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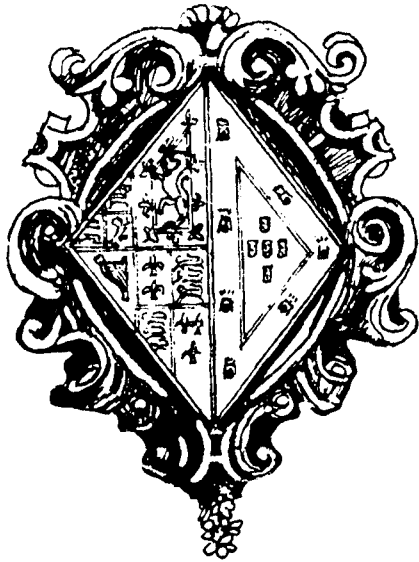
THE REVEREND FULFORD WILLIAMS

The Reverend Henry Fulford Williams served as Church of England Chaplain at Lisbon from 1937 to 1945. Some years later his wife, Violet Fulford Williams, wrote and privately published a Memoir entitled "Under my Patchwork Quilt", in which she reproduced notes made by her husband. An extract from his notes is reproduced below, as a testimony to interesting times and as an act of respect to my predecessor. A copy of Mrs Fulford Williams' book is kept in the Library. Michael Bullock.

The British Community Effort

In 1939 the Lisbon British community was about a thousand strong. As a whole it was a working community, consisting of representatives of British and local firms, teachers of English, and a few retired people, most of whom had spent their working lives in Lisbon, or were widows of such workers. We had some people of wealth, and many rather poor. The community maintained its own institutions, churches, hospital, poor fund, etc., with no outside help. These facts must be remembered in any assessment of the war-effort of the community. The war effort took two forms: personal service and money aid. Most of the younger people went home to various services. The list, admittedly incomplete, later drawn up by the BCC, had sixty names, and the losses and decorations gained were a very high percentage of this number. Older people, and some girls, served in various local British offices, Shipping Control, Repatriation, Press, and various Embassy departments, where their knowledge of Portuguese and local conditions was valuable. Colonel Charles, the Assistant Military Attaché, Mr Mitchell in the Shipping Office, Mrs Johnson and Miss Cannell in the Repatriation Office, were perhaps the most important of these.

The money side was for the support of various British war efforts. The Red Cross began work here in September 1939 and the next big effort in September 1940 was the Lisbon Spitfire Fund. It aimed at GBP 10,000 and got GBP 15,000! One of its efforts was a



ball at Montserrat, Sintra. This the police sanctioned, if tickets were sold only to British or Allied nationals, but an irresponsible person gave tickets to the hall porter of the Palace Hotel at Estoril, who offered one to the Italian Minister. He, not without reason, was furious, and complained to the International Police, who at the last moment stopped the ball, and were rather unpleasant at a "violation of neutrality". The hint was enough, and for the rest of the war great care was taken to avoid objects that might give offence. This effort showed the need for a central organising body, and in March 1941 the British Community Council for Lisbon came into being. It had twenty-one members. In March 1943, as people complained the Council was too old and unrepresentative, a fresh election was held; nineteen of the original body were re-elected... Dick Canby, Joe Lyons and I headed the poll, with about 350 votes each. The first chairman was Shervington (Shell) until July 1942 when he was shot down in a BOAC plane going to England. Joe Lyons (Shell) succeeded him to January 1945 when he went to Argentina, and then Ramsey (Barton Mayhew) followed until the war ended. Dick Canby, Ramsey, and Miss Miller were each secretary in turn, and Sidney Ingham was the treasurer throughout. All these offices involved a great deal of hard work...

I served on the Emergency, Prisoners-of-War, Records and Publications sub-committees, and was secretary of the last-named.

The British Hospital

This began war-work on September 6th 1939, and continued to the end. It had at the start twelve beds, and as a local British institution it was not always easy to reconcile the claims of subscribers with those of the war-effort. As secretary, I had to adjust subscribers' feelings as diplomatically as possible, not always an easy task. In June 1940 many patients who had collapsed came to the Hospital, and one such gave us GBP 100 for a three days' stay. The war cases were mainly from the Merchant Navy, with a few Royal Navy casualties, two army, many from the RAF, and three batches of men from the United States Navy. Nationalities varied; one visitor talked Polish and Modern Greek on the same visit, and I was often

glad I had not forgotten my Hindustani. The various allied embassies and legations sent in several patients, and BOAC also supplied a good many. Accommodation became a problem; to supply this, and increase the nurses' chance of sleep, they were moved to the top flat of the parsonage from December 1942 to the end of the war. By the efforts of the chairman (the late Sir Henry King, Consul General), an extra wing of three small rooms was built in 1943. The staff, of a matron and two nurses, was increased by one nurse in 1941; the Ministry of Labour at first refused this as not "war-work", so the Committee decided all non-subscribers must be refused admission. The Service Attachés took up the question, and another nurse arrived. To support the claim, a return was sent showing that from January 1941 to October 1944 the Services and Merchant Navy accounted for 133 in- and nearly a thousand out-patients.

Doctor David Russell and Miss Bennett, the matron, served throughout the war, and worked tirelessly.

Church and Cemetery

Services were on the whole well-attended, but at the end of the war the fall in British numbers, longer hours of work, and other causes led to some decline. In the refugee period numbers were above the average. The war Intercession Days were all observed, and a memorial service for the Duke of Kent was held in September 1943, attended by the Diplomatic Corps and Doctor Salazar. The latter also attended the funeral of the United States Minister, the Honourable Bert Fish, in August 1943, and the memorial service for President F. Roosevelt in April 1945. He told a friend he thought the Church of England service rather depressing. As almost his only experience was funerals, it is perhaps not to be wondered at.

On the evening of D Day, June 6th 1944, there was a service, and on May 15th 1945, a crowded thanksgiving service for VE Day. On Sunday May 19th, Doctor Salazar and Portuguese representatives joined with the representatives of the Allied Nations in a very real Thanksgiving Service in state.

Other, less official, war services were held. Thus, early in 1940 a memorial service for a Russian officer in the French Air Force; an intercession for a safe voyage in June 1941 for those sailing next day in the *Avoceta*; and memorial services were held for T.M. Shervington, and Leslie Howard, after the shooting down of the Royal Netherlands Air Liner in the Bay of Biscay on July 1st 1943. Memorial services were also held for all those lost in the *Golden Horn* (BOAC) in January 1943 and the *Yankee Clipper* (US) on February 23rd, 1943.

The British Cemetery in Lisbon, begun 1717, was expanded in the Peninsular War, and the registers have over one thousand British soldiers' and sailors' names, through all wars from 1760 to 1918. About a hundred funerals were directly connected with World War II, many from the Merchant Navy and the RAF. One RN officer, one RE and one RA were buried, and numerous refugees.

A rather curious case was Doctor Dubisch-Penthier, late Polish Minister in Lisbon, in January 1945. He was Minister from 1937 to 1943, but on General Sikorski's death he went to London as Polish Foreign Minister. He was a Lutheran, and just before he left us he told me how much he would like to be buried in the Cemetery. His mother developed cancer in Lisbon, whence he returned on his last illness. The problem of space was to some extent solved by making two long terraces with two hundred spaces on the side of the hill by the church.

British Schools in Lisbon

Lisbon had in 1939 two British schools. Miss Denise Lester, who despite bad health carried on throughout the war, managed Queen Elizabeth's School, a kindergarten. It grew from some forty pupils in 1939 to two hundred, mainly Portuguese, but it was useful for many small refugees, and children of various legations. St Julian's School, Carcavelos, is intended for older British children. Before 1939 it took boys to fourteen, and girls to eighteen, and had about fifty pupils. By a contract with the British Council in 1938 it opened a Portuguese side.

At the outbreak of war it was difficult to get boys back to England, and with the war refugee influx, children of all ages were stranded in Lisbon, and numbers rose to the peak of two hundred and fifty. This made the staff and accommodation position serious. The latter was accentuated in September 1941 by a Portuguese educational order that boys and girls must be taught separately. This was found impossible to work in Portuguese village schools, and was withdrawn after about a year, but it created a difficult situation. Some refugees were engaged as teachers, and others employed. I took a form myself for two terms. Later the British Council sent out two masters. The mixed languages (twenty-two were spoken at one time in the school), the variation of ages, backgrounds, moral and social standards, made all discipline hard at times, and the school came in for much- often very ill-informed - criticism. One often made was that the school was English in name, but Portuguese was the spoken language. It did not seem to occur to critics that a Polish child speaking to a Norwegian in Portugal, tended to use that language as the *lingua franca* rather than English.

The buildings designed for eighty Eastern Telegraph Company students on the college basis of a bed-sitting room each, were very difficult to adapt for a mixed school with ages from six to eighteen. On the whole, the school did its work well, especially on the side of education, many Higher and School Certificates and Portuguese Liceu Certificates being gained between 1940 and 1945. The staff got the best from its material. Mrs Bucknall, chairman of the Governors, and F.E. Smith, the secretary, who were the prime movers in founding the school, handled the problems of organization and finance as they arose with energy and devotion, if not always with universal approval. Miss Hall, 1939-45, Miss Warren, 1940-45, and Miss Lacey were perhaps the most prominent staff members.