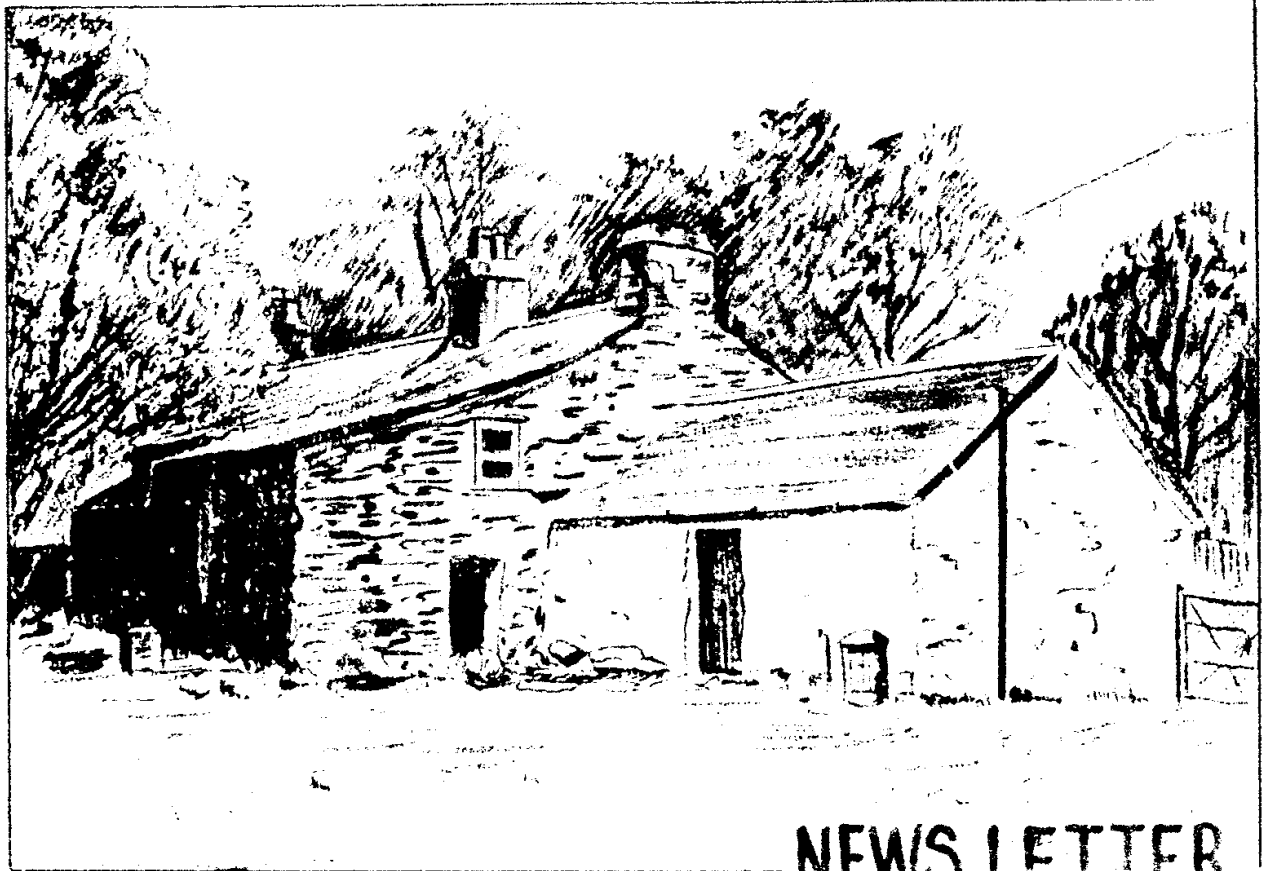


The **Ceunant** Mountaineering *ULUB*



NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER, 1962.

E D I T O R I A L

What an absolutely foul summer this has been!

From mountain regions all over Britain come reports of washed-out camps and days spent hut bound as the rain pours down. On several occasions in the Lake District a boat would have been a useful addition to the climber's equipment.

Newcomers to mountaineering tend to be regaled with dismal stories of bad weather in the hills, even in a normal season. Of course, nothing is worse than those days of hopeless continuous rain when all view is obscured by low, solid cloud, but it's not always as bad as that. The best time to see the mountains is on a showery day, when an ever-changing picture is presented by the play of sunshine and storm around distant peaks. One of the great experiences in mountaineering is to see the mist which has followed you all day suddenly break, revealing far-away valleys flecked with fleeting sunlight, and storm-girdled peaks peeping through to the sky. Such moments make up for many wettings and disappointments.

The weather is always to be respected, to be taken note of, and occasionally to be given in to. But it may be fine tomorrow - and if it's raining in the valley it may be fine on top. And in any case, we have got wet before. The weather may restrict us, but it can never stop us.

So forward the mountaineers - and if the summer has been a bigger washout than usual, let us hope for some decent snow and ice conditions later on to make up for it!

There is only one thing wrong with this Club - the members do not write enough!

To mark the fourth anniversary of the Newsletter, we have been doing some research into the build up of the various editions (fifteen in all, including this one) since the first in the autumn of 1958. We find that, of the current club membership, only about twenty have ever written anything for

PAGE THREE

publication, and of those, few have repeated the experiment a second time. In fact, the bulk of Newsletter contributions over the whole period of its publication has come from five or six members - and two of those have been editors, who on occasion have had to fill in three-quarters of the magazine themselves because of shortage of material.

This publication is NOT an official organ of the Committee. It is open to contributions from any member who has anything interesting to say about mountains or mountaineering.

There should be plenty to write about. We could do with some tales about mountain holidays - particularly from the Alpinists! Then what about meet reports? All we want are a few notes about who went, what was done, the weather, etc. Out of ninety or so meets held over the last four years, less than one third have been reported in these pages. Bear in mind that this magazine is read by other clubs besides our own, and it would be a pity if, by keeping our deeds quiet, we were to convey a false impression of inactivity.

The purpose of the Newsletter is to provide news. And the most interesting news is that which comes from Club members.

If you have done any interesting routes, let us know. If you have any comments or criticisms, let us have them.

It's up to you. -----

Except where otherwise stated, the opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the Editor, and are not necessarily endorsed by the Committee.

Publications Editor: I. D. Corbett,
420, Shirley Road,
Birmingham, 27.

PAGE FOUR

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CLUB NEWS

Please note that a
CLUB PARTY AND DANCE
will be held on
THURSDAY 8th NOVEMBER
at

THE CROWN HOTEL - HILL STREET

Tickets 5/-
X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

Committee Notice

Attention is again drawn to the rules regarding the use of Tyn Lon by non-members.

Non-members may only stay at the hut if they are the invited guests of full members. They then become 'day-members' for the period of their visit.

Prospective members may not invite guests.

Members must advise the Hut Warden, Bill Yale, in advance if they wish to take guests to Tyn Lon.

Apart from as laid down above, non-members may only stay at the hut with the prior authorisation of the Committee.

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner has been scheduled for Saturday 9th March 1963, and will again be held at the Dolbadarn Hotel, Llanberis.

CLIMBERS AT LARGE

It was Wednesday evening. In the dining room of The Cambridge a hushed and attentive audience listened as two gentlemen from the St. John Ambulance Brigade gave a demonstration of artificial respiration.

From the landing outside came the well known sounds of a latecomer tentatively turning the door knob. The door slid open a few inches, and the lofty head of a respected club member peered in through the gap. He took one look at the lecturer and hastily withdrew, and the door closed again.

After a few seconds startled inaction, one of the first aid men strode to the door and flung it open.

'Come in, sir!' he invited.

The member poked his head in again, and had a closer look at the uniformed figure. His face brightened.

'Sorry,' he said, 'I thought it was the police!'

Another of our members, heading for the hills in a mini-seven one windy Friday midnight, came over a hump on the Pen-y-Gwryd road at high speed and ran slap into the North end of a southbound cow.

The beast was apparently not much concerned about the encounter, and wandered amiably off. The vehicle, however, was materially damaged and one of the wing mirrors had vanished.

If anyone finds the remains of a Desmo mirror in his rump steak, will he please return it to Mr. P.D. Hay.

A member of this Club, being possessed of two vehicles (we nearly said motor cars), but with insufficient wheels to enable both to run at the same time, wishes to

sell one of them (with wheels).

Chances of a bargain are virtually ruled out by the owner's insistence that the proceeds shall be sufficient for the purchase of two scrap wheels in order to bring the complement of the remaining vehicle up to four. This arrangement will not allow for spare wheels on either vehicle, but since they are not likely to go very far anyway this is not considered important.

The writer will pass on any offers to the owner, who would prefer to remain anonymous.

EXTRACT OF EXAM PAPER - B--, 2nd year (failed)
by A. J. F-wl-r

1. Q. When buying or hiring skis, what should one look for?
 - A. (a) That there are two,
(b) That one end is pointed and the other flat,
(c) That they are not both left (right) footed,
(d) That pointed end curves away from ground, not into same.

x x x x x x
2. Q. Describe the following, and their uses.
 - (a) Crampons, (b) Ice-axe, (c) Descendour.
 - A. (a) Crampons - used preferably in pairs - i.e. one on each foot (monopods excluded), being a number of spikes fixed to a metal frame and pointing down. (Believed that the FAKIR C. Club of Delhi uses them in reverse). Used on steep slopes of ice or hard snow - instead of boots.
 - (b) Ice-axe - an instrument made entirely of wood except for the ends, which are steel. Used (i) for cutting steps in ice, (ii) as a belay, (iii) as a flag-staff (vide Buhl), (iv) as an encouragement to a hesitant leader (point first).
 - (c) Descendour - A French shaped piece of alloy which replaces the back, one arm and one thigh of the

PAGE SEVEN

climber when roping down. Used on many 'stiff
Diffs' of great length, e.g. Brassinton Direct,
Baslow Buttress, Aiguilles de Tryfan, etc.

x x x x x x

3. Q. Name and describe ten hazards encountered on Alpine
climbs.

- A. (i) Snow.
(ii) Ice.
(iii) Ice on snow.
(iv) Snow on Ice.
(v) Névé (snow which can't make up it's mind whether
it's ice or not).
(vi) Crevasses (holes in a glacier which were not
there in the morning)
(vii) Bergschrund (a crevasse with one side of ice
and the other of rock).
(viii) Other parties above one's own.
(ix) Avalanches (snow moving in opposite direction
to ascending climber).
(x) Cornice (A snow capped ridge with a hangover).

x x x x x x

4. Q. What is the maximum safe run out from a second on
120 feet of No.4 rope, with No runners?

- A. Approximately 6 feet (personal opinion).

x x x x x x

MEET REPORTS

3000's meet, July 6-8th by Mike King

The 3000's and pre-alpine meet for 1962 was remarkable
for the rapid changes of mind made by various members who
couldn't decide in which of the two 'delights' to participate.
W. Yale, Esq., had reported a vast horde who desired to
accompany him on the big walk a few weeks prior to the meet,
but on publication of my route for the pre-alpine activities,
the majority 'changed sides'. However, they must have had
second thoughts, for in the event only two people started

PAGE EIGHT

up Bryants Gully, the first stage of the pre-alpine course, late in the morning. The remainder were at that time spread out over the Glyders in various attitudes of despair, trying to keep up with the Yale bird.

I feel that in future the 3000's meet should be divorced from the pre-alpine training.

On Saturday morning, my alarm clock burst out at 4 a.m. causing such a flapping of the fabric and poles as to send me flying from the King 'bug bag' and tent in one swoop. Recovering, I brewed and delivered tea (?) to those who, the night before, had given me their names for the 'big walk'.

As sustenance and preparation for the first section were proceeding, an extraordinary number of people who I didn't even know were on the meet at all appeared from all parts of Tyn Lon, obviously preparing to sally forth. I gave up wondering about this, however, and despatched the stalwarts on their way to the foot of the Llanberis track. How we missed Pen Ceunant for the start of this venture!

The undoubted success of this meet, incidentally, was due in no minor measure to the highly competent catering and recovery service provided by John Daffern and Mary Kahn. Their effectiveness as provenders of tea and encouragement was essential to the performance of those taking part.

Around 8.30 a.m. a somewhat heated Bill Yale rushed into Tyn Lon, ate and drank and rushed out again, muttering something about being 'behind'. Behind what was not clear; at any rate he was certainly not behind the others, who drifted in later for breakfast, one at a time.

John Daffern, methodical as ever, clocked everyone out from Tyn Lon on to the Glyder section.

At 9.30 a.m. - four of the younger members having been presumed lost on the Snowdon section (they turned up later and did some hard climbing in the Pass to recover!) - I set off along the bottom of Elidyr Fawr, round the shoulder of Foel Goch to Y Garn. I was moving fast (with boots full

PAGE NINE

of water, having fallen into a river) but it amazed me how long the Elidyr section must take, since far from catching anyone up, as intended, I was caught up by Bill Yale, steaming mightily, on the west side of Tryfan. The descent from Glyder Fach and the south side of Tryfan had been purgatory for me, and the crowd on the latter summit gave me curious stares as I went past in a lather of sweat.

After gloriously refreshing mugs of piping hot, sweet tea from the rear of the Daffern waggon at Glan Dena, plus sandwiches and other delicacies, W. Yale, who has a built-in engine, was itching to proceed. He wanted to get inside twelve hours for the fourteen mountains, and as his speed was obviously going to be superior to mine, it was agreed that he should forge ahead when we started on the Carnedds.. We set out at 3 p.m., and pretty soon he disappeared from my view on the ridge above Llyn Lloer and I was left alone with my weariness. I was rapidly deteriorating and my feet, due to the wetting earlier in the day, were very sore. However, persistence had its reward, and as the summit of Pen-yr-Oleu-Wen levelled out I felt much better, though I was more dehydrated than I should have been having only come from Y Garn.

Near the final slope of Carnedd Llewelyn, I heard the pitter-patter of rubber shod feet, and a gentleman in khaki shorts came running up, enquiring if I had seen his support party! I begged his pardon and he repeated the request. It appeared he was after the record, having left Snowdon at 1.30 p.m., but was a 'bit behind'!!

The traverse across to Yr Elen annoyd me intensely, but was eventually over and I kept going to Foel Goch, where I removed my boots and socks to assuage my throbbing 'plates'. The grass in the vicinity immediately turned blue and died. However, I reached Foel Fras, where Bill was waiting, looking as if he had just strolled up from Aber. He told me of a khaki clad gentleman who had sprinted up to the cairn, looked at his watch, said 'six and a half hours - damn!', wrote a message (presumably for the missing support party), and disappeared towards the sea!

PAGE TEN

The stroll down to John, his van, tea and rest took longer than the thirty minutes quoted on the route card. This remarkable time was done by Messrs. Yale (as if you didn't know) and John Daffern on the first club 3000's meet. They must have had power assisted legs. The particularly long time taken on the present occasion, however, was largely due to my inability to stand up!

Whilst imbibing at an Aber public house, Messrs. Briston, Jones (Basil) and Buckmaster came in, and Dave Batson arrived shortly after dark.

Despite not doing all the peaks, I had a gloriously satisfying day, a day which I know had been enjoyed doubly by the successful ones, and by all who took part and supported the meet.

The following completed the walk:

Bill Yale	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours.
Basil Jones	
Tim Briston	
Dave Batson	

The following started from Tyn Lon:

John Buckmaster	(11 peaks)
Mike King	(10 peaks)

Eight peaks were completed by John Pettet, Robin Russell and Morris Bradley.

DON WHILLANS LECTURE 29th August. by Mike King.

On the morning of Thursday, 30th August, we read in The Birmingham Post of 'a small bronzed man in white plimsolls with no outward sign of distinction', who had 'held an overflow audience of 300 enthralled for nearly two hours at the Birmingham and Midland Institute.'

This entry of nearly sixty lines in the newspaper was

PAGE ELEVEN

a rewarding culmination of a successful venture for which our thanks must go to Jack Goff of the B.A.I. who did the bulk of the spadework in finalising this mountaineering lecture.

Whillan's talk was outstanding. He gave a factual and humorous description of the first ascent of The Central Pillar of Freney on Mont Blanc, the attempt on the North Wall of the Eiger with Bonington, and the ascent of the Diretissima route on the Cima Grande. His pictures, particularly those of the latter climb, were excellent.

Many people had to be turned away at the door, and it is incumbent upon me to express our sincere apologies to those who expected to be able to buy tickets at the door. The plain fact is that the tickets were over-sold.

We express our thanks to all the clubs which gave us such magnificent support, to the B.B.C. for announcing the lecture, to The Birmingham Post and Mail for sending a reporter, to Mike Kerby, and to all the others who helped on the night to make this occasion such a resounding success.

The story of the Stannage meet on 30th September was very sad indeed. At 9 a.m. on the Sunday morning the rain was streaming down out of a leaden sky, and of over twenty people who put their names down the previous Wednesday, only four turned up at the Hall of Memory.

The four held a little conference in the downpour, and told each other how little shelter there was at Stannage, and how pointless it would be to drive all that way, with only a partial complement of passengers, merely in order to drive back again in the rain.

By 9.30 no one else had arrived, so the conference moved round to Ratcliffe place and invested threepence in a phone call to the meteorological office. This institution informed them that the rain would die out in the afternoon and would be replaced by showers and thunderstorms.

PAGE TWELVE

The dejection of the four increased. They went back to the H.o.M., and as there was still no one else in sight, the meet was called off and they all went home.

An hour later the rain stopped and the sun shone brilliantly all afternoon.

Needless to say, three bold people who went direct from home to Stannage (mainly for the ride) enjoyed perfect weather and dry rocks.

Curse all Met. offices!

The meet which was scheduled to be held at Edale on the weekend of August 31st - September 2nd was cancelled because of lack of support.

B.M.C. News

Proposed Snowdon Nature Reserve

The Nature Conservancy for Wales have announced that they have opened negotiations with the National Park authorities and the owners of the high land containing the Snowdon Horseshoe with a view to declaring appropriate parts of it to be nature reserves.

The Conservancy is in consultation with the B.M.C. through the North Wales Committee, and they emphasise that it is not proposed to alter the present position as regards access, and there is no reason to suppose that climbing and walking will be interfered with, any more than they are in the Idwal nature reserve.

Nothing has yet been decided, and a full public statement will be made before any proposals are implemented as the Conservancy are most anxious for public opinion to have an opportunity for expressing itself.

The North Wales Committee of the B.M.C. will be kept

PAGE THIRTEEN

informed, and will keep watch on the climbing and mountaineering interests.

Restriction of Access to the Peak District

As usual at this time of the year, public access to certain areas of Kinder, Bleaklow and Langsett Moors is restricted until the end of the grouse shooting season (10th December).

A list of shooting dates and areas affected is available for perusal by any member who may wish to visit the region.

New Club Hut

The Grampian Club of Dundee have announced the opening of their climbing hut, Inbhirfhaolain, Glen Etive, which is available to members of B.M.C. member clubs.

Towers of Paine Expedition

In November an expedition is setting out for Chilean Patagonia with the object of attempting the first ascent of the famous 'Towers of Paine'. These fantastic granite towers, nearly 10,000 ft. high, offer severe technical difficulties comparable with the hardest routes in the Alps, in a remote corner of the world notorious for the savagery of its weather.

The party is led by Barry Page, and includes Don Whillans, Chris Bonington, Derek Walker, Vic Bray and Keith Cox.

In order to help raise funds, the expedition are offering picture postcards featuring the Towers of Paine, which will be signed by all members of the party and sent from the base camp in the Paine massif.

If you would like to receive a card, send 7/6d (or more),

PAGE FOURTEEN

with your name and address, to:

South Patagonia Survey Expedition,
20, Kings Road,
Radipole,
Weymouth,
Dorset.

Cheques payable to 'South Patagonia Survey Expedition II.
1962/63.'

VORARLBERG, AUSTRIA
by Dick Berger

If you would like an independent mountaineering holiday, a little off the beaten track, and which is not too strenuous, Bitzau may suit you. (This is no advert, but a short account of what my wife and I found).

We stayed at a small village inn, Gasthof Kreuz, which catered well for our creature comforts. Food and beer were first rate; we two were given enough for three and were offered second helpings, and our packed lunches would have fed four easily. To give an idea of prices, the inn charged 13/6 per day, including three meals; a good red wine was 3/6d a pint, and spirits were about 9d a gc. This makes drinking cheap sport for 'off' days. There are also three swimming pools and several trout streams in the area, one of which flows in front of the inn.

The local mountains are not hard enough for real 'tigers', but yield about a dozen nice ascents to around 7000 ft. average. For long days, there are several really extensive ridge walks of a good 'difficult' standard. Some care has to be taken in route finding since some of the tracks are not too well defined in the upland meadows. The lower slopes are heavily forested, and present solid limestone crags of around 400 ft. which are simply asking for the rockclimber to put up some virgin pegging routes.

Our journey was by night tourist flight to Zurich

PAGE FIFTEEN

(Swissair do the best meals). Then we took a train to Konstanz, (the first leaves at 4.30 a.m.) from where a steamer took us on a gentle journey along the lake to Bregenz, whence a narrow gauge railway goes to Bitzau. If you are in a hurry, long distance buses go from Zurich to Feldkirch in about four hours, or express trains in three hours. Bus services in the area are frequent. Those who do not feel like sightseeing can use the Vorarlberg express direct from Calais.

On the way back we stayed at Bludenz and climbed the Schesaplana. Olive gave an involuntary display of a sitting glissade at great speed in frilly panties which was greatly enjoyed by present company. It was concluded that nylon improves the velocity of descent.

We found that there are some advantages in avoiding the main tourist areas; it was cheaper, less crowded and provided an excellent holiday.

LIST OF MEMBERS

As at 30th September 1962

M. BANNISTER	Cheshire County Training College, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent.
MISS M.J. BARNACLE	[REDACTED] Coventry.
D. BATSON	[REDACTED] Birmingham, 31.
MR. AND MRS. R. BEARMAN	[REDACTED] Birmingham, 31.
R. BERGER	[REDACTED] Aldridge, Staffs.

PAGE SIXTEEN

J.B. BRENNAN

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 23.

J. BRIDGENS

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 28.

T. BRISTON

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 33.

J. BUCKMASTER

[REDACTED]
West Hagley,
Worcs.

R. CADWALLADER

Geneva. May be contacted via
the Hon. Secretary.

MR. AND MRS. R. CLOSE

[REDACTED]
Sutton Coldfield.

M. E. CONNELLY

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 16.

C.R. COLEMAN

c/o Monsanto Chemicals Ltd.,
Fulmer,
Bucks.

I.D. CORBETT

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 27.

R. COXON

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 14.

A.M. DAFFERN

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 29.

J. DAFFERN

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 9.

H. DALLEY

[REDACTED]
Solihull.

PAGE SEVENTEEN

A.L. DAVIES

[REDACTED]
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P.A. HAMMOND

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MISS G. HOWARTH

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B. JONES

[REDACTED]
West Bromwich.

W.R. JONES

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H. JUPP

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PAGE EIGHTEEN

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M.R. KERBY

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Walsall.

V.D. LONG

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Solihull.

M. MANSER

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D. MARPOLE

[REDACTED],
Solihull.

W. MARTIN

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 27.

I.Y. MASON

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c/o. Post Office,
Rhoslefain,
Towyn,
Merioneth.

A.J. MYNETTE

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 14.

MR. AND MRS. H. O'NEILL

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Woking,
Surrey.

MR. AND MRS. B. PEARCE

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PAGE NINETEEN

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F.J. PRICE

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P. RATCLIFFE

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R.B. REEVES

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 32.

MR. AND MRS. K. REYNOLDS

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 24.

K. RICE-JONES

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 12.

H.J. RICHARDS

[REDACTED]
Dudley,
Worcs.

MISS K. STAFFORD

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 11.

D. STOKES

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 29.

S.A. STOREY

[REDACTED]
Sutton Coldfield.

MISS J. THOMPSON

[REDACTED]
Macclesfield,
Cheshire.

MISS J. UPTON

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 29.

MR. AND MRS. J. URWIN

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 30.

PAGE TWENTY

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Solihull.

MR. AND MRS. E. WEBSTER

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[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 30.

MR. AND MRS. P. WILLAN

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, 27.

W.H. YALE

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Tipton,
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MISS V.P. YARDLEY

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