

### **“Merthyr Express” 6 January 1945**

Music Success As a result of the December 1944 examinations of the London College of Music held at Cardiff, the following were successful: Primary Section, Mary Lewis (honours), Pauline Minoli (honours); Elementary Section, Tudor T. Thomas (honours), Clifford T. Jones (first class); Intermediate Section, John Price (first class).

Killed in Action News has been received by Mr. Ernest Cumpstone of the death over Saipan of his nephew, 2nd/Lieut. Robert L. Cumpstone, P.47 Thunderbolt fighter pilot, son of Mr. H. Cumpstone, late of Fochriw, now of Hamden, Conn., U.S.A. 2nd/Lieut. Cumpstone graduated from Hamden High School in 1942, and while a student there was a member of the baseball and hockey teams. He joined the Army Air Corps in March 1943 and was commissioned last January. He went overseas in February, his first engagement being in Hawaii.

Youth Centre Activities Fochriw County Youth Centre (warden Mr. D. Emlyn Evans, B.A.) commenced its 1945 session on Monday. Officers and committee were elected: Chairman, Mr. H. B. Thomas; secretary, Miss Mair Cumpstone; treasurer, Mr. Des. Kelly; committee, Mr. D.E. Evans (ex officio), Mr. Cyril Davies, Mr. Derlwyn A. Lewis, Miss Enid Davies, Miss Elaine Edwards, and Miss Elinor Griffiths. The librarian is Mr. Hywel T. Lewis, and the canteen staff Mr. C. Davies and the Misses E. & M. Davies. The Centre, which is open on Mondays and Wednesdays, offers activities including physical education, choir and music appreciation, handwork, dramatics, discussion and debating, photography, aero modelling and outdoor activities (camping, hiking etc). A religious epilogue concludes each week's work.

Death of Mr. J.A. Davies The death occurred at Merthyr recently, after a short illness, of Mr. James Alfred Davies, husband of Mrs. Maggie M. Davies, 25, Guest-street, and son of Mr. & Mrs. J. Davies, 28, Guest-street, Fochriw. Mr. Davies, who was 30 years of age, had worked at Ogilvie Colliery until his illness a few months ago. He took an active part in many organisations and was a special constable attached to “F” Division, Glamorgan Constabulary for the last six years. He was keenly interested in his work and throughout his service did his work conscientiously. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard last Sunday, when the cortege was headed by a representative attendance of both the regular and special police under the direction of Supt. Folland, assisted by Inspector Seth Pugh and P.S. Reg. Rowlands. Members of the police force acted as bearers. The Rev. Eurof Jones officiated, assisted by the Rev. E. Adams Evans, (Vicar). The mourners were: James Davies (son); Mr. James Davies (father); Mr. Daniel James (father-in-law); Mr. W.J.A. Davies (brother); Messrs. Dd. Morris and Harry Price (brothers-in-law); Ben James, Job Thomas (grandfather-in-law); D.J. Thomas, Claude Smith, Ronald Morris, Gethin Price (nephews); Edward Davies, John Davies (uncles); W.A. Davies, Burkley Davies, W.J. Davies, W. Angell, B. Angell, W.A. Thomas, G. Walters, O. Davies, P. Hann, R. Parry, H. Lewis, D.C. Jones, C. Ballard, W. Ballard, J. Ballard, W.J. & V. Llewellyn. At the house were: Mrs. Davies (widow); Mrs. E. Davies (mother); Mrs. Martha James (mother-in-law); Mrs. L.A. Flewitt, Mrs. E.M. Davies (sisters-in-law); Mr. W.J. Angell (uncle); M. Davies, Deri; M. Davies, Maud Davies, Ellen Davies, Eirwen Thomas (aunts); Lil Lewis and H. Morgan.

### **“Merthyr Express” 13 January 1945**

New Hall Dance A dance was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Music was supplied by the Embassy Band. The M.C. was Mr. John Lewis.

Poppy Day Result Miss S. Phillips, organiser, thanks all who co-operated in the successful Poppy Day appeal. The amount realised was £28 which has been forwarded to Earl Haig's Fund.

Late Mrs. M.A. Jones The funeral took place at Pentwyn on Monday of an old native of the village, Mrs. M.A. Jones, widow of Mr. John Jones, Bargoed. Both had lived at Fochriw before their removal to Bargoed many years ago.

Home From Abroad Driver Evan M. Lewis, son of Mr. & Mrs. William Lewis, Brynteg-street, returned home on leave from Belgium, where he has been since D.Day. Pte. J. Morgan (Welch Regt.) son of Mr. & Mrs. J. Morgan, Council Houses, has also returned on leave from Burma. Both were given a fine reception.

Red Cross Efforts Very creditable results of the efforts of Fochriw Red Cross Committee were given by the secretary at the meeting held recently. The collections were begun in July

1943 and during the months July - December, 1943, the total sum collected was £41 0s 7d. From January to December 1944, the sum of £125 9s 6d was realised, making a total of £166 10s 1d. for the period since the commencement of the collections. Credit is due to the collectors for their steady periodical collections for this most worthy cause. The secretary is Mrs. A. Ballard and the treasurer Mrs. E. Cumpstone.

Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting of the Welfare and Institute at the New Hall on Friday. The secretary, Mr. D.J. Thomas, dealt with the correspondence, and it was reported that the audit would be done by Mr. T.D. Evans, Bargoed, in the near future. Before the annual meeting, the treasurer, Mr. J.H. Evans, gave the financial report for both indoor and outdoor schemes. The Chairman referred to the death of Mr. James A. Davies and the members stood in silence as a mark of respect. The resignation of the secretary was accepted with regret, and it was decided to invite applications for the post from members only.

Lawrence - Powell The wedding took place on Tuesday at Bedwellty Church of Mr. Gordon Lawrence, youngest son of Mr. & Mrs. John Lawrence, Glyn-terrace, and Miss Lilian Powell, daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. John Powell, Coedymoeth-road, Aberbargoed. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. John Powell, was attired in a turquoise frock with fox fur cape and navy accessories. She wore a spray of orchids and was attended by Miss Vera Powell, her sister, who wore tan with brown accessories. The best man was Mr. Trevor Lawrence, brother of the bridegroom. The service, which was fully choral, was conducted by the Rev. Jas. Davies, rector, and the Rev. J.C. Payne, vicar of Penydarren, uncle of the bridegroom. Mr. Cliff Mantle was the organist. A reception was held at the home of the bride. Later in the day they left for Brecon.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 20 January 1945**

In Hospital Messrs. Richard Evans, Martin-street; Mr. Thomas, Penybank; Mrs. L. Hollister, Pit-row; and Master Howard Morgan are now in hospital.

Penybank Tea The second annual New Year Tea was held at Penybank Mission Church on Saturday last, when a number of Sunday School children and adults were catered for by Mesdames F.E. Davies, Gillard, C.G. Hann, J.W. Prowse, C. Coggan, Lewis (Pentwyn), Lyons and T. Morgan. Mr. & Mrs. Harris, Deri, provided music and song and Mrs. Lyons recited.

Plays at Carmel Two Nativity plays were performed on Sunday by children of Carmel Sunday School and Band of Hope. Chief parts were played by Doreen Clarke, Sylvia Evans, Pat Brown, Margaret Jones, Pat Sullivan, Iris Gwynne, Morfydd Owen, Audrey Dummett, Margaret Davies, Bertie Cumpstone, George Perrin, Leonard & Michael Evans, Betty Thomas, Billy Rees, Glanville Jones; also Shirley Lawrence, Ray Hurley, Shirley Davies, Jean Price, Lorna Rees, James Davies, Eileen Watkins & D.J. Evans. The Rev. Eurof Jones introduced the service and also presided. Mr. Emlyn Evans conducted the choir and Mr. Thomas Walters was the organist. Messrs. D. Jenkins and B. Rees were in charge of lighting effects.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 27 January 1945**

Death Of Two Residents The deaths have taken place of two well known personalities in the village: Mr. Evan Isaac Griffiths, Gwalia Stores, aged 75, and Mrs. E. Hughes, 17, Martin-street.

Bible Society At a meeting of the local Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society at Nazareth Chapel on Tuesday, Rev. W. Thomas presiding, an address on the work of the Society was given by the Rev. P. Thomas, Aberdare. Others who took part were the Rev. Eurof Jones and Mr. T.J. James. Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P., the treasurer, gave the financial report. Miss A. Jones was organist and Mr. T.J. James secretary.

U. S. Soldier's Bride The wedding took place on Saturday at Cardiff of Pte. Lee Roy Clayton of the U.S. Army, who came home on short leave from Belgium, and Miss Marion E. Sullivan, eldest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sullivan, Aelybryn, Fochriw. The bride, who was attired in green with rust accessories, was given away by her father and was attended by her mother. A reception was held at the home of the bride.

### **“Merthyr Express” 3 February 1945**

In Hospital Patients at the Merthyr General Hospital are Messrs. D.T. Davies, Guest-street and Crad Ballard, Tunnel Pit Houses. Speedy recoveries are hoped for.

Allotments Association The annual meeting of the Allotments Association was held at the New Hall when Mr. Crad Shankland presided. He said it was the 31st year of the existence of the Association, and the past year had been one of the outstanding periods. Most of the efforts had been for the cultivation and production of vegetables and the show held last autumn had been a decided success. Officers elected were: president, Rev. E. Adams Evans; vice president, Mr. Edgar Pritchard; chairman, Mr. Idris Cumpstone; treasurer, Mr. P.G. Hann; secretary, Mr. M. Evans; committee, Messrs. E. Chapman, D. Jenkins, C. Shankland, V. Powell, F. ...., W. Way and B. Brown.

Death of Mrs. E. Hughes The death has occurred of one of Fochriw's oldest inhabitants, Mrs. E. Hughes, 17, Martin-street, wife of Mr. John Hughes. She was 83 and the oldest member of Carmel Chapel, hardly missing a service up to the last. Mrs. Hughes had lived at Fochriw for the last 46 years. The service, which was private, took place at Pant Cemetery on Saturday, the Rev. Eurof Jones, Rev. E. Adams Evans and Pastor Dd. Thomas officiating. The bearers were Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., Messrs. T. Ballard, J. Thomas, A. Marshallsea and Bert Lloyd. Mourners were Messrs. John Hughes (husband); Harry, Will and Wyndham (sons); Selwyn Hughes, Lyn John (grandsons); David Price (son-in-law). At the house were Mesdames Price, John and M. Price (daughters); Mary Hughes, Violet Hughes, Lily Marshallsea (daughters-in-law); Myra (grand-daughter); Mrs. Cumpstone, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Lloyd, Miss M. Evans.

Tradesman's Death The sudden death has taken place of Mr. Evan Griffith, aged 77, Gwalia Stores, Fochriw. Well known in South Wales, he was a native of Llanon, but had held business appointments in many towns in South Wales. He was a member of the Parish Church and of the Parochial Council. The funeral took place on Friday at Aberfan Cemetery and was strictly private. The Rev. E. Adams Evans, vicar, officiated. The bearers were: Coun. W.J. Payne; Messrs. T. Ballard, J. Lawrence, A. Palmer, E. Evans, H. Jones, R. Evans. Mourners were Mrs. S.J. Griffiths (widow); Mrs. M. Davies, Mrs. M. Rowe (cousins); Misses M. Griffiths, D. Davies, Mrs. K. Walters (nieces); Miss C. Evans, Mrs. H. Thomas, Miss B. Jones, Mrs. Cumpstone, Mr. G. Walters (nephew); Messrs. Peter Jones, G. Sibley, B. Davies. Funeral arrangements were made by Mr. D.J. Davies, Fochriw.

### **“Merthyr Express” 10 February 1945**

For Red Cross

Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday

Presentation Tea

### **“Merthyr Express” 17 February 1945**

Aid For China At Noddfa on Tuesday, a meeting was held, when the Rev. Crwys Williams, Cardiff, gave an address on “United Aid for China.” Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presided.

Death of Mr. W. Williams The death has occurred at Merthyr General Hospital of Mr. Walter Williams, Hill-row, Pentwyn, at the age of 34. He has been ill for some time.

Pancake Tea On Tuesday at the Church Hall, the children of the Sunday School were given a pancake tea. After tea, games were played. Attending at the tables were Mrs. Rouse, Miss Olive Payne, Miss Higgs, L. Mantle, N. Palmer, V. Pegg, Betty Fox, Jean Slimmon, Connie Wood and L. Dummett.

Snooker Defeat Fochriw played Brithdir in a knock-out competition at Fochriw on Tuesday, Brithddir winning by 7 frames to 5. Fochriw team: Messrs. Owen Jones, Gomer Evans, Rufus Dummett, Bryn Rees, Geg Gittoes and Tom Watkins.

Comforts Fund A meeting of the Fochriw Comforts Fund Committee was held last Friday. A gift of £6 5s. was received from the Empire Club, Pontlottyn. Coun. S. Lewis proposed and Miss R. Davies seconded that a vote of thanks be given to the members of the Empire Club. Mrs. D. Jenkins presided. The secretary is Mrs. A. Evans, and the treasurer, Mrs. Monnelly. The collection for the month was £7 19s 10d.

“The Shepherd's Message” At the Church Hall on Thursday, the Sunday School scholars of St. Mary's Church performed a sacred play, “The Shepherd's Message.” (Nancy Martin) Mr.

W.J. Payne presided and the producers were Mrs. Rouse, Miss Higgs and Miss O.M. Payne. Those taking part were: Lilian Mantle, Jean Hopkinson, Ruby Williams, Lorna Rees, Gwenfil Thomas, Jim Catterson, Betty Fox, Gladys Williams, Iris Sibley, Evelyn Sibley, Ronald Jones, Edwin Davies, Mr. Jack Palmer, Connie Wood, Jean Slimmon, Morfydd Thomas, Fred Wilton, Shirley Lawrence, Pat Sullivan. At the close, the Rev. E. Adams Evans thanked all for their help and support. The proceeds were given to the wounded soldiers at Merthyr General Hospital.

Red Cross Penny-a-Week in London During January, Londoners contributed £48,200 to the Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 24 February 1945**

Late Mr. W. Williams The funeral of Mr. Walter Williams, Hill-row, Pentwyn, took place on Tuesday at Pentwyn Churchyard. Mr. Williams was 34, and had been ill for some time. Revs. E. Adams Evans and Eurof Jones officiated at the house and graveside. The mourners were: John Thomas Williams (son); Messrs. Jack & Albert Williams (brothers); D. Lewis; -- Baker (father-in-law); T. Jenkins, P. Jenkins, M. Emms, C. Rowlands, T.E. Davies (brothers-in-law); T. Blake, P. Cartwright, O. Saunders (uncles); M. Williams, B. Dobson, J. Llewellyn, E. Lloyd (cousins); E. Davies (nephew). At the house were: Mrs. Williams (wife); Gwen and Audrey (daughters); Denzil (son); Mrs. Lewis (mother); Mrs. Evans (sister); Mrs. Davies, Miss Baker, Mrs. Rowlands, Mrs. J. Williams (sister-in-law); Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Blake (aunts); Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. J. Llewellyn, Mrs. M. Williams, Mrs. Balnes (cousins).

Band's Best Year The annual meeting took place at the New Hall on Wednesday, presided over by Coun. W.J. Payne, supported by Mr. H. Wood, vice chairman, Mr. J.J. Lewis, secretary and Mr. Emrys Lewis, treasurer. In reviewing the past year, the Chairman said it was one of the best in the history of the band. The financial position was very sound. The band had fulfilled a large number of engagements, and their playing had reached a high standard. They regretted the accident to their bandmaster, Mr. A. Mantle, which had kept him in hospital for the last few months. All joined in wishing him a speedy recovery. The deputy bandmaster, Mr. Emrys Lewis, was thanked for his services during Mr. Mantle's absence. During the past year, the band had lost one of its vice-presidents, Mr. E.I. Griffiths. Another committee-man, Mr. D.T. Davies, was also in hospital. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Stan Williams and Mr. Farley (vice-presidents). The auditors report was given by Mr. Wm. Thomas and Mr. A.H. Wood, and revealed a splendid year's working. The following officials were appointed: president, Mr. E.T. Pritchard; vice presidents, Messrs. Stan Williams, W. Farley, Emlyn Evans and P.C. Cox; chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; vice chairman, Mr. A.H. Wood; bandmaster, Mr. A. Mantle; deputy bandmaster, Mr. Emrys Lewis; secretary, Mr. J.J. Lewis; treasurer, Mr. Emrys Lewis; registrar, Mr. D.J. Davies; committee, Messrs. D.R. Jones, Dan James, J.E. Edwards, W. Evans, D.T. Davies, E. Lewis, C. Shankland, M. Shankland, D.M. Thomas, Rev. E.A. Evans, Rev. E. Jones.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 3 March 1945**

Welsh Drama The New Hall was well filled last Thursday to witness the Welsh drama, “Y Dau Dylwyth” (Ieuan Griffiths), by the Carmel Dramatic Society, producer Rev. Eurof Jones. This annual event is looked forward to with interest and the Company again lived up to their reputation. Those who took part were Mr. David Lewis, Miss Maria Jones, Miss Bet Evans, Master D.J. Evans, Mr. H.T. Lewis, Mrs. May Davies, Mr. Bob Rees, Mr. W.A. Davies, Mr. D. Kelly and the Rev. Eurof Jones.

British Legion The annual meeting of the British Legion Benevolent Fund was held at the New Hall on Tuesday. Coun. Payne presided, supported by Mr. J. Lloyd Jones, secretary, and Mrs. L. Thomas, treasurer. The chairman, who welcomed Mr. J. Lloyd Jones, stated that they all regretted Mr. Jones's decision to resign as secretary on his removal to Ystrad Mynach, and he paid tribute to Mr. Jones's efforts for the Legion, and said he had always been ready to help any member, and many an ex-serviceman owed him a debt of gratitude. Others who spoke of Mr. Jones's sterling qualities were Mr. Idris Cumpstone, Mrs. L. Thomas, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Mantle and Mr. T. Jones. Mr. Jones responded and said he was sorry to resign, but he would have pleasant recollections of his work with the branch. He appealed to ex-

Servicemen to become members of the Legion. It was decided to place on record Mr. Jones's services. Officers elected were: chairman, Mr. W.J. Payne; secretary, Mr. I. Cumpstone; treasurer, Mrs. L. Thomas; committee, Messrs. S. Phillips, C. Cumpstone, W. Sullivan, S. Ballard, E. Puddle, D.O. Davies, Mrs. G. Llewellyn (section representative), Mrs. Mantle (W.V.S.), Mrs. Phillips (poppy organizer), Mrs. M.E. Thomas (branch representative); chaplains, Revs. E. Adams Evans, Eurof Jones and Wm. Thomas.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 10 March 1945**

Holy Communion At the Parish Church on St. David's Day, Holy Communion was celebrated, the service being entirely in Welsh. The Vicar officiated.

Red Cross The amount collected towards the Red Cross for February was £10 3s 3d. The committee wish to thank the collectors and contributors for their work. The secretary is Mrs. M.A. Ballard, with Mrs. E. Cumpstone as treasurer.

Chaired Bard For the first time, it was a Fochriw boy who sat in the bardic chair at Lewis School, Pengam, in the annual eisteddfod held on March 2. The chair was awarded to Huw Ballard Thomas (Gweledydd), only son of Mr. & Mrs. T.G. Thomas of Bryn Gwyn, Aelybryn, Fochriw, for his Welsh poem “Yr Aberth.” Mr. Thomas is the chairman of the local County Youth Centre.

Ensa Concert An Ensa entertainment was given at the New Hall on Monday by the Gaiety Revels. The acts included a comedian, pianist, soloist, speciality dancer, mimic and drummer.

Welfare and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, when Mr. D. Jenkins presided. The secretary reported that the accounts had been audited by Mr. T.D. Eevans, Bargoed. The treasurer gave the financial reports. The coal question is causing much anxiety. A shortage has been experienced for some time.

Late Miss E. Davies The funeral of Miss E. Davies, younger daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Alan Davies of Aberystwyth, took place from 4, Guest-street, Fochriw, on Tuesday. The burial was at Pentwyn Churchyard and Pastor David Thomas officiated. The bearers were: Messrs. Lames L. Lewis, Dewi Morgan, D. Saunders and Bert Wellings. Mourners were: Messrs. Alan Davies (father); Eddie, Edwin, Stanley, John and Elwyn Gittins, W. Lewis, David Thomas and R. Howells (uncles), Aberystwyth; D. Gittins (cousin). At the house were: Mrs. Davies (mother); Yvonne (sister); Mesdames Davies, and Gittins (grandmothers); Mrs. Howells, Aberystwyth; Sarah, Gladys, Mair, Hetty, Annie, Olwen, B. Davies and Annie (aunts); Mervina and Moira (cousins).

Married In Belgium The marriage took place in No.6 British General Hospital, Belgium, solemnised by Padre Macalmon, R.A.C.H.D., of Nursing Officer Lt. Hannah Mantle, Q.A.J.M.N. (S.R.), only daughter of Mr. Albert Mantle and the late Mrs. M.S. Mantle, Pentwyn, Fochriw, and Lieut. J. Menneer of Cornwall. The bride was given away by O.C. Col. Dolan, R.A.M.C. The best man was Captain Michael Martin, R.E. The bridesmaids were Nursing Officers Athon, Skeet, Quinn and Wright. The reception was held at the Sisters' Mess, given by the Matron, Miss Buckingham, R.R.C. The guests numbering 150, included Major Isaac, Swansea. Numerous presents were received. The short honeymoon was spent in Brussels, the couple returning later to their respective units. Nursing Officer Lt. Menneer has served in Normandy, Belgium, and Holland. Before going abroad, she was nursing at Cardiff Infirmary.

Nursing Sister Honoured At the Old Library on Wednesday, a presentation and social took place, when Sister Menneer, the daughter of Mr. A. Mantle, Pentwyn, was presented with an inscribed oak tray, given by the Women's Section of the Fochriw British Legion, for courageous service abroad. Mrs. Phillips presided and the presentation was made by Mrs. Farley, president. Sister Menneer suitably responded. The following also spoke: Rev. Adams Evans, vicar; Mr. Tom Jones, chairman of the men's branch; Mr. Idris Cumpstone, secretary; Mr. S. Phillips; Mr. C. Cumpstone; Mrs. Harding, secretary of the Womwn's Branch; L. Thomas, vice chairman. They all paid tribute to Sister Menneer. Mr. A. Mantle, father, and Tom and John, brothers, thanked the section.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 17 March 1945**

In Hospital Mrs. R. Parry, Pleasant-view, is a patient at Merthyr General Hospital. A speedy recovery is hoped for.

Parish Church On Sunday morning, the preacher was the Vicar. In the evening, the service was taken by Coun. W.J. Payne. A play, "Mothering Sunday," was given by members of the Guild under the direction of Mrs. Rouse. Those who took part were Misses L. Mantle, Connie Wood, Betty Fox, Lorna Rees, John Palmer and Jim Catterson. The organist was Mr. W.P. Lawrence. The lessons were read by Mr. J. Palmer and Mr. Huw B. Thomas.

Snooker The Rhymney Valley Snooker League semi-final of the individual championship took place at Fochriw Hall. The players were D. Jones, Phillipstown, and Ivor Tuck, Pontlottyn. D. Jones was the winner. The other semi-finalists were L. Griffin and M. Davies, Bargoed, Griffin being the winner. The players were introduced by Mr. J.H. Evans and the Vicar. The referees and scorers were Messrs. A. Palmer and G. Davies, Fochriw; J. Shorey, New Tredegar, and R. Hughes, Brithdir. The final will be played at Abertyswg

Football Fochriw played Blackwood at Trelyn Park on Saturday in a Rhymney Valley Boys' Club semi-final. Blackwood won by two goals to nil.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 24 March 1945**

From West Front Sapper G.H. Colbourne of 16, Hill-row, Pentwyn, who was home on leave last week from Belgium where he is serving with the 21st Army, landed in Normandy on D-Day, and was also at Dunkirk. A concert was organised on his behalf at the Mount Pleasant Inn, where many local artistes gave their services. Mr. A. Woods of Fochriw presided. Mrs. Colbourne wishes to thank all for their friendly attitude towards her husband.

Mentioned In Dispatches Acting-Sergt. Thomas Francis Thomas, R.E.M.E., son of Mrs. Sarah Thomas and the late Mr. Thos. Thomas, Williams-row, has received the following letter from the Admiralty: "I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that they have had before them a report of your good services in connection with the operations for the invasion of Normandy, and I am to say that their lordships have noted with satisfaction the part you played in this great enterprise."

Home on Leave Pte. Leslie Harris (Armoured Tank Brigade of Signals), son of Mr. & Mrs. David Harris, Martin-street, and husband of Mrs. L. Harris of London, has been home from Holland. Chief Officer Tom Smith (Merchant Navy), son of Mrs. Flewett and the late Mr. G. Smith, Plantation-terrace, is now home for three months to pursue his studies for his master's certificate. C.Q.M.S. Tudor Rowlands, son of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rowlands, Glyn-terrace, is home on leave after seeing service in France, Belgium and Holland. He is an old Bargoed Secondary School boy, and afterwards a student at Carmarthen College, from where he joined the Forces.

Welfare Association The annual meeting took place on Friday at the New Hall. Mr. Dan Jenkins presided. The chairman reviewed the work of the past year and thanked all for their support. The accounts, which had been audited by Mr. T.D. Evans, Bargoed, showed a successful year's working. In the Book Department, about 3,000 books had been taken out. The retiring chairman then vacated the chair and Coun. W.J. Payne became chairman for the coming year. Coun. Payne said that he hoped to see the playing field ready for next season and he felt this could be accomplished with a little co-operation from all footballers. Improvements to the children's playground must also be attended to. He thanked Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary, who had resigned and welcomed their new secretary, Mr. Bryn Davies. Other officers and committee appointed were: vice chairman, Mr. D.E. Evans, B.A.; treasurer, Mr. J.H. Evans; trustees, Coun. W.J. Payne, D. James, D. Jenkins, T.J. Jones; committee, A.H. Wood, W. Evans, J.E. Edwards, Bob Rees, A. Palmer, C. Shankland, D.J. Thomas, H.T. Lewis, D. Mantle, Dan James, Dan Jenkins, W.A. Davies, Rev. E. Adams Evans, J.J. Lewis, John Lewis, Bryn Rees, R. Evans, W. Cook, E.T. Pritchard; librarian, Mr. Reg Gittoes; deputy librarian, Mr. I. Morgan; billiards committee, C. Edwards, W. Evans, L. Pritchard, A. Evans, A. Palmer, T.R. Lewis, d.J. Thomas, O. Jones, with the officers; book committee, D. James, L. Mantle, W. Evans, D.J. Thomas, Rev. E.A. Evans, R. Gittoes, I. Morgan, with the officers; entertainments committee, C. Shankland, A.H. Wood, D. James, J. Lewis, E.T. Pritchard, J.E. Edwards, D.J. Thomas, D.E. Evans, J.J. Lewis, and the officers.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 31 March 1945**

Snooker Match Fochriw played New Tredegar "A" away on Thursday last in a Rhymney Valley League match, Fochriw winning by 7 frames to 5. The Fochriw team was Gomer

Davies, Reg Gittoes, Rufus Dummett, Tom Watkins, Glanmor Dummett and D. Way.

Palm Sunday On Sunday last, the old churchyard on the hill, Pentwyn, was visited by hundreds of people, who laid flowers on the graves. At the Parish Church, services were conducted by the Vicar.

Carmel Chapel On Sunday last, a repetition of the Christmas Gymanfa Ganu was held at Carmel Chapel. The singing was under the conductorship of Mr. Meirion Shankland with Mr. T. Walters at the organ. The morning session was presided over by Mr. W.A. Davies, the afternoon by Nurse Ballard-Davies, and the evening by Rev. Eurof Jones.

End of Session A social evening was held at the Fochriw Council School to end up the needlework class which has been held during the winter months. Mrs. F. Evans, the instructress, thanked all the members for their excellent work. Mrs. Mildred Evans, Mrs. T. Rowlands and Mrs. T.J. James supervised at the tables.

Home Guard Honour Further honour has come to a member of the local Home Guard platoon. Sergt. L.D. Mantle has received a certificate of appreciation of his services from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Command. Sergt. Mantle has contributed greatly to the success of the platoon during its existence.

Rifle Team's Place The Home Guard rifle team has just been notified of the last national competition, held last December. Of thousands of competitors throughout Britain, the local team was placed 46. Only one Welsh team - Denbigh - was placed higher on the list. Fochriw was represented by Lieut. B. Davies, 2nd-Lieut. E. Lewis, Sergts. Mantle, W.E. Jenkins, F. Williams, and A.M. Davies, Corpls. D. Harding and Roy Evans, Pte. T. Williams.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 7 April 1945**

Barnardo Day A house-to-house collection for the Barnardo Day Fund was held last week. The collectors were Mesdames L. Cumpstone, C. Shankland, T. Rowlands, S. Lewis, J. Fisher, B. Angell, J. Lewis, Misses M. & A. Jones, R. Davies, Betty Jones and Elsie Davies. The sum collected was £6 12s, and the collection was organized by Mrs. Sam Lewis.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 14 April 1945**

In Hospital

Late Mrs. L. Hollister

#### **“Merthyr Express” 28 April 1945**

Home From Burma Pte. David Davies, S.W.B., Dynevor-street, is home on leave after three years in Burma. He received a splendid reception. A concert was held at the Rising Sun on Friday to mark the occasion. Mr. A.H. Wood presided.

Legion Delegates Mrs. M. Phillips, Mrs. Harding and Mrs. G. Llewellyn were the delegates representing the British Legion Fochriw Branch (Women's Section) at the London Conference last week. Mrs. Phillips was presented by the Queen with a certificate of merit as Chairman of the Women's Section for ten years.

Community Singing Organised by the County Youth Movement, a community singing festival was held at Noddfa Chapel on Sunday evening to assist the Aid for China Fund of which Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., is the president. The chairman was Mr. Emlyn Evans, B.A. The singing was conducted by Mr. H. Ballard Thomas and reached a high standard. The organists were Miss A. Jones and Mr. D.J. Thomas.

British Legion Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting of Service Committee at the New Hall on Monday, supported by Mrs. Phillips (vice-chairman), Mr. Idris Cumpstone (secretary), and Mrs. L. Thomas (treasurer). The secretary dealt with the correspondence, after which the cases of sickness, and other deserving cases, were considered. Grants were made. The chairman appealed for all ex-servicemen and women to join the branch and to attend the branch meetings.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 5 May 1945**

In Hospital Mrs. B. Harris, Martin-street, is a patient at Merthyr General Hospital.

Late Mrs. M. Griffiths The death has taken place of Mrs. Martha Griffiths, widow of the late Mr. W. Griffiths, Glyn-terrace, one of the oldest and esteemed residents of the district.

Home on Leave Gunner E. Ballard, R.A., Guest-street, was home on leave last week after serving in Belgium, Holland, and other theatres of war. He was given a fine reception.

VE Day A meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday presided over by Mrs. M. Jenkins

and attended by representatives of the various organizations. It was decided to hold various functions. A sub-committee was formed to make the necessary arrangements. Mr. Bob Davies is the secretary.

Fochriw Eisteddfod's Record Entry A successful eisteddfod was held at the New Hall last Thursday, when there were a record number of entries. Adjudicators were: music, Mr. Walter Jones, M.A., Bargoed; literature, Rev. A. Edwards, Bargoed. Rev. Eurof Jones was the conductor and the accompanists were Mr. Thomas Walters, A.L.C.M., and Mr. Hugh B. Thomas. Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., was the treasurer, and Mr. J.J. Lewis secretary. Mrs. Eurof Jones presented the prizes. Awards: recitation under 7: 1. Bessie Williams; solo 7-10, 1. Maldwyn Hughes; recitation 7-10, Audrey Dummett; solo 10-14, Ronwen Thomas, Pantywaun; recitation 10-14, 1. Pat Sullivan; solo 14-16, Gwyneth, Pantywaun; duet for children under 16, Eleanor and Enid; party of 6 reciting the 46th psalm, Glyn's party; children's choir, Carmel, conductor Mr. Bert Cumpstone, who was presented with a baton by Mr. Thomas Walters; veterans' solo, Mr. T. Walters; open recitation, Pat Sullivan; autobiography of a miner, Mr. Sam Lewis; love letter, Mr. Sam Lewis; tenor solo, Mr. T. Walters; baritone solo, Mr. M. Shankland; collection of Welsh proverbs, Mrs. A. Ballard; open duet for adults, Mrs Dilys Edwards & Miss A. Jones; sight music, Mr. T. Jones, Pantywaun; quartette, Mr. Emlyn Evans' party; chief choral, Pentwyn choir, conducted by Mr. A. Mantle, who was presented with a baton by Mr. J.J. Lewis. A competition on "A Miner" was won by "Onlooker," and a chair was given by Mr. Dan Jenkins, headmaster. The successful competitor was brought to the platform and was "chaired" in the traditional custom of the National Eisteddfod by Rev. A. Edwards, who acted as Archdruid: and the Rev. Eurof Jones and Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P., read bardic verses. Mr. J.J. Lewis rendered the bardic song. A vote of thanks to those who had taken part, and also to the ladies who prepared the tea, was proposed by Mrs. Sam Lewis and seconded by Mr. T. Ballard.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 12 May 1945**

Fochriw Airman's B.E.M. L.A.C. Geraint Davies, R.A.F., attached to the South East Asia Air Forces, son of Mr. & Mrs. D.T. Davies, Guest-street, has been awarded the British Empire Medal. He became an R.A.F. Commando in combined operations and took part in many landings and for great bravery was awarded the B.E.M. The presentation was made by Lord Louis Mountbatten himself. L.A.C. Davies was wounded but is making satisfactory progress. He hopes to be in the last big "jump" when Singapore is re-taken. [Photograph]

PB4 / 0009 photograph

Welcome Home A concert was held at the White Horse Inn, Pentwyn, to welcome home G. Baker, R.A.F., after serving overseas. Mr. A.H. Wood presided.

Hospital Benefits As a result of the drama performed by the Glyn Dramatic Society, Deri, £30 15s. was handed to Coun. Lewis Jones, hospital secretary, who sent a letter of thanks to all concerned for the fine effort. The local organiser and secretary, Mrs. W.J. Payne, wishes to thank all who made the effort a success.

Red Cross Fund During the month of April, the sum of £8 1s 5½d was collected for the Red Cross Penny-a-week Fund. The proceeds from the performance given by the Pontlottyn Melody Makers amounted to £22, and a donation of £1 1s. was received from the Fochriw Ambulance Corps. A letter of appreciation has been received from Mrs. Etherington Smith, secretary.

VE-Day Services Services were held at the Parish Church on VE-day, conducted by the vicar, Rev. E. Adams Evans. The lessons were read by Coun. W.J. Payne and Mr. Wyndham Lawrence was the organist. United services were held at Carmel Chapel and Mr. Trevor Lawrence presided. Those who took part were Revs. E. Jones, T.J. Jones, David Lewis and B. Davies, Miss A. Jones and A. Dummett. During the evening, a singing festival was held at which the Rev. E. Jones presided and the Rev. T.J. Jones led in prayer. Mr. M. Shankland was the conductor and Mr. Thomas Walters the organist.

Welfare and Institute Coun. Payne presided at a meeting on Friday at the New Hall. The caretaker's report complained at the conduct of several young people in the billiards hall, and it was decided that they appear before the next meeting of the committee. The chairman reported on the negotiations for a bulldozer to be used for levelling the football field, which



was agreed to.

Funeral of Mrs. M. Griffiths The funeral of Mrs. Martha Griffiths, aged 73, of Maes-y-coed, Fochriw, took place at Pant Cemetery on Thursday. Mrs. Griffiths was a native of Fochriw. She was a member of Carmel Chapel. Her husband died seven years ago, and she leaves three daughters, and a son who lives in the U.S.A. The officiating ministers were: Revs. Eurof Jones; G. Jones, Calfaria, Bargoed; L. Williams, Deri; G. Jones, Bethania, Dowlais; A.F. Jeffrey, Llanharan; E. Adams Jones, vicar. The bearers were Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., Messrs. T. Rowlands, B. Jones, J. Davies, D. Lewis and W. Cook. The mourners were: Messrs. A. Jones, W. Cook, B. Rees (sons-in-law); John Lewis (brother); Jack Evans (brother-in-law); Billie Rees (grandson); W.T. Lewis, D. Lewis, A.F. Jeffrey, T. Griffiths, E. Jacob, T.J. Morgan, I. Griffiths, R. John, J.B. Evans, T. Pope, B. Hynham, W. Jones, E. Jones, A. Jones, I. John, S. John, Jim Catterson. At the house were: Mesdames M. Jones, M. Cook and E. Rees (daughters); Iris Jones, E. Jones (grand-daughters); Margt. Evans and Madge Evans (sisters); J. Lewis (sister-in-law).

Youth Concert A concert was given at the New Hall recently by members of the Fochriw County Youth Centre. Items given included pianoforte solos by Huw B. Thomas; recitations by E. Morgan and E. Davies; solos by Marie Davies and Elaine Edwards; boys' sextet led by D. Harding; girls' party led by M. Cumpstone. Choral items were given by the Centre Choir, conducted by Mr. H.B. Thomas. A mime and play, which will be performed at the county youth eisteddfod, were given. Those who took part in the mime were: Marie Davies, M. Cumpstone, E. Davies, E. Morgan, E. Cumpstone, N. Jones, J. Sullivan, C. Woods, G. Thomas, A.M. Thomas. The narrator was D. Kelly and the producer D. Emlyn Evans, B.A. The music was arranged and played by H.B. Thomas. Those who performed the play were: Huw B. Thomas, Elinor Griffiths, John Evans and John Ballard. The producer was Mr. D. Emlyn Evans and the electrician and stage manager, Mr. J.J. Davies. The chairman was the Rev. Eurof Jones, and present at the concert were Mr. Trefor Jenkins, B.A., county youth organizer, and Mrs. Jenkins, and Miss Ena Grey, assistant organizer. Miss Grey gave an address saying that Fochriw could be proud of the talent of the young people. Mr. Jenkins also spoke. The County Youth Eisteddfod is to be held at Bridgend on Saturday, May 12, and the centre is entering many competitions.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 19 May 1945**

Chaired Bard The chaired bard at the recent eisteddfod held at the New Hall, Fochriw, was Huw Ballard Thomas (“Onlooker”), only son of Mr. & Mrs. T.G. Thomas, “Bryngwyn,” Aelybryn. Mr. Thomas, who is 17, wrote a poem on “The Miner.” The following were the winners at the eisteddfod: solo, under 7, Mair Jones, Pantywaun; solo, 7-10, Bertie Cumpstone and Billy Thomas; 10-14, Margaret Jones; recitation, under 7, Edith Thomas and Mair Jones; 7-10, Michael Evans; 10-14, Jean Hopkinson and Hugh Jones.

Funeral of Miss A.G. Davies The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Thursday of Miss Annie Gwen Davies, aged 21, of 2, Railway-terrace. Miss Davies was born in the village and was a member of the Full Gospel Hall. The Rev. T.J. James and D. Morgan (Full Gospel Hall), and Rev. Eurof Jones officiated. The mourners were: Messrs. J.H. Evans, D. Thomas, L. Evans, Latimer Evans, D. Morgan, D. Uzzell, D. Saunders, E. Lloyd, D.E. Davies, J.G. Uzzell, G. Thomas, M. Weaver, E. Evans, M. Lloyd. At the house were: Miss Gretta Evans (niece); Mrs. Mary Thomas (sister); Mrs. G. Morgan, Miss M. Davies (Treforest), Mesdames Uzzell, Saunders, Lloyd, Thomas, Evans, Evans, Corran, Mary Evans, D. Morgan, A. Davies, M.J. Payne and Mrs. Cumpstone.

Victory Celebrations Fochriw, Penybank and Pentwyn co-operated to celebrate victory last week. On Tuesday, thanksgiving services were held at all churches. In the evening, open-air dancing took place to music played by the Fochriw Silver Band, conducted by Mr. A. Mantle, assisted by Mr. Emrys Lewis. After dancing, a procession was formed and marched to the Gwrydd Tip, where a large bonfire was lit and Hitler's effigy was burned. On Wednesday, the children were entertained to dinner and tea. After dinner, the children formed up, and headed by the Silver Band, paraded the village. They were joined by adults, and in the parade were the standards of the British Legion men's and women's sections. The children returned to the New Hall for tea, and later, sports were held until dark, when they returned to the Square for

dancing and community singing until midnight. Great praise is due to all who helped, to the band for their services, and to those who donated food etc. The officers were: chairman, Mrs. M. Jenkins; vice chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; treasurer, Mrs. A. Ballard; secretary, Mr. Bryn Davies.

Youth Centre's Successes Members of the Fochriw County Youth Centre went to Bridgend last Saturday to the Youth eisteddfod. The choir, under its young conductor, H. Ballard Thomas, was awarded second prize in the chief choral competition for mixed voices. The boys physical training group (leader, Bruce Campbell, M.A.; junior leader, David Mantle), gained second prize in the PT competition, and third prize in the agility competition. The club magazine was awarded first prize, and a log book of journeys made to various youth hostels won first prize. Huw Ballard Thomas was awarded first prize for his poem "Rain;" first prize for his short story, "All Sorts;" and third prize for his gamanfa ganu programme. Much credit is due to the warden, Mr. D. Emlyn Evans, B.A., for organising the club's programme. On Sunday at the Centre, a thanksgiving service was held, and those who took part were Cyril Davies, Hywel Lewis, Huw B. Thomas, John Evans and Enid Davies. The benediction was given by the Rev. Eurof Jones.

Merthyr Express Owing to heavy pressure on space, several reports have been held over until next week.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 26 May 1945**

Nazareth Chapel The half-yearly meetings were held on Sunday. The preacher was the Rev. D. Davies, Pentre. Mr. Davies conducted the singing, and the organist was Mr. W. A. Davies.

Hospital Appeal As a result of the S.O.S. in aid of Merthyr General Hospital, £11 1s. was realised. Coun. W. J. Payne, organiser, wishes to thank collectors and public for their support. Collectors and amounts were as follows: Mrs. T. Thomas, £1 11s 2½d; Mrs. Millward, £1 9s; Mrs. G. Davies, £1 3s 6d; Mrs. L. Thomas, £1 0s 5d; Mrs. Lewis, 19s 2d; M. Ralph and G. Thomas, 18s; Mrs. T. Lawrence, 17s 10d; Mrs. S. James, 17s 7d; Mrs. Price, 17s 1d; Mr. Ballard, 10s 6½d; Mrs. Coggan, 7s 6½d; Mrs. Flewet, 5s 9½d; Mrs. Watkins 3s 5d.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 2 June 1945**

Trespassers Fined Fines of 10/- each were imposed at the Merthyr Magistrates Court on Tuesday on Beverly Wright (17), Frederick Morgan (18), Desmond Pritchard (22) and Douglas Beale, all of Fochriw, who were charged jointly with trespassing on the G.W.R. at Rhymney on March 14. They were also ordered to pay 1s 3d costs each.

Silver Band Meeting Mr. A.H. Wood presided over a meeting of the Band on Thursday. Mr. J.J. Lewis, secretary, read the correspondence, and the treasurer, Mr. E. Lewis, gave the financial report. The Band, under Mr. A. Mantle, played at Deri on Sunday in connection with the Holidays-At-Home week.

Forces Flag Day A flag day on behalf of the S.S.A.F.A. was organised on Friday last throughout the village. The collectors were: Mrs. W. Edwards and Mrs J. Harding, £1 4s; Mrs. F. Lewis, 12s 1d; Mrs. Jenny Williams and Mis Margaret Rowlands, 18s 6½d; Mrs. Tom Thomas, 10s 1d; Mrs. L. Thomas, 7s 8d; Misses Jean Slimmon and Betty Fox, 7s 10d; Mrs. Angell, 5s 8½d; Misses M. Ralph and G. Thomas, 7s 1d; total £5 5s 3d. The organizer, Coun. W.J. Payne, wishes to thank all who helped in any way.

Funeral of Mrs. R. Parry The funeral of the late Mrs. Ray Parry, wife of Mr J.D. Parry, Pleasant View, took place on Monday. Mrs. Parry was aged 38 years and had been ill for a long time. She was a faithful member of Noddfa Chapel. The officiating ministers were Mr. T.J. Jones and the Rev. E. Adams Evans. After a short service at the house, the interment took place at Pentwyn. The chief mourners were: Messrs. James Osborne Parry (husband); D.W. Walters, J.R. Walters (brothers); Sydney Evans, D.J. Parry, Dd. Henry Evans (brother-in-law); Edward Jones, Thos. Dd. Morgan, (uncles); Llewellyn Jones, Thomas Jones, Lewis Jones, Stuart Jones, Will Jones, Tudor Jones, Glynne Jones, Tommy Jones, W.J. Evans, Thomas Walters (Port Talbot), Job Walters, Robt. Thomas, John C. Thomas, Richard Hall, David Sennett, Albert (Rhymney Bridge), Dilwyn Evans, Octavius Richards, Wyndham Roberts. At the house were: Mrs. Eliz. A. Walters (mother); Jill (daughter); Mesdames S.L.

Evans (sister); A. Walters, I.M. Walters, M. Evans, B. Parry (sister-in-law); Mary Edwards, M. Johns, H. Morgan (aunts). The bearers were: Messrs. Thomas Evans, R. Rees, Thomas Thomas, Joshua Thomas, Emlyn Evans and Meirion Shankland. There were numerous floral tributes. (listed)

#### **“Merthyr Express” 16 June 1945**

Bishop's Visit A number of candidates from the Parish Church were confirmed at St. Tyfaelog Church, Pontlottyn, on Sunday last by the Bishop of Llandaff, Dr. John Morgan.

From South Africa Mr. Cyril Perkins, 1, Plantation-street, arrived home on Friday, after three and a half years in South Africa with the A.S.C. Before his discharge from the Army, he spent several months in hospital.

Flag Day In aid of the Red Cross and St. John, a flag day was held over the weekend, when the following assisted: Mesdames R.M. Cumpstone, E. Rees, B. Angell, G. James, C. Way, P. Jones, L. Evans, G.M. Lawrence, G. Bengough, M. Tyler. The amount realized was £4 15s 9d. The organisers were Mrs. Ballard and Mr. Tom Evans, who wish to thank all who helped in any way.

Welcome Home Concerts Mr. A.H. Wood presided over concerts at the Rising Sun Hotel on Monday and Friday, to welcome home P/O W.W. Grist and R. Machdonald of the Royal Navy. At each concert, a collection was made. Several well known artistes gave their services. A word of praise is due to the host and hostess, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Pritchard, for their great kindness on occasions of this nature.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 30 June 1945**

Fochriw Comforts Fund To mark the return home of Ex-P.O.W. Pte. W. Grist, S.W.B., of Council Houses, Fochriw, a concert was held at the New Hall on Wednesday, when Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presided. The artistes were Nurse Ballard Davies, Dilys Edwards, A. Jones, Tom Lewis, Pat Sullivan and M. Shankland. Selections were given by the Youth Choir conducted by Mr. H.B. Thomas. At the piano were Mr. W.P. Lawrence and Mr. H.B. Thomas. Mrs. M. Jenkins (the president) presented Pte. Grist with £14 from street collections, and Pte. Grist suitably responded. The secretary is Mrs. A. Evans; treasurer, Mrs. Monelly; chairman, Mrs. M. Jenkins.

Personal The name of Miss Millie Williams was omitted from the list of collectors for the Nursing Association in last week's report.

Evacuees' Return On Monday, a large number of evacuees returned to London after being at Fochriw for some years. They had become very much attached to the village and people.

Nursing Success Miss Mildred Chapman, youngest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Chapman, 25, Martin-street, has passed Part 1 Certificate of the Central Midwives Board. Miss Chapman has already obtained the S.R.N. and R.F.N. Certificated. She has now joined the Q.A.I.M.N.S.

Legion Social The Women's Section of the British Legion held a social at the New Hall on Wednesday. Proceeds amounting to £17 10s. were presented to Private Wm. Grist, ex-prisoner of war, by Mr. Idris Cumpstone. The proceeds of a previous dance run by the section of the British Legion were divided between the Fochriw and Pentwyn Comforts Fund. Mrs. Harding is the secretary of the Fund; Mrs. G. Edwards, treasurer; Mrs. Phillips chairman.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 7 July 1945**

The Election Well-attended meetings of both candidates - Mr. Ness Edwards and Capt. John de Courcy - have been held in the New Hall this week.

Prayer Meetings At Carmel Chapel on Monday, the united churches of Carmel, Noddfa and Nazareth, joined in prayer meetings. Those taking part were Mrs. S. Lewis, Mr. T.J. Jones and Mr. T. Lawrence. The organist and precentor was Mr. Meirion Shankland.

Benefit Concert Mr. A.H. Wood presided over a concert at the Rising Sun on Monday evening, when some very fine artistes gave their services, with Mr. G. Harris as the pianist. The benefit was for Mr. Cyril Perkins, who has been invalided home from the Army after service abroad.

Welcome Home Social On Tuesday at the White Horse Inn, Pentwyn, a social and presentation took place to welcome home Prisoner-of-War Douglas Small, who was

presented with a cheque on behalf of the inhabitants of the village. The presentation was made by Mrs. Davies, treasurer of the Pentwyn and Penybank Comforts Fund. Mr. Small expressed his gratitude. Mrs. Llewellyn presided and the following officers assisted: Mrs. F. Lewis and Mrs. S. Phillips. The people of the village provided the refreshments.

New Hall Proposal On Thursday evening at the New Hall, a meeting of the Association was held, presided over by Coun. W.J. Payne. Mr. W. Daniel. Miners' Welfare Organiser, was present, also Mr. Jeffrey Jones of the Boys' Club, and Mr. Sutherland. The chairman extended a welcome to the gentlemen. Several important questions came up for discussion, including the proposed New Hall which was agreed to before the war. Mr. Daniel gave the assurance that it still held good and would be commenced in due course. The chief items for the time being, however, were houses and a few pit-head baths. Later, a visit was made to the new football ground and some important suggestions were made. Mr. Daniel was thanked for his visit. Also present were the secretary and treasurer.

Put Your Clock Back Merthyr Express readers are reminded that all clocks and watches must be put BACK ONE HOUR on Saturday night, Jul 14.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 14 July 1945**

Welcome Home Concert At the Rising Sun Inn on Monday, a concert was given to welcome home Private E.M. Lewis, R.A.M.C. from abroad. Mr. A.H. Wood presided and the proceeds of the concert were handed to Pte. Lewis, who thanked them for their kindness. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. W. Lewis of Brynteg.

Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday, and was supported by Mr. D.E. Evans, vice-chairman, Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer, and Mr. Bryn Davies, secretary. The secretary gave a report of the visit of Mr. Daniel, welfare organiser, and the treasurer gave the financial reports of the indoor and outdoor schemes.

Death of Miss R. Jacob The death has occurred recently of Miss Rachel Jacob, 3, Martin-street. Aged 63, she was a member of Carmel Congregational Chapel for many years. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Saturday. Revs. Eurof Jones, David Thomas and T.J. Jones officiated. Bearers were: Messrs. Daniel Davies, David Rees Jones, David Harris and Johnny Williams. The mourners were: Messrs. David J. Jacob (brother); Job Thomas (brother-in-law); Dan James, Jas. Davies, Willie, Caradog, Gwyn & John Ballard (nephews); D.J. Evans, David Lewis, Elwyn Edwards, Islwyn Jones (cousins). At the house were: Mesdames M. James. Esther and Eirwen Thomas, M.M. Davies (nieces); Iris Jones and E. Lewis (cousins).

Old Inhabitants Death: Mr. W. Thomas The death has occurred recently of the oldest inhabitant of Fochriw, Mr. W. Thomas, aged 76. Born in Dowlais, he came to live at Fochriw at an early age, and started work for Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds at the age of 12 years. He worked for over 50 years with the company and was an official for over 40 years. He was under-manager from 1913 until the closure of the Fochriw colliery in 1924. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Saturday and the Rev. Eurof Jones officiated. Mourners were: Messrs. H. & W.A. Thomas (sons); Signalman Glyn Thomas (son) was unable to attend as he is on active service. Messrs. J.J. Lewis, R.W. Parry, D.O. Davies, S.C. Price, P.G. Hann (sons-in-law); Howell Thomas (brother); Thomas Walters James and J. Davies (brothers-in-law); D.J. & Haydn Davies, Howell T. Lewis (grandsons); Rev. David Thomas, Messrs. David Uzzell, D. Saunders, B. Lloyd, F. Chivers, B. & W.J. Angell, W.A. & B. Davies, W.T.A. Davies (nephews); C.G. Hann, T.I. Davies, W. Jenkins, Adj. W.H. Jenkins, T.J. Jenkins, R. Evans. At the house were: Miss E.M. Thomas, Mesdames J.G. Hann, L.M. Lewis, L.A. Parry, C. Oliver, M. Davies, M. Price (daughters-in-law); M.A. Lewis, Jean Thomas (grand-children); C.T. Walters (sister); C. & S. Thomas, E. & E.M. Davies (sisters-in-law).

#### **“Merthyr Express” 21 July 1945**

Welcome Home Concert A concert was held at the Rising Sun Inn on Monday to welcome home Geraint Davies, R.A.F., after serving abroad, where he was awarded the B.E.M. Mr. A.H. Wood presided, and a number of artistes contributed to the programme. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. D.T. Davies, Guest-street.

Cpl. Edward Chapman, V.C. It was with great joy that Fochriw people heard of the award

of the V.C. to Cpl. Edward Chapman. The greater part of his schooling was received at Fochriw School.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 28 July 1945**

Golden Wedding Mr. & Mrs. Walter Jones, formerly of Brynteg, Fochriw, now of Ogmere Vale, celebrated their golden wedding on Friday.

Sunday School Outings Carmel held their annual outing to Barry Island on Saturday. Nazareth Sunday School visited Swansea.

V.C. Welcomed Home Hundreds from the village of Fochriw joined in the welcome home to Corporal E.T. Chapman, V.C., at Pontlottyn on Sunday. The procession was headed by the Fochriw Silver Band, conducted by Mr. A. Mantle, assisted by Mr. E. Lewis, deputy bandmaster.

Welcome Home A concert was held at the Rising Sun Inn on Monday to welcome home Mr. Tudor Davies (R.E.) and Mr. Fred Morgan (R.A.F.) Several artistes took part. Mr. A.H. Wood presided, and the accompanist was Mr. G. Harris. Cheques were presented to the guests by Mr. W. Paynter (miners' agent).

British Legion Dance A successful dance was held at the New Hall on Thursday, organised by the Women's Section of the British Legion. The proceeds, which amounted to £14, were given to Ex-Serviceman C. Perkins who is in poor health, and was recently invalided out of the Army. The M.Cs. were Messrs. L. Cumpstone and C. Shankland. The music was supplied by the Fochriw Silver Band, Mr. A. Mantle conducting. Mrs. Phillips was chairman, and Mrs. G. Edwards treasurer.

Cancer Campaign The following ladies undertook the distribution and collection of the British Empire Cancer Campaign envelopes: Mesdames Shankland and Fox, £1 15s 11/2d; Mrs. J. Davies, £1 5s 9d; Mrs. Price, £1 4s 7 1/2d; Mrs. E. Matthews, £1 3s; Mrs. Thomas, 19s 01/2d; Mrs. Lewis, 15s 4d; Mrs. Ralph and Thomas, 14s 5d; Mrs. Coggan, 12s 31/2d; Mrs. P. Jones, 11s 01/2d; Mrs. M.A. Ballard, 14s 11/2d; Mrs. Harding, 6s 2d; total £10 0s 11d. Coun. W.J. Payne (organiser) wishes to thank the collectors and contributors for their support.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 4 August 1945**

In Hospital Mrs. Gordon Lawrence (Glyn Stores) and Melville Edwards are patients at the Merthyr General Hospital.

Mothers' Union On Thursday, the members of the St. Mary's branch attended the Deanery Festival at Caerphilly.

Community Singing At Noddfa Chapel on Sunday evening community singing was held. Mr. D.J. Davies was the conductor, with Mr. T. Walters at the organ. Rev. Eurof Jones was the chairman.

Sunday School Outings On Saturday, the following Sunday Schools had their annual outing: St. Mary's, Noddfa and the Gospel Hall. The place this year was Barry Island and the trip was made by train from Fochriw Station. The weather was excellent. On Tuesday, the old age pensioners journeyed to Abergavenny by charabanc and enjoyed a splendid day with weather very fine.

Organist's Success Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas, only son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Thomas, Bryngwyn Aelybryn, was elected to an official membership of the Royal College of Organists at a meeting of the Council of the Royal College held in London recently. Mr. Thomas - who is 17 - is assistant organist at the Parish Church and leader in music and conductor of the Choir at the County Youth Centre.

To Honour Heroes A public meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. The object was to recognise in some tangible form the deeds of bravery of Corporal E.T. Chapman, V.C.; Geraint Davies, B.E.M.; and Capt. Catterson, M.B.E. Coun. W.J. Payne was appointed chairman, with Mr. J.J. Lewis, secretary, Mr. Sam Lewis, treasurer; Mr. Idris Cumpstone, vice-chairman; with a strong committee. Several events were outlined. The first two events were a community singing at Noddfa and a dance at the New Hall.

M.B.E. Honoured A social gathering was held at the Rising Sun Inn on Monday in honour of Capt. Catterson, M.B.E. Mr. A.H. Wood presided. A number of first class artistes gave their services. On being handed the proceeds, Capt. Catterson thanked them for their

kindness and handed it back with a wish that it should be given to the childrens' Victory Tea. The amount was then added to by Mr. Stan Williams, and doubled. Corp. E.T. Chapman, V.C. was present. The officers and committee deserve praise for the regular events and large sums handed to members of the Forces returning. No effort is spared by the Host and Hostess, Mr. & Mrs. E.T. Pritchard in the success of these events.

V.C. Visits Fochriw On Friday, Corp. E.T. Chapman, V.C., Caenewydd, Fochriw-road, Pontlottyn, paid a visit to his old school, Fochriw Council School. He was welcomed by the headmaster, Mr. D. Jenkins and staff. He was accompanied by his wife and child. He recounted some of his experiences, and visited each classroom, where he received a tremendous ovation from the children. They were proud to welcome to their midst an ex-pupil who had brought such honour to their school by earning the greatest of all honours - the Victoria Cross - for an act of great valour and courage on the battlefield. Afterwards, Mr. & Mrs. Chapman had a meal at the school dining hall.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 11 August 1945**

S.S. Demonstrations On Wednesday, the Sunday Schools of Carmel, Nazaret and Noddfa paraded the streets, headed by their ministers, teachers and officials, and the Fochriw Silver Band. They sang appropriate hymns.

V.E. Celebrations As a result of a gift of £10 from Capt. Catterson, M.B.E., M.N., Mr. Stan Williams, Mr. E. Pritchard and the Welcome Home Committee, the V.E. Celebrations Committee now have £36 to provide the children of the locality with suitable celebrations to mark the end of the Pacific War. A full committee meeting will be held shortly to discuss means of augmenting this sum.

V.C.'s Visit On Thursday at the New Hall, Corpl. E.T. Chapman, V.C., was welcomed as a former pupil of the Fochriw Council School, and with Geraint Davies, B.E.M., R.A.F., S.E.A.C., another local boy, and Capt. Catterson, M.B.E., of the Merchant Navy, who has live at Fochriw with his family for many years, were each presented with a cheque in honour of their war services. The chairman, Coun. Payne, said they were honouring brave men who had won distinction in this war. On the stage were Corpl. Chapman, his wife and mother; Mr. & Mrs Geraint Davies; and Mr. & Mrs. Catterson. Speeches were made by Coun. W.H. Lee, J.P., chairman of Gellygaer Council; Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., Coun. Geo. Richards, Mr. Idris Cumpstone (chairman of the British Legion), Mr. J.J. Lewis, secretary, Mr. D.J. Davies and Mr. Stan Williams. Those who presented the cheques were Mrs. Farley (President of the Women's Section, British Legion) to Corpl. Chapman; Mrs. L. Thomas to Capt. Catterson; and Mrs. A. Evans to Geraint Davies. All suitably responded. During the evening a dance was held, the music supplied by the Fochriw Silver Band conducted by Mr. A. Mantle. The M.C.s. were Mr. Idris Cumpstone and Mr. D.J. Davies.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 18 August 1945**

In Aid of Hospital Organised by Fochriw Allotments Association, an open Victory garden show will be held at the New Hall on Saturday, in aid of Merthyr General Hospital. Credit is due to the officials and committee for staging such a first class show in aid of such a worthy cause. The secretary is Mr. M. Evans, Brook-row, who would be pleased to supply any information.

Silver Band A meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday. Coun. Payne presided, supported by Mr. A.H. Wood, vice-chairman, Mr. J.J. Lewis, secretary, Mr. Emrys Lewis, treasurer, and Mr. A. Mantle, bandmaster. The secretary reported on the correspondence, including applications for the services of the band. It was agreed to play at Deri on one of the Victory days and also at Pontlottyn in September. It was decided that the band enter the competition at Caerphilly.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 25 August 1945**

Death of Mr. D. Lloyd The death occurred this week of a well known inhabitant of the village, Mr. David Lloyd, Glen View, Pentwyn.

In Hospital Those from Fochriw who are patients at Merthyr General Hospital are Mr. Thos. Francis, Pit-row; Mr. Gilbert Harris, Brynteg; Mrs. A. Thomas, Brook-row; Mrs. Rowlands, Rees-row, and Mr. M. Edwards, Brook-row. At Merthyr Infirmary are Mr. E.H. Davies, Hill-row, and Mr. Lewis, Davies-row. Mr. T.O. Evans is at Pontsarn Hospital.

British Legion A presentation and tea took place at the New Hall on Wednesday, when members of the Women's Section of the Fochriw Branch of the British Legion presented Geraint Davies (R.A.F.) with a set of brushes as a token of appreciation by the Legion at his recent award of the B.E.M. The presentation was made by Mrs. Phillips, chairman. The secretary is Mrs. J. Harding, and the treasurer Mrs. W. Edwards.

V.C. Honoured At the Rising Sun Inn on Monday evening, a social was held to honour Cpl. Edward T. Chapman, V.C. Mr. A.H. Wood presided, and several artistes took part. Mr. D.J. Davies was the pianist. Capt. Catterson, M.B.E. presented Cpl. Chapman with a cheque, and Cpl. Chapman suitably responded. The host and hostess, Mr. & Mrs. E.T. Pritchard, made all the arrangements.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 1 September 1945**

Late Mr. D. Lloyd The funeral took place on Thursday at Pentwyn Churchyard of Mr. Dd. Lloyd, aged 82, of 13, Glenview, Pentwyn, the husband of Mrs. Mary Lloyd. He was a native of Oswestry, but had spent the greater part of his life in the district. The funeral was attended by members of the R.A.O.B. under Bro, Wm. Lewis and the Rev. E. Adams Evans officiated. Mourners were: Messrs. John Lloyd (son); D. Morgan and F. Amos (sons-in-law); D.R. Lloyd and R.F. Amos (grandsons); W. Jones (brother-in-law); T. Condie, W. Watkins and D. Morgan. At the house were Mrs. M.J. Lloyd (widow); Mesdames D. Morgan and F. Amos (daughters); J. Lloyd (daughter-in-law); T. Condie (sister); Williams and J. Bolver (sisters-in-law).

#### **"Merthyr Express" 8 September 1945**

Scholastic Successes The following were successful in the C.W.B. examinations: Lorna Jenkins; Henry Ballard; Huw Ballard Thomas; David Alvan Evans. Millie Williams passed her C.W.B. senior examination.

In Aid of Hospital In aid of the Merthyr General Hospital, a horticultural and domestic show will be held at the New Hall on Saturday. Please come and support a worthy cause.

Band's Third Prize Fochriw Silver Band won third prize at Caerphilly band contest under their conductor, Mr. A. Mantle. In the old days the band had a record that was the envy of all bands in the country. It is hoped that spirit will show itself in the present young members who have the making of an excellent band.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 15 September 1945**

ENSA Concert At the New Hall on Tuesday, the variety show "Cambrai Calling" was presented.

Veterans' Solo At Pontllanfraith Eisteddfod, Mr. J.J. Lewis (Ap Morlais) tied for first prize in the veterans' solo with the well-known singer, Mr. John Broad.

Mile of Pennies Organised by the Comforts Fund and Welcome Home Fund, a mile of pennies was held on Friday and a good sum was realised. Mrs. D. Jenkins was chairman, and Mrs. T. Evans the secretary.

In Hospital Mr. T. Walters, Station-terrace, Mr. S. Jones, Glenview, Pentwyn, and Gordon Llewellyn, Pentwyn Farm, are patients at Merthyr General Hospital.

Jap Prisoner Safe Mrs. Chapman, Brook-row, has received official information that her son, W.J. Chapman, R.A., is safe in India after having been prisoner in Japanese hands. He is hoping to be home soon.

College Successes Miss Eliza Evans, Martin-street, the daughter of Mrs. N. Evans and the late Mr. T.I. Evans, and Miss Margaret Ballard, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Ballard, Brynteg, passed their final examinations at Barry College this year. Miss Evans has received a teaching appointment at Romford, Essex, and Miss Ballard at Birmingham.

Missionary Meeting Meetings in connection with the London Missionary Society were held at Carmel on Wednesday, when the Rev. A. Jones, Brecon, was the speaker. Others who took part were Revs. Latimer Williams, Deri, and Eurof Jones, Fochriw. Mr. M. Shankland was the organist and choirmaster.

Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. It was reported that extensive damage had been caused during the last storm as a result of a culvert overflowing at the rear of the building. Water had flooded the rooms. This has been a source of trouble for some time, and steps have been taken to see that the responsible

authority keep the culvert clean. The question of turfing the playing field was considered and also repairs to the heating apparatus at the hall and billiards room. It was reported that a team had been entered in the Welfare Association Billiards Competition. The treasurer reported on the outdoor and indoor schemes, and also on the financial position of the book department.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 22 September 1945**

Thanksgiving Services On Monday and Tuesday, special thanksgiving services were held at Nazareth C.M. Chapel. The special preacher was Rev. E. Ebenezer, Dowlais, and the organist and conductor was Mr. W.A. Davies.

Gymanfa Ganu On Thursday, a united gymanfa ganu was held at Noddfa Chapel by members of Noddfa, Carmel and Nazareth chapels. The conductor was Mr. David J. Thomas, and Miss Aranwy Jones was the organist. Mr. Trevor Lawrence presided, and Mr. Burkley Davies and Rev. Eurof Jones also took part in the service.

Scholarship Winner Mr. Penry Ballard, son of Mr. & Mrs. W. Ballard, Plantation-terrace, has been notified by the Ministry of Education (Awards Branch), that he has won a state bursary in science, valued at £146 plus fees. He will take up a three-year course at Cardiff University. He is a pupil at Bargoed Secondary School, where he recently passed his Higher Certificate.

Welsh Church Scholar As a result of an examination recently held at Lampeter, Huw Ballard Thomas, only son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Thomas, Aelybryn, has been made a Welsh Church Scholar. The scholarship is tenable in the first instance at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Cardiff. Mr. Thomas, who is 17, studied arts at Lewis' School, Pengam, where he recently gained his Higher School Certificate. He is a provisional ordinand of the Church in Wales (Diocese of Llandaff).

Nurse Weds Gunner The wedding took place on Monday at Carmel Congregational Chapel, the Rev. Eurof Jones officiating, with Mrs. A. Davies at the organ, of Gunner James A. Lewis, R.A., son of Mr. & Mrs. Lewis, Station-terrace, Fochriw, and Nurse Kathleen Williams, youngest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. M. Williams, Dynevor-street. The bride, who is on the nursing staff of Gellygaer Isolation Hospital, was given away by her father, and wore a blue dress, brown accessories and bronze chrysanthemums. The bridesmaid was Miss Olive M. Payne, cousin of the bride, who was dressed in brown with bronze chrysanthemums. The best man was Mr. Ron Kitt, and Mr. David Lewis, uncle of the bridegroom, was groomsman. A reception was held at Carmel Vestry, and later, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis left for Birmingham for their honeymoon.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 29 September 1945**

Fochriw Girl's Story of Alleged Assault: “After The Dance” Scene Sequel: Collier For Trial An alleged assault on the mountainside after a dance at the Mayfair Ballroom, Pontlottyn, which was held to celebrate the return of Cpl. Edward T. Chapman, V.C., had its sequel at Pontlottyn Magistrates' Court on Friday, when Thomas James Mann, aged 23, collier, of Old School House, Pontlottyn, was accused of an alleged serious offence against Megan Griffiths, aged 26, single woman, of Aelybryn, Fochriw, on August 20. Mann, who was represented by Mr. John Evans, Bargoed, entered a plea of not guilty, and reserved his defence. Mr. D. Owen George prosecuted for the Glamorgan County Council, and said that Miss Griffiths attended the dance.

Giving evidence, Miss Griffiths said she had one dance with Mann and left at about midnight with Audrey James and Mann, who asked to accompany her home. She and Mann were walking along the mountain road towards Fochriw, when Mann tried to put his hands around her. She stopped him and he pushed her down. There was a struggle and she bit him. She managed to get up and run away. He caught her and dragged her a distance of 30 yards. She screamed and shouted at the top of her voice. He then sat on her chest, and she still resisted. When she was on the ground he ripped her clothes. She continued to scream and he put his hands around her throat, telling her that if she did not stop shouting he would choke her. He then committed the alleged offence. When she got up, she ran to a bungalow occupied by Mrs. Chapman, mother of Cpl. Chapman.

Dr. Hill said that on August 21, he examined Miss Griffiths, who was very distressed and frightened. He came to the conclusion that there had been intercourse within a few hours.



There were marks on her neck which might have been caused by finger nails.

Mrs. Rachel Chapman said that Miss Griffiths knocked at the door. She was sobbing, and told her that she had been assaulted by a young man. Audrey James (18), Queen-street, Pontlottyn, said she attended the dance and after arriving at the house, she left Miss Griffiths and Mann. When cautioned by Det.-Sgt. Gwynfryn Davies, Ystrad Mynach, Mann said, "I had a few drinks and lost my head and made her give in." In a statement, Mann was alleged to have said, "I had a few drinks and mixed it. I was not so tight. I tried to molest her, but she would not give in. I am not clear what happened. I lost my head. She started to struggle, and after struggling she had to give in as she was beaten." When charged Mann said, "There is nothing more to say."

W.V.S. Social To mark the end of the W.V.S. organisation, a supper was held at the New Hall when a large number of members attended. The officers were: Mrs. M. Jenkins, chairman; Mrs. A. Evans, secretary; Mrs. (Dr.) Monnelly, treasurer.

Another Success Following the award of a State bursary in science by the Ministry of Education, Mr. Penry Ballard, elder son of Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Ballard, Plantation-terrace, has been awarded a County Major Scholarship by the Glamorgan Education Authority value £60 per annum and fees.

Welcome Homes In aid of the Welcome Home Fund, a dance was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Music was supplied by the Fochriw Silver Band conducted by Mr. A. Mantle. Mr. C. Shankland was M.C. Prize winners in the fancy dress were Miss Jennie Sullivan and Mr. D.J. Evans. Judges were Messrs. Iorwerth Evans and Willie Walters.

Harvest Festival Services were held at St. David's Pantywaun on Sunday and Monday, when the preachers were Revs. E. Adams Evans, B.A., and S.J. Beynon, B.A., T. Carr, Pontlottyn. Lessons were read by Coun. W.J. Payne and Mr. A.E. Kings. Rev. T. Carr was the organist and the singing was conducted by Mr. Williams.

Welsh Scholarship Further to the announcement last week of the awarding of a Welsh Church Scholarship to Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas, Aelybryn, it has since been announced that Mr. Thomas has been awarded a Glamorgan County Welsh Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to the candidate who gains the highest marks in Welsh in the Higher C.W.B. Examination and enables him to study Welsh at University. He is a former pupil of Lewis' School, Pengam.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 6 October 1945**

In Hospital Mrs. Lloyd, Glenview, Pentwyn, and Mr. Bert Lloyd are patients at the Merthyr General Hospital.

Late Mr. T. Price The death has occurred of a well known resident of the village, Mr. Thomas Price, Aelybryn. He died at the Merthyr Infirmary after a long illness.

Old Age Pensioners A meeting was held in the New Hall on Tuesday, when Mr. E.T. Pritchard presided. Speakers were Mr. T.J. Rees and Mr. J. Read (Bargoed). The speakers were thanked for their addresses.

For Hospital As a result of an open Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Show held by the Fochriw Allotment Society, £17 11s has been handed to the Merthyr General Hospital, who thank all concerned for their help. Mr. M. Evans was secretary and Mr. P. Hann treasurer.

Noddfa Chapel A united service of the members of Noddfa, Carmel and Nazareth Chapels was held at Noddfa on Monday. The service was opened by Mr. Thomas J. Jones and the Rev. Eurof Jones. Mr. David John Thomas was the organist, and the conductor was Mr. Thomas Evans.

Victory Tea The Womens' Section of the British Legion held a victory tea at the New Hall, when Mrs E. Lewis, Pentwyn, was presented with a shopping bag in appreciation of her 11 years service as standard bearer. The presentation was made by Mrs. Llewellyn. Mrs. Lewis thanked the members for their kindness.

Harvest Festival Services were held at the Parish Church on Sunday and Monday. The church had been decorated with fruit and flowers which were later taken to Merthyr General Hospital. The preacher on Sunday was the Vicar of Bedlinog, and on Monday, the Vicar of New Tredegar. The Vicar, Rev. E. Adams Evans, and Rev. S.J. Beynon, Deri, also took part. Mr. W. Lawrence, Mus. Bac. was the organist.

### **“Merthyr Express” 13 October 1945**

Billiards Win A billiards match was played at Fochriw on Thursday between teams representing Fochriw and Pontlottyn, under the auspices of the Miners' Welfare Association. Fochriw won a keen match. The Fochriw team was Arthur Palmer, Bryn Rees, Gomer Davies and Rufus Dummett.

“Wedi'r Drin” On Thursday at the New Hall, the Calfaria Dramatic Society, Bargoed, performed the drama “Wedi'r Drin” (by J. Ellis Williams) in aid of the Missionary Society. The drama was performed in fine style, and the Society was thanked by Rev. Eurof Jones (chairman) and Mr. Thomas Ballard. The Rev. Griffith Jones, Calfaria Bargoed, also spoke.

Jones - Jones The wedding was solemnised at St. Mary's Church on Monday, of Mr. Graham Jones, the younger son of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Jones, New-road, Deri, and Miss Betty Jones, daughter of Mrs. Jones and the late Mr. Evan Jones, Martin-street, Fochriw. The bride wore a powder blue two-piece, with pink accessories, and was given away by her uncle, Mr. David Lewis. The bride was attended by Miss Ray Farley, who wore a tan two-piece, with blue accessories. The service, which was fully choral, was conducted by Rev. E. Adams Evans, vicar, and Rev. S.J. Beynon, Deri. Mr. Huw B. Thomas was the organist. The best man was Mr. John Jones, brother of the bridegroom, and the groomsman was Mr. Graham Jones, Tirphil. A reception was held at Bargoed. The honeymoon is being spent in London. Mr. & Mrs. Jones will make their future home at New-road, Deri.

Late Mr. Thomas Price The funeral of Mr. Thomas Price, 39, Aelybryn, took place on Thursday at the Graig Cemetery, Rhymney. Mr. Price was 74 years of age and was well known in the district, where he had resided with his daughter for many years. The funeral was strictly private, and the chief mourners were: Messrs. Thomas & Moses Price (sons); Gomer Williams, David Williams, David and Glyn Price (grandsons); David Davies, Sam Roberts, Rees Cleeves, S. Williams, Vivian Davies, Billy Jones, Will Lapin. The bearers were Messrs. Crad Shankland, Tom Sullivan, Tom Shankland, Dick Chapman. At the house were: Mesdames Rachel Williams, Maggie Price (daughters); Edie and Marie (daughters-in-law); Dwynwen, Elizabeth and Phyllis (grand-daughters); Vie and Gladys (Rhymney). There were many floral tributes (listed).

Late Mrs. Sophia Lloyd The death has occurred very suddenly of Mrs. Sophia Lloyd, wife of Mr. John Lloyd, Glen-view, Pentwyn, at the age of 47 years. She was taken ill suddenly, and was removed to Merthyr General Hospital where she died the same day. She was a member of Nazareth C.M. Chapel. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Monday and was well attended. The Revs. E. Adams Jones and Eurof Jones officiated. Mourners were: Mr. John Lloyd (husband); David Robert (son); Willie, Alfie, John and Lonnie Slimmon (brothers); James Jones, Will Edwards, Will Beer, Fred Amos, David Morgan (brothers-in-law); Glyn Edwards, Jackie and Robbie Slimmon, Ronald Amos (nephews); Wm. J. Jones, Gomer Rees, Bob & Eddie Slimmon, Lewis Watkins, Gwilym, John, Alvin, Ronald, Robert, Hughie and Cecil Llewellyn (cousins); George Walters, Berkley Davies. At the house were: Margaret (daughter); Maggie, Gracie and Addie (sisters); Lizzie Jane, Annie, Sali, Lilian and Millie (sisters-in-law); Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Griffiths (aunts); Jessie, Mary, Jane, Prydwen, Winnie, Kkatie, Doris, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Lewis (cousins). There were numerous floral tributes (listed).

### **“Merthyr Express” 20 October 1945**

Girls' Choir The Troedyrhiw Girls' Choir gave a concert at the New Hall on Tuesday. The choir rendered several choruses which drew high praise. The artistes were Mr. Haydn Thomas and Mr. Handel Williams, Bedlinog. Mr. D.E. Evans presided.

Bible Society The British and Foreign Bible Society's annual house-to-house collections were: Aelybryn, Mr. Thos. Ballard and Mr. John Davies, £3 10s; Penybank, Mr. Cliff Golden and Mr. T. Elfed Davies, £1 11s 2d; Brynteg, Mrs. Gwenfil James, £1 8s 6d; Caeglas, Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. E. Lewis, £1 15s 5d; total £8 17s 8d. The committee thank the collectors and supporters for their services and gifts.

Silver Band Coun. Payne presided at a band meeting at the hall on Monday. As the result of a protest by one of the bands at the recent Caerphilly contest resulting in the disqualification of the winning band, Fochriw won second prize. Mr. David Griffiths was elected a member

of the band committee.

### **“Merthyr Express” 27 October 1945**

Youth Centre Dance At the New Hall on Thursday evening, a dance was held by the local Youth Centre, and was well attended. The M.C. was Mr. Glyn Edwards.

Good Snooker At the Billiards Hall on Thursday evening, under the auspices of the Rhymney Valley League, Fochriw entertained Rhymney. The visitors won by 7 frames to 5.

Former Resident The death has occurred of Mrs. Grace Morris, wife of Mr. Griff Morris, late of Martin-street, at the age of 40 years. Mrs. Morris died at their home in North Wales after a long illness. The funeral took place in North Wales. Sympathy is extended to the family.

Children’s Custody It was erroneously stated in the *Merthyr Express* for Saturday, October 13, that an order for 10s. per week for each of his two children had been made against Stanley Leonard Russell, who was summoned at Pontlottyn Magistrates Court by his wife, Mrs. C. Russell of Fochriw, for the custody of the children. The order made by the magistrate was for 5s. per week for each child.

Noddfa Chapel A children’s service was held at Noddfa on Sunday evening. A portion of Scripture was read by Pat Sullivan, and Brain Pearce recited a prayer. Solos were sung by Howard Pearce, Kieth Walters, Windsor Ballard, Brian Pearce, Mary Cumpstone and Norma Williams; recitations by Glyn Burrows, Gilmour Fox, Hugh Jones, Brian Pearce and Shirley Jones. Mr. Richard Jones presided, and Miss Edna E. Jones gave an address. Collections were taken by John Morgan and Donald Jones. Miss Aranwy Jones was the organist. The service closed with a prayer from Hugh Jones.

### **“Merthyr Express” 3 November 1945**

Legion Dance The Women’s Section of the British Legion, Fochriw Branch, held a dance at the New Hall in aid of W.J. Chapman, ex-prisoner of war. The dance raised £28.

Mr. Ernest Burrows The death has occurred of Mr. Ernest E. Burrows, Guest-street. He was 70 years of age, and had resided in the village for a number of years. The funeral took place on Wednesday at Pentwyn Churchyard. The Revs. Elwyn Jones (Dowlais), and Eurof Jones (Fochriw) officiated at the house and churchyard. The chief mourners were: Messrs. Glyn, Alquin & Meurig Burrows (sons); J. Lester, J.D. Swain (sons-in-law); Ernest, Alan, Leonard and Glyn (grandsons); Simon Harris, Emrys Lewis (nephews); David Griffiths (uncle); Mr. Dobbs & Mr. Burrows (Aberdare). The mourners at the house were: Mrs. S. Burrows, Mrs. E. Swain (daughters); Mrs. M. Burrows, Mrs. G. Burrows (daughters-in-law); Mrs. Griffiths (aunt); Mrs. Pollock (niece).

American’s Bride On Wednesday, October 24, at Noddfa Baptist Chapel, the wedding took place of Gunner Charles M. La-Salle, son of Mr. & Mrs. F. La-Salle, Blantford, Ontario, and Miss Dwynwen Williams, younger daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gomer Williams, Aelybryn. Mr. Thomas J. Jones officiated at the service which was choral, Mr. David J. Thomas at the organ. The bride, who was dressed in a cherry two-piece with black accessories, was given away by her father. She was attended by Mrs. Charles O’Donnell (sister of the bride), who was dressed in grey with navy accessories, and Mrs. P. Williams (aunt of the bride) who wore navy with floral accessories. Each wore bronze chrysanthemums. The reception was held at Noddfa Vestry, where numerous guests assembled. Later in the day, Mr. & Mrs La-Salle left for London, where the honeymoon is being spent, the bride travelling in a black and green outfit.

Late Mrs. M.A. Parry The funeral took place on Saturday at Pentwyn Churchyard, of Mrs. M.A. Parry, Dynevor-street, at the age of 64 years. She was born in the village and was a member of Noddfa Baptist Chapel. The Revs. E. Jones, J. Yeoman and T.J. Jones officiated at the house and churchyard. The chief mourners were: Messrs. David Parry (husband); E.J. Parry, D.G. Parry, W.H. Parry (sons); T.W. Yeoman (son-in-law); Glyn and David Parry, J. & D. Yeoman (grandsons); David & Wm. Cheeke (brothers); E. Morgans, D.J. Harris, D.W. Davies (brothers-in-law); Thomas Jones (uncle); Edwin, Fred, C., G., P., A.H. and R. Dummett, Evan Watkins, D.G. Harris, M. Harris, D. Hopkins, W. Hopkins, R. Price, E.G. Price, D. Cheeke, D. Brown (nephews); S.P. Jones, W. Morgans, J.R. Thomas, T. Evans, S.H. Davies (cousins); W.J. Roberts, J. Yeoman. At the house were: Mesdames G.M.

Yeoman (daughter); A., C., M.O. and V. Parry (daughters-in-law); C. Dummett, M. Williams, E. Harris, S. Davies (sisters); J. Jones, M.A. Davies, Gwen Baker, Edith Jones (cousins); S. Price, M.A. Watkins, A.M. Jones, M. Lewis, P. Brown and M. Dummett (nieces).

#### **“Merthyr Express” 10 November 1945**

Fancy Dress Dance The Women’s Section of the Fochriw Branch of the British Legion organised a children’s fancy dress dance at the New Hall on Friday. The proceeds, which amounted to £4, were divided between the Pentwyn and Fochriw Comforts Funds.

Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided over a meeting of the Association on Friday at the New Hall, when several matters came up for discussion. The treasurer gave the financial reports.

Silver Band A meeting of the Band was held at the Old Reading Room on Monday, Coun. Payne presiding. Mr. B. Angell was appointed a member of the committee. The Band has now purchased a set of instruments. Under the conductorship of Mr. Emrys Lewis, the Band played a programme of music throughout the village on Friday. The Bandmaster, Mr. A. Mantle, is recuperating at the Rehabilitation Centre.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 17 November 1945**

Choir Formed A meeting was held at the Hall on Sunday last, when it was decided to form a male voice choir. The following officers were appointed: conductor, Mr. J.J. Lewis (Ap Morlais); secretary, Mr. D. Davies; treasurer, Mr. Emlyn Evans; chairman, Mr. Dan James.

P.O.W’s. Return Gnr. W.J. Chapman, R.A., son of Mrs. Chapman, and the late Mr. Wm. Chapman, Brook-row, returned home on Saturday last after being a prisoner of war in Japanese hands for three and a half years in a Thailand camp. During his captivity, his father died. Gnr. Chapman is a cousin of Cpl. Chapman, V.C. He joined the army five years ago, and was taken prisoner in Singapore.

ENSA Concert A first class concert was held at the Welfare Hall on Thursday last by “Jack’s Party.” There were soloists, a comedienne, a magician, and instrumentalists.

Remembrance Day A service was held at the Parish Church on Sunday, the Vicar officiating. Two minutes silence was observed at 11a.m., and a special service was held in the afternoon when members of the various organisations attended. Wreaths were laid at the foot of the Memorial Window in memory of the fallen by the Men’s and Women’s sections of the British Legion, and by the St. Mary’s Branch of the Mothers’ Union. Mr. W. Lawrence was the organist.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 24 November 1945**

Deaths Two well known personalities of Fochriw died last week: Mr. Lodwick Davies, late under-manager of Fochriw Collieries, and Mr. Evan H. Davies, Hill-row, Pentwyn.

Outstanding Success First Mate Mr. Tom J. Smith (Merchant Navy) has passed his master mariner’s certificate exam with 100 per cent marks in his first attempt. He is 25. He is the son of Mrs. Flewitt and the late Mr. George Smith, and is a product of the village school, from where he went to the Smith Nautical School, Cardiff.

Silver Band Coun. Payne presided at a Band Meeting on Monday. Arrangements were made for distributing new instruments to the players. Two playing members were accepted into the Band and a band concert was discussed.

Poppy Dance The Women’s Section of the British Legion held a “Poppy Dance” at the New Hall on Thursday. During the interval, Mr. W.J. Chapman, ex-prisoner of war, was presented with a cheque for £23. Mr. Chapman suitably responded. Music was provided by the Fochriw Silver Band, and the M.Cs. were Messrs. I. Cumpstone and C. Shankland. Messrs. T. Jones (pentwyn) and D. Griffiths (Fochriw) were door attendants.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 1 December 1945**

Sale of Poppies Mrs. S. Phillips (local organiser) thanks all who gave their services, and also the general public for their loyal support, in the sale of Earl Haig poppies. The sum realised this year was £26 14s.

Gymanfa Rehearsal On Sunday, a rehearsal was held at Carmel Chapel in preparation for the annual Christmas Gymanfa Ganu, under the conductorship of Mr. G.O. Williams, Cefn Coed, who will conduct at Christmas. The singing reached a high standard. Mr. T. Walters

was the organist.

Late Mr. E.H. Davies The death has taken place of Mr. Evan H. Davies, Hill-row, Pentwyn. He was 65 years of age and had been ailing for a long time. The funeral, which was representative, took place at Pentwyn Cemetery. The Rev. E. Jones and Mr. Griffiths, Bedlinog, officiated. The mourners were: Messrs. Thomas Elved, Idwal, Merfyn, Victor, Leslie, Gwynfor, Horace and Dyfed Davies (sons); Daniel Davies (brother); H.C. Colbourne, A. Carter, Cliff Golden Hann (sons-in-law); Sam Price, Frank Cowles (brothers-in-law); Elved & Malcolm (grandsons); Bert King, Willie, David E. & Willie John (nephews); Wm. Davies (uncle). Mourners at the house were: Mesdames E.H. Davies (widow); Colbourne, Carter, Hann (daughters); S. Price (sister); H. Davies, Cowles (daughters-in-law); F. Cowles, S. Lewis (sisters-in-law); E. Angell, M. Davies, Edith King, Katie Lewis (nieces); Hannah Davies (grand-daughter); Mrs. E. Davies (aunt); Mrs. H. Pope (friend).

#### **“Merthyr Express” 8 December 1945**

Late Mr. David Lewis The death has taken place of a well-known resident of Fochriw, Mr. David Evans, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Lewis, Aelybryn. Mr. Lewis died at a hospital in London.

Death of Janis Davey The death has occurred at Hill-row, Pentwyn, of Janis F. Davey, youngest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Wally Davey. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Tuesday, the Rev. E. Adams Evans officiating at the house and graveside. The mourners were: Mr. Wally Davey (father); Roy Davey (brother); Messrs. Ben Evans (grandfather); Derek Evans (cousin); Thomas Evans, Wm. Vincent (uncles); T. Sullivan (cousin). At the house were: Mrs. Mary Davey (mother); Valerie (sister); Frankie (brother); Mrs. E.A. Davey (grandmother); Mrs. C. Vincent, Mrs. C. John, Irene Davies, Gwen, Mrs. Miniro. Mrs. E. Sullivan, Mrs. Evans (aunts); Mattie Evans, M. Clayton (cousins).

#### **“Merthyr Express” 15 December 1945**

Welfare Association Mr. Emlyn Evans, B.A., presided at a meeting of the Association on Friday. Mr. Bryn Davies, secretary, raised several matters, and Mr. J.H. Evans gave the financial report. The librarian gave the book report.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 22 December 1945**

In Hospital Mr. C. Ballard, Cwmbargoed; Mr. D. Evans, Plantation-street; Mrs. Lewis, Williams-row; and Mrs. M.G. Parry, are patients at Merthyr General Hospital.

Silver Band Coun. Payne presided at a band meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. Engagements and a programme of Christmas music were discussed

Comforts' Fund Mrs. M. Jenkins was chairman at a meeting of the Fochriw Comforts' Fund at the New Hall on Thursday, supported by Mrs. A. Evans, secretary, who gave the financial report, showing the splendid work that had been done. It was decided to organize a public function to share out the funds to the servicemen and women after the audit.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 29 December 1945**

Parish Church Services were conducted on Christmas Day by the Vicar, Rev. E. Adams Evans, with Mr. W.P. Lawrence at the organ.

Christmas Music Fochriw Silver Band under the conductorship of Mr. Emrys Lewis, made a tour of the district on Christmas Day and played an excellent programme of music.

Snooker Fochriw entertained St. Dingat's in a Rhymey Valley League match on Thursday, and the result was a draw, 6 frames each. The Fochriw team was Messrs. Gomer Davies, Bryn Rees, Arthur Palmer, Rufus Dummett, Reg Gittoes and Tom Watkins.

Special Services Half-yearly meetings were held at Carmel Cong. Chapel on Sunday, when the Rev. L.J. Hughes of Wrexham, preached to large congregations. Mr. T. Walters was the organist, and Mr. Meirion Shankland conducted the singing.

Gymanfa Ganu The annual gymanfa ganu was held at Carmel on Christmas Day, and was well attended. The singing was of a high standard under the conductorship of Mr. J. Williams of Cefn Coed. Mr. Tom Walters was the organist. The morning session was presided over by Mrs. M.A. Ballard, and the following took part: Janet Davies, Islwyn Shankland, Bertie Cumpstone. Mr. Willie A. Davies presided in the afternoon, and Miss Marie Davies rendered a solo. Rev. Eurof Jones presided in the evening.

Joint Festival A singing festival was held at Noddfa on Christmas Day by the joint churches

of Noddfa and Nazareth. The singing reached a high standard under the conductorship of Mr. D.J. Thomas with Mr. D.J. Davies as organist. A Nativity play had been taught by the Misses Edna and Aranwy Jones and was well produced. Miss Edna Jones presided at the morning service. Reading and prayer were by Misses Pat Sullivan and Katie Hughes. Mr. T.J. Jones presided in the afternoon and Mrs. Mattie Lewis in the evening. Mrs. Edith Lewis read a portion of Scripture. A solo was given by Miss Millie Williams with the Nativity play.