

1944

Jan 6 The RAF Recruitment team was again to pay a visit to Buckie looking for volunteers for aircrew. Pilots, Navigators, Air Bombers and Wireless Operators (Air), from 17 1/2 to 32 years. Flight Engineers and Air Gunners - 17 1/2 up to 38.

Ground Trades were still open for men up to the age of 55.

Died in a hospital in England - Sergeant Alex Paterson, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alex Paterson, Norwood, St Peter's Road, Buckpool. Sandy, as he was popularly known, was a prominent golfer and a member of Spey Bay Golf Club before joining the RAF six years before. He was 34. His funeral service took place from St Peter's Church to the New Cemetery.

His brother, Pte James Paterson was a dispatch rider serving in Italy.

Airman in Jap. hands - Miss Frances Strachan, Mill Crescent, Buckie, received a post card from her fiancé, A/C George Mair to say that he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese on the island of Java. This was the first news that she had heard of him for two years.

A/C Mair was a native of Dufftown where his father had a shoemaker's shop. He was a graduate of Aberdeen University and previously taught at Buckie High School before moving to Macduff School from where he was called up.

Also in Jap. hands - The parents of Sergeant Jack Shand, who live at Slackhead, Enzie, received a post card from him to say that he was in Thailand and working for pay. He was a regular soldier serving in the Royal Artillery and had been in Singapore for 8 years.

Mr and Mrs Harry Niven, Blantyre Terrace, Ianstown, also received a similar post card from their son, Piper Harry Niven. He was 25 and had been in the army for over 8 years.

Whist at Enzie - The committee of the local Scottish Comforts Funds held a whist drive and dance in the Clochan School on Wednesday when a large crowd was in attendance. Tea was provided by a committee consisting of Mrs Bonnyman, Mrs Geddes, Mrs W. Grant, Mrs McLaren, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Thomson, Mrs Urquhart and Misses H. Bonnyman (convener) Corr, M. Duncan, Forbes, Guthrie, J. McCurrach and Newlands. Prizewinners at whist were, Ladies - Miss Corr, Miss Alice Duncan and Mrs Wilson. Gents - John Bremner, J. S. Grigor and Charles McPherson.

Mrs Mair and ? Forsyth were winners of a Spot Dance competition.

Mr John H. Duncan was chairman of the committee, with Mr R. Shand, Glasterim, in charge of the whist.

Messrs I. Thomson, Burnside and P. Grigor, Oxhill, were the MC's at the dance that followed.

The Skipper had two poems in his column this week. One was titled - "The Puir Provost", with the other "Dedicated to the Buckie Fishermen's Choir".

Jan 13 **Killed by enemy action** - In January 1944 Seaman Peter Coull, RNPS, 43, son of the late Mr and Mrs Wm. Coull, Elmlea, Cliff Street, Buckie and late of Portgordon lost his life through enemy action. His body was interred at Penzance. He was a fisherman before being called up.

Died at 16 James Street, Buckpool, on 9th January 1944, Mrs Mary Jessie Watson, and beloved wife of James Gordon, Burgh Workman.

Civil Defence - Rescue Service - Buckie Division - Training has restarted in the Mobilisation Stores, Burgh Yard, on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm. All members should attend.

Cluny Hall Sunday School - The bairns attending this Sunday school held a soiree in the hall on Saturday evening, with a large number of parents and friends being present.

Vital Statistics for Rathven in 1943 - (Those for 1942 are given in brackets for comparison) Births -278 (280); Deaths - 151 (113); Marriages - 77 (93).

Airman reported missing - Sergeant Instructor, Peter Murray RAF was reported missing on active service. A graduate of Aberdeen University prior to joining the RAF he was a Maths teacher at Banff Academy. he had only been married for a few months with his wife living on Low Street.

More Jap. POW's - More post cards had been received from servicemen who had been taken prisoner by the Japanese in southeast Asia. In the main they were all being held in Thailand, where, as we now know, they were forced to work on the construction of a railway living in inhumane conditions, from which many died.

The latest to receive word were the parents of Pte Charles Farquhar, whose home is at the P.O. buildings off East Church Street. He was a regular soldier and formerly a baker. The parents of Piper A. Taylor, Rathven Village were also informed. He had been in the army for 8 years and was formerly a farm servant.

Lodge Gordon 589 - The newly installed RWM of Masonic Lodge Gordon 589, Buckie, was Oswald W. Rodger, Inchgower.

The 'Skipper's' column - In his column this week the 'Skipper' had more pieces of poetry, received from different sources and on different themes.

Poem on page 3 - This had been written by Lady (Muriel) Anderson and titled "The Rumlbers".

Reminiscences of Buckie - In this edition is to be found a second instalment on this theme written by J. F. Barritt. He was speaking of the Buckie he knew some fifty to sixty years before 1944.

Jan 20 **Playhouse cinema** - Showing this week was the film " The Moon is Down" based on the story by John Steinbeck. Starring in the film were Sir Cedric Harwicke, Henry Travers, Lee J. Cobb and Doris Bowdon.

Burns' Suppers - Many organisations were holding these including - Rathven WRI, Arradoul WRI, Portessie Ladies ' Work Party, Buckie Co-op Women's Guild following the last there was to be an Old Fashioned Dance.

More PC's from Jap. POW's - Word had been received from Pte Douglas French, son of the late Mr John and Mrs French, Slackhead, Enzie. he sent a card home to his brother at Horne's Croft, Inchgower. He had been reported missing at Singapore but was now known to be in a POW camp in Thailand. He had been in the army for ten years.

Death in Canada of former Thistle player - Word had been received that Sandy Hall had died in Canada at the age of 63. he played at centre forward for Peterhead but while engaged on the construction of the Victoria Bridge in 1901 had played for Buckie Thistle. He was a renowned and prolific goal scorer. He had turned professional and played then for St Bernards, Newcastle, Motherwell and Dundee.

Arradoul Youth Club - Miss Nan Grant, Enzie Station, was elected treasurer in place of George 'Doddie' McIvor must have been called up or volunteered for the services.

'Skipper's' column - This week he included a poem written by a soldier serving in India. No name was given, perhaps it was another from Tpr. R. Brown.

Another poem written on the same page was by Lady (Muriel) Anderson and titled 'Labour' (It was not political.)

Jan 27 **Playhouse cinema** - This week one could have seen |Margaret Lockwood and Michael Wilding in the film "Dear Octopus".

Posted missing - His parents Mr and Mrs G. M. Macdonald Cairnfield Gardens, received word that their son, Corporal James Macdonald, London Scottish, had been reported missing. He was 24 and had been serving with the Mediterranean Forces.

Immortal Memory - J. Park Buchan, Insurance Manager (the columnist 'Skipper' in the B. A.) gave the Immortal Memory at functions in both Buckie and Portgordon. One can read this on page three.

Another poem by Lady Anderson - Her poem this week is found on page four, column four. Her latest poem was titled "Somebody's Son".

'Skipper's' column - In his column this week one will find a poem that must have been of great interest to those belonging to the Yardie, Seatown and the 'Braes'. (Where was that?) He also included some seafaring rhymes.

Presentation for escapee - Driver John A. Thom, 20 Anton Street, was met by a deputation of people from the Welfare Society and presented with a wallet of notes. Driver Thom had been a prisoner of the Italians but when they surrendered had taken the opportunity to escape and after some odd experiences managed to reach the lines of the allies.

Church of Scotland - Buckie North Church Seat Letting Committee was to meet in the vestry on Wednesday 9th February from 8 - 9 pm for the collection of seat rents.

Wanted - High prices were being paid for rabbit skins, winters 15/-, halves 13/- and racks 12/- dozen. Otters, best large winters 55/-, foxes 25/- also stoat pelts and horse hair. Hamway, Edinburgh.

Burns' Supper - Hamilton Bros. Engineers etc. also held a Burns' Supper.

Killed in action - Bombardier Wm. Stewart RA, younger son of Wm. Stewart, Hairdresser, Cluny Square, Buckie. He was serving with the 8th Army in Italy and had served through the whole of the North African Campaign. He had been four years in the army and prior to this was serving his apprenticeship as a chemist with Mr Rome Innes, Cluny Square. He was 24.

Died in Jap. POW camp - Information had been received that A/C George Mair, fiancé of Miss Frances Strachan, 7 Mill crescent, Buckie, had died while a prisoner of the Japanese. He was a native of Dufftown and had been in the RAF since 1941. Aged 30 he was an Arts graduate of Aberdeen University and had taught at Buckie High School and Macduff School. It was only a month before that Miss Strachan had received a post card to say that he was well and in a POW camp in Java.

Dod Osborne - A short piece is found on page three, column one, about Dod Osborne who had Buckie connections. He will be forever remembered for the stealing of the fishing boat 'Girl Pat' and sailing her all the way to South America with only a school atlas for navigation purposes. In 1944 he was serving as an officer instructor at a combined operations base.

'Skipper's' column - This is found on page four, column 1. This week he had included a poem that he had received from a serving soldier, titled , "When We Come Home". In addition he has also some lines of doggerel.

Reminiscences of Buckie - The third instalment under this title, written by J. F. Barritt is found on page 4.

Feb 10 **Boxing** - A boxing tournament was advertised to take place in the Fishermen's Hall on Friday 18 February. This time there was a different promoter with Mr Thomas Lang, Optician being named. The referee was to be P. F. Trotter, Guernsey and timekeeper, J. Harrison.

Featured on the bill were - Billy Stevens (Tillycoultry), versus Jock McCusker (Glasgow), in a 12 round contest. In another 12 round contest Freddie Tennant (Dundee) was to meet Jackie Scott (Lochee). This was a return fight with the winner collecting the £50 purse.

A number of local boxers, Jimmy and Jock Gordon etc, were to feature in supporting fights.

Accident to naval ratings - Two naval ratings were badly hurt on board their patrol boat in Cluny Harbour. They were both sent to Kingseat Naval Hospital near Newmachar. (This was a mental hospital both before and after WW II. I had an aunt, Mary, who worked there for a long time and lived in Dyce.)

Fine fines ! During 1943 the sum of £115 was collected in fines and in bails forfeited in Elgin Police Court. At the last Police Court in Buckie the prosecutor stated that the corresponding figure in Buckie had exceeded £250. (Who was it that said that crime doesn't pay?)

Sergeant Wm. Green RAF a rear gunner on a bomber whose death is now presumed was a grandson of Mr and Mrs Peter Green, 3 March Street, Portgordon. He was a member of the crew of an aircraft that took off on an anti submarine patrol in September 1942 and was reported missing when the aircraft failed to return to base. Information was later received from the International Red Cross that three of the crew were prisoners of war and that two had died of wounds. Sergeant Green wasn't among those named . In view of this information and the time that had elapsed the death of Sergeant Green had to be presumed.

Peter F. Cormack (Painter and Dance Teacher) had a letter in the B.A. stating that he knew nothing about the forthcoming boxing match in the Fishermen's Hall. This, he said, was odd since he had been the promoter at two previous similar events before this time.

Food concessions - Agricultural workers were to get extra supplies of tea, sugar, margarine, cheese, preserves and milk during what was considered to be busy times in the year such as lambing, harvesting and threshing.

A second concession was that they would receive an extra 1/2 point during those busy periods leading, as it was said, to more variety in their meals.

Cullen airman's story - On page four one can read of the experiences of a Cullen airman aboard a bullet-riddled bomber. The heading reads - "Lancaster 'Y' For Yorke Limps Home From Berlin". The airman was Flight Engineer, A. F. Stevenson. (He was killed in a flying accident after the war in 1945 in Australia.)

Feb 17 **Killed in action** - Corporal James Macdonald, Cairnfield Gardens, Enzie, Clochan who had previously been reported missing was now known to have been killed in action in January, 1944. He was a gardener working at Cullen House before being called up. He had a brother also serving overseas.

Enzie Young Worshippers League - The following members of Enzie Church of Scotland Young Worshippers' League received book prizes and text cards - Girls

- Joan 'Joey' Chambers, Lorna McLean (Pg.), Cathie Farquhar (Pg.), Christina Smith (Pg.), Margaret Sutherland, Meta Hutchison, Dorothy Robertson, June Thomson (Pg.), Esther Robertson (Pg.), Rosie Dawson, Boys - Alex Wilson, Gordon Hendry, Eric Lyon, Eric Slorach, Ian Crombie, George Milne, Sandy Cowie, George Sinclair, Jack Robertson and James Robertson (all Portgordon), Colin Cruickshank and George Lawtie.

Airman presumed killed - LAC Alex 'Sandy' Kessack RAF, son of the late Robert Kessack and Mrs Kessack, Inchgower, first reported missing and then thought to be a prisoner of war in Italian hands is now presumed to have died. The vessel in which he was going to Italy as a POW was torpedoed and nothing has been heard of him since. LAC Kessack joined the RAF in 1936, before this he worked as a farm servant in the local area. he was 30 years of age. A brother, Pte. Robert Kessack was taken prisoner at Dunkirk.

Wounded - Word had been received by his parents, Mr and Mrs Simon Clark, 43 New Street, Buckie, that their son, L/Cpl John Clark, Gordon Highlanders, had been wounded in Italy. He was a Territorial being called up at the beginning of the war. Before this he was employed as a painter. His wife, a native of Dufftown was living in her home town.

Thomas Lang (Optician) - It had been stated that Mr Lang was a licensed boxing promoter. A letter to the B. A. had said other wise.

'Skipper's' column - This week he had included a poem titled 'To Portessie Youth'. this deals with a decision taken at a recent meeting of the School Management committee where they refused the local young people the use of the school for a dance. Prominent in the refusal was Mr Wm. McLean, farmer, Mill of Rathven who was scornful of Youth Clubs and their like.

Reminiscences of Buckie - The fourth instalment of this series was given in this edition of the B.A.

Soldiers' photograph - A photograph of Bombardier Wm. J. Stewart RA, son of Wm. Stewart, Hairdresser, is found in this edition. He had recently been reported killed in action in Italy.

Feb 24 **Playhouse** - Showing in the Playhouse this week was the film - "Four Feather", starring John Clements, Ralph Richardson, Audrey Smith and June Duprez.

Leap Year dances - There were to be dances in the Masonic Hall, Findochty on February 24. Admission 2/- with Forces half price. Music by the Quadrille Band. The NFS were to hold a dance in the Townhouse on Tuesday 29 February. Gents 3/- Ladies 3/-, Forces 2/-. Music by Geddes' band. (It was noticeable that in some cases there was beginning to be an equality of the sexes, with ladies required to pay the same admission charge as men. (Quite right one might say and not before time!))
Portessie OES No. 256 were to hold a Military Whist and Leap Year dance in the Church Hall, Portessie. Music supplied by the Regal band.

Shielburn School - A whist drive and Ladies Dance was to take place in the Shielburn School on Wednesday 1st March 1944 in aid of the Agricultural Red Cross. Music supplied by the Regal band.

Red Cross Agricultural Fund - This organisation were themselves to hold a whist drive and dance in the Townhouse Hall on Thursday 9th March, with music supplied by Bill Geddes and his band.

Lower Banffshire Agricultural Red Cross Fund were to hold a whist drive and dance in the Masonic Hall, Findochty, on 3rd March, with music supplied by the Quadrille band.

Successful POW student - Word had been received that Sergeant Wm. Cowie RAF, a POW in German hands had passed the London Matriculation Exam, First Division, which was held recently in the camps. It was hoped that he would go on to study for a degree after such a promising beginning.

Portgordon soldier escaped from POW camp - Guardsman Harry Garden, Scots Guards, son of Mrs Garden, Hillocks, East High Street, Portgordon, returned home after escaping from a POW camp in Italy.

Policeman and artist - The B.A. had a photograph of former Buckie fisherman, now a policeman in Fife, who had been successful in having some of his paintings hung in RSA galleries. PC James Stewart, Dundonald, was a son of the late Alex Stewart, Main Street, Buckpool, where his mother was still staying. PC Stewart had till then drawn a great many pictures, a number, not surprisingly, showing seascapes.

Boxing tournament - It would seem that Peter Cormack did come to know of the tournament although he was not to be the promoter. He was 'papered' as timekeeper with the original named person having disappeared.

Poem on page four, column 2 - This is titled, "Home Town" and had been written by Trooper R. Brown (Buckie. (This I learnt later was the person I knew as 'Dickie' Brown, a baker to trade, who was long acquainted with Buckie Cricket Club as scorer. In the year 2000 Dickie was living in Burnside Court, a residential home and still looking remarkable well for his years when I spoke to him about the poems that he had written.)

'Skipper's' column - In this edition he had included a poem written by a sailor who had just returned after being on leave at home. This is titled "Thro Life We Walk".

Mar 2 **Buckie sailor was lucky** - The story is told on page two, column four, of how PO William Taylor was washed overboard then back on board again during a 80 mph gale while acting as donkeyman on tug HMS Growler and busy pumping water out of a sinking ship.

PO Taylor, 29, is a son of Mr and Mrs J. Taylor, Station House, Buckpool. he joined the Navy in 1942 and before this helped in his father's butcher's shop on Main Street, Buckpool.

Local soldiers reported missing - All ex Territorial and called up on the outbreak of war in 1939. they all came through Dunkirk then fought through the North African Campaign. It was believed that they may have fallen into German hand in Italy.

Sergeant G.K. Cormack, 3 Seaview Road, Buckpool, a married man with his wife living at Reidhaven Street, Ianstown. 'Kitchie' as he was popularly known, played football for Buckie Thistle and worked at Jones Shipyard before being called up.

Pte. James 'Jim' Campbell, son of Mr and Mrs John Campbell, 42 Land Street, Buckpool. he was 23 and was formerly employed by W & J Cruickshank, Lemonade Manufacturers, Buckie. He was wounded in North Africa. (Jim was taken prisoner but returned after the war to become well known as a footballer, playing with the Rovers and Buckpool Celtic where he was a sparkling winger. In June 2000 he was still very much alive and looking extremely well.)

Pte. Robert Coull, son of Mr and Mrs Adam Coull, 17 Bridgend. He was also 23 and a pal of Jim Campbell. Before being called up Pte. Coull worked for Christie's Nurseries in Fochabers.

Pte Alex Bennett, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Bennett, 19 Seaview Road, Buckpool. he was 36 with a wife and four children living in Portsoy. where, before the war, he had been a hairdresser with Mr Riddoch. A wireless message had been received by his wife to say that he was well but in German hands.

Photograph of Captain Alex Smith is found on page three. Captain Smith, Gordon Highlanders, attached to the Gurkha Rifles was awarded the MC for gallantry in Burma.

He was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs James Smith, 32 Linn Crescent. He was 29 and before joining the army had worked in the burgh collector's office. He was a well-known footballer having played for Buckie Thistle and had been signed by Liverpool shortly before the war began. He was also an accomplished cricketer.

He was seriously wounded in Burma, which resulted in the loss of a leg. He returned to play cricket for Buckie, after the war employing a runner to snatch the many runs he knocked up. Captain Smith was also given a mention in the 'Skipper's' column.

Two other brothers were serving in the forces at the time.

A photograph of Guardsman Harry Garden of Portgordon is found on page four.

Arradoul Youth Club - A new president was appointed. He was Charles 'Snoof' Taylor who lived with his parents at the Mill of Tynet.

Reminiscences of Buckie - The fifth instalment of this series by J.F. Barritt is to be found in this edition.

Mar 9 **Death of former Shielburn Headteacher** - The death took place at her home, 17 West Cathcart Street, Buckie, of Mrs Elizabeth Ann Badenoch, late headmistress of Shielburn School. She was survived by her daughter, Mary, who was also a teacher and taught French at Buckie High School. During the first war Mrs Badenoch used to do a weekend shift as a VAD nurse at Portessie Hospital before cycling up the hill to begin her teacher's work on Monday morning. **In her obituary there is mentioned that during Mrs Badenoch's reign the pupil roll had reached 100! Hardly believable but it tells us just how populated the hill area was then and the degree of depopulation that has taken place during the last 90 odd years.**

Killed on active service - Word had been received that Sergeant John Campbell Cowie, RAF, 19 years old and husband of Jeannie Scott and son of Mr and William Cowie, 36 Great Western Road, Buckpool, had been killed on active service in October 1943. His body was interred in Antwerp Deuvre cemetery.

Died in a hospital at Alexandria - Word had been received that Skipper Alex Coull RNR, husband of Maggie J. Flett, 5 Church Street, Portessie and third son of the late Mr and Mrs Alex Coull, 30 New Street, Findochty had died in a hospital in Alexandria.

Killed on active service in January 1944 - Word had been received that Warrant Officer Adam Herd Flett DFM, RAF, second son of Mr and Mrs George Smith Flett, 23 Sterlochy, Findochty, had been killed in action.

Killed in action - Official confirmation had been received from the War Office that Sergeant Charles G. McLean, Scots Guards, second son of Mr and Mrs C. McLean, 6 Reid Terrace, Portgordon, had been killed in action in Italy in January 1944. He had been wounded three times during the North African Campaign. He was 24 and had been a very keen footballer before the war.

Died of wounds - The parents of Pte James Milton, London Scottish, Mr and Mrs Alex Milton, Auchenreath, Spey Bay, received word that their son had died of wounds in a hospital in Italy in February 1944. He was 19.

Shop transfer - The Cycle and Electrical business at 16 Gordon Street, Portgordon belonging to Alex Martin was sold to Mr James McKenzie, 34 Gordon Street. Mr Martin thanked all those who had given him their support during the years that he had been in business.

Missing presumed lost - Official confirmation had been received that Pilot Officer Thomas B. Forbes, Maryhill, Drybridge, who had been previously reported missing off operations in July 1943, was now presumed to have lost his life at this time.

P/O Forbes had been in the RAF for three years, training as a pilot in California and had been the captain of a Lancaster bomber on many raids over enemy territory. It is believed that he was lost when his plane came down in the sea on returning from a flight to Italy. It was known that three of the crew were POW but P/O Forbes was not among those named.

Before volunteering for the RAF he had been a member of the Metropolitan Police being selected out of an entry of over 200 candidates. His wife and three children live in London.

Death of former High School janitor - The death took place at 19 Great Western Road, Aberdeen, of former Buckie High School janitor, Mr Henry R. Brookman, after a brief illness. He retired from the school in 1939 after giving 20 years service. He taught signalling and life saving at the evening school after having been taught these skills during 30 years service in the Royal Navy, retiring as a 1st class PO. He came to Buckie from Fochabers where he had been caretaker of the Public Institute.

Buckie Welfare Society - The B.A. received a letter from someone who had written on the subject questioning the word Welfare in the title. The writer said how the income and expenditure of the organisation had never been disclosed, by implication, suggesting that everything was not as it might be.

A poem is found on page 3 column 4- This is titled "Submerged", written by J. C. Portgordon. It became known that the writer was a man, with this being his first contribution for a long time.

'Skipper's' column - In his column this week the 'Skipper' had included a poem written by a Negro soldier who had been serving with the US army in Italy. The poem was titled 'Salerno Beach' and had been sent home to Buckie by a local soldier when a copy came into his possession.

Another poem is found on the same page, and written by a Buckie lad before the battle of El Alamein. It is dedicated to one of a plane's crew who walked back to Tobruk after being shot down out in the desert. The men walked through the enemy position of El Alamein, with some dying on the way. The poem is titled "70 Squadron".

The 'Skipper' included part of a third poem on account of it being long. Someone called LAC Wilson wrote these lines which formed part of the first verse

-
To those 'the few' whose names shall be immortal
Some now have worn their laurel leaves and passed thro' heaven's portals
But what of those who died a thousand deaths - yet live
That they, a precious freedom could to others give.

Poem on page 4 - This is titled 'Benghazi' and tells of the exploits of aircrew members, late of a RAF Squadron.

Mar 16 **Playhouse** - Showing in the local cinema this week was the film "Tonight We Raid Calais", starring Annabela ? and John Sutton.

Dances in aid of - Dances were being held in aid of a number of different organisations - British Sailors Society, Red Cross Agricultural Fund, St Dustans, POW Fund, Red Cross.

Tanks named - "Buckie and District" - The Banffshire Advertiser received a note from a Captain P. Murgatroyd of 145 Regiment RAC BNAF, dated January

1944, to say that they now had two tanks in the squadron bearing the names "Buckie and District".

Photographs on page 3 - Found on this page are found the photographs of two soldiers and pals who were reported missing in Italy some weeks before. The photographs show - Pte Robert Coull, Gordon Highlanders, 17 Bridgend and Pte James Campbell, also of the Gordon, of 42 Land Street. Buckpool. It was believed that both men were now prisoners of war in Italy.

Welcome Home - *The town council were discussing the raising of money to welcome servicemen on demobilisation after the war.*

It seems odd that they didn't know but some town councillors thought that that the Welfare Association (Society) was a town council ran organisation. If this was not so, said one, why was it that the Welfare Association had the Townhouse Hall free for use three evenings per week.

Provost Merson, a member of the Welfare Association (Society) said that one of the first principles of the Welfare Society was that they provide money required by the War Work Party, which had first call on the funds. The next call on the funds was the Forces Canteen (in the Drill Hall) and after that the POW Fund and then, by a majority vote of members, money may be put towards any object they felt worthy of support.

The Provost said that there were three town councillors on the ruling body of the Welfare Society, including himself, with a further two as members.

After much discussion there was unanimous agreement that it should be the town council who had the responsibility of welcoming the men home. A committee of three was set up to consider what form the 'Welcome Home' should take.

Answer to letter writer on the subject of the Welfare Society - A member of the Welfare Association (The B.A. seemed to use the terms Society and Association loosely) hit back at the writer of a previous letter inviting him/her to come and offer their services on Saturday nights in the Townhouse when they would receive a free bottle of dazzle as payment .

Mar 23 **Buckie ARP** -The Buckie company of ARP after a tie at Keith on Sunday qualified to represent Banffshire in the area finals at Aberdeen in a competition ran by the ARP for part-time rescue squads in the north east. The winners to receive a cup presented by the District Commandant. The Buckie team consists of - A. Spence, J. Green, J. H. Walker, W. Hodgson, J. Rumbles, E. Douglas and T. Angus.

Killed in action - It was reported that Pte Vincent Smith, Queens Own Cameron Highlanders, son of the late Nathan and Mrs Smith, 3 Ianstown Terrace, Ianstown, had been killed in action in Italy in March 1944.

Gala Dance - A Gala Dance was to take place in the Townhouse Hall on Tuesday 28 March, 1944, organised by Aberdeen University Students Campaign Admission - 5/- with Forces 3/-.

Open buffet - Novelty prizes.

Music supplied by the RAF band by kind permission of the O/C. The 1944 slogan was 'CUMAWAWIT'

Playhouse concert - A concert was to take place in the Playhouse Cinema on Sunday 2 April in aid of the British Sailors Society. The KOSB band was to be present by kind permission of their O/C.

Admission 3/- (reserved) 2/- and 1/-

Killed in action - Corporal James Alex Cowie, London Scottish, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alex Cowie, 87 Seatown was reported to have been killed in action in

Italy. He was a painter before being called up, having served his time with Alex Ross, Painter, New Street, Buckie.

Wedding - Miss Molly Shepherd, 22 James Street, Buckpool, was married to Pte Sydney Foulds, Salford, Lancs., within the North Church, Buckie. The reception took place at Strathlene House.

Church Parade - The Enzie Patrol Boy Scouts and Cubs held a Church Parade to Enzie North Church on Sunday. the following scouts received stars for service during the past year. P/L Alex Wilson and P/L Ian Taylor, both Portgordon. Seconds Hector Stuart, G. Hendry, Crosbie Stuart, Eric Lyon, J. Coull, Ronnie Ritchie, Leslie Cowie, Roy Innes, Bruce McKenzie, W. Reid, George Green and David Munro- all from Portgordon.

Photograph of Sergeant 'Kitchie' Cormack - On page three is to be found a photograph of Sergeant Cormack, Gordon Highlanders, son of Mr and Mrs James Cormack, 3 Seaview Road, Buckpool. He was reported missing in Italy and believed to be a prisoner of war. He is married with a wife and young daughter living in Ianstown.

Photograph of Sergeant Charles G. McLean - On the same page is found a photograph of Sergeant McLean, Scots Guards, a native of Portgordon. He was reported to have been killed in Italy.

Welfare Society - Some people were still not happy about the Welfare Society with a further two letters being printed in this edition. One writer suggested that the Society had funds totalling over £1,0000 with no one being accountable for this money, since, as it was stated, it was not run under the aegis of the town council. One writer asked where the money being collected was going.

Reminiscences of Buckie - The sixth instalment in this series is found in this edition. they were written by J. F. Barritt, a son of the late music teacher, etc, Mr John Barritt.

'Skipper's' column - Included in his jottings this week he had a poem titled 'The Diktator of Bucky'. It was quite obvious that this referred to Provost Merson though in the poem the person is referred to as Smith.

Mar 30 **Awarded the MM-** Information was received that Sapper Kenneth Smith, RE, 27 Rannas Place, Portessie, had been awarded the MM.

Photograph (1)- A photograph is to be found on page 3 showing a picture of Corporal James A. Cowie, 87 Seatown was reported to have been killed in action

Photograph (2) On the same page a second photograph shows a picture of Pte Vincent M. Smith, Camerons, who was also reported to have been killed in action. He served his time as a butcher with George McKenzie before moving to Kinlochleven where he joined the Lovat Scouts before being transferred to the Cameron Highlanders. He was an accomplished golfer and a member of the Strathlene Club where he had won a number of prizes. He had a brother serving with the Gordon Highlanders.

Dance attendants - The following dance attendants at the dances ran by the Welfare Society in the Townhouse, George 'Dod' Fraser, George Johnston and John Reid were badly assaulted by three sailors after they had been challenged about breaking a window in the toilet. At a recent dance, a Society member, George Packman had been assaulted both at the Townhouse itself and later at his home on Cathcart Street. The two culprits were Buckpool youths.

Letter from Welfare Society committee man - The B. A. carried a letter from a Welfare Society member in which a number of questions, asked by a previous writer, were answered. It had been said at the annual general meeting of the

Welfare Society, held at the end of year on 19/8/43 a list of all the donations made had amounted to £963.5.2. the Society was accountable to the Inland Revenue as regards taxation and also the War Charities Authority, which had no further jurisdiction than seeing that the funds were not misapplied. No name was given for the writer who began and ended his letter with the Latin phrase, Honi soit qui'mal y pence.

Photograph of Chief Officer George Stronach GC, Portgordon - A photograph on page three shows a picture of Chief Officer Stronach who had shortly before had the GC pinned to his chest by King George VI at Buckingham Palace. He was accompanied to London by his mother who was making her first trip across the border, also his wife and sister, Mrs O'Neill, WAAF, along with her husband who was serving with the Canadian Air Force. The action for which Chief Officer Stronach received the award is told elsewhere in these notes.

Norwegian fishermen in Scotland - An article written on the subject is found on page 4.

Apr 6 **Killed in action** - It was reported that Lieutenant William Melvin, 6th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, who had been serving with the Central Mediterranean Forces had been killed in action sometime in March 1944. He was a nephew of A.L.B. Melvin, 34 High Street, Buckie and a regular visitor to the town where he was well known.

Co-operative dance - The Co-operative Youth Club were to hold a Junior Dance in the Townhouse hall on Tuesday 11 April, starting at 7.30 pm. Admission 2/-

Arradoul Youth Club were to be staging a Dramatic Concert in the WRI Hall at Arradoul on 12 August. Admission 2/- and 1/6 with Forces 1/6. A dance was to follow with music supplied by the Regal Band. Admission 1/6 with Forces 1/-. A special performance of the 'Plays' was to take place on Tuesday 11 April for children, commencing at 8 pm Admission 6d with adults 1/6.

The Co-operative Youth Club held their regular weekly meeting in the Lady Cathcart School on Monday evening with the president, Mrs Merson presiding. Two guest speakers were present. The first, Mr Adam Robertson, gave a talk on singing and then led the party in some rousing community singing. The second speaker, Warrant Officer Johnston RN, gave good advice on the outlook on life. Plans were laid for a concert to take place at a later date with a Musical Evening on Monday 17 April with prizes being provided by Mrs Merson.

Partners asked to find the 'fine' money - Two boys and a girl of school age were charged with climbing on and damaging hay stacks in a field near the Barhill Road causing damage amounting to £3. the parents were fined 7/6 each.

Five bob fine - A woman from Portessie was fined 5/- for leaving her bicycle leaning against a shop window on West Church Street unattended and without lights.

Foreign seamen in trouble - Each week the B.A. carried the names of foreign seamen, Danes and Norwegians, meanwhile fishing from Buckie etc who had been charged with being drunk and incapable or as often committing a Breach of the Peace. Often they failed to appear to face the charge with their bail money of £2 or £3 being forfeited.

Yet another Youth Club - In the column set aside for Youth Activities the name of yet another young group received a mention. The new one was the Methodist Girls' Club.

Apr 13 **Paper salvage** - The town council had a big notice occupying space on the front page of the B.A. this week. This from the Salvage Department read - Open up

Your **Second Front** by making a special effort in the 'Collection of Waste Paper'. (The **Second Front** was the name, which had been given to the invasion of mainland Europe by allied troops that most people knew, was to take place sooner rather than later.)

Sale of nets - A sale of 100 fishing nets belonging to John Smith, SD Rising Sea, within the fishmarket, Commercial Road, Buckie, on Saturday 15 April.

Wanted Church Officer - A church officer (or beadle) was wanted for the West Church on West Church Street. (The church was Wage £30 per annum.

Wednesday closing *Owing to a shortage of staff the Banffshire Advertiser will be closed all day on Wednesday until further notice, commencing on 19 April.*

Photograph - A photograph of Pte Vincent M. Smith, Cameron Highlanders, who was reported killed in action some time before, is shown on page two.

Paint work D-I-Y - The burgh surveyor reported to the town council that the doors and windows on many of the houses were badly in need of painting but with so few men it was impossible to get a firm to do the work. It was agreed that paint be given to householders if they agreed to do the work themselves.

Portgordon Youth Club held a very successful whist drive and social in the Masonic Hall. Music was supplied by the Ambassador band. the event was organised by Miss Tessie Innes (Later Mrs Harry Masson) with the help of a group of young lady committee members.) Miss Innes also handed over the prizes to the whist winners.

"Salute The Soldier Week" - The Banffshire Week was to take place from April 22 - April 29. The big notice in the B.A. was inserted by the Aberdeen Savings Bank.

Nurse killed on active service - Information had been received that Sister Helen M. Robertson, 'Nellie' QAIMS, daughter of Mr and Mrs Wm. Robertson, New Houses, Fordyce and granddaughter of Mr and Mrs John Murray, 49 Gordon Street, Portgordon, who had previously been reported missing on the high seas on February 12, 1944, was now reported to have been killed by enemy activity on that date. She had been serving aboard a hospital ship in the Mediterranean.

Lower Banffshire Red Cross Agricultural Appeal - With this now at an end the sum realised came to £1,813. The joint conveners were R.G. Young, Arradoul Mains and C. Calder, Mains of Findochty.

Members of the committee were Messrs R. Shand, Glasterim, Jas. Paterson, Core, Wm. Addison, Cruats, James Copland, Newton, R. Cameron, Slackend, John Wilson, Walkerdale, R. Walker, Puttingbrae, Jas. Watt, Greencraig, J. Milne, Carnoch, Jas. Legge, Bogside, J.P. Calder, Mains of Findochty, Jas. Newlands, Bauds, T. Forbes, Maryhill, A. Smith, Home Farm, Letterfourie, A. Mitchell, Shielmuir, G. Graham, Redburn, J. McLean, and R. Harper, Mill of Rathven, Ian Thomson, Burnside of Enzie, T. Grigor, Oxhill, G. Bremner, Birkenbush, F. Howie, Holmie and W. Smith, Solicitor, Buckie who was local secretary and treasurer. The money was raised through whist drives and dances and also from 1/- in the £ levy on rented agricultural land in the parish.

The 'Skipper's' column - In his column this week he had included a poem in comical mood describing what a person had found when paying a visit to a Saturday night Welfare Society dance in the Townhouse. **(This is worth reading again or taking a copy.)**

The week before the Skipper, himself, had paid a visit to the same dance venue and in his column said that he saw nothing untoward going on. Those in charge, named, he described as being men of integrity. There had been no jitterbugging

or other such dances for though this had been asked for time and again the band had said that they were not allowed to play the kind of music required for this type of dance. He had been willingly shown the books by Mr Rome Tocher and also given the information as to which organisations had received money from the Welfare Society. Following this week's poem he again repeated what he had said initially - that all was as it should be, with everything above board.

Apr 20 **Playhouse** - In the local cinema this week one could have seen Giene Tierney, Dona Ameche and Charles Coburn in the film "Heaven Can Wait". Also showing during the week - "My Friend Flicka" in Technicolour. This told the story of a horse and starred Roddy McDowall, Preston Forster and Rita Johnston.

Rags etc - John Wilson, Dealer, 10 Bridgend had an advert on the front page of the B.A. which carried the following information - Rags - 2/- per stone; Clean sacking - 3d per stone; Waste paper - 3d per stone; Copper and brass - 3d per LB; Lead - 1 1/2 d LB; Scrap iron - 1/6 per cwt. Cash or dishes in exchange.

Arradoul Youth Club Dramatic Concert - Prior to the beginning of the concert, Allan Fraser, in a welcoming speech gave the audience a foretaste of the quality of the show and the applause which greeted the various items indicated the pleasure with which the programme was received.

The artistes, in addition to Allan Fraser who also played a part, were Elizabeth Young, Agnes Grant, George Legge Charles Taylor, Hugh Whyte, Willie Potts, Willie Duncan, Eric Hepburn, Arthur Forbes, Helen Alexander, Margaret Beattie, Nan Grant, Mary Fraser, Mary Howie, Janet McIntosh, Ethel Symon, Joy Young, Isobel Duncan, Jessie Alexander, Ena Wilson, Violet Fraser, William Thomson, Janet Geddes and Irene Grant.

Mr G.R. Coutts, Buckie, gave much assistance in making up the actors, while he also painted some of the scenery and helped with the production. The electric lighting, which added to the success of the production was supplied by Mr J. A. Forrest, Buckie. Music between the scenes was provided by the Regal Band.

Mrs Brander, Club Leader, Buckie, gave a vote of thanks to all who had assisted in making the evening a success, making reference to Mrs Geddes, Miss Duncan, Miss Young and Mr Geo. Innes

Mrs Merson, Buckie, drew the lucky tickets with prizes going to Janet McIntosh, Jessie MccIvor, John Cowie, Margaret Anderson, Gordon Legge, Mrs Leask and Margaret Geddes.

A dance followed with music being supplied by the Regal Band. George 'Dod' Innes was MC. The two youngest members of the Club, Elizabeth Young and Agnes Grant drew the lucky tickets at the dance. The winners being - Mrs Burton, Betty Bennie, Lena Taylor, Robert Morrison and Betty Sheed.

Poem - A poem titled "Salute the Soldier" is to be found on page 3. This had been written by E. T. Buckpool.

May 4 **Death announcement** - The death took place at 37 Gordon Street, Portgordon on 28 April 1944, of Andrew Scorgie, Tailor. He was buried in St Ninian's Cemetery, Enzie, Clochan.

"Salute The Soldier" The money collected locally during the week that this campaign was in operation was as follows -

	TARGET	TOTAL
Buckie	£35.000	£64.963
Cullen	£15.000	£17.075
Findochty	£10.000	£17.035
Portknockie	£05.000	£12.572

Poem On page four is to be found a poem titled "India" written by someone called Joe McGrath, a mate of Wm. J. Jappy, a local loon then serving in Burma, who sent the poem home.

Yanters and Cullies - Discussion was taking place as to who were known by these two terms. One suggestion made was that the 'Yanters' were those living 'west the burn', or Buckpool, while the 'Cullies' lived in the Seatown or Cat-Bow area. No one had come up with why either had been so called.

May 11 **RAF Recruitment Visit** - It had been some time since the RAF had paid a recruiting visit to Buckie but they were still urgently seeking aircrew. In addition there were many trades open to the women in the WAAF between the ages of 17 1/2 and 19 years of age.

RAF Concert - The RAF were to present a Grand Variety concert, titled "Take It Easy" in the Fishermen's Hall on Thursday 11 May 1944, to raise funds for the RAF Benevolent Fund. Admission charges - 3/-, 2/- and 1/-.

May 18 **Playhouse** - The local cinema this week was showing the film 'Bataan' starring Robert Taylor, George Murphy, Thomas Mitchell and Lloyd Nolan. The film was based on the re-taking of this Pacific island from the Japanese by the American troops.

Coal Merchant - Mr Alex Pirie, Coal Merchant, Portgordon, had a notice in the B.A. saying that he was to close his business on 27 May, and thanked all his customers for their patronage over the years he had been in business.

Sergeant 'Kitchie' Cormack - A report is given on page 2, column 6, provided by a military observer of the action in which Sergeant Cormack, together with a comrade from Keith, had been involved in at Anzio, Italy, which led to his death.

Photograph and report - One can find on page 3, column 2 a photograph of Captain Alex Smith MC, Linn Crescent, Buckie, who some time before had been badly wounded in Burma. A report tells of the action in which Captain Smith won the MC.

Poems - Two poems are found on page three of this edition. One is titled, "Spring or Birth", written by J. C. The other "Bonnie Scotland" Milk or Brose by Tattie Raw.

'Skipper's' column - In his column this week the 'Skipper' made reference to the passing of 'Kitchie' Cormack who he described as a good footballer and no mean boxer.

May 25 **POW in Germany** - Word had been received that Pte. Alex Bennett, 19 Seaview Road, Buckpool who had previously been reported missing was now known to be a POW in Germany.

Presumed killed in action - It had now been officially presumed that mate Alex Mitchell RN, 14 Hall Street, Buckie, had been killed in action during war service. He had previously been reported missing. He had been a fisherman before volunteering for the Navy in 1939. He had been a skipper for a spell. He was 41 and a native of Lossiemouth. A brother, living at the same address, had been killed three years before.

Wireless operator - The parents of George W. Crockett received word that their son had passed out as a wireless operator, air crew. He was 19 and previously worked for the Buckie Gas Light Company.

Buckie Worthies of the past - A regular writer to the B. A. Mr Wm. Dallas, Glasgow, had a letter in this edition in which he mentioned Buckie worthies that

he could remember from his younger days. Those he named were - Sandy Candy, Habberin Peter, Jockie and Meggie Auchinachie, Robbie Ross, Wildie Waddy and 'King'. The last two he named, he said, came from the Sloch. The writer said how he had in his possession photographs of all those named above, taken by Clark, Photographer, Baron Street.

The same writer suggested that it could be interesting to many if the following questions and their answers were given space in the B.A.

Questions he posed were - Who built the first Cluny Harbour and when was it first opened to shipping? What is the oldest church in Buckie? when was it built Who was the first minister? Which church had a Jew for a beadle? When did the names Peter Hythe and Vanity Fair originate? Why are Portessie folk called Slochies? Why has the Craigmint Bridge got two arches? When did the last Kessack bus run to Keith? When was the Great North Railway opened? What was the name of the first Buckie stationmaster on this line?

'Skipper's' column - The 'Skipper' this week mentioned a former 'Town Crier' James Bowie, who had been out of a job for a long time but still retained the title. he retold a story, which he said, may or not be true. As young Territorial marching down Mid Street in Keith, under the command of Captain McNaughton, Bowie gave the order for the company to halt as it was passing the Commercial Hotel door. While half of the company marched on the others are reputed to have had a quick dram in the hotel before again returning on parade. James Bowie never played football but his brother, Andrew, was said to have played for Buckie Thistle.

Poem - On page four column 6 a poem titled "United We Stand" is to be found. This was written by E. T., Buckpool.

Biography of John Barritt - An article is found on page 4 written by J. F. Barritt about his father who was well known in Buckie as a music teacher etc. This is the first instalment with a number of others being printed over the following weeks.

June 1 **Killed in action -** Leading Cook, George Sutherland, 34, husband of Barbara Ann Mair, 5 Admiralty Street, Portknockie, who had previously been reported missing was now presumed to have been killed by enemy action.

Church Service - A church service was to take place in the Shielburn School on Sunday 4th June at 4 00 pm. The service was to be taken by Rev. A. M. Stuart, Rathven.

Presumed killed in action - Word had been received that Flying Officer John Ralph of Longmorn, Elgin and formerly of Buckie, was presumed to have been killed in May 1944 when as a pilot of a Typhoon aircraft engaged on activities against the enemy. He was educated at Buckie High School and was well known in the district where he was a keen athlete. He was married with his wife living in Maidstone, Kent.

Presumed killed in action - Corporal Alex Grant, second son of Mr and Mrs Alex Grant, 5 Bowie's Lane, Buckpool, was presumed to have lost his life in action against the Japanese in Burma. Before the war he was a painter with R. Johnston, Low Street. He had been four years in the army, first serving with the Seaforths before being transferred to the Black Watch. He was married with his wife living in Inverness.

Parents fined - A boy wilfully removed the bung from a barrel of tar at Carnoch Wood allowing the tar to flow out on to the ground. The tar belonged to Banff County Council. His parents were fined 10/-

Photograph - A photograph on page three of this edition shows Mate Alex Mitchell RN of 14 Hall Street who had been presumed to have been killed in action.

Junior Football meeting - A meeting took place in Buckie High School for the purpose of considering the formation of a Junior Football League for Buckie and District. There was a good attendance and it was agreed for this to go ahead. Office bearers appointed were - President - A. 'Sandy' Middleton, Vice President - J. Mitchell, Secretary and Treasurer- J. Scorgie, c/o Bruce, Tarbuckie, Assistant Secretary- J. Dawson. Executive committee - Middleton, Scorgie, Mitchell, Wm. Hay and M. West.

June 8 **Playhouse** - Showing in the 'Palace' this week was the film, " First Comes Courage", starring Merel Oberon and Brian Aherne, also, " Yellow Canary" starring Anna Neagle and Richard Greene.

Did it really happen ? - A man got up in a local bus and offered a woman a seat, she fainted. Recovering a few minutes later she thanked the man for the seat, then he fainted.

Photograph - A photograph on page three shows a picture of Corporal Alex Grant, Black Watch of 5 Bowie's Lane, Buckpool, who had been reported killed in action in Burma.

'Skipper's' column - His column was found on page four and in it this week he had included a poem written by Lance Corporal Spence who was then serving with the 6th Gordons in Italy. The poem was titled "The Fighting First Division".

***** **'D' Day - Allied troops landed on the mainland of Europe, on the beaches of Normandy, northern France. The first troops went ashore early on the morning of 6th June 1944. This was the largest invasion fleet ever witnessed.**

June 15 **Weddings** - There were no less than 8 wedding announcements on the front page of the B. A. this week, with by far the majority involving one of the parties serving in the forces, sometimes both. This was the most that had been seen in the paper on one week.

Nurse passes exams - Miss Kathleen McGrory, daughter of Mr and Mrs McGrory, 6 Hay Street, Buckpool, recently passed her finals set by the General Nursing Council for Scotland in Glasgow and is now a qualified fever nurse.

Died in air operations - Word had been received that Sergeant James Fraser RAF, Flight Engineer, husband of Ruth Gill, 22 Anton Street, had died of wounds sustained during a raid over enemy territory. They had only been married for 8 months. He was 27 years of age and a native of Renfrew. Sergeant Fraser joined the Cameron Highlanders before the war later transferring to RAF aircrew and had completed a number of operations over Germany. he was buried in the New Cemetery, Buckie.

New dance band - A number of new bands had come on the scene, some to disappear about as quickly as they came. Stanley Stewart and his Kentucky Band, a new name to conjure with, were to play at a dance in the Findochty hall in aid of Findochty Football Club. The same band was to play at the Co-op Youth Club dance and also one in aid of Portknockie Football Club.

BEM for Buckie engineer - John Cole, Foreman Engineer with Messrs Jones, Slip and Shipyard Ltd was awarded the BEM in the King's Honour's List. His son Jackie was to receive the same award a number of years later for service to the RNLI.

First games in the new Junior League were to take place at Merson's Park (formerly called the Provost's Park) on Saturday at 3 pm and at 7.30 pm.

The first two games saw Herd & McKenzie Shipyard play Jones' Shipyard (referee J. Buchan). In the second game Portgordon were matched against Hamilton's Engineers with F. Smith as referee.

Games to be played during the week were - Findochty v ATC (A. Middleton referee); RAF Dallachy v Portknockie (Wm. Knowles referee); Home Guard v ACF (J. Buchan referee); Portknockie v Findochty (A. Middleton referee).

Poem - C. T. of Buckpool who had had a number of poems had another printed in this edition. The latest was titled, 'D' -Day'.

The Buckie House - *The local burgh surveyor had designed a house, which he showed to the councillors. This he had named the "Buckie House". It was to be built with an outer skin of cement blocks and with an inner skin of breeze blocks. The house was a three apartment with steel roof trusses replacing timber and clad with corrugated asbestos. it was to cost £650. A description of the internal layout is given in the report of June 8th 1944.*

Rare event - Circuses were a common event during the summer months pre-war but far more rarely now. This being said, Major Russell's State Madras Circus was to pay a visit to Buckie on Monday 19 June when the Big Top would be set up in the Commercial Park as usual. There was to be two performances given, at 4.15 pm and again at 7.30 pm. School children were to be admitted to the afternoon Show for 1/-. Admission for adults was 4/6, 3/- and 2/-. Children at the evening performance to be charged 3/-, 2/- or 1/6.

Jun 22 **Table tennis league** - the teams entered for a Buckie Table Tennis League were RAF, Home Guard, NFS, Townhouse, ATC and the Youth Club.

New Police Station - At a meeting it was agreed that a new police station would have to be built in Buckie whether this was to be in the post-war period or the present hadn't been decided. The Chief Constable said that accommodation in Buckie was inadequate and that a completely new building was required. This should have an office, cells, and a house for the sergeant on a new feu, also two houses for staff. A courtroom might be added later. In the event it was not until the early 1950s that a new station was built. This was sited on South West Street with the associated housing on West Cathcart Street.

(The Police Station being used in 1944 was sited on Banff Street with a note on its construction being found somewhere in the notes. It may be of interest to some to know that an earlier Police Station, and likely the first in Buckie, was situated on St Peter's Terrace (formerly known as Union Street) at its junction with Cathedral Street. In the year 2000 one could still make out some of the letters of Police Station on the lintel above the doorway.)

Penicillin miracles - The use of penicillin was described as doing miracles on the French battlefield. A medical Brigadier said that it was particularly efficient in the prevention of gangrene.

Golden Wedding - *John Cowie 'Santa' and his wife recently celebrated their Golden Wedding . The story in the B.A. told how when the couple were first married the ceremony took place at his home at 54 Yardie at 8 am on 19 June 1893 by the Rev Gordon Donald, Rathven. After the couple had had their breakfast, Mr Cowie set sail for Peterhead with his bride following later by the first train via Dyce. They had a family of eight with one son being lost in the First World War.*

'Skipper's' column - In his talk this week the 'Skipper' mentioned how two Buckie soldiers had met in Burma, one from Bridge Place the other from Bridgend. The two were Gordon Geddes, with the other Robert Lyon. He went on to speak of 'Hairy Corner' and how it had come by this sobriquet. It was his opinion that this had arisen from the fact that a barber, John Lamb, who had a shop there used to collect all his clippings from a day's work in a basket before coupling this into the Buckie Burn. Lamb who came from Fraserburgh was a talented Actor and according to what the 'Skipper' had been told, was often called upon by the late John Clyde, a famous actor of the time, to fill part of his bill at Buckie.

June 29 **Died of wounds** - Word had been received that Pte James McKenzie, RAMC, eldest son of Mr and Mrs James McKenzie, 3 Campbell Street, Portessie had died of wounds. His wife was Catherine Ann Runcie of Cullen. Prior to the war he worked with his father in their shop in Portessie.

Former Postie wounded - Gunner William Fraser was wounded in action in Burma while serving with the RA. He was 38 and married with a family of four. His wife was 'Gelnie' Wilson with their home at 24 Land Street. Before being called up Gunner Fraser was a postman in Buckie. He returned safely to Buckie after the war to again pick up his old job as a post man. The family got one of the new houses being built on Mill Crescent but later moved into an ex-serviceman's bungalow presented by Caledonian Cinemas on Duguid Street.

Killed in action - Signalman William Garvock, Newtonhill, Rathven, was reported to have been killed in action in Italy in June. He was serving with the Royal Corps of Signals as a dispatch rider. He enlisted in 1941. He served throughout the North African Campaign where he was wounded during August 1943 and spent some time in hospital before rejoining his regiment in Italy. His widow was living at Bonneathill, Grange, Keith. Before joining the army Signalman Garvock worked at the Wyllie Barr & Ross Depot in Keith.

Poem - A poem titled "Nurses", written by 'Sailor', is to be found on page 3 column 2.

Need for a P.O. in Upper Buckpool - The 'Skipper' was making a plea on behalf of those, people who live 'Up the Brae' in Buckpool, especially the more elderly who have been pressing for a Post Office to be opened there. He said how it was a long and hard trail for those of advanced age to go first down the steep brae and then the climb back up again to visit the Post Office on Main Street. (It must have been at least ten years before they got their wish, when Davie Main, Chemist and James Paterson, Grocer, had a block of shops built on St Andrew's Square, with a sub Post Office in the chemist's)

Jly 6 **Killed on active service** - A/C Alex Grant Cowie RAF, W/op, who was undergoing training as an air gunner was accidentally killed during training. He was the third son of Mr and Mrs George Cowie, 3 Land Street, Buckpool. and prior to joining the RAF was a joiner with A. Hendry and Sons. He was 27 years of age. He was buried in the New Cemetery, Buckie.

High School Dux - The Dux of Buckie High School in 1944 was Donald McKenzie who also took the Muir Memorial Medal for Latin. Moira Fraser, Cathcart Street, was Dux of the Primary School.

Killed in action - Word had been received that Flight/Sergeant Robert Brand Grant RAF, husband of Winifred Humphrey, late of Portessie, had been killed in action during June.

Died in Bombay Military Hospital - LAC Alex 'Sandy' Legge, Minduff, Drybridge, died in hospital in Bombay, India. He was 20 and a former pupil of Enzie Public School.

Missing believed killed in action - Flight/Sergeant Dalgarno, RAF, 17 North Castle Street, Cullen was reported missing, believed killed in air operations over Burma. He was a gardener at Cullen House before joining the Forces.

Photograph - A photograph is found on page two of Pte Jas. McKenzie MM, RAMC, of Portessie who had recently been reported to have died of wounds.

Baptism - The baptism of Lady Pauline Ann took place at Cullen on Sunday. She was the daughter of Flying Officer D. H. Studley Herbert and the Countess of Seafield.

Photograph and report - On page three (or two) can be found a photograph of Sergeant G. K. Cormack Gordon Highlanders, who had initially been reported missing then believed to be a POW but was now known to have been killed at Anzio, Italy. His wife and his daughter (who later became Mrs Margaret Smith, Cathcart Street lived at 7 Reidhaven Street, Iainstown. Sergeant Cormack's parents, Mr and Mrs James Cormack, lived at 3 Seaview Road, Buckpool. A military observer mentioned the heroism of Sergeant Cormack in a fight against German tanks at Anzio. 'Kitchie' as he was known to many was a popular football player with Buckie Thistle. He was called up with the Territorials in 1939 and saw service at Dunkirk and during the North African Campaign. The Rev. Greenlaw made reference to his passing from the pulpit on Sunday.

'Skipper's' column - In his column this week the 'Skipper' included a poem that had he had received from a soldier serving in Italy. It is titled "The Jewels of the Mediterranean" by A Gordon.

John Barritt's biography - Instalment number 4 is found on page 4.

Jly 13 **More referees** - The names of John McNiven, local manager of Alexander's buses in Buckie and George Craig, Portgordon, were added to the list of referees in the Buckie and District Junior League.

Died of wounds - Word had been received that Guardsman George Wilson, Scots Guards, 3rd son of the late Mr James Wilson and Mrs Wilson, Schoolhill, Drybridge had died of wounds whilst in enemy hands. He was 27 and had worked as a farm servant before joining the army where he had served through the North African Campaign, Sicily and into Italy.

Knitting for sailors - Buckie High School girls had been busy knitting articles for sailors over recent months. Those were sent to War Comforts depot in Aberdeen. The things knitted were - 4 pullovers, 66 pairs of gloves, 7 helmets, 18 scarves and 71 pairs of steering gloves. All together a total of 106 articles. The knitting activity was due to the initiative of Miss Helen Forbes.

During recent months pupils had also been contributing ship half pennies and have been able to send the sum of £8.19.4 to the Royal Naval War Libraries.

Seaman awarded the MBE - Captain Alex Hendry MN, only son of the late Mr Wm. Hendry, Burgh Surveyor, and Mrs Hendry, 91 West Church Street, Buckie, was awarded the MBE in the recent Honour's List. Captain Hendry had been sailing in distant waters for some time.

More men in Japanese hands - Word had been received that two other local men were now prisoners of the Japanese. Corporal James John Geddes RAF, son of the late Mr William Geddes and Mrs Geddes, 13 Titness Street, Buckie was taken prisoner at Singapore. This was the first information that his mother had received.

Mr and Mrs Thomson, Oran House, Enzie, Clochan received word that their son, Pte James Thomson was also a prisoner.

Prizewinners at Enzie Public School - 1st PII - Sydney Fraser; 2nd equal PIV - Olive Fraser.

At **St Peters RC School, Buckie** - 1st in Secondary 1 - Robert M. Gordon.

Photograph - A photograph of A/C Alex Grant Cowie RAF, W/op, Land Street, Buckie, is found on page three. He was accidentally killed when coming to the end of his training as an air gunner.

Jly 20 **Church service** - A notice in the B.A. told of how an United RAF Service was to take place in the Methodist Church, Portgordon on Sunday 23 July 1944. This was to be conducted by the RAF Male Voice Choir. Solos would also be sung. The organ to be played by the Deputy Organist at St Martin in the Fields, London. All welcome.
Members of Pr-Service Units specially invited to attend.

Summer holidays - War or no war many shops were advertising that they were to be closed for their annual holidays. Among those who had notices in the paper were - Hairdressers - A & C Cole and Bill Forbes, Cluny Square; R. J.M. Jameison, Cycle Agent, Seaview Road, Buckpool, George Sutherland, Boot Warehouse, West Church Street; Thomas W. Lang, Optician, West Church Street and J. & T. Campbell, Plumbers etc, Cluny Harbour.

Playhouse - Showing this week was the film "The Drum" based on the North West Frontier in India. The Gordon Highlanders feature in the film. The star was Sabu.

Another film was "The Nelson Touch" starring Randolph and Ella Ranes.

Leeks for sale - One could buy Mussleburgh leek plants at 3/- for 100 at Delhi Cottage, Enzie.

Portgordon sailor missing - Word had been received that AB James Geddes RN, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P. Geddes, 47 Gordon Street, Portgordon, was missing on war service. He was 23 years of age and joined the Navy as a boy. He had recently been serving on submarines.

Photograph - On page three can be found a photograph of Guardsman George Wilson, Schoolhill, Drybridge, who it was recently confirmed had died of wounds in enemy hands.

Spike's column - This edition of the B.A. carries a contribution by columnist ' Spike'. This takes the form of a letter from Alfred J. Stott MA Hons. who at the time was supposed to be serving as an A/CII somewhere in India. This may be read on page four.

Jly 27 **Playhouse** - In the cinema this week one could have seen one of the best wartime films - "**San Demetrio - London**". The film with a cast of sixty was based on the true story of an oil tanker, which had been bombed by the enemy and set on fire. Being in grave danger of blowing itself up or sinking the crew of 16 men took to the boats only to come across their vessel some days later still afloat. They chose to go back aboard and were able to put the fire out and reclaim her.

Arradoul Youth Club was to hold a dance in the WRI Hall, Arradoul, on Thursday 3 August from 8.30 pm to 1 am. Admittance 2/- with Forces 1/6. Regal Band.

Recruits needed for the ATS - The ATS (Auxiliary Training Service - Women's Army) were in need of recruits to serve at home and overseas.

Fochabers and Post War Development - This article is found on page three column 2.

Buckie and District Junior League (Football) - The ATC were topping the league and well ahead of all the others. They had played 6 games with the ATC have the maximum. Findochty were second with six points followed then by Jones, RAF, Hamilton's, Portgordon, Home Guard, all who managed to earn at least 2 points. Portknockie, Herdies and the Army Cadets had still to break their duck.

Spike' column - This again took the form of a letter from A/C II Stott, RAF.

Aug 3 **Playhouse** - In the cinema this week one could have seen George Formby in "Bell-Bottom George".

Grand Fete and Sports at Cullen House - This took place on 16 August 1944 in a field near to the Home Farm on a lovely summer's day. (You will remember the days were aye bonny when we were young!) I remember well cycling from the Bush Farm, Keith along with Dawson and Bob Allan also Hugh Broadley to the event that I enjoyed very much. An event that sticks in my memory well was the reversing of a two wheeled tractor bogey that required not a little skill to complete the course without touching the sides. The Fete was run to raise funds for the Scottish Red Cross Agricultural Fund. Admittance was 2/- for adults and 1/- for children. You were charged 6d for parking your bike and there were hundreds of them it seemed.

Corporal Alex Grant - The good news received was that Corporal Alex Grant, 5 Bowies Lane, Buckpool, who had previously been reported missing presumed killed in action in Burma, was now known to be fit and well and had rejoined his unit

Buckie soldier wounded - Word had been received that Sergeant James Gordon, Gordon Highlanders, whose home address was 16 James Street, Buckpool had been wounded in action and was now recuperating in hospital in Scotland. His wife resides in Banbury.

Killed in action - Word had been received that Pte Alexander 'Sandy' McKenzie Duncan, Gordon Highlanders, had been killed in action in Normandy on 16 July. He was only 18 1/2 years old and the eldest son of Mrs Duncan and the late Mr John Duncan, 38 St Peter's Road, Buckpool.

Killed in action - Word had been received that Commando Alexander Sinclair had been killed in action in the early stages of the invasion of Normandy in June.

Barritt's biography - The sixth instalment of this biography, written by his son, was found in this edition.

Aug 10 **Hairdressers on holiday** - 'Peta' - Ladies Hairdressers, West Church Street also C & J Wood, Seaview Place, Gents hairdressers - John 'Jockie' Burgess, East Church Street and William Stewart, Cluny Square.

Bikes wanted - Cycles were a very popular and common form of conveyance but with the war on were no so easy to acquire. In the 'Wanted' column there were two adverts for ladies' bicycles.

Enzie collection - the following girls were flag sellers in the district for the Sailors' Society on Anchor Day - Lily Yeats, Helen Mitchell, Flora Martin, Marjorie Hutchison, Margaret Taylor, Margaret Sutherland, Beattie Thain and Irene Grant. The sum of £5.19.1 was gathered.

Picnics - Picnics associated with churches and other organisations had once been very popular in the district with among the favoured venues being Letterfourie, Drybridge, Urquhart, Carnoch and Woodside. These days were no long gone.

However, the children of the Baptist Church held a picnic in 1944, in the playing field of Lady Cathcart School and were fortunate enough to be blest with fine weather.

Thrilling rescue at Portgordon - Alex 'Ackie' Cormack, 7 Duke Street, Portgordon, on leave from the Merchant Navy, rescued three people from drowning in the sea at Portgordon this week. Warrant Officer Gretrex, RAF had got into trouble and his wife and a friend, a servicewoman had gone to his aid. only to find all three in difficulties. Mr Cormack dived in fully clothed to rescue the two ladies before turning to help W/O Gretrex who had become unconscious. He was able to take him ashore where Mr Cormack applied artificial respiration until an ambulance came on the scene to take the airman to hospital.

Photograph - A photograph of Driver Donald Gunn RE who resided with Mr and Mrs McKay at Backburn, Drybridge, was found in the B.A. this week. Driver Gun died of wounds in Italy. He was 26 years of age and before joining the army had been a milk roundsman with Mill of Buckie, Farm. He was married to Miss Nan Russell, Drybridge, less than three years before. His wife was working as a conductress in Inverness.

Spike's column - this was another supposed letter from Airman Stott who was stationed near Calcutta in India.

Aug 17 **No more berries** - Charles Dyker, Market Gardener, Buckpool, had a notice in the B.A. to say that owing to the bad weather of recent days there would be no more blackcurrants for sale this year.

Football pool collectors wanted - T. Strang, 48 Union Street, Aberdeen, was applying for collectors for his pools for season 1944/45. People were also asked to send 1/6 for coupons to cover the whole season.

Jap POW - Word had just been received that Pte George Cowie, Gordon Highlanders, 1 Bryson Crescent, Craigbo, who had been missing since the fall of Singapore was now known to be a prisoner of war with the Japanese.

Student harvesters - A hundred Glasgow students were to help with the harvest in Banffshire. Hostels were to be established at various centres.

Poem - A poem written by naval PO, R. A. Jappy is found on page 2. This is titled 'Farewell to Scotland'.

Photograph - In this edition was found a photograph of Pte Alex 'Sandy' Duncan, Gordon Highlanders, who as was reported p[reviously had been killed in action. He was an apprentice mason with Wm. Douglas and Sons, Builders, Buckie, before joining the army.

Circus - The Royal George Supreme Circus Cavalcade was to pay a visit to Buckie on August 25. There were to be two performances, at 4.30 and 7.30 pm.

Home Guard Sports - A sports event involving the local Home Guard Platoons and the ACF took place at Cairnfield. Few names were given as to who won the different events, usually by platoon, but Cadet William Sinclair and Cadet John Goodall of Buckie ACF won the three-legged race. A cadet, D. Goodall was first for grenade throwing. He, perhaps, came from Cullen.

Aug 24 **Playhouse** - Showing this week in the local cinema was the film - "Guadalcanal Diary". A war film based on the American troops taking another island in the Pacific, from the Japanese. Starring in the film were, Preston Forster, LLOYD Nolan and William Bendix.

Killed in action in Normandy - Word had been received that Sergeant Alex 'Sandy' I. , younger son of the late Mr and Mrs George Sinclair, 12 Gordon Street, Buckie had been killed in the early fighting in Normandy. He was 28.

Dances - Dances and whist drives continued to be popular. There were two taking place in Findochty in the same week, one being ran to raise funds for the football club, both taking place in the Masonic Hall. Admittance 2/- with Forces 1/6.

The band supplying the music was to be the Merrymaker while the footballers had the Ambassador band which , as was advertised, was accompanied by the 'Nightingale of the North' using a microphone. At this dance there was also to be lucky prizes and a spot waltz.. both dances to begin at 9 pm.

Dance in Scout Hall - A dance in aid of the British Sailors' Society was to take place in the Scout Hall on Newlands Lane. Admittance - 1/6 with Forces 1/-

Eastern Star - The Portessie Chapter - Order of the Eastern Star No 256 was to hold a Whist Drive and dance in the Townhouse Hall, Buckie. Admittance - W/D 2/6 - Whist only 1/6, Dance only 1/6. Forces, whist and dance 2/6.

Shielburn School - A dance was to take place within the school on Thursday 31 August 1944. , commencing at 8.30 pm. Music supplied by the Regal Band. (Those who remember dancing in the old school will also remember, no doubt, the step in the middle of the floor that you had watch out for while strutting your stuff lest you come down with a bump affecting both the posterior and pride.)

Sale of Work - Schoolgirl Pearl Mayne(later to become Mrs Charles Hay, Cathcart Garage,) 6 West Cathcart Street, and some companions held a Sale of Work in a garage in Cluny Lane in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund. The sum of £9.10 was raised. The girls made brooches, hairbands, bangles and beads for sale. They also had a white elephant stall and also sold vegetables and flowers.

Photograph - A photograph found on page two shows a picture of Sergeant Sinclair who , it was reported, had been killed in the initial stages of the landings on the coast of Normandy. His sister, Mrs J. Wilson, 8 Richmond Terrace, Portgordon, had recently had this confirmed by the War Office. Sergeant Sinclair, a regular soldier, was originally with the Royal Armoured Corps but had volunteered for the Commandos after Dunkirk and had seen action in the Lofoten Islands, the Dieppe Raid as well as being involved in North Africa and the landings on Sicily and Italy.

Cullen House Fete - The sum of over £3,000 was raised at the fete in aid of the Red Cross Agricultural Fund.

Local airmen awarded the DFC - Flying Officer Austin Whyte Shearer, 23, of 12 Seafield Street, Cullen, a navigator who had been involved on many operations over Germany was awarded the DFC. A former bank clerk in Buckie he has two brothers in the services - Major Lewis Shearer who is serving with the RAMC and Major Beaton Shearer with the Ghurka Rifles. The other airman to be decorated is Flying Officer Taylor, 29, a native of Fochabers.

Aug 31 **Playhouse** - Showing this week in the 'Palace' was a film that has stood the test of time and is still popular with children of all ages - " Lassie Come Home" starring Roddy McDowall and Donald Crisp.

Missing - Word had been received that Pilot Officer George Smith who had gone missing while on flying operations over Germany in November 1943 was now believed to have been killed on that date. he was 26 and was a regular serviceman, joining the RAF straight from school. he was the second son of Mr and Mrs James Smith, 32 Linn Crescent, Buckie.

Dancing classes - Miss Diana Campbell was informing all interested parties that she was to resume dancing classes in the Townhouse Hall on Saturday September 9. Classes for Beginners from 2-3 pm with Advanced from 3-4 pm. Home address - 2 Mill Crescent.

Music tuition to resume - Alex Nicol, Firthview, Cluny Terrace, teacher of the violin, viola and cello

Miss C. Hay LRAM ATCL was offering tuition on the piano and also theoretical subjects at Mrs Ross, Cluny Terrace.

Killed in action - Pte William John Taylor, Gordon Highlanders, 22, a son of Mr and Mrs Taylor, 66 St Peter's Road, Buckpool was reported to have been killed in action. Pte Taylor was called up with the Territorials in September 1939. A married man he leaves a widow and one child. Before the war he was an apprentice mason with Wm. Douglas and Sons, Builders, Buckie. A brother, Corporal Fred Taylor, was killed in action in 1941.

Biography of John Barritt - The 8th instalment of this series, written by his son, is found in this edition.

Sept 7 **Water problems** - Buckie Town Council had again to issue a warning notice in the local paper concerning the misuse of water. The perennial problem of water shortage, during the summer months, was again very acute. The notice read in bold print - **NO WATER MUST BE WASTED.** The washing of cars, windows and pavements was prohibited.

Photograph - A photograph of Pte Wm. John Taylor, son of Mr and Mrs Alfred Taylor, 66 St Peter's Road, Buckpool, who had been reported killed in action, is to be found on page 2 of this edition of the B.A.

Arradoul Youth Club met on Friday evening in the Arradoul WRI hall for their opening meeting of the new season, which took the form of a social evening. Nan Grant, Enzie Station and Bill Cryle, Cairnfield, were the winners of a Spot Waltz. Ethel Symon and Billy Cryle won the Schottische prize. During the evening voting took place for the new committee and office bearers for session 1944/45. the following were elected - President - Mary Fraser; Vice President - Janet McIntosh, Press Secretary - Danny McBride, Treasurer - Nan Grant, Committee members - Ethel Symon, Jean Russell, Mary Howie, James Shand, Cyril Hendry, Cecil Benzie, Alick McKay plus the office bearers. The girls of the committee served tea and lemonade while Mrs Brander and Mrs Geddes supplied the music for the games and dancing. The singing of 'Auld Lang Syne' concluded the evening.

Big 'shot' of herring - The Buckie drifter 'Bruces' landed 195 cran of herring for a night's fishing, selling for between £55 -£78 per cran. The fish were caught 52 miles off shore. Another drifter fishing nearby only netted 14 cran.

The Bruce's catch took 9 hours to haul. the skipper, Alex Bruce MBE, 76, was one of the skippers confined to port by the ban. (It was explained what this was.) He was interviewed by the Secretary of State for Scotland ,who was on a visit to Buckie. To a question put by the minister the only thing he asked for was to be allowed to go to sea.

Photograph - Page three has a picture of Pilot Officer George Smith RAF, 2nd son of Mr and Mrs James smith, 32 Linn Crescent, Buckie who was reported missing in November 1943 and was now presumed to have been killed on flying operations over Germany.

Sept 14 **Playhouse** - Showing this week in the local cinema was the popular Walt Disney film -" Snow-white and the Seven Dwarfs".

Inchgower Distillery - A new manager was appointed to Inchgower Distillery. he was Mr Andrew Shaw, presently manager of Glenburgie Distillery, Forres. He was appointed group manager of the three distilleries belonging to Arthur Bell and Sons, Perth. Inchgower, where he was to have his head office , Pittyvaich and Blair Atholl.

**** **COMPETITION** - Based on place names of the north east. Answers are also given which makes it easy, of course. this is found on page three. *****

'Skipper's' column - The 'Skipper' mentioned that Buckie Town Band, which had been in abeyance for some time past had been resuscitated with its members receiving tuition from Mr James Gordon (Painter). the band had been very popular and the 'Skipper' welcomed its re-birth.

Sept 21 **Re-opening social** - Notice was being given that the Co-operative Youth Club was to re-open with a social. This was to take place on Monday 27 September in the Lady Cathcart School, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Killed in action - Word had been received that Pte Albert Rumbles Baxter, grandson of Mr and Mrs Baxter, 9 North Castle Street, Cullen, had been killed in action in north west Europe, sometime in August. He was just over 18 years old and prior to joining the army was an apprentice joiner with Mr Jaffrey, North Deskford Street, Cullen.

Killed in action - Word had been received that Pte William George Grant, Gordon Highlanders, son of Mr and Mrs James Grant, 9 Merson Street, Buckpool, had been killed in action in France, during the month of August. Like the soldier named above, Pte Grant was just over 18 years of age.

Killed in action - The parents of Pte George Fordyce, Seaforths , Mr and Mrs Fordyce, Rosebank, Drybridge, received word that their son had been killed in action in north west Europe during the month of September. George was their 4th son.

Missing now presumed killed in action - Mrs Mary Reid, 68 Main Street, Buckpool, received official confirmation that her husband, William Reid, RN, who had previously been reported missing in June 1944 was now presumed to have been killed at this time.

Repatriated POW - Corporal Thomas Keenan, 1st Gordons, who had been a POW in German hands for four years was repatriated . He was then in a hospital in England.

Airman awarded the DFM - Flt/Sergeant Henry A. P. Laing, Inchgower, Buckie, was awarded the DFM for gallantry on air operations. he was previously an apprentice joiner in Buckie but had joined the RAF before the war started. His wife and children were then living at Inchgower Distillery.

Sept 28 **Killed on active service** - Word had been received that Sergeant Peter Geddes, RAF, aged 22 had been killed in action during September 1944. Sergeant Geddes, son of Mr and Mrs Alex Geddes, 16 Anton Street, was a fisherman before joining the RAF. He was buried in the New Cemetery, Buckie.

Killed in action in north west Europe - Pte William Sievwright, Army Catering Corps was killed in action while serving in north west Europe. This information was conveyed to his wife, Mrs Bella Sievwright, nee Garvock, Newtonhill, Rathven.

Mass meeting - *A notice headed Burgh of Buckie appeared on the front page of this edition of the B.A. This gave notice of a mass meeting scheduled to take place in the Townhouse Hall on Thursday 5th October, 1944. to consider how appreciation might be shown to those who have sacrificed their lives or served in the war. the town council cordially invited all citizens to attend. Signed W. J. Merson, Provost.*

New owner of Marine Hotel - Captain Walter H. Grimwood, Elgin, bought Marine Hotel -The Marine Hotel, Marine Place, Buckie . The outgoing owner was Ernest F. Elder.

POW collection - Pearl Mayne, 6 West Cathcart Street, and some companions were again involved in collection money for the POW Fund. They held a Sale of Work in a garage in Cluny Lane and raised the sum of £10.10. They sold trinkets, toys, lemonade and chips.

Rannas Place, Portessie collection - A group of teenagers from Rannas Place held a Sale of Work and raised the sum of £6.13. Those involved were - Isobel Reid, Jean F. Smith, Elsie M. Smith, Doris Budge, Billy Imlah, Ali Smith, David hay, Alex Hay and Alistair Reid.

Photographs - A photograph of Pte W. G. Grant, Gordon Highlanders, of 9 Merson Street, Buckpool, who was recently killed in action is found on page three of this edition

A second photograph on the same page shows Seaman William Reid, RN, 68 Main Street, Buckpool who it was believed had been killed in action.

First Buckie 'Welcome Home ' meeting- A number of suggestions were put forward at the mass meeting to discuss the 'Welcome Home' in Buckie, ranging from a hospital, swimming pool, another memorial to a youth centre with proper premises. The last one was best received.

Address to the Spirit of Buckie' this was an article written by J. F. Barritt and inspired by the herring controversy which was raging on at this time.

**** **Fochabers Wants to Become a Burgh - See page four of this edition.**

Oct 5 **Presumed killed in action -** Fireman Frank Blackie, MN, 6a West Street, Buckie who had previously been reported missing in August was presumed to have lost his life at this time.

Second 'Welcome Home' meeting - A second mass meeting, organised by Buckie Town Council, was to take place in the Townhouse Hall to further discuss the question of marking the return of local servicemen and women.

St Andrew's Hotel - Mrs Molly Chisholm, Bathgate, was applying for a license for the St Andrew's Hotel and Inn.

Letterfourie laird wounded in action - Word had been received that Lieutenant George Gordon Shee, Irish Guards, only son of the late Mr P. G. Shee and Mrs Shee, Letterfourie House, was seriously wounded in action.

Repatriated POW - Corporal Keenan, Rathven, who recently returned home after being in a POW camp in Germany for the past four years, was guest of honour at a function, social and dance ran by Rathven WRI, where he received a wallet of notes. Corporal Keenan thanked everyone for their generosity and hoped that it wouldn't be too long before all his pals, still held captive, would be home.

Arradoul Youth Club held a very successful dance in the WRI hall on Thursday evening where the Regal Band supplied the music. Ethel Symon and John Hendry

won the Spot Dance, while Jean Russell and Hughie Henderson won the Statue Dance.

Lucky prizewinners were - Arthur Forbes, Charlie Hutchison, J. Taylor and A. Grant. Danny McBride was MC.

The usual weekly meeting took place on Friday evening with the new president, Miss Mary Fraser, presiding over a good attendance of members. Miss Nan Grant gave an interesting account of her visit to a Youth Council meeting held in Edinburgh, Games and dancing were enjoyed by all while the singing of the National Anthem brought the meeting to a close.

Photographs - There were two photographs found on page three of this edition. One was of Sergeant Peter Geddes, RAF, 16 Anton Street, Buckpool who was killed in a flying accident.

The other was of Chief Engineerroom Artificer William Smith, RN, son of Mr and Mrs A. Smith 10 Seafield Street, Iainstown who had been awarded the DSM.

Poem - Lady (Muriel) Anderson had written a number of poems for the Banffshire Advertiser but this was her first for a considerable period. It was titled, " V-Day" and can be found on page three.

Football - With junior football having taken place earlier on during the year and word being spoken about the re-start of the Highland League after the war, a letter-writer suggested that trials should start now so that the Thistle might be ready for the kick off. He further suggested that Thistle officials should go along and watch some of the junior games. He took the trouble to select what he saw as a good team, which was as follows - Turner (H & M(or Murray (ATC), Middleton (Portg. and Thistle), Hendry (ATC), Dawson (ex ATC), Clark (ATC), Wallace (ATC), Geddes (ATC), James Stewart (ex ATC now Hearts trialist), L. Forsyth (ex ATC now Army XI Cpt.), P. Innes (Portg.). He did admit to being a great admirer of the ATC but said that there were good players in other teams over and above those he had chosen.

Letters - As was to be expected a number of letters were received following the 'Welcome Home' meetings. One from a 'Sailor's Wife' was particularly good with the points that she made being very near to what eventually happened something like **eight years later**. Her suggestion was that the names of all the fallen to be put on the memorial with all those who gave service, or their dependants, given a sum of money to spend as they saw fit.

Final instalment of the Barritt biography - appears in this edition.

Oct 12 **Portgordon 'Welcome Home' meeting** - A meeting was to take place in the village with the purpose of forming a 'Welcome Home' committee. it was intended that all members of His Majesty's Forces, together with those who had served in the Merchant Navy would be honoured.

POW with the Japanese - Word had been received that Pte Robert Lawson, 2nd Gordons, 22 Robert Street, Buckpool, was a prisoner of war of the Japanese. He had been missing for 2 years and 8 months. he was serving with the 6th Gordons and was wounded in France in 1940. he later joined the 2nd Gordons and was captured with the fall of Singapore. he is aged 24 and before being called up with the Territorials was an apprentice watchmaker with D. G. McGregor, High Street.

Stroup Brae - The old name for North High Street (Bowling Green Brae) was used in a report of how a horse had been killed there after a piece of harness had broken when it was descending the brae with a load of tatties. It took fright and bolted only to crash into the railings where its neck was broken with the impact. the horse belonged to R.G. Young, Arradoul Mains, and was valued at £80.

Second meeting to discuss the Buckie 'Welcome Home' - At this meeting Mr Wm. Smith, Solicitor, proposed that the 'Welcome Home' for returning servicemen and women should be considered under a number of headings as follows - 1) to provide a memorial to the fallen; 2) to provide club rooms for ex servicemen of the present war; 3) to provide a token gift for each serviceman and woman; 4) to provide a benevolent fund; 5) to provide entertainment for men and women returning home. After much discussion and no little argument over the points outlined it was agreed that a committee be formed to look into the Smith proposals.

The following were elected to the committee - Provost Merson, S. Fowlie, A. Geddes (Portessie), Co. Fraser, Dr Hendry, Rome Tocher, Miss Nen Watson, Mrs Milne, Wm. Smith, Co. Mowatt, G. C. Sandison, Mrs P. Clark, Baillie Scott, A. Gerry, Mrs George Garden (Craigbo), J. L. McNaughton, Geo. McIntosh VC, Alex Lyon, Dr Paterson, H. McCallum, Mrs Grieve. The committee were to give the power to add to numbers.

Mrs R. Munro and Mr J. H. Duncan were added at the end of the meeting. The chairman was to be Provost Merson, Secretary J. L. McNaughton with the treasurer, A. Gerry.

Oct 19 **Playhouse - This** week in the cinema one could have seen the film "Goodbye Mr Chips", starring Robert Donat and Greer Garson.

Football - Challenge football matches were being played every Saturday afternoon at Merson Park. On 21 October a match had been arranged between Slipway (Buckie) and Slipway (Inverness). The home team won by five goals to three.

Football meeting A meeting of committee members and representatives of clubs who had formerly played in the Buckie and District Junior Football League was to take place in Buckie High School on Monday 23 October at 7.30 pm. Business - Winding up of competition.

Welcome Home Committee - A question asked was - How many members of the Welcome Home committee were also members of the Welfare Society. The answer was 13.

Letters - The B. A. received a great many letters about the proposals that had been put forward at the recent meeting to discuss what form the Buckie 'Welcome Home' should take. One or two of the letters were from serving men. One very good letter knocked on the head the idea of another memorial, it said that those who had lost a son or father required no memorial to remember them. A memorial would only be of value if it took the form of a hospital wing. The idea of another club with rooms was another idea knocked down by the same writer, going on to give the names of clubs which had sprang up only to fade away again within a very short time. Money should be given to the families or dependants of those who did not return, he said.

Oct 26 **Football** - A challenge match was to take place on Saturday first at Merson's Park between the ATC (League winners) and a Junior Select.

Photograph - A photograph of Pte Robert 'Bobby' Lawson is found on page two; it was now known that he was a prisoner of war with the Japanese.

Arradoul Youth Club - Mrs Brander, the Youth Club Leader, resigned as she was to be leaving the district. She received a gift from the members handed over by the president, Miss Mary Fraser, who thanked Mrs Brander for her services to the Club and wished her well in the future.

Games and dancing took place as usual with music being supplied by Mrs Geddes. The evening ended with the singing of the National Anthem.

The previous Wednesday the Youth Club held their Halloween Social with the prizes for the best turnip lanterns going to E. Cruickshank and J. Geddes. C.

Henderson and W Legge won the musical numbers. The girls of the committee served tea and lemonade while the evening was given over to games and dancing, with music by Mrs Geddes, A. Thomson (piper) and G. McDonald. The evening ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem.

Photograph - A photograph of Pte Ronald Scott, Somerset Light Infantry, whose home is at Bellevue, South Pringle Street, is found on page two. Pte Scott, a son of Mr and Mrs Henry Scott was badly wounded in France, which resulted in him losing a leg.

Portgordon 'Welcome Home' Fund - At their meeting, when a committee was set up, it was decided to divide the village up into different sections and make an effort to collect a target sum. Once this had been done a meeting would then take place at which it would be agreed how this money should be utilised. (This seemed to be an admirably better way of doing things compared to the real sotter that Buckie seemed to be getting itself into - but then history was only repeating itself. While all the small places round about managed to collect money and erect memorials within a year of the ending of the first war it took Buckie until 1925.) Findochty agreed to follow the same pattern as Portgordon as did the Enzie and probably other places in the area.

The 'Skipper's' column - One thing he said this week in his column was that there would seem to be universal agreement in Buckie among the rank and file that no money collected should be used to provide club rooms for returning servicemen and women.

Nov 2 **Missing presumed killed in action** - Word had been received by his parents, Mr and Mrs Alex Bremner, 52 Wallace Avenue, Buckie, that their eldest son, Leading Seaman John Wm. Bremner, RN, who had originally been reported missing was now believed to have been killed in action in October 1944. He had been in the Navy for four years and before the war had been serving his time with James Flett and Sons, Fishcurers, Buckie. His father and another brother were also serving in the Navy.

Chip shop changes hands - The chip shop on the Square of Portgordon which belonged to Mr George Grant, was sold this week to Mr Adam Farquhar, Turriff.

Diphtheria danger - Banff County Council were issuing a warning to all parents to have their children protected from this dangerous disease by getting free injections at their schools. A list of the times for each school was given.

New dance band - The band to play the music at a dance in the Townhouse Hall in aid of the POW Fund was to **Astoria**. An innovation at this dance was to be a "Go As You Please" competition. Those prepared to sing, dance or do a musical turn were asked to hand in their names to the Banffshire Advertiser office by 8th November. Three prizes were to be given. Admittance 2/- with Forces 1/6.

Playhouse - Showing in the 'Palace' this week was the film "To Those in Peril", starring David Farrar and Robert Wyndham. Also showing was the film - "A Guy Named Joe", in which Spencer Tracy and Irene Dunn starred.

Photograph - On page two is to be found a photograph of Piper Sandy Keith, Gordon Highlanders. Piper Keith a native of the Bauds but when he married a Miss Davidson stayed for a long time at Bridge Place. The caption to the photograph said how he was a member of the massed pipes and drums of the Gordon Highlanders and Royal Scots that paraded through the city of Florence, Italy.

Findochty 'Welcome Home' - At a meeting called to discuss the 'Welcome Home' for returning servicemen and women, it was decided to collect money by

districts. Once this had been done a meeting would be called to determine what was to be done with the money.

Poem - A poem title "The Little fishing Drifter" is found on page three. J. C. Buckie had written this. In his column the 'Skipper' said how the writer was the great grandson of the late John Cowie 'Coup' who had been renowned as a poet.

Poem - Another poem by Lady (Muriel) Anderson is found on page four. Her contribution this week was titled "Autumn Lady".

Nov 9 **Killed in action** - Word had been received that L/Cpl Robert Sutherland, 26, only son of Mr and Mrs Sutherland, Wellheads, Clochan, had been killed in action. He was in the Royal Tank Corps and the driver of a tank that received a direct hit. Prior to being called up to the forces he was a tractor driver at the farm of Tiendlandwells, Lhanbryde. He served throughout North Africa, Sicily and Italy after returning to fight in Normandy. He was twice taken prisoner, once by the Germans and once by the Italians but managed to escape both times. He was also wounded three times. He was well known in Buckie, where according to the death announcement he was sadly mourned by Mary A. Smith, 7 Baron Street, to whom he had been engaged for some time.

Nov 16 **Lost through enemy action** - Word had been received that CPO James Stewart Cowie, RNPS had lost his life through enemy action off the Belgian coast. He was 27 and the husband of Maggie B. Reid, 5 Great Eastern Road, Portessie and second son of Mr and Mrs John Cowie, 74 Seatown.

Football - A number of junior clubs in the area were to play in a competition for the Malcolm Shield Trophy. This had been agreed at the recent meeting, which had taken place in Buckie High School. The first two matches were to take place on Saturday afternoon, 18 November. The game between Portsoy and Jones' Shipyard would take place at Merson Park with Mr McNiven as referee. The RAF was to play the Army Cadets at Dallachy with Corporal Summers as referee. On Saturday 25 November Findochty was to meet the ATC at Strathlene with Mr McNiven as the man in charge. Other matches - Portknockie versus H & M Shipyard with Mr George Craig Portgordon in the middle, and the RAF versus Portgordon at Dallachy with Corporal Summers as referee.

On Saturday 9th December the following ties would be played - Home Guard versus Portgordon at Merson Par; RAF versus Jones' Shipyard at Dallachy and finally Portknockie versus the Army Cadets at Strathlene.

Clochan hold meeting to discuss the 'Welcome Home' - The target set was £1600. A committee was set up with Mr J. H. Duncan as chairman. The vice-chairman was Mr John Bonnyman while Miss Corr was appointed treasurer and Mr Urquhart as secretary.

Nov 23 **Playhouse** - One of the films being shown in the local cinema this week was , "The Purple Heart" (An American decoration for bravery) starring Dana Andrews, Richard Conte and Farley Granger. (I remember the film well and really enjoyed it.)

Another film being shown was "Four Jills in a Jeep", starring Kay Francis, Carole Landes, Martha Kaye and Mitzi Mayfair.

Died at Dover - Word had been received that William Coull, Engineman, RNR, aged 36 had died in a hospital at Dover. he was the third son of Mr and Mrs William Coull, 11 James Street, Buckpool and husband of Jean Coull, 11 Seaview Road, Buckpool.

A Mother's loss - Mrs McLaren, Whitegates, Fochabers, was notified that her younger son, Corporal Ian Archibald McLaren, Seaforths, had died of wounds. At the same time she had also just received the word that another son, LAC Alex McLaren, RAF, was reported missing. Both men were married. Alex McLaren

being the husband of Molly Shand, Glasterim Farm. He failed to return with later word saying that he had been lost at sea.

Photograph - Found on page three of this edition is a photograph of Chief Petty Officer James S. Cowie, RNPS whose death was mentioned earlier.

A second photograph on the same page is that of Lance Corporal Robert Sutherland, Whose parents stayed at Wellheads Farm Clochan. He had been reported killed in action some weeks previously.

Buckie 'Welcome Home' meeting - One thing that had been learnt since the previous meeting was that there was little support, if any, for any money collected to be used to form club rooms for the use of returning men and women.

It was decided to appoint a new committee with powers to co-opt others - The new committee would be more representative of the people as a whole, it was said. People in it - Provost Merson, Baillie Hendry, Baillie Scott, Councillors McRae and Yuill, Mr J. L. McNaughton, Messrs A. Geddes, A. Gerry, H. McCallum, G. McIntosh VC, Wm. Murray 'Farmer', J. Johnston, G.C. Sandison, Wm. Smith, Mrs J. Milne, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Grieve, Mrs J. Reid, Miss V. Hillocks, Miss Eva Reid and Miss N. Watson.

** **Home Guard Stand -Down Parade** - The Stand-Down Parade of the 2nd Banff Battalion was to take place at Buckie on Sunday 3rd December 1944. **The 2nd Bt. was formed at Buckie in March 1943, when it was found that the strength had increased beyond that of a single command.**

Nov 30 **Killed in western Europe** - Word had been received that Lt. William Alexander Barclay MA,RE, had been accidentally killed in western Europe. He was the husband of Jean Park Buchan MA, Inverugie, Cliff Terrace, Buckie.

Killed in action - Word had been received by Mr and Mrs Thomas Reid, 1 Mill Crescent, Buckie, that their son, Rifleman William Lobban Reid, Cameronians, had been killed in action in October. He left a widow who was then serving in the ATS.

Wm. Grant, Carter's roup - A notice on the front page of the B.A. told of a dispenish sale that was to take place at 9 Baron Street where Mr William Grant who had been in business in the town as a carter, for a great many years, was selling up. Among the items for sale were three heavy Clydesdale geldings and one half-bred gelding. Also harness for the four horses together with carts and many implements and tools.

Notice to Fireguards - All fireguards were given notice to hand in their steel helmets at 4 Cluny Square (J. L. McNaughton's office which was in the corner just beyond the door into the 'Savings Bank') not later than 4th December, 1944.

Photographs - The three photographs found on page three of this edition are of the following men - a) Leading Seaman John W. Bremner who had been reported earlier to have been killed in action; b) Rifleman Wm. Reid, Cameronians, who also lost his life in action; and c) Lieutenant Wm. Barclay who had been accidentally killed while on active service.

Missing - The parents of Sergeant James Cowie, RAF, second son of Mr and Mrs Peter Cowie, 7 Titness Street, Buckie, received word that he had gone missing on air operations over Italy. Sergeant Cowie did his aircrew training in Rhodesia after being in the ATC. Prior to joining the RAF he worked in the office of John Gordon the Poor Inspector. He was 22 and at the time had another brother serving in the Forces.

Missing presumed killed - Official confirmation had been given that Leading Cook Alexander Smith, RNPS, who had previously been reported missing, was now presumed to have been killed on active service. He was 34 years of age and leaves a widow and child at 3 Chapel Street, Portessie. he had been four years in

the RNPS and before the war had been employed as a trawlerman. Mrs Smith lost a brother two years before, who was serving with the MN.

Defeat for the ATC - The strong-going ATC team, with probably the cream of the local footballers in their side, were beaten for the first time in two years when they went under to Findochty this week.

Dec 7 **Playhouse** - Showing this week was the film - " Call of the Wild" , starring Clark Gable, Loretta Young and Jack Oakie. the film was based on the life of the boxes Jack London.

Death - the death took place on 3rd December of Police Judge Wm. J. B. Macdonald, Glenyra, East Church Street, Buckie. He was a journalist as well as a fisherman with premises on Commercial Road.

Killed by enemy action - (death announcement)- Leading Cook Alex Smith RNPS, 34, husband of Jeannie Cowie, 3 Chapel Street, Portessie.

Dance - (Note the title) The Remembrance and Welcome Home Fund entertainment committee was to hold a dance in the Townhouse on Tuesday 12 December. Music to be supplied by the Astoria Band. Novelty dances. Admittance - Civilians 3/-, Forces 2/-

Arradoul Youth Club was to hold a whist drive and dance in the Arradoul WRI Hall on 12 December. Whist 2/- dance 1/6. Music by the Regal Band.

Welfare Society - A meeting took place with Provost Merson in the chair. Some new members were admitted. The following list of donations were agreed upon - £20 to the Earl Haig Fund, £15 to the County Fund for HMS Deveron (The Banffshire destroyer) £10 to 51st HD Trust Fund. Mr Fiddler was appointed representative to the Welcome Home Committee. (An unfortunate surname had he also been treasurer, some might have said.)

In passing - War is -

A Waste of muscle, waste of brain
Waste of patience, waste of pain
Waste of manhood, waste of health
Waste of beauty, waste of wealth
Waste of blood, waste of tears
Waste of youth's most precious years
Waste of ways the saints have trod
Waste of glory; waste of God.

'Skipper's' column - This week he had included a poem titled the "Fifty -First Division" written by yet another descendent of the late Jock Coup, who was renowned as a local poet.

**** **Stand-Down Parades - *The Home Guard 'Stand-Down' parades which took place at Keith and Buckie on Sunday was a historic day for the Home Guard, which was dedicated throughout the country to the honour of our civilian army as it carried out the Stand-Down order. Following the parade in Buckie, which included a march past, all the men were bussed to the Strathlene Hotel where a meal was provided .***
A full report is given on page four, column three.

Dec 14 **Playhouse** - Showing in the local cinema this week was the film "Fanny By Gaslight", starring Phyllis Calvert, Stewart Granger, James Mason and Wifred Lawson.

Airman wins DFC - Flying Officer James William Stewart, RAF, Aultmore Smithy, who previous to joining the services was on the staff of the Unemployment Assistance Board at Buckie, was awarded the DFC for gallantry. He was 23 and prior to being commissioned served in the ranks.

Portknockie - following a proposal by Provost Falconer it was agreed to form a 'Welcome Home' fund committee to raise funds. it was further agreed that this money would be given to a committee former of returning servicemen and women to use in any manner they so wished. (This seemed a good idea)

Portgordon Home Guard thanked the local public for the assistance given in raising funds during the time it had been in existence. With it now being disbanded it had been decided to distribute the remaining funds to deserving causes, as follows - £15 went to St Dustans, £22.13.6 to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, £22.8 to the Red Cross OW Fund, £13 to the Russian Relief Fund, £19.10 to Seafield Cottage Hospital, £4.10 to Portgordon Nursing Association, £16 to Enzie Welcome Home Fund, £21 to former Home Guard members now in the Forces, £1 to Enzie Army Cadet Force.

Highland Railway Station - William Douglas and Sons, Builders, Buckie, made application for a yard at the former Highland Railway station, now closed. They were prepared to take as much land as could be given to them. They also asked for first chance of the former goods shed.

Portgordon cabin - the Ladies Guild, Portgordon, dedicated a cabin in the Sailors' Home, Cluny Square, Buckie. The dedication ceremony took place on Friday, 15 December 1944.

Local man drowned in Ceylon - Radio Officer, James S. Flett, MN, a native of Findochty, lost his life while swimming at Colombo, Ceylon. A photograph of Mr Flett was shown in this edition.

Findochty airman wins Bar to his DFC - Acting Flt/Lt. Alexander Flett, RAFVR, Findochty, a fighter pilot, who was awarded the DFC in November, recently was awarded a Bar to this whilst on his second tour of duty. According to the citation, which accompanied the award, this was awarded for efficiency, leadership and indomitable courage.

'Grant The Cairter' - In the 'Skipper's' column this week he tells how a number of shopkeepers in the town had got together to make a presentation to 'Grant the Cairter' who had recently sold off his business as a Carter. The presentation was carried out by Mr Charles Stewart, Butcher, High Street.

Dec 21 **Sailors' Home Xmas Day 1944 - (A notice)** The House committee extends the full hospitality of the Home on Xmas Day to all seamen, fishermen and members of the Air Sea Rescue Service, RAF, and will provide all meals and service free on that day. J. Geddes Smith, local chairman.

Notice - Buckie Home Guard whist drive arranged for Monday 25 December is cancelled.

Sale of Carting Contractor's plant - It was obvious that changes were taking place regarding the movement of goods about the town and further afield, with a second of the old time horse and cart men selling up within a very short space of time. Following Mr Grant, whose roup had taken place only a few weeks before, Mr Brodie Taylor, Sawmill Cottage, Buckpool was in this edition giving notice that he, too, was rousing out. He had for sale - two horse, a mare of 8 and a horse of 9 also harness to fit same together carts and a whole range of implements and tools.

For sale - The fish business, shed and garage at 2 Commercial Road, Buckie, belonging to the late Police Judge Macdonald was for sale.

Sailors' Home management team - Mr and Mrs J. S. Dalzeil, who had been managing the Home for the past 16 months, were leaving on 26 December. In their notice (found in the B.A.) they said how they wished to thank all those who had given assistance in their work in connection with the Sailors' Home. They also offered thanks on behalf of their son and daughter, both in the Forces, for the gifts they had received during their parent's time in the town.

Arradoul Youth Club - The timekeeper at the whist drive, held recently, was Mr George Innes. Winners of the lucky prizes at the dance were - Cyril Hendry, Allan Fraser, N. Fettes and J. Coull. S. Chisholm and S. Farquhar won the Spot Dance. Music was by the Regal Band.

Photographs - A number of photographs were shown in this edition. One was of Lt. George Forbes Young RNVR, younger son of Mr and Mrs Wm. Young, 45 West Church Street, who had previously been reported missing but was now known to be a prisoner of war in Germany.

A second photograph shows Chief Engineer John R. Mowat, RNR, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Mowat, 234 Seatown, Cullen, who was killed in action in the Mediterranean. He was 27 years of age and before the war had been a fisherman.

A photograph of F/O Andrew Stewart, RAF, is also shown. He was recently reported to have been killed in action. He was a grandson of the late Mr A. Stewart, Union Terrace, Buckpool.

A fourth shows a photograph of Flt/Lt Alex Flett, RAF, DFC and Bar of Findochty.

Dec 28 '**D' Coy, Home Guard, Buckie (a notice)** Members are required to return equipment and weapons to the Drill Hall today Thursday, 28 December, or Tuesday 2nd January 1945, between the hours of 7.30 and 9.30 pm. Further action will be taken against members not complying with this requirement . S. S. Fowlie Major, O.C. 'D' Company. (The wording of the notice appeared to be unnecessarily harsh, directed as it was at men who were in the main all volunteers.)

Wounded in action - Word had been received, by his parents, Mr and Mrs James Cormack, 3 Seaview Road, Buckpool, that their son, Pte Eric Cormack, Inniskilling Fusiliers, had been wounded on the Italian Front. this was the second time that he had been wounded this year. he was 21 and previously to joining the army worked with Wm. Young, Baker, Buckie. Two brothers, Jim and John had both been wounded on different fronts, while another brother, George K. 'Kitchy' had died of wounds received at Anzio, Italy

PC from POW - The parents of Pte Robert 'Bobby' Lawson received the first post card sent by their son who was a prisoner of war with the Japanese , being captured at Singapore in 1942. The post card, which stated that he was well had take a year to arrive in Buckie.

Honour for Keith soldier - Sergeant E. Milton, Royal Tank Corps, a son of Mr and Mrs E. Milton, 31 Duff Street, Fife-Keith, when writing home told them how he had received a pullover from Field Marshall Montgomery, as a personal gift. It happened that F. M. Montgomery had give the pullover to Milton's divisional commander to pass on to a man in his division who, in his estimation, had done well in recent operations. Sergeant Milton, as the report said, had been chosen in view of his fine record during the Walcheren Operations in spite of great personal discomfort.

Sergeant Milton was naturally pleased to receive the gift and wrote the Field Marshall to thank him, mentioning how he was born into the Gordon Highlander's regiment , his father being a sergeant major, and was very appreciative of the award.

Sergeant Milton, reservist, was mobilised again on the outbreak of war. His younger brother, Ian, was killed at Dunkirk, while another brother, CSM Allan Milton, serving with the 2nd Gordons, was captured by the Japanese with the fall of Singapore. A third brother, William was serving with the Royal Corps of signals. His sister Jean was in the Channel Islands, which were in German hands.

Poem - Another poem written by J. C. Portgordon is found on page four. This time his contribution is titled "Bombed London"