

## 1943

Jan 7 **They got their pay up** - Farm servants were to be paid a minimum of 60/- weekly with actual wages being paid ranged from 64/- 65/-.  
This was nearly double that of six years before and nearly treble that of thirty years before, but the cost of living index for December 1<sup>st</sup> was 101 points higher than the July 1914 level.

**Lost at sea through enemy action** - Peter Cowie MN - 25 - son of Mr and Mrs Alexander Cowie 'Duncan' of 9 Titness Street. The boat he was on was enroute to Russia when all hands on board were lost.

Showing in the Playhouse this week was - James Mason with Mary Clare etc in the film "The Night Has Eyes".

**Boxing a popular attraction** - There was to be another tournament with a return challenge match between Vaughan (Coventry) and Billy Stevens (Tillicoultry) for a purse of £50 (winner taking all).  
Ringside seats - 6/-, others 4/- and 2/6. Vaughan won the contest.

**The house Auchendour on Queen Street was for sale.** It had been then the home of Mrs Shearer who had recently died. The Hillocks family occupied the house for many years after this date.

**No answer yet given** - The writer who previously wrote asking that the names of the Welfare Society committee be made known was still awaiting an answer. He said that he had felt it unwise to call on Provost Merson to find this information out. A bit like the fly and the spider, he said. The writer was of the opinion that all was not as it might have been. The writer appeared to be quite critical of those people he did know who were members.

**A poem written by J. C. of Portgordon is found on page 4 column 2.**

Jan 14 **Died of wounds** - Pte James Bain, Black Watch, husband of Margaret Geddes, 13 Titness Street was reported to have died of wounds. They had only been married for 8 months. He belonged to Kelty in Fife and had been a butcher before being called up.

**Presumed lost at sea** - James Mackay, Chief Engineer, MN. He was 52 and formerly lived in Portessie.

A new councillor - James McRae of McRae, Duggie and McPherson, Fish Salesmen was co-opted on to the town council.

Councillor John Milton, who always was one to speak his mind, said how the election had been rigged. He had voted for another person.

**ATC news** - Mr Buchannan, a former pilot in the RFC and presently Excise Officer at Inchgower, was to become Adjutant of Thistle Squadron, ATC.

Jan 21 **The death took place of Robert Grant, Retired Draper,** Westlea, West Church Street. He was 77 and a son of Mr Alexander Grant, Crofter, at Auchentae. One of his sons was still alive in the year 2000 and living in Fochabers, known to many as 'Dickie' Grant.

**A boxing show** - The Fishermen's Hall was packed to capacity to watch the latest boxing tournament. Jimmy Gordon, Buckie, beat Manson Ross, Keith, over six rounds. Jimmy was to have many fights after this date and was known to cycle through to Elgin on a tandem, have a paid fight and then cycle home. Vaughan won the £50 challenge fight when he beat Stevens by a knock out in the 11<sup>th</sup> round of a 12 round contest.

Jan 28 **A further boxing tournament** is to take place on February 5<sup>th</sup> within the Fishermen's Hall. Both Vaughan and Stevens are to be on the bill but up against different opponents. The promoter for this as the others is to be Stoker 'Bert' Smith.

**The new postmaster at Buckie** is to be Mr Gilbert Johnston who will take over from Mr James Kerr who has been promoted and moved to Leven.

**The new elders appointed to Enzie North Church are** – John Mowatt, Blair of Tynet, Alex Reary, Portgordon, Alex Reid, Portgordon, Andrew Stewart, Holl Farm, Charles Taylor, Mill of Tynet, George Innes, Portgordon.

**A poem is found on page 4, column 3 titled 'The Buses' by Rise Jock.**

Feb 4 **Killed on Active Service** - Skipper James Reid, RNR, 31, was reported to have been killed on 25 July, 1942 while on active service. He was the only son of Mr and Mrs Alex Reid, St Elmo, Portgordon.

**The RAF paid a further recruitment visit to the Labour Exchange in Buckie.** The vacancies were solely for aircrew this time. Men up to the age of 32 accepted for training as pilots, navigators, bomb/aimers, wireless operators/air gunners and flight engineers. There were 12 trade openings for women up to the age of 43.

**A poem by 'Seagull' on page three of this edition,** describes W.D.D. of Glasgow, a former Buckie loon in critical terms. He had previously written a poem in the B.A. which obviously 'Seagull' took exception.

**The B.A. as usual carried a number of letters on different topics.** Over the years one had admire how well written they always were and interesting to read.

**A poem is found on page 4 column 4 titled 'The Sifting of Peter'.** This is religious in content and written by 'Sodger'.

Feb 11 **Drowned at Algiers** - AB John William Coull, MN, son of Mr Alex Coull, 2 Cathedral Street, Buckpool.

**POW with Japs** - Word has been received by his parents at Deskford Street, Cullen that their son, Flt/Sergeant Charles A. Goodall had been taken prisoner by the Japanese.

**Cycling on pavements** – It was interesting to note how this was and had been a problem in Buckie for a long time. In the year 2000 Buckie Community Council had enlisted the services of the local MP, Mrs Margaret Ewing, to see if new laws might be brought in to have people fined on the spot for cycling on pavements and also those without lights. This law was already in operation in England and in Wales.

The B.A. of this date in 1943 spoke of an apprentice engineer from Portknockie who had been charged with cycling on the pavement at Marine Place. He was fined 5/- (a considerable sum) though the probation officer pleaded on his behalf for admonition.

**A poem is found on page 4, column 5 titled 'When They Leave The M.E.'** by C.P. Portgordon.

Feb 18 **Army Cadet Force** - A meeting is s to take place in the Town House Hall, Buckie, on Tuesday 23 February 1943 to make arrangements for the formation of a unit of the ACF.  
Col. Commandant, H.S. Tawse TD of Aberdeen is to address the meeting. Parents and all interested in Boys' Welfare were invited to attend.  
Boys from 14 are also invited to attend and it is hoped to make enrolments at the end of the meeting.

**Enzie Young Worshippers** - At the morning worship in the Church of Scotland (Enzie) the following received prizes in connection with the Young worshippers League for 1942.

Girls - Joan Chambers, Flora Martin, Margaret Sutherland, Dorothy Robertson and Irene Thomson

Boys - Alex Wilson, Colin Cruickshank, George Milne, Eric Lyon, George Lawtie, Alex Matthews, Alistair Reid, Ian Crombie and James Robertson .

**The death took place of Charles Mitchell, Carpenter, Broadley.** He had come to the Enzie 40 years before from Grange. He left a widow and 2 daughters.

Feb 25 **Presumed killed in action** - CPO James Smith Innes, RNR, son of the late George Innes, fisherman, and Mrs Innes, 19 Bruce Avenue. He was 28 and left a widow, Helen Bowie, 5 James Street, and a child only weeks old.

**A poem titled - "Common Sailors" is to be found on page 3 column 3.**

**Army Cadet Force** - There was a good response at the meeting the previous week with 40 boys being enrolled. There are to be units at Buckie, Keith, Banff and Macduff with a total strength of 150.

It is interesting to note that the Army Cadet Force was still going strong in Buckie in the year 2005 while so many of the other organisations set up in war-time had long ceased to exist, e.g. the ATC, GTC, Youth Clubs at Arradoul ,Portgordon, Rathven , Buckie and elsewhere.

**Not so now** - There was a time when Buckie Town Council was dead against boxing and wouldn't allow this to take place within the town. Now boxing tournaments were taking place on a regular basis, drawing big crowds and getting good reports in the B.A.

Mar 4 **One of the films being shown in the Playhouse Cinema this week was ,** "The Shores of Tripoli" starring John Payne, Maureen O'Hara and Randolph Scott.

**There appeared to be fewer dances** than had been seen earlier although dancers were not being neglected.

The NFS are to hold a dance in the Town House on Thursday 4 March with music supplied by the Rhythm Boys Band.

The O.E.S. Portessie are to hold a Whist Drive and Dance in the Church Hall, Portessie on Friday. 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Rathven WRI are also to hold a Whist Drive and Dance in the same hall on Monday 8 March in aid of War Work Fund.

Buckie O.E.S. are to hold a dance in the Town House on Monday 8 March in aid of the Nursing Association. Geddes' Band was to supply the music.

**A poem** is found on page 3 column 3 titled - "A Railway Train" written by J. C. Portgordon.

**The death took place of Mrs Linzee Gordon.** Her husband fell heir to the estates of Cluny, Midmar and Kibbaty, Aberdeenshire, the lands of Buckie and Gollachy in Banffshire, Kinsteary, Nairnshire and the Briad estate in Edinburgh.

She was a native of Winchester and a daughter of the manse.

**Repeat of an article on Portknockie taken from the magazine 'The Listener'** of 24 December, 1942. This can be read on page 4, column 4 of the B.A.

Mar 11 **The death took place of Mrs Katherine P.S. Greenlaw, JP**, wife of Rev John Greenlaw, minister of the North Church, Buckie.

**DEATH OF P.O.W.** - The death took place in a hospital in Italy of Sergeant George Stewart, RASC (P.O.W), husband of Ella Reid, 8 Cluny Lane. Sergeant Stewart was formerly employed by C.I. Shearer, Draper before joining the army in 1940. He left a widow and four children.

**Buckpool Estates** - Wm. Elder Levie, factor, had a note in the B.A. informing those to whom it was directed that if they were caught removing shingle from the Buckpool beach they would be prosecuted.

**Boxing Tournament** - A further boxing tournament is to take place in the Fishermen's Hall in aid of MN Comforts Service. Admission to a seat on the stage was now 7/6 (booked), ringside seats, 6/- with others being 4/- and 2/6. Jimmy Gordon, Buckie, is to be fighting also Vaughan who now called himself Sid Cooke (Buckie).

**Now a SRN** - Miss Louisa Geddes, daughter of the late Mr Andrew Geddes and Mrs Geddes, East Cottage, Enzie, completed her training at Maryfield, General Hospital, Dundee and was now a State Registered Nurse.

**Buckie library** - Following discussion between Buckie Town Council and the Education Authorities it was agreed that the library in the Townhouse would be open for 12 hours per week. A report of this is given on page 3 column 1.

**Sailors Home - Cluny Square** - Plans for additions and alterations to the Sailors' Home were passed by the Town Council subject to those conforming to bylaws.

Mar 18 **The RAF** are to pay a recruitment visit to Buckie. On this occasion they are again looking for men for aircrew but also ground staff with openings for such as airfield controllers, carpenters and foreman of trades.

**RAF Dance** - The RAF are to hold a dance in the Town House on Tuesday 23 March 1943, in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund. Music to be supplied by the RAF Band by kind permission of Group Captain, F. J. Hobler. Admission- 5/-. Tickets could be had from 34 Marine Place. Open buffet.

**Death of former ironmonger** - The death took place in Glasgow at the age of 65 of R.R. George, former ironmonger in Buckie. A native of Keith his first shop was on East Church Street, later taken over by Hepworths. He later moved to Blairdaff Street before he had a shop built along with Wm. Young the baker on West Church Street. He was into radios before he moved away first to Aberdeen. He founded the May Blossom Lodge of the Free Gardeners in Buckie.

**There was a unit of the ATC in Portknockie** with the officer in charge being Squadron Leader Moyes (headmaster)

Mar 25 **Wimpey contractors were building Dallachy airfield** at this time having been first started in 1942. A number of, mainly Irish, labourers employed there were seen to have been fined for being drunk either in Buckie or Portgordon.

**The B.A. carried a story described as a 'Donnybrook'** when a party of men, upwards of fifty, many celebrating St Patrick's Day went on the rampage, with three policemen, Sergeant Blackhall, Constables, Byiers and Livingstone being assaulted. Those seen to be the ringleaders were fined £4 with the option of 30 days.

Apr 1 **One of the films being shown in the Playhouse this week was** – "My Gal Sal" starring, Rita Hayworth and Victor Mature. Shown in glorious Technicolor.

**Wanted** - Room in Buckie for manager of the Scandinavian Reading Room on East Church Street.

**Missing** - Flying Officer James G. Bruce, DFM, son of Mr and Mrs George Bruce, Cluny Square. He previously worked in the Royal Bank.

**Wings For Victory Banffshire Week** - This was scheduled to take place between April 10 and 17 with the target set for £200,000. The advert was inserted by the Aberdeen Savings Bank who advised folk to save through it.

**A further letter in the B. A. complained of married women attending dances and neglecting their children.**

Apr 8 **Stamps on bomb** - J. P. Pozzi was inviting people to buy savings stamps in his shop before sticking those on a 250-lb bomb, which would be delivered to Germany. (In 2000, the idea of putting a stamp on a bomb that was likely to fall and kill some people didn't appeal somehow.)

**Good Templars** - A meeting of the Buckie Lodge of Good Templars is to take place in Morven View, Cluny Terrace. A. Hay. Secretary.

**Whist Drives and Dances** –

In Aid of Wings For Victory a whist drive and dance is to take place in the Seafield Hall, Portknockie on Wednesday 14 April.

The Home Guard - 12 Platoon is also to hold a whist drive and dance in the Masonic Hall, Portgordon on Friday 9 April with music for the dancing by the **Regal Band**.

Buckie Bowling Club are to hold a whist drive and dance in the Town House on Tuesday 20 April with music supplied by Bill Geddes' Band.

Arradoul WRI are also to hold a whist drive and dance in their hall at Arradoul on Wednesday 14 April with music by the **Nightingale Band**.

**Showing this week in the Playhouse Cinema** was as stated the first love story of the war, titled "This Above All" starring Tyrone Power and Joan Fontaine.

**Wanted** - A branch manageress, with grocery experience preferred, was required for the **Buttercup Dairy on West Church Street. Wages £2.15 per week.** Apply to Ewing, 22 Esplanade Terrace, Joppa, Midlothian.

**John Anton, Bank Agent, Buckie left an estate of £11,167.**

**Victoria Park and Pavilion** were to be put into first class condition in the immediate future for football and other sports, according to the "Skipper".

Apr 15 **Killed in flying accident** - It has been reported that as a result of a flying accident on 3 April Warrant Officer, James Murray, husband of Frances Slater and only son of the late Mr James Murray and Mrs Hendry 23 Pultney Street, Portknockie, lost his life. He was 27 years of age.

**For sale** - A displacement sale is to take place at Bridge Cottage, Gollachy of various farm implements, mason's and carpenter's tools, belonging to Mr William Munro. (He was the man who built the well and horse trough opposite his house with the wording, which says, "All who thirst may drink while it runs". Unfortunately the well has been dry for many years now.)

**Wounded in action** - It has been reported that Pte John A. M. Cormack, Royal Scots, has been wounded in action on 19 April. Before the war he was employed as a draper with John Mathieson, Draper, West Church Street, Buckie. He has two other brothers in the army. James, the oldest, is serving with the Australians while Kitchener 'Kitchie' is with the Gordons in North Africa. Eric, the youngest, is stationed in the south of England. Their parents, Mr and Mrs James Cormack live at 3 Seaview Road. Mr Cormack served in the last war and was then on government work in Orkney.

**Wounded in the Far East** - It has been reported that another member of the Royal Scots had been wounded in action, this time in the Far East. He is Pte Pat Smith of 21 High Street; a former hairdresser with Wiseman's on Cluny Square.

Apr 22 **Died in naval hospital** - Word had been received that Wm. Clark, Second Hand, RNR, had died in a naval hospital. He was the husband of Margaret Macdonald Mowat and son of the late Mr and Mrs Smith, 11 Stuart Street, Portessie.

**RAF DANCE** - The RAF Air Sea Rescue detachment held a very successful dance in the Town House and was able to hand over £32.4.1 to the RAF Benevolent Fund. They had a note in the B.A. thanking all helpers and supporters.

**Enzie Savings Committee** had set £800 as their target for "Wings For Victory" week but before closing of the account on Saturday the total investments had reached the sum of £1,884.6 - a quite remarkable achievement.

**Killed in action** - Word has been received that Cpl. Cecil A. Scott, Gordon Highlanders had been killed in action in the Middle East sometime in March. His father, Edward Scott, Dundee, was killed in the first war. Though not himself a native of Buckie his brother, Stoker Edward Scott, lived at Samson Avenue, while Edward Scott was well known in the town. He leaves a widow and three children in Dundee.

**Change of scene for Buckie farmer** - D. K. P. Hector, farmer of Mill of Buckie is to move to Aberdeenshire where he had taken over the Cults Hotel in Cults. Mill of Buckie was to be taken over by his brother William who is to move there from Mains of Gollachy.

Apr 29 **Aberdeen air raid** - Though it wasn't stated as such one could read that it was Aberdeen that suffered a heavy raid on Wednesday 21 April, 1943. Considerable damage was done with not a few casualties, including two babies. A man cycling home from his allotment was found dead beside his bicycle and gardening tools. A veteran of the South African war was killed when he went back into his tenement home to rescue a pair of boots. A youngster, a message boy for the ARP, was also killed.

May 6 **P.O.W. Says Thanks** - Pte Craig Gordon a POW in German hands who had earlier asked if the B.A. would put a small piece in the paper wishing everyone at home a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year received a great many cards from well-wishers. He was delighted to receive the cards but was unable to write personally to each one and asked if the Buckie Paper would do this for him, thanking all for the kindness shown.

A poem is found on page 4, column 4 titled "Alamein" 'To The Highland Brigade' written by G.S. R. - Buckie.

May 13 **Killed in action** - Pte Wm. Brown, husband of Helen Ann Murray, 1 West Street, Buckie and son of Mr and Mrs Haig Brown, Grangemouth.

**Killed in action in North Africa in April** - Lance Sergeant Alexander Geddes, Gordon Highlanders, 28, husband of Irene Duthie, 17 Land Street and son of the late Mr James and Mrs Geddes, 35 High Street.

**Boxing Tournament**- In the Fishermen's Hall on 28 May. In opposition Ginger Stewart (Hamilton) versus Bill McCarthy (Clydebank.)

Also on the bill, Manson Ross, Keith, and brothers Jimmy and Alex Gordon, Buckie. They are to have 6 round fights.

Jimmy who had been unbeaten so far is to meet Walton, an Australian and Alex, Trotter, a Londoner. Ross's opponent is to be Les Sagar, Blackpool.

**LNER Stationmaster at Buckie** - James S. Crowe is to move from Buckie to Ladybank in Fife.

**Book Drive** - Following a meeting of the Buckie Reading Room and Library Committee when a letter had been read from the Banffshire Education Director it was decided to have a book drive to build up the stock of books.

May 20 **In the Playhouse this week one could have seen and heard** Vera Lynn in the film "We'll Meet Again", with Gerald's Orchestra.

**Salvage Drive wanted** - The front page of the B. A. carried a large notice titled Salvage Drive Wanted scrap metal of all classes to help the war effort.

**Regimental Dances** - Tonight Thursday, 20 May in the Town House Hall from 8 - 11.30 pm. Admission, Forces 6d, Civilians 1/6. Saturday, 22 May in the Drill Hall, West Church Street. 8 pm - 11.30. Troops 6d, ladies 1/6.

To avoid overcrowding the dance is for members of the Reconnaissance Regiment only.

**Wounded in North Africa** - Sergeant Charles Mclean, Scots Guards, Reid Terrace, Portgordon.

**Hospital Ship sunk, local man lost** - When the hospital ship, Centaur, showing the Red Cross flag, was sunk by the Japanese the skipper, Captain George Alex Murray 'Farmer' a member of a well-known Buckie family went down with his ship. He had emigrated to Australia some years before where his widow, also from Buckie, was then living.

May 27 **A woman, Mrs Garden, 41 Great Eastern Road, Portessie died in her 90<sup>th</sup> year. She had a family of ten sons and one daughter. Nine of her sons and her son in law were pallbearers at her funeral; the other son was then abroad. Her husband, Wm. Garden died 16 years before.**

**Missing now POW.** - Piper James McKenzie Stables, Gordon Highlanders, of Rathven who had previously been reported missing at Singapore was now known to be a prisoner of the Japanese. He was previously a farm servant but had been a regular soldier for 8 years.

**New Ration books** - A notice in the B.A. told where people might get their new ration books.

June 3 **Airman killed**- Word had been given that as a result of a flying accident Sergeant Tom Green, RAF aged 28 had been killed. He was the youngest son of

Mr James and the late Mrs Green, Slackend, Portgordon. Prior to joining the RAF Tom worked with his father on the farm. His brother, John, is serving with the REME.

**Wins for the two Gordon brothers** - Alex Gordon and his brother Jimmy both won their fights in the recent boxing tournament. Both caused their opponents to retire in the third round of six round contests.

June 10 **POW of the Japanese** - Mr and Mrs Thomson late of 44 East Church Street and now residing at Oran House, Clochan, received news that their son Pte. James Thomson had been captured by the Japanese.

**Arradoul Youth Club** - The Youth Club held their annual social when a large turnout of members and friends met in the WRI hall. The boy winners in the various games played were - Arthur Forbes, Cecil Benzie, Sydney McIntosh and John Taylor. The girl winners were - Irene Grant, Janet McIntosh, Nan Grant and Jean Hutcheson.

Winners of the Spot Dance competition were Janet Geddes and A. Russell while Aileen Forsyth and partner were the winners of the Elimination Waltz

Mr Mackie and a member of the forces sang songs. Rita Cryle and Irene Grant performed Highland dances.

Music for dancing was supplied by Mrs Bain, James Duncan and Jimmy McQueen.

The singing of the National Anthem, as always, concluded a happy and successful evening.

**New Infant mistress at Buckie High** - Miss Evangeline Reid moved from Portgordon School to be infant mistress at Buckie High School.

**Football again at Victoria** - With the park put back into trim football matches were played on Victoria Park for the first time for over two years. The RECCE Corps had two good teams, with the first XI beating the RAF by a big margin.

Lt Telfer was in goal for the first XI he was to marry a girl from Keith and after the war played in goal for Keith F.C. in the Highland League.

In the RECCE Corps second XI selected to play the TBRE at Pinefield Andy **Wyper** was named at O/L. Andy, of course, became well known in Buckie after he married Miss Jeannie Bowie of Sutherland Street. After the war he was in business as a Slater. He also played football for Buckie Rovers. Unfortunately Andy, a native of the Glasgow area, died at a relatively young age.

June 17 **Sports at Victoria Park** - Buckie and District Youth Organisations are to hold a Sport's Day in Victoria Park on Wednesday 23 June. Admission to the field to be a silver collection in aid of the POW Fund. .

The following organisations were holding **whist drives and dances** -

**Rathven WRI** in the Portessie Church Hall in aid of the Nursing Association. Music for the dance to be supplied by a military band.

**Mrs Fowler and company** in Fowler's Corner House in aid of POW Fund.

**Portessie OES** - Regal Band.

Robert Grant, Senior, Draper, left £7,883.

Jun 24 **Died of wounds though enemy action** - Stoker Raymond E. Gill, 23 of Dundee. He was a grandson of the late Mr and Mrs Gill of Buckie.

**Water shortage** - In common with all other years Buckie was having a problem of scarcity of water with a notice in the local paper telling people that they must not wash their windows or water their gardens.

**Saved from drowning** - While dooking, Portessie youth John Paton, 14, got into difficulties and was only saved from drowning by his classmate, also 14, George Thomson who was able to pull him ashore.

**Two brothers in Japanese hands** - Two Buckie brothers, both rubber planters in Malaya were now known to have been captured by the Japanese. George Smith and Captain William J. Smith whose home address was 27 Mill Crescent.

**Missing** - George Hendry, MN of 10 Reidhaven Street, Ianstown.

**World Champion** - Boxer Jackie Paterson, Glasgow, became world champion at his weight when he beat Peter Kane, England for the title.

Jly 1 **Boxing at Victoria Park** - A boxing tournament was to take place at Victoria Park on Friday 9 July. Among the boxers taking part was Ginger Stewart (Hamilton) with his opponent, Billy Stevens of Tillicoultry. Theirs was to be a ten round contest.

**Cross-Country Challenge** - The Regiment (Recce) had challenged the 5<sup>th</sup> (Dumfries and Galloway) Battalion KOSB to a challenge race on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 5pm at the Provosts Park and Buckpool Golf Course.

**The sum of £12 .2 was sent from a committee of Portessie ladies towards Aberdeen Air Raid Distress Fund. Lord Provost Mitchell acknowledged this.**

**Required a football field** - A meeting of the Youth Panel for the Buckie area was held in the High School with representatives from various Youth Clubs being present.

The meeting agreed to approach Buckie Town Council for the use of part of Buckpool Golf Course (west end) for a football pitch for the Portgordon area.

**New stationmaster for Buckie** - The new stationmaster appointed to Buckie was Mr F. G. McHardy who moved to the town from Ballater where he had been for the past ten years.

**Honour for Provost Merson** - The king (King George VI) gave permission William James Merson; provost of Buckie, to wear the decoration of Chevalier (first class) of the Order of St Olav, conferred on him by the King of Norway in recognition of services in the allied cause.

Jly 8 **Losers for a change** - The Regiment (Recce) who had been beating all and sundry since coming to Buckie and playing on the Victoria Park were themselves well beaten by the Cameronians on Saturday 3 July. (Needless to say the fact that the Cameronians had two Hibs' players in their side, Woodburn and Tosh, had made that crucial difference. Being a Hibeer through and through I would have to say that.)

**School holidays** - Like all other schools in the area Arradoul school closed for the summer vacation on Friday. Each of the pupils received six threepenny bits to start the holiday War Savings.. Donations were received from Mr and Mrs R.G. Young, Arradoul Mains and Mr and Mrs James Anderson, Blaemuir, Drybridge.

Jly 15 **Reported Missing now presumed drowned through enemy action** - AB James Flett Sutherland, 28, Glasgow, late of Findochty. He was a son of 'Sid' Sutherland.

**Football at Victoria Park** - The Regiment (Recce) first XI were to meet RE Coy first XI on Saturday 17 July. Kick off at 3.15 pm.

**In Jap. Hands** - The following three soldiers were now known to have been captured by the Japanese following the fall of Singapore – Sapper Alex Smith, RE of 1 Aboyne Street, Iainstown, Pte Charles Farquhar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gordons, son of Mr and Mrs Wm. Farquhar, P.O. Buildings, Buckie and Pte. William Gratton, "6 Great Western Road, Buckpool.

**Disease** - It was reported that there had been one case of Diphtheria and one of Scarlet Fever during the month of June (1943) in Buckie.

**King Haakon in Buckie** - King Haakon and Crown Prince Olaf received a warm welcome when they paid an informal visit to Buckie on Saturday 10 July (1943). East Church Street and Cluny Square were gaily decorated with flags.

The two men spent a considerable time with exiled Norwegians and chatted freely with them at their work. King Haakon visited the Consulate and the Norwegian Reading Rooms, both on east Church Street.

Before leaving for the south they were entertained at lunch at Strathlene House, with Provost Merson being one of the guests.

**Move for Sailors' Home management team** - Mrs and Mrs Coutts were to leave Buckie after being promoted to take over the larger Sailors' Home in Greenock.

Jly 22 **Missing** - Flight/Sergeant Thomas Benzie Forbes, Maryhill Farm, Drybridge, was reported missing on an operational flight. He volunteered for the RAF in 1941 and trained as a pilot in California. Prior to this he had been with the Metropolitan Police in London where his wife and family were residing.

**In Jap hands** - Corporal W. A. Spence, son of Mr and Mrs James Spence, 56 Mill Crescent was now known to be a prisoner of the Japanese. He was a regular soldier.

**New Director of Education** - Mr James McNaught MA, was appointed Director of Education for Banffshire to succeed Mr W. D. Kennedy who was retiring. Mr McNaught was previously Depute Director of Education for Aberdeenshire.

**A poem titled** "The Lovers' Walk (Crief0 is to be found on **page 3 column 3**. This was written by Rev. W. T. McGregor.

**RAF Recruitment visit** - The RAF recruitment team were to pay year another visit to Buckie. It was aircrew that was needed with it being said that men in reserved occupations may volunteer for aircrew.

Jly 29 **Reported missing now presumed lost at sea** - Skipper Peter Thomson, husband of Margaret Mair, South View, Cluny Terrace. (R.I.P)

**Paint job** - Estimates were being sought for the painting of the inside of the WRI Hall at Arradoul. Apply to Mrs MacDonald, Burnside, Inchgower.

**ACF Camp**- The local paper said that the local platoon of the ACF were in camp "somewhere on the Moray coast."

Aug 5 **Sports and Highland Games** - 2nd Battalion Home Guard were to hold a Sports Day and Highland Games in the Victoria Park on Saturday 14 August. Admission to the ground – silver collection - to the grandstand 1/-.

**Accidental drowning on active service** - Skipper George Alexander Simpson Smith 'Latin' RNR, 34, husband of Ella Flett, 4 Chapel Street, Portessie.

**Died of wounds and extensive burns - It** was reported that Staff Sergeant J. G. Thomson, RAOC died in Sicily on 18 July from wounds and extensive burns he had received through enemy action. He was the husband of Molly Downie, 11 Church Street, Portknockie.

**Hairdressers on holiday** - John Burgess, East Church Street; A & C. Cole, Cluny Square; Wm. Stewart, Cluny Square; Wm. Forbes, Cluny Square.

**Welfare Dances** - There were to be marquee dances at Strathlene on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 5, 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> August. Music by Geddes' Band.

**British Sailors Society** - Grand Dance in the Townhouse Hall on 5 August. From 8 - 1 am. Music by Geddes' Band. Open buffet. Admission 4/- and 2/- Forces. Ticket holders only.

**Portessie whist and Dance - Friday** 6 August - Music by the Regal Band.

**Dance in the Town House-** in aid of the Red Cross. On August 9<sup>th</sup>. Music by **Morrison's Band**.

**Spare rhubarb and green vegetables** - A note in the paper read - The messing officer would be pleased to receive any surplus rhubarb or green vegetables, lettuce etc at the ration store, East Church Street, formerly occupied by Geddes, Tailor, for the benefit of troops. Or if a note might be left at the store saying that vegetables were available the same can be collected.

**Circus** - Ned Kelly's Australian circus, the first circus to visit Buckie for a long time are to pay a one-day visit to the town on Thursday 12 August. In a varied programme there were Cossack riders, Ponies, Waltzing horse, Bears, Acrobats, Knife Throwers, Cowboys, Clowns and Lovely Ladies. There were to be two shows - at 4.30 pm and 7.30 pm. "Worth coming miles to see."

**George McIntosh VC in the news** - This edition gave the information that Flight/Sergeant McIntosh, VC had been mentioned in dispatches for his activities following a raid on the airfield where he was stationed. He was the Discipline N.C.O. And was known to the aircrews as their 'Dutch Uncle' because of the efforts he made to look after their comforts.

**Car Hirers limited to 10-mile radius** - Because of this ruling an Aberchirder motor hirer was fined £2.10 for going outwith this limit after taking a dance band to Portknockie. This was not considered to be a permitted purpose.

**"The March of Montgomery's Men "** This poem written by W. J. Cowie, Buckie is found on page 4 column 3.

**Harvest Workers' Pay** - The local Farmers Union at a meeting held in Keith decided that the payment for harvest men should be £5 for a 60-hour week with a free meal in addition. It was thought that this would be satisfactory if it did not make permanent farm workers dissatisfied with the wages paid to them.

Aug 19 **Reported missing now officially reported lost at sea due to enemy action in January 1943** - Lance Corporal Robert Duguid Munro RE of 8 Great Eastern Road, Portessie. Before the war he was a joiner with Wm. Geddes and Sons, Portessie.

**" The Night of November 2-3 1942"** (The battle of El Alamein) written by G.S. Reid, Buckie. This is found on page 4 column 2.

Aug 26 **Playhouse Cinema** - In the cinema this week one could have seen Sonja Hene, John Payne and Jack Oakie in the film 'Katina'.

**A report is given on page 4, column 5 of the wedding of John Moar.**

Sept 2 **Died of wounds in July** - Pte. William D. Penman, 22, 5<sup>th</sup> Black Watch, husband of Christina Benzie, Slackhead, Enzie.

Sept 9 **Playhouse** - One of the films being shown in the Playhouse this week was "Springtime in the Rockies " starring Betty Grable, John Payne, Carmen Miranda and Ceasar Romero.  
Also - Ginger Rodgers and Cary Grant in "Once Upon a Honeymoon"  
And - Ralph and Googie Withers in "The Silver Fleet".

**Webster's Garage** - Just installed an up to date charging plant for batteries - Satisfaction Guaranteed. Webster's Garage, Garden Lane.

**Seaman dies while on leave** - Stoker Alex Murray, 25, RN, 20 Bruce Avenue, who had only come on leave the day before and who had gone for a cycle run to Elgin, lost control of his bicycle when coming down the Station Brae in Portgordon to suffer extensive injuries, died in Seafield Hospital the next day. His parents were Mr and Mrs Joseph Murray.

Sept 16 **Whist Drives** were still very popular, as the adverts on the front page would tell. The following organisations were all holding them - Arradoul WRI; Rathven WRI; British Sailors Society; Mrs Fowler and Co.; Buckie Catholic Association.

**Turbans and Pixies** - The shop, Little Wonder' East Church Street, were advertising among other things - Turbans, Juliet Caps, Wool and Waterproof Pixies.

**Parents fined for their children's ills** - Two boys were charged with stealing iron pegs from the putting green shed on Queen Street. Their parents were fined 5/-.

Another boy was found guilty of stealing a putting iron at Strathlene. His parents were fined 10/-

A girl was found guilty of stealing ladies stockings from a clothesline. He father was fined 5/-.

A boy pleaded guilty to breaking three branches off trees at Queens Park. A fine of 5/- was imposed on his parents.

**Under age drinker** - A youth who was under the age was fined £1 for purchasing drink with a further 30/- for committing a breach of the peace on West Church Street.

Sept 22 **Died in hospital** - Word had been received that Pte. George Slater RAMC, 31, husband of Mary Gallon, 96 Duff Street, Macduff and third son of James L. Slater, 13 Victoria Street, Portknockie had died in a military hospital in Lincoln.

**One of the most popular films of the war years was being shown in the Playhouse Cinema this week. This was "Mrs Miniver" starring Greer Garson and Walter Pigeon.**

**Shortage of staff** - Sutherland's Boot Warehouse, 21 West Church Street, had the following notice on the front page of the B.A. Owing to a shortage of staff and thus being unable to cope with business our premises will be closed all day on Wednesday and Friday of each week, commencing on 29 September.

**More parents fined** - Two girls were caught stealing carrots from a field near St Peter's Road belonging to Mr Brodie Taylor. The parents were fined 5/- each.

**"The Monster of the Mucks"** The paper this week carried the fourth instalment of the afore-named story written by 'Spike'.

Sept 30 **Reported missing presumed killed on active service** - Petty Officer, John Coull, 26, husband of Maisie Innes, 29 Harbour Street, Buckie, and son of Mr and Nathan Coull, 6 Duke Street, Portgordon. John was a former football player with Portgordon F.C. and Buckie Thistle. He left his wife and two children.

**High School Sale in aid of Naval War Libraries** - This raised the sum of £72. There were stalls selling garden and dairy goods, bakery, needlework, woodwork, toffee and kitchen.

Oct 7 **Killed accidentally in North Africa in September** - Gunner H. Poole, RA, 22, husband of Helen Watson, 8 Craigenroan Place, Portessie.

**Co-operative Youth Club** - The newly formed club is to hold an opening social on Monday 11 October in the Lady Cathcart School. All youths from 14 to 20 wishing to become members, it was said, can be enrolled during the evening.

**Admission free** - tea will be served. D. Marshall, secretary.

**In Jap Hands** - Pte. Wm. Rodgers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gordons, of 46 Wallace Avenue was now known to be a prisoner of the Japanese. He was captured with the fall of Singapore.

**The Regiment (Recce) lose** - On Saturday the Recce Corps lost by three goals to two to the Royal Scots Fusiliers.

Oct 14 Nothing really to report from this week's paper.

Oct 21 **Died as a result of an accident on board ship** - Skipper Robert Charles Legge, RNR, 1 Campbell Street, Portessie, husband of Lily Smith died in the North Ness Hospital, Orkney. He was 42 and left a wife and three boys.

**Killed in action during September 1943** - Trooper Peter Sutherland Reid, Recce Corps, 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Squadron, youngest son of Major Peter Reid, RAMC, Kimbrace, East Church Street, Buckie. He was a medical student at Aberdeen University before being called up.

**For sale** - The property known as Benreay was again being offered for sale. Application to be made to Alex Elder Anton and Sons.

**The RAF Recruiting team were to make another visit to Buckie looking for men for aircrew.**

**Boxing Tournament** - A boxing tournament is to take place in the Fishermen's Hall on Saturday 30 October. Top of the bill is to be a 12 round contest between Freddie Tennent, Dundee and Jackie Smith, Lochee.

There will also be a number of supporting fights, including some local boxers. It would seem that Stoke Smith who had been the promoter of a great number of tournaments had been posted since the promoter now was Peter F. Cormack, the well-known dancing teacher etc.

**Odd fish** - A rare visitor to this part of the ocean, a sun fish, was landed at Buckie this week. It measured 3' long and 4' from tip to tip of the wings.

Oct 28 **Killed in action** - Flying Officer Ian Reid Menzies RAF (21) of Gisborne, New Zealand. He was a grandson of Mr and Mrs Robert Reid late of Portgordon.

**Wanted** - A message boy, able to cycle. Tom Paterson, Grocer, High Street.

**Repatriated P.O.W.'s** - Among the prisoners of war that had been repatriated from camps in Germany were - Sergeant Alex Lyon, 6<sup>th</sup> Gordons, 11 Burns Square who was captured at St Valery and had been a prisoner for three years and 4 months and Pte Cecil Hadden, Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders, 6 North Castle Street, Cullen. He was wounded at St Valery.

**Message boys find carrots expensive** - Two message boys were fined 10/- each for stealing carrots from a garden between East Carlton Terrace and Hall Street. The vegetables belonged to Mr James Reid. From the bench the boys were told that this was a despicable thing to do, stealing from people making an effort to grow vegetables which were scarce at the present time.

**Masonic funeral for Skipper Legge** - Skipper Legge who had died some days ago in a hospital in Orkney following an accident on board ship was buried in the Rathven cemetery with the ceremony being conducted by his fellow brethren of Lodge Craigenroan. Skipper Legge, a former fisherman was 42 when he died left a widow and three boys.

Nov 4 **Command film** - You could have seen the film "Commandos Strike At Dawn" which was being shown on the Playhouse this week. The star of the film depicting the commandos in action was Paul Mini

**Shopkeeper retires** - James Sutherland Smith, General Merchant, Craigenroan Stores, Portessie was advising that he had decided to retire and was thanking his many customers for their custom over the years he had been in business.

**Warning** - People were being warned that the air raid sirens were to be tested at 1.30 pm on the first Saturday of each month. The signal *Raiders Past* followed by *Alert* and then *Raiders Passed* once more. Each signal would sound for one minute with an interval of two minutes in between.

George I. Strath - Chief Constable.

(It will be remembered that the testing of the siren at this time continued for a great many years after the war had ended.)

**Advert** - Save your coupons for a genuine Marlbeck Tailormade - Coupon Value second to none. Large selection of Utility and Non Utility coats - all sizes - priced from £3.12.9 to £9.12.9

James Mackay, Draper, Ladies and Gents Outfitters.

**Missing** - Word had been received that Pte Harry Hunter Noble Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders, husband of Mrs Noble 13 Reidhaven Street, Iainstown was reported missing in Central Mediterranean.

**Wedding** - The B.A. gave a report of the wedding between Edna Geddes ATS of 16 Anton Street, Buckpool and David Falconer, Portknockie.

**Missing** - Word had been received that Sergeant Air Gunner, John Campbell Cowie, RAF of Great Western Road, Buckpool was missing from an operational flight.

**Portgordon Man's Bravery** - Chief Officer George Stronach MN a native of Portgordon saved several members of the crew of a munitions ship, which had been set ablaze by German aircraft, in a North African port His actions were described as being extremely courageous. His home is at 18 Victoria Street, Glasgow His father, Alex Stronach, former blacksmith lives at Parkside

Cottage, Portgordon. (In November 2005 a memorial stone was erected to his honour at the cross roads at Mosstodloch with members of his extended family present.)

**Presentation for returned P.O.W.'s** - At a ceremony held in the Townhouse Sergeant Alex Lyon 'Sykie' 6<sup>th</sup> Gordons and Pte Joseph Coull 1<sup>st</sup> Gordons the two ex prisoners of war who had recently been repatriated received wallets of notes from Buckie Town Council. Both men gave a brief resume of their time as prisoners while Sergeant Lyon told also of his journey, via Sweden, back to freedom.

**At a second ceremony** the provost was presented with a plaque, given by the Air Ministry in recognition of the effort the town had made during 'Wings For Victory Week'. This was handed over by Flt. Lieutenant Bull.

**The sum raised in Buckie was £63.000, £13.000 above the target set.**

**The money raised nationally during three special weeks, in millions, was as follows -**

**'War Weapon's Week' - £469 ; 'Warship's Week' - £545; 'Wings For Victory Week' - £616.**

**Training with 'Hearts'** Former Buckie High Schoolboy and now Edinburgh student, James Stuart, Ianstown, a promising football player was said to be training with the 'Hearts'.

Nov 11 **Former ATC cadet now pilot** - Ex ATC member, Keith Imlah had been awarded his 'wings' and was now a pilot and commissioned Pilot Officer. His two older brothers were also serving in the forces, one being an officer in the Gordon Highlanders and the other an NCO with the RA.

**Arradoul Youth Club** held their Annual General Meeting when the new officials were appointed by vote of the members. President - Alice Duncan; joint vice presidents - James Shand and Joy Young; treasurer - George McIvor; secretary - Isobel Macdonald; press secretary - Mary Fraser.

In a written competition the winners were Isobel Duncan, Broadley, and Arthur Forbes, Farnachty.

**Farnachty Nurse's new appointment** - Miss Nan Farmer Murray, SRN SCM QN of Farnachty, Clochan, Enzie was appointed by the Queen's Institute, Edinburgh as District Midwife on the Bressay Islands, Shetland.

**Presumed killed in action** - Official information had been received that Trooper Wm. C. McPherson, RAC, previously reported missing has now been presumed to have been killed at El Alamein in October 1942. He was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs McPherson, Burnside of Tynet. He was 23 when he was called up. Another brother and sister are serving in the forces.

**Pay rise for Electricity manager** - Mr A. Balfour Black, local electricity manager withdrew his name from the leet for a similar position in Inverness after being given a pay rise of £50 by the town council. This took his salary to £650 per annum.

**Tee name? - Geddes - 'Gainy' - Portgordon.**

Nov 18 **Death of former fishmerchant** - The death took place of Miss Kennethina Bain, fishmerchant, who carried on her business on Cluny Place for a number of years. Before starting on her own account she was employed by Mr Gow, Fishmerchant, High Street, who moved to Glasgow.

**Baby born to recent widow** - Mrs R. Legge, 1 Campbell Street, Portessie, whose husband, Skipper Robert Legge, died in a hospital in Orkney, only

recently, from injuries sustained in an accident on board his vessel, gave birth to a son at Seafield Hospital on Friday 12 November.

**Playhouse** - In the cinema this week one could have seen the film 'We Dive At Dawn' starring Eric Portman and John Mills.

**Final chapter of the 'Monster of the Mucks'** - In this edition one could have read the last instalment of the serial written by Spike.

A rider had been added which read - ***"If you ever visit Feel Wussit's cottage in the Yardie you will see above the mantelpiece a fearsome head - the only memento remaining of the Monster of the Mucks.***

Nov 25 **Inchgower manager killed** - Mr William Gordon (71) manager of Inchgower Distillery was killed on Tuesday 23 November by an army vehicle as he emerged on to the main road from the avenue leading to his home, Arradoul House. He was a native of the Dufftown area. Mrs Brander, Union Terrace was a daughter.

Dec 2 **Missing** - Flight/Sergeant George Smith, son of Mr and Mrs James Smith, 32 Linn Crescent, Buckie, was reported missing after failing to return from air operations in November. He joined the RAF when he was 16 and was recently an instructor. He had completed over 20 operational flights. He had only been married 7 months.  
He had four brothers in the services. One, Captain Alex Smith, Gordon Highlanders, attached to the Ghurkas had recently been wounded in Burma.

\*\*\*\*\* **Portgordon man awarded the George Cross** - A photograph appears on page three of Chief Officer, George Stronach, Portgordon who had recently been awarded the George Cross (the highest civilian award and equivalent to the VC) for conspicuous gallantry in an action which was previously described.

**Award of DFC** - Cullen man, Pilot Officer Alastair McKenzie Wood, RAF VR was recently awarded the DFC.

Dec 9 **Buckpool man wounded** - His mother, Mrs French, Robert Street, Buckpool received word that her son, Pte Edmund French 6<sup>th</sup> Gordons had been wounded in Italy. He was 20 and spent his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday on the beach at Dunkirk.

**Missing** - P/O James Anderson, son of Mr George Anderson, Slack Villa, Portknockie was reported missing after failing to return from operations over Germany. P/O Anderson was an Observer having trained in Canada. Before joining the RAF he worked in the Union Bank in Turriff. His wife lives in Glasgow.

Three brothers were in the MN, one in the RN while another brother, Sergeant John, RAMC returned home days before after being on a hospital ship in eastern waters for three and a half years.

Dec 16 **Death of councillor and carting contractor** - The death took place of Alex Grant, former councillor and carting contractor. He was a native of the Keith area and came to Buckie to work on the railway before starting up a carting business.

**Lost at sea** - It had now been confirmed that Skipper George Garden Geddes RNR, 26 Seaview Road was lost at sea off the Italian coast.

**Return of escapee** - Driver John Alex Thom RASC, 20 Anton Street, who escaped from a prison camp in Italy arrived home in Buckie after spending some days in a hospital in England.

Dec 23 **Lost at sea through enemy action** - It was reported that CPO Alexander Geddes Murray (23), husband of Margaret Robertson, 2 Back Street, Findochty and son of Mr Wm. Murray, 24 New Street, Buckie had been lost at sea through enemy action.

**Presumed killed on war service** - Word had been received that Engineman James Watson, RN Patrol Service, 8 Craigenroan Place, Portessie was presumed to have been killed on active service.

**Wanted** - Table tennis balls were wanted for RAF personnel. Apply Banffshire Advertiser.

**Christmas and New Year Greetings** - As he had done the previous year Pte Craig Gordon whose home address was c/o Mrs Young 14A High Street, Buckie but meantime a prisoner of war in Germany sent greeting through the Banffshire Advertiser to all residents in Buckie and district. His hope being that that all would be home before next Christmas.

\*\*\*\*\* **Poems** - Three short poems are to be found on page three column 4 written by Trooper Richard 'Dickie' Brown, who was then serving somewhere in India, to his mother, father and sister Nancy who lived at 11 Merson Street, Buckpool.

**Four Buckie men presumed lost** - Four former trawler men who worked out of Aberdeen were presumed to have been lost at sea. (I was told by Mr Sandy Watson, a son of Engineman Watson, that the boat the men, were on was the HMD Adventuring. This was blown up by a U-boat in the English Channel while she lay disabled awaiting a tow.)

Skipper Alex Jappy (40) of 39 New Street, son of Mr James Jappy of the same address, he left a wife and two children

Mate Alex Geddes (23), 2 Back Street, Findochty and whose widowed mother lived at 24 New Street, Buckie. He volunteered in 1939. He had only been married for one year.

Engineman James Watson (49) 8 Craigenroan Place, Portessie. He left a wife and 6 children. A daughter was a war widow while one of his sons was in the Navy. He was a native of Crail and took part in the last war.

Leading cook, Bert Coull (29) a native of Portgordon. He was only married for 6 months with his wife living at 29 James Street.

**Problems on the brae** - The Skipper was speaking of the difficulties horses were experiencing pulling heavy loads up the 'Bowling Green Brae' slipping, as they were, on the frosty road surface where only a modicum of sand had been spread. This was perhaps the first time that this tem had been used since up until the war the brae had always been known as the Stroup Brae. A carter had been complaining of the scarcity of sand saying how sand was much cheaper than horse.

**Reminiscences of Buckie** - found on page 4 an article by J. F. Barritt

Dec 30 **Dances during the festive season** -

British Sailors Society - Ladies Guild - a dance in the Townhouse on Thursday 30 December from

8pm Admission 4/- Forces 2/- Open buffet - Ticket holders only - Geddes' Band

Home Guard - No. 17 Platoon - Hogmanay Dance in the Masonic Hall Portgordon on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December. 8.3 - 2am 2/6, 2/- Forces 2/- Ambassador Band.

Spey Bay Public hall - Hogmanay 8pm - 2am. Admission 3/-, 2/6 and 2/6 Good music

Peter F. Cormack Cert. RDA Edin. Convener.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January 1944 - 8 - 1130pm Admission 1/6 and 1/- Ladies and Forces  
Arradoul WRI , Whist/Drive and Dance on 4<sup>th</sup> January in aid of Childrens' Party.  
Geddes' Band

**School holidays** - The local school closed for the Christmas holidays on Friday. The pupils at Arradoul were each given 6 threepenny bits. Contributions were received from Mr and Mrs R.G. Young Arradoul Mains; Mr and Mrs H. Hales Restwood Bungalow and Mr and Mrs James Anderson, Blaemuir, Drybridge.

**A Poem – 'Death Of A Year'** is found on page 2 column 4. No name given of the writer.

**In Jap hands** - With a postcard received by his parents at 13 Titness Street, Buckie they were informed that their son Corporal James John Geddes RAF was now a prisoner of the Japanese, having been captured with the fall of Singapore.