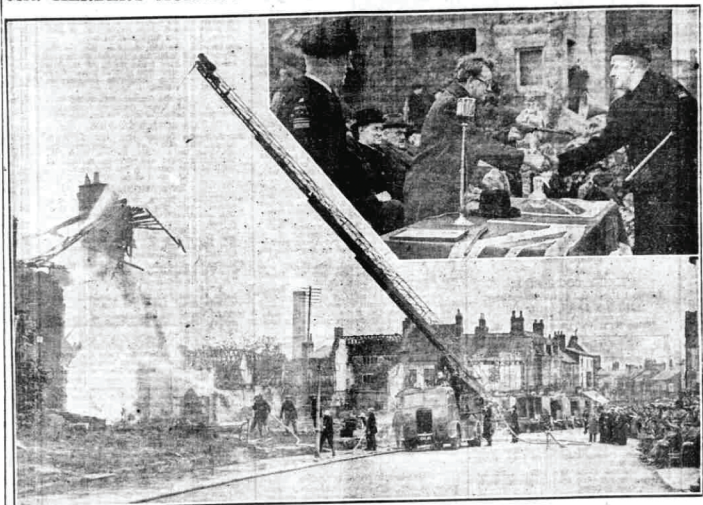


MR. HERBERT MORRISON PRAISES WARWICKSHIRE'S CIVIL DEFENCE



The turn of the ladder dominates the situation. Inset: Mr. A. F. Greenwood receives the Leamington award from Mr. Morrison.

Visit to a Demonstration at Kenilworth PRESENTATION OF COMPETITION TROPHIES

On a bombed site at Abbey End, Kenilworth, on Saturday afternoon, Mr. Herbert Morrison, Minister of Home Security and Home Secretary, witnessed a demonstration by personnel representing Rugby, the National Fire Service and Kenilworth Fire Guards. The Rugby team, who formed the foundation of the display, are winners (for the second year in succession) of the County C.D. Challenge Cup, and their training officer (Mr. D. G. Morrison) received the trophy at the hands of the Home Secretary, who praised the general efficiency of the Civil Defence Service in Warwickshire.

Certificates were also presented to Messrs. H. E. C. Bacon and F. Whitehead, training officers for the runners-up—Sollihull and Tamworth team respectively. Mr. Morrison handed certificates to the Divisional Controllers of the three winning teams in the County Report Central Competition, viz. Mr. A. F. Greenwood (Leamington), Mr. J. G. Wright (Sollihull), and Major F. W. K. Blackwell (Soutnam).

As in York Road, Leamington, last year, an "incident" was staged with the object of bringing all branches of the Civil Defence Services into play. As soon as Mr. Morrison had arrived the display began. The two bomb-wrecked houses at Abbey End were to prove useful for the purpose. First an air-raid warning was sounded and bombers were seen Kenilworth; H.E.'s were supposed to have been dropped causing damage to "Bendover" and the adjoining property (No. 9). The "Ipswich" family (occupied by "Bendover") were all placed most realistically by members of the Rugby team. The "incident" people were given first aid by wardens, rescued from under the debris by the Rescue Squad and safely disposed in ambulances. The hysterical "Mrs. Ipswich" was very effectively dealt with by means of a sharp smack across the face from a war warden. Most of his time taken up in wrestling with this woman—much to the great amusement of the spectators.

Mr. Morrison "Greatly Impressed"

Mr. Morrison said he had been very greatly impressed by the efficiency of the team which had given the demonstration, and by the esprit de corps, good fellowship, and unity of the varied branches of the Civil Defence Services. He was glad to note that among the winners of an award was the Tamworth Rural District, because it was always possible in rural areas also had an organisation, and that they were the recipients, from time to time, of bombs meant for some other place. In fact, added Mr. Morrison amid laughter, the rural areas had a grievance against the Luftwaffe for dropping bombs on farm-houses when they were meant for munition factories some miles away. "Let us not complain too much about that, however," he added. This demonstration has illustrated to members of the public—who I am glad have been present—what happens on the occasion of an air raid. After all, the air raid which, in our imagination, took place this afternoon, is only what might be called a relatively small lady who took part clearly did not regard it as such. This incident illustrates to all observers how a considerable organisation has to be trained and kneaded together into a machine which marches forward in an orderly and consecutive fashion from the time the air raid warning is received and the high explosive or incendiary bombs fall.

"Not a 'Rag Time' Collection of Men and Women"

"I hope members of the public who have been observers will go away impressed by the compactness of civil defence, and the necessarily considerable organisation that is behind it. I hope they will be completely cured of any impression—if they ever had it—that Civil Defence is a mere 'rag-time' collection of men and women 'ho do nothing but the business of war' and 'generally potter' around when an air raid is on. You have seen with your own eyes that it is an army, each man and woman with a job to do—with leadership and officers. I think that the Chairman of the County Council and his colleagues in the borough, urban and rural district councils are to be warmly congratulated on the efficiency, the morale and the splendid spirit of these Services in your area, county."

"The Civil Defence Service is an activity of ordinary average, common or garden middle-class citizens, together not long before the war broke out for the aid, succour and assistance of their fellow citizens. They have behind them a determination that whatever the enemy may do they will stick together, resolved that he shall not get them down. The service has a long tradition of military training and discipline. It was called together in haste and speed. But we have seen its discipline, its quiet and efficient spirit, and its fine morale."

A Reply to Mr. Hill.

"If I were asked to produce a simple proof that Mr. Hitler and Mussolini—of blessed memory! (laughter)—were wrong when they alleged that that British democracy was impaired, lacking in spirit and fire, my answer would be to point to the men and women of our Civil Defence Service who have done a courageous and magnificent job on every occasion that enemy attacks have taken place. From their own ranks, they have formed an army of the people—coming from all ranks of society, from all trades and professions. It is an incident which had been the subject of the demonstration, and referred to the efficiency of the turntable incident. Never before had he seen so many Fire Guards to the square inch. (Laughter). At one moment

he had a horrible fear that the fire would be put out before the N.F.S. arrived, and the spectators wouldn't have had value for their money.

Fire Guards "Happiest of God's Creatures"

"Anyone who came here with the impression that the Fire Guards were a grumbling lot of people will have noted that they are the happiest of God's creatures," went Mr. Morrison—"they never grumble, and are bursting to give as many hours to fire guard duty as they can. There was a moment in the life of Miss Ellen Wilkinson and myself when we felt that we should be hung on a lamp-post by irate fire guards." (Laughter) But I now feel absolutely safe because I know Fire Guards are a happy, cheerful lot of people after all. I shall so away much encouraged—and I may say, educated."

"It has been a pleasure to meet the Chairman of the Kenilworth U.D.C., the Mayor of Rugby and other civic representatives, and it is pleasant to be with Lord Dudley, who, with the local authorities, has done a magnificent job of work not only for Civil Defence but other branches of Government activity. Lord Dudley is an admirable Regional Commissioner, and I respect him and value his services together with those of the Deputy Regional Commissioners, who do not exist just to order local authorities about. They exist as the eyes of local circumstances in order to convey to Whitehall things on which they think Whitehall is imperfect or making mistakes. You wouldn't believe how often Lord Dudley tells Whitehall they are wrong, and he often convinces them that he is right!"

"No Better Administered County"

In thanking Mr. Morrison, Lord Dudley said they all admired his character, brains, fearlessness and wisdom. They were thankful that there were such men in the Government in these difficult war years. Referring to the 126 local authorities which came under his jurisdiction as Regional Commissioner, Lord Dudley said that no anxiety ever entered his mind when he was dealing with the county of Warwick, because he knew from his long experience that there was no better administered area throughout the length and breadth of the country. "In no other part were there more gallant, willing and efficient members of the Civil Defence Services," Lord Dudley said. He then turned to Sir William Durdale's War Emergency Committee, and their extremely able and energetic County Controller (Mr. Edgar Stenham) for the lead they had given in the organisation of that demonstration, and to the local authorities who had been called upon to take part. It was a fine team worthy of a fine county.

Acknowledging the thanks and rounds of cheers, Mr. Morrison said: "Keep your spirits good, because the bombs don't fall ready for trouble, even though trouble doesn't come. To the public he would say that whether the bonus is paid or not, remember what the old man in London said: 'There's one thing about these 'ere bombs; they do help you to get on in the war!' (Laughter and applause)."

BLIND OPERATOR Leamington Man's Fine Achievement

Blind people have been doing many unexpected jobs for the past few years, and now comes news of a really extraordinary achievement, for blinded ex-Service man trained by St. Dunstan's has been taught to operate a No. 2 captain lathe, and are turning out precision work for the war effort. The first blind man to be put to work on one of these machines belongs to Leamington. He is Percy Sawvell (aged 29), whose parents live at 3, Portland Row. For three years he served in the Fleet Air Arm as an engine fitter. He was blinded when he was aboard a ship which was bombed on the way to Russia. He can now be seen operating his machine with confidence, fitting steel bars into it and turning out aircraft bolts into 204 of an inch. The lathe he operates is self-contained. There are neither belts nor shafting, and it is driven by its own motor and started and stopped by foot control. Mr. Sawvell, who sings

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION Educational Value of Harvest Camps

"SHOULD BE CONTINUED IN POST-WAR YEARS"

Over a hundred parents assembled at Leamington College for Girls on Saturday for the annual meeting of the Parents' Association. Mr. A. L. Stapleton, the retiring Chairman, reported on last year's activities, and said that in spite of the sports having to be abandoned owing to bad weather, the various social events had been very successful. This was entirely due to the co-operation of the members of the Council and the willing help given by all concerned. He mentioned particularly the Secretary (Mrs. Jorntrey) and the Treasurer (Mr. Harrison). Mr. Stapleton paid a tribute to his wife, who had assisted him greatly in carrying on his duties in connection with the Association during his illness. Mr. W. R. Bolton (Vice-Chairman) being unable to become Chairman, Mr. C. Richards was elected to the position. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports showed that the Association was now in a stronger position than ever, both as regards finance and membership.

Mr. Richards outlined the objects of the Association and urged the importance of parents keeping in touch with future educational developments. He hoped the Director of Education would continue to talk to the Association and discuss the proposals contained in the recent White Paper. The Chairman was particularly anxious that the Association should link itself with the Town and Country Movement, particularly as so many boys and girls from the secondary schools in the county, including, he was glad to say, Leamington College for Girls, had gone into harvest camps during the summer. He had been associated with school harvest camps in Warwickshire during the last four years, and had seen the educational and health value, and should be continued in post-war years.

Mr. Richards expressed gratitude to Mrs. Anger (Headmistress) and her staff for the interest they had shown in the Association. Mrs. Anger said she was very pleased to see such a large number of parents present; it was certainly a record. She had been associated with the interest shown in the Loan Training Fund; it was her ambition to be the best-attended meeting so far which would be equal to any call upon it. Mrs. Anger associated herself with the Chairman's suggestion that the Association should ally itself with the Town and Country Movement.

Mr. Stapleton was elected honorary secretary, Mr. Harrison Treasurer, and Mr. Osborne vice-chairman. Sixteen other ladies and gentlemen form the Council.

MARTON

CINEMA SHOW—The fortnightly cinema show in aid of the Warwickshire Troops has just been given in the Village Hall. The attraction was "The Fighting 69th", which was handed over to the Forces. A very interesting set of slides is shown in the Village Hall on Friday, under the auspices of the Pelobody Department of the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation. The slides illustrated the work of the Red Cross in St. John on behalf of prisoners of war. WORKERS' INTERESTS—The monthly meeting was held in the Village Hall last week. Mrs. Webb presiding. Mrs. Meate and Mrs. Davis were in the business, and Mrs. Webb gave a report on the Autumn Council meeting held at Leamington on Saturday. Mrs. Davis gave a demonstration on "Soft Slipper" making, and during the social half-hour gave an interesting recitation at the top of his voice all the time he was working, was a fitter before the war. He knew what a capital lathe was like, but had only had one or two jobs on such a machine. His instructor is Mr. K. Norman, who previously trained civilians at St. Dunstan's. Mr. Norman explained that psychology plays a big part in training the blind. The pupil learns to feel the machine with his hands touching the various parts and being told what each will do. He quickly realises that certain actions bring certain results.