

Walmington & Eastgate Observer

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TWOPENCE

"Casual Wayfarer" Charged

Charged under the Defence Regulations, a roughly-dressed man, Everard Simmonite, appeared at Eastgate Police Court, for being a casual wayfarer and entering a prohibited area, contrary to the directions of the Regional Commissioner.

P.C. Leader said at 3.25 a.m. the previous day he saw Simmonite at Warrior Square. He was unable to produce an identity card and when questioned at the Central Police Station he could produce no proof of permanent residence in the town.

Simmonite said he was British and sent witness to a house in West Street where it was learned Simmonite had been seen a fortnight ago.

The Clerk (Colonel F. G. Langham) pointed out that a fortnight ago meant June 22nd, and the order came into force only on June 19th.

Sub-Inspector Church said Simmonite had never been registered nor had an identity card. He had told witness he intended applying for a traveller's card. Witness had seen him in the town on and off for the past 12 months. He usually carried a sack, which contained other sacks, on which he slept in the open.

Simmonite was remanded in custody for a week.

Plague of Rats at Guestling

At their meeting last Tuesday, Walmington Town Council discussed the ongoing vermin problems in Guestling. Mr. C. Gordon (deputy clerk acting in the absence of Mr. E. Rees) reported on the plague of rats that have troubled the village this summer.

Mr. E. Norrrys said that in past years Mr. Harman attended to the matter very successfully and that the district had been practically free from the pest for a long time, but that the rats were now a great nuisance. Mr. Gordon read a report from P.C. Cross (Guestling) to Superintendent Mockford at police headquarters. The report stated that the ruins of Exham Priory at White Hart Hill were now overrun by thousands of rats. There had recently been many complaints of rats entering the houses on the hill.

It was agreed to take steps to deal with the matter, but Mr. Norrrys noted that the extensive caves beneath the Priory would complicate matters.

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Walmington Town Council

"FOL-DE-ROLS" SEASON CURTAILED

The immediate future of the Walmington Summer Pageant occupied the attention of Walmington-on-Sea Town Council at the monthly meeting.

It was decided to continue the performances of the "Fol-de-Rols" at the Pavilion for another three weeks, after which the concert party will be withdrawn.

The Mayor (Councillor F. McNaughton) presided, supported by the Deputy Mayor (Alderman Dr. W. E. Jameson, J.P.), Alderman A. W. Chesterfield, J.P., Alderman T. S. Dymond, F. W. Morgan, A. Blackman, G. Shoesmith, Miss Annie Lile, G. H. Payne and H. Burden, and Councillors G. H. Ormerod, W. H. Cremer, S. W. Thorpe, H. W. Rymill, Mrs. Boyd Alexander, A. T. Hibell, A. Honnor, Mrs. G. M. Foxton, Mrs. Agnes Pike, A. R. Wilson, J. H. Tingle, E. J. Breeds, B. Martin, W. H. Raby, W. C. Gentry, A. Goldman, F. T. Hussey, S. S. Riddle, P. Banks, W. Vincent Edwards, B. P. Sherrin, A. Mills, P. J. Morren, E. T. Hyland, F. S. Bouquet and H. E. Johnson.

The Entertainments Committee reported that Mr. Greatrex Newman informed them that up to the present his share of the net receipts at the Pier Pavilion had not covered his expenditure in salaries, amounting to £175 weekly. The committee had arranged for the "Fol-de-Rols" to continue for a further six weeks, commencing on June 17th, and had guaranteed Mr. Newman £175 per week.

Alderman Payne, moving the adoption of the report, said it meant a loss of about £50 a week to carry on. The committee felt there must be at least one show in the town and for the sake of £50 a week they ought to go on.

Councillor Gentry seconded. Councillor Banks asked if it was legal for a committee to set aside an agreement.

The Town Clerk replied that emergencies arose when committees had to accept responsibilities and had to have the guts to act on their own.

Councillor Banks—That is no answer to my question. I decline to speak any more on the subject.

Alderman Burden said the committee had to take a choice on the confidence the council reposed in them. He thought their action was commendable.

Councillor Morren.—If any committee can do that it likes on the excuse of the national emergency, it is terrifying to think where we should get! Mr. Newman has done very well out of the Pavilion. If he has to suffer a few weeks or months of difficult trade conditions he is in no different circumstances from the cinema proprietors, boarding-house keepers and others. Are we going to subsidise all of them?

Councillor Goldman questioned whether it should be the policy of the Council in a time of deep and widespread depression to take what money was available and use it to subsidise private entertainment. (Hear, hear) He moved an amendment that the action of the committee for three weeks be confirmed, but that henceforth the former agreement with Mr. Newman be rigidly adhered to.

Councillor Honnor seconded, reminding the Council of the overhead charges at the pavilion as well as the weekly loss of £50.

Councillor Banks then began to speak, but on being ruled out of order by the Mayor on the grounds that he had already spoken he left the Council Chamber.

Councillor Bouquet said if the amendment was adopted the performances would immediately stop. Mr. Newman could not carry on. As it was, he was getting nothing out of it and the members of the company had now agreed to take lower salaries all round so that their manager might receive a salary.

Councillor Ormerod urged that the Pavilion ought to be closed. Every avoidable expense should be avoided and the committee should face the situation that Walmington was now a distressed area.

Councillors King and Gentry urged the importance of continuing entertainment to keep up the morale of the public.

Cries of "They don't want it!" Alderman Blackman thought it would be a great mistake to close the Pavilion. The Court Players would be a fine entertainment there. (Hear, hear.)

Alderman Payne said the Court Players would want a guarantee of £150 weekly and any other variety entertainers would want at least £175.

The amendment was lost and the Entertainment Committee's action was confirmed.

Small Man Can Cure Own Pig

Robertsbridge Farmers' Meeting

Misconceptions regarding the keeping of pigs by cottagers were cleared up at a meeting of the Robertsbridge branch of the National Farmers' Union held at the George Hotel on Wednesday, when Mr. S. J. Comber presided.

The Clerk (Mr. W. Nabb) read from a Ministry pamphlet on the subject as follows: "The small pig-keeper may kill and cure his pig for his or family's consumption, provided he has had it for at least two months for fattening and he obtains a licence of slaughter, either directly or through his pig club, from the local Food Control Committee. A licence will be granted to slaughter one pig in three months, and will be valid for one week. The small pig-keeping, if he be a member of a pig club, may sell to a local retail butcher at a price not exceeding the wholesale price for the time being one whole side of any pig which he is permitted to slaughter.

Any pig keeper could send to market or a bacon factory.

The Chairman said he hoped to see a pig club established in the parish, and said it would receive all encouragement from the branch. It was agreed that a meeting to encourage this be held, under the auspices of the N.F.U., on Wednesday next, at the George Hotel.

Struck by Slate

PAINTER'S CLAIM SETTLED BY CONSENT

While working as a painter on a house in Devonshire Road, Eastgate, a man was struck by a slate from a nearby roof and injured.

The sequel was heard at Eastgate County Court of Tuesday, when the painter, Leslie John Perkins, claimed damages from Messrs. Pettet Bros.

Mr. Harry Allan, counsel, instructed by Messrs. Herington, New and Holliger, for the applicant said his client was brushing the wall of a house in Devonshire Road when he was struck by a slate dislodged by a workman from a roof about 40 feet away.

Mr. Allen announced that the respondents, for whom Mr. F. G. Beckett appeared, had agreed to pay £75 and 28 guineas costs.

Judgement by consent was entered accordingly.

EASTGATE COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

"CONCHIESTO BE INTERVIEWED"

The Eastgate Town Clerk reported receiving a resolution from the local branch of "Nalگو" deploring the continued employment by the Corporation of conscientious objectors, and asking the Council to terminate their employment forthwith.

The Town Clerk said there were only two conscientious objectors, or people who held such opinions.

Councillor Miller.—Which the law permits!

Councillor McCarthy suggested that inquiry should be made into the particular circumstances of these two employees.

The Town Clerk, answering a question, said the two concerned were aged 21 and 22.

Councillor Miller argued that whatever their own views were, Parliament had passed an Act giving these people the right to object and it was not right for the Council to seek by a few minutes' discussion to circumvent the Act.

Alderman Granville said the Council ought not to make a hard and fast rule but should deal with individual cases as they arose. It would be wrong to condemn these men unheard.

EASTGATE FIREMEN AND L.D.V.

Eastgate Town Council at their meeting on Thursday last week discussed the question of fire brigade members joining the Local Defence Volunteers. The importance of protecting the fire stations was stressed, but it was stated that so far no firemen had responded to an appeal to join the L.D.V.

The Emergency Committee's report referred to a fire brigade circular stating that sentries at the more important headquarters should be armed with shot guns if no other weapons were available and suggested that members of the fire brigade and auxiliary fire service should enrol in the L.D.V. on the understanding that they would not be withdrawn for L.D.V. duties elsewhere.

Captain G. Square of the L.D.V. said that when the fire engine was called out there would be nobody left behind on guard. When the L.D.V. was properly organised it would be preferable for them to undertake their duties at the fire station when the brigade was out.

Mr. H. Whistler said that it was the fire engines that required protection. The fire brigade personnel were not keen on joining the L.D.V. as they were awake most nights and liable to be called upon at a moment's notice.

CONFLICTING REPORTS

Administrative Officer Jenner said he had received a telephone message from the Home Office to the effect that members of fire brigades were to be discouraged from joining the L.D.V.

"The men have been asked if they would join, but not one has done so," he remarked, "They say they can't do two jobs."

Mr. G. B. Gooding asked whether the Council could apply to the L.D.V. to post guards at the fire stations.

Mr. H. Whistler: The fire brigade is not protected in any way. There is a definite circular before us saying that men should be encouraged to join the L.D.V. The Council must realise that their engines are being left undefended at the mercy of any parachutist. It is a serious situation.

One of the first actions of a parachutist might be to put the fire engines out of action. There was no reason why the A.F.B. should look after their machines except their position had to be legalised.

Mr. Jenner emphasised that he had given every encouragement to the men to join the L.D.V. He had sent a message to every station but had received no reply.

A councillor said that all except one of the firemen at Southgate were willing to join.

The Chairman: Now we have two different stories.

Mr. Jenner: No one as joined.

It was resolved that the Administrative Officer should continue to encourage the firemen to join, subject to their service being confined to guard duty at fire stations.

With regard to the A.F.S., Captain Square said some members had joined the L.D.V., but it should be made quite clear that the first call on the A.F.S. must be their civil defence service.

ALARM SYSTEM

The Administrative Officer reported that the Post Office Telephones Department was installing extensions from the fire stations to the station officers' residences at Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 sections but there would be some delay in obtaining the necessary instruments for extending the call bell system. Another man from each of these stations would be reverted as soon as the new system was installed.

Colonel T. B. Hornblower said the number of whole-time firemen had been reduced very considerably and they were making a definite saving. He did not think it would be possible to reduce the number at the present time with any degree of safety.

The Administrative Officer further reported that with Chief Officer Spence he had paid a surprise visit to No. 5 (Walmington) Fire Station and ordered the section to turn out. The Station Officer rang the fire bells and two men arrived. The Administrative Officer left the station half-an-hour later with only three men on duty.

The engineer-driver, whose employment on a whole-time basis had been terminated, was resigning; another man, expecting to be given similar notice, had joined the Army and the second engineer-driver was leaving the district. Inquiries had been made with a view to recruiting A.F.S. personnel to keep the station open, but had proved impossible.

It was resolved to put the station out of commission daily from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and to have all fire calls during that time put through to Eastgate headquarters, pending the recruitment of more voluntary personnel.



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THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY LECTURE

A meeting of the Walmington and Eastgate Lodge of the Theosophical Society was held at the Yelton Hotel on Tuesday. Mr. W. W. Brooks-Warner presided, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. F. M. Lee on the subject "I man responsible for fate."

"Humanity," said Mr. Lee, "is at the great turning point in its existence. We have now reached the middle stage of our journey between the animal kingdom and the time when we graduate out into wisdom."

At this point there was a great deal of clearing up to be done. All the spiritual evils which had been accumulating since Atlantis were taking material form. Mr. Lee suggested that by bringing many of these evils through one focal point, Hitler was doing the rest of mankind a good turn since he was making the evil easier to cope with. It was good that all this evil should take material form since if it did not, it would merely "crop up" again in our future lives causing a great deal of grief and trouble. There was plenty of good in the world to cope with the opposing forces, but it needed organising.

The mind was the link between highest spirit and lowest matter, and man therefore was the creative agent of the Divine.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Lee was proposed by Mr. Brooks-Warner, which informed the Lodge that next month's meeting would be addressed by the renowned philosopher Mr. A. Crowley.

Obituary

Well-Known West Cliff Resident

Many people will learn with regret of the passing of Captain Enoch Marsh, whose death took place on Monday at 13, Stade Street, Walmington-on-Sea, at the age of 81.

Captain Marsh had for many years been in business with his sons, as the skipper of a fleet of fishing boats. In recent years the fleet has grown to a total of eight boats, and has continued to put to sea since last September, despite the danger.

Despite the growing success of the fleet, the late Captain Marsh handed on the day-to-day running of the fleet to his sons due to ill-health that increasingly confined him to his home.

The funeral takes place next Tuesday at Our Lady of the Sea on Stade Street at 11.30 a.m.

WALMINGTON

FLOWER SHOW—The annual flower show of the Walmington Horticultural Society, originally to be held at St. Aldhelm's Church hall on 18th August, will now take place at the Fish Market on Back Lane due to the unavailability of the former venue.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM
BY VIGILANT

The Town Clerk and False Rumours

It is not surprising to learn that the letter from the Town Clerk of Eastgate which was published in this paper last week under the heading "Have Faith in the Town" has had the effect which Mr. Jackson aimed at. It has "brought help and comfort to the citizens" of the town. I hope that those residents who are still thinking of leaving the town, "bomb dodgers" as a clergyman in a neighbouring town described them, will think again, and act on the Town Clerk's advice and "stay put," at any rate until ordered to leave, and this order may never come. The part of the letter to which I would like to call special attention is that in which a warning is given to gossips and rumour mongers, of whom I am sorry to say there are many in our town. Gossip is apt to be more insidious during the static period of a war, when there is little or no new; rumour, on the other hand, becomes more prevalent in times of stress. Rumour nearly always refers to disasters rather than to victories, and serves the enemy's purpose by inducing a frame of mind which tends to believe the worst. In a special article issued this week by the Freedom Associate, Owen Rutter asks: "How then should we cope with such dangers?" First we have to discipline our own tongues; to curb our own vanity. For it is from vanity that gossip and rumour spring. We enjoy having a sensational piece of information to impart. It gives us an agreeable sense of our own importance to be able to impress our neighbours. Instead of being 100 per cent. knowall we must be 100 per cent. oyster. Then we shall be in a position to deal with other people's desire to show off. Therefore be gruff about gossip and ruthless about rumour. Encourage people to hearten others rather than spread dismay, and make yourself worthy of your liberty of speech by saying to those who abuse it, in the words of Job, "Ye are forgers of lies, we are all physicians of no value. O that ye would altogether hold your peace!" Remember, too, the words of a man of great experience. Speaking on the wireless on Monday, he declared that if we could only stop gossip and rumour throughout the country for one month we should kill the efforts of the German secret service.

Look on the Brighter Side

Returning for a moment to the Town Clerk's letter. It may be thought that Mr. Jackson was too optimistic, but this is not the case. The truth is that there is good reason for thinking that although we have to go through a very serious time we shall emerge victorious if we all do all that is possible to help the nation's war effort. We are too apt to take only a gloomy side on the situation. Let us glance at the other side. Recent weeks have produced stronger evidence than that given recently by the Prime Minister of the superiority of our forces in all the elements in which they will be called upon to fight and have therefore strengthened those "good and reasonable hopes" which were adduced by the expert advisers of the Government as reasons for going on with the war. We may agree with Mr. Chamberlain that "it would be a faint heart indeed that could doubt of our success." British hearts are not faint. Gone indeed are the days of ease. But the nation is the gainer, for our material and armed strength which we increase every day is reflected in the vigour and thrust of the minds of the people. We do not pause to calculate how much we have done. We know there is much more to do before the aggressor is foiled. And we know that it will be done. In the lurid light of this titanic struggle some facts are revealed in vivid outline. We know our enemy. We have seen his ruthlessness. We have watched his methods. His dictated terms to France and his policy of harsh oppression wherever his power extends leave us no illusions as to our fate if Hitler were to win. We know our friends. If some allies have failed us, others are rallying ever more strongly to our side, with the sturdy men on the Dominions and the growing sympathy and practical aid of the great American nations. We know ourselves. We can be justly proud not only of the fighting forces but of the courage and steadfastness of our whole people. The Defence Forces have proved their mettle. Industry is putting up a magnificent show. Air raids fail to shake our nerves. We know our cause. We live in an hour of destiny. On our faithfulness depends the future of liberty and justice, freedom of thought and worship — all that is meant by Christian civilisation. Service in so great a cause calls forth greatness. Britain is writing one of the noblest pages in her long story.

The Bells Will Ring Again

The clergyman of Walmington who tolled the bell at his church, forgetting the order of the Minister of Home Security prohibiting the ringing of church bells except for the purpose of announcing unwelcome visitors to our shores, will

no doubt be forgiven, and let off with the warning "Don't do it again." The order is being faithfully administered throughout the country, although, of course, the ringers regret the necessity. I know this is the case in Walmington and Eastgate. Taking the country as a whole there are nearly 35,000 church bellringers, the vast majority of whom are unpaid. Many of them regard their ringing not only as a piece of church work but also as a pleasant hobby. It is a hobby that calls for far more skill and art than is generally realised. They will, therefore while not, of course, "grousing" about an order issued in the national interests-be inclined to add another little item to their private accounts against Herr Hitler. The order applies not only to "pukka" peals of bells, but also to the single bells which are all that some of our modern churches can boast. The silencing "for the duration" of the many really tuneful peals will be widely regretted, for "bells at even pealing" have pleasanter associations for most of us than the drone of aeroplanes. It is consolatory to reflect that many of these silenced bells are old enough to have played their part in rejoicings at the downfall of would-be world dominators in the past. It is only those of little faith who will doubt that-sooner, perhaps, than we imagine-the bells from many a "tower set square to the storms of air, and change of season that glooms and glows," will be proclaiming that yet another attempt of a man of the earth to "bestride the narrow world like a Colossus" has failed. They will ring again!

The Bells as a Warning

There is one point in connection with the order as to the ringing of church bells which deserves serious attention, namely that they can only be rung as a warning of attempted invasions. Few things are as simple in actual practice as they appear to be to the uninitiated, and the ringing of church bells is not one of them. It may be hoped, therefore, that the powers that be have taken due note of the cautions which many clergymen and bellringers have addressed to them in connection with the intended use of church bells as warnings. Officials in Whitehall may be excused for not having first-hand experience of such matters, but it cannot be too strongly emphasised that a church bell can be a very dangerous thing if a novice attempts to ring it, and it is most desirable that in all localities the Local Defence authorities should bear this in mind. It should not, in most districts, be a difficult matter to ensure that a competent person is always available for attending to this department of Local Defence, as practised bellringers will doubtless be among those enrolled in the L.D.V. Absence of the necessary foresight in this connection may easily result in some unfortunate would-be defender of his native soil hanging himself in a bell-rope in his efforts to apprise the countryside of the advent of unwelcome visitors. In the case of some very old church towers an attempt to ring all the bells hanging there would be liable to cause a complete collapse of the tower. Incidentally, custodians of our churches would do well to ascertain at once from the competent authorities in their area who is, and who is not, authorised to give orders for the ringing of bells. One case has already been reported in the Press of unnecessary alarm caused by the ringing of a church bell at the instance of an unauthorised person.

Incautious Statements in Parish Magazines

Recently I mentioned the appeal by the Ministry of Information that editors of parish magazines should be cautious in what they publish during war-time. In this connection I was interested to see that in his notes in the July issue of his parish magazine a Walmington clergyman writes: "As I have talked to some of you after our two recent air raids I have been both strengthened and heartened." What air raids? It will be news to local people that Eastgate and Walmington have had any such visitation. For obvious reasons, the exact location of enemy bombing attacks is not a matter for publication and if the "raids" that the vicar refers to had in fact taken place, he would be transgressing defence regulations by revealing the fact unless an official communiqué had already given the information. It is very regrettable that such a groundless statement should be published for it is likely to reach people outside the town and add to the harm that we have already suffered from the false rumours concerning us that have been circulating in other parts of the country.

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Children's Corner

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,
It looks as though I shall soon be saying "Good-bye to the present" to numbers of L.L.K. members now that Walmington school children have come into the evacuation scheme, but I hope it will only be for a short while.

I also hope that those L.L.K. members who go to new wartime homes in the near future will be very happy—and that they will write to me from time to time and keep in touch with our Corner. I shall miss you very much, and so will the hospitals and other good causes you have been helping so keenly, but we must all look forward to our next happy meeting and try to carry on as well as we can in the meantime.

Among the parcels of silver paper which reached me this week was one accompanied by the message "collected by two ladies aged 79 and 81 years."

I think it is splendid when elderly people take such an interest in the work that boys and girls are doing for the hospitals and other good causes. We send our love to all these older helper and thank them for lending a hand.

My love to all,
Uncle Jim

HOSPITAL COT FUND

Uncle Jim says a big "Thank you" to the following who have sent farthings for the L.L.K. Hospital Cot Fund this week:—

Total to last week, 33,811. Margaret James, 50; Jimmy Suggitt, 50; Brian and Eileen Coveney, 80; Sealyhams Pat and Trixie, 12; Frank Pike, 48; Roy Howe, 16; John Downing, 212; Kenneth Betts, 18; Cat Dinkles, 100; R.G., 28; Deidre French, 56; "Kiddies' Pal," 12; Dorothy Coles, 57; Audrey Tollerr, 36; Una Wootton, 36; Ronald Taylor, 100; Cynthia Ballard, 30; Michael Head, 2; Anne Baker, 2; Pamela Wright, 30; Anthony May, 39; Herbert, 8. Total, 34, 728.

THANKS FOR SILVER PAPER AND OTHER GIFTS

Gifts acknowledged are of silver paper except where otherwise mentioned:— Jimmy Suggitt (also stamps); Brian and Eileen Coveney (also stamps and cigarette cards); Sealyhams Pat and Trixie; Gwen Scott (also stamps); Cissie and Dolly Godfrey; anonymous (stamps); C. Eveleigh (stamps and cards); D. Veness; Tony and Peter Venner; Betty Beney (also stamps and cards); Thelma and Douglas Hamilton and Baby Violet Cooke (also stamps and cards); Deidre French; Hazel Godden (also books); Jean Nicholson; Una Wootton (also stamps and cards); Ronald Taylor; Hean Cousins (also stamps); Joan Kenward; Pamela Wright; Anthony May (also cards).

My Post Bag

Linda Funnell, Clive Vale.—Herbert is very pleased to enrol your cat, Dinkies, for whom you sent 100 farthings to qualify him for membership for our Pets' League. I am glad Dinkies' pal, Buntie, is so proud of his medallion and we shall be glad to enrol the two pet rabbits when they have qualified.

Audrey Tellett, Halton. — Many happy returns of your 10th birthday today, and thank you for the birthday gifts.

Peggy Dennis, Eastgate, sends her love to all the little children in the hospitals and hopes they are getting better.

Frank Pike, Walmington.—I am glad that you're enjoying your adventures with your new chums. Be sure to mention the L.L.K. to them all!

Thelma Hamilton, Eastgate.—I am sorry to hear you have dislocated your arm. I hope it will soo be right again. I am enrolling your little friend, Baby Violet Cooke. I should put the old cards with your waste paper collection, if I were you.

Kenneth Betts, Walmington.—I am glad you like it so much at your new school. How nice to have two goldfish for being a good boy.

Jimmy Suggitt, Southgate.—I am glad you are proud of your L.L.K. badge and have recruited your friends as members.

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