

# SEDGLEY'S EHR 9

## 1940s

90 YEARS. 90 PEOPLE. 90 STORIES.

# 1940

over during the week-end.  
ARP. WARDENS "OFF DUTY"—An appeal to wardens to carry on with the work they are doing until victory is assured, was made by Councillor J. Jones (chairman of Sedgley ARP committee) at a dinner attended by 50 wardens of "C" Group, in the Miners' Welfare Institute, Lower Gornal, on Friday of last week. After dinner the toast of "The King" was proposed by Councillor J. H. Hemmings (chairman of the Council), who presided. Then gas, high explosives, incendiary bombs, etc., receded into oblivion for, with refreshments in hand the wardens sat back to enjoy two hours of delightful entertainment by Mr. H. Jones (tenor), Councillor C. Whittingham, Messrs. P. A. Abbas, J. Davies, H. Sutton (comedian), Ben Oakley (tenor), H. Potter (comedian), and a trio of boy cornet players. An outstanding item was a rhythmic performance of the "Lambeth Walk" by Miss E. Southall and Mr. H. Cotton. Thanks were voiced to the artistes and the committee of the Institute.

The Herald recorded the off-duty entertainment of **ARP Wardens 'C' Group** at Lower Gornal Miners' Welfare in January 1940.

The redoubtable **Mrs Alma Gibbons** is sworn in as a magistrate to serve at **Sedgley Police Court**. She was a councillor for Lower Gornal, and a member of various charitable organisations.

**SEDGLEY'S NEW MAGISTRATES.**  
**T**WO more magistrates for Bilston Division, Councillor Mrs. Alma Juliet Pauline Gibbons, of Beam House, Tetterhall, and Mr. Arthur Griffiths, of 50, Beacon Lane, Sedgley, were sworn in at Staffordshire Quarter Sessions this week. They will sit at Bilston and Sedgley Police Courts.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
Mrs. Gibbons, who is the wife of Col. W. T. Gibbons (of the 6th South Staffordshire Regiment), has been a Conservative representative for St. James' Ward, Lower Gornal, in Sedgley Urban District Council for three years. She would have had to seek re-election in April but for the outbreak of war. An indefatigable worker, she is a member of many charitable organisations and important welfare committees. She is organising secretary of the local Comforts Fund, and joint chairman with Mrs. Highfield Jones of the 6th South Staffordshire Benevolent Fund, which necessitates visits being paid to Dudley, Sedgley and Tipton families. Col. F. W. Law, D.S.O., of Sedgley, is president of that fund.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
Mrs. Gibbons is head of the women's A.R.P. ambulance drivers and a member of

**RAIDER HITS BALLOON EXPLODES IN MID-AIR**  
Junkers 88 Crashes near Midland Town it had Bombed  
HOME GUARDS THROW BOMBS INTO RIVER  
ALTHOUGH air raids throughout the country, outside London, have been of a sporadic nature throughout this week, the Midlands have received their full share and there have been plenty of incidents.  
The most important occurred on Monday night when, after dropping high explosive bombs on working class houses of a building estate a German raider, believed to be a Junkers 88, struck a balloon barrage cable and, after flying nearly seven miles from the spot where the bombs fell, exploded in mid-air over an outlying village. Two of the crew—on a mere boy—baled out and were found with leg injuries; two others were killed.  
Raiders over the Midlands on Saturday night did very little damage. Eight high explosive bombs were dropped in a Midland village, but caused no casualties and only very slight damage. One fell in a storage garden, one near a phone exchange, and one in a street. A fire



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1940.  
Public Notices.  
**Mayor of Dudley's Spitfire Appeal Fund.**  
SEE THE  
**GERMAN MESSERSCHMITT**  
ON VIEW AT THE  
**COUNCIL HOUSE COURTYARD**  
FROM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8th,  
10.0 a.m.—6.0 p.m. daily.  
ENTRANCE ST. JAMES' ROAD.  
Admission 6d.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1940.  
Public Notices.  
**DUDLEY'S GREATEST ALL-STAR CONCERT**  
IN AID OF THE  
**MAYOR OF DUDLEY'S SPITFIRE APPEAL FUND**  
WILL BE HELD IN THE  
**Hippodrome on Sunday, Oct. 13th**  
At 3 p.m.  
**FLANAGAN AND ALLEN**  
(THOSE WORLD-FAMOUS CRAZY GAGS STARS)  
By kind permission of George Black  
**ALSO OTHER WELL-KNOWN STAR ARTISTES.**  
BOOKING OFFICE NOW OPEN AT THE HIPPODROME.  
Watch for further Announcements.

**ON STAGE AND SCREEN**  
**Tommy Trinder at Dudley Hippodrome**  
A speedy new-style vaudeville presentation comes to Dudley Hippodrome next week under the banner of "Why Go To Paris?" Tommy Trinder of "You Lucky People" fame is funster-in-chief, and there will be specialities by Leon and Kiki with their skits on skates; Joe Hastings in a novel ventriloquist scene; Sonia and Vania, who describe themselves as being "as slick as silk"; Eva May Wong, a juggler extraordinary; and the Kit-Kat Lovelies, who are said to be sickness personified. The production is compered by Chris Gill—"Southlands' dynamic gentleman."

In October 1940, the Mayor of Dudley's Spitfire Appeal Fund were charging sixpence to view a downed **German Messerschmitt** aircraft at the Council House Courtyard.

In October 1940 **Flanagan and Allen** were at Dudley Hippodrome to raise funds for the **Mayor's Spitfire Fund**.

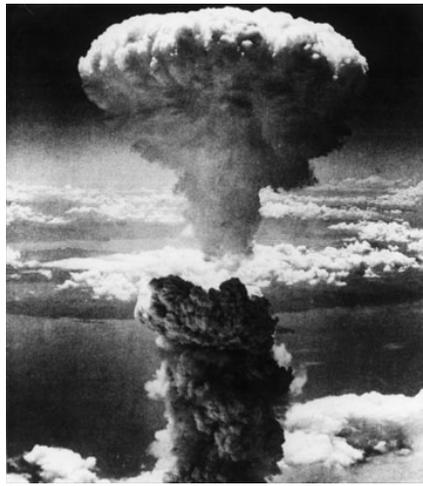
**Tommy Trinder** at the Hippodrome in 1940.

**HOME MANAGEMENT CORNER**  
Conducted by  Miss Switch  
**MOBILISE THE RABBITS!**  
In these rationed times, the bunny rabbit comes into its own as a solid, nourishing basis for meals. Here are a few simple recipes.  
**RABBIT PIE**  
1 rabbit (cooked), 2 tomatoes, 2 cooked carrots, 4 ozs. macaroni (cooked), onion,  
it into a casserole. Chop up onions and fry, stir in flour and curry powder, cook briefly for a few minutes, stirring constantly. Drain peas to one side and add stock. Roll up and season. Pour the mixture over the rabbit, add the potato, cover and

A recipe for rabbit pie was printed in the Herald, encouraging housewives to cook and eat them.



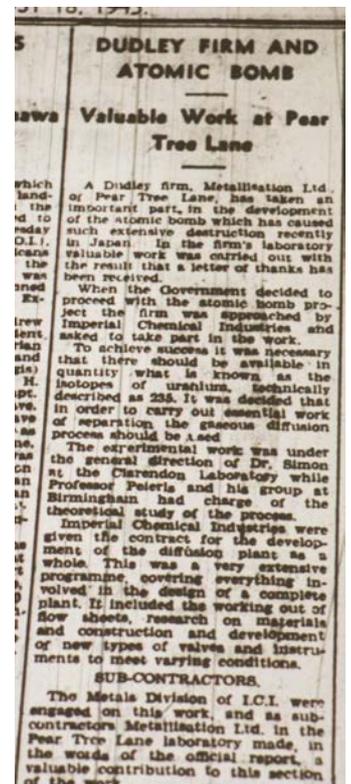
Holidays at Home – a programme of entertainments on **Dormston Playing Field** in August 1945, was spoilt by the rain.



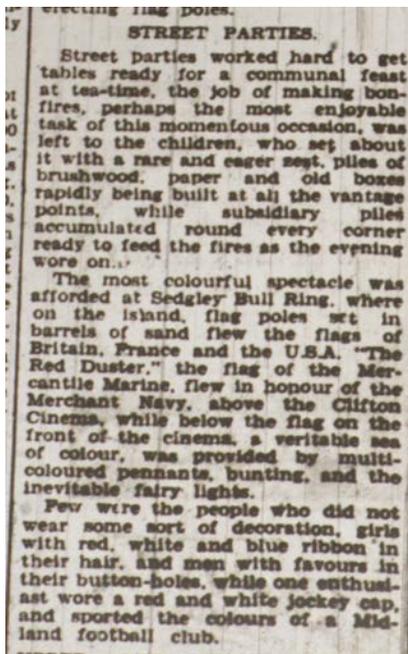
The Herald's pages in 1945 were dominated by the end of the war, first in Europe, then in Japan. When the conflict was over, it was revealed how Dudley companies played an important role in the defence of the country – from making barrage balloons to manufacturing isotopes of uranium for the manufacture of the atomic bomb.

1940s

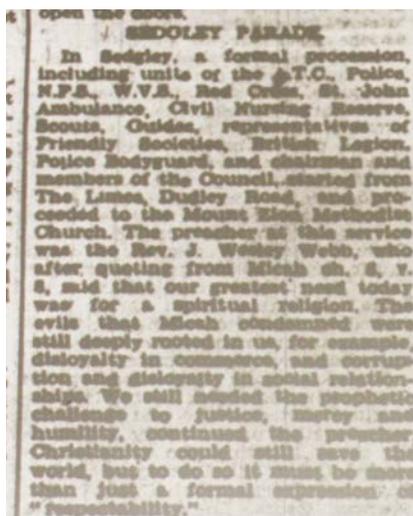
1945



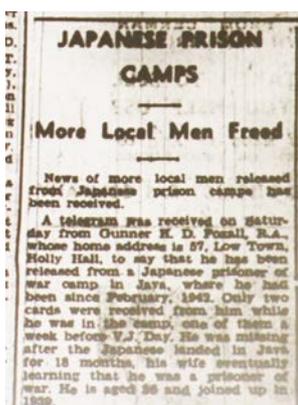
A Dudley firm, **Metallisation** of Pear Tree Lane, provided components for a gaseous diffusion plant used to produce isotopes of uranium – uranium 235. These were used in the development of the atomic bomb used against the Japanese, which ended World War II.



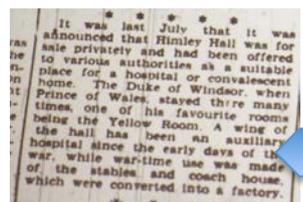
VJ Day celebrations – flag poles with the colour of Britain France and the USA. The 'Red Duster' flew above the Clifton. Girls wear red white and blue; men wear 'favours'.



A victory parade of uniformed organisations and council members was held, starting at **The Limes** (then the HQ for Civil Defence in Gornal and Sedgley) to **Mount Zion Methodist Church** in Upper Gornal.



The release of prisoners following the end of the war with Japan brought welcome news to families. Gunner HD Foxall, Royal Artillery had been taken prisoner in Java in 1942 and only two cards had been received during this time, one of them just before VJ Day.



The sale of **Himley Hall** was discussed. During the war it was used as an auxiliary hospital and the stables used as a factory. The Duke of Windsor stayed there many times before the war and there was talk of him buying it.

1940s

1948

**DUDLEY ZOO.**  
**TO-NIGHT, SATURDAY,**  
**A GRAND NEW YEAR**  
**DANCE AND CABARET**  
 7.45-11.45 p.m.  
 Introducing the **CABARET LAYOUT**  
 with  
**THE QUEEN MARY BALLROOM**  
**ORCHESTRA.**  
**FULLY LICENSED.**  
 For Table Reservations 100 extra charge. Phone Dudley 2287.  
**TICKETS 5/-** from Messrs. Stanton's Music Store, Castle Street, Dudley.  
**No Dance Saturday, Jan. 10th.**  
 New Series commence Saturday, January 17th.  
 See future announcements.

**MIRABELLE BALLROOM**  
 DUDLEY

**DANCING TO**  
**HEDLEY WARD'S**  
**RADIO PLAYERS**

Tuesday: "Dance as you Please," Admission 2/6.  
 Wednesday: "Talent Night," Admission 1/6.  
 Thursday: "Strict Tempo," Admission 2/-.  
 Friday: "Request Night," Admission 2/6.  
 Saturday: "Popular Night," Admission 3/-.  
 Licensed Bar applied for.

In 1948, was a popular pastime - two ballrooms in Dudley offered new year's dances - the Queen Mary Ballroom at Dudley Zoo and the Mirabelle Ballroom.

**MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY BOARD**

From the end of the year, a board of five members, appointed by the Minister of Fuel and Power, are responsible for the provision of an efficient electricity supply in the Midlands—an area of nearly 5,000 square miles with a population of 3,698,000. The area covered by the board includes the Potteries, the Black Country and Birmingham, as well as a great deal of agricultural country.

Members of the board are Alderman W. S. Lewis (chairman), of Birmingham, who has been a member of the West Midlands Joint Electricity Authority for 17 years, Mr. D. H. Kendon (deputy chairman), who is general manager of the S.W.S. Electric Power Co., Councillor A. E. Bennett, a member of Leicestershire County Council, Mr. S. F. Burman, of Birmingham, and Captain L. H. Green a member of Hereford County Council.

**WORK OF AN ARMY CHAPLAIN**

**Sedgley Vicar's Talk To Dudley Rotarians**

The members of Dudley Rotary Club spent a very interesting half hour after their weekly luncheon at meeting on Monday, listening to a face account of the work of an Army chaplain, given by the Rev. W. Sargeant, Vicar of Sedgley, who was chaplain in the Brigade of Guards and for four years during the war, landing on the beaches of Normandy on "D" Day and moving with the troops into Germany. This, however, was not his first experience with the Forces, for he served with a cavalry regiment in the Indian Army for 18 years before he took Holy Orders. He spoke of his experiences before going overseas in taking Christianity to the soldiers, of the talks he gave during weekly services, and of the "lamentable ignorance of the average man of all types in Christianity." He had a night for questions and the best answers came from the men from the east of the country. "I don't know what could have gone wrong in Birmingham in regard to religious instruction," he said, "but the poor fellows from there knew nothing." He alluded to the soldiers' enthusiasm for church parades and their devotion.



Rev. W. Sargeant

**Living development fund.**  
**CIVIC MEALS SERVICE.**—Meals served in Sedgley Civic Restaurant in November and December totalled 23,756 and 18,480 respectively, and receipts were £201 18s. 9d. and £191 7s. 6d.

The formation of the MEB was announced in the Herald. Its responsibility was to provide efficient electricity over an area of 5,000 square miles in the Midlands including the Potteries, the Black

A Civic Restaurant operated in 1948 but it's not clear who operated it or for whom it was intended.

Compulsory purchase of land near the Bull Ring, bounded by Hall Street and Gospel End Road was announced in January 1948, for building public conveniences. They are still stand there to this day, but have lain abandoned for some time. The land was part owned by a Miss EF Egginton, possibly a relative of the well-known Bull Ring pharmacist.

Vicar of All Saints', Revd W Sargeant, talked to Dudley Rotary Club. His background was remarkable - he served with a cavalry regiment in the Indian Army for 18 years before taking Holy Orders - he was then a chaplain in the Brigade of Guards during the war and took part in the D Day landings in 1944.

**Public Notices**  
**URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY**  
**THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936**  
**THE ACQUISITION OF LAND (AUTHORISATION PROCEDURE) ACT, 1946.**  
**SEDGLEY (BULL RING) COMPULSORY PURCHASE CONFIRMATION ORDER, 1948.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in pursuance of the powers conferred on me by the aforesaid Acts, on the twenty third day of January 1948, I, the undersigned, the Minister of Health, have authorised the Sedgley (Bull Ring) Compulsory Purchase Order 1948, contained in the Urban District Council of Sedgley.

The said purchase order is for the purpose of providing public sanitary conveniences in the Bull Ring, Sedgley, in the Urban District of Sedgley.

A copy of the Order is contained in the Minutes and of its text referred to in the said purchase order is contained in the schedule to the said purchase order, and may be seen at any reasonable hour.

It is hereby notified that the said purchase order is subject to the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and of the said purchase order, and that the said purchase order is subject to the provisions of the said purchase order, and that the said purchase order is subject to the provisions of the said purchase order, and that the said purchase order is subject to the provisions of the said purchase order.



**SOCIALISTS IN CONTROL OF SEDGLEY COUNCIL**  
**MAJORITY OF FOUR OVER COMBINED CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS**

CONTROL of Sedgley Urban District Council passed into the hands of the Socialists on Monday night. A large crowd gathered outside the Council House to hear the declaration of the local election results, which showed that the Labour Party, while gaining one seat, gained three, giving them a majority of four over the Conservative and Liberal parties. During the past year, the Liberal Chairman, Councillor B. Tommes, had the casting vote. The constitution of the Council is now: Labour 13, Conservatives 7, Liberals 2.

The results for the open seats in the ward were: BEACON—J. Williams (Lab.), 107; H. D. Haines (Cons.), 79; Lab. 68.

CENTRAL—Mr. Caddick (Lab.), 85; L. Haines (Lab.), 48; A. Williams (Lib.), 33; Cons. 24.

ST. PETER'S (two seats)—J. P. Fishers (Lab.), 88; J. B. Adams (Lab.), 74; J. P. Fisher (Lab.), 74; J. B. Adams (Lab.), 74; J. P. Fisher (Lab.), 74; J. B. Adams (Lab.), 74.

SOUTH—J. Jones (Lab.), 62; T. Haines (Lab.), 47; No change.

WOOD—B. Tommes (Lab.), 67; T. B. Hodgkins (Lab.), 59; No change.

Includes retiring councillor.

The Socialists' most notable success was in St. Peter's Ward, where both seats previously held by Coun. E. E. Fishers (Lib.) and Coun. F. S. Bagley (Cons.), neither of whom sought re-election, were gained. The Labour candidate also got home in Beacon Ward, where a majority of 278 was gained over the Conservative candidate out of 1,886 votes, the biggest poll for any single seat.

In Centre Ward, on the other hand, the Tories displaced the Socialists, but this was their only gain. The Liberals managed to retain St. James' and




Cn. C.A. Turner Cn. J. Jones

A member of the council for 12 years until he failed to retain the seat in the elections of last year, Coun. Joseph Jones, of 15, Boundary Hill, Lower Gornal, served on every committee before his participation in active civic affairs was interrupted. He served as chairman of the A.N.P.

Socialists take control of Sedgley Council in April 1948. The ward within the council are interesting: Beacon, Central, St Peter's, South, St James's and Wood.

Miss AD Bodenham of St Peter's Upper Gornal received an illuminated address in recognition of 25 years as organist and choir mistress.

**SEDGLEY**

**PRESENTATION.**—Appreciation of her services for 25 years as organist and choir-mistress at St. Peter's Parish Church, Upper Gornal, was expressed by the Vicar (Rev. H. C. Tunnadine) to Miss A. D. Bodenham at a meeting in the church hall on Sunday. Presentation of an illuminated address, the work of a young member of the choir, Mr. A. Corbett, was made by Mr. J. Flavell, and tributes were also paid by Mr. J. H. Sutton (church warden). In reply, Miss Bodenham said she had always endeavoured to raise the standard of choral music and she was happy to think she had succeeded to a degree. Other presentations were a prayer book, wallet and money gift.