

South Wales **GI** Brides Magazine

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A War Time Wedding in Barry

COVER PICTURE:

The Wedding of Harold Yates and Doreen Kenefick

@ St Helens Church, Barry

19th October 1945

Right to left:

Molly Reid, friend of the bride; Harold Yates; Doreen Kenefick; Norman James, the best man, and two others!



1983

Harold and Doreen Yates

and family outside St Helen's Church, Barry

More on Harold and Doreen next time!

But...

**WHATEVER HAPPENED TO
MAY, JUNE AND JULY'S EDITIONS OF
the SWGIBM?**

A word of explanation...

At the end of March my father, John Booker, was taken into hospital. Sadly, he passed away April 18th and was buried May 5th. This extended experience/ event has, naturally, pre-occupied yours truly for the past few months so that my mind has been elsewhere. However, it seems that it is time to get back into the groove and to re-start this little magazine...

Anyways, it is good to be back!

Glenn Booker

This month:

- **The Yates – Kenefick** wedding in **Barry** in 1945. Pictures this month hopefully more info to follow in next issue....
- **The Le Masters – Rugg** marriage – a great story from Newport to the Land of Lincoln...
- **Pontypridd marriages...** **SOME MORE** GI Brides from a small south Wales town and district...

THE LATE DOREEN LEMASTERS

FROM NEWPORT, SOUTH WALES, TO PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

“Cliff was stationed at Malpas in Newport at that time in 1944¹. I met him at St Woolos Church Hall where the US Army was having a dance and social evening. My friend Olga’s parents were involved with the church and asked us both if we would help serving refreshments, which we did. The dance continued until 11pm and I had arranged for Olga to come home with me for the night. As the last bus also left at 11pm we would be doing the short walk on foot. However, the captain insisted on assigning us a jeep for the ride home. Cliff and his friend were the drivers of the jeep. My family was having a get-together the following weekend and I invited them and Olga, of course, to join us, which they did.

My mother had a soft spot for “the poor boys so far from home!” and invited them to call in at any time for “a chat, a cozy fire and a meal.” The result being that Cliff seemed to be there often. We did date, but on the evenings that I told him, sorry, I had other plans, I would still find him at home with my family when I returned. As it happened the family did not keep early nights and sometimes he would not leave until well after 11.00 to catch his jeep back to the base. So, he and his friend Freddie were often part of outings that summer. **We were engaged in December 1944, but I refused to marry during the war. I had seen too much unhappiness as a result of that.**

I had the great pleasure of meeting Doreen and Cliff in May 2007. Sadly, a few months later Doreen passed away.

Glenn Booker

¹ With L Company, 3rd Battalion, 289th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry Division, United States Army

SOUTH WALES ARGUS

December 5th, 1944

Le MASTERS – RUGG

The engagement is announced between **Clifton R. Le Masters**, of Peoria, Illinois, USA, to **Doreen M Rugg**, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Rugg, 2 King Street, Newport.



Cliff always insisted that he wanted to live and settle in Newport after the war. He said that he liked the lifestyle and he was not close to his family in the States. Seems his grandparents brought him up. We were married at my church, St Paul's in Newport, on October 22nd, 1945. I had been christened, gone to Sunday School, was confirmed and attended there all my life.

SOUTH WALES ARGUS

October 24th, 1945

Le MASTERS – RUGG

On October 22nd at St Paul's Church, **Private First Class Clinton Raymond Le Masters** of Peoria, Illinois, USA, to **Doreen Marian**, second daughter of Mr and Mrs S. W. Rugg, 2 King Street, Newport.

Even with Cliff's insistence that he wanted to live in England, I know my parents must have had many misgivings, knowing I might end up many miles away.

Before our marriage in October, Cliff's time with the army was up. So, in order to stay in the European Theatre of Operations (ETO), he re-enlisted for another three years in the US Army Air Corps. He had a 60 day leave in December and January when he had the option of returning to the States for 30 days, which he didn't do. After his sixty days he returned to his new unit in Landsberg, Germany.

Cliff made arrangements for me to join him in July 1946 and he came to get me and took me back with him. It was a long journey over the English Channel, then by train to Paris, where we stayed overnight and then onto Munich, Germany. The trains in those days were slow and by then I was five months pregnant, so I was very glad at journey's end.

HOMESICKNESS...

It was a culture shock though because Germany at that time was a sad place. I was only the second wife on the base, the first being another English girl, Molly, from the north (of England). We soon became friends. Before long there were wives and families from the States and although I was very homesick, never having been away from home before, we made the best of it and we were a nice friendly family there on the base.



More from Doreen and her stories next time...

PONTYPRIDD OBSERVER

Saturday February 26th, 1944

PITCOCK – SPARKS

On February 21st 1944, at Bridgend, **Private First Class William Pitcock** of US Forces, son of Mr and Mrs Alice Pitcock of California, to **Miss Thelma Sparks**, daughter of Mr and Mrs Sparks, 4 School Terrace, Llanharan, Glamorgan.

PONTYPRIDD OBSERVER

Saturday, April 8th, 1944

LUNSFORD – SEARLE

The engagement is announced between **Paul** (US Army), youngest son of Mr and Mrs John **Lunsford** of Farmington, R.R.I., Missouri, to **Dulcie**, only child of Mr and Mrs Phil **Searle**, 8 Penylan Road, Maesycod, Pontypridd.



<http://www.city-data.com/city/Farmington-Missouri.html>

PONTYPRIDD OBSERVER**Saturday November 25th, 1944****LUNSFORD – SEARLE**

St Mark's Church, Pwllgwaun, on Friday, **Paul**, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Lunsford, RRI, Farmington, Missouri, to **Miss Dulcie** Searle, only child of Mr Phil Searle (the well-known conjuror) and Mrs Searle, 8 Penylan Road, Maesycoed, Pontypridd...The bridegroom is a member of the US Forces now in this country.

PONTYPRIDD OBSERVER**Saturday June 1st, 1946****Left for USA**

This week another Pontypridd girl left on the start of her long journey to Farmington, Missouri. She is **Miss Dulcie Lunsford**, daughter of Mrs Searle and Mr Phil Searle (well-known conjuror) of 8 Penylan Road, Maesycoed, Pontypridd.

She first met her husband in February 1944 when he was stationed with the US Army medical outfit at **Pentyrch**, and they were later married in November of that year at St Mark's, Pwllgwaun.

Mrs. Lunsford last saw her husband over a year ago when he left for France and owing to an eye injury received was later flown back to a hospital in the United States. There he was later discharged and resumed his work on the US detective staff.

PONTYPRIDD OBSERVER

Saturday May 6th, 1944 – PO & WM

JOHNS – BOYLE**American Corporal's Pontypridd Bride**

(The wedding took place) at St. David's Church Exeter.

The Bride was **Miss Marcia Lennori Boyle**, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs George Boyle, 57 Berw Road, Pontypridd

The Groom was **Corporal Howard Arthur Johns**, of the United States Forces, elder son of Mr and Mrs Johns, Spring Valley, Minnesota, USA.

The best man was **Sergeant William Moes**. (?)

The groomsman was **Sergeant John Benson**.

Also present were **Captain David Lamour**, **Captain C. Koeppe**, **Sergeant Charles Karr** and **Sergeant Milton Brown**.

PONTYPRIDD OBSERVER

Saturday March 3rd, 1945

Arrived in America

Mr and Mrs George Boyles... have heard from their daughter **Marcia** that she has arrived safely in America... Mrs John will reside with her husband's parents in Spring Valley, Minnesota, until his return.

PONTYPRIDD OBSERVERSaturday April 7th, 1945**Article in Minneapolis Star-Journal****(Extracts)****Mrs Marcia Jahns (Miss Marcia March 3, 1945 Boyles) featured –****British bride in America**

Mrs Johns, 23, met Corporal Howard Johns in Gloucester in 1943 and left Pontypridd 5 weeks ago. She is staying with her sister-in-law, Mrs J Allen (Alden?) Fredlund at Dupont Avenue, Minneapolis. Corporal Johns is in Belgium.

Friends in Pontypridd sent their best wishes to Mrs Johns in her new home...

PONTYPRIDD OBSERVERSaturday June 24th, 1944**HARTMAN – ROSSER**

Elmore O Hartman, only son of Mr and Mrs Hartman, Virginia, to **Barbara**, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W.M. Rosser, Trehafod.

I have more on this – couple next time!

PONTYPRIDD OBSERVERSaturday June 24th, 1944**MILLER – EVANS**

Lawrence, (Larry) Miller, only son of Mr and Mrs Lawrence, Washington*, USA, to
Eunice, only daughter of Mrs and the late Mr David Evans, Pontypridd.

*Was that DC or Washington State?

PONTYPRIDD OBSERVERSaturday July 29th, 1944**CRENSHAW – SAUNDERS**

On July 5, by special licence, **Raymond Harden Crenshaw**, US Army, to **Eileen Frances Saunders**, Pontypridd.

(Crenshaw was from Texas)

That's all for now, folks!

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