

MEGGEZONES For Coughs, Colds, Catarrhs

BROADCASTING IN PAGE 5

HEAD OFFICE: CHELTENHAM SPA

LIGHTING-UP TIME: 10.41 p.m.

REGISTERED: ESTABLISHED 1873.

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1945

Price 1½d.

EXTRA The Original Blood Purifying Medicine for BLOOD and SKIN COMPLAINTS

WORLD SURRENDERS TO V-DAY JOY "A NIGHTMARE HAS PASSED; WE CAN BREATHE AGAIN"

CHELTENHAM LETS ITSELF GO

TO-DAY, as the victory bells ring and the flags fly, while Britain stands at the topmost peak of her power and prestige, Cheltenham is justifiably in festival mood.

V-Day has evoked expressions of thankfulness and joy throughout the world. In London sightseers toured the beflagged capital.

"It feels as if a long nightmare has lost its grip on us and we can breath again," said Mr. Hansson, Swedish Premier, in an end-of-the-war broadcast.

THERE is so much to celebrate, so great a cause for rejoicing, that people everywhere in Cheltenham were shaking off their traditional reserve and entering wholeheartedly into the nation's celebrations.

The atmosphere of gaiety in the town this morning was greatly added to by students of St. Paul's and St. Mary's Training College, who made a joyous tour round the centre of the town.

At each point they gave a hilarious exhibition of "The Hokey-Pokey" dance and popular community songs.

The young men "leap-frogged" along one of the streets. Customers in a local cafe were surprised to hear coming in unity singing by the students, who ended with "Auld Lang Syne."

They then proceeded to the Queen's Hotel where they sang their songs in the Recreation Room.

Yet there was calm acceptance of Monday's announcements that the fighting in Europe was over, and that the King and Mr. Churchill would broadcast historic messages to-day.

Police officers described the evening as "quiet," with isolated instances of boisterousness.

FLOODLIGHTING Uncovered lights shone from many windows at twilight, but for cheerful illumination one had to see the floodlighting of the Town Hall, Public Library, the Municipal Offices, the Promenade Gardens, and Sandford Park which was tried out in readiness for today's and to-morrow's lighting contribution to the cheerful scene.

This is being achieved at phenomenally low cost, the street lighting and flood-lighting together, in fact, being equivalent to only half an ounce of coal per household.

An official circular has indicated the Government's disapproval of the switching on of normal street lighting for some time, but further improvements have been made to the lighting in the centre of the town.

CHEERS IN CINEMAS

In local cinemas on Monday night programmes were interrupted and patrons enthusiastically cheered the announcement proclaiming V-E-day. Everyone went home happy.

There is no lack of festive air to-day and festivities will continue throughout to-morrow.

The Birmingham City Orchestra is at the Town Hall after noon and evening and immediately after their second concert there will be a dance. Dancing is also the chief attraction at the Town Hall to-morrow, and at Sandford Park to-night and to-morrow night there will be open-air dancing in floodlight.

Local bands will play in Montpellier Gardens to-night, and in various parts of the town to-day and to-morrow.

SERVICE FROM STAGE

When the play, "St. Joan," ends at Cheltenham Opera House to-night, the Chairman of the Opera House (Rev. Cyril H. Lancaster) will conduct a very brief service from the stage.

He will be accompanied by Miss Ann Casson, wearing the suit of armour she affects in the title role. The service will conclude with the Lord's Prayer and the National Anthem.

Churches in Cheltenham and Charlton Kings are to hold thanksgiving services this evening; the civic service is, of course, to take place on Sunday.

Before dismissal for their victory holiday this morning the children of the primary schools held their own short services.

The children, under the guidance of their teachers,

were prominently associated with this part of the thanksgiving, and many of them were responsible for the preparation of the order of the service and the composition of prayers.

COLLEGE SERVICES

Thanksgiving services were held at Cheltenham College and at the Ladies' College this morning.

The whole staff, including the garden and kitchen staff, attended.

Both Colleges had a free day after the dismissal, they will commence their summer vacations three days earlier.

The College is holding a thanksgiving service on Sunday.

The vast majority of licensees in Cheltenham and the surrounding area, including clubs, have obtained an hour's extension to-night.

DISPLAY OF FLAGS

Shops and offices did their share towards a general decorative scheme, the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes predominating.

Private residents took their part in the decorative arrangements, and one householder in Charlton Kings, being short of a flag, made up a Union Jack with a tea cloth and red, white and blue materials.

Road vehicles, especially private cars, presented a carnival aspect with flags and streamers, but not to be outdone American Army vehicles driving through the town gave a brighter aspect to an already colourful scene by the use of powerful headlights.

Buses brought many visitors into the town, prominent among these being members of the services who took full advantage of their liberty on the "great" day off.

CHARLTON DISPLAY

Charlton Kings illuminations went on to a fine response.

At St. Mary's Church four large brilliantly lit V's shone from each side of the tower and two colourful V's last night lit-up Croft Gardens after dusk.

The American Red Cross Club is holding an Open House for all guests to U.S. troops for 24 hours.

LONDON IN JOYFUL MOOD

London, after its joyous mood last night, will awake early to-day to celebrate the real V.E. Day.

Happy sightseers arrived in town with early morning workers from the suburbs, and excitedly began a tour of the beflagged capital.

Many women wore national costumes, mostly red, white and blue, and some wore ribbons.

Restaurants were crowded, and there were queues for cigarettes.

Buckingham Palace was the No. 1 centre of attraction. Before eight a.m. groups of people arrived to gaze at the royal residence.

Sitting on a wall opposite the Palace were three young women who had waited all night in the hope of seeing the King and Queen.

At 11 a.m. the King held the first investiture of peace-time at Buckingham Palace.

A big crowd formed around the Palace.

(Continued in Back Page.)

BIG THREE MAY MEET

A meeting between President Truman, Mr. Churchill, and Marshal Stalin is expected by United Nations diplomats at San Francisco to be arranged soon, an Associated Press dispatch from San Francisco reported to-day.

They believe that only a gathering of the Big Three, probably in the European area, can solve some of the urgent problems arising from the defeat of Germany, the dispatch said.



RUSH FOR THE NEWS.—When the "Echo" was published on Monday afternoon with the great news of the total surrender of Germany, there was a rush to buy copies. Here a news vendor in the Promenade is seen almost overwhelmed by excited customers.

PASSING OF THE NAZI PARTY

QUISLING TRIES TO FLEE

VIKUND QUISLING (the original) to-day tried to cross the Norwegian border into Sweden, an American broadcast from Stockholm said this afternoon. He was denied entry and turned back.

TOWN'S FINE WAR RECORD MAYOR'S TRIBUTE

A deep sense of gratitude for the victory, tribute to the townspeople on the part they have played, especially those in the Services, and a reminder of great responsibilities ahead are the chief notes of a message the Mayor of Cheltenham (Ald. Clara F. Winterbotham) to-day gives to the town through the "Echo."

"The first thought that comes into one's mind," she said, "is one of great gratitude to God."

"The next is a feeling of very great responsibility to the future, that we may all be worthy of the blood, sweat, and tears shed during all these years."

"German soldiers, veterans of countless battles, are now treading the bitter path to captivity, and thereby making the last sacrifice for the life of our women and children, and for the future of our nation."

"I have promised our brave men, women, and children to provide them with enduring living conditions so far as it is in my power to do so in the coming difficulties."

"I do not know yet what I shall be able to do to help you in these hard times. We have to face facts."

"The foundations on which the German Reich was built will do us no good."

Official notification has been received by Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hicks, of 32, Shakespeare-variety, Cheltenham, that their son, G. O. R. Hicks, G.A.D., is in hospital recovering from injuries and shock received in the European theatre of war.

Before joining the Forces two years ago he was attached to the Police Auxiliary Service.

CHELTENHAM MAN WOUNDED

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SMUTS'S PLEA AT 'FRISCO

General Smuts made a special plea for the new World Charter to be something more than a legal document, when he presented his preamble at the San Francisco Conference to-day.

"I should express, in its very first words, what we have fought for, what we have achieved, and what we hope has been achieved," he said.

"I think we should say that this was a human struggle for the human person, for the soul of man, for the fundamental rights which are basic to our civilisation."

"This was not an ordinary war; not one of the usual wars of history, but something far more fundamental, the very foundations of our civilisation and our existence as civilised men."

The Japanese News Agency to-day quoted Japanese newspaper articles accusing Germany of betraying the Axis, and reiterating Japan's determination to continue the fight against the Allies, says a San Francisco message.

NAZI "BETRAYAL" SAY JAPS

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DOENITZ SAYS "WE MUST FACE FACTS"

"THE Nazi Party has disappeared—there is no longer unity between State and Party," said Admiral Doenitz, Hitler's successor as Fuehrer, in a broadcast to the German people to-day. "We must face the hard facts," he added.

ADMIRAL DOENITZ, broadcasting on Flensburg radio, said:

"German men and women. When I addressed you on the evening of May 1, to announce the death of the Fuehrer and my appointment as his successor, I told you that my first task would be to spare the lives of German men and women."

"In conformity herewith, I ordered the High Command of the German Wehrmacht on the night of May 6 to arrange for the unconditional surrender of all German fighting troops in all theatres of war. From 23.00 D.B.S.T. on May 8, the guns will be silent."

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WEATHER NEWS NO LONGER CENSORED

For the first time since war began the "Echo" is to-day able to give past, present, and future weather information.

All restrictions have been removed by the censor and from now on Britainers are allowed to look elsewhere than at the Straits of Dover for up-to-date weather reports.

A sharp thunderstorm burst over the North Gloucestershire area at 2 a.m. this morning, and in 15 minutes 1.0 of rain was registered.

This morning, while victory celebrations were at their height, another sharp storm produced .05 of rain.

HIGH TEMPERATURE

Mr. J. W. Smith, the Cheltenham parks and gardens superintendent, informed an "Echo" representative to-day

MONTY MEETS ROKOSSOVSKY

FIELD-MARSHAL MONTGOMERY and Marshal Rokossovsky met here to-day in a cobbled lane on the edge of the Baltic, in the little town where first contact was established between British and Soviet Armies, cables Reuter's special correspondent from Wismar, on the Baltic.

A salute of 19 guns to Marshal Rokossovsky was fired as he inspected a guard of honour of "Red Devils" of the Sixth British Airborne Division. The Red Flag and Union Jack flew side by side.

Then, during a 90 seconds handshake, Rokossovsky, beaming benignly, drowned Marshal Montgomery's first hand with a flow of enthusiastic welcome.

"It is a great honour to see personally and to greet a great soldier of this war," said the Soviet hero of Stalingrad and Commander-in-Chief of the Byelo-Russian Army Group.

Marshal Montgomery replied: "I have looked forward to this day for a long time—let me shake you by the hand again."

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Some Huns Still Fighting In Prague

ALTHOUGH the Germans in Prague and the whole of Bohemia had accepted the terms of unconditional surrender—according to the Czech-controlled Prague radio—later broadcasts from the Czechs in the city indicated that some German military formations have not yet obeyed the "cease-fire" order, and are still shelling houses, setting buildings on fire, and shooting at civilians.

CZECH authorities are taking strong measures to meet this situation, says Reuter. Prague has broadcast an appeal for insulin for the wounded.

All the radio stations of Prague have been in Czech hands since early this morning.

The first announcement said: "At 1.30 a.m. to-day the German Command issued orders through all communications to German units to cease fighting."

"There are, of course, technical difficulties in the communication of this Order in the shortest possible time. Therefore inform the German units where necessary."

"The German military plenipotentiary is negotiating with the Czech National Council on details of unconditional surrender."

Lights blazed from unshattered windows, and headlights were dazzling. There were shouts to "those who have fallen," and to "lasting peace."

Some sang popular songs to the accompaniment of mouth organs, haggips, and accordions.

This is V-Day in Europe, but the troops had the same 6.30 a.m. reveille as the same sausage breakfast an hour later.

And each man got a pint of beer with his dinner.

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Oddington was much smaller during the 1930s and 40s, all the houses were permanently occupied and most people worked locally. There were a number of farms, a Post Office and shop selling groceries and haberdashery and the school for the children of Oddington and Adlestrop.

The 'Big House' was occupied by the Talbot-Rice family. Rev. Bentley and his wife lived in the Rectory next door. During the war years Rev. Bentley was the Air Raid Warden and rode round the village on his bicycle blowing his whistle to warn us of a raid, when the bombers flew over, and again when all was clear. We were surrounded by aerodromes at Rissington, Moreton and Honeybourne but were lucky not to have any bombs. As well as our Identity Cards, Ration Books and clothing coupons, we were all

issued with gas masks which we carried with us everywhere.

There was an army camp up Adlestrop Hill and we were all excited when it was visited by King George VI in about 1942. This camp was eventually taken over by the American army and the soldiers were frequent visitors to Oddington - the Fox being the nearest pub!

We as children spent lots of time watching their convoys go past the turning on the main road and were very pleased to receive gifts of gum and 'candy' to supplement our meagre sweet rations. The soldiers also supported the Saturday night dances held in the village hall and we were fascinated to watch them doing the 'jitterbug' (now the jive) before we were shooed off home to bed.

We had a share of evacuees who

stayed for part of the war and I remember my mother not being too happy when our visitor passed on his nits (which were almost unheard of in our small community) to me as I then had rather thick curly hair.

Many of our fathers and brothers were in the forces and those not able to join up were employed on the land or at the aerodromes. Times were hard and rationing continued after the war ended, we hardly ever saw a banana or an orange but were lucky to have local fruit and vegetables from the allotments and, if we were lucky a rabbit for the Sunday pot. Although there was much celebration when the war finally ended, it took a while for those who returned to settle back into work and family life.

Margaret Lewis



Remembering the fallen from the Village

Frederick Lee Clifford was serving as a Private with the 5th (Territorial) Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry when he died of natural causes in the Radcliffe Infirmary on 3 December 1939. He was aged 25 and is buried in St Nicholas Churchyard.

Herbert Henry Clifford was serving as a Private with the 5th (Territorial) Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry when he died on active service in Northern Ireland on 21 June 1941. He was aged 21 and is buried in St Nicholas Churchyard.

Frederick and Herbert were the sons of Henry and Florence Clifford of Upper Oddington. Henry worked as builder's labourer and had served in France in the Great War as a motor driver in the Army Service Corps.

Francis George Gardiner was a Private in the 4th (Territorial) Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry when he was killed in action on 22 May 1940. He was aged 26 and is buried in Bruyelle War Cemetery in Belgium. His Battalion was sent to join the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in France in January 1940. When the German Army launched their invasion of the Low Countries on 10 May 1940, the BEF withdrew west towards the Dendre river and then further towards the Scheldt river. The Battalion was involved in action along the line of the River Scheldt (Escaut), south of Tournai. Private Gardiner was killed during the engagement.

Eric Gardiner, younger brother to Francis, was serving as a Gunner with "E" Troop, 246 Battery of the 62nd Anti-Tank Regiment, The Royal Artillery when he killed in action on 6 July 1944, aged 20. He is buried in St. Manvieu in Normandy. The 246 Battery was equipped with 17 pounder guns towed by converted Crusader tanks; Gunner Gardiner was a tank driver. They sailed from Tilbury on 5 June 1944 arriving off Mine Red Beach, Juno Beach at 1400 on D-Day 6 June before eventually being sent ashore on 7 June at 1730. Once ashore they saw in action in support of the Canadian 3rd Infantry Division. As part of a defensive outpost they beat off an attack by Panzer Grenadiers of the 12th SS Hitler Youth Division, suffering heavy casualties. On 4 July, "E" Troop supported the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade on an assault to capture Carpiquet Airfield. Against heavy resistance the Canadians managed to advance into the shattered village of Carpiquet. "E" Troop followed them in ready to support the next assault. At 2100 on Gunner Gardiner was killed during shelling.

Francis and Eric Gardiner were the sons of William and Miriam Gardner of Upper Oddington where William was a farm carter and cowman.

Hubert Leslie Hanks was a Corporal in the 2nd Battalion,

The Glasgow Highlanders, Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) when he died of his wounds on 16 June 1944, aged 30. He is buried in Bayeux War Cemetery. The 2nd Battalion was a Territorial served in England as part of the 46th (Highland) Infantry Brigade, 15th (Scottish) Infantry Division. They arrived on the Normandy beaches on 13 June 1944. They fought in the Battle of Normandy in Operation Epsom and the Second Battle of the Odon, during which Corporal Hanks was mortally wounded. He was the son of William and Emma Hanks of Upper Oddington. He married Dorothy Mary Couling, of Lyneham in June 1939, living at The Leys in the village and working as a hardware salesman.

George Albert Peters was serving as a Leading Supply Assistant on HMS Glorious, when he was killed on active service on 8 June 1940, aged 26. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, his body not being recovered from the sea. HMS Glorious was a Courageous-class battle-cruiser built during The Great War. She was rebuilt as an aircraft carrier in the 1920s. After the start of the Second World War in 1939, Glorious spent the rest of the year unsuccessfully hunting for the commerce-raiding German cruiser Admiral Graf Spee in the Indian Ocean before returning to the Mediterranean. She was recalled home in April 1940 to support operations in Norway. While evacuating British aircraft from Norway in June, the ship was sunk by the German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau in the North Sea with the loss of over 1,200 lives, including LSA Peters. He was the son of Thomas and Ethel Peters, sub-postmasters at Lower Oddington.

Claude Vernon Sedgley was serving as a Private in A Company, the 4th Battalion, The Royal East Kent Regiment when he was killed on active service on 24 October 1943. He was aged 26 and is commemorated on the Athens Memorial, having no known grave. The 4th Battalion Buffs was a 1st Line Territorial Army unit that served with the BEF in France in 1940. The Battalion was transferred to Malta in 1941, and served throughout the siege. They then joined the 234th Infantry Brigade, which took part in the disastrous Battle of Leros in an attempt to capture the Dodecanese Islands in late 1943. Private Sedgley had embarked on the destroyer HMS Eclipse bound for Leros when she hit a mine east off Kalymnos, breaking in two and sinking within five minutes with the loss of 119 of the ship's company and 134 soldiers from A Company, 4th Battalion, Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).

Richard Henry Sedgley was serving as a Sergeant in the RAF, when he died on active service on 12 January 1945. He was aged 19 and is buried at St Nicholas, Oddington. He had enlisted into the RAF Volunteer Reserve in 1944 and was training as an Air Gunner. He was completing his training with No 5 Lancaster Finishing School when on 12 January he took off from RAF Syerston in Nottingham aboard an Avro Lancaster on a night training exercise. After a 3-hour flight the Lancaster returned to Syerston but encountered failing visibility and low cloud. At about 0950 the aircraft overshot the runway and whilst banking crashed near the village of Hoveringham, killing all 7 aircrew.

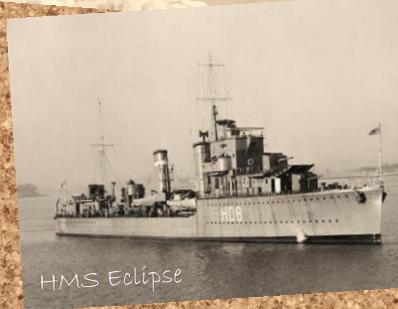
Claude and Richard were the sons of George and Kate Sedgley of Upper Oddington.



Avro Lancaster bomber



Capt. Paul Gaskell, Tpr. 1944



HMS Eclipse



17 pounder anti-tank gun towed by a crusader tank

To give you a bit of background, Paul Gaskell married Doreen Ball in 1940 and I came along in 1943 at Moreton Cottage Hospital. Dad had lived at Bledington Grounds, which his father had bought in the 1930s to retire to from his solicitor's practice in Kensington High Street. Mum worked on the perfume counter at Cavendish House, Cheltenham. Mum and Dad met on a "blind date". They were great friends with Tom and Ella Woodside who ran the Honey Pot, Tom always full of Liverpudlian humour, and later Ken Biggs the jolly rotund Manager of Barclays Bank. Oliver Farnworth ran the garage just down from the Unicorn on the Fosseyway at Stow; I was always impressed by the fact that, much later, he used to drive his Rolls-Royce wearing plimsolls.

When I was born, Mum and Dad were renting The Limes, now a B & B, in Tewkesbury Road, Stow, as Green Farm in Lower Oddington, over which they had taken a tenancy, was unfit for habitation. All my parents could hear in bed at night once they moved in was the sound of mice scampering through the attic. My brother Timothy arrived in 1946 and promptly caught a bad dose of ringworm. We were joined at the farm by

Mum's sister, Bette. Her husband, Arthur was away in the war. Bette worked at the American Camp at Adlestrop Hill. Apparently I was often showered in my pram with US sweets and nylons.

Some PoWs from a local camp were permitted to work on farms locally, due to the general manpower shortage with so many men called up to serve. We had some at the farm. On day, my pram somehow turned over with me in it, and when the PoWs went to help, our collie cross "Sandy" stood guard over me until my parents came to right me.

One night early in the war, the bells rang to signal the German invasion of the UK. Dad was in the Home Guard, and rushed upstairs to get his uniform and rifle. As he went downstairs to drive from Oddington to Stow, my Mother and her sister blocked his path and said he wasn't to leave them at home to be "raped by the German invaders". So he turned up with them at the Unicorn at Stow, which was the HQ of the Home Guard, and where Jack Lee, the proprietor, was Captain, only to be told it was a false alarm, what was he doing turning up with two women anyway, and called a few

rude names. No doubt they then repaired to the bar, if there was any beer, shortages being a constant feature. One incident recalled by them was that someone came into the Unicorn and shouted "They've got Woodbines (one of the cheapest brands) down at the Bell", and the pub emptied as all raced down to the Oddington Road to buy a few ciggies.

We only had one small field adjacent to Green Farm, so twice daily, the cows had to be walked up from our 240 acres mixed corn and arable, past old St Nicholas' church through the village (leaving nutritious deposits for the gardens on the way) to be milked. Later a milking parlour was built next to our big old barn to the right of the crest past the old church on the Bledington mud track to make things easier. I believe the barn was later converted into a house. Until well into the 1950s, there was no milk delivery service locally, and people would call up to our dairy room built into the farmhouse, and Dad would use a pint and half pint ladle to measure out milk into their own enamel jugs.

Jeremy J Gaskell