

## 1940

Jan 4 **The Gas Showrooms at 30 West Church Street** were advertising Portable Comfort gas fires.

**W.A. Milne, Newsagent and Tobacconist, 15 East Church Street** had an advert on front page.

**The new E.Tindal Scott & Co. had opened their new showroom at 17 High Street** and was advertising a great variety of gifts of all kinds. They pointed out too, that their ironmongery and other departments were still open at 1 High Street.

**Buckie built cargo boat lost** - The Norwegian-owned steamer, Torwood, built by Jones, Buckie in 1921, hit a mine in the North Sea on December 25 1939 west of Karmony, Norway. The crew were able to keep her afloat until morning, but then all 11 men left the ship in two lifeboats, four in one and 7 in the other. Only seven survived being rescued by the Danish ship Hild and taken to Skudenes.

The Torwood was built at Messrs Jones, Shipyard in Buckie and for many years was employed in the wood trade, as such was well known in its home port. It was sold to Norwegian owners a year or two ago.

**One hundred evacuees were entertained in the High School hall.**

**The ceremony of Burning the Clavie** at Burghead was banned this year because of the black out ban.

**Meat rationing precautions were brought into effect.** People were being advised to register for meat before the 8<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Police Sergeant Simpson was promoted to the rank of Inspector, remaining at Buckie.**

Let there be no lights shown - Peter McRobbie, barman at the St Andrew's Hotel was fined £1 by the sheriff at Banff for allowing light to escape from 3 large unobscured windows. (He was the first.)

**Opened but you canna buy a ticket for Keith** - The new Golf Clubhouse at Strathlene, formerly the old Highland Railway Station booking office etc. was now completed and opened.

**Four Buckie men were lost when the trawler Dunedin was bombed and sank by enemy action.** They were - George Smith, 4 Findlater Street, Portessie; Wm. Reid, 21 Bridgend; Wm. Paterson, 32 Seatown and Richard Mair, 38 Main Street.

**In his column 'Observer' gave a day by day account of the news.**

**Medal for Buckie man** - John Imlach Cowie, 38 High Street, was awarded the DSM

**A grandiose scheme indeed, a pie in the sky** - France had plans to construct a huge canal stretching from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean. This would cover a distance of 300 miles, be 450' wide and 45' deep at the minimum point.

Jan 11 **The government took over the Buckie slaughterhouse.**

**Why we must ration your butcher meat** - The reasons for the rationing of meat and other commodities were given in the B.A.

**A further extension to Seafeld Hospital** - An extension to Seafeld Hospital to provide a further 18 beds was opened this week by Dr Ledingham, Banffshire Medical Officer of Health.

Jan 18 **The columnists in the B.A. were Rambler and Observer.**

**We might be able to protect ourselves** - It was being said how trawler crews were sitting ducks with a clamour that they be provided with guns.

**The age limit for men required for RN Patrol Service was extended to 55.** They would be engaged for the duration of the war. Men were required as seamen, engineers, stokers, cooks and stewards. They would receive naval pay and allowances, free uniform, good food and marriage and children allowances also dependant's allowances.

**You can still get your reading requirements here** - The shop of W.F. Johnston, *Banffshire Advertiser*, was still advertising its Circulating Library department.

Jan 25 **The farm of Brankumleys on the Cluny estate was to let.**

**The ARP NEWS - The National Journal of Air Raid Precautions was on sale.**

**The scarcity of imported fruit had still to come** with Tom Paterson advertising Jaffa Oranges extra large at 2d each or 1/9 per dozen. Smaller ones at 1/- per dozen.

**He was showing ower muckle light in ae bit an nae enough in another** - A Portessie man was fined five shillings by the sheriff at Banff when his lamp on his bicycle did not conform to black out regulations. He had also no rear light and was fined a further 5/-

**Buckpool man feared lost** - Wm. Thain, 27, a Submarine Lieutenant of Gowanbrae, St Peter's Road, Buckpool, as missing feared lost.

**Buckie's crack marksman - Page 3** had a report on James Reid 1 Cluny Terrace who was reputed to have been the finest marksman with the rifle that Banffshire had ever produced. He shot in the Olympics for Scotland. He was at one time a big game hunter in South Africa.

Feb 1 **No Keith Show this year** - It was agreed at a meeting in Keith to suspend this year's annual show.

**Those on active service** - Page 5 gave a list of men and women from the town on active service

**We are not to play again until the war ends** - It was agreed that Buckie Thistle would not be playing again during the war.

Feb 8 **The annual seat letting operation in the North Church** was to take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**The Aberdeen Savings Bank had an advert reading "Lend To Defend -The Right To be Free"** - open an account with the ASB.

**Page four carried a list of those from Buckie on active service.**

**A further number of people were fined at Banff for black out offences.** Fines of £3 or twenty days were dished out. The case involving a Buckie fishcurer was declared to very bad.

**A person was fined 5/- for having no rear light on his bike.**

**A further three Buckie men lost their lives when the minesweeper Firefly was sunk** - they were - Alex Stewart, 35 Harbourhead, Buckpool, Peter Reid, 34 Main Street and John Cowie, 5 Titness Street. Wm. Geddes, 4 John Street, though injured, survived.

**The Provost suggested that the Provost's Park (Merson Park) be ploughed up to increase food production.** The two golf courses were let for sheep grazing to Mr McLean, Mill of Rathven.

Feb 15 **Canteen in the Drill Hall** - A canteen and recreation room for men serving in the armed forces is to be opened shortly in the Drill Hall. Volunteers wanted. Gifts of furnishings in the form of carpets, rugs, tables, chairs, cutlery kettles etc also a gramophone and mains wireless welcomed. Please contact Mrs Bruce, 17 Cluny Square, Hon. Secretary to the committee.

**Cod for sale 1/- per LB** contact J. Bage, 5 Low Street.

\*\*\* **The death took place of 'Nath' Robertson at Midway Cottage.** Nath and his donkey were familiar to many people as he went his rounds disposing of firewood and was always ready for the crack, his remarks being renowned for their wit. A number of years had gone by since infirmity meant he had to get rid of his donkey and for the last 16 years he had stayed at Midway Cottage where he was looked after by Mrs Thomson. The report said: "With the passing of Nath at the age of 80 this has practically removed the last of the local worthies." His funeral took place to the new Cemetery.

**First report of a C.O.** - Hugh McKenzie, 25 Sutherland Street, who registered as a Consciences Objector, agreed to join the RAMC, non-combatant regiment.

**The trawler, Robert Bowen was sunk by enemy action with two men with local connections lost.** George Ritchie, 52 St Peter's Road and Thomas McKechnie, a native of Peterhead but married to a Miss Costello of Buckie and living at Prospect Cottage, 2 Yardie.

Feb 22 **A fourth list of those from the Buckie area on active service is given on page four of the B.A.** Three Niven brothers of Blantyre Terrace were included also a John McIntosh, 20 Sutherland Street.

**The new school playing field at Buckie High School is to be ploughed up.**

Feb 29 **There was still fish to be had - dead or alive?** John Bage, Fishmerchant was advertising "Live Moray Firth Cod".

**The Drill Hall canteen was opened on February 22.** A number of sailors crowded in and were soon enjoying a refreshing cup of tea. The wireless, donated, was one of the main attractions but a number of others have been received.

**Died of injuries** - John Geddes, 16, 106 Main Street suffered serious injuries when he fell 23 feet off the roof of the power station on to concrete. Jackie Clark, 39 East Church Street who was painting along side fell on top of him and escaped with only minor injuries. John Geddes died in Seafield Hospital some days later from the injuries sustained.

(**Notes** - The power station building, mentioned above, which later formed part of Thomson's Shipyard was demolished in the last days of March 1999 when the whole shipyard area was cleared by the firm of demolishers, Lawrie, from Aberdeen. There were grounds for believing that the space, once completely cleared, would be made into a lorry car park, something badly need in Buckie. Neither the entrance at the Baron Street end or that at Low Street were ideal as they were, with probably some road alignment being necessary. The site was used in 2003 when a major sewage scheme was in progress but after this was completed the area became vacant once again. Also perhaps of interest the site of the former gas works on Baron Street was cleared in 2005 with a massive amount of contaminated soil, thousands of tons of soil, being shipped out to Teeside for de-contamination.)

Mar 7 **They moved from number 1 High Street** - E.Tindall Scott & Co., sole proprietor of E.T.Scott A.M.I.R.E. removed to 17 High Street where all the departments are now located.

**Notice of Sale - Motor and electrical business for sale in Buckie.** (No name given - Hillocks?)

**Page 4 carried yet another list of serving men and women from Buckie.**

**The Provost's Park will not be ploughed up** - It was decided, on advice being sought, not to plough up the Provost's Park because of the poor quality of the soil.

Mar 14 **The Banffshire Advertiser still cost only 2d. The first edition had cost 1d.**

**A Buckpool man was charged with striking his wife with a frying pan** and punching her about the body in several places. He was meantime in the army having been called up as a Territorial but was awaiting his discharge on medical grounds.

**More on active service** - Another list of serving men and women is given on page three

Mar 21 **Gas masks for young ones** - An issue of babies anti gas prohibitive helmets and small children's respirators were distributed.

**There seems no limit to their diversity** - The Co-op on East Church Street continued to expand with the latest being a birthday cakes.

**Enzie Amateur Dramatic Society** are to put on a performance of 'Cobblers Luck' in the Fishermen's Hall on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April in Aid of the Buckie Services Canteen.

Tickets - 2/- reserved, 1/6 and 1/-

Music by Barry McBeath.

The same play will be performed in the Enzie Public School on Thursday 28 March **with** four one act plays on the Friday.

Tickets - 2/-, 1/6 children 6d. All proceeds towards the Red Cross.

**He played a part in the chase** - A Buckie man was on board one of the vessels that chased the German battleship, Graf Spee, Wm. Reaich, 3 West Carlton Terrace.

**The death toll to date makes sad reading** - The B.A. gave a list of those from the Buckie area - Portgordon to Portknockie - that had lost their lives after 8 months of war.

**Findochty folk on active service** - On page four is found a list of those from Findochty on war service

**Cullen had no such list** though a minister there was making efforts to collect names.

**Two people were in for the license of the Star Bar.** Mrs McIntosh, a widow from Elgin and Wm. James Gray, 22 Bridgend.

**He deserves full marks for perseverance** - Robert Smith, 27 Rannes Place made yet another application for a Porter and Ale license for the above address.

**A POW** - AC1 William Cowie, 36 Great Western Road, Buckpool, was known to be a prisoner of war in Germany. He was allowed to broadcast a message to tell his people that he was well and being well looked after. He had been on a bombing raid over Germany when his plane was shot down but he came down safely by parachute. (Note the rank of William Cowie as a member of the aircrew. Shortly after all those on flying duties held the rank of at least sergeant.)

**The Thespians from the Clochan area** - Page 6 gave a report on the players etc following the latest performance by the E.A.D.S.

Those playing a part in 'Cobbler's Luck' were - Willie Potts, George Grigor, Mary Duncan, Sarah Forbes, Dolly Guthrie, Mary Adam, Dolly McCurrach, Charles Taylor, Frank Reid and James Thain. The producer was John H. Duncan

The stage settings were by James Adam and Ernest C. Smart while John Bonnyman saw to the lighting and Dr Gibson and Mrs James Mair Jun, make up.

**Those involved with the four one act plays were** - ('Pie In the Oven' ) Bertie Guthrie, Miss C.Paterson, Miss E.Paterson and J.Thain..  
 ('Nine Green Peas') - Charles Taylor, Sarah Forbes, Miss R.McBride and Wm.Goldie.  
 ('Eggs') - Misses E . C. and H.Paterson, R.Taylor, J.Ronald and W.Goldie.  
 ('The Wooin' O't') - Frank Reid, Mary Duncan, Mary Adam and George Grigor.  
 Music between plays by Jimmy and Willie Duncan.

Apr 11 **Buckie and District Fishermen's Benevolent Society had assets of £3,000**

**Opening announcement** - John Scott, 7 Samson Avenue - Chimney Sweeping during the evening.

**Shilling Fund** - The *Banffshire Advertiser* organised a Shilling Fund on behalf of the Services Canteen, which was proving to be a great success with 1,000 shillings, this week..

**The performance by the E.A.D.S. raised £49.12 for the Canteen Fund.**

**A recent two column in the B.A. were titled** - Portgordon Echoes and Findochty Flashes (The latter might have had different connotations in the late 1990's)

**Can you take an evacuee ?** - There was a big illustrated advert in the B.A. appealing for people to take in evacuees. The wording said, "Caring For this Boy Is Real National Service . Will You Be Neighbourly?"

**A poem is found on page 4 column 4 titled "A Query"** by A Sympathiser

**He still hasn't got a license** - Robert Smith had his application for a drink's license for 27 Rannas Place turned down again for the umpteenth time, while Mrs McIntosh didn't get the Star Bar.

**Portgordon folk in uniform** - A list of those on service from Portgordon was given on page 4 also some from Cullen.

Apr 18 **There was another Portgordon list of servicemen in this edition.**

Apr 25 **POW sends a letter** - A letter had been received from AC1 Cowie of Great Western Road now a P.O.W. in Germany who was recently heard on the wireless.

**Buckie man writes a story** - The B.A. is meantime carrying a serial titled "Tinted Tatters" a novel written by Charles R.Gordon (Buckie ) and set in the west coast.

**Columnists** - Rambler and Sociologist, no Observer now.

May 2 **Gordon Castle Golf Course opened for the season this week.**

May 9 **The annual pilgrimage to St Mary's Well, Orton, took place the previous Sunday**

**The following drapers were still advertising having plenty clothes for sale.** Both Hay's shops, Alex Esson, the Little Wonder, Shearer and James Mackay.

**A list of Findochty men in colours was given in this edition.**

\*\*\*\*\* **Did they accept and where might it be ?** - The Gordon Richmond Estates offered Buckie Town Council a drawing of a bathing machine with a sketch inset of the Shore of Buckie, mentioned in Burns' poem - Lady Onlie - Lady Lucky.

**The first lady solicitor, Miss Francis Hills, Buckie, graduated from Aberdeen University.**

**New hours for farm workers** - At a meeting between representatives of both the Farmers Union and Farm Servants Union the hours to be worked were as follows - weekdays - 7am to 11.30am then 1pm until 5.30pm. Saturday 7am until 12. During the harvest months of September and October the hours to be - 6.30am to 11.30am then 1pm until 6pm. During leading the hours to be 7am to 12 and from 1pm until 6pm.  
The practice of men having to attend to horses after suppertime to be discontinued.

May 16 **Opening announcement** - J.A.Forrest Electrician, 22 Low Street . Radios supplied and repaired. Batteries charged.

**Don't go looking for gow's eggs on oor grun** - Any person found trespassing on Aultmore Hill in search of gull's eggs or otherwise will be prosecuted - Seafield Estates.

**Some farm changes in the local area to take place at the May term are** - Forbes Howie is to move from Edendale on the Barhill Road to Holmie, Clochan switching with Mr Wm. Dean who was to retire there.

The farm of Wellheads to be added to Burnside of Tynet with Mr James Paterson leaving to take a farm near to Lhanbryd.

The Misses Stewart who gave up the tenacy of the Holl a few years before are to succeed Mrs Davidson in the neighbouring croft.

Mr Louis Stewart, grieve at Preshome is to become tenant of Parkhill belonging to Mr W.Ferguson and at present occupied by Mr Wm.Stewart who is moving to Gamrie.

Mr Wm.Redford, Upper Dallachy, is to move to the dairy farm of Linskfield, near Banff.

May 23 **I still own the Cluny** - Mr C.W.Thomson, a dedicated Templar and former rector at Buckie High School, who bought the Cluny Hotel off Buckie Town Council a number of years before (1923/4) to ensure that it remained 'dry' still owned the property. He was advertising a single room for an office from an address in Dalkeith Avenue, Glasgow.

**You must carry and produce your Identity Card** - A government order .

**Miss Bruce left Enzie Public School for Sandend as assistant head.** Miss Helen McKay came from Fordyce to replace her.

**The AGM of the Enzie Tennis Club** took place with the following officials being elected - President , Ben Sim vice president, James Geddes, secretary, Jean McKay, treasurer, George Grigor. Committee- John H.Duncan, James Duncan, James Thain, Alex Newlands, Misses, Sarah Forbes, Monica McLean, Joan McCurrach, Anne Corr and Mary Adam.

**E.Tindall Scott &Co. were advertising tiled grates of a modern design .**

**A list of those from Findochty on active service was given in this edition.**

**Five hundred pilgrims made the journey to St Mary's Well at Orton** with representatives from Banff, Aberdeen, Moray and Inverness. Among the number were 60 Canadian lumberjacks.

\*\*\*\*\* **Volunteers for the LDV wanted** - Following the call for new recruits for the new Local Defence Volunteer Corps the local police station was inundated with those seeking to enrol.

**A poem is found on page 6 column 3 "Thursday Night At 8"** by ARP  
Dedicated without permission to Dr Hendry and his ARP Personnel.

May 30 **Meeting of Welfare Committee** - A Special Meeting of Buckie and District Welfare Football Association is to take place in the pavilion at Victoria Park

**The Local Defence Volunteers** - In connection with the setting up of a local branch of the Local Defence Volunteers meetings were to take place in the Drill Hall, Buckie on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June and in Portgordon on Friday 7<sup>th</sup>. All volunteers are requested to attend this important meeting where Identity Cards must be shown.

**The new Rathven Parish Church Rambling Club** held their first ramble that took them to the Craigmin Bridge. For a second outing they reached the top of the Bin Hill.

**How do we salvage waste?** A large and enthusiastic meeting took place in Enzie Public School to consider ways of salvaging waste of various kinds. Convenors were elected for different parts of the district as follows - Adam Thomson, Ordie; James McCurrach, Muir of Holmie; Arthur Forbes, Farnachty; Alex Smith, Wester Bogs; Robert Shand, Glasterim; Alex Symon and J. Hutchinson, Broadley and Cowfurrich, respectively; Alex Shand, Chapelford. Some of the group to see to delivery to a central depot.

**A branch of the General Transport Union was formed in Buckie** with C.Smith, 42 Land Street being elected local secretary.

**The final list of Findochty folk in uniform was given this week.**

June 6 **Cluny House Hotel was now under new management** with Mrs Thomson being the leasee.

**Some farmers did well out of this as I know** - The government gave a subsidy of £2 for ploughing up land that had been over 7 years in grass. The land must be suitable for the growing of arable crops.

**Volunteers were required for Fire Parties to be trained in the use of stirrup pumps.** Apply to the Firemaster at the Town House. Thomas Beattie, Burgh Surveyor.

**Retreat from Dunkirk** - The paper carried stories about the evacuation from the beaches of Dunkirk of thousands of British and French troops. "It was Hell on Earth" as put by a Findochty man who was present.

*'The ATS In The Making' and article on this women's service is found on page 5*

**A Charity match was planned to take place between a Welfare League Select and Highland League Veterans in aid of the Canteen Funds and the Red Cross.**

The Select team to be - J.Clark, Findochty, T.Bruce, Thistle, F.Munro, Mosstodloch, J.Cowie, Findochty, A.Imlach, Thistle, J.Slater, Findochty, E.Smith, Rovers, G.Hendry, Keith F.C., W.Legge, Forres Mechanics, K.Imlach, Thistle. Reserves, D.Flett and P.McKenzie, Findochty.

**The game didn't take place being vetoed by the SFA red tape as being unauthorised football. A similar game was disallowed at Motherwell for the same reason.**

**Welfare League trophy winners** - At a meeting of Buckie Welfare League officials medals were handed over the representatives of the winning teams - Portgordon - League Champions, County Cup - Mosstodloch, Duncan and Commercial Cup - Findochty, Brown Cup - Rovers. The Thomson Cup wasn't played for.

Jun 13 **Gardens open to the public** - Miss F.W.Kynoch who moved from Strathlene to Firlands, Fochabers some years before opened her gardens to the public. The rock garden and Alpine lawn were said to be worth seeing.

**Two ex Buckie Rovers players missing** - The ex Rovers' football player, Charles Lobban was reported missing off the HM trawler, Argyleshire. John Geddes also a former Rovers' player was reported missing,

**The Rathven Church Rambling Club** held two rambles during the past week. On Wednesday, led by A.Crombie a party had climbed the White Ash to the monument while on Monday they had gone to Sandend.

\*\*\*\*\* **Norwegians and Danes** - A number of Norwegian fishing boats were now in Cluny Harbour as well as some Danish ones. A Norwegian fisherman off the Vita was fined for striking a Norwegian naval lieutenant off the naval vessel, Bjerek.

**Famous battlecry is heard** - - The slogan 'Standfast Craigellachie' the clan Grant, battlecry was the watchword given by General Wegand C in C of Allied Forces on Sunday past when the greatest land battle the world had ever seen took place between allied forces and Germans who were attacking along a 220 mile front.

**Sexy legs** - The columnist, Rambler, spoke of women getting their stockings out of a jar. With the absence of stockings they were painting their legs brown.

**E.Tindall Scott and Co. were advertising the 'Ewebank' washing machine.** 'Take the Drudgery Out of Washday'

June 20 **Didn't obey the curfew** - The first alien case involving the curfew took place. The person involved was a Norwegian who was absent from his ship after the permitted hours of 10.30pm. He was Kristian Magnus Rore, skipper of the Norwegian fishing boat, Vailet. He was found wandering on St Peter's Place, Buckpool, at 11.00 p.m. The curfew lasted from 10.30 p.m. until 6 a.m. Some Danes were fined for the same offence.

**Get your new ration books** - A Ministry of Food notice advised the public to get their new ration book and to register for the new period. With the shops which it was intended to deal with for meat and groceries etc.

**The names of more Buckie men now serving in the forces was given on page 5**

June 27 **The SCWS carried a big advert in this week's paper.** They had shops at both 18 East Church Street and also 36-38 East Church Street. The fleshing department was at number 18. They had the following departments at 36-38 - Bakers, confectioners, Grocers, Provision Merchants, Drapers, Boots, Shoes and Hardware.

**Other advertisers were** - Globe Supply Stores, John Taylor, Butcher, 57 Main Street, Wm. .Smith, Butcher, 10 Station Road, Portessie, J.A.Forrest, Electrician, 22 Low Street, Tom Paterson, Grocer, 27 High Street, The Little Wonder, Outfitter, 37 East Church Street.

James Robertson Monumental Masons, Branch at East Church Street(Entrance to the railway station), A.Hendry and Sons Funeral Undertakers, Carpenters and Joiners, 11 Land Street, Buckpool, W.F.Johnston and Sons, 13-15 West Church Street, Artificial Wreaths, Jamieson Cycle and Radio Stores, 22 Seaview Road, McHardy, Radio and Cycles, 31-33 East Church Street, G.P.Gibson, Chemist, 12 West Church Street.

**The dux medallist at Buckie High School** this year was Alexander Berkley Milne who also took the prize for Latin. Helen D.Howie, was dux of the Primary School.

**At the Buckie Thistle AGM the following directors were re-elected** - Wm.Smith, Jas. Wood (Glasgow), D.Reid, and J.L.McNaughton. Other directors being - D.K.P.Hector and M.Bunyan. A.L.B.Melvin to continue as manager with John W.Gordon as auditor.

**In aid of kitchen funds** - A sale of work was held in Enzie Public School in aid of school and soup kitchen funds. The sum of £37 was raised. The convenors at the various tables were teachers - Misses H and J. McKay, Miss Paterson also Mrs Duncan, Broadley and Mrs Hutchinson, Cowfurrich.

**'Buckie High School and The War.'** Is the title of an article found on page 5.

**Further advertisers at the time were** - Alex Hay, Drapers and Outfitters, 39-41 West Church Street, Buckie Gas Coy. 30 West Church Street, James Mackay, Draper, 5 East

Church Street, C.I. Shearer, Draper, 6-8 East Church Street, Donald McGregor, Watchmaker, Jeweller and Qualified Optician, 9 High Street, Thomas Lang, Optician, 29 West Church Street, E. Smith, Burnside Stores, Findochty, Geo. Robertson, Draper etc, Cullen.

**Peter Bain, P.E. Teacher at Buckie High School left** to take up a similar post at a school in Fifeshire.

**Enzie Public School closed for the summer on Friday.** Before leaving the pupils were entertained to tea by parents and members of the soup kitchen committee. Helping the staff were Mrs Duncan, Mrs Farquhar, Mrs Angus and Mr A. Forbes.

**Grow and eat plenty salad crops** - A Ministry of Food notice advised.

Jul 11 **A brave rescue** - James Milne, 10, of 6 St Peter's Road, was saved from drowning by cripple Leslie Boyne, 13 of 20 Merson Street. Leslie had his leg broken the year before and it had never set properly. The rescue took place at Buckpool harbour where a number of children were 'dookin'

**To sending evacuee British children abroad** - Discussions were taking place regarding sending evacuee children from Britain, including Banffshire, to Australia and Canada. The Portknockie provost, said that this was a farce.

**W.S. Hendry was appointed apprentice burgh surveyor.**

**An air raid shelter was to be built in Cullen but no evacuees would be arriving.** This was official none were to be arriving in Findochty either being two areas not to be used for reception purposes.

**Free and cheap milk for some** - This was to be given to expectant mothers, nursing mothers and children under 5 and not yet attending school.

July 18 **The public was being told to Register For Cooking Fats.**

**The local paper had a number of 'columns'** namely - 'Do You Know?' The 'Day's Work' by Spike, 'Fireside Talk O' Aul' Freens' and by the 'Rambler', 'Sport of the Week'.

**A poem is found on page 6 column 6 'Missing'** by Miss E.J. Mair. Portknockie.

Jul 25 **Watchmaker and Jeweller to close** - F.F. Angler, Watchmaker and Jeweller 18 West Church Street died. He had been in business in Buckie for a long time but now his family had chosen to close down. The following notice appeared in the B.A. The shop will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 6, 7 and 8 August from 10-1 and from 2-6 in order that customers may call and obtain delivery of articles belonging to them. The proprietors will not hold themselves any further responsibility in the matter after this date.

**A landslide on East Church Street at the house, Braehead,** belonging to Co. Brunton, which took away the garden, wall and part of the garden. A previous landslide had seen part of the bank outwith the garden wall slip down on to the station ground.

**In the interim War Budget** the Chancellor of the Exchequer put the Income Tax up from 7/6 to 8/6 in the pound. Beer went up 1d a pint, wines, (light) 2/- a gallon and tobacco a penny haepenny per ounce. There was also to be an increase in Entertainment Tax.

\*\*\*\*\* **Bombs were dropped on a north east town with two women being injured.**

Aug 1 **The rules regarding the playing of football on Victoria Park appeared to have been relaxed** with a game planned between Slipway United and Portsoy in aid of Red Cross Funds.

**Fines for black out offences ranged from £1 to £3.**

**Promotion** - Chief Skipper, George Thomson, 9 Hall Street, was promoted to skipper lieutenant. He had been in the RNR since 1914. He gained the DSC in the last war at the Dardanelles. He was at the time engaged in minesweeping.

**Proved to have been those of a rabbit** - The bones which were found the previous year when men were doing some excavating at the 'Three Mou'd Cave' are now known to have been those of **a prehistoric Arctic rabbit.**

Aug 8 **Alex Hay' 'Ladies Shop' 41 West Church Street** had the advert - "Let Us Make Up Your Curtains"

**Should we have an air raid** - E.Tindall Scott & Co. were advertising ARP necessities, the things you should buy now and had in stock - stirrup pumps, incendiary bomb shovels and sand buckets, windolite, wired throughout safe against flying glass, black out felt, splinter-proof solution for treating glass.

**New use for school playing field** - Buckie High School pupils had cultivated and planted a four-acre field, former play area, with carrots. Unfortunately they were a big attraction to some and a number of the carrots had been pulled out. (In 1944 while a third year pupil there I helped Henry Scott to cut a road round a field of barley to allow the binder to work. He used the scythe and I bound up the sheaves.)

**LDV now called Home Guard** - The pay rates for men of the Home Guard were - those on continuous duty from 5-10 hours to be paid 1/6 for each period while those on duty over 10 hours 3/-.

**The first 'black out' offender in Cullen was Salavatore Rizza 45 Seafeld Street, who was fined £1.** He said that one of the girls working in the shop had left the door ajar momentarily.

**Many not missing now but prisoners.** - A number of the men of the Gordon Highlanders who had been previously been posted as missing were now known to be POW's, among them being former Territorials from the Buckie area. (They were captured at St Valery sacrificed to halt the German advance to allow others to escape through Dunkirk. Those captured there had to walk a long, long way to prison camp and incarceration for five years.)

**Slipway United beat Portsoy in a return Charity game.**

Slipway United (Jones) team was - D.McKnockater, J.Sinclair, H.Innes, H.Milne, A.Geddes, J.Coull, R.Esslemont, J.Roy. E.Smith, J.A.Farquhar, J. Forbes.

The two Massons in the Portsoy team, Willie and Frank both played for Buckie Thistle late in 1939 and earlier this year. W.Knowles was referee.

Aug 15 **A dance was advertised to be run by the L.D.V. in the Drill Hall.** Although the term had now been succeeded by Home Guard.

Aug 22 **Barley for sale** - Buckie Town Council were advertising for sale a field of barley at Strathlene (football park)

**An ARP dance was to be held in aid of the 'ambulance fund' in the Town House** Admittance 2/6 with tea. The sum of £24 was raised making £18 clear.

The band was the Melody Makers, Elgin, late of the Oakwoods.

**Similar dances were to take place each Wednesday for an extended period in aid of the above fund.**

**Slipway United were challenging all comers to a game in aid of charity.** This was taken up by a Thistle team - Wood, Geddes and Nicol, Middleton, Smith and Ross; Legge, Hendry, Imlah, Hay and McIntosh. The Thistle won 4 -0

**The re-opening of the school after the summer break was delayed owing to a lack of air raid shelters.**

**An ambulance is required** - There was a need for an ambulance in Buckie and immediate area for they had not owned one for some years.

**Buckie was being noted as having a bad record for black out offences.**

**Big fish prices - all right for some** - Fish prices reached a high level at Buckie during the week with haddocks selling at **98/- per box with mixed whittings 56/- per box.**

**A new column had been introduced** titled - 'Items From The County'

**School re-opening still postponed.**

**A poem is found on page 6 column 3 "Temptation"** the first by J.C. Portgordon who was to write many more.

**Home Guard to run three teams** - The Sports' Committee of the Home Guard decided that they would run three football teams under the names - Spitfire, Hurricane and Defiant. (The names of three WWII fighter planes). The team managers to be, Jim Ross, John A. Wilson and W. Knowles.

It was said that they might be able to form a league drawn from Fochabers, Elgin, Lossiemouth and the local area.

**Didn't they do well** - The youngsters from the top of the brae in Buckpool held a concert in aid of the Red Cross and Canteen Fund. The youngsters were all under 11 years of age and among the artistes was Isobel Gordon of 16 James Street. The sum of £5.12 was raised. (A good effort when you take into account what the sum would be equal today in 1999. I didn't know Isobel then but came to know her very well some years later.)

Sept 5 **A dance was to be held in aid of the 'Spitfire Fund'** in the Town House on 13 September. Music by Bill Geddes. Admittance 1/6.

**Buckie War Comforts Fund were applying urgently for knitters.** *Wool could be supplied from the W.V.S.*

**The question being asked was - Should Buckie have an ambulance?** This was not a new question with the resounding answer being yes. A concerted effort was to be made to gather funds to acquire one

Sept 12 **School hours at BHS to be staggered** - There was movement on the re-opening of the schools with a notice in the B.A. advising pupils when they should first come back. At Buckie High pupils in 4,5 and 6 were told to report at 10 am on Tuesday 17 September with 3a,3b and 3c at 11 am. Other schools had different times.

**Fish prices were considerably lower than they had been some weeks before** - haddock were selling for 60/- per box; whittings 54/- per box with lemon sole and plaice, 21/- 25/- per stone.

**Now known to be prisoners** - The names of more Gordon Highlanders now in German hands was given in this edition of the B.A.

**During the first 50 weeks of the war a total of 349 medals of the DFC were awarded to flying officers with 251 DFM's to airmen, 52 of whom were sergeant pilots.**

**Portgordon Children's concert** - The children of Portgordon put on a concert in aid of charities with the names of all the artistes given. **A poem** was written about their effort by local poet Mrs Jessie Campbell, Portgordon, titled, "The Concert". **This is found on page 5 column 1**

Sept 19 **The local paper was now smaller than it had been** . People were told that it had reverted to a former size with different paper being used.

**Collision causes death of Buckie lorry driver** - A Buckie lorry driver, Gilbert Wright, was killed at the crossroads at Mosstodloch when his lorry was in collision with an army vehicle.

Sept 26 **£500 - the cost of a new ambulance** - It was stated that a new ambulance would cost £500, at least, with people being asked to help by giving of their pennies and pounds and supporting all events set up to raise funds towards this.

**The re-opening of schools in the Buckie area** - At Buckie High all last sessions secondary pupils were asked to attend at 10 am with all new entrants at 2 p.m., including pupils from Primary 5.

In the primary department, all pupils of the previous year from 1 to 4, together with new entrants, were asked to attend at 10 am with all the previous year's infant classes at 2 p.m.

**At Enzie Public School infants were asked to attend at 10 am with all others at 11 am.**

**The RAF wants you** - A Royal Air Force officer is to be in attendance at the Labour Exchange to try to encourage men and women to join the RAF where there are vacancies in all trades.

**Buy now before the advent of Purchase Tax** - E.Tindall Scott and Co. mentioned in his advertisement this week that Purchase Tax would soon be added to the cost of all the goods which they stocked and advised buying requirements there and then and save from 3/4 to 6/8 in the £

**Buckie and District Ambulance Association was formed this week** when representatives from the Town Council's of Buckie, Findochty and Portknockie together with other interested organisations held a meeting in the Town House .

**Addressed to all relatives** - A public notice directed to relatives of POW's also missing Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen and those killed in action was found on page 7 columns 5 and 6. In the case of POW's it explained how to send parcels and letters ,with those missing it told how information might be got, also how to get deceased soldiers effects.

Oct 3 **Ironmonger to retire on health grounds** - L.T.McGarth (known to many as Billy) had an advert in the local paper to say that he was to retire from business on health grounds. His stock of hardware was to be sold daily until sold out. The emigration business was to be carried on as usual.

**A poem is to be found on page 5 column 5 titled "Dunkirk"** written by J.C. Portgordon.

**A football team from the shipyard of Herd and McKenzie's was beaten by a team from Portknockie.** A star in the Portknockie team was Willie Mackie who was described as **"a bloomin' streak o' lightnin'**

The **Portknockie** team was - J.Slater, T.Bruce and J.Cowie; D.Wood, P.Duff and G.Slater; W.McPherson(Mackie), A.Duncan, P.Wood, P.McKenzie and F.Mair.

**H & M** - D.Bruce, C.Munro and A.Wheeler, J.Slater, D.Pirie and Adam Cowie; G.Slater, A.Falconer, D.Anderson, A.Cowie and G.Bruce.

Oct 10 **A poem is found on page 2 column 3 titled "Youth In The Skies"** by Herbert Asquith (good)

**A new sound in the local cinema** – Buckie Playhouse Cinema is to introduce the new microphone sound as had been recently demonstrated in London.

**A strange offence** - For having caused his car to stop on a prohibited road near to a filling station an Enzie farmer, Mr George Grant, Bogs of Cairnfield, was fined at Elgin Sheriff court.

**Half way there** - The fund set up to purchase an ambulance for Buckie and area had reached £218.12.5

**A poem is found on page five titled 'The Wind'** written by J.C. Portgordon

**"Brilliant keeper saves Cullen from heavier defeat against Portknockie"** The keeper was Jimmy Findlay who was to star for Buckie Thistle after the war. The **Cullen** team was - J.Findlay, W. Robertson and J.Geddes; F.Masson, G.Smith and J.Murray; D.Findlay, W.Rothnie, A.Legge, A.Shearer and W.Masson.

Oct 17 **Sale at the sawmill on the Buckie Burn** - Mr Duncan who had continued the turning mill started by his father at the sawmill on the Buckie Burn had recently died. He lived at Clifton House on South Land Street. His house and machinery at the mill were now being advertised for sale. (It may be remembered that his father died after sustaining injuries when falling, on the ice coming down the steep slope to the mill)

**A grand Amusement Fair in aid of the Buckie Ambulance Fund** is to take place in Buckie Primary School hall and bell room on Saturday 26 October from 3pm until 10.30 p.m.

There is to be a treasure hunt, shooting gallery, miniature golf, fortune telling, darts, KinKan, Wheel Em In. In fact all the fun of the fair.

**All the stalls to be manned by members of the peacetime and auxiliary fire service.**

"Come and spend a bright hour or two - come and spend a bright shilling or two in a good cause"

**Death came suddenly** - The death took place on Monday of L.T. McGarth (Lawrence T. McGarth) ironmonger, 18 Cluny Square only days after he had intimated his intention to retire.

He came to Buckie from Elgin 50 years before to take over the former shop of Mortimers at I High Street. Later he built the block of two shops and houses on the north east quadrant of the square before again moving to set up shop in the property once owned by Dr Duguid at the corner of Cluny Square and West Church Street. He had at one time an extensive business with the fishing industry, as an ironmonger, but was also a cycle agent. He took a keen interest in the affairs of the town and was for a period a Town Councillor. He also carried on for a long time the business of an emigrant agent. He was 86 years of age and unmarried.

Oct 17 **The Ambulance Fund was now up to £427.18.6**

Oct 24 **George Webster, motor mechanic got his license back after 10 months.** He had been fined £15 and banned from driving for 12 months for speeding. The sheriff said that the offence had been for speeding not drinking. He formerly had a large business but this had now been lost and was working as a motor mechanic for which his license was almost a necessity.

**A poem by J.C.Portgordon is found on page 5 column 1** titled - "Portgordon Mistrels"

**A second poem is to be found on the same page and column titled "The Channel Patrol"** by AB G.,M.Reaich

**The Enzie Amateur Dramatic Society held their annual general meeting** last week in the school. It was stated that they still had a balance of £9 despite giving contributions towards the Red Cross.

Members of the committee elected were - Mrs Geddes Enzie P.O., Misses, Adam and Corr also Mary Duncan, James Adam, J.Bonnyman, George Grigor and James Thain. P.Urquhart was re-elected President with John H.Duncan as vice and Miss J.McCurrach, secretary.

It was decided that Mr Duncan would produce a 3-act play in the last week of December with Miss Corr producing a series of one-act plays. One to be produced on each evening of social meetings held monthly if possible during the winter months.

It was agreed that there was a lack of rural entertainment during the winter and it was hoped that these monthly meetings would not only supply that need but that it might be possible to add to the entertainment of any troops who may be in the vicinity.

Mr Bonnyman was to be responsible for organising community singing and Miss Adam convenor of the ladies committee responsible for refreshments. In addition it was agreed that whist drives and dances would add variety to these evenings.

**The new microphone, an event of some importance, was set up in the Playhouse this week**

**The Ambulance Fund was going well** with the sum of £848.19.11 now having been collected.

Oct 31 **I'll sweep yer lum at nicht** - John Scott 7 Samson Avenue, Craigbo, was advertising his services as a chimney sweep after 6 p.m. in the evenings.

**I go to Aberdeen ilka day an kin cairry ony stuff ye hae** - Charles Alexander was advertising that he had a lorry going to and from Buckie to Aberdeen as a carrier daily and was prepared to pick up and deliver goods. he was also prepared to do some local work.

**Who wood have done that ?** A real mean theft -somebody stole the cross bar off the goal post at Portknockie .

**The Home Guard held their first parade this week** when they paraded through the town in uniform preceded by the pipe band.

**The new organised football league was set to kick off** with a match between a Home Guard side (Spitfire) and a service eleven.

The Home Guard team to be chosen from the following players - Wood, Penwright, Sinclair, Legge, H.Milne, J.M.Ross, Marshall, H.Innes, E.Smith, W.Hay, G.Hendry, D.Flett, R.Esslemont, Jas. Cowie, Jas. Coull and D.A,Anderson.

**The Ambulance Fund had now reached £1,018.13.2**

**Those serving in the Navy** - A list of Buckie men serving with the navy is given in this edition.

**So they'll know who you are** - W.F.Johnston and sons were advertising the sale of identity discs to be worn on the wrist.

**There was to be no service at the Cenotaph in London on November 11<sup>th</sup> this year.**

Nov 7 **Is this what is known as the spread effect ?** The SCWS were still expanding their activities, advertising that they were now an agency for laundry.

**A dance has been advertised to take place in the 'Buckpool Hall'** off Sutherland Street on the Saturday night, starting at 8 o'clock to music by Bill Geddes. Admittance 1/-

**This hall was built for the Good Templars by Arthur Campbell, Joiner, in the 1930's and in 1999 was still standing and being used as a garage on St Helena Brae.**

**Buckie Church Council were to hold a Service of Remembrance in the North Church on Sunday November 10** at 3 p.m., with a special collection for the Earl Haig Fund.

**There was to be no Armistice Service held this year** though the Town Council were to lay a wreath at the war memorial.

**The B. A . carries a report on the farming scene** - For some time now the B.A. has had a column titled 'Agriculture' in which different features connected with farming are taken through hand. A separate column gives information on stock prices etc at Keith, Elgin and Cornhill marts.

**Air raid shelter was to be built on St Peter's Place, Buckpool.**

**Books are required** - An appeal has gone out for books of all kinds for men serving in the forces.

**You must keep walking or dance on the spot** - It is quite a crime in 1940 to be seen loitering, i.e. sitting on a window sill or just standing speaking for some time. Two girls were charged for loitering by sitting on the window sill of W.F. Johnston, 'Advertisers'. At the court one was admonished while the other was put under arrest when she didn't turn up at the court.

**One councillor was known to have declared - " Loitering on Buckie streets is a disgrace and has to be stamped out"**. (Looking back one might say that the beaks had little tae dee.)

**Football reports** - In the Welfare League the Home Guard beat the Service Side by 3 goals to 2 while Portknockie beat the Argosians by the same score. A lot of the former Thistle players were now with the Home Guard.

**Playing for the Argosians were** - French, G.S.Murray, K.Imlach, J.Slater, G.Sandison S.Dawson, W.Hendry, P.McKenzie, G.Slater, J.C.Campbell,F.Baxter.

**Mrs Jessie Campbell, Portgordon had another poem in the B.A. as found on page 3 column 3** and titled "The Aeroplane".

**In the column titled 'District Flashes'** mention was made of Sir James and Sir Neil Cantlay, both Banffshire loons, both celebrated surgeons in London and brothers of Mrs Reid, farmer at Burnside of Enzie.

**Another two columns found in the B.A. of the day** are 'Said on Sunday - Chiefly for Children' and 'Childrens' Corner'

**On page 7 was found another list of Buckie men on war service.**

Nov 14 **It has been said some people make money in war-time** - Haddocks this week made 102/- per box with whittings 92/-, small flat fish 1/- and 2/- soles and plaice 27/- per stone and large codlings 13/- per stone.

**Dances pay off handsomely** - The dances held in the Town House in aid of a Welfare Fund for local soldiers and sailors are proving to be very popular. At a charge of 1/- for admission, which includes tea, the sum of £13 was taken in representing 130 couples. A large number were unable to get in. After paying the expenses of band and hall the organisers were left with the handsome sum of £8.16. To stop overcrowding it was decided that the admission charge would go up to 1/6 for civilians though still 1/- for servicemen.

**This week the 35 year olds registered for military service.** There was one C.O. 14 went to the Navy, 9 to the RAF with the remainder of the 45 bound for the Army.

**Ambulance for Buckie now in sight** - With the sum of £1,200 now collected an ambulance for Buckie and area was now very much in sight.

**Baxter's, Fochabers, were offering 1/6 each for rabbits.**

**A poem is found on page 8 and column 5** written by AB George Reaich, HMS Holly and titled "The Sweepers"

Nov 21 **Those with studded boots not allowed in** - A dance is to be held in the Town House in aid of Welfare Funds - admission for H.M.Forces and ladies 1/-. Gents 1/6 only a limited number allowed in. Nobody to be allowed wearing boots with studs. The Town Council worried about the effect on the floor of the hall were appealing for dance shoes for those without. Tea was still being served with Bill Geddes supplying the music.

**A roup was to take place at the Rathven smiddy** lately occupied by Douglas Holms

**Dances to take place in the 'Buckpool Hall' every Friday from 8-1 and on Saturday from 8-11.** Admission 1/- with music provided by the Melodymakers, formerly of the Oakwoods Motel, Elgin.

**The ARP are to hold a dance in the Town House on Wednesday evening.** Admission Ladies 2/-, Gents 2/6 with servicemen 1/6 Music by the Melodymakers. (They were cashing in with increased admission charges.)

**A dance was also take place the same evening in the Drill Hall under the auspices of the Home Guard.** Admission charges Ladies and servicemen 1/6 with gents 2/- - Geddes's Band

**On Saturday night with a restriction on the crowd 100 couples were** at the Town House dance.

\*\*\*\*\* **The police were to change to trousers from the breeches and puttees formerly worn.** Chief Inspector Strath, Banff, was not too pleased saying how he still had a large stock of breeches etc

**There will be millionaires in Buckie** - The price for haddocks had risen to **115/- a box** with lemon sole up to **33/- per stone.**

\*\*\*\*\* This can't be right - **At this time there were a number of letters in the B.A. criticising C.O.'s (Consciences Objectors).** It was being said that some were still going to sea and catching fish, being sold for a high price, while all servicemen were being paid a pittance and putting their lives at risk

Nov 21 **Some were still obsessed with people loitering it appeared** One read that penalties for loiterers was to be increased. (Was there not a war on , it seems ridiculous from here fifty years later.)

**A poem is found on page 5 titled 'Sons of the Sea'.** Written by AB.George Reaich HMS Holly

**He could remember the Buckie Riots** - A man died in Banff at the age of 81 who had moved to Macduff from Portgordon with his parents in 1860 at the time of the **Buckie Riots** when differences of opinion led to much bitterness and cleavage. His father was hounded for helping the police. The riots were instigated when the Parochial Board, largely controlled by the land owners of the area proposed making the townspeople pay higher taxes. A meeting was held in Cluny Square where the heritors were pelted with divots, which had been purposely gathered there before hand.

**An article is found on page 7 - "Women's' Role In the War"**

**New owners of Square Hairdressers** - Messrs A.& C. Cole Hairdressers, who recently took over the business on Cluny Square once owned by Menzies and later J & A Wiseman were giving information on closing times. (Like many other shops its use changed quite

often after Charlie Cole gave it up one use was as Greengrocer and Florist. Today in 1999 it is being used as a Ship's Chandlers )

**Bill Geddes's band from Tynet was extremely busy at this time.** Adverts told of the band being down to play on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday, 5,6,7 and 9<sup>th</sup> December at the Town House and on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> at Rathven. He could quite possibly been playing elsewhere on Tuesday and Wednesday. Playing music probably paid better than did farming.

**The columnist 'Critic' gave a run down on the teams in the Welfare League**

**A poem is found on page 5 column 4 titled "Conchies" by Pro Patria.**

**A poem is found on page 2 by J.C.Campbell, Portgordon, titled "Life"**

**Purchase Tax was now in operation** and E.Tindall Scott and Co. were stating that goods coming in were to cost considerably more than those still in stock.

Dec 12 **The fund for the ambulance had now reached £1,125.14 1**

**Fines** – for failing to stop at Halt sign – 5/-  
 No lights on bicycle – 2/6  
 Blackout offence – 10/-

Dec 19 **Butcher chose to advertise** - Charles Stewart, Butcher, High Street, Buckie had an advert in the paper. This was the first time this had been seen.

Dec 26 **A Youth Club at Arradoul perhaps** - A meeting took place in the Arradoul Rural hall with the purpose of looking into starting a Youth Club in the area.

**A poem is found on page 6 column 3 titled, "The Aged of Buckie".** By R.Jappy.

**Another poem is found on page 7 column 6 titled, "A Kiddies Open Letter To Santa"** by J.C. Portgordon.

**Only a very brief editorial account** - Unlike previous years the editor did not give much of a summing up of the past year apart to say that the only building work was related to the war (e.g. air raid shelters). With so many fishermen now on active service there was a big reduction on the amount of fish being landed. The war appeared to have had little effect on trading within the town, with apart from the rationing of certain commodities one would have to say that there was little difference from peace-time.