The Advertiser

HEAD OFFICE—
Gatteridge Street, Banbury.
Telephone: Banbury 2569.

LONDON OFFICE—
92, Fleet Street, E.C. 4.
Telephone: Central 8209.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14th, 1943.

REPORTED KILLED. — Mr. and Mrs. A. Hastings, of 41, South Bar, Banbury, received official intimation this (Wednesday) morning that their younger son, Flt. Sergt. E. V. Hastings, has been killed in air operations. Previously he had been reported missing. Twenty-three years of age, Flt.-Sergt. Hastings was a scholar at Banbury County School and also Marlborough Road Methodist Church Sunday School.

"THE PASSION OF CHRIST."—The customary musical service will be held at the Marlborough Road Methodist Church, Banbury, on Good Friday evening, when "The Passion of Christ," a sacred cantata by Percy E. Fletcher, will be rendered by choir and string orchestra under the direction of Mr. A. E. Chidzey, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M. The soloists will be Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Blincowe and Mr. S. Trinder.

W.H.A.—At the monthly meeting of the Banbury and District Workpeople's Hospital Association, held in the Town Hall on Thursday, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Burdett, the sum of £500 was voted to the Horton General Hospital, making the total for the year £2,500.

GRIMSBURY BROTHERHOOD.—A good meeting was held at Grimsbury Brotherhood on Sunday afternoon. Bro. H. H. Sirmon took the chair, in the absence of the president; Bro. G. Hillier offered prayer, and Bro. G. Wyatt read the lesson and also rendered a solo. The speaker (a welcome newcomer) was Bro. Brunble, who gave a refreshing and inspiring address on "Climbing," in which he mentioned that a fine epitaph to have written over one was "He died climbing."

BANBURY MADRIGAL.—The performance of "Carmen" now in rehearsal by Banbury Madrigal and Glee Union has again been postponed. The date now fixed is September 16th.

DEATH OF MR. P. WILLIAMS.

FUNERAL SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH.

We regret to record the death, which occurred at his home, Lime Avenue, Banbury, on Sunday last of Mr. Percival Williams, aged 63 years.

Mr. Williams, who was born in the town, was for many years manager of the Clothing Department of the Banbury Co-operative Society and was also on the Education Committee for some time. A Freemason, he was a member of the Calthorpe Lodge. He leaves a widow and one daughter.

A funeral service was held at Christ Church, Banbury, to-day (Wednesday), the Rev. E. W. Suart officiating. There was a large attendance of friends of the family, and Freemasonry was represented by the Worshipful Master of the Calthorpe Lodge, Mr. W. F. Hayden, and others. Mr. F. Walton (president), Mr. A. E. Philpotts (secretary) and Mr. E. Chambers (manager) were amongst those representing the Banbury Co-operative Society.

REGAL CINEMA, BANBURY.

"THE PALM BEACH STORY."

Paramount's "The Palm Beach Story," which has an engagement of three days (the remainder of this week) at the Regal Cinema, Banbury, is the fifth picture entirely written and directed by Preston Sturges. It is a lavish production starring Joel McCrea, Claudette Colbert, Mary Astor and Rudy Vallee. In this film Sturges has the four stars each rivals for the other, and the complications that arise throughout the picture go to make it a fast moving comedy-romance. Also showing is "I live on Danger," featuring Chester Morris and Jean Parker.

On Sunday for one day only Douglas Fairbanks (jun.) is featuring in "Safari"; also William Henry in "Parole Fixer."

"MOONTIDE."

The main attraction at the Regal Cinema on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week is "Moontide," a stirring story of life along the Pacific waterfront. Featured in this film is a new French star, Jean Gabin. Gabin, who in recent years has been recognised as the greatest star of French films, gives a performance which is said to outshine any of his previous characterisations, in a part which is tailor-made for his virile type of acting. It is a credit to his studio that "Moontide" was chosen as the vehicle best to introduce Gabin to American films. For Gabin's co-star, Ida Lupino was selected. It was felt she could best complement the great French actor's realistic and powerful role in the film. Thomas Mitchell and Claude Rains, two of Hollywood's outstanding character actors, were added to the cast, and John O'Hara, the famous novelist, was assigned to the adaptation of the story.

Also full supporting programme.

A.G. CORBETT, F.T.C.

TUNING & REPAIRS TO PIANOS, ORGANS, Etc.

On receipt of a postcard immediate call will be made.

"WINCROFT," 38, HORTON VIEW, and 37, PROSPECT ROAD, BANBURY.

ALLEGED MAILBAG THEFT

(Continued from Front Page)

information received from Banbury and in company with Sgt. Gilbert he met the Shrewsbury train arriving Paddington at 5.45 a.m. He said he saw the two prisoners walking from the rear of the train.

Sgt. Gilbert asked the two men to produce their identity cards. Bailey had not got his with him, but Macdonald produced his. Witness asked the two defendants where they had come from, and they replied "Banbury—where we have been all last evening." Witness then went to the Inquiry Office on the platform, where he told them he was enquiring into a complaint he had received from Banbury to the effect that a mail-bag there had been violated. He further mentioned that he considered they answered the description of two men alleged to have been concerned, but at this they both replied "We were at Banbury Station a long time waiting for a train, but know nothing about a mail-bag."

In reply to a question by the defendant Bailey in Court as to what conviction he considered the two defendants were in when they were apprehended at Paddington, the witness said the impression he got was "they were just sobering up after a good booze-up."

Witness added that when he asked the two defendants to turn out their pockets they produced apples, chocolates and toffees, and they were then asked to return to Banbury in company with a railway police officer for further interrogation. This they agreed to do.

Det.-Sergt. Kenefick, G.W.R. Police, stationed at Birmingham, said he received the two defendants into custody and later charged them with being concerned in the mail-bag theft, to which they made no reply.

£66 IN CASH IN POSSESSION

Supt. Hector, of Banbury Police, said that he received the defendants into his charge from the last witness. When they were searched at Banbury Police Station Macdonald had over £66 in cash in his possession, and Bailey had a much smaller sum. Both defendants had sweets, apples and chocolates in their pockets, and interviewed independently each told a different story as to how they came by them. Contending that he had bought the sweets in a market at Birmingham, Macdonald was asked by the Superintendent to produce his sweet ration card, but this he was unable to do. It was the contention of the prosecution that the fruit and sweetmeats found in the defendant's possession was in fact part of the parcels, evidence regarding the contents of which had been given by earlier witnesses. A pocket knife was also found in Bailey's possession and this was sent for examination to the Police College at Hendon.

P.S. Benham, of Banbury Police, said that he conducted an identification parade consisting of ten men at Banbury Police Station, and defendants were allowed to take their own choice of position in the line, but the witness Nevett had no hesitation in picking them both out. Witness corroborated the Superintendent's evidence regarding the two stories told by defendants as to where they got the chocolate and apples, and also mentioned that he personally took the knife and mailbag, evidence relating to which had been given by the police research expert, to the Metropolitan Police College of Science at Hendon.

Fredk. Rawlings, the Vineyard Nursery, Green Lanes, Banbury, a seedsman, said he examined the apples found in the possession of defendants, and also examined some which had formed part of a parcel sent by Mrs. Stanley to her sister in Bristol. The apples were identical, and in his opinion—substantiated by 42 years as a fruit expert—the apples were all of the same crop. This particular variety of apple was not a common one, and was in fact very scarce at this time of the year.

COMMITTED FOR TRIAL

This concluded the case for the prosecution and the prisoners were committed for trial at the Abingdon Quarter Sessions, which are provisionally arranged for April 22nd. Both refused to make a statement at this stage, but Bailey said he would like to enter a plea of "Not guilty" and reserve his defence. Both men asked for bail, but this was opposed by the Superintendent, who said that in any case they were both already on bail in respect of another alleged offence at Abingdon.

After a short retirement the magistrates announced the defendants would be remanded in custody, but assured them that if they wished to call witnesses at their trial every facility would be given to them to contact such witnesses during the interim.

Macdonald asked if he might be allowed to have his large sum of money back to enable him to engage legal defence, and the Superintendent said that this would be done.

The Magistrates for the hearing, which lasted for over six hours, were His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J. A. Deacon), chairman; Ald. J. Collingridge, Ald. Theo Clark, Ald. J. Cheney, Ald. W. G. Mascord, and Mrs. Gillett.

DUKE OF GLOUCESTER'S TOUR OF OXON HOSPITALS

Dr. Clive Gardiner-Hill, of Banbury, Chairman of the Joint County Committee of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, had the honour of accompanying H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester on his recent tour of inspection of hospitals in Oxford.

The following representatives of the Banbury Hospital were presented: Col. H. E. DuC. Norris (hon. treasurer), Dr. N. C. Penrose (E.M.S. hon. medical supt.), and Mr. R. H. Prescott (secretary and house governor).

BANBURY BOROUGH POLICE COURT

Monday. Before His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J. A. Deacon), Ald. J. Collingridge, Ald. J. Cheney, Ald. W. G. Mascord, Ald. Theo Clark and Mrs. Gillett.

DRUNKEN LORRY-DRIVER GOES TO PRISON.

Percy W. Coleman, of 6, South Street, Banbury, was charged with driving a lorry whilst under the influence of drink to such an extent as to be incapable of having proper control on the Warwick Road, Banbury, on April 6th. He was further charged with dangerous driving on the same occasion, and also with failing to produce a current driving licence.

He elected to be tried summarily, and in reply to Mr. E. C. Fortescue (Clerk to the Court) said his plea to the drunkenness charge would be "guilty" as the doctor had certified him drunk. He also pleaded guilty to the driving licence charge, but entered a "not guilty" plea relating to dangerous driving.

Dr. C. Gardiner-Hill, police surgeon, said he was called to the Banbury Police Station at 10.50 p.m. on April 6th, and he examined defendant, who was, in witness's opinion, under the influence of alcohol to such an extent as to be incapable of being in charge of a motor-vehicle.

Driver G. I. Stanley, R.E., said he was driving an Army car at 9.55 p.m. on Warwick Road, proceeding away from Banbury when he saw a lorry approaching from 150 yards distance. Witness dipped his lights and as the oncoming lorry seemed to be swerving all over the road he stopped and drew the army vehicle into the side of the road. The lorry driven from Warwick direction made a further violent swerve towards the stationary car, so witness tried to start up again in reverse to lessen the shock of what appeared to be an inevitable collision, but the oncoming lorry struck the Army car with such force that it swung it around completely to face Banbury, and also pushed it some yards. Witness then went to where the lorry had stopped; and the defendant was then getting out of the driver's cab. In witness's opinion the driver, who he now knew to be Coleman, was drunk, and witness went for the police.

Sapper Ernest William Gardiner, R.E., who was a passenger in the army vehicle, gave corroborative evidence.

P.S. Scroggs said in consequence of a 'phone message he went towards the scene of the accident and en route met a lorry, driven by Coleman, well on the crown of the road near the Ironstone Bridge. He asked Coleman if he had been involved in an accident and he replied "Yes, a car ran into me." Asked for his driving licence, he failed to produce one, but later did so, but the year of issue and expiry had been erased, it being subsequently found that he had not renewed his licence since 1939.

Special Constable Ernest Warren, of The Nutshell, Horley, said he was first on the scene of the accident and instructed Coleman to wait for the police to arrive, but defendant seized the opportunity to drive away whilst witness's back was turned.

Coleman, in Court, said the only explanation he could offer was that the lights dazzled him.

The magistrates held the case proved and the Supt. gave defendant's previous record, which included two months' hard labour for stealing £18 in 1927.

Coleman was sentenced to two months' hard labour on the driving whilst under the influence charge, and was disqualified for driving for 12 months.

A similar sentence was imposed on the dangerous driving charge, to run concurrently.

For driving without a licence Coleman was fined £1, with £1 11s. 6d. Court costs.

CYCLE LIGHTING OFFENCE.

Pte. Alex G. R. Norman, R.E., was summoned for riding a cycle without lights during the hours of darkness on March 27th.

P.C. Jarrett said he stopped defendant near the "Barley Mow" at 9.45 p.m. and pointed out the offence. Norman did not appear in Court but an officer of his unit addressed the magistrates on his behalf.

A fine of £1 was imposed in this case.

BLACK-OUT INFRINGEMENT ALLEGED.

Stanley P. Hoskins, of Orchard House, Bloxham, was charged with allowing a unobscured interior light to be visible from the outside during the hours of darkness on March 27th. He did not appear and sent no letter of explanation.

P.C. Stevens said the light was showing from an upstairs window at the rear of premises in Bridge Street. He entered the room after getting no reply to knocking on the door and extinguished the light. He subsequently learned that Mr. Hoskins was probably responsible in connection with the matter and went to interview the latter's Bloxham address. Defendant said when approached: "I know what you have come for and I take all responsibility about the light."

Upon the Superintendent mentioning to the Magistrates that the defendant had a "record" relating to cases of this kind, they ordered that Mr. Hoskins be instructed to attend Court to give his explanation of the matter. The case was accordingly adjourned.

FAILED TO IMMOBILISE CAR.

Miss Yvonne Grenaut, described as a teacher of French, and whose address was given as St. John's House,

(Continued in next column).

"THE HARVESTER"

LETTER FROM LIEUT. BRIGGS.

The Mayor of Banbury (Councillor J. A. Deacon) has received the following letter from Lieut. J. L. Briggs, formerly of the "Harvester":—

2, Golf Club Cottages,
Crews Hill,
Enfield,
Middlesex.
10th April.

"Dear Sir,—I am writing this letter to you as the senior surviving officer from H.M.S. Harvester. First of all I would apologise for not having written before this, but as I am sure you will understand I had to wait until the news of the loss of the ship was made public before I could do so. Now, as you know, the Harvester is gone, and there are not many of us who manned her remaining. Of those who visited Banbury at the beginning of the year there are, I think, no more than four or five surviving — perhaps not as many. The first Lieutenant went down with the ship, along with the Captain and many others. Those of us who were rescued are now scattered—some having gone to other ships and some waiting to do so. But while we were still together there was one thing we decided, and that was, if possible, that the comradeship born of the great generosity and kindness of the people of Banbury and the Urban District Council of Banbury which existed between us should not pass with the passing of our ship. The way the people of Banbury (and I include in that all who took part) adopted a ship was an example to any community in this country. You made it not just a formality but a reality, and we shall always remember it with the deepest gratitude and admiration. Obviously that is now over. But there was one thing we decided, that with your approval, we would like to do. It is just an idea to keep alive the memory of Harvester among the people of Banbury. There was a lifebuoy with the ship's name on it which kept one of our men up all the time he was in the water. It was picked up with him and we wondered whether you would accept it on behalf of Banbury as a kind of memorial to the ship and as a token of gratitude to you all, from us. Perhaps you would let me know if this idea would meet with your approval. I know you will forgive my ignorance of civic affairs and if by merely mentioning 'Banbury' and 'the Urban District Council of Banbury in this letter I have omitted anyone who has so generously helped us in the past then you will apologise to them for me and plead my ignorance as an excuse.—I remain, Sir, Yours very sincerely, J. Llewellyn Briggs, Lieut., R.N.V.R."

His Worship the Mayor of Banbury,
The Town Hall, Banbury.

(A statement appeared in to-day's daily papers of the full casualties in H.M.S. Harvester.)

WEST END LAWN TENNIS CLUB

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the West End Lawn Tennis Club was held on Tuesday at 46, The Green, Banbury, with Mr. H. H. L. Hunt in the chair.

Miss Strange, the treasurer, presented the financial report and said there was a balance at the bank of £68 19s. 1d. and as the result of a tournament £9 8s. had been handed to the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross Fund; £35 had been invested in 3 per cent. Defence Bonds during the season.

Mrs. Hunt, the secretary, made sympathetic reference to the recent death of Mr. J. A. Gillett, the president of the club, and it was unanimously decided to ask Mrs. S. B. Gillett to be the new president.

Mrs. Hunt was re-elected secretary and Miss Strange treasurer, with a vote of thanks for the work they did last season.

The committee elected was Mrs. G. Gibbard, Mrs. L. Walker, Mrs. R. Goodman, Mrs. H. A. Butler, Mrs. H. D. White and Messrs. H. Hunt, K. Gibbard, T. Hankinson and L. Walker.

It was decided to commence play on Easter Monday, April 26th, and to hold a tournament on May 26th in connection with "Wings for Victory" Week.

HORTON GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Doctor for next week, Dr. Gardiner-Hill.

Matron returns thanks for the following gifts: Magazines, Alan Jones; books and games, Mrs. Bolton; jars, Mrs. Mawle; tinfoil and magazines, Mrs. Alfred Heath; used stamps, C.W.H.; saucers, stamps and cards, Mrs. C. King; gramophone records, tinfoil and flowers, Miss Loveday; saucers, Mrs. Gordon Savile; stamps, Mrs. M. Rice; stamps, Mrs. J. Canon; tinfoil, Miss Smith; books, Jean and Betty Clevett; soap dish, Mrs. Blinkorn; saucers, Mrs. Hall; puzzles and games, the late Miss Page; tinfoil, "Banbury Advertiser" Fairy Sparkles Guild.

(Continued from previous column)

St. John's Road, Banbury, was charged with failing to immobilise her car whilst it was unattended.

P.C. Stevens said he observed a small "Austin" with its sunshine roof open standing in South Bar on Saturday, March 27th. He kept observation on it for some time, and later tried the doors and found them unlocked. The rotor arm of the vehicle was still in position. After about threequarters of an hour he went to the defendant's house, outside which the car stood, and told Miss Grenaut of the offence. She replied "I only left it for a few minutes while I am taking my bags from it." Told that the officer must report the matter, defendant further replied "I suppose you have very little to do here in Banbury, so you have to look after these little things."

A fine of £1 was imposed.

"WINGS FOR VICTORY" DARTS COMPETITION.

The first match in the "Wings for Victory" Darts Competition for the "Advertiser" Cup was played at the "Elephant and Castle" on Wednesday last week, when in section three No. 2 Remelt C and Scalpers C were contenders. The match resulted in a win for No. 2 Remelt C team by six games to three.

On Friday night (in the same section) the Optimists C beat Sheet Mill C by eight games to one.

On Monday night in section four Civil Defence Casualty beat the Talbot B team and on the same night in section two the Crown, Warwick Road, lost to White Horse A team.

On Tuesday in section one Remelt No. 2 team lost to No. 2 Remelt A team by eight games to one.

COLLISION

A collision occurred on Tuesday evening near the Vicarage, Broxton, between a catterpillar ground clearer and Mr. Sumner's bus. The bus was torn along one side from the front to the back. Fortunately the passengers, which consisted of members of the Home Guard, were not hurt.

WILL OF FORMER DEDDINGTON RESIDENT

Lt.-Col. R. G. Parks-Smith, Royal Marines, of Deddington, who died on war service in August last, left £1,394 with a net personalty of £1,273. He was a son of Mr. E. Parks-Smith, of South Newington, near Banbury.

TYSOE OBITUARY

We regret to record the death at the Horton General Hospital on April 3rd, of Mr. Henry John Pickering, at the age of 72. Deceased had been ill some time but only in hospital two days. An evacuee from London, he had been staying in Tysoe since hostilities began. The interment took place in the church extension on Wednesday last. A service was held in St. Mary's Church prior to interment, the Rev. D. Jones officiating. The chief mourners were Mrs. Pickering (widow), Harold and Leonard (sons), Mrs. Pinnock, Mrs. Sawyer and Mrs. Foster (daughters), Peter Foster (grandson), Mrs. E. Hancox (sister-in-law), Mrs. Parrot (niece), Mr. Pinnock (son-in-law), and other friends. There were a large number of floral tributes. Messrs. A. Bloxham, E. Freeman, R. Ashby and G. F. Gardner were bearers and Mr. V. Lucket carried out the duties of undertaker.

CYCLING NOTES.

BANBURY STAR C.C.

The 25-miles medium gear race was held on Sunday. With ideal conditions in his favour, E. Wootton broke the record for this event by 4 minutes, the previous holder being R. Wheeler, with 1 hour 14 minutes 25 seconds. Owing to a marshalling error three riders went slightly off the course. The first three riders were recorded as follows by D. Hunt and J. Thorburn:—

E. Wootton (Challenge Wheelers), actual 1h. 10m. 25s., nett 1h. 9m. 25s. G. Goodway (Banbury Star), actual 1h. 16m. 23s., nett 1h. 12m. 23s.

T. Brabbins (Banbury Star), actual 1h. 13m. 29s., nett 1h. 13m. 29s.

B.A.R. — E. Wootton (Challenge Wheelers) 5pts., G. Goodway (Banbury Star) 0pts., E. Marriott (Challenge Wheelers) 2pts., J. Thompson (Banbury Star) 1pt.

CHALLENGE WHEELERS C.C.

An inter-club run with the Northampton branch of the Y.C.L. had been arranged for last Sunday afternoon, and the ride was supported by one of the largest turn-outs our club has had. We followed an intricate lane route through Adstone, Blakesley and Abthorpe to meet the Northampton riders in Silverstone, and continued through lanes to Dadford village and into Stowe Park.

It was about tea-time, so we fed in the open and then spent the earlier part of the evening wandering round the lakes. It is a most delightful spot here, on one bank thick woods with a carpet of violets, primroses and delicate wood anemones, reach down to the water's edge, while on the other bank a broad stretch of grass rend sweeps between the row of trees up to Stowe House. We were loth to leave, but eventually made tracks for Silverstone, left our Northampton companions, and returned to Woodford.

E.A.W.

PALACE THEATRE, BANBURY

"IN WHICH WE SERVE."

Showing at the Palace Theatre, Banbury, for the remainder of this week is "In Which We Serve," starring Noël Coward, John Mills, and a full star cast. We described the picture last week. Also full supporting programme.

On Sunday, for one day only, Gordon Harker and Alastair Sim are featuring in "Inspector Hornleigh Goes To It," also William Boyd and Margaret Hayes in "In Old Colorado."

"WHISTLING IN DIXIE."

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Whistling in Dixie," which comes to the Palace Theatre for the first three days of next