

WAR-TIME ACTIVITIES, though dictated of course by the War effort, had a distinctly lively social side. Several Bootle children were evacuated here; the older girls attended the Lady Hawkins Grammar School at Kington, and the smaller ones went to our village school, their own teacher living in the village. They soon became incorporated into our village life; in fact, one of the girls eventually married one of our boys, and two of the boys stayed on after the War to work at the farm at which they were billeted.

Several of the R.A.F. officers and men from the nearby aerodrome at Shobdon had their families living or lodging in the village, and Dances were well patronised by both the R.A.F. and personnel from the American Army Camp at Baron's Cross. The Schoolroom was fitted up with black-out, and so the social life of the village was able to carry on uninterrupted.

During the War a great number of special campaigns were organised for local Savings Weeks, and many can remember such events as War Weapons Week, Warships Week, Wings for Victory Week, Salute the Soldier Week, and Thanksgiving Week. A very successful village Savings Group was carried on. At the end of the War events were organised to raise money for a Welcome Home Fund, and so successful were they that each serving man and woman of the parish received a gift of £10.

During the War, too, waste paper was collected by Mrs. Pat Smith and a troupe of young girls, who went out in the evenings with a hand-truck and collected from every house in the Civil Parish. The garage at Staick House was used as a store and for sorting into the different groups: cardboard, newspapers, periodicals and waste. Several tons were collected and sold to a waste-paper merchant in Hereford. While not wishing to belittle the excellence of the salvage drive, those of us who in the course of this history have sought in vain for Parish Magazines and other records have often wished that the workers had not done such a thorough job!

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*Wings for Victory.*



*Another War Effort.*



*Eardisland celebrates  
V.E. Day, 1945.*

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## Eardisland 'Salute the Soldier' Week

(WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT).

TARGET £5,000.

Chairman:  
Mr. F. A. RICHARDS.

Hon. Secretary:  
Mrs. LEVICK.

Hon. Treasurer:  
Mrs. E. P. SMITH.

MAY 13th.—OPENING CEREMONY by Major Viscount Combermere, at War Memorial, at 2.30 p.m. (if wet in Schoolroom).

FANCY DRESS CARNIVAL PARADE, 3 p.m. Classes, Children up to 14 years and Adults. 1, Prettiest. 2, ~~Most Original~~ <sup>BEST CHARACTER</sup>. 3, Most Humorous. 4, Best Group of Characters. 5, Best Decorated Vehicle. Entrance fees: Children, 6d. Adults, 1s. 6d. Entries to Miss M. Davies, Post Office, by May 12th.

Followed by SPORTS in School Meadow (by kind permission of Mr. Humphries).

BABY SHOW. Classes: 1 to 6 months. 6 to 12 months. 1 to 2 years. Entrance fee, 1s. Entries to Miss M. Davies by May 12th.

FINAL TUG-OF-WAR. 8 a-side. Entrance fee, 8s. per team. Prize, £2. Entries to Mr. E. P. Smith by May 12th.

Light Refreshments will be served. Music by Mr. W. Naish's Radiogram.

Programme arranged by the Sports Committee.

MAY 15th.—WHIST DRIVE in Schoolroom. Organised by Home Guard. Whist to commence at 8.30 p.m. Admission, 2s. 6d. (returned in Stamps). Good Prizes.

MAY 17th.—DANCE in Schoolroom. Organised by Women's Institute. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Admission, 2s. 6d. (returned in Stamps). Music by Mr. W. Naish.

MAY 18th.—AUCTION in Schoolroom. 8 p.m.

GIFT AUCTION AND WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION. Articles will be received at the Schoolroom, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Gift Auction—Purchase price returned in full to the Buyer in Savings Certificates. Also White Elephant. Vendor has Certificates. Buyer, the Goods.

MAY 19th.—DANCE in Schoolroom. Organised by War Savings General Committee. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Admission 2s. 6d. (returned in Stamps). Music by Mr. W. Naish.

MAY 20th.—SOCIAL in Schoolroom. Organised by Sports Committee. 8 p.m. Admission 2s. 6d. (returned in Stamps).

We have taken our courage in both hands in fixing our target at £5,000. We appeal for the support of everyone in Eardisland in our great effort. Remember you are not asked to give anything, but to lend your money at good interest. It will help you and your country and "SALUTE THE SOLDIER."

When buying Certificates please bring your Holder's Card.

## POPULATION.

YEAR	ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH	CIVIL PARISH
1851	899	Not known
1861	894	" "
1871	886	" "
1881	781	" "
1891	684	500
1901	679	470
1911	649	508
1921	643	496
1931	596	437
1941	Not known	Not known
1951	597	463
1955	Not known	509 (estimated)

The above table shows that Eardisland, in common with most Herefordshire villages, has suffered a steady decline in population during the last 100 years, a tendency arrested recently by the building of 19 Council houses and an influx of 70 people, 46 of them new to our Parish. Thus the population figures for 1891, 1911 and 1955 are almost the same, though we would point out that we have estimated the figure for 1955 on the basis that the births and deaths balance for the period 1951-55.

Our biggest drop occurred between 1871 and 1881; and it is known that in this period we lost many of our men to work in the coalmines, or in the neighbouring Welsh counties, where the pay was higher for agricultural work, due to the serious shortages of labour there caused by men leaving for the mines. Doubtless, too, there were emigrations, and the Church Magazines of the early Seventies publish most interesting letters from one John Davis, one of our bellringers, who went to Cleveland, Ohio; and many remember the departure of Fred Macklen, late of the Cross, for the U.S.A. around 1900.

The drop of 97 in the period 1881 to 1891 is partly accounted for by the fact that in 1884, under the Divided Parishes Act, "detached parts of Eardisland were amalgamated with Dilwyn and Weobley". But this would not, of course, account fully for such a drop, and no doubt the continued agricultural depression was taking its toll.

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Schoolgirls gather Bluebells for Hospitals.  
1916.



Joyful Feathering!  
1950.



On Patrol.  
1953.

68.  
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OCCUPATIONS - THEN AND NOW.

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OPPOSITE WE GIVE A TABLE with an analysis of Trades and Occupations in our Parish from 1856 till 1941. We would hasten to point out, however, that this is taken from various Directories, which are by no means always accurate; also, it covers the Ecclesiastical Parish (which includes Barewood), whereas our History as far as possible relates to the Civil Parish only. The figures which we now give - for 1955 - relate only to the Civil Parish, and have been prepared by one of our members:

Living and Working in the Civil Parish

Farmers	22
Smallholders	10
Farm labourers	24
Shopkeepers	2
Gardeners	3
Roadmen	2
Fruit Dealer	1
Taxi owner	1
Motor Mechanic	1
Builder and Contractor	1
Builder's Labourer	1
Milk Retailers	2
Architect	1
Laundress	1
Cafe Proprietress	1
Licensed Hotelkeeper (female)	2
Boarding-house Keeper "	1

Living in the Civil Parish but going outside the Parish to work

Farm Labourer	1
Labourer	2
Welder	1
Lorry Driver	4
Egg Packing Station Manager	1
Egg Packing Station Collectors	2
Midlands Electricity Board employees	5
A.A. Patrol	1
Bank employees	2
Bakers	2
Post Office Maintenance	2
Electricians	1
Assistant Surveyor	1
Storesmen, Government supplies	2
Insurance Manager	1
Timber Dealer	1
Commercial representatives	5
Bus driver	1
Shop assistant (female)	1
Clerk (female)	2
Factory worker (female)	1
Hairdresser (female)	1

Taking the picture over the 100 years, it will be seen that the self-employed craftsman has gradually disappeared from our midst, and few were left after 1900. At the same time more



