks. Rates of pay 1s 4d to 5s 6d per day in addition to lodging allowance and free issue uniform. Particulars from Mrs Armistead, Lingarth, Ilkley or Mrs Findlay, Danum Cottage, Ben Rhydding. Women's Royal Naval Service recruiting officers will be in Leeds to interview any applicants'.

19 July Call up of those reaching 31 last year (1908 class). At Ilkley 27 men registered, two expressing a preference for the Navy, two for the R.A.F. and 23 for ground staff. No conscientious objectors.

26 July Madame Lee, palmist and clairvoyant medium is back at the "Wheatsheaf" in Ilkley until 30 July.

West Riding War Agricultural Executive Committee – Grassland Improvement. Demonstrations on sorting poor grassland by ploughing out and reseeding by kind permission of E. Greenwood Esq., Langbar, Middleton.

26 July Showing at New Cinema Ilkley: Marlene Dietrich and James Stewart in 'Destiny Rides Again' and Leslie Howard and Merle Oberon in 'The Scarlet Pimpernel'.

ARP: Have your cellar or basement shelter propped and made safe – all work is carried out by experts or expert advice given.

Ministry of Food: Bulletin No. 6. On the kitchen front, vegetables and salads are plentiful and in full variety.

26 July Those born in 1908/9 aged 32 register for military service. 70 men in Ilkley register: 8 for the Navy, 18 for the Air Force and 44 for the Army.

August

2 August Lady Reading, Chairman of Women's Royal Voluntary Service in town and had high praise for the work of the Women's Voluntary Service. She said that Ilkley had the best communal feeding centre seen in the British Isles. At the centre in Wharfe View Road, 1,000 drinks have been served and an average of 150 lunches daily.

2 August Hospital Flag Day - £117 raised for Coronation Hospital Funds.

2 August Earlier grouse shooting – grouse on 5 August instead of 12 August, and pheasants on 1 September and not 1 October. The changes have been made as the birds are plentiful this season, while the numbers of sportsmen and cartridges are fewer. There is the danger that an inadequate toll will be taken of the birds, and harm caused to agriculture. A longer period for shooting them and shooting them early before they became wild.

Many shooters have been silenced by the war conditions – shortage of beaters and shortage of fuel to transport guns. Men are at war, and large numbers of guns and stocks of

ammunition have been handed to the Home Guard. However the food value of grouse and pheasants had to be borne in mind.

2 August Village salvage of 36½ tons of metal: mainly heavy and light iron collected from 16 dumps including Nesfield, Langbar and Denton.

Boating Restrictions: Ministry of Home Security –steps to prevent vessels on inland waters being used by an invader are made obligatory on owners motor or sailing craft as well as rowing boats and canoes. Such vessels are not to be left attended either afloat or on land.

9 August North Western Tribunal for Conscientious Objectors had a decision made about a local man turned down by the Central Appellate Tribunal in London. This man wanted to go into holy orders or, if not, be registered for agricultural or forestry work. The Central Appellate Tribunal agreed with the man's view, Mr H.H. Huxley of Wells School, Ilkley, and he was allowed his wish.

9 August Ilkley Council and Honorarium of £15 per annum for Fire Brigade Captain. Continued debate on the question of uniformity. Women enlisted to help the salvage scheme.

9 August Reverend J.A. Figures, minister of Ilkley Congregational Church, is taking up his appointment as Chaplain to the Forces and is therefore resigning from his Ilkley post.

August Bank Holiday with a difference. It is now a holiday snatched out of the midst of wartime - fewer cars, no continuous processions and more cyclists. There will be many more people afoot, and more family parties who come inland and not to the coast, with the male member missing. Rooms will be at a premium, partly due to the demands made on accommodation arising out of the war. There will be no lawn tennis tournament and no cricket.

16 August It was announced in the House of Commons that Mrs Lilian Nora Laumen, the English born wife of a German who lived in Ilkley, would be freed from internment at Port Erin, Isle of Man. Manny Shinwell M.P. asked the Home Secretary if he knew that Mrs Laumen's father had been employed by L.N.E.R. for 41 years, that her two brothers were serving in the Forces and that she was interned with a number of German women with whom she is unable to speak. The Home Secretary mentioned that the woman's husband was interned on security grounds and his wife was placed by a Tribunal in Category 'B' and accordingly interned. Mrs Laumen's parents, Mr and Mrs Samuel Waters, reside in Ash Grove, Ilkley. Mr Laumen was on the 'Arandora Star' carrying prisoners across the Atlantic which was sunk by a U-boat but he survived. Mrs Laumen went away in May and has written from the Isle of Man to say that she has been well treated.

23 August A public meeting was held in the New Cinema Ballroom in the town on the subject of 'The Cross, the Swastika and the Hammer and Sickle in Prophecy and History'. The main speaker was Mr E.R. Gutsell.

23 August Ilkley man charged with obtaining butter from an unregistered supplier.

Combined ARP exercises in severe tests tackling bombing. At Ilkley, a house in the course of demolition on Ben Rhydding Road, an ideal centre for an incident. Assumed people trapped, fire brigade to quell incendiary bombs and a rescue party to release the people trapped.

A Leeds to Ilkley bus (double-decker) partly overturns in the blackout at the rear of Parkway Hotel. Twelve passengers had a narrow escape.

30 August Rotary Club asks the Council – should Ilkley give a Spitfire?

September

4 September A stick of bombs fall by Low Mill Addingham by a lone German plane. There was damage caused at the factory but no deaths or injuries.

6 September Minister of Health in Wharfedale to inspect evacuation hostels in Ilkley, Otley, Menston. He went to Ilkley Communal Feeding Centre at Wharfedale Road and Rydal Mount, equipped at low cost with beds provided by the Ministry of Health.

6 September Ilkley Council agreed to call a meeting with a view to the appointment of a committee to raise a fund for the gift of a Spitfire to the nation.

6 September (see also 16 August). Mrs Laumen home after 14 weeks of internment in the Isle of Man. 'There were 100 of us in a hotel in Port Erin. The majority were Germans. Altogether 106 British women were interned on the island, of which four were in our hotel. There was more freedom (as we could shop in Port Erin) than the men interned in Douglas had'.

In 1937, she married Mr J.K. Laumen employed by the Peltzer-Lister Company at Addingham. It took three weeks for the release formalities. Mrs Waters' (her mother) eldest son is in the RAF in Egypt, and her younger brother in the Royal Artillery in Scotland.

6 September Letter to the Editor – Ilkley should give a Spitfire and the resident offers £500 to start a fund, namely Mr Herbert Green of Goodwood, Ilkley.

6 September Letter to the Ilkley Gazette from Major Fawcett (West Riding Welfare Officer) of Tivoli, Middleton asking residents to assist in the provision of hospitality for short periods for RAF pilots and air crews from stations engaged on operations.

6 September Arthur Babidge writes a letter to the Ilkley Gazette for the second time (the first was in July 1940) to say that it was high time that the people of Ilkley should arouse themselves to the very urgent need for the observance of blackout regulations. The time has arrived for the local judiciary to consider facilitation of prosecutions by holding a daylight Court at an earlier hour.

13 September Advert: Protection from Invasion. Mrs G.M. Smith from Bradford will give a talk 'Why England will not be invaded' at the New Cinema Ballroom.

13 September Advert: The Home Guard urgently needs recruits. What better way to put the Prime Minister's Exhortation into effect than by joining the Home Guard? Ages 18 to 70.

Letter to Ilkley Gazette – utilise the Memorial Garden for vegetable growing.

13 September Blackout adverts:

Arthur Wilson, Optician, The Grove: Blackout can make the eyes strain even more severe than in normal times, therefore consult a qualified optician.

George Mott, Household Furnisher, Brook Street: anti-splinter net; anti-splinter lacquer and sealer; 'quella' chemical fire extinguishers; block Italian cloth and paper blinds.

20 September Ilkley Spitfire Fund. The Committee confidently appeals for generous support. Over £3,000 has already been reached in the first two days.

20 September Ilkley's quick response with clothing of all kinds for the air raid victims of the East End of London. The fund for victims has reached £10. There is a certain amount of bedding to hand and piles of boots and shoes of all sorts and sizes.

27 September Sir Granville Gibson (MP for Pudsey and Otley) to go on a trade mission to South America. He will leave soon and be away for four months visiting every country in the area for diplomatic and business reasons. The MP will represent the boot, shoe and leather industries and the other eight representatives of principal exporting countries including pottery, coal, building materials, electrical supplies, cotton and wool.

27 September Ground Observer Corps Northern Command visits Ilkley Home Guard to look at the scheme of exercises/operations as well as the Drill Hall. The help of the Women's Voluntary Service was also acknowledged.

October

11 October Ilkley Spitfire Fund over £5,914 raised in two weeks and a £6,000 cheque is sent to Lord Beaverbrook from the people of Ilkley and District.

Appeal by the town to raise over £300 for Christmas parcels for the troops.

18 October Big numbers of refugees from London due in Wharfedale tomorrow.

25 October Miss Coffey, District Commissioner of Wharfedale Girl Guides received a letter from the Icelandic Girl Guides concerning the arrival of British troops on 19 June 1940. There was no school on the day they arrived, and the soldiers were partly billeted in their school. There are six or seven warships in Reykjavik harbour.

25 October Clerk to the Council explanatory note on who should pay for air damage repairs in Ilkley. Temporary repairs should be effected at once, then more extensive repairs with the consent of the Ministry of Health, provided that they are carried out at reasonable cost. Where there is a lack of housing accommodation in the area, any building damaged by enemy action may be repaired by the Council.

November

1 November Wharfedale Rural Council – sharing the burden of billeting evacuees.

George Waddilove, Nesfield Court, Ilkley was charged under the over rationing regulations. Two ration books were held by his son, a boarder at an Ilkley preparatory school. He paid £1 13s costs and an advocates fee of £5.

1 November Second contingent of Londoners to be billeted in Ilkley district.

8 November Additional surface air raid shelters In Ilkley and the importance of cleansing air raid shelters. The price of lemons and onions from 4 November to be controlled by Ministry of Food orders.

Ilkley women take Red Cross duty in London. Two weeks relief work in midst of air raids. Help to evacuees in terms of facts.

Big response to serve in many voluntary organisations.

22 November Dig for Victory campaign and trenching demonstration.

Ilkley facilities for evacuees – laundry and club rooms.

29 November Facilities for all evacuees; laundry; clothing; club room; mothers and play rooms for children; health services.

Air planes and white trails in the sky – why? White trails in the path of fighters are particles of ice. They are not produced by the exhaust of Nazi planes but by the wings or perhaps propellers of both British and German machines. The speed at which the battling aeroplanes move is so great that a vacuum is left as the wings cut through the cold moist upper air. This space is colder than the surrounding atmosphere and the moisture in the sky at once forms itself into ice particles around the vacuum.

December

6 December Ilkley Council discussed a plea for air raid wardens to be provided with mackintosh coats as 'Cinderella's of all the services' and 'orphans of the storm'.

15 December Bomb disposal badge – the War Office has decided to introduce a special badge to be worn by personnel of Bomb Disposal Units to indicate the dangerous work in which they are employed. The design is a bomb worked in gold on a red background.

27 December A former Ilkley resident for eight years died in an air raid on Sheffield – William Andrew McGilvray was a government inspector employed by the Ministry of Supply and had only recently gone to Sheffield.

Ilkley Gazette 1941

January

3 January Councillors praise the work of the Auxiliary Fire Service fire fighting while bombs fall in burning cities.

3 January Mr W. Dobson of Ilkley received a large parcel of clothing of all kinds for evacuees who are staying in Ilkley from Mrs Clarkson of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada Women's Institute.

10 January Making Ilkley 'bomb conscious' street teams for fire fighting. A big response of volunteers carrying out suggestions made by Herbert Morrison for fighting fire bombs are going ahead rapidly.

17 January Men of 36 class register for military service (born 1 July to 31 December 1920). In Ilkley 45 men registered (Navy 3; Marines 1; Air Force – flying 1; Air Force – ground staff 14 and Army 26).

24 January Fire fighting in rural Wharfedale – urgency of cooperation between householders and local air raid wardens. Rural Council's plans of repairing damaged property.

24 January Bonus increase of 3s 6d a week in engineer's wages.

24 January From 1 December, the Ministry of Food were the sole purchasers of rice for importation to Britain.

31 January Second Lieutenant Petrie was killed in a plane accident in Kenya in December. His brother had been killed in a plane accident near Folkestone in early May 1940.

February

7 February Red Cross Prisoner of War Fund: £274 15s 8½d raised at a dance in Kings Hall.

7 February Council – complaint of sheep stripping allotments of winter produce.

7 February Air Training Corps for boys formed 1 February. Boys aged 16 to 18 can join. The 'field' is 700,000 boys. The training is designed for two categories of air crew candidates and ground personnel. The training is part-time and the nearest centre is Leeds.

21 February Mrs Davidson elected Ilkley Grammar School first lady governor.

21 February New Cinema, Ilkley: Bette Davis and Errol Flynn 'The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex'.

21 February Registration for Military Service – men of 19 class born between 1 January 1921 and 31 December 1921.

21 February Ilkley Education Centre – recreation ground ploughed up for food production,; and complaint of late delivery of milk.

21 February Heavy flooding in Wharfedale. Traffic is diverted from Ilkley after a sudden thaw follows snow. Heber's Ghyll is particularly impressive in the thaw.

28 February Ilkley Red Cross Committee's Old Gold and Silver, Trinket and Jewellery Collection in aid of the Red Cross and St John Fund. Collected at Dalton's Corner on The Grove during the week 8 to 15 March 1941.

28 February Arrangements for a party for wives of Ilkley servicemen.

March

7 March Charlie Chaplin's new comedy 'The Great Dictator' at New Cinema Ilkley, and Leslie Howard in 'Pygmalion'.

Ilkley District Council appeal for men for the Home Guard to train now - a public duty for which team work is vital.

7 March Good news for ratepayers: County rate cut – prospect of a 9d in the pound reduction. Local rates for the financial year now ending are Ilkley 16s 0d.

Miss K. Ambler (Surveyor's Department) and Miss M. Lawson (Electricity Department) tendered their resignations from Ilkley District Council – they are to take up appointments with the British Broadcasting Corporation .

Cattle 'creeps' to be installed on roads leading from the Moor to keep sheep on the Moor and not in people's gardens, as well as any necessary fencing but this could be difficult to achieve due to an extreme shortage of supply. The only practical solution lies with the local residents in their battle to keep sheep away from gardens.

14 March Red Cross gifts from Ilkley people – even jewellery has been included.

14 March Air Training Squadron – good progress at Ilkley.

21 March Rates – 15s 6d in the pound. A reduction of 6d on last year's figures.

21 March Major P.C. Petrie re-elected as President of the Association of Exporters of Raw Materials and Yarns at the Annual General Meeting in Bradford.

Lady Ramsden, Regional Officer of the North East Region of Central Hospital Supply Services of the Red Cross and St John, visits Ilkley to view a hospital and supply services, also a first aid post.

21 March War Weapons Week – enthusiastic support for ambitious project of £220,000 to be raised May 17 and 24.

21 March Wharfedale Rural Council – safeguarding sheep from straying dogs.

28 March Contributory Scheme at Ilkley Hospital is covering the cost of treatment for 125 hospital patients.

Women engaged in useful work are advised not to give up their employment. This is a national policy.

28 March Siren based at Ben Rhydding – for duty calls on Civil Defence Service members to get them to their posts.

April

4 April Wool Control concerts at Ben Rhydding Golf Hotel (HQ of the Wool Control) raised money for the National Spitfire Fund (£100); Bradford Royal Infirmary (£25) and the Coronation Hospital (£2 10s).

11 April Methodist Church in Wells Road - concert in aid of bombed areas. Over the Easter holidays children are urged to remain in their evacuation reception areas and NOT to return to their homes.

11 April Ilkley War Weapons Week – an appeal to lend to the limit. The Council are not asking anybody to give anything, but are asking people to invest their money and to save their money to lend it to the Government.

Photo of three soldiers reading the Wharfedale and Airedale Observer in the Middle East – one of the soldiers is Trooper Hampshire of Ilkley.

14 April Easter holiday quiet. Most shops and cafes closed and some hotels bore notices saying that they were unable to provide meals.

23 April Ilkley children help Dr Barnado's.

25 April Stoney Lea Hotel – Willie Smith, the noted billiards and snooker player is to give an exhibition at Stoney Lea to help the War Weapons Week.

Due to the War, a joint sale of house furnishings in Geo. Mott's shop in Ilkley which also includes furniture from Messrs J.Wolfson in Leeds.

May

2 May 1,600 to 1,700 blood donors registered in Ilkley – a good response.

2 May Second call up of women born in 1919. At the first registration 12 weeks ago, nearly 750 enrolled at local exchanges.

9 May An Ilkley grocer was fined £10 for selling a rabbit at a price exceeding the maximum.

Mr Ernest Brown – the third successive Minister of Health to visit Wharfedale after Malcolm MacDonald and Walter Elliot – had praise for 'advanced ideas' in caring for evacuees. He particularly appreciated the manner in which families are being brought together in billets of their own, rather than being billeted in other people's private homes.

10 May Council members wear gas masks at monthly meeting, setting an example to the general public.

16 May Ilkley War Weapons Week 17 May to 24 May 1941.

*No easy hopes or ties
Shall bring us to our goal*

*But iron sacrifice
Of body, will and soul.
There is but one task for all –
For each one life to give
Who stands of freedom fall?
Who dies if England live? Rudyard Kipling.*

An advert on the whole of the front page of Ilkley Gazette sponsored by the Ilkley Chamber of Trade. Kipling's poem has the backdrop of a pen/ink drawing of White Wells by E.K. Rawling.

16 May A crew from Ilkley Fire Brigade and two parties from Ilkley Rescue Service called for assistance in recent raids on Liverpool and Hull.

23 May Advert: Mrs Dixon, dress agent, Leeds Road, Nelson, will call for any clothing you have to dispose of. A postcard will receive immediate attention. Satisfaction guaranteed. Carpets and curtains bought. In Ilkley District on Tuesday'.

Bill Bowes writes in one of the earliest 3d airgraph letters: 'Getting on quite well out East but can see nothing but sand, sand and still more sand'. He took treatment at Bingley Baths before joining the Forces.

25 May Big response to War Weapons Week. Initial objective was £220,000 and has already reached £654,202 (a record investment measured in pounds per head of the population of the UK). Field Marshall Deverell was a guest of honour. Percy Dalton was the host at the climax to War Weapons Week: a most amazing parade at which Deverell took the salute. It was over one mile in length, comprising of military and civil units showing Ilkley's contribution to the war effort. There were rousing speeches and striking demonstrations. Uniforms no longer divide and we are in this war together.

30 May Ilkley Players present T.S. Eliot's 'Murder in the Cathedral'.

Photo of workers in Ilkley War Weapons Week.

30 May Regarding Whitsun holiday – request by the Government (Ministry of War Transport), anxious to reduce passenger travel, to tell people that if they take a holiday they should 'only go to places where their own legs will carry them'. Don't put extra burdens on already overstrained transport workers.

30 May Mr W. Ibberson dies – a noted Ilkley musician.

Ivy Smith, a spinner of Wellington Road, Ilkley summoned for bigamy. Magistrates thought that there was not sufficient evidence to show that the first husband was alive when the second marriage took place to warrant sending the case for trial, and she would be discharged.

June

6 June Mr W.E. Dinsdale appointed Commandant of Ilkley Auxiliary Fire Services and has therefore resigned his Chairmanship of the Highways and Buildings Committee.

6 June Whitsuntide – despite restrictions, many rucksack visitors: young people who trekked over the Moors bringing their own food and prepared to meet any emergency.

Many, often elderly people and children, who arrived had failed to realise that there were catering problems (many cafes were closed) in the days of rationing. Buses were packed out.

13 June Local MP Granville Gibson cannot take up the post offered to him overseas as the Prime Minister refused to grant a certificate under the recent Disqualification Act.

Under this Act, certificates may be granted enabling MP's holding paid office to go abroad under Government and retain their seats in the House. Certificates have been granted to Samuel Hoare (Great Britain Ambassador to Madrid) and Malcolm MacDonald (Great Britain High Commissioner in Canada).

20 June Major General Bridgeman DSO MC organised the defence of Dunkirk rear guard and is now Director of Home Guard in Britain. He was also in charge of the defence of Arras in the early stages and later of the rear and flank of the British Expeditionary Force. For this work, he received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) as it was soundly planned and skilfully executed.

20 June Men born in 1900 to register tomorrow in two groups.

July

4 July Air raid shelters now have accommodation for 1,395 persons.

4 July More supplies are needed to meet evacuee requirements.

4 July Water restrictions in the town to commence forthwith due to the dry spring and summer.

4 July Death of Sir Granville Gibson, the first MP for Pudsey and Otley 1918-22. He stood as a Liberal.

11 July Mr Akers and his wife and child travelled 3,000 miles over two months in Germany in 1937. He did not care for the Germans as a race. Hanover was a most beautiful city and the people there looked more English than anywhere else. He saw many 'Swatzi' flags and asked what it was for. He was told that "it was for a Dusseldorf exhibition – only a Nazi affair."

The Potsdam woman guide said Germans resented that between November 1918 and June 1919 no food was allowed by the Allies into Germany and therefore many Germans starved to death.

In 1937, the English were treated as the most favoured people and often people were turned out of booked seats to make room for English visitors.

In Munich, the hotels were full, but a boy took them to a pension where beds were available and overlooked the square where Hitler was meeting Mussolini. The Germans were perfectly drilled people and they saw parties of children in step and singing military songs. They saw people at dinner in the hotel paying perfunctory attention to what Hitler was saying.

'We found all the way through Germany in 1937 that in that year, Germany was not universally pro-Nazi'.

August

1 August Bank Holiday – Ilkley already full and there are no extra travel facilities.

8 August Local haytime workers get extra rations.

15 August Deaconesses meet at Ilkley summer school – they have worked among the internees in the Isle of Man, in the blitzed areas of London and are working in country towns and villages using caravans as offices and for accommodation.

15 August Mr Hardaker of Addingham, a Paris born Yorkshireman, and his account of leaving France.

29 August Ilkley new war savings objectives – local groups asked to adopt special objectives.

100 new groups to be formed – volunteers wanted.

September

5 September Bumper crop of salvage needed in the next two weeks by Ilkley Urban District Council.

12 September Lord Bingley of Bramham Park opens Ilkley Vegetable show. Gardeners are warned to prepare for a severe winter ahead. Good work of local home food production corps.

12 September Canadian airman dies in Ilkley, and the funeral is held at Ilkley Cemetery. Lloyd E. Farrow had an accident last year and one of his legs was amputated. He died on 7 September near Ilkley where he had been since October 1940.

12 September Lieutenant Corporal Kenneth Armitage (23), Corps of Military Police was instantly killed on the Langbar to Ilkley Road. He skidded going round a corner at Austby and hit a wall.

26 September Open air meeting hosted by the Ministry of Information at the top of Brook Street. The speaker appealed to the Ilkley people to do their utmost. Meetings like this are to help people to understand the problems which arise from time to time and are not to drag people into a form of mind willing to accept anything without regard to its purpose and its truth.

26 *September* Extra cheese for harvest workers owing to a late cereal harvest. Agreed to by the Ministry of Food.

October

3 *October* Miniature railway at Ben Rhydding which only began in the last three weekends has raised £25 for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

3 *October* A new terror is being released on Germany – the RAF can now bomb Nazis from seven miles up.

3 *October* Yorkshire Penny Bank Limited. To avoid branches being opened during 'Blackout' conditions the evening hours of business will be discontinued in the winter months at all branches.

5 *October* Philip Bright died in Ilkley on 29 September aged 78. He was the youngest son of the Right Honourable John Bright, the great Victorian statesman.

10 *October* Ilkley bakers to provide mutual assistance to the areas affected badly by the Blitz. The price of bread 4d for a 2lb loaf and 2½d for a 1lb loaf could not hope to maintain the present standard and more precaution was needed in the keeping of bread. The quality of bread is higher in the North than the South and so bakers are entitled to better prices for that quality.

10 *October* Louis Kentner piano recital in Ilkley to help the Christmas Parcels Fund.

17 *October* Ilkley Area Training Corps Week 18 to 24 October 1941.

24 *October* Sergeant Blackburn from Ilkley dies following a flying accident at Bolton.

Ilkley Fire Brigade dealt with a blazing bus tragedy in Menston in which six died and many injured. The accident occurred by High Royds Hospital. The 7.20pm Menston to Bradford bus collided with a timber wagon and caught fire.

Funeral of Canon Garland (1935-41) in Ilkley.

November

7 *November* Ilkley Home Food Production Corps – place orders for fertilisers and naphthalene now.

7 *November* Helping Ilkley Servicemen who get stranded after the last bus or train in Leeds or Skipton: a rota of volunteer motorists to be compiled.

14 *November* Reverend E.C. Cook is the new Vicar of Ilkley. He had blitz experiences amid the bombs in Southwark. The Rectory there became a wreck, and Cook and his family endured 91 consecutive nights of air raids or enemy planes overhead.

14 *November* Advert: How much gas and electricity are you saving in your home? Save fuel for the war factories.

14 *November* Bus service to Nesfield: Addingham Parish Council discuss new suggestion.

December

5 December Three well filled days for Ilkley blood donors.

Ilkley a pioneer for immunisation for diphtheria with over 50% of children immunised so far.

12 December Ilkley adopts 'HMS Osiris' – Ilkley's aim in Warship Week is to raise £425,000 (the cost of a submarine).

19 December The Princess Royal visits Ilkley inspecting the Auxiliary Territorial Service, and sees the Headquarters and Recreation Room.

26 December Hong Kong just before Pearl Harbour – impressions from Stanley Innes as sergeant in the Hong Kong Police Force.

Ilkley Gazette 1942

January

9 January £500 will be given to the Council collecting during January the largest weight of paper per head of population.

9 January Ilkley Warship Week: £70,000 needed 21-28 March 1942 – dig deep to reach the target of £425,000.

Ilkley Council Requisitioning and requirements for military outhouses.

9 January Soviet Trade Union delegates (six in total) visit Britain in exchange for the visit which TUC delegates made to the Soviet Union some weeks ago to see how the West Riding tackles evacuation problems They visited the Communal Feeding Centre in Ilkley. Their comrade Anastasia Malkova of the Soviet Garment Workers Union had two sons fighting on the Russian front and three grandchildren and was very interested in how little ones are cared for. Russia has rest houses far away from the German invasion which took in families evacuated from danger areas.

They had tea with Mrs Ryder Runton and also went to Menston and Burley.

16 January 1,569 fewer are employed in the North East region of England on 8 December 1941 than on the previous count on 17 November 1941.

Total unemployed in Britain December 1941: 165,224.

Total unemployed in Britain December 1940: 541,900.

16 January Mobile cleansing unit for gas.

16 January More care is needed for sheep on the Moor with the effect of severe weather.

Tackling the problem of scabies in Ilkley's schools. The problem is associated with rabbits, guinea pigs and white mice in schools.

23 January Red Cross Pennies: £274 raised in rural Wharfedale.

23 January Shooting on Ilkley Tarn for one week in January.

23 January Tackling the scabies problem – nurses visit Ilkley's schools.

23 January Home Guard trained to use many weapons.

30 January Lord Illingworth of Denton Hall dies aged 77 at his new home Markington Hall. He was the MP for Heywood 1915-21 and Postmaster General 1916-21. A liberal in his politics, he served on the Ministry of Munitions Advisory Committee on Labour Problems and the Textile Committee for Trade after the First World War.

30 January Traders and pooling deliveries to use fewer vehicles.

30 January 'Killed in Action' poem

February

6 February Scabies to be made a notifiable disease at once.

6 February Mr Geoffrey Brooke (Shandon, Ben Rhydding) is the new head warden at Ilkley in succession to Mr John Knox (Sunwood Close, Ilkley) who becomes a Divisional Warden in the Skyrack area.

13 February Soap rationing. From 9 February 1942, soap may be bought only against a coupon or buying permit. The oils and fats used in soap manufacture occupy much shipping space and some of this must be saved for food.

13 February Double Summer Time begins 4 April and ends 8 August. In 1941 it began on 3 May and lasted until 9 August.

13 February Isaac Hirst celebrates 50 years of Freemasonry. In 1937 he completed 52 years as church organist and retired from the position of organist and choirmaster at Ilkley Parish Church which he held for 48 years. He is now aged 77 years and is hale and hearty.

20 February Mr J. Wilkinson spent 42 years at Ilkley Rail Station and has retired as a foreman porter.

20 February Ilkley plans for a nursery centre to be opened in March 1942. It will be a centre for children up to five years of age whose mothers are going out to work.

20 February Question over provision of school meals at Ilkley Grammar School – cost parents 1d extra perhaps but at least students are indoors in the cold weather.

20 February Government circular to divide the Home Guard into two classes: Class 1 members will, in an emergency, be required to join immediately for full time service.

Class 2 members will join within 48 hours and will then be directed to either join for full time service or to remain until further orders at their civil work.

In the event of an invasion, the defence of the country should come first, and local government second.

27 February 'High Finance' poem.

Mr Cyril Smith, famous pianist is in Ilkley.

March

6 March Women's Voluntary Service talk to Ilkley knitters – money needed to make weapons, therefore save, and save now. The talk was given by Mrs Bradley who is the Women's Voluntary Service organiser for War Savings in the West Riding.

6 March Ilkley Warship Week will include a unique attraction in the form of an anti-tank firing display near Windsover Farm on Middleton Moor. Large numbers of people are expected to see what few civilians have the opportunity of witnessing. The event in 1942

changed to the beginning of spring, and weather conditions make it imperative that many events should be held indoors.

6 March A five year old boy loses his left hand in the blackout at Ilkley Station when he fell between the platform and a moving train.

6 March Hospital's income fails to meet unusual expenditure.

6 March Letter from P.V. Oliver, from Ben Rhydding, in the form of a quiz to clear the air and provide some satisfaction. All six points prefixed by 'Why?':

- a.various Government departments to seaside/spa towns and factory workers in danger zones.
- b.wool Control being moved to Ilkley and Ben Rhydding when Bradford has plenty of room and is the centre of the Wool trade.
- c.twelve buses daily bring staff from Bradford and return empty, then come back empty in the evening to go back full to Bradford, yet Mill workers stand in queues waiting for buses and watch the empty ones go by.
- d.wool staff have comfortable seats for each person though they have a sitting job all day, whilst the Mill workers are standing all day only to get standing room after being in a queue.
- e.the only answer by the Ministry of Transport is to take out the cross seats and replace them with length seats to pack workers like herrings in a box up the gangways.
- f.a decent bus station with shelter needed in Ilkley.

13 March The whole of the front page: Ilkley Grammar School Warship Week 21-28 March 1942. Dig deep for £425,000 – the cost of the submarine 'Osiris'. We did it before, let's do it again!!

13 March Adelphi Players to visit Ilkley to bring the play to the people – during the war the commercial theatre aims chiefly at distraction. With the difficulties of the blackout, travel and dispersal of the population owing to National Service and Evacuation, it is not reasonable to expect an audience to journey to towns for the play, so the play must be taken to the audience now living out of reach of regular theatre. The Adelphi Players have therefore performed in many bombed out evacuee areas. In Ilkley, the show will be a humorous dramatisation of Lawrence Housman's latest play 'Abraham and Isaac'.

13 March Another 'Why ..?' letter, this time from an Economist:

- a.should Ilkley Urban District Council use ratepayers money to provide shelter for bus passengers?
- b.only a bus station at Ilkley? Why not one at Ben Rhydding and Burley too – it rains and blows there as well?

- c.the great disparity in pay for munitions workers when compared to serviceman's pay and dependents allowances?
- d.are young girls aged 14 to 15 years old only offered up to £3 per 48 hour week for packing garments and why thousands of adult rail men can't obtain that amount as the minimum current war wage?
- e.able bodied C.O.'s are being sent to stand 'by' Civil Defence jobs at £3 and rations per week instead of being put to some national productive work?

13 March Photo of 'HMS Osiris' and 'HMS Otway' in Shadwell Basin, London.

20 March In response to a recent appeal by the Yugoslav Minister, Ilkley Women's Voluntary Service have undertaken to knit socks and scarves for Yugoslav Prisoners of War.

20 March The Pacific War from the Chinese angle described to members of Ilkley Rotary Club by Mr M.C. Lui, a Leeds University research student. Japan lost 1½ million, killed or wounded in fighting the Chinese and the war against China cost Japan 40% of its national income for the past four years. China would play a premier role in the fall of Japan, for the Chinese could take the Japanese in the rear and even attack Japan proper.

20 March Ilkley rate 15/- in the pound – a reduction of 6d on last year.

Ilkley Warship Week – a talk by H. Gelder from the Red Lion Hotel based on Churchill's quote 'The Mortal Crime would be a Weakening of our Purpose'.

20 March When the indicator reached £431,243 on 17 March 1942, 'HMS Osiris' had been allocated to Ilkley.

On the same day 17 March 1942, Ilkley at once set about the task of doubling its objectives and providing two submarines for the Navy.

27 March When Ilkley War Savings Committee chose the slogan 'Do it again' for the present Warship Week, it was with the thought in mind that in May 1941, the urban district raised £1,020,000 for War Weapons Week and broke all previous records in so doing.

27 March Ilkley beats Denby Dale for the coveted Championship flag. Over £31 per head was raised in War Weapons Week. The total announce today of £570,410 is £31 per head of population, whilst the Denby Dale figure was £30-17s-6d per head.

Now Ilkley is to challenge Edinburgh's fine record of £36 per head. Amount per head raised by Ilkley War Weapons Week in May 1941 was £53-16s-6½d

Ilkley's total war saving effort to date, including the million pounds raised in War Weapons Week is over £2,091,000.

27 March Ilkley's aim is now two submarines – first objective realised by Tuesday 24 March.

30 March Ilkley rates 15 shillings in the pound.

April

3 April Showing at New Cinema Ilkley: Orson Welles 'Citizen Kane'.

Bishop of Bradford visited Ilkley on 29 March for the National Day of Prayer – what could Christians make of national morale: this could be related to Christian fortitude, Christian forgiveness and Christian faith.

3 April Total figure from Ghyll Royd School's saving group was £9,096-3s.

William Graham (60), Chief Librarian in Ilkley (35 years service)..

3 April Flying Officer D.J.A. Fletcher dies in Ilkley while on active service. He lived at 'Milgate' at the corner of Victoria Avenue.

10 April Poem: 'The Sweetest Smell'.

Ilkley Wartime Day Nursery to open at Ilkley Church Institute from 20 April 1942, open 7am to 7pm daily for children aged 2 to 5 whose mothers are working.

24 April George E. Priestman dies. He was a great worker for Ilkley and Bradford Hospitals and a Honorary Freeman of the City.

24 April League of Nations Union Meeting in Wells Road Assembly Hall on the subject of a 'Peaceful Change'. The only hope of permanent peace after the war lay in the principles embodied in the covenant of the League of Nations combined with mutual trust and goodwill.

24 April Ilkley is supporting the appeal on behalf of men in the Merchant Navy for emergency kits to give to rescued seamen (kits in small, medium and large sizes) allowing them to get into dry gear straightaway instead of relying on rescue boat sailors to give clothes. The emergency kit covers a sleeved jersey, pair of trousers, underclothes, scarf, pair of socks and rubber soled slippers. £100,000 is needed for this national work.

24 April A knitting depot established at the Town Hall where wool can be obtained for this purpose (coupon free) – it will be open each Wednesday.

24 April After a huge success, Warship Week needs to be offered a permanent headquarters for the Savings Movement in Ilkley. Ilkley's great effort raised £702,091 equivalent to £38-6s-6d per head of population. The amount of small savings £102,000 out of the grand total of £702,091 was very gratifying.

24 April Camouflage nets – the work of garnishing such nets for the use of the Services is being well maintained in the Ilkley district. Under the supervision of the Women's Voluntary Service, two stands were set up in Ben Rhydding Sports Club pavilion and worked daily from 10am (the original room in the Masonic Hall is no longer available).

May

1 May Restrictions on coal – supplies of domestic coal will continue to be restricted for another month to just eight cwts (hundred weights).

1 May Loxleigh House – 18 refugees from Central Europe and two wardens, and a lady welfare worker especially for the children, care for six youths apprenticed to various crafts, for one boy at Ilkley Grammar School and eight elementary boys at Ben Rhydding School and Winton School.

The main problem is clothing for the growing boys. One boy was deported to Canada in May 1940 and is now back in Ilkley, and another returned from internment in Australia – hopefully these two boys will be usefully employed.

8 May Ilkley raised in Parliament by Labour MP Govan about the Coal Register Compilation and why staff are to make out coal ration cards.

8 May Ilkley teacher retires after 21 years as assistant mistress at Addingham National School.

8 May Branch of the Ladies Guild of British Sailors Society is formed in Ilkley. They undertake welfare work for sailors' dependents. The Merchant Service did not have the Government behind it as had the Navy and the Army, so they relied on those at home for extra comforts which they needed and for care of their dependents.

8 May Timber and war – Mr Hinchliffe told the Rotary that the finest of soft wood used to be Finland to Hull and Sweden to Preston just before war, and now it comes from Sweden, British Columbia and Quebec.

13 May Protest against a Bradford proposal for a Junior Approved School to be based in Ilkley at Wells School (formerly Heathfield) in Westwood Drive. Ilkley Urban District Council said no and strongly condemned Bradford Council's view.

Bradford Education Committee going ahead with the scheme having achieved the authority's approval.

15 May Weetabix advert: 'The Human Machine needs Energy too – Keep War Workers Fighting Fit'.

15 May Regarding Whitsuntide travel, holidaymakers are again warned to restrict travel to distances which can be covered by their own walking or cycling. No long distance passenger trains shall be run on any weekday during the period May 22 to May 26 inclusive than the maximum number run on an ordinary weekday during May 1942.

22 May Dr Herbert Howells is the adjudicator at Wharfedale Music Festival.

3rd Ben Rhydding Scouts (founded September 1941) have now got their own headquarters on Leeds Road in the loft over a building behind Marshfield House.

29 May Major Horton Fawkes says over 5,000 acres ploughed in Wharfedale during the war must be harvested with the minimum of waste. Ley farming should be considered as a way of maintaining fertility. Immediate agricultural problems are:

1. Planning seasonable labour;

2. seeking advice on any failing cop;
3. overhaul and maintain all machinery
4. think in terms of sensible rotations and not merely of crops
5. above all, re-grass in a sensible plan as the plough moves forward.

June

5 June The Princess Royal sees the work of the Women's Voluntary Service in Ilkley Centres.

Ilkley and the Bradford Approved School Scheme – only accepted narrowly by 9 votes to 7.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries – more lime means more food – price concession for summer deliveries.

5 June How to deal with animals in air raids – panic stricken, contaminated with gas in enemy action.

12 June The Princess Royal – lunch with evacuees and visited Felstow to see the sphagnum moss collection and to spend time with the under five year old evacuated children.

12 June Corrigan's Fair abandoned in Ilkley due to land being requisitioned by the military – namely the ground belonging to Middleton Estate, just west of the swimming pool.

12 June Vital milk – the nation needs every gallon, pure, sweet and clean to prevent souring in bad weather. One can do one's best to produce good milk – the cowshed must be airy and clean, cows kept healthy, milkers wash their hands, utensils ring in cold water and the milk clean, cool and covered.

19 June United Nations – A United Service at Ilkley Parish Church followed by a widely representative parade. 'No room for boastfulness or over-confidence, but when we compared the position with what had been, we had good reason to count our blessings', so said Mr Alban in his sermon based on Romans Ch 11, v 6: 'Reckon ye.'

Before the current battle at Bir Hacheim in Libya, Mr de Redmayne who resides at 14 Lister Street had served in the French Foreign Legion and fought an earlier battle at Bir Hachem in 1912.

19 June Ilkley was chosen for an approved school as it is in an ideal spot near enough for its own people to supervise and almost in its own suburb. All felt that Ilkley was part of Bradford and regarded Ilkley as a near and dear relative. The boys were not young criminals – they needed sympathetic help, discipline and control.

26 June 'Men of Bir Hacheim'. A report about a former corporal of the French Foreign Legion who is now in Ilkley. 'In Ilkley is a man who saw service in the Foreign Legion as a Corporal before the First World War. He is Mr B.P. de Redmayne who lives with his wife at 14 Lister Street. He has been in Ilkley since 1979 and after Home Guard service is now in the Civil Defence Organisation. A native of Stratford-upon-Avon, he spent many years in

France (in the south of which his father bought a property) and from where he enlisted in the Foreign Legion in 1906.

He loved a sense of adventure and was present at the dedication of the Flag of Legion of Honour in 1906 at Sidi-bel-Abbes – the headquarters of the first regiment. Following his term of service in the Foreign Legion, he lived for a time in France and Switzerland and afterwards he returned to England as a teacher of French. He know what Legion men are going through in Libya – they are men of dauntless courage, inured to hardship and a life of self abnegation who are animated by the same obvious tradition and spirit of their comrades of old. He fought at Bir Hachem and also fought at the Battle of Merida on the Moroccan frontier on 6 April 1912.

26 June Deputy Chief Scout, Sir Percy Everett to visit Ilkley on 4 July 1942.

July

3 July Approved school issue – decision now rests with the Ministry of Health.

3 July North East Engineering Firm and Small Arms Factory.

10 July Sermon at St Margaret's: 'Should we forgive Germany?' by the Vicar, Reverend A.H. Wellington.

St Margaret's sermon: Text: 'If he repent, forgive him' (St Luke Ch 17, v 3). 'Germany must be made to pay for the crimes committed – this has to be made clear by a declared policy and from a Christian standpoint. It's the statesmen's business to see that such punishment is administered justly but firmly. It is the duty of the Church to announce the Divine principle of forgiveness and to make clear to people what the Will of God is'.

10 July Gardens at War – within the van (on a demonstration tour in Wharfedale) was a display which all visitors were invited to inspect containing exhibits of seed sowing, pest and disease control, winter storage and food values.

17 July Schools to remain open during the normal summer holidays especially elementary schools. Given a choice, figures submitted showed more children desirous of having dinners than there were wishing to attend school. The Board of Education had decreed that the war conditions now required special care made for children whose mothers were taking on war work and that mothers should not be prevented from taking up such work on account of no provision for their children.

17 July Prisoner of War Club formed for Wharfedale on 14 July 1942. Nearly 50 relatives attended. They are to meet monthly to share information from the Prisoners of War. People can bring information from their men folk for information of other relatives with men in the same camp.

Parcel packing centre in Leeds – 5 razor blades for 7½d; pyjamas at 6s 6d; shirts 6s; soap 2d per tablet; chocolate 9d per ½lb; handkerchiefs at 4½d each and towels 5d each. Brown paper, string and scales provided at the Centre. All items free of purchase tax.

31 July Ilkley man sent to prison for absenting himself from work on three days: 14 May, 15 May and 27 May. He had a bad record of absenteeism and was even late to appear in Court! Since the 25 March, he had been absent for no fewer than 30 days. He was sent to prison for two months on each of the three summonses (six months in all).

31 July Bank Holiday outlook – no extra trains or buses but the delightful and very complete miniature railway at Cara-Cars on the main road between Ben Rhydding and Esscroft is being re-opened for the holiday weekend.

31 July Men of 48 register. Born in 1894 and to register at the local branch of Employment Offices. A total of 70 registered at Ilkley and of these 53 were married and in full-time employment, and three single men in full-time employment. 13 men were working on their own account and one on unpaid part—time work.

August

7 August Bank holiday – very quiet on the roads and holiday motoring missing.

7 August News about Prisoners of War - Information Bureau opened in Ilkley.

14 August Request for the names of Ilkley men serving overseas so they can receive a Christmas parcel.

21 August Ilkley Players Concert Club – Isobel Baillie (soprano) and Gerald Moore (accompanist).

21 August Ilkley Players – ‘The Shining Hour’ by Keith Winter.

21 August Semon Home (a Convalescent Home) will be an Emergency Maternity Hospital from 17 August 1942 for the period of the war.

21 August Poem: ‘The Unbidden Guest’.

28 August Advert – covers all the front cover: ‘Holidays-at-Home: Tanks for Attack 1 to 6 September 1942’.

September

4 September ‘When we have won the War, How shall we win the peace? Will a League of Nations be needed?’ A Brains Trust meeting at Wells Road Assembly Hall.

4 September Big Civil Defence Exercise – Coming Blitz on Wharfedale.

4 September Complete reversal of decision as Ilkley Council permits the approved school: to be a junior school of not more than 50 boys (all to be accommodated).

7 September Ilkley Grammar School Head Mr Hillis died on 1 August 1942. He was the Head for nearly 10 years.

Ilkley Stay at Home Holiday Weekend – 2-6 September 1942: Old Folks Party, National Day of Prayer, Vegetable Exhibition, Children’s sports, swim gala, Fur and Feather Show, Drum Head Service – a variety of entertainment.

Tanks for Attack: a crowded weekend of events:

Friday: children's sports, sports by local military unit, and evening variety entertainment.

Saturday: three shows and a swimming gala.

Sunday: special service in the Parish Church, a cricket match and a concert by the Ilkley Players Concert Club.

Musical programmes rendered by the band of West Yorkshire Regiment.

18 September Address by Sir Richard Acland MP (Vice Chairman of the Commonwealth): 'What is the Commonwealth?'

25 September Big weekend exercise in the Skyrack area: a 'blitz' followed by an 'invasion'. The largest and most comprehensive Civil Defence exercise to date.

October

2 October Death of Isaac Hirst after 52 years service to Church music.

9 October Vitamins from Rose Hips. In Ilkley as a result of the first fortnight's work, 50lbs of syrup was sent to the Dietician at Bradford Royal Infirmary.

9 October Ilkley's work for the Red Cross – over £3,000 has been raised since the Committee started operations in November 1940. This is in addition to the Penny-a-Week Funds collections which total £338. There is now a shop for Christmas gifts and antiques.

9 October Meals provided for the Home Guard whenever needed, ever since the Home Guard was formed in late May 1940. 18 workers can be mobilised under field conditions, together with 40 others who do night duty.

This year alone, 3,000 breakfasts have been served – porridge, bacon, sausage, toast, marmalade all for 7d. A typical Sunday meal: stew and vegetables, potatoes, stewed apple and custard, rice pudding or cheese and biscuits, tea or coffee. Meals have been taken out to men on exercise, and meals have been served in the Drill Hall.

9 October For the duration of the War, Ben Rhydding and Rawdon men's hockey clubs have amalgamated. They hope to put out a representative team each week. Most pre-War members are serving in the Forces.

16 October The new YMCA Canteen in Ilkley next to the Blue Bird Cafe will cost £1,250.

23 October Edward Isaacs pianist is in Ilkley.

23 October Ilkley lady broadcasts to her husband overseas. Mrs White of Tivoli Place Ilkley, wife of Sergeant E.J. White serving in the RAF had the happy experience of broadcasting to her husband on Sunday. She was taking part in a special programme sent on two short wave bands to British Forces serving overseas, calling specially the Forces in Malta.

23 October Lady Cripps Aid to China Fund: £41 raised at Whist Drive and Dance.

30 October Ilkley Vicarage: cost of repairs for the incoming Reverend E.C. Cook on his appointment as Vicar have been paid off.

30 October Ilkley boy, an apprentice number, suffered fatal burns when a bottle full of petrol burst and a nearby blow lamp caused the petrol to burst into flames. He died in Leeds infirmary four days after the accident.

November

6 November A further 1,000 acres to be ploughed in Wharfedale.

6 November Ilkley Women's Voluntary Service Sphagnum Moss Department at Fernroyd Ben Rhydding have now adopted a Prisoner of War.

13 November J.S. Newby of Cleckheaton is the new Head of Ilkley Grammar School.

Sebag-Montefiore lecture to the Rotary Club on 'Citizenship and Leadership'.

13 November 'Stalingrad' poem.

20 November It is no longer possible for Mr Arthur Hentzen of Middleton, Ilkley to send parcels from Switzerland to Ilkley Prisoners of War in Germany and Italy. He has been doing this on a monthly basis. Britain has decided that food parcels should no longer be addressed to specified persons but sent through the medium of the British Red Cross Society to Camp Commanders to ensure a social distribution is made to all prisoners and not to favoured individuals.

Ilkley man, a clerk at the Wool Control, found shot in a wood on the Lowther Estate in Cumberland. He had been depressed and killed himself while on leave.

20 November Arthur King of Wharfedale Orange Farm adopts a system of cropping a simple rotation to reduce the cost of milk production. Furthermore, great economy in the use of purchased concentrates has been made since ploughing was started.

Advert: 'Speed the plough to feed the cow. In wartime, winter yields must be raised with less bought concentrates. One can get good yields by wise feeding of crops you've grown'.

27 November Jasper Barnes, a First World War veteran dies aged 80.

27 November Castle Hill competition: 77 entries received for the Architectural Competition promoted by Percy Dalton to obtain practical expert guidance in the manner in which the Church, Castle and surrounding portions of Ilkley might best be attractively planned and redeveloped.

December

4 December Ilkley Council and housing shortage – unable to meet demand. There is a waiting list of 20 to 30 people in addition to those asked to look elsewhere.

Ilkley Council told about the notable results of three years collection of salvage in Ilkley, Burley and Menston. In all, 1,250 tons were collected which included 588 tons of paper

which will have provided 300,000 cases for 10 pounder shells (shells of this type are used in Libya and Egypt). Also collected were 113 tons of scrap iron and 240 tons of tins which would provide 35 AA guns or 23 medium sized tanks. Of non-ferrous metals, 13 tons had been collected; also 52 tons of rags, 100 tons of bottles and jars and 20 tons of bones.

Collection kitchen waste – 291 galvanised dust-bins in use in 106 streets in Ilkley collected 43 hundredweights of waste from May to November 1942. An encouragement to get Ilkley to reach if possible the amount estimated by the Ministry of Supply of 1 ton per thousand of population per month.

4 December Ilkley raised £137 for the people of Stalingrad from a bring and buy sale at Cafe Royal in Brook Street. A personal letter of thanks was sent by Mr. Maisky the Russian Ambassador to the lady organiser Miss Sylvia Parkinson.

11 December £728 raised in Prisoner of War Week in Ilkley.

11 December While shunting a train at Ilkley Station in the blackout, an Ilkley man was knocked down by another train entering the station and was killed instantaneously.

11 December Ilkley Parcels Committee – over 1,000 parcels sent from the town (to 23 Prisoners of War and 1,093 men and women in the Forces).

18 December A Leeds woman summoned for stealing two bed sheets and a quantity of tinned foodstuffs and sweets value £3-6s from a lady in Stubham Rise, Middleton. She was fined £3. The lady found the hoard in her nurse companion's bedroom.

Ilkley Gazette 1943

January

1 January Ben Rhydding lady Barbara Bell in Auxiliary Territorial Service received injuries to her face in December 1942 near London by the bombing of a train, on which she was travelling. She was blinded by flying glass.

1 January Advert: 'Ilkley Urban District Council Electricity Department – a vital necessity for the war industry, therefore keep off fires and water heaters. Use sparingly cookers between 8am and 10pm and if possible up to 1pm until the end of February'.

1 January Advert: Ministry of Fuel and Power:

- a. General coal – to any one property not exceeding one ton during three months.
- b. Coke of sizes not exceeding 1". Anthracite and Welsh dry steam coal of sizes not exceeding 1½" and all manufactured fuels – supplies not to exceed 10 cwt in each month.
- c. Coke of sizes exceeding 1" and anthracite and Welsh dry steam coal of sizes exceeding 1¾" – supplies not to exceed 1 ton in each month.

8 January Ilkley railings for used for munitions.

8 January Winning scheme in the Ilkley Planning Competition was by Captain Hubert Bennett F.R.I.B.A. from Dringhouses, York. He won 50 guineas. Mr H.E. Burton of Hagley Road Edgbaston won 30 guineas and Lieutenant Frank Booth A.R.I.B.A. also from Dringhouses, York won 20 guineas. In total, 78 designs were submitted.

The winning scheme was the demolition of all buildings within the site except the Castle and the Parish Church; an art gallery on the corner of Church Street and Bridge Lane; elderly person's cottages on the south bank of the river east of New Bridge. The Castle could be used for various local discoveries. Facilities to complete the Fort excavation including the Commandant's house.

8 January Aircraft recognition club for Ilkley.

8 January 750 additional acres to be ploughed in Wharfedale.

8 January Mr A. Talbot dies – a loss to Ilkley education.

8 January Substantial decrease in drunkenness and dance organisers told this must continue.

15 January Fatal collision at Cocken End on 16 January 1943 on the Ilkley to Addingham Road between a lorry and a bus. The lorry driver was killed, witnessed by a 15-year old boy riding a pony and trap.

15 January Three men stopped at Bramhope walking back to Leeds after stealing shoes from Mr G. Eaton of Cunliffe Road.

29 January Sir Granville Gibson on The Beveridge Report – 'idealistic in the outlook and conception' to lift the British people from the fear of want.

Outlook for education – better schools needed for the children of tomorrow said the former Chairman of the Incorporated Association of Assistant Masters in Secondary Schools.

February

5 February A crowded British Legion organised concert in Ilkley raised nearly £90 for the Coronation Hospital.

12 February A bus ran over a runaway bull near Esscroft, Burley. The bull was jammed underneath and the bus had to be jacked up. It took three hours for the carcass to be extracted.

12 February A tank regiment now has a tank named 'Ilkley', so said Sergeant R.S. Hall of the Royal Tank Regiment in a letter to the Ilkley Urban District Council Clerk. It is also crewed by Yorkshiremen.

19 February Ministry of Food is organising a potato cookery demonstration.

19 February New Senior Mistress at Ilkley Grammar School – Miss M. Dawn.

26 February Local beekeepers branch formed in Ilkley.

March

5 March Ilkley Coronation Hospital – success of the enlarged institution. 191 more patients; £2,294 more income; £473 credit balance and a death rate below 3%.

5 March C.P. Lovelock dies in Ilkley Grammar School staff room on 2 March 1943 – a senior history master at the school for many years.

5 March Ilkley man finally gets a year old Christmas parcel intended for 1941 Christmas! Private Ernest Cawood in Malta, where he has been for 18 months, said it was in perfect condition: 'I'm sure the Ilkley Lads will be as fortunate as me. It is grand to know that we have not been forgotten'.

12 March League of Nations Union. Mr L.F. Behrens to speak on 'The United Nations in War and Peace'.

12 March Lady Ramsden talk: 'How Central Hospital Supply Services help Prisoners of War'.

Ilkley Home Guard Major fined for the illegal use of petrol, using an uninsured motor car and an unlicensed motor car. He had no Army form to show that he was on duty so therefore he was not on duty. He was fined £8 on the three counts.

12 March Advert: 'Save Tractor Fuel – exercise the utmost economy to avoid the rationing of such fuel. Thousands of gallons of fuel are wasted every day on farms by spillage alone'.

19 March Public meeting on The Beveridge Report addressed by the Bishop of Bradford.

19 March Wanton damage being done by boys in gardens and allotments within Ilkley District.

19 March Poem 'Gain by Loss'.

19 March A.E. Gee talks about Ilkley Howitzers in France during the First World War.

26 March Boy aged 15 burnt by mustard gas on Ilkley Moor – the fluid was used to demonstrate blister gases and this boy suffered multiple burns.

April

2 April Ilkley Rotary talk – Post War problems in reconstruction.

Civil Defence Quiz – teams for the Ilkley semi-final.

9 April Ilkley Players at The Playhouse – a course in acting.

9 April Bishop of Bradford Dr Blunt is the preacher at Ilkley Parish Church calling attention to the need of practical sympathy and help for refugees from persecution by the Nazis. This is a plea in support of a petition in all local churches.

9 April Ilkley helping to serve Hull's needs with help for air raid victims of Yorkshire's front line city. Convalescents from Hull raids are being received as guests at Ilkley Convalescent Home. The Fund organised by the Rotary in Ilkley is now a town affair.

The first raid on Hull was in early 1940 and the most recent three weeks ago. They had 800 alarms and 80 raids, and the total number rendered homeless either temporarily or permanently is about 100,000. 20,000 properties have been completely wiped out. On one occasion, there were 1,800 fires in the city. One woman and her son were completely buried in ruins of a house by an air raid and were in hospital in Hull for fourteen months before going on to Ilkley Convalescent Home.

9 April Ilkley Council rejected by twelve votes to three a decision to try and get a woman appointed to succeed a retiring councillor in the Ben Rhydding Ward.

9 April Two Ilkley Prisoners of War Lieutenant Wicksteed and Lieutenant Ford are in the same hut in the same prison camp in Germany. The former was captured in Greece and the latter in North Africa.

9 April Captain John Boden and Captain D.L. Ambler have met in India.

9 April Barbara Bell prior to being blinded had been in the Service for only six months and quickly won her two stripes as a height finder in a mixed Anti-Aircraft battery.

9 April Corporal Barbara Bell, still wearing her uniform but expecting an early discharge, is already learning in her blindness to read Braille and to type.

9 April Nazi persecution petition from the Churches in Ilkley to the Home Secretary:

- Urgently need to facilitate the escape and reception of everyone who can get out of unoccupied countries.
- Submit any refugee – Visas to all who can get them and transport through Turkey and by sea should be facilitated.
- Entry into Palestine speeded up for the 34,000 Jews for whom permission has already been granted.
- Refugees encouraged to go to the Dominions and neutral countries.
- Press on with an Anglo-American conference on this topic.
- In common with Allied nations, appoint a High Commissioner to give whole energy to the problem.

23 April Local MP Sir Granville Gibson supports desirability of weekly payment by the working classes of the country in respect of income tax.

23 April Help of voluntary labour to be organised to bring in the nation's harvest.

30 April An evening knock out cricket competition is being organised for the Military Civil Defence and Works Organisations within three miles of Ilkley.

30 April Ilkley's Quiet Easter – fewer visitors. Special services in churches and much larger attendances than usual at churches during Eastertide.

May

14 May West Riding War Agriculture Executive Committee – Hill cattle subsidy. The government will pay a subsidy of £3 per head for cattle kept on hill grazings during 1943. The holding must be at least 50 acres.

14 May Ilkley's gift to the Eighth Army – 'smokies' as a result of a full day's street collection for cigarettes and tobacco. First consignment will be 40,750 cigarettes and 10lbs tobacco; the second consignment will be 39,750 cigarettes and 10lb tobacco and there will be a separate parcel personally for General Montgomery – 1,000 cigarettes and a special greetings card.

21 May Plans to make Ilkley a better place after the War. Lord Harewood opens a striking exhibition of designs in Winter Gardens for the replanning of a considerable area of the town about the Parish Church and the Castle and the Riverside.

Regular messages from the ministry of Fuel and Power about coal supplies during every three monthly period during the War.

28 May Plans for Ilkley's 'Big Wings' Week. The target is to be £500,000 in Ilkley, Burley and Menston.

Saturday 19 June: £260,000 (52 Spitfires)

Monday 21 June £40,000 (one Stirling bomber)

Tuesday 22 June £40,000 (one Lancaster bomber)

Wednesday 23 June £40,000 (one Halifax bomber)

Thursday 24 June £40,000 (two Wellington bombers)

Friday 25 June £40,000 (two Mosquito bombers)

Saturday 26 June (five Beaufighters)

28 May Middleton and Denton raised £3,603.

Nesfield raised £4,380.

Askwith and Weston raised £1,148.

June

11 June New ration books – this year everyone will get at one visit a food ration book and clothing book (bound together, but detachable) and if over 16, a new ID card.

11 June Ilkley's 'Wings for Victory Week' has a target of £500,000 to bring Ilkley's total war savings to £3 million.

18 June Ilkley Gazette moved into new offices at 15 The Grove this week.

25 June Ilkley target of £500,000 surpassed on Friday as £514,512 is reached.

July

2 July Ilkley sets new record on war savings, leading the country with £183 per head. 'Wings' week total £691,524 equals £39 9s per head.

9 July Brigadier General John Percival Whiteley MP is killed in a Sikorski plane crash at Gibraltar. He had been Tory MP for Buckingham since 1937. Also killed was Colonel V. Cazalet, Tory MP for Chippenham. He had links with Ilkley.

16 July New YMCA hit in Easby Drive opened on 15 July.

23 July Ilkley Grammar School – more applications than vacancies for scholars. An unprecedented situation.

23 July A.T. Akeroyd, church organist for 64 years and Secretary of Wharfedale Music Festival has died.

23 July Ilkley damage by boys – broken glass on the Moor and complaints made by the Education Committee.

23 July Mrs Ryder Runton elected to West Riding County Council to represent Ilkley.

30 July Urgent need for new school after the War – statement made on Speech Day at Ilkley Grammar School. Major General J.P. Shears presents prizes.

30 July Local MP Granville Gibson and his worry about the extreme seriousness of post-war trade and its prospects. There has to be a long period of steadiness of prices of primary products and there should be control of certain primary products after the war.

August

6 August Updated list of Ilkley men in the Forces

6 August Ilkley Players Concert Club – had arranged for a recital to be given by Solomon the famous pianist on 8 August but this is now cancelled. In preparation for a tour of North Africa, he has been inoculated and as a consequence of which he is now suffering from its effects.

12 August Ilkley was the smallest and most newly formed of units of the Army Cadets Corps to share the Weston Park for a full week of notable events which concluded on Saturday.

13 August Ilkley's big plans for holidays at home – a full week of entertaining attractions concluding with the agricultural show.

18 August Help convoys get through by supporting Ilkley's Anchor Days 14 August 1943.

20 August Jesse Peel, acquitted at Leeds Assizes in 1938 on the charge of murdering his wife, died in Harrogate Hospital from injuries sustained in a crash between a car and cycle at Fewston.

27 August First Ilkley Agricultural Show held on Ilkley Rugby Ground on 21 August 1943. It started due to a successful show linked with 'Holidays at Home' week.

September

17 September Religion and Life week at Ilkley. Lady Snowden speaks on 'Youth and the Future'.

Record Vegetable Show at Ilkley.

Ilkley fund for victims of air raids on Hull set up at Ilkley Rotary Club.

Third Engineer J.M. Heap home in Ilkley after 74 days on an open boat when his tanker was sunk by the enemy in the Indian Ocean. He was one of only seven survivors.

'Does it Matter What Petrol Costs Today?' Costs not in cash but in human lives, hardship and courage.

October

1 October Air Ministry plaque presented to Ilkley for its Wings for Victory success. Ilkley with an objective of £500,000 to bring Ilkley's total savings to £3 million raised £702,000 and established a national record for towns with a population of over 15,000.

1 October Death of W.A. Lupton – long service to Ilkley.

Two Ilkley girls evacuated to Canada with St Hilda's School in Whitby in 1940 have returned home to join forces: Joan Roberts and Jean Leach.

8 October Ilkley man sent for trial with alleged intent to murder.

8 October Ben Rhydding adopt destroyer 'HMS Lyddesdale'.

15 October Play: Adelphi Players in 'The Sulky Fire'.

15 October Doreen Castle is the solo pianist in the Grand Concert in Wells Road Assembly Hall with Roy Ellis, baritone; Kath Oglesby, mezzo soprano; Gordon Crawshaw, tenor; etc. In aid of Christmas parcels for the Forces fund.

15 October Women of 48 to register – those born in 1895.

22 October Film at Grove Pictures 'Road to Morocco' starring Bing Crosby and Bob Hope.

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22 October Ilkley War Time Nursery class in Castle Road has finally opened.

22 October More funds needed to help Hull victims – for those who lost their homes and are suffering shock and need a holiday (but possibly in summer only).

22 October Major Harold White, The Briery, an Ilkley Officer in charge of Ilkley Home Guard has been wounded by a shot accidentally discharged from a revolver. He was in the Armoury of Ilkley Drill Hall carrying out a revolver inspection. He suffered superficial flesh wound to the abdomen and taken to hospital at High Royds, Menston.

22 October Ministry of Fuel and Power. Now is the time to begin winter fuel-saving by fitting fire bricks at the back and sides of grates. Burn less fuel and get all the heat one needs.

29 October An Ilkley woman is summoned for stealing four clothing coupon books and for the unlawful transfer of a ration document.

29 October Ben Rhydding's adopted ship 'HMS Lyddesdale' has been the recent subject of praise from Montgomery for distinguished work in the Adriatic when her shelling of German land positions on Italy's west coast helped appreciably the advance of the Eight Army.

29 October Region-wide siren alert 'All Clear' to 'Alert' to 'All Clear'.

November

5 November Generous start to Ilkley's Red Cross shop.

19 November Poppy Day: Ilkley breaks the record again. Over £669 was raised in 1943 for the region. £516 was raised last year (1942).

Ilkley man Acting Commander J.B. Harrison sends verses home from India (poems) about his memories of Ilkley Moor.

26 November Reverend H.C. Willans spoke of his time in Burma in an article in 'Mightier than the Sword', the Bible Society's popular report for 1943.

Reverend H.C. Willans lived in Ben Rhydding for a while before moving to Addingham, and was recovering from a form of paralysis from some time he spent in Burma. He returned to Burma in late 1940, and stayed as long as he could after the Japanese invaded before carrying on to Bible Society work in India.

The headquarters of the Bible Society was evacuated from Rangoon to Maymyo, a hill station near Mandalay, then due to a rapid Japanese advance, the Bible Society work in Burma stopped, apart from in a town called Chauk where Willans took up residence. The church in Mandalay was destroyed by bombs. Eventually all were evacuated from the Church. He embarked on a long hazardous journey to India involving a steamer, motor car and train. He reached Calcutta, then went on to Madras. Eventually, Willans says, Burma will be liberated and the Bible Society will resume its work there.

26 November A local Territorial Field Artillery Regiment formerly commanded by Lieutenant Colonel G.E. Suddards has gained a remarkable list of honours for excellent work during the Tunisian campaign. Mentioned in Dispatches included Colonel Pepper who resides in Middleton, Ilkley.

December

3 December Call for fuel economy in the town – council's plea to gas and electricity users.

3 December KMC Danby was at the surrender of the Italian Navy.

3 December MP for Skipton (including Addingham) dies and a by election is contested probably by the Common Wealth party. Their MP for Eddisbury Mr John Loverseed addressed a meeting about Common Wealth in the Hut, Winton School, Ben Rhydding.

Common Wealth – a loosely bound movement of people who believe that our allegiance should be to principles and not mere party labels. They believed with Gladstone that what was morally wrong could never be politically right and that principle must replace expediency in the conduct of our national and international affairs.

The old world has broken down. The trouble was that money belonged to 6% of the people who owned over 86% of the country and its wealth and it did not pay them to use it. In reality, there are two nations – the common people and the big business magnates who controlled them.

War and peace demanded common ownership so that resources could be employed for maximum production for the needs of human kind. Wealth was not money, but could only be justified when the needs of all the people had been justified. They took from Communism the things they admired in it but Common Wealth wanted a vital democracy in both economic and political spheres.

Common Wealth has much in common with Labour but Labour had sold themselves to the National Government for the time being.

3 December Frederick Ramm, a Norwegian patriot, Editor of a Norwegian newspaper 'Morgenbladet' and one of the leaders of the work of the Oxford Group in Scandinavia has died for his faith at Odense, Denmark on his way home after being released from a German concentration camp due to terminal tuberculosis (T.B.) to go back to his family in Oslo. He had strong Christian beliefs. Before the War, he had often visited Wharfedale and addressed meetings in Leeds and Harrogate, and the Ilkley district.

10 December Yorkshire Dales as a regional park for the enjoyment of people from West Riding towns is advocated by Colonel W.S. Cameron, Leeds City Engineer.

17 December Ilkley man found guilty of maliciously wounding his wife with the intent to do her grievous bodily harm is sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

17 December Miss Elizabeth Addyman from the Ministry of Information spoke about 'Mediterranean Lands' at an Ilkley meeting.

24 December Grateful thanks from Ilkley men serving all over the world for Christmas greetings and parcels – letters are sent to the Town Hall and to the Honorary Secretary of the Parcels Committee:

Private T.D. T. Annakin, Royal Army Ordnance Corps in Northern Ireland; Lance Sergeant H. Banks, Gordon Highlanders British North Africa Forces; Leading Aircraftman F. Blakey, RAF, British North Africa Forces; Corporal Bright, RAF Alberta, Canada; A.D. Horace Bulmer, Royal Navy; Bombardier A. Garside, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force; Private T.C. Hankins, Royal Army Service Corps, Italy; Bombardier Hargreaves, Royal Artillery; Lieutenant Corporal E. Hogg, British North Africa Forces; Private A. Horner, Royal Army Medical Corp; Central Mediterranean Force; Craftsman. S. Ireland Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Central Mediterranean Force; Captain G. Papworth, Central Mediterranean Force; Sergeant J. Pegg, Malta Cond. Signals; Corporal G.H. Perry, British North Africa Forces; Reverend L.A. Pickett, Chaplain, Middle East Force; Trooper E. Pollard, Groundsman G. Stubbings, British North Africa Forces; Major A.G. Swallow; Private Thackray, British North Africa Forces; Corporal J.M. Thornton, RAF; Flight Officer B. Thorpe, Middle East Force; D.C. Turner Royal Navy.

31 December Further thanks: Gunner Appleby, British Expeditionary Force; Private F. Brooks, Royal Horse Artillery, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force; Lieutenant P.H. Brumfitt; Lieutenant Bombardier H. Cresswell in India; Lieutenant J.P. Dunlop, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force; Lance Corporal Feasby, Central Mediterranean Force; Reverend J.A. Figures, Chaplain, Royal Artillery Unit in the Middle East; Private H. Smith, India; Driver H. Whitehead (India); Lance Sergeant E. Woodhouse, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force; Private J.A. Titchmarsh (India); Private E. Wheatcroft; Petty Officer D.R. Smallwood, RAF; Jim Bowes (RAF); Lieutenant G. Davy (Hampshire); Driver J.C. Hall (Buxton); Lieutenant R. Ibbetson; Aircraftwoman Class II F.M. Clark; Private A. Clarkson; Aircraftwoman Class II Sheila Hewitt.

31 December 10% reduction in Wool Control staff.

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January

7 January Panorama Reservoir – a report on it saying that it works in a thoroughly good state of repair and of the opinion that there is no necessity to take any measure in interest of safety. (Statutory inspection report by Mr William Prest, Ilkley Urban District Council, civil engineer and surveyor).

7 January Dame Myra Hess piano recital at the Grove Cinema.

7 January Lieutenant Commander Crawford on 'HMS Duke of York' witnessed 'Scharnhorst' sinking.

Council and post-war planning – interim planning and report not to be made public.

14 January Film based on Steinbeck's latest novel 'Moon is Down'.

14 January 14 January More about Ilkley in Australia – there is an Ilkley just north of Brisbane, founded by early settlers from Ilkley and Addingham.

14 January Dame Myra Hess at the Picture House to play Purcell, Sarabande, Scarlatti sonatas, Beethoven sonata, Fantasie in F by Chopin. Encores: Chopin waltz in E flat, intermezzo by Brahms, Chopin waltz and Jesu Joy Man's Desiring.

14 January Sixteen Muscovy ducklings hatched on Ilkley Moor in the middle of winter.

21 January Yorkshire Evening News advert: in the midst of our future. Views of everyone now wanted to help in shaping the common end. More opinions are useless unless based on truths. News gives statements of fact – pleasant or unpleasant. The paper has no party leanings and prefers to give the public simple facts and leave the summing up to them.

21 January H.W.McLaughlin dies – a loss to the League of Nations union.

21 January Outline of Lili Marlene song 'The Eighth' took from 'Jerry'.

21 January Mr Herbert Eames – master at Ilkley Grammar School since 1919 dies aged 57.

28 January More thanks for Christmas gifts from Ilkley men: Lieutenant Colonel H.C. Pepper Royal Artillery of Central Mediterranean Force; S.B.A. Titterington Royal Navy (in the Scharnhorst fight); Sergeant Alan Swanston; Lieutenant J. Armistead Royal Artillery (British North Africa Forces); Sergeant J.H. Allen, Royal Artillery (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force); Lance Bombardier J.M. Crawshaw; Orderly Seaman Colin Eagle; Acting Captain A. Ellis, RAF in Ceylon; Sergeant Peter Cresswell, Central Mediterranean Force; Gunner H. Horseman; Leading Aircraftman J.A. Holden, India; Bombardier John Knight; Leading Aircraftman G. Parkhouse, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force; S/Sergeant J.O. Read (Central Mediterranean Force); Reverend Stanley Rogers, Chaplain to West African Forces; Lieutenant A. Wormald, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve; Corporal J. Brown, Argyllshire; Gunner W.E. Denton (Kent).

28 January Easby's advert: Men's and Boy's Clothing at Half Coupon rate. In view of the ban being lifted off the style of men's clothing, I'm prepared to reduce the price of austerity clothing to enable me to let them go at half the coupon rate.

February

4 February Men's suits cut in austerity style are now twenty coupons, but if sold at not more than 52/- they are 13 coupons. To sell at half coupon rate price not to exceed 2/- per coupon value.

4 February Country Magazine chaired by Ralph Weightman broadcast by the BBC in the Home Service included a piece by Mr Chester, Drebley Farm, Bolton Abbey regarding the real atmosphere in Wharfedale – its farms and hill-tops.

4 February Staff Sergeant Jimmy Elder Royal Artillery took part in the Octurian programme Aladdin at Kings Hall. He was later the caretaker of Kings Hall.

4 February Should Ilkley have a crematorium? What is priority for Ilkley, for example, housing?

4 February Grove Pictures – Mickey Rooney in 'The Human Comedy'.

11 February Mr Edward Maufe, Ilkley born architect, has been appointed by the Imperial War Graves Commission as their principle architect for Britain. He will advise the Commission on planning war cemeteries in Britain, including a large Military Cemetery at Brookwood near Woking. Here lie 3,000 members of the Empire Forces who died in this War and the last, and members of the French, Belgian, Polish and Czech fighting services.

18 February Film at New Cinema Ilkley: Humphrey Bogart in 'Casablanca'.

18 February Advert – 'Electricity is a vital necessity for the War industry and we must ease the peak load on power stations. Keep off fires and water heaters and use cookers sparingly between 8am and 10am until the end of February.

18 February Ilkley's target to 'Salute the Soldier' £1½ million is the target for two regiments of 25 Pounder Guns.

18 February Canadian visitors to Ilkley – representatives of the Canadian army, navy and air force included in the company of over 40 visitors who spent yesterday in Ilkley. They are sharing this week in a course arranged for members of the Canadian Forces on leave, arranged by Leeds Regional Committee for Adult Education in HM Forces and the visit to the town was part of the week's programme which included talks at Leeds University and visits to various places of interest in the immediate district.

Mr Hubert Wood spoke gratifyingly about Canada taking in many schoolchildren including his own two children whom he saw briefly just after his return from the Dunkirk beaches. He spoke of the need to improve Anglo-Canadian relations, leading to perhaps some of the evacuees returning later in life to settle in Canada.

25 February Patrol Leader Philip Cawkwell of the 3rd Ben Rhydding Scout Troop receives a silver cross awarded to him for gallant action in rescuing one of his fellow scouts from drowning in a rough sea with difficult tided and currents when bathing at Grange-over-Sands in summer 1943.

25 February Ilkley Grammar School playing fields damaged.

March

3 March Ilkley Players Concert Club – Eda Kersey (violin) and Gerald Moore (pianoforte).

3 March Poem 'Back via Singapore' as part of an advert for 'Salute the Soldier' week.

Ilkley Parish Council – the effect of the new Education Bill on local schools, especially Ilkley C of E Day Schools at the annual meeting of the Parish Church Parochial Council. It intended to make an appeal for raising between £1,500 and £2,000 needed to bring schools into the conditions required under the terms of the Bill when it was passed.

3 March Ilkley Toc H exceeds its target of £500. Over £565 was raised for its War Service appeal.

10 March Auspices of Ilkley Youth Council – a Course of Lectures for youths of 5 years old and over on 'The Place of Sex in Life' by Dr Charles Botwood of Ilkley.

10 March Ambassadors of Good Will. Ilkley Grammar School mentioned on BBC News 4 and 5 March in connection with a London exhibition of descriptive books prepared by various summer schools in Britain to be sent to similar schools in America, each describing districts where the school is situated. The Ilkley book contains articles written by staff and scholars and a large number of photos of the school, of Ilkley and the beauties of the Wharfe Valley and is to be sent to a similar school in Missoula, for which the Ilkley school will receive in exchange a similar compilation from the Missoula school. The broadcaster observed that all contributors could feel that they were being ambassadors of goodwill in the interchange of information between the two countries.

17 March The twelfth meeting of Ilkley Literary and Debating Society. A talk by Walter Flesher of Burley on 'Wildlife in Wharfedale'.

17 March Food facts. A one pot dinner. Tasty dishes from austerity rations. Menu for four: meat for stuffing 2-3lbs; stuffing 4oz; mixed root vegetables 1½lbs; potatoes 1½ to 2lbs; leeks 2lbs. Steamed pudding and custard.

17 March Rates 15s in the pound.

24 March A question of rates on an Ilkley house requisitioned by the military, taken over by the Ministry of Health, offered to the County Council and finally sold to Leeds and District Workpeople's Hospital Fund came before the S kyrack Assessment Committee this week.

24 March Coronation Hospital's good position. An excess of income over expenditure of £359.

Ilkley traders help the Merchant Navy raise £69 at Ilkley including £2-2s-6d for three bananas!

24 March Wanton damage in Middleton Woods – damage to flowers and plants.

31 March Reverend Sydney Hailes ordained as the new curate in Ilkley. Sir Granville Gibson, MP for Pudsey and Otley since 1939, is not to seek re-election at the next General Election in order to help revive the export trade of the country and build up industrial and business prosperity.

Ilkley may have to wait some years after the war before new housing schemes are in operation.

31 March Council – could be some time after the War before the housing situation in Ilkley improves.

April

6 April Damage by sheep to Ilkley gardens.

6 April Council and coal shortage – effect on gas supply.

14 April For the second year in succession, rainfall in Ilkley for the first quarter of the year was abnormally low. In 1943 only 8.09" was recorded in January, February and March and

this was in spite of the fact that there was over 4½” of rain in January of that quarter. In January 1944 there was over 5” of rain but the total rainfall for the first three months including the high January figure was only 7.06”.

14 April Easter crowds throng Ilkley Moors – many more walkers and cyclists than in peace times.

14 April Ilkley Council (Ilkley Urban District Council) 1944-5 enters its 50th year of operation.

14 April Members of the Guide International Service who are to follow the Army overseas and to help in the rescue of stranded and homeless civilians and relief work, spent Easter training in the Ilkley district in preparation for future activities.

21 April Ilkley Players Concert Club – pianist Moura Lympny.

21 April Advert: ‘Don’t forget – Tizer the Appetizer will return with Victory’.

New headquarters of the Ilkley squadron Air Training Corps opened on 16 April by Air Commander Sydney Smith, Commandant of the North East Command. In his address, he empathised ‘the importance of air development after the War’.

28 April Lightning Flash badly damages ‘Ashburn’ a house in Parish Ghyll Road. Three other houses were also struck by lightning, over a dozen allotments bordering on Leeds Road were flooded and covered in sand and mud, roads and cellars were flooded and telephone communications were interrupted. The storm on 14 April was the biggest storm for years – it lasted from 9am to 2pm and 1.4 inches of rain was recorded at Ilkley Weather Station. Backstone Beck was flooded badly.

28 April Bradford Grammar School boy was killed by a mortar shell he found at Denton. He was John Craven who lived in Bradford. His father was a company sergeant-major in the Home Guard.

28 April Lucozade advert: ‘Tonic, food and beverage’.

28 April Important announcement by the Ministry of Food. For the period of the war, sales of Lucozade will be restricted to chemists and hospitals. For supply only to invalids and persons requiring glucose.

May

5 May Otley RAF officer with marital problems shoots himself in the Valley of Desolation near Bolton Abbey.

12 May Advert: Wharfedale Local Association of Boy Scouts. Boy Scouts Association Relief Service Abroad. On 20 May 1944 ask a Cub or Scout to do a job of work in support of the above cause.

19 May New ration book issue starts in Ilkley on 22 May 1944.

26 May No additional trains during Whitsuntide weekend and passenger trains taken off in recent weeks will not be restored.

26 May Vicar of Denton for 40 years Reverend Samuel Ross fatally collapsed in Highfield Wood.

June

9 June Ilkley Concert Club – the world famous Ukrainian classical pianist Benno Moiseiwitsch.

Lieutenant Colonel Keighley-Bell, now living in Ilkley, gave a talk on the problems in India after the war – difficulties in uniting the country fit for dominion status.

16 June Malcolm Stoddart-Scott adopted as prospective Tory candidate for Pudsey and Otley.

23 June Benno Moiseiwitsch pianist plays at Grove Picture House.

30 June Death of Weston vicar Reverend C.L. Tweedale from pneumonia at the age of 78 after 43 years service.

July

7 July From 1 September 1943 to 31 March 1944, the average savings per head of the Ilkley population was £12-9s and headed the Yorkshire list of weekly savings.

Membership of groups was 6,166 and the total for the six months was £28, 916-13s-8d, yet Ilkley British Legion branch group ceased to exist owing to problems finding a secretary.

Street groups in Ilkley bought a mobile wireless set, operating table, oxygen administering unit, ambulance, six pounder gun, three front line operating tables, a base hospital operating table, portable x-ray unit, two mobile wireless sets, four five-ton lorries, a two inch mortar and a motor cycle.

Ilkley school groups bought ATS clothing, seven infantry assault boats, a six pounder gun, soldiers' clothing and two two-inch mortars.

Places of employment bought two two-inch mortars, infantry assault boat, ambulance, anti-tank rifle, two portable x-ray units four anti-tank rifles, a mobile wireless set, ten anti-tank rifles, two inch mortar complete and an oxygen administering unit.

Two Ilkley men met up in India: Leading Aircraftman Thomas Walker of Kings Road Ilkley and Bombardier Knight of Longcroft Road, Ben Rhydding.

7 July Lance Bombardier Earle of Ilkley has written a poem for the parents of Bombardier Perkins of Addingham who was killed at the Battle of Sedjanane in Tunisia on 3 March 1943.

As we dug their graves side by side

We turned away our tears to hide.

We dug them wide, we dug them deep,

And placed shell cases around their feet

Then placed a cross above their head

Lest we forget the fallen dead.

7 July Cows grazing on Ilkley Moor – council resolution on this and sheep trespass.

7 July Hole in one for Mr H. Matlow at Ilkley Golf Club on a 15th hole and at a distance of 130 yards.

1944 chosen as Savings Year to ‘Salute the Soldier’ – an apt title from the local War Savings Committee as freedom returns to Europe.

Southern evacuees from flying bombs start to arrive in the North. Ilkley evacuees taken to Winter Gardens and then billeted from there – some families and some unaccompanied children. Mrs Runton took in some evacuees. There were several families including a mother and five children, and a mother and six children.

Ilkley Refugees Centre, Loxleigh House – one is starting a BSc degree, another is training to be a teacher and another is studying architecture. Six boys are serving in the Armed Forces.

21 July Ilkley Land Club – newly formed and members help with farm work on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. Their initial job is singling kale, then dealing with the corn harvest and finally potatoes to pick.

21 July ‘Salute Soldier’ campaign reaches £400,352.

21 July Princess Royal comes to Semon House in Ilkley and to a centre for expectant evacuee mothers in Hebers Ghyll Drive. She met many evacuee mothers.

Ilkley Grammar School Debating Society entertained Humanby Hall to a debate about post War Britain. Speeches were given on ‘Youth Movements’, Industry, National Health and Education.

28 July During ‘Salute the Soldier’ week in July 1944, the total savings figure which Ilkley has reached is £400,832.

Ilkley Grammar School meeting – problems of accommodation. There are currently 340 pupils in the school.

Films at New Cinema: ‘Lassie Come Home’, and ‘Stand In’, the latter film starring Leslie Howard, Humphrey Bogart and Joan Blondell.

August

4 August After the final counting, total savings reached over £4 million – an average of £233 per head.

4 August Ilkley Urban District Council meeting invited the public to help with suggestions about post war planning schemes.

Advert from the Ministry of Information: ‘Lend a Hand on the Land. Spend a week at a Volunteer Agricultural Camp’ as a way to show your gratitude to fighting men. Help to gather

in the harvest that are to stock the nation's larder next year – every ounce is vital, so every willing hand is needed.

11 August Ilkley Players Concert Club present 'Solomon' as the pianist.

'Saluting the Soldier' in a practical way – I am prepared to fit him up completely with all clothing, underwear and footwear at cost price on demobilisation from any of the armed services.

11 August One of the most outstanding efforts in connection with the Ilkley 'Salute the Soldier' campaign was at the Wool Control in Ben Rhydding, where the original target was almost trebled with a final total of £10,000.

11 August As a result of the Ministry of Labour's announcement that the Reinstatement in the Civil Employment Act came into force on 1 August 1944, the British Legion is taking active steps to see that the interests of its members will be duly safeguarded. The Legion has a right to appeal to the Empire on behalf of a member against the finding of a Reinstatement Committee.

11 August Government announcement: 'the Army's educational scheme is being devised as a means to enable men and women in the service to spend part of their time in preparing themselves for all the demands of active democratic citizenship in a period of reconstruction'. Sir James Grigg, Secretary of State for War.

11 August Government announcement: 'coal plays a vital part in providing the munitions of victory. There is still a need to keep a watchful eye on the use of coal, gas and electricity and any economies secured at this time of year will make the position next winter a little easier'.

11 August 'Help the Postman! Over 27,000 postmen are serving in the Forces. Help the women who have taken their places by:

1. Writing clearly all addresses;
2. Using a street number in preference to a house name;
3. Never omit the postal district number;
4. Put one's own address on the reverse in case of non-delivery.'

18 August Henry Coulson at the organ and the Youth Orchestra – concert at the New Cinema in aid of St Dunstan's.

18 August Advert: 'Tizer the Appetizer, a Grand Drink to Remember. Tizer will be made again after the War. Tizer bottles are now being used for pool drinks only.'

18 August London hospital evacuated to Ilkley to escape flying bombs – a hospital train containing 208 patients and 58 members of staff to Middleton Sanatorium. Other trains go to sanatoria in Keighley and Grassington.

18 August Space presented to the Nation by the Brewer's Society and issued by the Ministry of Information. Pipe Down! The Germans are anxious for any scrap of information about our next step to victory. An odd word, unwarily spoken, may give to listening ears the clue to a whole operation.

25 August Ilkley Agricultural Society's second annual show will be held on the rugby ground despite the position created by the outbreak of foot and mouth disease at Horsforth.

Ilkley is mentioned on the 6pm news on the BBC regarding the 'Salute the Soldier' campaign. 'Ilkley sent in a high return of £31-6s-4d per head'.

September

1 September British Red Cross Society – a course of First Aid lectures in the Blue Bird Cafe.

1 September Elliot's living Marionettes presented by the Ilkley Players in the Playhouse.

1 September Poem: 'A Song of Victory'.

8 September Advert: Cake and Biscuit Manufacturers War Time Alliance Limited. 'Biscuits are an important food in a highly concentrated form, and constitute a most economical and valuable source of nourishment.'

8 September Ilkley evacuees. The number in Ilkley at the present time is 1,069 and this showed an increase of 100 over July's figures. Some evacuees had returned to London against advice of the Government but this position was no greater than it was anywhere else said Mrs Ryder Runton.

8 September National Day of Prayer 3 September 1944 was remembered in all Ilkley churches.

15 September Fire Officers Committee adverts as part of a National Campaign supported by Government departments. Two examples:

- a. Fifteen Army divisions are without blankets as a result of a fire that broke out in the basement of a textile warehouse.
- b. Production at a factory making tanks and armoured vehicles was seriously delayed by a fire that completely gutted a block used for storing component parts.

22 September Ministry of Information: 'Is your child educated? To act with care on traffic-busy roads: Kerb drill – at the kerb, halt, eyes right, eyes left and if the road is clear, quick march.'

22 September Savings Workers wanted. Ilkley's appeal to the Civil Defence. Even though the War is being won, there should be no slackening of effort in dealing with savings.

October

6 October Adelphi Players: 'Deirdre of the Sorrows'. Ilkley Players.

Sir John Wardlaw Milne 'What of the Future?' Ilkley Men's Conservative Association.

Ilkley record for St Dunstan's: cheque for £1,200

13 October Ilkley Air Training Corps in night operations: cross country with map and compass.

13 October Effects of the new 1944 Education Act. There are worries that some of the hopes of educationalists have been submerged under a mangled compromise of the political issues involved. Political parties were consulted first and educationalists last. The Act might help very greatly in the settling down of the community into its new post war forms.

13 October Death of Regimental Sergeant Major W.S. Brown – a honoured Non Commissioned Officer who did much charity work in Ilkley.

13 October Major Ingram's death in Ilkley – details.

20 October Lord Lascelles wounded by a bullet fired from a captured British Bren Gun Carrier – German radio made the most of the discovery of a British bullet in the wound.

Lascelles had been waiting for a jeep ambulance when the party left to look after him was overwhelmed by a superior enemy force. He had been taking part in a patrol on the outskirts of Perugia in Italy.

27 October Ilkley is once again to have the opportunity of giving blood to save lives of its fighting men in the forces.

Ilkley wedding in India – Major Law and Mrs C.M. Green.

November

3 November Sir Miles Thomas speaks to Ilkley Men's Conservative Association on 'The New Industrial Outlook'.

3 November Ilkley man knocked down and run over by a motor bus in the black out at the top of Brook Street on 22 October.

Ilkley lady dies from shock and burns escaping from her burning home on Skipton Road.

3 November There is a need for the widening of the road under Ben Rhydding Station road bridge.

3 November Major break-in at Greenwood's shop in Church Street and many items stolen (up to £200 in value).

10 November Ilkley Company of Army Cadet Force honoured by a visit from the Battalion Commander Major E. Tillotson giving cadets sound advice and encouragement for their future training.

17 November Ilkley Girl awarded the Gold Star of the Royal Drawing society when she was five years old, and now at the age of 13, Sheila Gladstone has produced a cleverly illustrated book 'Bruno and his friend Chimp' issued by Messrs Dent for Percy Lund Humphries and Co Ltd.

Perhaps a controversial letter to the Editor: Members of Common Wealth are Socialists and have never so far sought to conceal the fact. They do, however, welcome the help of members of other parties or of those who belong to no party.

17 November Ilkley Company Home Guard – final parade on 3 December 1944. They were formed in May 1940, and members always carried out their work with great enthusiasm and keenness, for example, 14th Platoon: Lieutenant A.W. Rhodes and Second Lieutenant G. Collins under the command of Lieutenant G.R. Frost, Headmaster of Ghyll Royd School.

During the time that the Ilkley company was in existence, well over 1,000 men have joined the unit. From 25 May 1940 to 29 October 1944, the Drill Hall has never been left vacant. The telephones have been manned continually without a break. This has been carried out from 8pm to 7am by a night guard on duty at the Drill Hall, and from 6pm to 8pm and again from 7am to 9am by the Section known in the Company as the Military Police Section. This section also carried out the manning of the telephones on Sunday from 9am to 6pm and then have filled a very important role in mitigating any possibility of surprise by enemy action in the Ilkley district.

From May 1944 this Company along with other Companies of the Battalion has provided a Guard for Prisoners of War thereby helping to relieve the duties of regular soldiers.

Comradeship and esprit de corps displayed on these early parades was something to be very proud of. Soon we received uniforms and sufficient shot guns and rifles to commence mounting guard duties.

Early members of the Home Guard were on duty one night in every four and this district was very thoroughly guarded. Total early strength was 36.

Arms and uniforms arrived – rifles, Northover Projector and Browning Machine Guns and later the Blacker Bombard. During the summers of 1941, 1942 and 1943 the Company went into camp on several occasions.

Many exercises were carried out in the open, especially Sunday mornings. Once we were joined in night exercises by a Company of regular paratroops and in another exercise a regular Highland regiment 'attacked' Ilkley.

The Home Guard in Ilkley was fortunate in having an Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) in the vicinity, which helped the Ilkley Home Guard company to become exceedingly efficient.

At the farewell parade on 3 December 1944, the Company will receive farewell messages of appreciation and thanks at the Drill Hall from Major R.A. Fawcett MC BEMTO and Major H.J. White.

24 November Sir Miles Thomas, Vice Chairman of the Nuffield organisation addressing the Men's Conservative Association had high praise for Yorkshire workpeople and stated the vital need soon was to change production from war to peace. The Nuffield Organisation had a factory in the Yorkshire region and the area was selected because Yorkshire people were forthright, dogged, adaptable and enthusiastic. He was impressed by the high degree of manual dexterity shown by women workers. They were alert and keen in the factory and

their quick grasp of new operations seems almost like the heritage of our industrially conscious ancestors.

24 November Ilkley Grammar School Jubilee Speech Day. The prizes were presented by Arthur E. Dean, a history and second master at Swindon Grammar School whose father built the present school. Mr Dean was a prize winner at Ilkley Grammar School at the Speech Day in 1894!

Headteacher Mr Newby said under the 1944 Education Act Ilkley Grammar School should be generously treated. He pointed out the proud record of Endowed Schools.

24 November Concern over Ilkley Primary Schools and their future. Ilkley Modern School was in the forefront of the County Scheme for post war schools, but there was still uncertainty over primary schools.

Runaway bus crashes into Ilkley New Bridge and does extensive damage. Only the solid built structure of the bridge prevented the bus going into the river. The bus left the road at the top of New Brook Street after coming into Ilkley from Leeds.

December

1 December Film at Grove Pictures – Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour in ‘Dixie’ and Olivia de Havilland and Robert Cummings in ‘Princess O’Rourke’.

1 December Dinsdale and Co. advert ‘advise all our customers of the urgency of returning all bottles and cases as soon as they are empty. War conditions have made it impossible to obtain new ones’.

1 December Houses were shaken after an explosion on the moors at Blubberhouses. The noise, heard in Ilkley, was the detonation of ammunition which is being destroyed on the moors by the military authorities, and the explosions are likely to occur at about the same time every other day.

8 December Trustees Savings Bank advert: ‘After V day the war’s restrictions will gradually end, but the habit of saving must go on.’

8 December Home Guard stood down – battalions farewell parade at Ilkley.

8 December Farewell supper at Ghyll Royd School for No. 14 Platoon of the Home Guard led by Lieutenant G.R. Frost. The main hall was decorated with flags of the Allied nations and around were posted old guard lists. Remembered were the long night of vigil on the Moors, the almost nightly hum of hostile planes, raids on surrounding areas as witnessed by many of them from their posts. The Roll of Honour showed five ex members of the platoon who gave their lives for the country. Mrs Frost was given a set of hand painted tumblers and a jug; and Mr Frost a pair of engraved cufflinks as a token of appreciation by fellow Home Guard members.

8 December Ministry of Food – the extra food rations for Christmas have been announced: extra sugar, margarine and meat. Extra sweets for the younger ones and extra cheese in place of meat for vegetarians.

8 December Hunmanby Hall School evacuated in September 1940 to Ilkley and the Lake District broke up early for the Christmas holidays to return to their own premises on the East Coast in January.

8 December Ilkley Urban District Council discussed the 1944 Education Act. The Education Committee gave careful consideration to the draft scheme of Divisional Administration prepared by the County Council pursuant to the provisions of the 1944 Education Act. Under this scheme, Ilkley would not be included in the area of the Divisional Executive but Ilkley would continue to administer education on the lines similar to the present system of district Sub-Committees and Governors of Secondary Schools, therefore there was no objection from Ilkley to the County Council proposals.

15 December Electricity consumers – drastically reduce the use of electricity between 8am and 10am during December, January and February requests an advert by Ilkley Urban District Council's Electricity Department.

15 December Film at New Cinema Ilkley: 'Fanny by Gaslight' starring Phyllis Calvert and James Mason.

15 December Announcement from Miss Heaton, Drapers and Ladies & Children's Outfitter – owing to continued war difficulties she has relinquished all connection with the shop in Brook Street and will continue to trade at Skipton Road.

15 December Major H.J. White, Commander of Ilkley Home Guard July 1942-December 1944 paid high tribute to this unit.

In May 1940, two full colonels enlisted as plain volunteers and things moved quickly, with the senior commands of the Home Guard being arranged within three days.

Due to equipment loss at Dunkirk, nothing was left with which to equip the Home Guard. In Ilkley, shotguns (180 a day) were handed in, and were very useful short-range weapon.

The Guard created its own Molotov cocktails. The job of training men to be conversant with different weapons was a major problem.

30% of the Home Guard members turned up for the stand down parade. In the course of the war, 1,200 men passed through their ranks. At their highest, they were about 750 strong (including the Wool Control, Post Office and Railway). When they closed down, they were about 300 strong, and the last two Guard parades showed how good they were at bayonet fighting and shooting as a platoon!

They performed three vital functions:

1. They frightened the Germans in the beginning.
2. They provided a sort of insurance premium for the invasion of Europe by providing the equivalent of 1½ million second line troops to stay in this country.
3. They provided a blend of all classes, and a new feeling of friendliness and comradeship which hopefully will continue in Ilkley for years to come.

22 December Winton School – unison songs and recitations and several choirs of children under the direction of Miss Kirby, Mrs King and Miss Collyer.

22 December Major White presented with a silver salver bearing the coat of arms of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment and the signatures of past and present members of the Home Guard

29 December Now the War is nearly over, it's your chance to re-decorate using Plastore which is a plastic effect in one application – a new scientific discovery for interior wall decoration.

Ilkley Gazette 1945

January

5 January Film at Grove Pictures: Betty Grable in 'Pin-Up Girls'.

5 January Forces thanks for Ilkley parcels. High tributes and a longing for home. The Ilkley Christmas card with scenes from Panorama Rocks brought its touch of nostalgia to many recipients.

Looking through the list of addresses live in a world of initials, for instance, M.T. Section, P.T.C., RAF, DAF, CMF.

The last batch? Major F.W. Appleyard British Land Army;L.A.; H. John Armistead R.A. CMF; G.C. Barlow R.A., Central Mediterranean Force; Private H. Batty, Green Howards, B.L.A.; Captain N.R. Bigland, Divisional Signals, B.L.A.

Proud of Home – Wren Telegraphist E.J. Dalton; Gunner W.E. Denton, R.A. B.L.A.; Private S. Douthwaite, B.L.A.

From the Navy: L/Seaman L. Drake R.N.; AB J. Evans, R.N.; L. Seaman W.M. Fairbrother, R.N.; Lance Corporal John Feasby, B.L.A.

Former Ilkley Pastor Reverend J.A. Figures, S.C.F. South Iraq area; Bombardier N. Geldard, B.L.A.; Bombardier N. Gell, R.A., B.L.A.; Bombardier R. Grainger, R.A., CMF.

What they thought of Ilkley: Flight Sergeant A. Grimes, RAF, India Command; Gunner/Sir H.B. Haddon, R.A., B.L.A.

Not Forgotten: Sergeant H.K. Hague, M.E.F.; Driver J.W. Harwood, M.E.F.

A Good Sight: Corporal K.N. Hextall, R.E., B.L.A.

From Burma: Corporal Lewis, B. Hiley, South East Asia Command, Burma, Post War Planning; Sergeant J.B. Holdsworth, Public Relations Service, B.L.A.; Driver L. Kaberry, RASC, M.E.F.; Captain W.W. Lucas, R.A.,B.L.A.

A Great Experience: Groundsman J. Lupton, B.L.A.; Signaller John Moore, R.A., C.M.F.; Lieutenant V. Myers, B.L.A.; Corporal J.E. Naylor, M.E.F.

Ilkley Men Meet: Gunner F. Nicholson, R.A., B.L.A.; Captain G. Papworth, C.M.F.

Happy Memories: Lance Corporal J.M. Pickard, RASC, B.L.A.; Captain W.L. Prestwick, R.A.; S/Sergeant J.O. Reed, C.M.F.; Signalman W.H. Robinson, C.M.F.; Private H. Scott, RASC, M.E.F.

Names First, then Parcels: Corporal W. Sheard, RAF India; L/Sergeant A. Thornton, RA, C.M.F.

Ilkley's Contribution: Colonel J.M. Thornton, RAF; Corporal N. Tunnicliffe, B.L.A. and G.K. Welch, RAF, B.L.A.

5 January Ilkley at the centre of an earthquake shock, which about 1.35am on Saturday 30 December 1944 rocked houses more than 200 miles apart in Northern England. The worst Britain has experienced for years. The shake lasted a minute and was itself frightening, but no damage was caused. A policeman in Brook Street saw birds fly out from under the eaves of houses, very frightened.

Older people thought it was like furniture moving or items being dropped; others believed it was the result of bombs or the new buzz bombs.

5 January Percy Dalton, President of Ilkley War Savings Committee has been re-elected on to the 'National Savings Assembly'.

Flowers on Russian Soldiers' Graves – "Mrs Wharton of Cowpasture Road witnessed by a Mr. Freedland (an interpreter in Bradford) putting flowers on the graves of two Russian soldiers at an Ilkley Cemetery funeral where there was a guard of honour provided by some Russians who were going back home to Moscow. A Russian lieutenant, had died in Middleton Sanatorium in Ilkley - we were his only friends (Wharton and Freedland) He had become a Prisoner of War of the Germans and leaves a wife and two children (aged 5 and 8) in Moscow. The Russian guard of honour on their return to Moscow would try to contact his wife."

5 January House burgled in Middleton Avenue while a 9-year old girl was in on her own recovering from chickenpox and her mother was out buying comics: Silver Well Cottage (Moor Ranger's home) was also burgled.

12 January Ilkley mother stole a bike for her nine year old son because he had a craze for bikes.

12 January Body of a man found in the boiler house at Ilkley Parish Church. He had been sleeping out while looking for lodgings.

19 January Enemy activity in Skyrack – a report by the West Riding County Emergency Committee said there had been 21 incidents in the area between September 1939 and November 1944. Altogether there were 631 incidents reported to the County Council including the dropping of flares, the reporting of unexploded AA shells and of crashed aircraft.

19 January Ilkley boy Vincent Hatfield (16), a Merchant Navy cadet from September 1944 (left Ilkley Grammar School July 1944) was heard on the radio in North Yorkshire on Thanksgiving Day at an event for servicemen from many nations.

Major Dennis Healey from Riddlesden, a Pudsey and Otley labour candidate at the General Election, is serving in Italy.

26 January Ilkley weather. On 23 January 1945, the town experienced its coldest night since 21 January 1940, when there were 24 degrees of ground frost and 23 degrees of air frost registered at Ilkley Weather Station.

February

2 February Ilkley Prisoner of War thanks from Signalmen Schofield in Stalag VIIIA and Wilfred Flower in Stalag XVIIIA for presents at Christmas.

Edward Francis Pickels 9th Dukes veteran of the First World War dies.

9 February Captain Ian Baldwin promoted to Major.

9 February Mr J.A. Jones, Clerk to the Council - appointment confirmed on 7 February 1945.

Mrs L. Booth, Secretary of the Evening News Prisoner of War Club received a letter from a relative in Stalag Luft III Prisoner of War Camp in Germany dated 18 November 1944 to say a new Prisoner of War, Jackson of Ilkley, had arrived in the camp and was doing well.

9 February Flight Officer John Philip Hudson RAF VR, son of Mr and Mrs William Hudson of Marley Cottage, Ben Rhydding has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for regular ops over enemy territory.

16 February Road trap at Ben Rhydding station bridge for traffic and pedestrians.

16 February Ilkley Players perform 'The Bear' by Anton Checkov.

16 February Moorland House School, Bradford authority's approved school in Ilkley described as one of the best of its kind in the county if not the country.

16 February Mr Sugden of Ilkley is advocating houses to be provided at no more than the nominal rental for men disabled in the war and for widows with young families of the men who have been killed. There is support from Ilkley British Legion for Homes for Servicemen, and as soon as funds are available two houses will be erected forthwith, and others when further funds are available.

23 February Yorkshire Mass Meeting of Conservative Associations to be addressed by the Rt. Hon. R.A. Butler MP.

Mr Cecil Palmer, Organiser of The Society of Individualists and National League of Freedom, is to give a talk on 'The Challenge of Individualism' to the Ilkley Conservation Association.

23 February Ilkley is already looking ahead to the day when the conclusion of the war in Europe will be announced, and a specially appointed Committee is already making plans for that great occasion.

Talk on 'Factors in the French Collapse in 1940' given to the Ilkley Literary & Debating Society by Mr Kuranda, an Austrian who has been working for Reuters in Britain since the mid-thirties.

23 February Dr F.W. Eurich dies – an Ilkley resident who conquered anthrax.

Missing Ilkley man found dead in a goit at the rear of Pool Paper Mill on 19 February.

Staff Sergeant J.O. Reed mentioned in Dispatches for gallant and distinguished conduct in Italy.

Lieutenant C.D. Chapman and P.O. Spencer in seven day Arctic convoy battle.

March

2 March Ministry of Information lecture. Bernard Newman, a traveller, author and broadcaster is to give the Lantern lecture in the New Cinema Ballroom. Aged 46, he has visited every country in Europe over 15 years, met Hitler, and banned by Mussolini. He has written forty books one of which was used as a textbook by members of the Russian Army. Newman had broadcast from most radio stations in the United States, Canada and America.

2 March Ilkley Grammar School under the new 1944 Education Act – uncertainty over its future position and is awaiting government information.

2 March Warm commendation of the work of the Army Cadet Corps (Ilkley branch). One member, a senior NCO, and another won a place on a six month specialised university army course.

£500 was raised by Ilkley for victims of Hull's air raids and victims have received 244 weeks of convalescence.

9 March Advert over growing own vegetables as winter warning of a shortage of many vegetables.

9 March Ilkley leads urban area on salvage for second year in succession in value per thousand population of its salvage collection.

9 March Ilkley Urban District Council Gas Department – increase in gas price by 1¼d per therm.

16 March Private Nuttall wounded in the right ear whilst serving with the King's Own Scottish Borders in West Europe.

Ilkley man Gunner Brayshaw, a Location Clerk in the Middle East Artillery Depot HQ. He keeps a roll call of all Royal Artillery men numbering over 100,000 gunners.

16 March Colonel G.E. Rhodes, Royal Engineers has an audience with the Pope.

23 March Rawson brothers wounded.

British woman Mrs Bullus, sister of Mrs Raynor of Wharfe View Road, is one of the first women to set foot on Walcheren Island in Holland.

West Riding rates up by 2s 6d; Ilkley rates up to 16s 5d in the pound.

29 March Bishop Blunt of Bradford gives a sermon on 'The Crucifixion'.

Plea in a letter to the Editor to prevent cruelty to animals, e.g. dogs worrying sheep until the latter die.

29 March Ben Rhydding boy dies after exploding match heads.

Ilkley officer's vivid picture of an evening on the Ganges – by Captain C. Kenneth Hauff, Royal Artillery, South East Asian Command.

April

6 April Boys of Ilkley Church of England school: proud record for allotment cultivation since the start of the war and consistent prize winners at Ilkley Home Guard Food Production Corps Show.

6 April For the fifth time last year a party of Overseas Forces, who were on a week's leave and taking a study course at Leeds University, visited Ilkley for a day on Good Friday. This year they were Canadians and visited Bolton Abbey, the Cup and Ring stones, Cafe Royal, Ilkley Parish Church and the Playhouse.

Petty Officer Mapleson who was missing on air ops over Frankfurt in September 1944 has now been reported killed.

Leslie Hardy who worked at Tunnicliffe's Garage wounded in an accident at a mobile workshop unit in Belgium.

13 April Considerable unsatisfied demand from members of our forces overseas for their local newspaper. The Ilkley Gazette, with the approval of the War Office, is in a position to accept a limited number of orders from readers to meet this demand.

20 April Greer Garson in 'Pride and Prejudice' at Grove Pictures Ilkley.

Ilkley Council – Mr William Milnes elected Chairman for the third year.

J.A. Slater, Chief Sanitary Inspector for Ilkley Urban District Council June 1934 to April 1945 to move to Ilminster, Somerset.

20 April Bill Bowes, Yorkshire and England cricketer home again – liberated from Oflag 79 on 18 April 1945.

20 April Mr Ronald Scarborough, a noted cricketer is to join Ilkley Grammar School staff in September 1945 (from Hanson High School, Bradford).

27 April Plea for preferential treatment of residents over visitors in the purchase of bread, confectionary, fruit and fish was advocated at a meeting of Ilkley Chamber of Trade, and had the backing of a deputation from the Ilkley Food Control Committee.

27 April Denis Healey's father writes to the Ilkley Gazette to complain about the Conservative misrepresentation over a visit to Spain where Denis did not go advocating a second front, which Denis did not do.

27 April The Pegg Brothers meet for the first time in five years – one brother returned after being a Prisoner of War and another home from Malta after 3½ years service. Sergeant Pegg was the first Ilkley man home from Germany.

27 April Welcome home from prison camps – Lieutenant Colonel Castelli (Prisoner of War in both First and Second World Wars), Captain J. Green, Rifleman Lambert and Warrant Officer Holmes.

Captain Ernest Shackleton – home after five years as a Prisoner of War.

27 April Ilkley Grammar School Direct Grant Status row over whether the County Council are prepared to assist two schools (Ilkley Grammar School and Ripon Grammar School) in the transitional period during which their position is being considered by the Ministry of Education.

Lieutenant F.B. Leather wins Military Cross in West Europe.

Gunner A.C. Cunliffe in the Royal Artillery in Belgium ,Mentioned in Dispatches.

27 April Ilkley War Memorials meeting on 3 May 1945 to form committees for Ilkley, Burley and Menston regarding War Memorials. Each district is to decide what form the memorial should take and each district is to have its separate fund.

May

4 May A plea to Ilkley ladies to knit five tons of wool a month for children of liberated Europe. As the needs are now even greater, it has been increased to ten tons. Men in the Forces want our children to get the benefit but so do European children.

4 May Ilkley man in salt mines.

Major Ewart Carter awarded the Military Cross.

Ben Rhydding officer is awarded an MBE and a mention in Dispatches.

Captain Ruperti awarded Croix de Guerre and is mentioned in Dispatches for a second time.

Private Joseph Bell – working in German salt mines as a Prisoner of War.

Boy Carter gets a Military Cross.

11 May Numerous victory dances in Ilkley.

V.E. Day poem.

Ideas for Ilkley War Memorial – the Committee is to consider them and consult the public, therefore the need for a very representative committee.

- Memorial is not to be in the form of a cenotaph or on similar lines. Cenotaphs are not looked upon as suitable memorials.
- Castle Hill area scheme.
- Memorial close with twelve houses for injured ex-servicemen or widows.
- A colonnade erected in the grounds of the present cenotaph.
- Council have been that in London there is a War Memorial Advisory Council which is available to advise local authorities.

11 May Lieutenant Wickstead home.

Major H. Stringer home.

Cenotaph and White Wells – floodlit and decorative lighting scheme carried out at the Town Hall and Winter Gardens.

Flying Officer Clifford Michael Kitson home from being a Prisoner of War.

11 May Volunteers wanted to get the harvest in on time – in the West Riding 7,000 helpers are wanted.

11 May First Ben Rhydding scouts build a rope bridge across Backstone Beck above Hangingstone Road.

18 May Ilkley Playhouse: 'The Gas Light'.

18 May V.E. celebrations - Crowded congregations on Thanksgiving Day.

18 May Private J. Armstrong – returning Prisoner of War.

Leading Aircraftman Middlebrook meets Belgian refugee in Antwerp (who was in Ilkley during the First World War).

18 May An Ilkley man has been on a tour of Belsen – Staff Sergeant W. Earl.

Lieutenant John H. Ford home – a returning Prisoner of War, also Gunner Peter Graham.

18 May Field Officer Edgar Jackson Leeds Road, Prisoner in Buchenwald and betrayed to the Gestapo but survives the ordeal after transfer to an ordinary prison camp.

25 May Returning prisoners entertained at street parties.

25 May Lord Teviot DSO/MC speaks to Ilkley Conservatives on the 'Political Outlook'.

Corporal Perry home and Sergeant W/O J. Thorpe and Private D. Cunningham. W/O W.A. Lawrence home.

Ilkley street parties – Wyvil Road, Wellington Road, North Parade.

M. Sidney Kellett died in Colchester May 1945 – he was a prisoner for four years in the First World War and then in the Army in the Far East for six years and upon his return set up in business in Colchester.

June

1 June Flight Lieutenant A. Monk awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

2nd June Lieutenant D.J.A. Cooper - commissioned as *2nd Lieutenant* in the *1st Ghurkha Rifles*, Indian Army.

Lance Bombardier Waters on life in Amsterdam in 1945.

Driver J.W. Rathmell home – he was a Prisoner of War, also G.H. Schofield and D.H. Leather.

1 June Bill Bowes visits Moorland House School, Ilkley to give coaching lessons to pupils.

8 June Major Healey's first meeting in Ilkley – Labour policy is outlined.

8 June Official welcome from Ilkley Urban District Council to men returning from Prisoner of War camps.

8 June How Major Boden won his Military Cross.

8 June Extensions to Ilkley gas undertaking – costs may be £15,000.

15 June Fire fighting in Rangoon by Sergeant Barnes in the Army Fire Service Unit.

22 June Detached three party views in the run-up to 1945 General Election - Arthur Greenwood, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party speaking in Ilkley.

22 June Professor A.N. Shimmin – new appointment as Montague Burton Professor of International Relations at Leeds University. He lives in Ben Rhydding.

22 June Staff Sergeant Mallinson of Keighley spoke to Ilkley Rotary Club about his experience after capture at Arnhem, his escape from a military hospital and being cared for by the Dutch underground.

A number of letters to the Editor from different political perspectives about the Election.

22 June Big welcome home by Otley and Wharfedale Prisoners of War Relatives Association in Otley - ex-Prisoners of War present including Ilkley men A. Hampshire, H. Stringer, E.R. Holmes, G.H. Schofield, H. Lambert, J.E. Bell, J.W. Rathmell, W.F. Flower, W. Pegg, F.R. Bolland, W.O. Lawrence and D.E. Forrest.

29 June Ministry of Fuel and Power – advert about Coal Supplies, House and Kitchen Coal/Coalite the maximum quantity for 12 months is 50 cwt.

Advert for Ross Bros – The following cars are in production: Austin 8 h.p., 10 h.p., Hillman Minx Standard 12 h.p. These cars are available against the Ministry of War Transport Licence.

29 June Ministry of Information – thanks to the restored petrol ration, thousands of motorists will be taking to the roads again in the coming months so be aware – check brakes, steering and tyres; make sure your road sense is up to scratch; pedestrians are not accustomed to busy roads; keep speed down to preserve petrol ration.

Memo from the Ministry of Agriculture – more and better mutton is needed – the world meat shortage must be met with available facilities. Sheep flocks must be used to the best advantage.

29 June Bill Bowes on release from Prisoner of War camps plays some matches for Menston to build up his strength.

July

6 July Advert to re-register ration books without delay – free milk and welfare foods, and orange juice for those up to 10 years old.

6 July Heavy poll in hot sunshine – a steady stream of voters for all three candidates. The polling is on 6 July but the result will not be declared until 25 July when all service postal votes are in from around the world. and a check is done to make sure no servicemen have voted twice!

13 July Mock court martial in Wells Road Assembly Hall by 1224 (Ilkley) Squadron Air Training Corps.

13 July Dutch children to come to Ilkley – a reception committee has been formed in Ilkley. Initially, they will come to England in large camps under medical supervision and special feeding to restore their health and spend eight weeks in English homes and with the company of English children.

20 July In aid of Ilkley War Memorial Fund – R. Scarborough's XI including W.H. Copson (England) and A.V. Pope (Derbyshire) versus A. Wharfedale XI in Ilkley 22 July 1945.

New Cinema Ilkley – George Formby in 'Off the Dole'.

20 July Red Cross Fund – over £16,000 raised in Ilkley November 1940 to June 1945.

Headmaster of Ben Rhydding Council School 1911 to 1945 retires after 34 years service – Mr Crossley.

On 1 April 1911 there were 125 scholars, now on 30 June 1945 there are 230 scholars and during the evacuation this rose to 295.

27 July General Election 1945 result:

Malcolm Stoddart-Scott (Con) 22,755; D. Healey (Lab) 21,104; Terry Clarke (Lib) 3,592. Conservative majority: 1,651. 87% poll.

27 July Advert: A Humanitarian Service – give blood for wounded men in the Far East and hospitals at home – Riddings Road Lecture Hall on 3 August.

27 July Extra tea ration. Entitled to 2½ ounces of tea from week commencing 22 July – half an ounce per week more (over 70s not affected).

27 July Ben Rhydding Vicar 1935-1938 Reverend A.P. Turnbull knocked down by a bicycle on the Kettlewell to Conistone Road on 22 July after he'd just got out of his car and died on 23 July from head injuries he received.

27 July Ilkley schoolchildren said to be fraternising with German Prisoners of War - German badges, buttons and money were being given to children. Prisoners of Wars were giving children money to buy loaves of bread at local shops and these souvenirs presented as a token of thanks. Sometimes children were taking loaves which they had paid for themselves in exchange for buttons and badges. School teachers were given lectures on topics and parents asked to cooperate. The military said it was happening strictly against orders – these German men were working in different parts of the town and had to have certain freedom.

27 July Resettlement of British Prisoners of War back at home – a talk by Major Coates of No. 4 Civil Resettlement Unit.

Prisoners home on repatriation were in good spirits, had money in their pockets and were keen on home life. However, after three weeks or so, problems arose – men became unsettled, did not understand rationing, did not like wireless programmes and were 'fidgety' with the wife. Whilst in captivity, they had done their best to thwart authority. They thought they could go on doing so, and men with good military records before the activity were getting into disciplinary trouble.

A concealed bitterness underlay an apparently cheerful outlook and they denied they were faced with any difficulties.

The resettlement programme was in three stages:

1. Reception phase in Ilkley and then to York to get civilian clothes and home for the weekend.
2. Reorientation period lasted two weeks – to reset their course with lectures, factory visits, and things locally of interest.
3. Final phase of five or six days – men treated individually by the Vocational Officer. Met in a Ministry of Labour Office along with a Woman Civilian Liaison Officer who advised on home problems and at the end of three months went back to civilian life as fairly happy citizens.

The men of Ilkley came from a 50-mile radius.

27 July Reverend G.F. Naylor talk to the Rotary Club on Poland – not only is Poland a problem, but each Pole is a problem in himself. Nevertheless, they are a gallant, gay and delightful people.

27 July Airgraph service to be discontinued due to large decrease in traffic.

August

3 August New Cinema Ilkley: Flanagan and Allen in 'Dreaming'.

Grove Cinema: Bette Davis and George Brent in 'Dark Victory'.

3 August On or after 13 August, the weekly collection of salvage is to be discontinued and a collection on alternative weeks will be introduced. It will be the same day of collection but the collection will be made each fortnight.

3 August Join the Labour Party now 'Polling Day not Labour's V Day. Give government your active support. Membership 6d a month.

3 August German Prisoners of War to work in preparing housing sites in Ilkley and requisitioning applied for.

3 August Half a page of poems written by Corporal Denis Botterill of Moor Cottage, Hangingstone. He is in the RAF in the Middle East currently and was in the book business before the War.

10 August Ilkley Christmas greetings to the Forces. Despite demobilisation, the service is still needed. A problem – certain names are being received which the committee can't always regard as justifiably Ilkley men. They are anxious not to miss anyone from Ilkley, but will look doubtfully at the names of members of families who are making Ilkley merely their wartime homes, or names of men who since marriage have made their homes elsewhere.

10 August 13-15 August 1945 – Hedley Verity Memorial Cricket Match for his family at Bradford Park Avenue.

10 August Smaller crowds in the cooler weather in Ilkley over the bank holiday.

10 August Barbara Bell training at the National Institute of the Blind Physiotherapy School, Great Portland Street, London under the care of St Dunstan's has been successful in passing exams in Electro-Therapy, Anatomy and Physiology.

17 August 'Arsenic and Old Lace' play at Grove Picture House.

70th Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery in Austria and one of their number is Sergeant G.H. Rhodes from Ilkley.

24 August Wool Control Victory Garden Party.

24 August VJ Day Celebrations. Children's party in the Drill Hall and Wyvil Crescent Party and Wyvil Crescent Bonfire.

24 August Fire record gunners in North West Europe including the Carter brothers, Hudson and Maufe.

31 August Third Annual Ilkley Agricultural Show sets a records in entries, quality, attendance and weather.

31 August Fifty German Prisoners of War digging ditches and making roads on the Grange Estate.

September

7 September Grove Cinema Ilkley: Spencer Tracy in 'Thirty Seconds over Tokyo'.

7 September Men of the 7th Regiment of the Royal Artillery which included batteries from Otley and Ilkley were in the Town Hall Square, Bradford on 5 September, when the Freedom of the City was conferred on the 70th Brigade and the West Yorkshire Regiment.

7 September New link road between Ilkley and Ben Rhydding is being built with help from German Prisoners of War.

7 September Norbert Herman – Jewish refugee from Vienna and for five years at 'Loxleigh Hotel' has gained a County Major Scholarship.

21 September Ilkley progress in Thanksgiving Week – a good start towards the target of £250,000. Many speakers urge the vital need of 'saving now'.

21 September Ilkley Thanksgiving Savings reach £350,966. The Urban Area War Total is now over £276 per head.

Rain spoils weekend events.

28 September A thanksgiving peal of 5,120 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung in 3 hours and 27 minutes by members of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers at Ilkley Parish Church. The first peal to be rung at Ilkley Parish Church since the bells were recast in 1940.

28 September One ex-British Prisoner of War is saying that the German Prisoners of War in Britain are receiving four times as much food as he did as a prisoner in Germany. The Germans get more meat and tea, while the British people do better with sweet stuff.

October

5 October First importation of Dutch bulbs to Ilkley since 1939.

12 October Mr Rupert Hill was a prisoner for 3½ years in Sumatra. For many years, he was a manager of a rubber plantation as a Japanese Prisoner of War in Malaya. His father lives at Sunnyside in Ben Rhydding.

26 October Leading Seaman Richard Lister was on board 'HMS Caesar' in South East Asia. At the time of the Japanese surrender, he was on Cocos & Keeling Island off the coast of Sumatra.

Completion of the 726th and last Lancaster bomber at the Yeadon works of A.V. Roe and Co. Ltd in October 1945.

November

9 November Ross Bros advert: Order your new car now. The firm will advise you on the correct procedure to obtain a permit to purchase a new car.

9 November Huge firework display on bonfire night – they had been intended for the first Victory celebrations, but were certainly worth waiting for. The final set piece formed the words 'God Save the King'.

9 November People on The Grove make complaints about damage to ratepayer's property. Dobson resigns from Ilkley Council.

9 November Ministry of Agriculture – British farms must not let up. The world is very short of food and the shortage will continue for some time.

Return of Potato Stocks (Ministry of Agriculture Potato Division). Heavier than usual stocks of potatoes on farms – adequate disposal arrangements can't be done until growers declare stocks on farms.

16 November New Cinema Ilkley: 'Henry V' with Laurence Olivier.

Talk about the United Nations and public meeting in Riddings Road Lecture Hall to launch the Ilkley branch of the United Nations Association.

16 November Good support for Poppy Day events.

'Angel's Hair' was the German children's nickname for the metallic paper streamers dropped off by the RAF which upset enemy radio location.

16 November Air rifles stolen from Ilkley fair ground.

Talk to Ilkley Literary and Debating Society by Major Basil Firth, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, on 'Four years in India and Burma'.

23 November The War Office state that Certificates for officer ranks recording awards of Mention-in-Dispatches are now in the course of preparation. Other ranks who were awarded Mention-in-Dispatches and have since been released should write to the record offices.

30 November Ilkley Grammar School Speech Day. Colonel Malcolm Stoddart-Scott MP urges the spirit of adventure and speaks to pupils on the issue 'On Moral and Spiritual Qualities Depend the Destinies of Britain'.

December

14 December Wheatley Lawn Ben Rhydding – plan for home for children.

14 December Reverend H.C. Willans of Addingham spoke to members of Ilkley Rotary Club about his time in Burma. He was evacuated in 1942 and he will return in 1946.

21 December A & L Brownhill, The Grove, Ilkley: 'Christmas greetings to all our friends. Let us make it a thoughtful Christmas, especially remembering the less fortunate in our own

country and the stricken people of Europe. Parcels for the Dutch (Toc H appeal) can be left here'.

21 December Ilkley's War Memorial Schemes – public criticisms of the recommendations and the next step is to be a ballot vote. Most support has been for the laying out of the riverside between the two bridges as memorial gardens and the erection of twelve houses for the occupation of disabled ex-servicemen. The least support was for the Memorial Hall scheme, therefore the next step will be a postal vote.

21 December Ben Rhydding Sports Club Men's Section fielded an almost pre-War eleven for the game at Rotherham. The Ladies Hockey section will re-start 1946-7.

British Legion purchases 'Arrandale', Wells Road, Ilkley for £3,100.

Ilkley Gazette 1946

January

4 January Housing: progress in Ilkley. Statement on requisitioned houses, emergency housing and Victoria Avenue estate.

4 January Letters of thanks for Ilkley parcels and acknowledgements from all over the world:

Captain Denis Ambler (Holland) 'appreciates all the kind wishes';

L.A.C. Annison, RAF (Germany) – 'a quiet Christmas as on duty';

L.A.C. Bairstow (Middle East) – 'very fine gesture and appreciated by all';

Sapper Barnes – 'wherever we are, we are remembered';

Private A. Cheesebrough – 'contents are a godsend';

Private Clerk (Auxiliary Territorial Service) – 'love the picture of Hebers Ghyll, and many people who have never visited Ilkley know the song but assume it is barren moorland for miles and miles';

Captain Crook – 'the best pin-ups are the cards';

Captain H.M. Dolby (Egypt) – 'the smell of Ilkley Moor beckons';

Flight Lieutenant Duncan Fisher – 'so much in the parcel!!!';

Sergeant P. Cresswell (Austria) – 'scenery is beautiful at Christmas, but the food?1';

D.J. C. Hall – 'parcels are the envy of people';

Signalman Ingham – 'at last, socks without holes';

Driver A.E. Knight (Germany) – 'Roads are dangerous at night, much snow and ice';

Private M. Metcalf – 'homesick for Ilkley';

Sergeant J.O. Read – 'wonderful parcel and the people who sent it';

Ladies . J.A. Smith – 'many boxes packed';

Miss K.M. Tee (Auxiliary Territorial Service) – 'great pleasure to flourish something from Ilkley to one's companions'.

11 January Dr Still lectures on the work for the Baptist Missionary Society in Northern China since 1945. He was interned during the war years by the Japanese especially February 1943 to August 1945 when 10,000 British civilians interned in a number of camps were released by the Japanese into the hands of the Americans.

18 January Address to Ilkley Women's Conservatives about the American loan – possible lending by credit notes and repayment difficulties (potentially).

33 Dutch boys and girls – three months stay in Ilkley. They are from the Arnhem area which saw the heaviest fighting in the war. They are aged 13 to 14 and will attend local schools and stay with local families.

25 January Plea for books and gramophone records for Civil Resettlement Unit repatriates.

February

8 February Council supported measures for Parliamentary bill for abolition of any alleged rights of common on the Moor, e.g. for sheep grazing.

8 February Lakeland Laundries – due to a shortage of labour, there will be a delay of several days in the collection and delivery of work.

15 February Grove Picture House, Ilkley: Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier in 'Lady Hamilton'.

Ilkley is among the many places thanked for taking in 33 of the 7,500 needy and undernourished children who have arrived from the Netherlands in the past twelve months. At least some of the traces of German occupation have been removed from the faces of the Dutch children.

Ministry of Agriculture advert: The Nation must have bread; cut in pig and poultry rations; more wheat – and greater self-sufficiency.

22 February Mrs Ryder Runtton (Conservative) opposed by Mrs Florence Hampshire (Labour) as Ilkley candidates for the County Council elections on 2 March 1946.

March

1 March World famous astrologer Petulengro at Grove Picture House, Ilkley.

1 March £71-16s raised at a dance for Royal Artillery Memorial Fund.

8 March Ilkley Council and Women's Voluntary Service Report on Evacuation – concern over the Gazette's premature publication. Ilkley differed in at least two respects from evacuation schemes in other districts

1. it never had a paid billeting officer;
2. it never resorted to compulsory billeting.

This spoke for general patriotism in the area that when a need arose, there was sufficient voluntary response to the appeal which was made.

8 March Mrs Barbara Bell – passed her Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) final exams in physiotherapy at the RNIB School of Massage at London under the care of St Dunstan's.

15 March Third Ben Rhydding Scout Group honoured for completing over 4,000 hours of voluntary forestry work – completed by this troop.

15 March Leading Airman Michael Cruxton of Ben Rhydding, an old boy of Bradford Grammar School and Ilkley Air Training Corps, who went from the Air Training Corps to the Fleet Air Arm. He hitchhiked from Quebec to the Grand Canyon, and Hollywood and back whilst on two weeks leave in 1946!

15 March Talk to the Rotary Club by Mr Moore about his war experience in Africa and Italy.

15 March Voluntary hospitals at crossroads – outlook reviewed at Ilkley hospital meeting and deep concern over their future status.

22 March Ilkley rates rise to 18s in the pound. Increase is entirely due to the County Call (increase of 1s 7d).

22 March Major Appleyard: Order of Chevalier of Leopold II with palm and Croix de Guerre with palm.

April

5 April Dutch children farewell party and grateful thanks from their leader Mrs Haag.

12 April Colonel Soddards awarded Croix de Guerre. After Dunkirk, his unit was sent to Brest and returned via Cherbourg – all guns and vehicles intact.

12 April Congestion caused by parking on The Grove subject of comment in Ilkley Council meetings.

18 April A.V. Roe and Co. Ltd, Yeadon – aircraft production to cease there at the end of the year.

May

3 May Ross Bros advert: Armstrong Siddeley cars – the technicians responsible for so brilliant an achievement as Lancaster Bombers have turned their unique abilities to motor car design.

3 May Public to be admitted to Council meetings. Council discussed antiquated system of tolls at Ben Rhydding Toll Bridge over the Wharfe.

Ilkley Air Training Corps still carrying on – reduced in size and rather less in evidence than formerly.

3 May Trooper J. Woodfield killed in Germany 30 April 1945.

10 May Ilkley War Memorials proposals – ballot papers accepted up to 15 May 1946.

10 May Major Carter mentioned in dispatches for gallantry in North West Europe. He is in 69th Regiment Field Regiment Royal Artillery which he will represent at Victory Parade in London on 8 June 1946.

17 May Pudsey and Otley Liberals addressed by Lord Moynihan.

17 May Ilkley War Memorial Postal Vote: Memorial Garden 1,262 votes; British Legion Scheme 1,100 votes; Memorial Hall 204 votes. 2 spoilt papers, 9,253 ballot cards sent out and 2,566 returned. Prior to the postal vote, it was already agreed that the present Grove memorial be completed by building a colonnade.

17 May Warrant Officer Eglon presumed killed from operations with Ceylon Air Force in October 1945 on Caucus Island.

17 May Unveiling of Blubberhouses memorial on 27 May 1946 to Captain Maufe VC who died on 28 March 1942. It was erected by the Ilkley Home Guard (picture in the Ilkley Gazette 31 May 1942).

24 May Barbara Bell – blinded in the war in December 1942. Appointment as a part-time physiotherapist at Coronation Hospital.

31 May Political meetings on Ilkley Moor. General Purposes Committee refused permission for Ilkley Labour Party to hold an open air meeting on land near the paddling pool in Wells Road.

June

7 June As a result of the War Memorial postal ballot, an appeal for £25,000 is launched in Ilkley on behalf of the Memorial Gardens scheme. The target was fixed at this week's meeting of Ilkley War Memorial Committee.

14 June Former Prisoner of War caught at Tobruk, J. Normanton, penned his poetry in a first book 'Frail Prelude'. He was a trooper in the Royal Armoured Corps – some of his poems were written in prison camp.

14 June Conservatory at Arden Lea (Railwaymen's Home) totally destroyed by fire on 8 June 1946.

28 June Ilkley Labour Party – talk on India by Bradford North MP Mrs Nichol.

28 June Public lecture by Professor A. Newell: 'Will the Americans be Good Partners?'.

Ilkley Food Office open Monday-Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm & Saturday 8.30am to 12.30pm at 9 Wells Road.

July

5 July Mr A. Kellet of Parklands elected President of Bradford Coal Exchange – an ex-coal merchant.

12 July Soft drinks industry – more sugar is available for soft drinks manufacture and more soft drinks are being made.

26 July Signaller Jack Hartley working with the 7th Armoured (Desert Rats) Division at Headquarters Bad Rothenfelde near Osnabruck as a teleprinter operator for the Rhine Army. He was a GPO clerk and then on Foreign Office cypher work.

August

2 August Lieutenant Philip Tipping died in an Indian military hospital whilst serving with the Royal Indian Army Service Corps.

2 August Whole page advert for Ilkley War Memorial Appeal.

9 August Miss Winifred Wade of Ilkley joins the United Nations in New York as a translator – she speaks French, Spanish and German.

16 August Colonel Stoddart-Scott MP: Yorkshire Post articles on 'Problems the War has Left'; 'De Nazification Control Commission'; 'Reparations'; 'First Austrian Government in 1945: an Unhappy Coalition'; 'Russian Policy'; 'A Jewish Problem and the Future' (Stoddart-Scott pessimistic in the short term).

16 August Erich Hirschburg has written from Germany to Miss Bohlmann, the Honorary Secretary of the Ilkley Hostel for Refugee Boys to thank her for looking after their son Alfred who came to Ilkley aged 15. He was brought up by the hostel at 'Loxleigh' in Cowpasture Road. He is presently serving in the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) and found his parents whilst on leave in Berlin.

16 August Mr Eric Briggs of Heber Cottage is taking part in the Manx Grand Prix amateur motor cycle race.

23 August English National Sheepdog Trials at Denton Park.

23 August Bishop of Bradford unveiled a bronze memorial tablet in Ilkley Parish Church on 18 August 1946 to the 83 men of the Parish who lost their lives in the Second World War.

30 August Three Ilkley merchant seamen meet in Australia – Senior Cadet Gerald Hall; Jack Parish and Cadet Victor Hatfield.

September

6 September Warrant Officer Keighley (BC) missing on a flight on 27 August.

Warrant Officer Skirrow died in India.

6 September Two brides from Ilkley leave for Australia after marrying Australian servicemen.

6 September Fourth Ilkley Agricultural Show spoilt by bad weather - heavy rain.

6 September Ilkley War Memorial Appeal - £10,000 received or promised.

20 September First list of promises and donations for Ilkley War Memorial Appeal. Several substantial promises have been made in addition and these will be published later.

20 September Sweets from Australia arrived for local elementary schoolchildren - from Adelaide.

Consignments of food from the Dominions and Colonies (Australia, West Africa, Canada and South Africa). Dried fruit distributed to old people in the area. Sweets, jam and plum puddings from Australia; tinned meat from West Africa. A vote of thanks by the Council to Nairobi and Adelaide.

27 September 2.3 inches of rain fell in 10 hours in Ilkley on 20 September.

27 September E.G. Clifton Passport Control Officer at the British Embassy in Moscow speaks eight languages. Intelligence Staff at War Office and later Intelligence Staff at Headquarters 21st Army Corps.

October

4 October Mrs Gladys Turner joining her husband Sergeant Bill Turner serving at British Army of the Rhine in Hamburg – he served nine years in the Tank Corps and still has three years to go before demobilisation. He has been in Europe since D Day. They have a pleasant seven room house with every amenity. He feels sorry for German women and children who live in appalling conditions.

4 October Madame Robert Devigne, formerly Miss Kathleen Lambert of Ilkley worked for the French Resistance. She had married Monsieur Devigne in Paris in 1937 when he was on a visit to Ilkley.

11 October Ilkley Grammar School Old Boys Association perhaps to merge with Ilkley Grammar School Old Girls.

18 October Arthur Blenkinsop MP addresses Ilkley Labour Party weekend gathering at Highfield Hotel, Ilkley: 'A Review of a Year's Work in Parliament'.

25 October War Memorial Appeal concern regarding the position of British Legion and their scheme. In the ten weeks since the appeal was sent out, only 130 persons have subscribed, just 10% of the number who actually vote for the scheme.

November

1 November Malcolm Stoddart-Scott MP asked Prime Minister Attlee if he was aware that the Allied Control Council had agreed to show to the World Press official pictures of the hangings of Nazi war criminals and that they will not be shown in Britain. Attlee told him that he was misinformed, as there were no pictures of executions, but only of bodies after executions. A British member of the Allied Control Council opposed the publication of the pictures. Labour government cannot censor the press!

1 November Four displaced persons from Germany arriving at Middleton Sanatorium on 29 October 1946 to take up domestic work.

8 November Ilkley and American schools correspond to discuss foreign policy.

15 November Ilkley sailor Mr Craven dashes home to see his seriously ill wife.

15 November Units of three services combine to bring home to England Leading Signalman Jack Cavan Royal Navy from Singapore to Leeds General Infirmary where his wife is dangerously ill. An ex-WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force), she died aged 24, four days after he arrived home .

29 November Golf balls – because of the food shortage, golf balls now have centres of a thick jelly instead of tapioca which has been used for the last forty years.

December

6 December Senseless and wilful damage in Ilkley – lack of a civic conscience.

20 December Names wanted for Cenotaph inscription to be sent to the Gazette – surname, Christian names, regiment or unit of Ilkley men who fell 1939-1945. Details to be accompanied by the signature and address of the relative.