

OUR LOOKER-ON

A TRAGIC LOSS.

The death of Councillor Owen Stuchbery represents a tragic loss to the town. Stricken with a progressive muscular atrophic complaint nearly three years ago, he has now been taken away at an age which has deprived the community of a man of great ability...

Death of Mr. Owen Stuchbery

A SUCCESSFUL SOLICITOR—A VALUABLE CITIZEN

HIS WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY AND SPORT

With deep regret we record the death on Monday evening of Mr. William Owen Cecil Stuchbery, of "Red Arches," Bath-road, Maidenhead, at the age of 50. Although he had suffered from an incurable complaint for nearly three years, his end came unexpectedly.



His death will be greatly mourned in the town where he was deeply respected. He leaves a widow and three children. His only son is an officer in the Cheshire Regiment and is now serving in the Middle East.

An Active Life.

Owen Stuchbery was the eldest son of the late T. W. Stuchbery, a well-known local solicitor and former Mayor of the town. Born at Hanley, Staffordshire, he came to Maidenhead with his father at an early age.

A Successful Business Career.

The war over, he returned to his father's office and played a large part in the building up of one of the most successful legal practices in the district, with offices in Maidenhead and Windsor.

A number of appointments previously held by his father were transferred to him, including the Coronership of the Maidenhead Division, the Clerkship of the Cookham Rural District Council, and Clerk to the Mary Florence Lee and Davis Trusts.

Interest in Local Government.

Following the example of his father, who was a former Mayor of Maidenhead, he became interested in Local Government and was elected a Town Councillor for the Oldfield Ward in 1931.

Services to Football.

As a young man he took part in the sporting activities of the town and was an enthusiastic footballer; this was to prove his chief hobby in later years. As a boy he gained a Berks and Bucks Minor Cup Medal when playing for a Furze Platt team, long since defunct.

Mr. Stuchbery was a prominent Freemason. He joined the Ellington Lodge (Maidenhead) on September 24th, 1931, and was a Pastmaster and P.P.G.Reg. On the death of his father, Mr. T. W. Stuchbery, who was Treasurer of the Lodge for a long period, he was elected to succeed him in that office which he held at the time of his death.

He was a keen and clever chess player and was one of the oldest members of the Maidenhead Chess Club. As a member of the Maidenhead Constitutional Club he won several snooker and billiards championships. He was also a member of the York-road Conservative Club.

The funeral will take place to-morrow (Thursday) at the Caversham Crematorium, and the casket containing his ashes will be deposited in his father's grave at Maidenhead Cemetery.

COUNTY POLICE COURT

YESTERDAY (Tuesday).—Before Col. A. E. Mannham, M.C. (in the chair), and Mrs. King.

The following defendants were fined for black-out offences: Ellen Wise, 17, Woodlands Park-avenue, White Waltham, 10s.; Frederick Nind, 11, Woodlands Park-avenue, 21; John Bagley, 12, Woodlands Park, 10s.; Henry Allyn Palmer, Alderman's Cottage, Knowl Hill, 2s.

YOUNG MAN MASQUERADES AS R.N.R. OFFICER

WORE UNIFORM OF LIEUT. AND D.S.C. RIBBON

NO APPEARANCE IN COURT—FINED £25

The story of how a young man circulated in Maidenhead and district wearing the uniform of a lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve, and displaying the ribbon of the Distinguished Service Cross, was related at Maidenhead County Police Court yesterday (Tuesday). He was DIGBY McLAREN BURNELL (22), of Windsor-road, Bray. He did not appear, and the case was dealt with in his absence.

The Bench imposed a penalty of £25, or one month, and allowed him twenty-eight days in which to pay.

Mr. E. P. Fullbrook, who prosecuted for the police, said that in October last defendant was seen wearing the uniform of a lieutenant in the R.N.R. and displaying the medal ribbon of the Distinguished Service Cross. He was not entitled to wear the uniform or display the medal ribbon. He had been in the Merchant Navy as a cadet, and was invalided out of the Service last year.

Det. Speller said that on May 2nd he received information that Burnell was wearing a uniform to which he was not entitled. Inquiries showed that he had never served either in the Royal Navy, the R.N.R., or the R.N.V.R.; neither had he been awarded the D.S.C. In a statement to witness defendant said "I bought a medal ribbon from Lewin's, of Jernyn-street, London, during the latter part of 1941. It was the D.S.C. ribbon. I did not realise I was doing wrong when I wore the uniform of a lieutenant in the R.N.R. to which I was not entitled at Bray."

Miss Vera Jackson, Windsor-road, telephoneist, said she had seen the defendant wearing the uniform with the medal ribbon at Bray.

Accused, who did not appear, sent a letter to the Court, pleading guilty to the summonses and stating that he was unable to be present owing to the fact that he was sitting for an examination for entry into the Fleet Air Arm. He added that he regretted the offences, but he did not realise he was doing wrong.

SERG. ROY GIBBONS, D.F.M.

AWARD FOR PART IN PRINZ EUGEN ATTACK

The award of the Distinguished Flying Medal has been approved by the King—in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy—to SERGT. ROY SAMUEL GIBBONS, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gibbons, of "Var," Oaken Grove, Maidenhead. The award follows the attack which was made by torpedo bomber aircraft of Coastal Command on May 17th off the Norwegian coast, on the German 10,000 ton cruiser Prinz Eugen. Sergt. Gibbons, who belongs to No. 86 Squadron, was acting as an air gunner in a Beaufort bomber which took part in the attack.



Here is the official record of the act of gallantry which has earned for him the award:

Whilst flying over the target area, the aircraft was intercepted by a strong force of enemy fighters. Sergeant Gibbons was wounded in the face and left hand and, shortly afterwards, his guns were put out of action. Despite this, he remained in his turret and gave directions to his pilot who was thus enabled to manoeuvre his aircraft so as to bring the other guns to bear with good effect. This airman displayed great courage and coolness throughout.

The story of the pilot of the machine in which Sergt. Gibbons was one of the air-gunners, was related in The Advertiser at the time. He told how when three Messerschmitts attacked the Beaufort, Sergt. Gibbons helped to fight off the enemy and succeeded in shooting down at least one Nazi machine and damaged another.

Sergt. Gibbons was wounded with the first burst from the Me, "but he didn't say a word; he just carried on," said the Flying Officer. The machine was damaged and crash landed on reaching its base. Sergt. Gibbons was taken to hospital suffering from wounds which were, fortunately, only superficial and quickly healed.

He is at present home in Maidenhead on leave.

County Salvage Drive

"MOUNTAIN OF BOOKS" OUTSIDE MAIDENHEAD TOWN HALL

Every home and business premises in Berkshire—from Windsor Castle to the lowliest home—will be the subject of a special search during the next two weeks. Berkshire Salvage Campaign opened on Saturday last and continues until July 4th, during which time there is to be a county-wide search for old paper, rubber, metal, bones and rags.

Through an intensive publicity drive the public will be informed as to what is required and how their salvaged material aids the war effort.

Several novel features will characterise the drive. In Maidenhead a "mountain of books" has been started outside the Town Hall, and in all probability there will be a "treasure chest," where people may contribute articles for salvage of some special intrinsic or sentimental value.

AEROPLANE CRASH

WOMAN PILOT KILLED

While undergoing solo flying practice in the Home Counties, Miss Joan Esther Marshall (28), of Caelso, Roxburgh, Scotland, crashed in a garden and was killed instantly.

At the inquest on Monday Captain Thomas Gale, chief flying instructor, said Miss Marshall had been a pupil pilot for the last six months. The aeroplane was airworthy, and he could offer no explanation why the machine crashed.

A fitter employed at an aerodrome stated that he saw Miss Marshall get into the machine and take-off. He watched it until it was out of view, and it appeared to be functioning normally.

A police constable said that when he first saw the aeroplane it was between 200 and 250 feet up. It rolled over, and then took a normal course. Later it dipped towards the ground, crashed in a garden and burst into flames.

Medical evidence showed that death was instantaneous and was due to multiple injuries. The Coroner recorded a verdict of Accidental death.

Caught at Crete

NOW IN STALAG VIIA

The photograph reproduced here is of Pte. Leslie Ing, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Ing, of 3, Alwyn-road, Maidenhead. It was taken in Stalag VIIA in Germany and the barbed-wire surrounding his prison camp can be seen in the background. Pte. Ing, who is 26 years old and belongs to the Welsh Regiment, was taken prisoner at Crete, a year ago. As a boy he attended Alwyn-road School. He is married and has two children. His wife is living at her home in Wales.

Suffering from Severe Burns

SERG. HARRIS IN MIDDLE EAST HOSPITAL

Mrs. K. Harris, of 139, Clare-road, Maidenhead, has received official notification that her husband, Sergt. V. H. J. Harris, of the Royal Tank Regiment, is seriously ill in a Middle East hospital suffering from severe burns. Sergt. Harris, who was brought up in Furze Platt, was a soldier before the war, having served with the Royal Tank Corps for six years at home and in Egypt.

He rejoined on the outbreak of the war and went to France with the first Expeditionary Force and fought in the rearguard action, being eventually evacuated from Brest.

He has taken part in operations in Libya since the early days of the fighting in Mersa Matra and has been abroad for nearly two years. His small son is now three years old.

Before the war he was employed by the Automobile Association.

Maidenhead Orthopaedic Clinic

INCREASE OF WORK REPORTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Maidenhead Orthopaedic Clinic was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, Dr. R. Thomson presiding.

The Chairman referred to the loss of Miss R. Hale, certificated masseuse, who was now on war duties. They were seeking additional help, and were receiving valuable assistance from Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Tapley. The work of the Clinic was increasing at a fast rate, and soon they would be having additional accommodation at the hospital.

The report of the secretaries (Mrs. J. J. Paterson and Mr. J. E. White) stated that there were 50 meetings of the clinic during 1941 in which 410 patients were treated, making a total number of 1,965 attendances. Of these, 281 were new patients, 79 were children of school age and 19 under that age and referred from the local Infant Welfare Centre. There were also 31 evacuees.

Patients transferred from the Windsor Clinic were three, and one was transferred to the Wokingham Clinic, while six were admitted to and subsequently discharged from the Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford. The number of patients remaining on the register at the 31st December, 1941, was 146, while the number discharged was 329. All these numbers showed a substantial increase on those of the previous year, which was in itself a record year.

It was to be regretted that the Clinic had lost the valued services of Miss R. Hale, who for ten years, in addition to the massage work, conducted the remedial exercise classes for school children.

The thanks of the committee were due to the staff of the Wingfield-Morris Hospital, and the voluntary workers, Mrs. Tapley and Mrs. W. Smith. Mr. G. H. Edwards, treasurer, said that there was a profit on the year of £10, and the repayment for appliances showed a gratifying increase of £25.

COLLISION BETWEEN TWO AEROPLANES

TWO ARMEN'S INSTANTANEOUS DEATH

WITNESS COMMENDED BY CORONER FOR BRAVERY

The inquest on John Burge Erickson (35), of Oklahoma, U.S.A., and Thomas Walton (28), of Burnley, an R.A.F. pilot officer, who were killed as a result of two aeroplanes colliding in the Home Counties on May 9th, was concluded on Monday. The inquest had been adjourned to enable the pilot of the other aeroplane, Richard Payve, to give evidence, but the Coroner said that he was still suffering from injuries to the spine, and was not well enough to be present.

When the inquest opened on May 11th, Captain Thomas Gale, chief flying instructor said that on May 9th he told Erickson to give flying instruction to Walton. The aeroplane took off at 10.45 a.m., and some time later the machine came into collision with another aeroplane.

At the resumed inquest the Coroner stated that Richard S. Payve, First Officer, the pilot of one of the machines, whose home address is Rushbourne House, Arlington-road, St. Margaret's, East Twickenham, was still suffering from injuries to his spine and it would be some considerable time before he would be able to get about.

The Coroner then read a statement which had been made to the police by Payve. In the statement he said "I can remember nothing, except a bang and bits flying off the plane. I remember thinking I had better get out. Then deciding I was only a few hundred feet up, I am pretty certain I throttled back the engine. That is all I remember."

Charles Henry Montague, a gas company employee, said "I heard one plane fall behind the cottages, and the other went over my head in flames and struck the ground. I walked round the machine which was partly in the garden of a bungalow, and I saw the body of the pilot under the right wing. I put my jacket over my head, and crawled along the side of the wing. I caught hold of the man and dragged him from the machine to the wire at the edge of the garden. I then collapsed because of the heat. I understand that my mate pulled me and the pilot away, so that we all got clear."

A statement by Dr. Buchanan Barbour showed that Erickson and Walton both died from multiple injuries and death was instantaneous.

Recording a verdict of accidental death, the Coroner commended the witness Montague for his prompt action.

Mr. J. A. Bower, solicitor, of Burnley, who appeared for the relatives of Walton, said the widow appreciated the kindness shown to her by the authorities, and on her behalf he expressed the most sincere thanks to Mr. Montague for the prompt and courageous manner in which he acted.

Mr. K. Ruffe Thomas represented the Air Ministry.

LATE BY-ELECTION NEWS

CAPT. MOTT-RADOLFFY ON OLD AGE PENSIONS

We received late yesterday evening the following statement from the National Government candidate:

I understand that Mr. Douglas Home has said that I am not in favour of an increase in Old Age Pensions until after the War. This is untrue.

In reply to a questioner at Windsor I said that while I agreed with the principle that old age pensions should be increased, I thought that the question of increasing pensions of every kind was one which would have to be considered in all its aspects and as a comprehensive measure after the War. I did not feel that piecemeal legislation would entirely meet the case as injustices leading to dissatisfaction are often created.

In reply to a further question I said that I would support any Bill which was introduced increasing Old Age Pensions in particular, now, as many cases of hardship undoubtedly existed. At the time I was not conversant with any plans the Government might have for an immediate increase, but I welcome the fact that a Committee has now been set up to consider the whole matter, and I am confident that in due course the position of the Old Age Pensioner will and should be improved.

I realise the difficulties which face many of these Pensioners to-day and find any person who is dependent on a fixed income.

Mr. Douglas-Home has given the electors a garbled and incorrect version of what I said, hoping no doubt, to secure the votes of Old Age Pensioners. I ask him to give similar publicity to these, the true facts.

The Maidenhead Advertiser JOURNAL FOR EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUOKS June 24th, 1942.

With the Gloves Off

When the by-election contest for Parliamentary Honours in the East Berks Division opened a little more than a week ago, the opposing candidates declared their intention of fighting with the gloves off.

As far as their individual personalities were concerned the contestants were evenly matched. Young men, wearing the same school tie and in their early thirties, both serving officers and each a stranger in the constituency, there could be little to choose between them in their personal make-up.

Even politically, there did not appear to be any great difference between them; for although Capt. Mott-Radloffy was chosen by the County Conservative Association to be the National Government Candidate, it is now an established fact that Lieut. Hon. Douglas Home actually offered his candidature to the Conservative Association, but with the important difference—"I must be allowed to preserve my independent views," he stipulated.

And it is on these main issues that the contest is being fought. Expressed briefly the position of the two combatants is this: The Government candidate—a Conservative—represents allegiance to the Prime Minister and to the principles of the party; his opponent, also a confessed Conservative, insists on the right of independent expression of views by Members of Parliament and regards the party truce as a breach of the democratic principles of the country.

Let us see how these two young gladiators are faring in the battle for supremacy. Supported by a ready-made party organisation which has ensured a safe seat for Conservative members for the past 60 years, the National Government candidate opened up an early attack and had things his own way for a day or two.

Undismayed by the fact that he stood alone in the ring, his opponent of independent views quickly proved himself a formidable foe and in less than a week succeeded in driving his adversary into the defensive. His meetings have been well-attended and enthusiastic. Neutral observers, debarred from voting in what must be regarded as a freak action, are already predicting a surprise result.

Cries of foul play coming from both camps should be ignored. "A fight with the gloves off" was declared and neither party is entitled to squeal; each must take what is coming to him until the fight is won.

Five days still remain until Polling Day. Those entitled to vote will have further opportunities of hearing the two candidates speak and of judging the merits of their respective policies. To each of them we have allowed full expression of their views in our news columns. Our advice to our readers who are entitled to exercise the franchise is to study the speeches of both candidates, go to their meetings and exercise your votes in accordance with the dictates of your own free consciences.

PRISONER IN HONG KONG

CAPT. A. HUBBARD, OF TAPLOW

Mr. and Mrs. A. Hubbard, of Berry Hill Gardens, Taplow, were officially informed on Saturday that their eldest son, Capt. A. Hubbard, is a prisoner-of-war in Hong-Kong. Capt. Hubbard, who is a civil servant with the Army Audit Staff, went to Hong-Kong with his wife in 1939. His wife, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brett, of the Taplow Dairy, was safely evacuated to Australia from the commencement of hostilities with Japan.

MORE COUNCIL SEATS GOING.

At its monthly meeting next Wednesday the Council will fill the vacancy created by the death of Councillor Kitley. I hear there are so far no challengers to the candidature of Mr. A. E. Breakspear. Another seat is to become vacant. Mrs. A. Thornber, who was elected as a representative of the Boyne Hill Ward in 1932 and filled the Mayoral chair in 1937-38, has tendered her resignation. The death of Councillor Stuchbery leaves a vacancy in the Oldfield Ward. When these seats are filled there will be six co-opted members of the Council—nearly one-third of the full Council.

THE BY-ELECTION.

I have attended the meetings of the two candidates held in the town and have been unable to escape the impression that the by-election, undesirable as some may feel it to be, is likely to do much to dispel the appalling apathy in political affairs of the country shown locally by the average man-in-the-street. It may well be that the fight appeals to the sporting instincts of the people of the town, yet I have seldom seen such an enthusiastic audience at a political gathering as the one which attended the Independent candidate's meeting on Monday night and I anticipate full houses at subsequent gatherings to be held in the town before polling day.

SOCIAL GOSSIP.

Those of my readers who follow social gossip will be interested to learn that the Hon. Douglas-Home—the Independent candidate—is the brother-in-law of Capt. Lord William Scott, M.C., the Unionist M.P. and brother of the Duchess of Gloucester. Lord Scott is married to Mr. Douglas-Home's sister, formerly Lady Rachel Home.

VOLUNTEER CAR POOLS.

Although it has been considered necessary to discontinue the basic ration of petrol after the end of this month, there has been given to a number of motorists who would otherwise lay up their vehicles a chance to keep them running in the service of the country. Volunteer car pools organised by the Minister of Home Security will ensure that sufficient cars remain on the roads for essential emergency operations. Owners will be paid mileage rates to cover the cost incurred in keeping them ready for action. The pools are to be organised in areas and each pool will be controlled from a volunteer car pool office. Part-time cars used by Government departments, local authorities, and voluntary organisations doing approved work can be included in the scheme. Particular note should be made that owners of cars which would otherwise have been laid up will be supplied with a special certificate instead of a licence. Owner-drivers of cars doing voluntary work of national importance are invited to apply at once to Regional Headquarters, Reading, for inclusion in the pool. Those belonging to the W.V.S. or other voluntary organisations should apply through the local office of the organisation concerned.

COUNTY SALVAGE CAMPAIGN.

The local government authorities are engaged in stimulating interest in the county salvage campaign which commenced on Saturday and ends on July 4th. As far as can be observed, the local drive does not appear to be imbued with any great enthusiasm and I am inclined to the opinion that it will produce no overwhelming results. The people of Maidenhead and district have been responding very well to the general appeals for salvage and it appears that there is now little extra material which the average household can contribute towards the special drive. Incidentally, we are now in the middle of the second National Waste Paper Competition which commenced on May 1st and runs until the end of July.

Vegetable Growing

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AT TOWN HALL

A photographic exhibition of vegetable growing will be held at the Maidenhead Town Hall during the week commencing Monday, July 6th. The exhibition is sponsored by the Royal Horticultural Society, and it should stimulate a good deal of interest among gardeners and allotment holders. The exhibition has toured many towns and cities throughout the country, and the photographs have been praised particularly by amateurs, who have found them an excellent guide to detailed methods of cultivation.

The exhibition will be staged in conjunction with cookery exhibition and demonstration under the auspices of the Ministry of Food. During the week demonstrators will be in Maidenhead. Demonstrations will be given daily in the Town Hall, and there will also be a food advice bureau open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the week. It is hoped that housewives will bring their food and cookery problems to the advice bureau and attend the demonstrations, where helpful suggestions will be given in connection with planning meals, getting more variety into food, and making the most of the rations.

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