

9th January, 1945

Miss G. Evans was engaged as a telephone operator. She does not appear to know much about the work, but perhaps she can learn.

G. Evans

11th January, 1945

Mrs. V.A. Jopling, examiner of Metrology Division, was released to-day. Actually she has been away sick for a considerable period, and there seems little prospect of her being able to resume duties.

15th January, 1945

Two new - and attractive - laboratory assistants were engaged to-day. Both are younger editions of families we know already - one is Miss M. Goodyear, daughter of Mrs. Goodyear clerk in Registry, and the other is Miss J. Smith, daughter of one of our constables. A sad event to-day was the death of Mr. A.F. Bridal, one of our clerical staff. He was with Test House at Kidbrooke, and moved over here in September 1940. His health had been failing for some time, and although he seemed to recuperate a little, he took a sudden turn for the worse recently and died in hospital to-day. Our sympathies go to Mrs. Bridal and his two sons.



A. F. Bridal

Signature

16th January, 1945

The Social Club has launched a new venture to-day, and formed a Fencing Section. A number of the members seem to be very keen, so the new section should do well.

17th January, 1945

Another young girl - Miss Audrey Ryder - was engaged as a messenger for Registry duties. She doesn't appear to be very bright, but we may be able to instil some useful knowledge into her.



22nd January, 1945

Mr. J.W. McKay ("Mac") chief examiner was transferred to Aircraft Equipment H.Q. to-day. Many who were at Kidbrooke will remember him, and he will be able to renew old acquaintances. A very popular birthday celebration to-day is that of Miss Barbara Dent, examiner of Aircraft Equipment Division. She seems to have a large circle of friends and all of them wish her the very best.



26th January, 1945

A Lecture was given in the Conference Room this morning by Dr. V.E. Pullin, C.R.I. The subject was "Elementary Science and its application to Inspection", and was attended mainly by staff of Radiological and Non-Destructive Test Sections.

27th January, 1945

The Social Club held a Dance in the Conference Room to-night. Quite a good affair, but no special turns, other than dancing.

29th January, 1945

A new cleaner - Mrs. D.B. Dixon - was engaged to-day.

31st January, 1945

Mr. J.G. Greenstreet was released to-day on grounds of ill-health. He had been in the A.I.D. since 1938, but has been away with a breakdown for many weeks.

2nd February, 1945

Mr. J.H. House, labourer, was discharged to-day. His advancing age has brought with it a general disinclination for work, and he will have to retire.

6th February, 1945

Mrs. N. Alderton, cleaner, resigned to-day.

12th February, 1945

Mr. R.J. Garlick, of Metrology Division, was transferred to Deptford to-day. Nobody will cry we think - except Deptford, possibly.

14th February, 1945

Mr. L.E. Woodcock commenced to-day as a Gauge Fitter.

15th February, 1945

An old colleague returned to-day in the person of Miss M.W. Bradshaw, who comes to Aircraft Equipment Division. Miss B.J. Hicks is also transferred here to-day to Metrology Division, and Mrs. Heppner (formerly Miss Drinkwater) of the same Division resigned.



16th February, 1945

Mrs. D.M. Anderson one of our cleaners (glass washers) resigned to-day.

17th February, 1945

A Social and Dance in Conference Room to-night was organized by the Clerical and Administration Division. There were a number of good turns, including a sketch and burlesque ballet, but the show was not on the scale of the two previous years.

19th February, 1945

Six additions to our staff to-day; Mrs. Aply and Mrs. Nicholson were engaged as cleaners; Mrs. Wallis (wife of Mr. J. Wallis, Jnr.) was engaged for work in the Stores; Mr. Gregory and Mr. Yeates, two examiners were transferred to Aircraft Equipment Division, and Miss Coleman returned to Test House from Nottingham, where she has been stationed recently.



M. Gregory



U.A. Yeates

22nd February, 1945

Mrs. C.H. Older (formerly Miss Hunnings) T.C.III, resigned to-day. She is going to join her husband in the North, where her attention has been largely centred of late.

23rd February, 1945

Mrs. T. Murphy (nee Oldroyd) of Metallic Materials Section resigned to-day.

25th February, 1945

Three new Assistant Examiners were transferred here to-day - to Aircraft Equipment Division. They are Miss Maude, Miss Morris and Miss Nichol - the latter a very Scotch girl whose home is in Edinburgh. Mr. E.E.P. Ritson of Aircraft Equipment H.Q. was transferred away to Coventry, and Mr. K.E. Betts was engaged as a Fitter. The Social Club held an Extraordinary General Meeting to-day - there was much talk and a few decisions.

28th February, 1945

Mr. W.E. Beck of Non Destructive Test Section resigned to-day. We understand he is returning to the School-teaching profession whence he came.

5th March, 1945

Miss J.A. Birch, a fair and rather pretty girl, was transferred to Aircraft Equipment Division to-day. Mrs. F.D. Sheppard was engaged as an additional M/T Driver. She hails from Northwood. Our Assistant Test House Superintendent - Mr. Tordiffe - was transferred to London Area to-day. His health has been poor since coming to Harefield, and he has been away many weeks.

7th March, 1945

Mrs. L. Donne was engaged as a 'labourer' for work in the stores.

10th March, 1945

Mrs. McMahon, cleaner, resigned. She seemed very glad to get her job, and now equally glad to go.

12th March, 1945

Several staff changes to-day - Mr. Fenwick of Materials H.Q. was transferred to Birmingham, one member of our Typing Pool will miss him. Mr. D. Bailey, A.I.L. came to Aircraft Equipment H.Q. while Mr. W.G.A. Thomas of Test House Aircraft Equipment Division was transferred to Leicester. A new cleaner was engaged - Miss M. Titmuss. An attractive girl, though very nervous.

13th March, 1945

Mrs. Bowden, one of our oldest cleaners, re-resigned to-day on health grounds. Mr. Wilton Jones was engaged as a Gauge Maker.

19th March, 1945

To-day sees the advent of a new "A/T.H.S" Mr. S.C. Wybrow who comes from A.I.D. Vickers, Chester, to fill this post. May he have more success in it than his two predecessors. There were two additions to the clerical staff - Mrs. G. Pattenore and Mr. A.E. Evans. Mr. Evans (lately Capt. Evans) has just retired from the Army and has seen much service in India. Another recruit to-day was Mr. J. Jarvis, who comes as an instrument fitter. He has lost a leg and walks with a crutch.



20th March, 1945

Mr. G. Adey was released to-day at his own request. He was one of our most capable electrical fitters, but never seemed very contented.

21st March, 1945

Miss D.V. Meacham, who has seen some previous Government Service in the Post Office, was engaged as a T.C.III to-day.



23rd March, 1945

We had a narrow escape to-day when one of Hitler's latest weapons - the V.2. Rocket - exploded high up in the air not so far away from Harefield. High enough up, fortunately, to be comparatively harmless, but there was a good "bang" which shook us up a bit. Pieces of the projectile were scattered over a wide area, though none fell on our premises.

Mrs. S. Dorizzi, assistant examiner, resigned to-day, and in the opinion of many we have lost the best looking girl on the staff. We had to discharge young Hannen, laboratory assistant of Paint laboratory to-day. We tried our best with him, but he is really quite impossible, though doubtless well-meaning.

24th March, 1945

A Social and Dance was held in the Conference Room to-night. Organized by the Industrial Division it included some quite good skits and sketches.

25th March, 1945

To-day - or to-night rather - is a momentous one for it marks the end of "fire-watching". The danger of air attack is now remote, and this duty (? Pastime) can now be safely discontinued. Born on 12th February 1941, it has been the occasion for more comment and good-humoured jesting than any other aspect of Test House life. In folks' imagination there have been such "goings-on" as in reality there never were. Well, all good (?) things must come to an end sometime.

26th March, 1945

Miss E.M. Sharman, assistant examiner, was transferred to Micro Section to-day. Perhaps she will be Mrs. Dorizzi's successor as the prettiest girl on the staff. Mr. A.G.F.R. White was engaged as a laboratory assistant in the Paint laboratory to-day.

30th March, 1945

Miss M.H. Titmuss, our little girl cleaner, resigned to-day, and Mr. K.E. Betts, Gauge fitter, was discharged.



3rd April, 1945

A local lad, Mr. E.R. Darn, was engaged as a laboratory assistant in Metrology Division to-day.

4th April, 1945

Another local lad, Mr. P.E. Marks, was engaged as a laboratory assistant in Metrology Division.



7th April, 1945

Mr. J. Hieger of Aircraft Equipment H.Q. was transferred to-day to the Control Commission for Germany.

9th April, 1945

Miss Yvonne Donne was engaged as a Trainee typist in H.Q. Typing Pool. A rather striking little girl, who appears to be above average intelligence for her age, she is the daughter of Mrs. Donne who works in the Stores. Miss B.J. Parkin, assistant examiner, was transferred here for duty in Mechanical Test laboratory.



10th April, 1945

Mrs. L. Dodkin was engaged as a cleaner.

11th April, 1945

Mrs. D. Osborne, examiner of Micro Section, resigned to-day.

12th April, 1945

H.Q. Typing Pool had a celebration to-day when Miss Eileen Feasey attained her 21st birthday. We offer her our warmest congratulations.



14th April, 1945

Mrs. Metra of our clerical staff left us to-day, having resigned to join her husband in France. We are sorry to lose her, but wish her "bon voyage".

E. J. Feasey

16th April, 1945

Mr. K.G.A. McCracken, who has been released from the Navy, rejoined us to-day as laboratory assistant in Metrology Division. We shall probably be able to keep him a short time before he is called up again. Mrs. Hatchelar, also of Metrology Division, was transferred to Croydon to-day.

18th April, 1945

Miss D.R. Holloway, examiner of Metrology Division, was given her release to-day. Actually she has been away sick for many weeks and there seems little prospect of her returning.

19th April, 1945

The local branch of the G.S.C.A. held their Annual General Meeting to-night. This branch seems to have revived again after lying more dormant for some months. The Chairman is now Mr. Melotte, and the indefatigable Secretary, Miss Wade.

21st April, 1945

Miss B.A. Stainton, laboratory assistant of Aircraft Equipment Division, resigned to-day. We understand she is entering the nursing profession. Another move took place to-day, when the Gauge Record Office moved from the old house to the huts. This Section has had many moves, but Accounts and Provisioning are now all together under one roof again.

23rd April, 1945

The great event of to-day - or to-night perhaps - is the lifting of the black-out restrictions. Actually the restrictions had been eased to "dim-out" for some weeks, but now at last after nearly six years we can display our lights "naked and unashamed". It will seem almost like a new world. Mrs. I. Davison was engaged as a cleaner to-day, and Mr. R.J. Ward, lately I.O.(G), was transferred to Dudley. He had a reputation for being fond of the ladies - some will be glad and some will be sorry to see him go.



24th April, 1945

A new grade was introduced to-day - that of Paint Sprayer. A man with the uncommon name of Mr. W. Aeslin was engaged for this work. Mrs. Tucker, telephone operator, was discharged to-day. Her health has not been very good of late, and her attendance very irregular.

30th April, 1945

Miss M.C. Browne, examiner in Materials Division, was transferred here to-day. Two more cleaners were engaged, Mrs. I. Cooper and Mrs. D.A. Humphries, as was also Mr. F.A. Venn, another Gauge maker.



1st May, 1945

Mr. D.F. Jones, who has been recently discharged from the Navy, was engaged as an Electrical fitter to-day.

2nd May, 1945

To-day we gathered the bulk of our staff together in the forecourt of Test House, and two group photographs were taken. The first of these was of the clerical staff - including some of H.Q. - and the second was of 294 members of Test House staff of all divisions and grades. The second of these makes a very fine picture, and many of the staff will no doubt want a copy. Mr. R.E. Gedge was engaged as a Gauge fitter.

4th May, 1945

The tiniest figure on our staff - Miss M.G. Turner, assistant examiner - resigned to-day. Diminutive, but correspondingly self-assertive, she hopes to get employment in a Bank we understand.



5th May, 1945

The first of this year's R.S.A. Examinations was held here to-day. This was for typing, and there were 12 candidates. The Social Club held a Dance in the Conference Room to-night, but there were no spectacular turns. The atmosphere to-day is somewhat tense with joyful anticipation, for the enemy is fast tumbling to his doom, and at last victory is in sight. One significant sign to-day has been the erection of a flag staff on the roof of our main building, and if we can get our flag in time

8th May, 1945 V.E.

So the great day has come at last - and our years of "blood, toil, tears and sweat", of ignoble air attacks, of inconvenient fire-watching, of intolerable black-out, of impossible travelling conditions, have culminated in Victory - in Europe anyway. Germany and Italy have both been forced into unconditional surrender and to-day and tomorrow are proclaimed as public holidays. It has been a long, long trail from 3rd September, 1939, but at length we can see the end, and it all seems almost too wonderful to be true. We have procured some floodlights, and to-night the front of our New Test House is lit up for the first time in its history. We got our flag in time, and it flies proudly from our new pole - visible for some way down Harefield Hill. A number of the staff visited Test House in the evening to see the floodlighting, and to-day is certainly a day we shall never forget.

10th May, 1945

Well, we have returned to our normal (?) existence after our two days holiday, and we added one new member to our staff to-day - Miss D.G. Sibley, daughter of one, and sister of another, of our staff, who comes as an additional telephone operator.

D.G. Sibley

12th May, 1945

The second R.S.A. examination was held to-day, this time for shorthand. There were four candidates.

14th May, 1945

To-day our wayward offspring, the Gauge Checking and Storage Unit, which migrated to Goffs Oak in July 1942 and from there went to Edgbaston, Birmingham, returned to the parental roof. The staff returning are Mr. Davenport, A.I.I., Mr. Archer, senior examiner, Mrs. Wyatt, Miss Poole, Mrs. Bunton, and Miss Parsons, examiners. As one child returns, another is born, as we set up a detached store at R.O.F. Walsall, to which goes Mr. Tibbles from Edgbaston. The return of this Department has only one unfortunate consequence - the loss of the Conference Room for social functions. It has been commandeered to house gauge equipment.

452 Davenport

Tibbles

15th May, 1945

K.S. Rawlins

Mr. K.S. Rawlins, who has returned recently from U.S.A. arrived at Materials H.Q. to-day to take up his duties as A.C.I/N.D.T.

16th May, 1945

Though the War in Europe is won, we still need more staff, and Mr. W.F. Allen was engaged as an Instrument Maker, and Mrs F.M. Stanton as a T.C.III.

17th May, 1945

Mrs. Gardiner was engaged as a cleaner. She is the daughter of our old friend Mr. Dudley, and has married recently.

18th May, 1945

We lost one of the popular members of our "Screw Room" to-day, when Miss Broomhead was released to join the W.R.N.S. We had two more resignations to-day - Mrs. H.M. Wyatt, T.C.III, and Mrs. Fane, cleaner.

23rd May, 1945

A good-looking young fellow, Mr. R.H. Durham, was engaged as laboratory assistant in Aircraft Equipment Division.

28th May, 1945

Two examiners were added to our staff on transfer to-day - Mr. J.W. Crisp to Aircraft Equipment Division, and Mr. J.S. Walker to Mechanical Test laboratory. Mr. E.J. Hiles, senior examiner of Aircraft Equipment Div. was transferred to Hayes, while Mrs. P.M. Taylor (who has been married and changed her name from Pixie Pratt) of H.Q. Typing Pool was transferred to M.A.P. H.Q. in London. Mr. B.S. Vivian was engaged as an Electrical fitter.

29th May, 1945

Mrs. Gardiner, the cleaner who only came to us on the 17th, resigned to-day. She is leaving the district to join her husband we believe. Mrs. Humphries, another cleaner, also resigned. Another Test House romance culminated to-day in the wedding of Dr. D.W. Browne and Miss B.M. Cook. We hope they may be very happy together.

31st May, 1945

We had to discharge one of our labourers, Mr. P. McManning to-day. He had been very irregular in attendance and generally unsatisfactory. We are glad to see him go.

1st June, 1945

We had no fewer than six resignations to-day; Mrs. Basson, laboratory assistant in Petrol laboratory who had not been satisfactory; Mrs. Dodkin, cleaner, who has left the district and gone back to London; Mrs. Cousins of Materials H.Q. who is also moving out of the district; Mrs. H. Hannam of the clerical staff who we are sorry to lose; Mr. C.P. Woods, one of our industrials who always seemed discontented with his lot; and Miss Levingston, who was a good driver, but over whose social conduct we will draw a veil. Mr. J.C. Rockley, who has been lately with C.R.I. at Millbank, returns to Test House Radiological Division to-day. We had a pleasant little ceremony in the Chemical laboratory when a presentation was made to Miss Ellen Wilkes and Mr. Ian Cameron, who are adding to our list of Test House double romances by getting married next week. Our heartiest congratulations to them both.

E. L. Wilkes
Signature

2nd June, 1945

Mr. L. Twyford of Radiological Division resigned to-day, and is returning to his pre-war scholastic profession. Mr. W. Jones, Gauge maker, also resigned to-day, and Mr. P. Moss our oldest industrial was discharged. We have to retire him on grounds of age and ill-health.

4th June, 1945

Mrs. M.F. Russell, who is the wife of Mr. A.E. Russell of Mechanical Test laboratory, joined our staff as Librarian. She has been previously engaged in A.I.D. as an examiner.

M.F. Russell

6th June, 1945

We had two resignations to-day when Miss K. Harrison, Librarian, left us to devote her time to business and domestic matters, and Miss Windeler, formerly of our Divisional Training School, left us to return to her home in Somerset. One of the popular members of our clerical staff, Mr. W.J. Knight, was transferred to Leeds to-day, and one new clerk engaged - Mr. E.E. Sanders.

E.E. Sanders

7th June, 1945

Mrs. M.I. Nurse, examiner, of Metrology Division resigned to-day. She is returning to her home in Oxford.

14th June, 1945

Mr. A.C. Cullen, one of our stokers, was released to-day. He is moving out of the district we understand.

16th June, 1945

Mr. D.F. Jones, Electrical fitter, resigned to-day. He found it difficult to adapt himself to Test House work after doing electrical work on one of H.M. Ships.



18th June, 1945

Mr. A.J. Painter was engaged as a labourer.

19th June, 1945

Miss M. Titmuss, cleaner, who was with us a short time in March, was re-engaged to-day on returning to Harefield.

20th June, 1945

Two new labourers were engaged to-day - Mr. W. J. Murphy, who is an unmistakable Irishman, and Mr. W. Sparshott. The latter will be useful in the garden to replace Mr. Douglas who goes to stoking vice Mr. Cullen.

21st June, 1945

Mr. C. Humphrey was engaged as a labourer. Looks a bit of a rough character.

22nd June, 1945

Two resignations to-day were of Mrs. G. Everett, who goes from the Stores, and Miss M. Helliwell who leaves the Textile laboratory.



25th June, 1945

Mr. E. Brinklow was engaged as a labourer, and Mr. G. O. Douglas was transferred to Aircraft Equipment Division as an examiner. What embarrassing initials for anyone to have.

27th June, 1945

Mrs. L. D. Warren, wife of our messenger, was engaged as a labourer for work in the Stores.

28th June, 1945

Mrs. Sheppard, one of our M/T Drivers, resigned to-day, and Mr. F. J. Wilkins, T.C.III. who has been doing clerical work in Metrology Division, also resigned to-day. We expect the Division, and the Test House, will survive.



29th June, 1945

Mr. K. G. McCracken, laboratory assistant, was re-called to the Forces - this time to the Army. We are sorry to lose him, but we knew he would have to go.

30th June, 1945

Our Club made a departure from precedent to-day, when the Annual Sports were held, not in our own grounds, but on the village cricket ground, which is fortunately adjacent to our premises. There is more room there and an excellent programme was arranged. All the usual events were held - running, jumping, walking, slow bicycle, obstacle, putting the weight, and others, as well as a fencing display. Many visitors were attracted and the afternoon was followed by a tea and Dance in our own Canteen. Weather was a bit chilly, but everybody enjoyed themselves, and the day can definitely be written down as a success. Mrs. Hinton (nee Cox) resigned to-day, finding domestic responsibilities plus her job rather too arduous.

2nd July, 1945

E.M. Harper
Quite a number of staff changes to-day; Mr. A.C. Eatwell goes from Materials H.Q. to the Control Commission for Germany; Miss E.M. Harper and Miss A.L. Reynolds, two girl examiners from Scotland, are transferred to Radiological Division; Mr. J.F. Tomlin, examiner, is transferred here to Aircraft Equipment Division; Mrs. Wilson (formerly Miss McCully) of Metrology Dept. resigns; and finally, Miss J.H. Jennings, a charming and apparently gifted girl, is engaged as laboratory assistant in Petrol laboratory.

3rd July, 1945

Another celebration in Physics laboratory to-day to congratulate Miss Pearce, who is 21. "Josie" is deservedly popular with her colleagues and we wish her all the best.

9th July, 1945

Mrs. Anderson, one of our glass washing cleaners, who resigned in March, was re-engaged to-day.

14th July, 1945

Mr. W.H. Scott, senior examiner, who has been with Metrology Division since 1939, resigned to-day, on taking up an appointment with the Admiralty.

16th July, 1945

The C.F.C.A. have organized a series of lunch-hour competitions in the form of "quizzes" and "spelling bees". One of these latter was held to-day and proved very interesting. Mr. J.W. Crisp, examiner, resigned from Aircraft Equipment Division to go to Ministry of Supply. A new lady M/T Driver was engaged - Mrs. Hinton, who hails from Rickmansworth - and she promises to be quite an asset.

21st July, 1945

Miss D.E. Nichol, examiner of Aircraft Equipment Division, resigned to-day. The call of the North was too strong for her, and we understand she returns to her home in Edinburgh.

23rd July, 1945

We heard with regret that Mrs. M. Osborne, T.C. of Materials H.Q., who has been away ill for some months, died to-day.

27th July, 1945

Miss Stewart of H.Q. Typing Pool was transferred to London to-day. We hear she is going to work for U.N.R.R.A. We also understand she is to be married shortly to Mr. W. Bates, one of our Gauge makers.

28th July, 1945

It was felt that the end of fire-watching should be celebrated in a fitting manner, so a goodly number of ex-fire-guards mustered in the Canteen for a party to-night. There were sketched and dancing, and a presentation to Mr. Gibson, who finishes his duties as C.D.O. on Tuesday next.

30th July, 1945

There were three newcomers to Materials H.Q. to-day. Mr. J.W. Barker and Mr. P. Husband, two chief examiners, and Mr. E.E.H. Evans, Inspector.

31st July 1945

Mr. D. Weatherley, of Radiological Division, resigned to-day to return to the scholastic profession. He will be greatly missed both inside and outside the Test House, where he has earned more than a local reputation for his very fine singing. He was one of the most popular members of the staff. Another resignation was that of Mrs. M.M. Brown, T.F.C.III of Provisions Department, and the termination of an office is that of C.D.O. which Mr. Gibson relinquishes from to-day.

1st August, 1945

Mr. Gibson having wound up his duties as C.D.O was re-engaged to-day on to the clerical staff. Another newcomer to the clerical staff was Mrs. S.D. Carroll, who was engaged as a T.C.III.

S.D. Carroll.

2nd August, 1945

We had the painful duty to-day of discharging one of our laboratory assistants of Aircraft Equipment Division for pilfering. Several of our staff had missed articles and suspicion had for some time pointed in one direction. The young lady, who shall remain anonymous, was packed off and lets hope we shall have no more of this kind of thing.

4th August, 1945

Mrs. L.A. Wallis, from the Stores, wife of Mr. Wallis, Jnr, of the clerical staff, resigned to-day owing to her domestic responsibilities.

8th August, 1945

Two additions to our Technical staff to-day were Miss Buckley, examiner, who comes to the Textile Laboratory, and Miss Simms, examiner, who comes to Radiological Division. Both come here on transfer.

9th August, 1945

We have had some "double weddings" already, but to-day we have a "double twenty-first". Miss Edna Davis of Physics laboratory and Miss Patricia Bartholomew of Typing Pool, both celebrate their coming of age to-day. Both are very popular members of our staff, and there are due rejoicings in their respective spheres, with cakes, presents, and good wishes all round.



10th August, 1945

Mrs. G. Pattemore, the clerk with a peculiar twang in her voice, resigned to-day on leaving the district.

11th August, 1945

Mrs. M.K.J. Phillips, examiner of Radiological Division, resigned to-day. She was in A.I.D. before her marriage and returned to take up her job in the War, but is now going to devote her time to domestic responsibilities.

13th August, 1945

Mr. J.J. Morrison, senior examiner, was transferred to Aircraft Equipment H.Q. to-day, though we believe only temporarily. A former employee re-appeared to-day in the person of our old friend Mrs. Page, who has been re-engaged as a messenger.

15th August, 1945 V.J.

After an amazing crop of rumour and counter rumour, and almost terrifying suspense, the second of our great Victories has come, much sooner than we had dared to hope. Japan has agreed to unconditional surrender, and to-day and tomorrow are proclaimed officially as V.J. days and Public Holidays. Up goes our flag and out came our floodlights again - this time the floodlighting is more elaborate, and takes in the old house as well as the new building. The lights attract many sightseers at night, but all (or nearly all) of our staff are away making "whoopee", and all celebrating after their own fashion. Six years, all but seventeen days, and we are once again free of war - this time for ever, we hope.

Edna Davis

18th August, 1945

Another of our "doubles" today, when the wedding took place at Harefield Church of Monsieur Schoulal, and Miss Audrey Nicholas. Both are popular members of the Non Metallic Materials Division, and a presentation has been made to them. May they both have long life and happiness.

A Schoulal

20th August, 1945

Mr. R.L. Glew, examiner of Radiological Division, was transferred to-day to North East London Aircraft Equipment District. He wanted to stay on X-Ray work, but his health unfortunately makes this impossible.

21st August, 1945

Mrs. Goatman, T.C.III in Pay Office, resigned to-day. The office will seem quite quiet without her - she was inclined to be loquacious on the topic of her own family and domestic affairs.



22nd August, 1945

We held our first (since 1939) "Peace time" Garden Party to-night. There were games, side shows, and dancing, and all was well arranged except the weather, which necessitated the early part of the evening being spent in the Canteen. However, the rain cleared off in time for a display of country dancing round the maypole by twelve of our most charming young ladies. The culminating event of the evening was a burlesque Pageant, depicting the coming of A.I.D. to Harefield. This was really very funny, and with floodlights and fairy lights among the trees, the whole scene was most attractive.

24th August, 1945

Miss J.P. Knott, T.C. of our Accounts Section resigned to-day. She has been a great asset to our work, and we are sorry to see her go.



W.S. Anderson

27th August, 1945

Miss Williamson, who has been Superintendent of our Typing Pool since March 1943, was transferred back to Manchester to-day at her own request. Mr. W.S. Anderson was engaged as T.C.III for work on gauge records, and Miss Phyllis Bevan, a local girl from Harefield school, was engaged as an additional messenger. Mr. W.C. Dyer, A.I.1, reported for duty with Materials H.Q. on transfer.

31st August, 1945

We finish this month with four resignations from our technical staff. One of them is Mr. S.W. Harris (popularly known as "Steve") senior examiner in Metrology Division, who was one of our 'originals' of 10.10.38. He will be missed not only by the Department, but also by the Club, where he has been a leading figure in the Sports Section. Mr. J.H. Hawes, senior examiner of Aircraft Equipment Division, and Monsieur A. Schoulal of Non Metallic Materials, both resigned to take up commercial appointments, and Miss S.M.V. Green left us to resume her studies at College.

1st September, 1945

Mr. J.J. Morrison, who came recently to Aircraft Equipment H.Q., was transferred away again to London to-day. We also had three resignations; Mr. N. Mundy of Materials H.Q. and Mr. T.G. Earp of Non Metallic Materials, who both go to resume their former careers as school-teachers, and Mrs. Bunton of Metrology Division, who resigns on grounds of ill-health.

3rd September, 1945

Miss P. Davis, our bulkiest (and one of our most pleasant) personalities was transferred to H.A.P. H.Q. in London to-day, and Mr. R.W. Siddle, senior examiner, was transferred here. Both these moves are in Aircraft Equipment Division.

4th September, 1945

Miss Parkin of Mechanical Test laboratory is 21 to-day. Our congratulations and best wishes go to her.



5th September, 1945

Mrs. K.E. Henley, who came to see us once before when she was Miss Rahilly, was engaged as T.C.III for Accounts Section. Mr. F.A. Vonn, one of our gauge makers resigned - he finds the travelling distance too great.

8th September, 1945

Mr. G.W. Clark, one of our most useful storemen resigned to-day, to go back to his "fishy" business, and another resignation was Miss G.T. Prosser, assistant examiner, who goes to look after her brother.



12th September, 1945

Miss W. Scott of Non Metallic Materials, one of our few women senior examiners, resigned to-day. She proceeds to a job more suitable to her health. The Metallic Analysis laboratory in which she was engaged had to be evacuated some time ago owing to the fumes which made working conditions very unpleasant. Work on new fume cupboards is still proceeding, and when completed the staff can return there from the General Chemical laboratory in which they have been housed temporarily.

15th September, 1945

Another member of our Non Metallic Materials staff resigned to-day - Mrs. Cameron (formerly Miss Ellen Wilkes). She intends to devote her time to domestic affairs. Mr. B.S. Vivian, electrical fitter, also resigned to-day.

17th September, 1945

There was a change of Inspectors in Aircraft Equipment H.Q. to-day, when Mr. H.W. Baker arrived and Mr. R. Lennox, B.E.M., was transferred to London. Another change, also in Aircraft Equipment H.Q., is the resignation of Mrs. L. Tuck, temporary clerk.

30th September, 1945

Mrs. M. Hale, T.C.III of Accounts Section, resigned to-day. We have a suspicion that the call of Denham Film Studios is too strong for her to resist.

31st September, 1945

Miss E.M. Sharman of Micro Section is "21 on the 21st". All good wishes to her. We had two resignations to-day, Mr. F.C. Collins, our Foreman of Stores who has been with us since 1941, and Mr. J.W. Howe, one of our labourers who is recalled to the Building Trade.

22nd September, 1945

Four more resignations to-day. Miss E.I. Carter (with her little dog "Teeny") goes from H.Q. Typing Pool; Mrs. Greenstreet (nee Webb) goes from Aircraft Equipment Division; Miss Hailard goes from Metrology Division, and Mr. J.E. Wallis Jnr. from Provisions Office. If this goes on, we shall soon have no staff left.

24th September, 1945

G. Ryder

Mr. D. Bailey, Inspector, was transferred from Aircraft Equipment H.Q. to Andover to-day, and on Test House side we had three engagements, and three more resignations. Mr. D.M.V. Syre comes into the Department as examiner in Non Metallic Materials, Miss G.O. Ryder as T.C.III, also Mrs. A. Rorison, labourer to the Stores. Mr. F.W. Masham of Radar Section resigns, as does also Mrs. Stanton of the Clerical staff, and Mr. C.H. Flint, Gauge maker.

25th September, 1945

Mr. J.E. Pyne, senior examiner, comes to Aircraft Equipment Division to-day on transfer.

28th September, 1945

Miss T.J. Searchfield of Paint laboratory and Miss E.J. Ward, clerk in Aircraft Equipment H.Q. resigned to-day. We are not sure that anybody will cry over these two resignations.

29th September, 1945

We lose three of our inhabitants to-day, when Mr. K.F. Treen resigns from Aircraft Equipment H.Q.; Mr. K. Smith resigns from Radar Section, and Miss M. Orr is transferred from H.Q. Typing Pool back to Ireland.



1st October, 1945

Two of our former staff re-appeared to-day after a lengthy interval. Mr. W.L. Harper of Radiological Division comes back as Inspector in Charge of that Division, and Mr. E. Binfield, who was with us for a short time in 1940, was engaged again as a labourer. Miss C.E. Beard, T.F.C. was transferred from Millbank for duties with A.C.I./N.D.T., while Mr. P.T. Skeggs also of Materials H.Q. was transferred away to Manchester. A new laboratory assistant was engaged for Non Metallic Materials. She is Miss Daphne Page, sister of "Dick", who was one of our popular lads, and who still looks in to see us when home on leave.

2nd October, 1945

Mr. A.H. Allen, senior examiner, was transferred here for duty in Radar Section.

A.H. Allen

3rd October, 1945

Good wishes to Miss Yorke of Metrology Division who is 21 to-day. A new labourer was engaged for Stores to-day - his name is Mr. R.E. Crump, which seems to suit him exactly. There was an excellent demonstration of table tennis in the Canteen to-night, arranged by the Sports Section of the Club. We were honoured by a visit from some international players, and their play was really very wonderful. The play was followed by a Dance, and the whole evening was a great success.

5th October, 1945

We discharged Mr. C. Humphrey, labourer, from the Stores to-day. He had been wanting his release, and was about the most indolent chap we have had for some time. His departure is mutually satisfactory.

6th October, 1945

Another R.S.A. Typing Examination was held to-day. Four candidates presented themselves hopefully. A pleasing little ceremony, though not without its tinge of regret, was held in the Canteen to-day, when a presentation was made to "Gladys" (Miss Gladys Peverill). Gladys has been on our Canteen staff for some time and her cheerful naivety and winsome manner has endeared her to many of the staff. She is leaving us now to get married, and all our good wishes go with her.



8th October, 1945.

Two old acquaintances were transferred back here to-day - Miss G.M. Heard of Aircraft Equipment Division, and Mr. J.F. Hinsley of Radiological Section. Mr. J.R. Press, Draughtsman of I.Arm.C. H.Q., was transferred away to Wiltshire.



C. P. Heard

10th October, 1945

To compensate in some measure for our many resignations of late, we recruited three new staff. These were Messrs H.C. Brown and W.A. Stone, Gauge makers, and Miss A.A. Rogers, who comes as laboratory assistant in Physics laboratory.

15th October, 1945

An interesting little group photograph was taken to-day of our transport - five vehicles drawn up with T.H.S. and the transport staff. We lost two examiners by resignation to-day - Miss V.D. Smith of Metrology Division and Mrs. Lowe, who came to us as Miss E. Holmes, but has married, and goes now to join her husband. We had to discharge Mr. C. Hare, one of our labourers, but he is getting on in age and not very sorry to go.

15th October, 1945

Two new laboratory assistants were engaged to-day for Micro and Radiological Sections. They are Miss Cowdery and (another) Miss Sylvia Smith. We are also very pleased to welcome our friend Mr. D.C. Pointing back to us on his demobilisation from the Air Force. He will find great changes since 1940, but all who remember him are glad at his return.

18th October, 1945

We lost one of our clerical staff by resignation to-day - Mrs. M.H. Whyte of Moor Park. We are sorry to lose her - she has done a very useful job in the Gauge Record Office, though domestic responsibilities have kept her away many weeks this year.

20th October, 1945

Mr. H.W. Parker, senior examiner of the Chemical Laboratory, resigned to-day. He has been with Test House since Kidbrooke days. Mr. J.F. Tomlin, examiner of Aircraft Equipment Division, also resigned to-day. The R.S.A. examination for shorthand was held in the Typing Pool to-day. There were only three candidates.



23rd October, 1945

To-day has been a busy one, for we have had a visit from a large party of Press representatives. They came from a number of technical and scientific journals and made a comprehensive tour of the laboratories. Photographs of the interior of many of the rooms have been provided for them, and we gave them quite a good lunch, so we hope for a favourable write up in their next issues.

26th October, 1945

Miss Mary Moore, the brightest and most efficient of our telephone operators, resigned to-day, to take up a job nearer her home. We shall miss her, and she will not be easily replaced.

27th October, 1945

We discharged Mrs. I. Cooper, one of the cleaners, for absenteeism.

31st October, 1945

Aircraft Equipment Division lost two members to-day by the resignation of Miss J.A. Birch, assistant examiner, and Miss M. Grimsdell, examiner. Miss Grimsdell - "Mollie" - has been with us since 1940, and will be missed by many friends.

1st November, 1945

Mr. A.S. Brown of Chalfont was engaged as a T.C.III, and will take up duties with Materials H.Q. Mr. H. Lamb one of our gauge makers resigned, and an old friend was transferred back here - none other than Miss M. Phillip, formerly of Training School, who comes back to the Textile Laboratory.

2nd November, 1945

M. M. Phillip
Signature

A resignation to-day from Non Metallic Materials was that of Miss G.M. James, who returns to Wales to resume her studies at college.



3rd November, 1945

The Club held a dance in the Canteen to-night. quite an enjoyable little affair - as good as it seems possible for dances in the Canteen to be.

5th November, 1945

Frank

There were many changes in Materials H.Q. staff to-day. A new Section - dealing with Flying Clothing - was transferred here, bringing Mr. Franks, Mr. Hull, Mr. Marsh, and Mr. White. Mr. E.E.H. Evans, Inspector, was transferred to Gloucester, while Mr. Lindley goes to London Area. Mrs. Brinklow was engaged as a cleaner (part-time).

Hull

Thos. White

7th November, 1945

Mr. J. Jarvis, Instrument fitter, resigned to-day.

8th November, 1945

Two changes in our Pay Office staff to-day: Mr. S.G. Ketchen, A.S.C.I, who has been with us since September 1941, was transferred to Southern Area, H.Q. Reading, and Mr. G. Redgrave, A.S.C.III, lately of Eastern Area, comes here on transfer. One of our former colleagues Mr. C.R. Trippett, who has been "globe trotting" (or rather "globe flying") to Australia etc. returns to Materials H.Q. to-day.

10th November, 1945

We had three resignations to-day, one in each of our classes - technical, clerical and industrial. Miss M.C. Browne, examiner, Mrs. C.L. Shipway, T.C.III, and Miss M.H. Titmus, cleaner. The last-named is leaving to get married, and has been the recipient of a presentation from her fellow-cleaners.



12th November, 1945

This is a time of coming and going, not only of individuals, but of whole divisions, and to-day sees the return to Leatherhead of Aircraft Equipment H.Q. So at a stroke we lose some twenty-two or twenty-three staff, but many of them will be glad to get back to Leatherhead. A transfer to Materials H.Q. to-day was Mr. R.T. Young, A.I.1, who has lately returned from the United States, and a new A.S.C.1. comes to Pay Office to replace Mr. Ketchen - he is Mr. T.W. O'Malley. We also welcome a new Superintendent of Typists to-day. She is Miss K.S. McVeigh, and comes to replace Miss Williamson who left us in August, since which time Mrs. Bridges has been "carrying-on".

14th November, 1945

The first of the Reconstruction examinations was held to-day, when a number of our clerical staff attended at the College of Preceptors and other centres in London to sit for Examination for possible establishment.

16th November, 1945

Miss W. Buckley, examiner of Textile laboratory, resigned to-day.

19th November, 1945

Mr. T.H. Slawson, just demobbed from the Royal Navy, was engaged as an electrical fitter, and Miss Stephanie Smith, who comes from Gerrards Cross, was engaged as an M/T Driver. Mr. J.R. Duggle, junior draughtsman from I.Arm.(Gauges) was discharged to-day. He has absented himself without valid reason, so his discharge becomes automatic.



20th November, 1945

Mr. A.C. Reeves, H.C.O., who came to us from Leatherhead in January 1944, was transferred to London to-day to serve in another branch of the Ministry. Mr. H.E. Bradshaw of Materials H.Q. who unfortunately had to leave us through illness some months ago, is now placed on the retired list.

21st November, 1945

Mrs. G.M. Hinton, one of our most efficient M/T Drivers resigned to-day. We are sorry to see her go, but fortunately we have Miss Smith to replace her. Mr. J. Jarman, A.I.l, who was here for a short time a year or two ago, was transferred to Materials H.Q. to-day.

J. Jarman

23rd November, 1945

Mrs. A. Sams, of our Gauge Record Office, resigned to-day.



24th November, 1945

Mr. Franks of Materials H.Q. who only came to us a few weeks ago, was transferred to Millbank to-day. Mr. J.R. Hind, A.I.l, resigned to-day, and we hear he is taking up an appointment in Africa. There were two other resignations from Test House staff to-day - Miss A.K. Beater of Physics laboratory and Miss J.L. Jennings of Aircraft Equipment Division.



26th November, 1945

Miss S. Maude, assistant examiner of Aircraft Equipment Division, resigned to-day.

27th November, 1945

Mr. R. Rix, a newcomer to the Department was engaged as an examiner in Non Metallic Materials Division - Chemical laboratory.

R. Rix

30th November, 1945

This month has surely broken all records for the number of resignations, and we finish it with three more: Miss Coleman, examiner, who was with us at Kidbrooke, Miss Woolley of Aircraft Equipment Division also goes to-day, and finally we lose Mr. H. Lawrence, senior examiner, who has been lately attached to Materials H.Q.

1st December, 1945

This month opens as last month ended - with a resignation. This time it is young Keybourn of Metrology Division, who has received his calling up papers.

3rd December, 1945

Mr. A.E. Barber was engaged as a Gauge maker. Two "Barbers" in one shop - sounds like an overstaffed hairdressers! Mr. C.U.W. Perkins, T.C.III, who has been at Watford District, was transferred here to-day for duty in Accounts section.

4th December, 1945

One of the best-known and most popular members of our staff left us to-day when Mrs. E.A. Clarke, Shorthand-typist, handed in her resignation. Mrs. Clarke has been acting as Secretary to T.H.S. for some years, and is still known to many of the older staff as "Sym" - (her maiden name Miss Symmonds). We hear that a happy event may be expected next year, and Mrs. Clarke takes with her the good wishes of us all.

10th December, 1945

Mrs. A. Rorison, labourer in the Stores, resigned to-day. We understand she is removing from the district.

11th December, 1945

Mrs. H.C. Picton, typist, resigned to-day. Her witty - if not always very refined - conversation will be missed in the Typing Pool.

1958

PERKINS - On Jan. 12, 1958 suddenly
Charles Oliver Winfield (III), of 111
Oakwood Avenue, Gibby, Here

DEATH

16th December, 1945

Mr. L.G. Tottle, senior examiner, and Mr. J.S. Walker, examiner, both of Metallic Materials, resigned to-day. Mr. Tottle will be specially missed for he has done gallant work for some time as a member of the Canteen Committee, and we are sorry to lose him.



17th December, 1945

Miss Madeline Bowyer, one of the members of H.Q. Typing Pool, was transferred to Millbank to-day, and Mr. H.M. Kemp, recently come to Materials H.Q., was transferred to Midland Area Birmingham.

18th December, 1945

Mr. L. Iveson, one of our labourers, died to-day. He had been away ill for some months, poor fellow, and had been in and out of hospital, though always hoping to recover and come back to work. He was a willing worker, but physically very weak.

22nd December, 1945

Mrs. Arthrell, laboratory assistant in Radiological Division, resigned to-day. She has been with us since July 1942, and we shall certainly miss her.

29th December, 1945

Several of the laboratories and offices have been tastefully decorated for their first peacetime Christmas - the Drawing Office and "Conditioning Room" surpassed themselves - but now it is all over, and we have returned to the humdrum of everyday life. Mr. H. Goode, A.S.A.C., who we met early in our record, and who was called up in 1939, is demobbed from the R.A.F., and returns to take up clerical duties again to-day.

Goode

31st December, 1945

So we come to the last day of another year, and as we take farewell of 1945 we also take farewell of three of our staff; Mr. Ian Cameron, who resigns to take up teaching, Miss Jean Davis of H.Q. Typing Pool, who leaves on transfer, and Mr. A.F. Warner of Materials H.Q., who retires after thirty years service with A.I.D. To all these three, we wish good luck, and as we welcome 1946, so we welcome four newcomers; Mr. W.H. Griffin, Electrical fitter, Mr. J.P. Pigney, Gauge maker, and Mr. C.O.G. Hodge, labourer, together with Mr. A. Thompson, examiner of Aircraft Equipment Division, who was with us some two or three years ago, and returns on transfer.

The Club held a New Years Eve Social and Dance in the Canteen to-night. By means of decorations and coloured lights the room had been made to look more inviting than usual, while "eats", "drinks", and games combined to make an enjoyable evening. As midnight struck, we joined hands for "Auld Lang Syne" and opened the doors to 'let in the New Year'. Nineteen hundred and forty-six - what will it hold for Test House?

1st January, 1946

Above the entrance to one of the laboratories someone has hung a placard with the inscription "A Merry Christmas, and a redundant New Year". 1945 was the year of victory - is 1946 to be the year of redundancy? We wonder. Anyway, we make a start in that direction by losing three of our clerical staff. The resignation of Mrs. Henley, who has actually been away for some weeks, takes effect from to-day, and we also lose Mr. Pointing, who only returned to us recently from the R.A.F. He is taking up an appointment on the Control Commission, and proceeds to Germany. Lastly, we say goodbye to our old friend Mr. Sensier, who goes into retirement, after fifty years civil and military service. We had a little ceremony in the office to-night when a presentation was made him by his colleagues in the clerical staff. Mr. A.R. Dewar of Materials H.Q. goes to-day on transfer to West London District, and Mr. L.S. Ibbotson, A.I.1, comes to H.Q. from Birmingham.

L.S. Ibbotson

D.W. Sensier

Signature

End January 1946

Another resignation which takes effect from to-day is that of Mrs Page, our lady messenger. Domestic responsibilities compel her to remain at home, and in her we lose - for the second time - a conscientious worker.

4th January, 1946

Each entry in our record so far this year has told of resignations, and to-day there are two more - Miss Pat Harrison and Miss J.D. Carpenter, two laboratory assistants. Miss Carpenter we are specially sorry to lose, but we understand she is taking a post in this district, so we may continue to see her occasionally.



7th January, 1946

We sustain a loss, and make a gain to-day; the loss is Miss Margaret Stoddart, laboratory assistant of Aircraft Equipment Division, who resigns to enter the teaching profession, and the gain is Miss Vera Stagg, daughter of one of our Constables, who joins our clerical staff.



8th January, 1946

* Our latest Sylvia Smith (laboratory assistant of Radiological Division), resigns to-day after being with us since October last.

One of our "fire-watching" teams held a re-union to-night, and went to a show in town. The show chosen was "Follow the Girls", but it should not be thought that there was any significance in the choice of such a title - it would not convey anything to the average Test House fire-watcher, of course!

14th January, 1946

Mr. P.W.G. Rossiter was engaged as an Instrument Maker to-day.

* see Corrigenda, Note 8.

19th January, 1946

We finish this week with yet two more resignations - Mr. W.G. Hille, examiner, goes from Aircraft Equipment Division, and Mr. W.A. Bates from the Gauge Workshop.



21st January, 1946

Again to-day, one comes and one goes - the "comer" is Mrs. M. Godfrey, who comes to us as Charge-hand telephone operator to replace Miss Brown-Leslie; while the "goer" is no less a personage than Mr. W.T. Waite, A.S.C.I., who has been promoted to C.A.&A., and transferred to Bournemouth. He will certainly be missed at Harefield.

23rd January, 1946

To-day's resignation was of Mr. W.A. Stone, Gauge-maker.

24th January, 1946

We had another presentation ceremony in the Canteen, this time to Miss Brown-Leslie, who is leaving us to-day. She is getting married on Saturday week, and all our good wishes go with her.

28th January, 1946

A change in Materials H.Q. to-day is the transfer of Mr. H.G.L. Wilkinson of I.N.M.3., who goes to Cardiff District.

30th January, 1946

We have already Mrs. Donne working in the Stores, and Miss Donne in the Typing Pool, and to-day a third member of the family was engaged - Mr. K.R. Donne, who comes as a laboratory assistant in Radiological Division. We welcome back another of our old friends to-day in the person of Mr. F.G. Hurrell, who returns to the Clerical Staff on demobilisation. He has been away since June 1940.



F/LT D. W. ARBEN AND MISS D. M. BROWN-LESLIE

Wearing a gown of white satin, beaded head-dress, with embroidered veil, and carrying a sheaf of lilies-of-the-valley and purple heather, Miss D. M. Brown-Leslie, younger daughter of Mrs. M. Brown-Leslie, of Hillingdon, was married at St. John's Church, Hillingdon, on Saturday, to F/Lt. D. W. Arben, youngest son of Mrs. C. Arben, of Seven Kings, Essex. The Rev. A. M. Stubbard officiated.

The bride, who was given away by Mr. A. T. Arben, was attended by her two friends, Miss M. Moore and Miss V. Marks, in powder blue lace with head-dresses of lilies and blue heathers. They had silver dress clips as gifts of the bridegroom and carried sheafs of anemones. Mr. S. S. Arben was best man.

The service was fully choral and the hymns were "O, Father, Love" and "Love Divine."

A reception was held at St. Bernadette's Hall, Long-junc, where 60 guests were entertained. Later the couple left for a honeymoon at Falmouth, Cornwall, the bride travelling in a large dress and coat, with hat accessories.

31st January, 1946

The final day of this month sees four more resignations, three from the technical staff, and one from the typing. Mr. Colin Lequesne, whose bluff genial personality we shall miss, goes from Materials H.Q., Miss Rayner and Miss Netley, two examiners go from Non-Metallic Materials and Metrology respectively, while Miss M. Laker, our blonde typist, resigns from the Typing Pool.



1st February, 1946

Our oldest Constable, Mr. E.E. Wright has been absent from duty since Christmas, so his discharge has become automatic, and takes effect from to-day. He is getting on in years, so will probably not wish to return anyway.

2nd February, 1946

The Club held a Dance and Entertainment in the Canteen to-night. The chief feature of the evening was a mock trial - "The Trial of Len-Leese". This was exceptionally well done, and reflects great credit on Mr. Marson who wrote most of the script, and on all who took part. It was really one of the funniest things we have seen for a long time.

4th February, 1946

To-day sees a change from our long list of resignations, and we welcome four new members to our staff - at least, three are new, and one is an old friend who has been with us before. He is Mr. J.J.K. Rhodes who returns to Non-Metallic Materials as A.I.I. The newcomers are Miss E.D. Brown, who joins the clerical staff for duty in Pay Office; Mr. W. Burton, who is engaged as an Instrument Maker; and finally, Mrs. G. Pinner, a cleaner, who comes from Hillingdon.

9th February, 1946

Mr. W.G.D. Carpenter, examiner from Chemical Laboratory, resigned to-day.



to have

11th February, 1946

Another messenger was engaged to-day to replace Mrs. Page. She is Mrs. M. Slawson, wife of our Electrical Fitter.

15th February, 1946

We lose two of our cleaners by resignation to-day - Mrs. Abley and Mrs. Nicholson, also one of our most popular examiners from the photographic section - Miss Pauline Jarvis. Pauline is leaving to get married, and we made her a small presentation to mark the occasion. A new constable was engaged to-day - Mr. T. Robinson, who comes to replace Constable Wright.

16th February, 1946

Miss J.W. Cockhill, laboratory assistant from Micro Section, resigned to-day.

20th February, 1946

Mr. H.K. Lloyd, our dapper little examiner from Micro Section, resigned to-day, and Mr. T.B. Drussel, A.S.C.I. was transferred here from Abingdon to replace Mr. Pointing.

21st February, 1946

To-day we welcome back an old friend, Mr. B.V. Wright, packer, who was with us prior to his calling up in April 1942. He has seen service in various parts of the world since then, and he is a useful man whom we are glad to have back.

23rd February, 1946

We had two more resignations to-day - one was a re-resignation as Mrs. Collett, cleaner, leaves on grounds of ill-health, as she has done before. Mr. R.E. George from the Gauge Workshop also resigned to-day.



J.B. Drussel



25th February, 1946

Our strength goes up by two to-day, as we have two transfers to our technical staff. One of them is Mr. L. Bevan, who has been with us before, and the other is Mr. C.W. Roberts a senior examiner, who comes as a replacement for Mr. Tottle.

26th February, 1946

A new-comer here to-day is Mr. J. Schofield, who is transferred from Scotland to replace Mr. Royce in Non-Destructive Test Section. Another of our Constables resigned to-day. He is Mr. F.C. Marlow who proposes to set up as a boot and shoe repairer, and has obtained his release on those grounds. He is an "old soldier" in many senses.

28th February, 1946

The Non-Destructive Test Section is seeing many changes, and loses two of its staff to-day on resignation. They are Mr. H. Royce from Test House side, and Mr. F.J. Hinsley from H.Q. It will seem quiet without Mr. Hinsley here to ask us all questions.



1st March, 1946

This month opens with the resignation of Mr. S.A. Whybrow, one of our electrical fitters. He has been with us some three years, and is the Vice-chairman of the industrial Works Committee. We wish him good luck as he returns, we understand, to his old employers. We also lose a member of Materials H.Q. staff to-day, in the person of Mr. J. Jackson, A.I.I., who is transferred to de Havillands, Hatfield.

2nd March, 1946

We had some mild excitement this morning, when a 60' R.A.F. trailer got itself firmly wedged in our main gateway for upwards of an hour or more. It completely blocked the main road, and traffic piled up on both sides for some distance. It is said that the combined language of exasperated bus and car drivers eventually freed the vehicle. Looks as though our gates will have to be widened, or set even farther back.

Arron

4th March, 1946

There are more changes in the staff of Materials H.Q. to-day, as Mr. Arron comes to Non-Destructive Test Section to replace Mr. Hinsley, and Mr. Skeggs who was with us between August 1944 and October 1945, returns to the H.Q. parental roof. Mr. R.T. Young, who has been here since his return from the States in November last, is transferred to-day to South Western Area.

7th March, 1946

Mrs. D.V. Owen, who joined our clerical staff in March last year as Miss Meacham, resigned to-day to devote her time to domestic duties.

9th March, 1946

An entertainment was arranged by members of the Club to-night, entitled "The Road to Hawaii". This was really an excellent show, complete with musicians, dancing girls in native costume, palm tree scenery and funny gags. There was general dancing, and the evening was probably the best that has yet been staged in the Canteen.

11th March, 1946

A newcomer to our ranks to-day was Mr. F. Morgan, who comes as Foreman of Stores. This post has been vacant for some months, and we are very glad to have a replacement. Mr. V.H.H. Nelson, A.S.C.I., who has just returned from Washington, U.S.A., was posted here to-day, and Mr. A.E. Herbert, who was with us prior to his calling up in 1941, was re-instated to-day as a semi-skilled labourer, on demobilisation. The A.G.M. of the Club was held in the Canteen to-night. Tributes were paid to our President, Mr. Barlow, who announced that he would be retiring before another Annual Meeting.

Meacham

19th March, 1946

Mr. E.C. Fry, one of our instrument makers, resigned to-day - a highly-skilled craftsman, but temperamental.



22nd March, 1946

We made our first industrial discharge to-day on grounds of redundancy, when Mr. P.J. Galvin was released. He has been replaced by the re-instatement of Mr. A.E. Herbert.

25th March, 1946

Mrs. Liddell, cleaner, resigned to-day. She has been with us since 1942, and we are sorry to lose her. Few of our staffing problems have proved so difficult of solution as the problem of maintaining an adequate staff of cleaners, and we really seem to be in a worse plight now than at any time since 1938. Office and laboratory cleaning is not a popular pastime in Harefield.

28th March, 1946

Time marches on, and we are reminded that it is exactly a year ago to-day since the last air-raid alarm was sounded in Test House. In this connection we are now permitted to disclose that the first alarm we had was on 16th August, 1940, and from that date to the 28th March, 1945 we had a total of 850. The first flying-bomb to drop near here (and one of the first in England) was on 13th June, 1944, and the greatest number of alarms in any one day was on 4th August, 1944, when we had eight. The longest duration of any one alarm was on 9th October, 1944, when we had one lasting 9 hours 9 minutes. Well - "it makes yer think"

29th March, 1946

Marjorie d'Ambra, temporary typist, resigned.



30th March, 1946

Calendar years may end on the 31st of December, but "Financial years", and "Civil Service years" terminate in March, so we are really at the finish of our year to-day. With the end of our year comes an event of some moment to us - the end of Ministry of Aircraft Production, which is being amalgamated with Ministry of Supply. What changes this move may bring to Test House we can, as yet, only surmise.

With the last working day of March (tomorrow is Sunday) we take farewell of two more of our staff, Miss Clark, examiner of Aircraft Equipment Division, who is to be married shortly, and Mr. Redgrave of Pay Office who transfers away to Yeovil after a comparatively short sojourn with us here. To both of these we wish good luck in their new spheres.

We hear that a number of old friends are returning to the folds of Test House next month - but these moves are really outside our limits of survey. We must resist the temptation to peer into the future, much as we should like to do so. It is well that we can't see very far, but perhaps the months ahead may be bright with possibilities of good for most of us. We can only hope



EPILOGUE

This is not the end, of course. It is the end of the war period, but Test House goes on - and goes on we hope from strength to strength. We are too near the happenings of the last seven years to see them in their true perspective, and history must judge the value of the part we have played in these world-shattering events.

A few folk there have been who have come to Test House, stayed a short while, and gone away disgruntled, but they have been very much in the minority, and the great majority of the staff will agree "It's been good fun while it lasted". We might have done better, perhaps - we might easily have done worse.

As we write, there are rumours of many changes coming (there are always rumours in Test House) and none of us knows who will go and who will stay, but we believe Test House has a great future. So long as men fly, and so long as that flying must be made as safe as is humanly possible, so long will the functions of A.I.D. Test House be of great importance.

Some, and eventually all, who are here now will sooner or later be here no more, but some, at any rate will look back and say - "They were a grand crowd at Test House in those days".

MODUS VIVENDI UTILE DULCE