

LAST SUNDAY'S EXERCISE.

Mudford and Highcliffe C.D. Test.

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Pursuing their policy of holding comprehensive exercises for testing out the Civil Defence Services in all parts of the Borough, the authorities staged a mock air raid on Mudford and Highcliffe for Sunday morning last.

All services were called into practice including, in addition to Wardens, Report Centre, Rescue and Medical personnel, the Police, the Fire Guard and the Emergency Information Officer's loud speaker car.

The incidents had been planned to test the ingenuity of personnel in dealing with the unexpected. It is understood that a number of useful lessons were learned from the exercise.

Those who plan these exercises endeavour to tie Civil Defence up in knots---as indeed it would be the delight of the enemy to do. But members of the services have shown that they are not so easily tied up. The Billeting Officer, Miss Underwood, figured in one of the amusing incidents last Sunday. Dressed in ragged clothes and suitably made up, her "label" denoted that she was suffering from "loss of memory with no visible means of identification." The rather delicate point to be decided was what to do with the lady. She was taken twice to a First Aid Post, but each time escaped. She happened to be "at large" when the C.D. Controller, Councillor T. Markham, and a Regional Officer were nearby watching the exercise. The Controller confessed afterwards that not only had he failed to recognise Miss Underwood, but that he had actually pointed her out to the officer with the comment, "look at that poor woman." Poor Miss Underwood was captured again, placed in a police car and finally taken to hospital by P.C. Councillor Cobb.

At another incident a rescue vehicle was purposely presumed to have broken down.

Not only were actual bombs and pieces of bomb used to practice Wardens in the recognition of different types; but actual bombed sites chosen for some of the incidents added realism to the test. At one incident casualties had to be rescued through a very small tunnel constructed with an awkward bend in it.

Bombs dropped included high explosives, incendiaries, anti-personnel and unexploded ones of various types.

One bomb was presumed to have fallen near a surface shelter causing damage to an underground sewer pump. The sewage disposal Engineer, Mr. A. C. McCarthy, as well as his assistant, were both "injured" at this incident.

Several Wardens Posts were considered to be put out of action, necessitating the setting up of secondary posts. Some "damage" was done in Stanpit---with casualties trapped in a grocer's shop.

In Highcliffe there was a compact collection of incidents caused by incendiaries, high explosives, anti-personnel and unexploded bombs which damaged houses, shops, a hotel, a water main, gas and electricity services and the telephone. There were casualties, including killed, seriously and slightly injured, a rescue lorry broke down and, as if that were not enough, Miss Underwood was thrown in with neither memory nor visible means of identification.

And to add yet further variety, one person was presumed to have jumped off the top of a high building right in the middle of the air raid!

The incidents were umpired by members of Lymington and New Milton Civil Defence and N.F.S., and by street fire captains from other areas. Troops assisted in the presentation of some of the incidents.