

**Easter Monday 10-4-44**

**Excerpt from Ida Jones Talbot's diary entry of 11-4-44**

**The wedding of Bill and Clemmie Chilton**

*(as written in the diary changes made in italics)*

My dear Freda:

The wedding went off grandly. I had to assist at the Homes' Committee Monthly meeting first and dashed off at 3.45 to the wedding. The church was already packed by the "other" guests, and 1/4 of the Assembly Hall was reserved for the K.M.A. Albert Carter, Percy Jones & Lungmow Smith were ushers. The altar was austere beautiful: a black velvet all-over cloth, then a centre piece of Persian rug, a-topped by a large earthenware vase of peach blossoms. Vases of peach blossom were placed & evergreens in the 2 side tables. Down below in the hall the organ & piano were placed back to back. Percy Glede (*Gleed*) the organ & Frankie Taylorson the piano. The lady guests were groomed to perfection atopped by their latest style bonnet. Black was prominent. Mrs Ghislaine Declercq Winslow looked a magnificent grey steed she had a grey postilion hat, and a postilion coat without cape. 'Twas heard that one lady asked another if she were going to the wedding, "of course," I want to see, for a change, well dressed folk! I had my black woollen frock, wore my white organdi lace edged blouse, the collar plastron showed handsomely out of the deep "v". I wore my white string turban and my beautiful lilies.

Clemmie looked most bride like in her short sleeved blue dress and white silk turban with stiff white nose veil. Jo Kemball & Claire Abbess made a fine "pair-some" bridesmaids.

As for the Rev. H. Cook he was dramatic. His pause after: "let those who have any just cause to prevent this wedding..." I was impressed by his emphasis and deliberation when he uttered "for better, for worse, in sickness and in health love cherish and honour". No loop holes for a divorce. We went on to No 2 Dining Room, the bride & groom went the hospital to visit Elsie, and when they arrived at the Kitchen ludo beans were sh(*ower*)ed on them. After Clemmie & Bill had been "wished happiness", E.J.Nathan made a speech and he mentioned that the knife with which the bride would cut the cake was an heirloom. That its painting of a wounded officer on a horse, tired out, arriving at the army headquarters in 1840 was the only British survivor of the 2nd Kabul War. That man was Captain William Bryden after whom Bill was named, he was Bill's mother's uncle. It is a giant boy scout knife. Bill at the end of his reply continued with .. "before I will permit my wife to cut the cake I must" The bridegroom was the more prominent of the 2, like a king and his consort a few steps to the rear smiling graciously.

I think they'll be happy, Clemmie didn't go into it blindly and she knows that always 'Bill' will always have to be No 1.