

COUNTY CONSTABULARY OFFICE,
LEICESTER.

4th May, 1945.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE WARDENS' SERVICE

I take pleasure in sending you herewith a copy of the Home Secretary's Order of the Day on the standing down of the Civil Defence Services.

Through the long weary years of the war the Wardens' Service of this County has always been a happy one and I am very proud to have been the Head of your Service. No work has been too hard for you, no call has remained unanswered. You have become the Fathers and Mothers of your streets and villages, a source of help and guidance to all, and I am glad to think that your work for the Community will live on in the Community Service of Leicestershire.

Although the Wardens' Service is being disbanded and Government policy is as yet undeclared, I have no doubt that a Nucleus Service in some form will remain and on this I shall probably have something to ask of you yet.

Meanwhile I take this as a suitable opportunity to thank you for your unfailing loyalty and support and to bid you farewell.

We may truly say that for 7 long years

WE STOOD PREPARED.

C.E. LYNCH-BLOSSE.
Chief Constable.

(General) Services

The tide of war has at last receded from the homes of the people and the time is come when the Civil Defence (General) Services are being demobilised.

At this moment I wish to express to local authorities and their officers, to the men and women of those Services, and to all those who have shared as helpers in the post-raid organisations including members of the WVS., my deep gratitude for what they have done in the long years of war.

In the time of heaviest attack there were nearly two hundred thousand whole-time members of the Services and one million and a quarter part-time members. There are now only some thirty-five thousand whole-time members and considerably less than a million part-time members; and I do not forget in this expression of gratitude those who have already left the Services.

Before the first great attack fell on London in September, 1940, no man could say how the Civil Defence organisation would work or how the Services would respond to the calls upon them. Once the attack started the issue was never in doubt.

The local authorities and their officers did their share magnificently and local government justified to the full the confidence that had been placed in it. Of the members of the Services we must all speak with honour and high praise.

Whether it be the Wardens, or the Rescue Parties, the Ambulance and First Aid Post Services or those in the Report Centres, you all showed through those long nights and days of watchfulness, danger and toil, a loyalty to your Services, a devotion to those in suffering and peril, and an unflinching courage which have brought to your uniform an honour that takes rank with the historic emblems of British greatness.

Your Services are no longer required for active Civil Defence: but the Country will have need of your spirit of comradeship and service in the difficult days ahead. Too much leisure has been taken from you during the war, it is a precious part of home and family life; but I hope you may be able to spare some of it for the neighbourly tasks of the community in which you live.

You will take with you many memories of which you will have a right to be very proud, but none of you will have a prouder or happier memory than I in being associated with you in this great task so well accomplished.

To each one of you I give my thanks as I bid you farewell and Godspeed.

My colleagues the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Minister of Health who have been associated with me in the administration of the Services are in the fullest accord with this message and have asked me to convey to you their thanks and good wishes.

. HERBERT MORRISON.

Ministry of Home Security,
2nd May, 1945.